



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXX, No. 5
September, 1981

PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP OF THE OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB
HOUSTON, TEXAS

Randy Pinkston, Editor

A NOTE FROM DR. ARNOLD

Dear OG Members:

I wish to express my thanks to all of you who contributed time and effort to my research on the breeding population of Henslow's Sparrow at the Santa Fe property. I know that my task would have been impossible without your help.

Although I have not completed my analyses, the situation for the sparrow population is bleak, if not desperate. I believe the population will decline to extinction if a management program is not soon established. The big "if" in this whole matter revolves around the possibility that other populations may exist along the Texas coastal plain. To the many persons that have visited the study area, I urge the investigation of tracts showing a similar cover, and which have been fallow for several years.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Arnold

COMING EVENTS

Friday, Saturday
September 25&26

Texas Bird Banders Assoc. is hosting the Inland Bird-banding Assoc. meeting at Armand Bayou Science Center. There will be field trips Friday starting at noon to Galveston Island plus Bolivar and again on Sunday Sept. 27-some activity may be planned for Thursday for those arriving early. There may be an owling trip Friday or Saturday night by Armand Bayou. Electric boat rides will be held everyday. A social hour will be held on Friday night. Paper sessions and workshops on Sat. Informal bar-b-que at \$6.00/person on Sat. night with OG member John Tveten as guest speaker. Local persons are welcome but all persons attending sessions or workshops must pay \$7.00 registration fee. Questions can be handled by local committee consisting of 1) Kelly Bryan 2) Dr. Ralph Moldenhauer 3) Dr. Barry Hinderstein and 4) Allan Mueller.

Friday
September 25

Deadline for THE SPOONBILL announcements, articles, etc.

Saturday
September 26

ONC trip to the Welder Wildlife Refuge at Sinton, Texas. See your Nature Notes for more information.

Thursday
October 1

OG regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 South Braeswood Blvd. The program this month will be on McFaddin Ranch, one of the recent land additions to the National Wildlife Refuge system. Tom Stehn of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will give a slide presentation and he will discuss the habitat, wildlife, and management practices in this coastal marshland. Tom has also promised to give us some insight into the changes occurring in the National Wildlife system and how

that could affect management of the Texas refuge system.

Saturday
October 3

OG Field Trip to the Freeport area. Proceed down U.S. 288 through Freeport. Once south of the town, the road makes a 90° turn to the left. At this point there are marshes on both sides of the road—the Freeport marshes. Meet here at 7:30 a.m. One of the trip leaders will be Will Risser.

Saturday
October 3

ONC field trip to the Welker Unit of the Cypress Creek Parks Project is scheduled to open formally in December. Kay Shillock, of Judge Lindsay's office, is arranging this special preview trip for the ONC. This is our chance to see the park and trails before they are trampled by the multitude. Bring lunch. From U.S. 59 North, exit at F.M. 1960 and turn left. From 1960, turn right on Kenswick and follow this road to the parking area on Spring Creek. Meet at 10:00 in that parking lot. For further clarification, see the map in September Nature Notes.

Saturday
October 3

Clearing House deadline for observations for September. Please send early.

Wednesday
October 7

The ONC Photography Group will meet at Bayou Manor auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Joe Liggio, an excellent nature photographer, will give a program on "The Wonders of the Big Thicket".

Saturday, Sunday
October 17&18

Aaron Stoley will lead the Photography Group backpacking on the Lone Star Trail. Meet him at noon Saturday on F.M. 2025 at a point 15 miles north of Cleveland on the east side of the road. A sign in the woods says "Hiking Trail". Bring food, water and back pack. Trip will finish at noon Sunday at the Big Thicket Workshop.

BIRDING SOUTHEAST ARIZONA IN AUGUST -- TWO GROUPS FROM THE UTC RECOUNT THEIR EXPERIENCES

The first of these was submitted by Ellen Red:

A new tour group named Grackle Tours began its first venture with a two week jaunt to Southeast Arizona (Aug. 8-23). Marilyn Crane, Pat Sullivan, Polly Moore, and Ellen Red were the participants.

We could not believe the beautiful canyons, the rushing streams, the delightful cool climate. Could this be Arizona in summer? The answer was that there had been an unusually high rainfall for the month. Flowers and birds were everywhere. The trogon appeared the first day and often thereafter. The warblers and early migrants were easily found. After a little searching we spotted the Bendire's Thrasher, the Rufous-winged Sparrow and the Buff-breasted Flycatcher. At Mile-Hi there was a splendid array of hummingbirds. Only the owls did not cooperate. In "post-breeding" season they felt no need to answer Marilyn's carefully planned tapes.

With such success we pushed on to Chino Canyon. Here we encountered extremely hot weather and a road I hesitate to describe in fear that my husband (whose car we were using) might read this account. Suffice to say, we did finally reach the oak tree at the end of the ordeal. Here we continued on foot. We had been told that a red bandana marked a hackberry tree where the Black-capped Gnatcatcher was nesting for the third time this year. We checked the nearby hackberry trees -- no bandana, no gnatcatchers. Marilyn spied another grove in the distance. We took off across the hillside, the various kinds of cactus, sticker-bushes, chiggers, etc., all taking their respective tolls. There, incredibly, in one of the small trees was a red bandana and right above it a tiny nest with a male B.-c. Gnatcatcher sitting quietly on it.

His bright eye looked out from a very black cap. His tail extending from the nest showed clearly it was white underneath. As we waited, a female approached, and in an instant the two had changed places. If we had blinked, we would have missed it. They obviously did not want the hot Arizona sun to touch the eggs.

On our way back to the car we met two U. of Arizona students who had arrived in a jeep. We exchanged information with them. They pointed out where the Five-striped Sparrows had nested. We climbed over to a sheer cliff and did indeed hear one singing. We watched as two small sparrows took off in the distance, too far to see even one stripe. A sign on the road had said "No tapes allowed", so we had to be content with just knowing they were there. Perhaps we will see them somewhere else some day -- on a different road.

We had a great deal of help in planning our trip to Arizona from experienced birders who know the area, and we are very grateful to each one of them. Also we have a new appreciation of tour guides. It may be quite a while before you have another report from Grackle Tours.

The second of these was submitted by Dr. David R. Ferry:

I had always heard about Southeast Arizona's "Second Spring" but had never visited there in the summer, as four previous Arizona trips have been in January and April. From July 29 to August 9 my wife Linda and I had the privilege of seeing the area at its finest and enjoying what turned out to be our best birding experience there by far. We were joined in Phoenix by Dr. Micheal (Micky) Greene, his wife Cindy, and 10-month old Mindy from Sandy Hook, Kentucky. The weather in Phoenix was hot but cloudy with frequent thunderstorms, a pattern which would be repeated throughout our trip. The locals were complaining bitterly of the "terrible humidity" of 21%! All we could do was shake our heads and mutter "if you only knew". As we passed Tucson and began to climb toward the Santa Rita Mountains, the temperature dipped into the high seventies and the Lower Sonoran habitat which surrounds Tucson gave way to Upper Sonoran and finally to grassland above 4000 feet. Micky had been to Arizona some 15 times previously and had never seen it as green and lush as it was. Later we learned that this was perhaps the wettest summer on record for Southeast Arizona.

