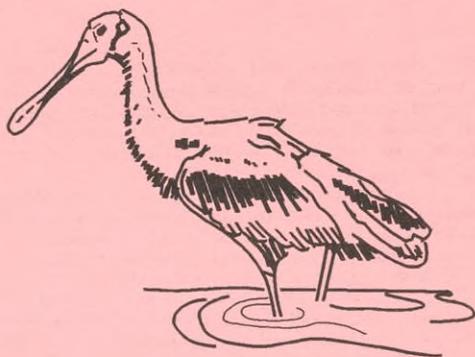


The Spoonbill



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Judith Mueller Boyce, Editor; Don Richardson, Technical Consultant

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, May 6: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 7:30 PM Harris County Bayland Community Center (north side of Bissonnet just west of Hillcroft). Mike Lang of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will present a program on the colonial nesting birds of the Galveston Bay area. The subject of Learning Corner (7:00 PM) will be sounds of birds in the southern pine woods.

Monday, May 13: ROBERT A. VINES ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE will present a showing of the bird art of Dr. H. Douglas Pratt. May 13 through June 7, 1991. The opening activities on May 13 will begin at 7:00 PM with a reception open to all. At 8:30 Dr. Pratt will present a one-hour program on his paintings of birds from conception to completion. Many of Dr. Pratt's works will be available for viewing and sale. Early in April, Dr. Pratt presented his fine program on "Island Birds" at our membership meeting. Here is your chance to see some of his original art works and hear him speak once again. You may call the Vines Science Center at 465-9628 for more information.

Saturday, May 18: OG FIELD TRIP TO EAST TEXAS in search of Bachman's Sparrow, Prairie Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Yellow-breasted Chat, Painted Bunting and other nesting birds of the area. Join us as we enjoy the birds of the Big Thicket. Meet trip leaders, Tony and Phyllis Frank, at 6:00 AM at White Memorial Park. To reach the park take I-10 East to the Hankamer Road exit, State Highway 61, and go south. The entrance to White Memorial Park is on the west side of Hwy. 61 just south of I-10. Bring insect repellent, a sack lunch and drinks. Direct questions to David Bradford (855-2615).

Saturday, June 8: OG FIELD TRIP AND SECOND ANNUAL PICNIC at Brazos Bend State Park. This outing will provide the opportunity to bird an excellent park, meet new friends, mingle with OG members, exchange bird stories, learn bird songs and have fun with people that share a common interest. For all you members new to our group, come share a morning of birding and eating with some of our regulars. The picnic lunch is potluck so bring your special dish to share with friends. To reach the park, take U.S. 59 south over the Brazos River to FM 2759 and follow the signs. Meet at Elm Lake picnic tables at 7:00 AM. David Bradford (855-2615).

Sunday, August 11: OG PELAGIC TRIP OUT OF PORT ARANSAS on the Scat-Cat, an 80 foot catamaran, for birders only. Mike Austin will be our leader as we look for Wilson's Storm-Petrel, Northern Gannet, boobies, shearwaters and more. The boat leaves from Fisherman's Wharf in Port Aransas at 6:00

A.M. and is scheduled to return at approximately 5:00 P.M. A \$20 deposit must be mailed to David Bradford, 18046 Green Hazel Drive, Houston, TX 77084 as soon as possible to hold your place. Deposit checks must be received before June 30, 1991. The \$20 balance must be paid when boarding (5:30 A.M.) on the day of the trip. Rooms are available at the Best Western Seaside Motel (512-729-4105) in Port Aransas, ten minutes from the boat. A room for four is approximately \$66.00 per night. Contact David Bradford for further details at 713-855-2615.

Saturday, September 21: 1991 SIXTH ANNUAL TEXAS COASTAL CLEANUP from 9:00 A.M. to Noon. Last September, 15,000 Beach buddies removed 233 tons of trash from Texas beaches. Plan on joining your OG and Houston Audubon friends at Bolivar Flats and make the Flats safe of birds.

NEWS BRIEFS

AND YARD REPORTS

.....The April meeting of the Ornithology Group was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Richard Uzar. There was no Treasurer's Report. Lee Richardson announced new acquisitions for the Club library: A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica, Stiles and Skutch; A Parrot Without A Name, Don Stap; and Birding By Ear, Roger Tory Peterson. Volunteers are needed by next year's Co-Chairmen Bob Honig and David Bradford for planning the coming year's programs. If you are interested in getting involved, please call Bob Honig at 665-6963.

If you are concerned with the current state of Bolivar Flats, please write to the Galveston County Commissioners Court, 722 Moody Street, Galveston, Texas 77550. You may call the Galveston County Sheriff office (409/766-2300) if you observe vehicles on the Flats. It has been proven effective in the past to express your concern.

Program Chairman Ed Rozenburg introduced the speaker for the evening, H. Douglass Pratt. Dr. Pratt presented an exceptionally interesting program on island birds - their origins, evolution and the concept of speciation. Gretchen Mueller, Secretary

.....Do you ever go on vacation? Have you ever had a great birding or nature experience you want to share? Do you enjoy a particular birding place or group of birds? Why don't you volunteer to present a program? You don't have time to prepare? You don't have enough info? You don't have slides?

