



The Spoonbill

A Publication of the Ornithology Group
of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club

May-June-July 2021

Greetings! Although we maintain our 2021 reservations at Bayland Community Center, in an abundance of caution, we will continue to use the Zoom online platform for monthly meetings for the next few months.

3 May 2021 OG meeting

The program, **Oregon Birding in Midsummer**, was presented by Eugene, OR-based Richard Hoyer.

Oregon has a lot to offer the visiting birder. The spine of the tall Cascade Mountains parallels the coast, dividing the state into two, starkly contrasting regions. This happens over such a short distance, it's hard to comprehend, even when you personally experience the change from a cool, evergreen coastal forest to an open, desert-like sagebrush steppe. This results in an amazing diversity of habitats, and of course, birds. Join us in this photo tour of a beautiful state with someone who loves to share his passion for it.

Born and raised in Oregon, Rich Hoyer earned his bachelor degrees in German and Zoology at Oregon State University. Following a few years as an itinerant biologist Arizona, Oregon, California, and Russia, and as a summer guide on Saint Paul Island, Alaska, he moved to Tucson, AZ, and has been working as a professional birding tour leader for WINGS for the past 24 years. He leads tours to Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Costa Rica, Mexico, Belize, and Jamaica, but he also looks forward to tours that explore the beauty and diversity of his home state. Rich now lives in Eugene, Oregon, eagerly adding birds and insects to his yard list.



Each month, the Zoom lobby opens at 6:45pm for check-in, and the meetings begin at 7:00pm.

Zoom links are sent to registered OG/ONC members.

May Trivia Q: Which iconic wading bird has recently been sighted for the first time in Fort Bend, Harris, and Chambers Counties? (Answer at the end of this newsletter)

Upcoming OG Field Trips

Thursday, May 6 – Powderhorn (Ranch) WMA, Calhoun County. Led by Texas Parks & Wildlife staffers Dan Walker and Tori Haynes.

Saturday, May 8 – Bolivar Flats, Galveston County. Led by Prof. Cin-Ty Lee.

August 1-14 – Oregon, led by Rich Hoyer, organized by Lisa Li.

Upcoming 2021 Ornithology Group meetings (Monday evenings, on Zoom)

August 2 – UTRGV Prof. Timothy Brush

Sept 13 – Martin Reid

Ornithology Group - www.OrnithologyGroup.org

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Trivia Q answer:

In the US, **Limpkins** (*Aramus guarauna*) are most often seen in Florida, where they prey on Florida Apple Snails. They're native to tropical areas in the Americas and surrounding island nations, and prefer forest, savanna, and wetland ecosystems. A small population was known in Louisiana, and many surmised that they would eventually be seen in Texas, given the ample populations of apple snails in many of our coastal wetlands.

And it all began on May 6, when Christi Galler saw and logged a Limpkin from the edge of Brazos Bend State Park, in Fort Bend County. They were soon found in the adjacent private neighborhood marsh, and as many as four birds were seen by many people.

Then on July 9, Timothy Freiday photographed a Limpkin at about 5:45pm near the end of the Shoveler Loop at Anahuac NWR, in between bouts of rain. This bird was never relocated.

Finally, in Harris County, Limpkins were first seen/logged into eBird by Tom Rollins and his wife on 17 July 2021, at Sheldon Lake State Park. They have been seen and heard at various points along Garrett Road, and just south of the entrance gate, in tall trees near the aqueduct road crossing.