Santa Rita Lodge in Madera Canyon is a lovely place from which to bird these beautiful mountains. The Elf Owl had moved down one telephone pole from across the street from the lodge and his place had been taken by a pair of Whiskered Screechowls which obligingly came out and called after dark. A short hike up the Mt. Wrightson Trail at the end of the road produced more Whiskered Owls, but not Spotted or Flammulated. That evening it rained for a considerable length of time, an occurrence which we learned was the norm and not the exception for this time of year.

The next morning found us down on the grassland a short way out Road 406 where we had singing Botteri's, Cassin's, Grasshopper, and Black-throated Sparrows. We observed a Grasshopper Sparrow's nest with three tiny hatchlings tucked inside a clump of grass. Cassin's Sparrows were "skylarking" everywhere with a song which seemed fitting for the vastness and ruggedness of the area. A short way down the road in Florida Wash we found Varied Buntings, Crissal Thrasher, and Rufous-winged Sparrow. Later that morning we returned to Madera Canyon and observed a Brown-backed (Arizona) Woodpecker furtively stealing acorns from an Acorn Woodpecker's larder until he was discovered and angrily run off. A daytime hike up the Mt. Wrightson Trail was rewarded by finding a male and female Elegant Trogon actively feeding young in their nest hole in a Sycamore tree. Although we had seen them on previous trips, it is always exciting to see these beautiful creatures. Later we would learn that 31 trogons had been counted in Arizona this summer (15 breeding pairs and one unattached male).

A trip up Mt. Lemmon north of Tucson the next day produced 3 life birds for me and reminded me of why there are 20 million people in Southern California. It is an incredible relief in the hot summer to drive 35 miles from downtown Tucson and be in the pine and fir forest at 8000 feet. We could do this when we lived in Southern California and is

something we honestly miss here on the Gulf Coast. While walking up a trail from Bear Wallow Campground and whistling like a Pygmy Owl, we attracted a group of many small birds including Yellow-eyed Junco, Mountain Chickadee, all three western Nuthatches, Grace's and Olive Warblers, Brown Creeper, and my Number One Arizona jinx bird, Red-faced Warbler. My second lifer was a Northern Goshawk which obligingly flew over shortly thereafter. Later on we saw an adult Goshawk being chased by a Sharpshinned Hawk and then an immature sitting in a tree which we leisurely observed for 45 minutes. My third lifer was Red Crossbill which were hard to miss flying everywhere in small groups from treetop to treetop. We guessed that the cone crop must have been extraordinary as we saw Crossbills in all the mountain ranges of South-east Arizona.

The next morning found us bouncing along a horrible dirt track in the middle of nowhere south of Tucson at dawn to see the Most Wanted Trip Bird, the pair of Black-capped Gnatcatchers in Chino Canyon. After putting 1000 parallel scratches on the sides of the van from scraping on the cat-claw acacia trees and aging the shock absorbers by 10,000 miles, we finally got to the tiny clump of Hackberry trees in which the Gnatcatchers were reportedly attempting a third nesting. Several hours of searching were fruitless and spirits were dragging as the sun and the temperature rose higher. Even the numerous Varied Buntings could do little to make up for driving out that road and not seeing the bird. As we were ready to leave, my wife, who has eagle eyes, spotted the pair of tiny birds as they were returning from a desert foraging jaunt to their hackberry grove. Our hearts were in our throat until we clearly saw the nearly all-white underside of the male's tail cinching the identification. The road back seemed like Interstate 10!

An early morning trip to the famous road side rest stop south of Patagonia presented with Thick-billed Kingbirds and a single Beardless Flycatcher. The latter was being observed by a birding tour group led by Kenn Kaufman and turned out to be the only one seen by us in several hours of birding at the Patagonia Sanctuary. Kenn was not too encouraging concerning another bird on my hit list, the Rose-throated Becard. They had not seen it in a total of 6 hours of observation spread over 3 days. Several days later on a final visit to the rest stop we spotted both the male and the female across the road near the hanging nest which they had built but apparently not used this summer. We began to realize that our luck level must be quite high on this trip and that we might see almost anything.

The hummingbird density was down at Ramsey Canyon and elsewhere in Southeast Arizona, but all species were present except my Number Two Jinx Bird, White-eared Hummingbird, which was simply not around anywhere. We did, however, hear about a pair of fledgling Flammulated Screechowls which were being observed daily high up in a tree in the Chiricahua Mountains. This bit of information prompted an immediate 160 mile drive to the aforementioned mountains looking for the owl. Micky has 672 birds and had already gotten one more lifer (the gnatcatcher) than he expected and the possibility of two in one trip was more than he could stand. After finding the 10-mile marker on the west side of Onion Saddle and walking up the road 70 feet, as instructed, we spent the next 3 hours fruitlessly looking for the owls, and finally drove all the way back to Ramsey in dejection. The next day we received a call from one of Kenn Kaufman's tour members who told us they had seen the owls shortly after we had left. The reason for our failure was obvious: the proper tree was 70 feet down the road from the mile marker. The next morning we made the 160 mile drive again and this time, after locating the correct tree, Micky finally spotted a tiny blob 80 feet up nestled in among some pine needles. By lying in the road and sitting up through the branches, we could just make out its dark eyes and tiny horns.

The remainder of the trip produced Buff-breasted Flycatchers at the top of Carr Canyon in the Huachuclas, and a fruitless evening spent at the top of Aravaipa Canyon searching for a Buff-collared Nightjar. The nightjar was probably scared off by a combination of a thunderstorm and a Great Horned Owl which had usurped his usual phone pole perch while watching a Hog-nosed Skunk eat insects attracted to the street-

light. The fitting end to such a trip was the Prairie Falcon that flew over our van west of the Chiricahuas on the last day of birding! Linda and I both tallied 11 new species, and our combined trip total was 151, including 11 raptors, 7 owls (Spotted by voice only), 8 hummingbirds, 15 flycatchers, 6 wrens, 11 warblers, and 11 sparrows. I highly recommend a summer trip to Southeast Arizona!

AROUND AND ABOUT

Linda Walsh of The Chickadee (702 Marshall, Houston, 528-0139) has ordered sunflower oil seeds, safflower seeds, and sunflower hearts for use in bird feeders. They will be available in October.

Dr. B. C. Robison, ONC-OG member, SPOONBILL contributor (The Silent Killers: Diseases of Birds) is now writing a weekly newspaper column for The Houston Post, called Texas Naturalist. Dr. Robison, as we SPOONBILL readers know, presents his subjects factually, but writes in an inimitable, wryly humorous style that is highly enjoyable. We have long enjoyed the Houston Chronicle column written by another ONC-OG member, John Tveten, and we are delighted that Dr. Robison has joined him in presenting aspects of Nature to a large audience.

There will be a Birding Workshop in Houston November 27-29.....Instructors: Will Russell and Rich Stallcup of Wings, Inc. Designed to increase most birders' field skills beyond reliance on plumage alone, the workshop will address ways in which to gain additional competence in identification in the field. This workshop involves two evening lecture/discussion sessions and two days in the field. Registration cost of \$65.00 includes instruction and workshop materials. Lodging, transportation and meals are not included but these services are arranged at cost for registrants not living in the workshop area. To reserve your place in this workshop, send a check for \$15.00 (non-refundable) to Wings, Inc., Box 287, Seal Harbor, Maine 04675.

