

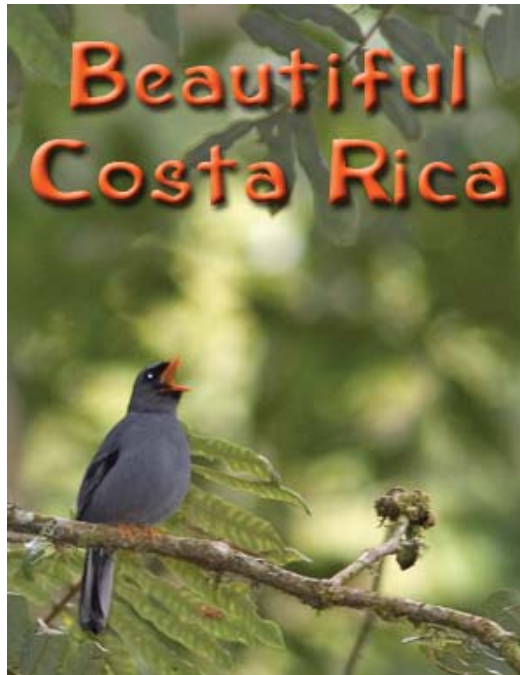
Nature Notes

our
charter ...

**OUTDOOR NATURE
CLUB IS A NONPROFIT
EDUCATIONAL AND
SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZA-
TION ESTABLISHED IN
1923 TO PROTECT AND
CONSERVE NATURAL
RESOURCES BY FOS-
TERING AN INTEREST IN
NATURE STUDY**

ONC

Outdoor Nature Club
P.O. Box 270894
Houston, TX 77277-0894
www.OutdoorNatureClub.org



story by Connie Blakley
photo by Farrar Stockton

Have you been to Costa Rica? Yes – then you know the natural beauty that awaits your next visit. No – what are you waiting for? This past April we had the good fortune to travel to Costa Rica with several friends and fellow nature lovers on a trip led by Carlos Hernandez. Our speaker for January, Farrar Stockton, was on the trip and will share his photos and knowledge of Costa Rica at the meeting on January 8.

Costa Rica has many “don’t miss” destinations for birders and photographers. Two of our favorites, where we spent all of our time on this trip, are Savegre de Montaña in the central highlands and Rancho Naturalista on

the Caribbean slope. Each of these locales has endemic species as well as species found throughout the country.

The highlight of our visit to Savegre, as always, was the Resplendent Quetzal. In the spring months, one can almost always find a nest and spend hours watching and photographing the male and female flying back and forth to the nest hole. We also found a nest hole of the Emerald Toucanet where we watched male and female building their nest. Another of my favorites was the Black-faced Solitaire (photo at left). Although not a very colorful bird, it’s beautiful flutelike song could be heard every morning and evening floating through the forest. The photographers on our trip were captivated by numerous hummingbirds at the hotel’s feeders, including Magnificent, Violet Sabrewing, White-throated Mountain-gem, Green-crowned Brilliant, and Green Violet-ear.

En route to Rancho Naturalista we took a side trip to Cerro de la Muerte, one of the highest points in Costa Rica at 11,500 feet. Here we were able to find Volcano Juncos and Volcano Hummingbirds. Upon arrival at Rancho Naturalista, we experienced the true “rain” forest where it rained three of the four days of our stay. But that didn’t dampen our spirits and every day we hiked the mountain trails or enjoyed resting on the patio where

Group Activities

(All meetings are at Bayland Community Center unless otherwise noted)

January 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

ONC Contact Information

ONC General Information

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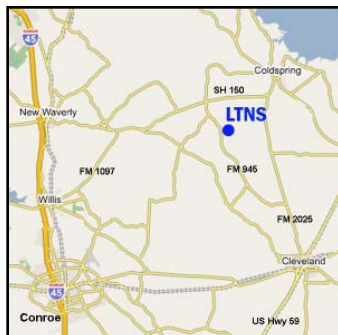
Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

Maps

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet (at Hillcroft)



Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary
2001 FM 945, Cleveland, TX



Botany/Entomology

JANUARY 3, 12:30 pm

Twelfth Night Party, at home of the Blakleys. Join us for our annual potluck party; bring your favorite covered dish.