Five birds, all of them male and believed to be the last dusky seaside sparrows on Earth, are growing older. As they age, the government and concerned conservation groups have been arguing over whether the males ought to be crossed with females of similar species so as to preserve at least something like the original bird. So far, the Fish and Wildlife Service, reluctant to allow dilution of the species without absolute evidence that no females exist, has refused to allow the cross-breeding. The birds are the lone survivors of man-made flooding, draining and fires that destroyed their habitat. They are now being kept on a \$46,000 federal grant. (from the Houston Chronicle, 8-2).

The question concerning U.S. endemics, which first appeared in the April 1981 issue of this newsletter, must again be revisited. I have since learned of a Canada record for Bachman's Sparrow. This would bring the list down to six extant species except that I also learned there are no validated records for Black Rosy Finch in Canada. The list thus retains a count of seven. -Ed.

THE SILENT KILLERS: DISEASES OF BIRDS by B. C. Robison, D.V.M.

Part 8: Caged Bird Diseases: The Respiratory System

This may sound a bit unusual, but these articles on caged bird diseases are not meant to serve any practical purpose, but to be regarded (I hope) in the same vein as previous offerings of Silent Killers: something interesting to know a little about, but never to be put to actual use. Any of you treated a mallard for fowl cholera lately?

I have this persistent suspicion that most OG members do not have caged birds. A true bird lover, in my highly biased opinion, wants them right where they belong -- free, not in a small prison. I might be wrong about this, but I don't think so.

AIR SACCULITIS

It comes as no great revelation from on high that the avian respiratory

system is profoundly different from that of mammals. The intense physical activity of birds demands a highly efficient oxygen delivery mechanism. Birds have not only the basic lung structure, but also additional outpouchings from the lungs that greatly increase breathing capacity. These structures are, of course, the air sacs.

The major air passages, namely the trachea and bronchi, have a fine hair lining called the mucociliary apparatus. The fanning action of the cilia helps expel dust particles, germs, and secretions. The air sacs do not have such a protective device. When they become inflamed, evil crud becomes entrapped, and it is difficult for the birds to get rid of it.

There are four basic causes of air sac diseases in cage birds.

1. Gas or smoke inhalation. An obvious source is cigarettes. Place all birds in the non-smoking section.
2. Infectious organisms. A variety of pathogens can infect air sacs. Vigorous antibiotic and vitamin therapy is indicated.
3. Air sac mites. Found mainly in canaries, finches, and parakeets. It is thought that nestlings become infected by regurgitation feeding. Difficult to diagnose and treat.
4. Subcutaneous emphysema. A condition that results from rupture of an air sac, allowing air to leak out under the skin. Surgical correction is necessary.

RHINITIS

This condition includes inflammation of the cere, nares, nasal passages, and palatal cleft. Differential diagnosis is based on the type of exudate that characterizes this disease: serous (thin, watery), caused by viruses; proliferative (crusty), caused by mites; catarrhal (thick, mucoid), caused by pathogenic yeast or protozoa (one-celled parasites).

INFRAORBITAL SINUSITIS

This has been seen in all caged birds, but it is most common in large parrots and mynahs. A swelling beneath one or both eyes results from the infection in the cavity within the bony arch that form the eye socket. In advanced cases, the build-up of exudate in such a confined area pushes the eyeball dorsally. It can be a primary localized disorder, or a manifestation of systemic respiratory disease. Bacteria, especially staphylococcus, and the fungus Aspergillus, are all common localized causative agents.

PNEUMONIA

Primary infection in the avian lung is rare. Pneumonic conditions are generally caused by a septicemia that results from infection in another body system. A wide variety of infectious organisms, such as bacteria, viruses, or fungi, can be etiologic agents. Only by necropsy and bacterial culture can a definitive diagnosis be made.

TRACHEA -- SYNGAMUS TRACHEA INFESTATION

The upper respiratory tree of birds is infected by the usual mob of germs. There is one unique condition, however, that merits elaboration: infestation by the gapeworm, Syngamus trachea. This is a weird little Y-shaped nematode that parasitizes the lining of the avian trachea.

Actually, the gapeworm is two worms together; the smaller male attaches permanently to the larger female, producing the Y shape. (Whoever said the lower forms of life know not bliss?). The eggs and larvae of this worm infect soil, earthworms, and snails. The host bird ingests the infective stages, and the larvae develop in the bird's gut. These larvae then migrate to the trachea and fasten themselves to the lining. Coughing and gagging result, and the bird gasps - "gapes" - for air.

A BIRDER'S - EYE LOOK AT ECUADOR

by Wesley Cureton

What countries in the world have the largest concentrations of birds? One of them is Ecuador; about 1400 species, twice the number in the United States, have been recorded in this Nevada-sized nation. On my visit to Ecuador this summer with the International Crusades, lack of time kept me from doing justice to this rich avifauna. Alas, I managed to identify only thirty-something species! It's not that I didn't try, but several times, thinking I had every fieldmark noted, I returned to A Guide to the Birds of Venezuela to find five others just like it. I also had The Birds of Ecuador and the Galapagos Archipelago but it is a checklist, not illustrated.

We arrived in Quito on June 19, and it soon became clear that the most common bird there was the friendly little rufous-collared sparrow. Ecuador's capital city is 15 miles south of the equator, but because of its 9300-foot elevation, the temperature never gets over about 72° or below freezing. At our hotel or flying overhead were spot-eared dove, an unidentified chat-tyrant, brown-bellied and blue-and-white swallows, great thrushes, unidentified flower-piercers, and blue-and-yellow tanager. Being a hummer lover, I was especially thrilled to see often at close range the black-tailed trainbearer and sparkling violetear, the latter very similar to the green violetear and quite noisy and quarrelsome. Among these lifers were the old familiar black buzzard, sparrow hawk, and vermilion flycatcher. This little flame, especially, seemed incongruous in a hotel garden high in the cool Andes.

The mountains of Ecuador, while much greener than those farther south, are not particularly scenic. The only large trees seem to be avocados and tall scraggly eucalyptuses. The lowlands, however, are really beautiful. I was assigned for the week to Puyo, a city of 10,000 which is the gateway to Ecuador's developing oriental provinces. The city is at about 3000 feet and enjoys a rainy tropical climate (but surprisingly no mosquitos). I stayed in the home of an Ecuadorian pastor on the edge of town and was able to take early morning walks. Almost my first birds were a plain old barn owl being chased over the town's tiled roofs and through the tall palms by several meddlesome tropical kingbirds. There were also black and turkey buzzards, purple gallinule, black phoebes, and rough-winged swallows. Were these all that Ecuador had to offer? No, there were also black caracaras, unidentified parakeets, dark-billed and squirrel cuckoos, smooth-billed anis, short-tailed swifts, blue-tailed emeralds, boat-billed and social flycatchers, blue-and-white and white-banded swallows, an unidentified wren, black-billed thrush, tropical gnatcatcher, four tanagers (blue-necked, blue-gray, silver-beaked, and magpie), lesser seedfinches, yellow-browed sparrows, and hooded siskins.

At Banos, a resort city with mineral baths, there was a combination of highland and lowland birds. The only new species I saw there was the white-collared swift.

By the way, if you go to Ecuador, don't fail to try the local specialty -- roasted guinea pig. They serve them, head on and teeth showing, with potatoes.

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RARE BIRD CHASE ON THE GULF COAST

by Randy Pinkston

Good feelings of anticipation and excitement, produced earlier this summer by the Green Violet-ear in Lake Jackson, were revived Labor Day weekend when I received word of another tropical vagrant on the Texas Gulf coast. This time the bird was perhaps near the opposite end of the spectrum of bird sizes -- a Jabiru stork (Jabiru mycteria), which easily stood over five feet tall in sentinel posture. Its location was Osso Bay in Corpus Christi.

Bob Barth from Austin discovered the bird while birding the west side of the bay at about 6:00 p.m., September 6th, and he watched it until

dark. Bob had birded the same area on the 5th with no sign of a Jabiru.

I received the news from Dave Dauphin on that same Sunday evening. Dave and Chris Matson, and myself, drove down to Corpus early the next morning and we were watching the stork by 10:15 a.m. It's enormous size I've already mentioned. Neighboring Great Blue Herons were but Lilliputians in comparison. Spectacular also were it's markings and behaviors. The upturned, black bill was like a sheath for some huge blade. It's grotesque head was also black, bare and warty, as was it's neck except for a collar of red. When we first arrived, this basal area on the neck was a pale rosy pink, but as the sun and the temperature rose higher the color intensified to a truer red. The plumage was all white except for smudges of pale gray on the back, wing coverts, and secondaries, probably indicating immaturity.

The bird spent most of it's time preening on the far side of a distant grassy island. It seemed to have little regard for us birders as we watched. Finally it made a couple of short jaunts out into the open, during which we got our best looks. At one point, it raised it's head and appeared to snap at dragonflies swarming over the marsh grasses.

Jabirus, relative of our Wood Stork or Wood Ibis, normally range from Veracruz, Campeche, and Quintana Roo south through Chiapas to northern Argentina but I've been told they are difficult to find in Mexico. Surprisingly, there are eight previous U.S. records, the most recent of which are from the King Ranch in south Texas (for the past three summers). However, the presence of these storks was not widely publicized at the time of their discovery. A Jabiru in Corpus Christi is therefore an extremely valuable find.

One might immediately suspect this bird to be a zoo escape. I did. I began to doubt it when I took close note of it's wings as it raised them above it's back at one point. The primaries were "perfectly" formed to the tip with no sign of having been pinioned. Several observers have seen it fly as well. Bob Barth had been told that only six Jabirus are in captivity in the states, one at Brownsville, with apparently no reported escapes. The bird's immature plumage further supports the wild vagrant idea because successful nesting of a species not well suited to captivity would be unlikely, particularly if only six individuals are scattered across the country.

A number of UTC birders have gone to see the stork since Labor Day. Ben Feltner and Linda Roach were greeted by three Corpus news stations and Ben gave them an on-the-scene report about the excitement surrounding this special bird. A Jabiru was certainly worth the drive to me. Not only was it a life bird for me, but it was also a chance to see this unusual member of a group of which we have only one other representative.

(Note: The stork was seen at least up until Wednesday, September 16th. If history repeats itself, it may stay around for a while longer. If you're interested, you might contact local birders in Corpus Christi for an up-to-date report).

Homestead, Florida, was surrounded by excitement similar to that in Lake Jackson when a Bahama Woodstar hummingbird was discovered on July 17. The bird is described as having a greenish bronze back, white breast band, bluish head, pink eye streak and spots of vivid rust. It was the fifth U.S. record (all have been from Florida), and within 48 hours about 50 birders arrived from sites as far away as Los Angeles, Denver, and Chicago. This species is plentiful in the Bahamas from where it is believed this individual originated. No strong winds had prevailed to account for the displacement.

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH: Species; Location--(how many) date, observers. Those common species which can be easily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by the number of reports, with the lowest and highest number of individuals seen in parentheses, i.e. (1-40). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. All observations reported below must be accepted by the Checklist Committee before they are considered valid and included in the next checklist.

Grebe, Pied-billed: Bolivar--(3)1,G; (7)15,M; Sheldon Res.--(1)1,R; Mercury Dr.--(1)17,WC; W. Harris Co.--(8)22,E; (15)29,P; Texas City--(15)30,NE
 Pelican, White: Bolivar--(15)1,G; (2)15,M; Galveston--(16)8,A
Pelican, Brown: W. Harris Co.--(1)29,P...see notes
Cormorant, Double-crested: Bolivar Flats--(6)30,B...needs notes
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 15 reports (1-75)
 Anhinga: W. Harris Co.--(2)22,E; (4)1,FC; (3)16,F; Buckhorn--(1)23,CS; Chambers Co.--(5)15,M
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: Galveston--(1)1,G; (4)2,CS; (2)15,M
 Heron, Great Blue: 15 reports (2-18)
 Heron, Green: 22 reports (1-60)
 Heron, Little Blue: W. Harris Co.--(450)22,E; (350)29,P; 11 other reports (2-50)
 Egret, Cattle: 19 reports (10-2500)
 Egret, Reddish: Bolivar--(45)1,G; 10 other reports (1-23)
 Egret, Great: 22 reports (1-500)
 Egret, Snowy: 17 reports (1-500)
 Heron, Louisiana: 17 reports (1-400)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 13 reports (1-50)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 11 reports (1-20)
 Bittern, Least: Chambers Co.--(3)1,G; (1)8,WC; (2)15,M; AnahuacNWR--(2)7,14,SC; (2)22,MAU
Bittern, American: Anahuac NWR--(1)1,G...see notes
 Stork, Wood: Chambers Co.--(1)12, R,RP; (1)14,SC; (30)15,M; Mercury Dr.--(6)17,WC; W. Harris Co.--(8)22,E; (1)29,P; Galv.--(2)2,KW; Sheldon Res.--(1)1,R; Wallisville--(2)22,MAU; Texas City--(21)30,NE
 Ibis, White-faced: 17 reports (3-500)
 Ibis, White: 11 reports (2-125)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: W. Harris Co.--(1 nesting)16,F; 15 other reports (1-275)
Goose, Canada: Sheldon Res.--(6)1,R...see notes
Goose, White-fronted: Warren Lake--(1)16,F...needs notes
Goose, Snow: Pelican I.--(1)12,D...see notes
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: W.Harris Co.--(65)22,E; (9)29,P; (3)1,FC; (15)16,F
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Chambers Co.--(2)1,G; (3)8,WC; (5)15,M; Fulshear--(4)8,SW; W.Harris Co.--(16)22,E; (13)29,P; (4)1,FC; (100)16,F
 Duck, Mottled: 14 reports (1-30)
Gadwall: W.Harris Co.--(30)29,P...see notes
 Pintail, Common: W.Harris Co.--(2)29,P
 Teal, Blue-winged: Chambers Co.--(50)8,WC; (1)15,M; High Island--(1)29,KW; Mercury Dr.--(10)17,WC; W.Harris Co.--(75)22,E; (50)29,P; (2)16,F; Texas City--(6)30,NE; Pelican I.--(250)12,D
 Shoveler, Northern: W.Harris Co.--(1)29,P
 Duck, Wood: Chambers Co.--(10)all month,DD; (1)15,M
 Scaup, Lesser: Texas City--(2)8,A; (1)30,NE
 Duck, Ruddy: Mercury Dr.--(1m)17,WC; Texas City--(3)8,A; (12)30,NE
 Vulture, Turkey: 7 reports (1-25)
 Vulture, Black: 9 reports (1-15)
 Kite, White-tailed: 4 reports (1-4)
 Kite, Mississippi: Houston--(3)13, (1)15,16,CS; (1)22,(3)23,(7)16,JM; (5)23,PM; (1-4)10-16,(3)23,26,(1)25,WC; Northshore--(1-2)13-31,CB; Memorial--(13)22,E; W.Harris Co--(6)16,F; (7)9,Sp; Pasadena--(4)17,SW; Chambers Co--(1,000)29,DD; Sugar Land--(5)20,J; Harris Co--(8)10,(13)11,(10)14,19,22,(2)16,25,(5)20,(11)23,TG; Arboretum--(1)10,11,17,25,26,27,HAS
 Hawk, Red-tailed: W.Harris Co--(1)29,P; (1)26,SW; Freeport--(1)9,S_p
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 5 reports (1-3)
Hawk, Broad-winged: Bolivar--(1)1,G; (1)29,KW; (3)30,B; (7)15,M; High Island--(1)8,19,SC; (1)29,OG; Winnie--(1)16,SC; Beaumont--(2)20,SC; Harris Co--(1)10,23,(2)19,TG; Arboretum--(1)9,HAS...G and M submitted notes
 Hawk, Swainson's: W.Harris Co--(1)1,27,TG; N.Houston--(1)July 29,SW; Webster--(1)6,MAU; Jacintoport--(1)14,CB; Baytown--(5)27,DD
 Caracara: W.Harris Co--(1)22,E
 Kestrel, American: Downtown--(1)21,GC; Fort Bend Co--(1)30,KW
 Bobwhite: 11 reports (1-90)
 Pheasant, Ring-necked: Chambers Co--(1)15,M
 Rail, King: 5 reports (1-10)