FEBRUARY 10, 7:30 pm

Bringing Nature Home, by Flo Hannah

Ornithology (OG)

Learning Corner, 6:30 pm Program, 7:00 pm

JANUARY 5

Galapagos Islands, by John Old and Skip Almonney

FEBRUARY 2

ABA Big Year to be presented by Lynn Barber

OG Field Trips

Saturday, January 17

Brazos Bend State Park & Davis Estates with leader Bill Godley

January 22-25 OG QUARTERLY FIELD TRIP - MATAGORDA ISLAND and SURROUNDING AREAS

Reservations are required for this trip. Contact Adam Wood, 713-515-1692

Saturday, February 21

Birding Baytown Nature Center & San Jacinto National Monument

ONC Regular Bi-Monthly Meeting

JANUARY 8

Natural History of Costa Rica by Farrar Stockton
7:00 pm - Refreshments
7:30 pm - Program

Farrar has made numerous trips to Costa Rica, most recently this past April. His beautiful photos of local flora and fauna will leave you planning a trip to this beautiful country. See cover story about Costa Rica on page 1.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

January 17, 9:00 am

Open House & Highway Pickup

Join us for our winter trash pickup along our adopted highway adjacent to the sanctuary. Bring gloves, hat, water, etc. Highway pickup only takes about an hour, so be sure to also bring a lunch and plan to stay for a walk along the trails after highway pickup is completed.

Other Notes of Interest

Trail Maintenance at LTNS

We had a good turnout in November for our trail maintenance weekend. We spent all day Saturday clearing and painting trails so that our members can enjoy hiking the trails without having to fight through tangles of limbs and vines.

Thanks to Aaron Stoley, Charlie Smith, Calvin Blakley, and Leland Day for clearing the trails of debris from Hurricane Ike. These guys wore themselves out, once again, and deserve a big thank-you from all of us. Other volunteers who helped trim and paint the trails were Mary Jane McCartney, Kellene Jarratt, Bob Martin, Connie Blakley, Sergio & Wanda Henao, Karen Stoley, and Wanda Smith.

Seismic Work Ongoing at LTNS

When you visit the sanctuary, you will still notice tape and wooden stick markers used by the seismic crew that is surveying our property. Work was delayed for a short time, but crews are on the job again and the survey should be completed by the end of December.

Membership Renewal

If you haven't already done so, it's time once again to renew your membership in ONC. Even if you cannot join us at meetings or field trips, your support and membership are important to help maintain our educational libraries and our beloved Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.

Please complete the form at the right (or on line) and mail your check today.

ONC Appreciates Your Donations

Donations to ONC are always appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Memorials and Honor Gifts are used to support Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary or to fund special projects as designated by the donor. Thanks, everyone, for your generosity.

In memory of Avis Brister

*Calvin & Connie Blakley
Ron & Sharon Grimes*

In honor of Aaron Stoley

Gwen Kunz

Costa Rica ... continued from page 1

there were plenty of birds. This venue is known for its beautiful hummingbirds, especially the Snowcap, a rare and endemic species. Another rare find was a pair of Rufous-tailed Jacamars perched on a branch over our hiking trail. First the male, then the female, would fly off the perch and back, neither seeming to be bothered by our presence. It was a rare Kodak moment!

I could write a book about my love of Costa Rica, but you will have an opportunity to experience its natural beauty at our January 8 meeting. Farrar Stockton is an outstanding nature photographer and lecturer, and he will share his Costa Rica experiences with us. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. See page 2 for details.

Member Renewal Information

(Renewal form also available at www.outdoornatureclub.org)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Regular (\$8).....

Family (\$15).....

Supporting (\$40).....

Life (\$250)

Ornithology Group (you must be member of ONC to join OG Study Group)

Add \$14-individual, \$19-family.....

DONATION

TOTAL DUES/DONATIONS.....

Mail to: Outdoor Nature Club
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ONC

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Please renew your membership

see form inside

thank you!