Rail, Clapper: 6 reports (1-4)

Gallinule, Purple: Anahuac NWR--(4 with young) 1,G; (3)8,WC; (1)7,SC; (1)30,R; (2)22,MAU

Gallinule, Common: 5 reports (4-20)

Coot, American: W. Harris Co--(2)22,E; (15)29,P; Texas City--(16)30,NE; Freeport--(5)9,Sp

Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(2)19,SC; (2)22,MAU,CS; Texas City--(1)8,A; Deer Island--(1)8,A

Plover, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(3)1,G; (1)14,SC; (6)30,R; (20)22,CS,MAU; (40)30,B; (1)29,OG; (6)2,Sp; Coast--(10)29,PV; (125)15,M; Seabrook--(2)20,SW; Galv.--(7)8,A; (1)27,W; Pelican I.--(3)12,D; Freeport--(1)9,Sp

Plover, Piping: Bolivar--(15)1,G; (30)19,SC; (1)30,R; (63)22,MAU,CS; (6)30,B; (400)15,M; (20)2,Sp; Galv.--(1)2,Sp

Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(3)1,G; (1)19,SC; (1)22,MAU; (1)30,B; (3)15,M

Plover, Wilson's: 9 reports (1-75)

Killdeer: 23 reports (1-150)

Plover, American Golden: Bolivar--(20)30,B

Plover, Black-bellied: Bolivar--(200)22,CS; 16 other reports (1-80)

Turnstone, Ruddy: Bolivar--(25)1,G; (1)19,SC; (22)30,R; (25)30,B; (25)15,M; (4)29,OG; (20)2,Sp; High Island--(2)29,KW; Coast--(2)29,PV; Seabrook--(7)20,SW; (7)30,NE; Baytown Tunnel--(2)20,SW; Galv.--(7)8,MAU; (4)27,W; Freeport--(6)9,Sp

Curlew, Long-billed: Bolivar--(15)1,G; (8)19,SC; (40)30,B; (3)22,CS; (30)15,M; (6)2,Sp; Texas City--(1)8,A; Chambers Co--(3)8,WC; (35)30,R; Baytown--(1)19,SW; Galv.--(4)27,W; (6)2,Sp; Pelican I.--(60)12,D; Freeport--(3)9,Sp

Sandpiper, Upland: Harris Co--(2)16, (3)19, (18)31, TG

Sandpiper, Spotted: 13 reports (1-35)

Sandpiper, Solitary: Chambers Co--(1)1,G; (1)7,SC; (2)30,R; W.Harris Co--(3)22,E; (3)29,P; (3)1,FC; (1)16,F; Seabrook--(1)8,A; Pelican I.--(2)12,D

Willet: 13 reports (1-60)

Yellowlegs, Greater: 17 reports (1-35)

Yellowlegs, Lesser: 11 reports (1-270)

Knot, Red: Bolivar--(25)1,G; (2)19,SC; (5)30,R, B; (3)15,M; (30)2,Sp; Texas City--(25)30,NE; Freeport--(10)9,Sp

Sandpiper, Pectoral: Anahuac NWR--(10)1,G; (10)14,SC; (5)5,R; W.Harris Co--(250)22,E; (50)29,P; (2)1,FC; (6)16,F; High Island--(12)29,KW; OG; (1)15,M; Texas City--(5)8,A; (4)30,NE; Houston--(15)8,C

Sandpiper, White-rumped: Anahuac NWR--(2)14,SC...needs notes

Sandpiper, Baird's: Bolivar Flats--(1)1,B.C. Robinson...see notes

Sandpiper, Least: 15 reports (2-200)

Dunlin: Bolivar--(1)1,G...see notes; (30)30,R; (5)15,M; (1)2,Sp...needs notes

Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(25)1,G; (12)30,R; (30)15,M; W. Harris Co--(4)22,E

Dowitcher, Long-billed: 8 reports (1-300)

Dowitcher species: Pelican I.--(800)12,D; 6 other reports (2-100)

Sandpiper, Stilt: Chambers-Galv.Cos.--(12)1,G; Texas City--(2)8,A; W. Harris Co--(2)22,E; Houston--(2)3, (100)8,C; Pelican I.--(60)12,D

Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(300)22,CS; 9 other reports (1-50)

Sandpiper, Western: 16 reports (1-3000)

Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Chambers Co--(1)30,R

Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar--(6)1,G; (1)19,SC; (18)30,R, B; (4)22,MAU, CS; (20)15,M; (1)2,Sp; Galv.--(14)2,KW; (2)2,Sp; Freeport--(1)9,Sp...This species has been so regularly reported in the summer that notes should no longer be necessary.

Sanderling: 9 reports (1-3000)

Avocet, American: Anahuac NWR--(4)22,MAU; Mercury Dr--(30)17,WC; Bolivar--(20)30,B; Pelican I.--(300)12,D

Stilt, Black-necked: 13 reports (2-300)

Phalarope, Wilson's: Mercury Dr--(2)17,WC; Texas City--(2)8,MAU; (1)30,NE

Gull species: Bolivar Flats--(1)19,SC...see notes

Gull, Herring: Bolivar--(5)1,G; (1)30,B; (2)22,CS; (5)15,M; High Island--(5)29,KW

Gull, Ring-billed: Bolivar--(10)1,G; (30)30,R, B; (50)22,CS; (10)15,M; (10)2,Sp; W.Harris Co--(2)29,P; Seabrook--(3)20,SW; (1)8,A; (2)30,NE; Texas City--(1)8,A; Galv.--(1)2,Sp; Freeport--(10)9,Sp

Gull, Laughing: 14 reports (1-7000)

Tern, Gull-billed: High Island--(60)1,G; 6 other reports (1-10)

Tern, Forster's: 13 reports (1-200)

Tern, Common: High Island--(2)1,G; (2)29,KW; Pelican I.--(12)29,D; Bolivar--(6)19,SC; (3)30,R; (2)15,M; Lynchburg Ferry--(16)19,SW

Tern, Least: 14 reports (1-145)

Tern, Royal: 13 reports (2-5000)

Tern, Sandwich: Galv. Co.--(2,000)1,G; 8 other reports (3-1,000)

Tern, Caspian: 7 reports (1-46)

Tern, Black: 14 reports (1-500)

Skimmer, Black: 14 reports (1-120)

Dove, Rock: 16 reports (2-62)

Dove, White-winged: Nottingham Ranch Rd.--(40)29,PV; 4 other reports (1-5)

Dove, Mourning: 23 reports (1-500)

Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 19 reports (1-25)

Ani, Groove-billed: W.Harris Co--(1)22,E...see notes

Owl, Barn: Bolivar--(12)1,G; (2)30,B; (4)15,M; W.Harris Co--(1)29,P

Owl, Screech: Houston--(1)20,WC; (1)19,JM; Chambers Co--(50)all month,DD;

Sugar Land--(1 and 4 young)all month, J

Owl, Great Horned: W.Harris Co--(2)22,E; (1)29,P; Houston--(1)20,RP; Chambers Co--(4)all month,DD; (1)15,M

Owl, Barred: W.Harris Co--(1-2)all month,V; (1)16,F; Lake Houston--(2)17,SW

Chuck-will's-widow: High Island--(14)15,M; Bolivar--(6)15,M; Houston--(1)17, 20,WC; W.Harris Co--(3)22,E; (1)16,F

Nighthawk, Common: 26 reports (1-120)

Swift, Chimney: 11 reports (1-250)

Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 12 reports (1-6)

Kingfisher, Belted: Chambers Co--(2)8,WC; (1)14,SC; (1)30,R; (4)15,M; Westbury--

(1)30,PM; Sheldon Res--(1)1,R; White Oak Bayou--(1)20,WC; W.Harris Co--(4)22,E;

(2)29,P; (1)16,F; Seabrook--(1)21,SW; Bolivar--(2)30,B

Flicker, Common (yellow-shafted): White Oak Bayou--(1)all month,WC

Woodpecker, Pileated: 8 reports (1-3)

Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 12 reports (1-20)

Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co--(15)1,G; (2)7,SC; (1)30,R; (20)all month,

DD; (5)15,M; W.Harris Co--(8)16,F; Lake Houston--(7)17,SW

Woodpecker, Downy: 11 reports (1-6)

Kingbird, Eastern: W.Harris Co--(500)22,E; (450)29,P; 25 other reports (1-200)

Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: W.Harris Co--(250)22,E; 19 other reports (1-100)

Flycatcher, Great Crested: 13 reports (1-10)

Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: High Island--(2 by voice)8,SC

Flycatcher, Acadian: Chambers-Galv. Co--(5)1,G; W.Harris Co--(1)22,E; (1)29,P;

(1)16,F; High Island--(2)8, (1)28, all by voice, SC; (5)15,M; Armand Bayou--

(1)30,NE; ...How were all these identified?

Flycatcher, Willow/Alder: High Island--(1 by voice)8,SC

Empidonax species: High Island--(12)8,SC; Houston--(1)12,WC; W.Harris Co--(5)

22,E; (5)29,P; Anahuac NWR--(2)22,MAU; Bolivar--(21)15,M

Pewee, Eastern: High Island--(3)8,SC; (2)30,B; (4)15,M; Armand Bayou--(1)30,NE;

Houston--(2)20,RP; W.Harris Co--(4)22,E; (1)16,F; Lake Houston--(3)17,SW;

Bolivar--(2)30,B; Galv.--(1)27,W

Flycatcher, Olive-sided: High Island--(2)8,WC,SC; Bolivar--(2)29,KW,OG; (2)

30,B; (12)15,M; W.Harris Co.--(1)16F

Lark, Horned: High Island--(2)1,G; Bolivar--(1)19,SC; Pelican I.--(6)12,D;

Galv.--(2)2,Sp

Swallow, Tree: Chambers Co.--(18)14, (6)29,SC; W.Harris Co--(40)29,P;

Bolivar--(6)30,B

Swallow, Bank: Chambers Co.--(5)14, (4)29,SC; (3)30,R; W.Harris Co.--(50)29,P;

Bolivar--(3)15,M

Swallow, Rough-winged: W.Harris Co.--(1)16F

Swallow, Barn: Airport--(nesting pair)July 29,SW; 14 other reports (1-500)

Swallow, Cliff: W.Harris Co--(1)29,P; (3)26,SW

Martin, Purple: 10 reports (1-1500)

Jay, Blue: 22 reports (1-22)

Crow, Common: 12 reports (2-30)

Chickadee, Carolina: 10 reports (1-25)

Titmouse, Tufted: 11 reports (1-25)

Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Houston--(1)16,JM

Wren, Carolina: 10 reports (1-35)

Mockingbird, Northern: 28 reports (1-75)

Thrasher, Brown: High Island--(1)30,B...needs notes

Robin, American: Houston--(1)2,27,WC

Thrush, Wood: White Oak Bayou--(2)all month,WC

Bluebird, Eastern: Lake Houston--(5)17,SW

Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 19 reports (1-50)

Shrike, Loggerhead: 20 reports (1-160)

Starling: 19 reports (2-400)

Vireo, White-eyed: Anahuac NWR--(1)7,SC; W.Harris Co.--(2)16,F; Sheldon Res.--

(2)1,R; Armand Bayou--(15)30,NE; Bolivar--(2)15,M

Vireo, Red-eyed: High Island--(1)1,G; (3)8, (5)28,SC; (5)30,B; Armand Bayou--

(1)30,NE; W.Harris Co--(2)16,F; Bolivar--(5)30,B; (15)15,M

Warbler, Black-and-white: Chambers Co--(2)1,G; (1)30,R; Armand Bayou--(1)30,NE;

High Island--(1)1,G; (15)8, (3)28,SC; (1)29,OG; Bolivar--(30)15,M

Warbler, Prothonotary: High Island--(1)1,G; (3)8,SC; (1)29,BB; (6)15,M

WARBLER, WORM-EATING: High Island--(1)8,SC...see notes

WARBLER, GOLDEN-WINGED: High Island--(1)15,M...see notes

WARBLER, BLUE-WINGED: High Island--(1)8,SC...see notes; (1)15,M

Parula, Northern: W.Harris Co--(2)16,F; Armand Bayou--(1)30,NE

Warbler, Yellow: Bolivar--(1)1,G; (4)30,B; (5)15,M; W.Harris Co--(3)22,E; (1)29,

P; Anahuac NWR--(1)14,SC; (1)22,MAU; Houston--(1)20,RP

Warbler, Magnolia: Bolivar--(1)29,OG...see notes

WARBLER, CERULEAN: High Island--(1)15,M...see notes
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: White Park--(1)1,G; High Island--(2)8,SC; Chambers Co--(2)15,M
 Warbler, Pine: White Park--(2)1,G; Chambers Co--(8)15,M
 Warbler, Prairie: Bolivar--(2)1,G...see notes: Anahuac NWR--(1)22,MAU
 Warbler, Kentucky: High Island--(1)30,B; (4)15,M
 Warbler, Mourning: High Island--(1)10,M...see notes
 Waterthrush, Northern: White Oak Bayou--(1)20,21,WC; W.Harris Co--(1)22,E
 waterthrush, Louisiana: High Island--(1)8,SC...see notes
 Yellowthroat, Common: 5 reports (2-40)
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: W.Harris Co--(3)22,E; Anahuac--(1)22,MAU
 Warbler, Hooded: High Island--(1)1,G; (1)8,SC, WC; (3)30,B; (1)15,M; Armand Bayou--(1)30,NE; W.Harris Co--(6)16,F; Yard--(1)12-15,BB
 Warbler, Wilson's: Anahuac NWR--(1)22,MAU
 Warbler, Canada: High Island--(5)28,SC; (2)30,B; (9)15,M
 Redstart, American: High Island & Bolivar--(6)15,M...notes submitted
 Sparrow, House: 14 reports (10-200)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 19 reports (1-40)
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 12 reports (1-5000)
 Oriole, Orchard: Galv. Co--(75)1,G; Bolivar--(75)15,M; 10 other reports (1-8)
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 4 reports (16-150)
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 14 reports (1-600)
 Grackle, Common: 9 reports (1-100)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: Houston--(1 being fed by cardinals)8,PM; 8 other reports (4-5000)
 Cowbird, Bronzed: W.Galv--(1)1,G...see notes
 TANAGER, SCARLET: Houston--(2)4,Nettie Lyons...see notes
 Tanager, Summer: White Park--(2)1,G; Deussen Park--(6)17,SW; High Island--(4)15,M
 Cardinal: 18 reports (1-50)
 Grosbeak, Blue: Anahuac NWR--(1)7,SC; Bolivar--(1)15,M; (1)29,OG
 Bunting, Indigo: Bolivar--(4)1,G; (2)15,M
 Bunting, Painted: 3 reports (2-5)
 Dickcissel: 6 reports (1-75)
 Sparrow, Seaside: 3 reports (1-2)

Clearing House Contributors, August, 1981: A-Mike Austin, Nick Escott; B-Bob Behrstock, Mary Ann Chapman; BB-Mary&Janice Bourgeois; C-Randy Pindston, Jerry Caraviotis; CB-Charles Browning; CS-Colin Summerhayes; D-Tony Gallucci, Kathy Romine, Phyllis McLeod, 5 junior high students; DD-David Dauphin; E-Jim Morgan, Ted Eubanks, Jr.; F-Fred Collins, Walter Piper; FC-Fred Collins; G-Jim Morgan, Tony Gallucci; GC-Glenn Cureton; HAS-members of Houston Audubon Society; J-Jack & Jimmie Neal; KW-Kris Wilson; M-Jim Morgan, Tony Gallucci, Randy Pinkston, Linda Roach; NE-Nick Escott; OG-Ornithology Group field trip; P-Jim Morgan, Randy Pinkston; PM-Peggy Milstead; PV-Peter Vennema; R-Don & Lee Richardson, Gil & Linda Douglas; RP-Randy Pinkston; SC-Steve Calver; Sp-Ena Spaulding, John Bargman; SW-Steve Williams; TG-Tony Gallucci; V-Vesta & Dick Eshbaugh; W-Bob & Edith Willman; WC-Wesley Cureton

Field Notes - August, 1981:

Pelican, Brown: Seen soaring. Banked often so both top and bottom sides were seen. Brown on back and upper wing and tail surfaces. The head and neck were brown, and the undersides were whitish from the brown neck to the undertail. The bottom of the tail sported a dark terminal band. The obvious huge bill and typical pelican flight profile were noted. The underwing surfaces were whitish in the centers with dark leading edges and terminal edges. The above plumage characteristics eliminate all ages of white pelican and fit the description of an immature brown pelican. The bird was carefully observed for 5 minutes by both observers with binocs and scopes in very good light at distances of 100-200 meters. Most unusual was the fact that this bird was circling over Sharp Road in W.Harris County.

- Jim Morgan -

Bittern, American: Large stocky wader flushed out of marsh. Heavy body and dark flight feathers noted in flight. Heavy lumbering flight noted. Seen by both observers at 75-150 meters in good light with binocs for 10-20 seconds.

- Jim Morgan -

Goose, Canada: These geese were on the ground and easily identified. The location was a grass pasture near the northeast corner of Sheldon Reservoir just along a fence line on the west side of what appeared to be a wildlife preserve. Comments from those who bird the area and might know whether or not these birds are domesticated would be appreciated.

- Don Richardson -

Goose, Snow: Seen on Pelican Island on Aug. 12 by Tony Gallucci, Kathy Romine, Phyllis McLeod, and 5 junior high kids. On a mud flat, standing with hundreds of shorebirds and a few teal. All white goose, bright pink bill and feet. In scope (20x) the black "smile" was distinct (to separate from Ross's goose). To determine if the bird was a cripple, we began to walk towards it, but it flushed almost immediately (being very skittish). In flight noted all black primaries, which distinguished it from feral geese. Seen no closer than 100 yds. in excellent light, occasionally from 7 a.m. to noon.

- Tony Gallucci -

Gadwall: Large dark ducks with black rumps and white patches in wing. Seen by both observers with scopes in good light at a distance of 250 meters.

- Jim Morgan -

Sandpiper, Baird's: Perky, spicy brown sandpiper, slightly larger than a Western, seen feeding around pond on upper beach at Bolivar Flats. Legs inky black. Straight, slender, black bill of moderate length. Neck and upper chest buffy, ending evenly and abruptly. Rest of chest a clean white. Back was rich brown, spangled with lighter brown patches, giving a distinct scaly look. As seen from rear, wings converged beyond tail in a sharp point. Flight revealed dark rump, flanked by lighter areas. A light, narrow wing stripe could be seen. Observed for 15 minutes at distances ranging from 30 to 60 feet, in overcast but good light with 10 x 50 Bushnells.

- B. C. Robinson -

Dunlin: Black belly noted on shorebird which was obvious sandpiper and slightly larger than nearby Sanderlings and Western Sandpipers. Otherwise reddish brown above, whitish below and slightly drooping bill. Seen in excellent light from 30 ft. with binocs by both observers for 20 seconds.

- Jim Morgan -

Gull species: Possible Glaucous Gull seen Aug. 19 on Bolivar Flats noon-1 p.m. as close as 100 ft. The bird appeared to be flightless. No gulls nearby to compare to, but it appeared as large or larger than Herring Gull. Body appeared whitish all over covered with large brown mottling. Bill was light at base and dark-tipped. No sharp demarcation between light and dark. Gray legs. From what I could see of wings and tail, they appeared very light (dirty white). Observed through 10x50 binocs and 25x scope. Not a Herring Gull because the wings and tail were light. I have seen only one other Glaucous Gull. I don't consider this a positive ID, but I don't know what else it could be.

- Steve Calver -

Tern, Common: Black extending around nape and horizontal shoulder mark were noted.

- Jim Morgan -

Ani, Groove-billed: Bird picked out in flight as it was approaching observers. All black, long tail, huge bill, and very weak, labored flight were noted. Seen at distances of 40-100 ft. by four observers with binocs for 10 or more seconds.

- Jim Morgan -

WARBLER, WORM-EATING: Seen about 10 a.m. on Aug. 8 in the interior of Boy Scout Woods from about 20 ft. with 10x50 binoculars. Watched at will for about 5 min. Rather large warbler, all brown above (from back to tail) and lighter below. Blackish stripe through eye and two on top of light brownish head. Head stripes seen perfectly. I have seen many in the past.

- Steve Calver -

WARBLER, GOLDEN-WINGED: Seen at High Island on Aug. 15 by Tony Gallucci, Jim Morgan, Randy Pinkston and Linda Roach. Obvious warbler foraging with several other warbler species. This bird was a female or immature which was basically gray on upper parts and dingy white below. Face pattern was gray and white, and forehead was yellow. Two wingbars, one very large, almost giving a look of one large very yellow wing patch. Thin, black warbler beak. Active bird with typical warbler behavior. Seen by all four observers and very well by the undersigned as close as 30 ft. with binoculars. Total viewing time 30-40 seconds. This is an early fall arrival record.

- Jim Morgan -

WARBLER, BLUE-WINGED: Seen about 10:05 a.m. on Aug. 8 in the interior of Boy Scout Woods for about 2 min. Seen at close range (20 ft. or so) with 10x50 binoculars. Warbler with yellow head and breast. Saw black line through eye. The bird had a greenish back and 2 bright wingbars on grayish wings. I have seen many of these and am very familiar with them.

- Steve Calver -

Warbler, Magnolia: Seen on Aug. 29 at Johnson's Grove on Bolivar Peninsula. Flitting in brush during rainstorm. Warbler, basically blue-gray in color, with black spotting on back, yellow below with black streaks on breast, broad white wing patch, yellow rump, and white square flashed midway up tail. Constantly flashing tail while chasing small bugs. 7x35 binocs as close as 8 ft. in poor light. 8:00 a.m.

- Tony Gallucci -

WARBLER, CERULEAN: Seen on Aug. 15 by Tony Gallucci, Randy Pinkston, and Linda Roach. Warbler in flock in tops of trees at Scout Woods. First appearing like a Tennessee, but differing as follows: very long white eyeline (no black eyeline), two white wingbars, upper parts muted apple green mixed with aqua blue becoming more bluish on crown, yellowish wash on flanks and parts of breast, white tail spots. Seen at ca. 20 ft. with 7x35 binocs in fair light.

- Tony Gallucci -

Warbler, Prairie: Two birds--one an adult male in excellent plumage, the other probably an adult female. Olive green above, yellow below, white crissum, and two whitish wingbars. Black side streaks and black and yellow face pattern noted on both birds. Tail-wagging behavior also noted. Seen in excellent light as close as 20 ft. by both observers for as much as 30 seconds. Both observers very familiar with the species. Scrub, huisache, hackberry trees habitat where these two individuals were found are likely Aug. spots for this species.

- Jim Morgan -

Warbler, Mourning: Seen on Aug. 15 at Smith Woods by Tony Gallucci, Randy Pinkston and Linda Roach. Large-headed warbler in creeper vine. Green back, yellow under parts, gray hood darkening to black on breast. No eye-ring, pink legs. Slow mover, picking bugs from stems, leaves. To 5 ft, 7x35 binocs, good light.

- Tony Gallucci -

Waterthrush, Louisiana: Seen about 9:45 a.m. on Aug. 8 just inside Boy Scout Woods. Seen for about 2-3 min. with 10x50 binoculars. Brown-backed warbler walking on ground and bobbing tail. White below with dark streaks. Identified as Louisiana by throat devoid of streaks and bright white eyeline. I have seen many of these birds and am very familiar with their identification.

- Steve Calver -

Cowbird, Bronzed: Large cowbird, all black with very obvious ruff on nape and red eye. Seen in excellent light from 30 ft. with binocs by both observers for 20 seconds.

- Jim Morgan -

TANAGER, SCARLET: On the evening of Aug. 4, Nettie Lyons called to say that she had just seen 2 male scarlet tanagers among a group of birds attracted from the trees of her back yard to a running sprinkler. She described bright red birds with black wings and tail. She said she was quite familiar with the species and is a veteran of several of Ben Feltner's tours. Apparently the earliest fall sightings ever.

- Wesley Cureton -

MINUTES OF THE OG MEETING, SEPT. 3, 1981

Ron Braun opened the meeting. Linda Walsh reported a balance in the treasury of \$2627.80. Expenses this month included mailing the OG Roster, which was typed by Barbara Darr. Her husband was responsible for the fine cover page.

There was an auction of one of the art prints donated by Jim Beatty. The Bald Eagle by Charles Beckendorf was sold to David Dauphin for \$25.00.

Ron announced: Paul Jones has volunteered to be aluminum chairman. He has a brown Chevy pick-up which will be parked outside at each meeting.

David Matson announced two October field trips. Certificates of appreciation were given to the officers not present at the last meeting.

Ron: Thanks to Mrs. Bradley for donating books to the library. There is a need for a publisher of THE SPOONBILL.

Emory Froelich introduced our speaker of the evening, Ben Feltner. Ben conducted a seminar on sparrows of the UTC, showing slides of the habitat first and then the sparrows found in those areas. The slides were obtained from Linda Roach and Marilyn Crane. It was a very instructive program.

Ellen Red, Secretary

The SPOONBILL staff is interested in the ornithological resources of the OG. Each member has a unique place on a continuum of ornithological interest from casual to intense. The questionnaire which follows should serve to place your interests in perspective along this continuum. Answer as many questions as you would like and return to the editor. This information will be used in an article for THE SPOONBILL so that each member will have a more detailed picture of the OG.

Name _____

Address _____

How long have you been birding? Please explain _____

Would you say that birding is your primary leisure and/or professional activity? _____

How often do you get out birding? Please explain _____

Do you maintain records of your observations? Please explain _____

Do you keep a "life list"? _____ If so, what is your total number of species for North America (ABA area and ABA recognized species)? _____; for Texas? _____

Do you participate in Christmas Bird Counts? _____ If so, how many per year? _____

Besides the UTC, what other areas of the United States have you birded? _____

Besides the U.S., what other parts of the world have you birded? _____

What is the total number of species on your world list? _____

Besides THE SPOONBILL, what ornithological publications do you read regularly? _____

What part(s) of THE SPOONBILL do you find most valuable each month? _____

Are there any changes you feel would improve THE SPOONBILL? Please explain _____

Do you have helpful suggestions pertaining to the Ornithology Group in general? _____

Thank-you for your cooperation. Please use any part of this page to fully explain answers to the questions.

Ornithology Group
(Outdoor Nature Club)
c/o Mrs. Anne Booth
14735 Oak Bend
Houston, Texas 77079
(RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, Texas
Permit No. 1063

12-81

Chairman & Rare Bird Alert (unusual birds--report or inquire)
Ron Braun, 1302 Berrywood, Houston 77077

Office - 754-7439
Home - 496-3108

Send dues, subscriptions and changes of address to:
Linda Walsh, 702 Marshall, Houston 77006

Annual Membership dues: \$7.00 (ONC-\$5.00, OG-\$2.00)
Annual Subscriptions: \$4.00

528-0139

Send material for THE SPOONBILL by 25th of month to:
Randy Pinkston, 5447 Kuldell, Houston 77096

667-1334

Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to:
Wesley Cureton, 6623 Grovewood, Houston 77008

862-5255

Send requests for OG information, checklists, maps to:
Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston 77096

723-8559