Do not fret. There are members who, if asked, would be glad to help you set up a program. They could help you make maps, present information and obtain slides. You don't have to make all or any of the slides yourself. Most of us buy, beg, borrow, copy or steal slides for programs. One of our best kept secrets is the OG slide library for members' use. These slides may not be the best available (many are photos of field guide pages), but most are good enough for most programs.

You probably have some slides of your own. Slides don't have to be suitable for publication in National Geographic to use in a program. They only need to show what you want to point out about the bird, habitat, etc. If you want to buy slides, VIREO and Cornell's Laboratory of Ornithology have an excellent selection of most North American birds at reasonable prices.

The program for next year is being planned now. Let Bob Honig (665-6963) or his new program chairperson know if you want to give a program and maybe they can fit you in. If you feel uneasy in front of us "experts," give programs for local garden clubs, libraries or Scout groups. Before long, you will be a pro.

While we're on the subject of slides, do any of you have any culls you don't want. The Ornithology Group will be glad to take just about any recognizable slides for its slide library. Ed Rozenburg (481-4695)

.....Wildlife biologists are asking that anyone seeing a bald eagle in Texas after mid-March report the sighting to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department immediately. The information could help determine the location of previously unreported nests or nesting eagles. About 30 known pairs of eagles in Texas are the southern subspecies. They nest and raise their young in counties primarily northeast of Corpus Christi. East Texas has a few known nesting pairs (i.e. one pair reported nesting at Lake Charlotte last year) and increased reports and sightings in recent years indicate more southern bald eagles are attempting to nest in East and Northeast Texas. After mid-March, to report the sighting of a bald eagle, especially one with colored markers on the wings and legs, contact David Mabie at 512-729-2315 or the department at 1-800-792-1112.

.....The Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. plans to deliver 4,000 Wood Duck nest boxes this year. More than 7,000 have been distributed since 1987 and about 3,000 nest box applications are still available this year. The boxes must be put in appropriate habitat and be checked annually for use and the results reported back to TPWD. Wood Duck nesting is well under way for this year, but boxes received this summer or fall can be installed by January for the 1992 nesting season. A local breeding population is necessary to have a nest box program. Sightings of Wood Ducks or Black-bellied Whistling Ducks in your area during spring or summer indicate that installation of nest boxes might attract breeding ducks. Applicants can get brochures and application forms by calling 1-800-792-1112. The Wetland Habitat Alliance of Texas and the Texas Forestry Association have contributed support for this program.

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

By Noel Pettingell
30 YEARS AGO/FROM APRIL 1961 SPOONBILL

ESKIMO CURLEW

Audubon visited Labrador in 1832 and gives us this description of their numbers: "The accounts given of these birds borders on the miraculous. They arrive in such numbers to remind me of the Passenger Pigeon." In spring

they migrated northward through the continental interior. The great flocks were decimated at all seasons of the year (save possibly on some of the nesting grounds) from Labrador to Argentina and back through the interior of North America. By 1890 only a few scattered flocks were reported anywhere. The last individuals reported are about as follows: Ohio, 1878; Michigan, 1883; Indiana, 1890; Wisconsin, 1912; Argentina, 1925; and Nebraska, 1926. Unconfirmed but evidently reliable reports have placed the Eskimo Curlews in Labrador as late as about 1930 and probably a few scattered elsewhere during the following year." [from NATURAL HISTORY OF BIRDS, Leonard W. Wing, Copyright 1956]

SPOONBILL EDITORIAL More about curlews - mostly Eskimos. The credit for this find of the century goes to TREVOR BEN FELTNER for his alertness in spotting and identifying an Eskimo Curlew in 1959. Let's not forget this in our current enthusiasm. VIC EMANUEL must be praised for his energies in helping to keep the project alive, for pushing for the 1959 AUK article by Dr. George Williams, for the 1960 search with CARL AIKEN and STEVE WILLIAMS and finding the birds. In 1961 we must give the utmost credit to HARVEY PATTEN. Alone and never having seen the bird before, he found it at 11:15 AM on March 31, 1961. He contacted the landowner, discussed protection of the bird and made arrangements for a party to photograph the bird the next day. To all in the past our humble appreciation. To Harvey, thanks a million, and to CHARLIE MCINTIRE for help in setting up the blind and patiently pursuing the bird and being the first man in all history to snap a shutter at an Eskimo Curlew. To JERRY AND NANCY STRICKLING thanks for their rewarding effort for bringing the identity of this bird to its optimum status by Dr. George Lowery.

ARTICLES

UNCOMMON BIRDS OF THE UPPER TEXAS COAST by P. D. Hulce

American Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*)

Separating the very rare American Black Duck from its much more common relative, the Mottled Duck (*Anas fulvigula*) is the main problem confronting the winter birder on the Upper Texas Coast (UTC). The Mottled Duck is a common to abundant, year-round resident on the UTC, while the status of the American Black Duck in Texas is under review by the Texas Birds Records Committee of the Texas Ornithological Society. There are less than 10 records of American Black Duck in The Spoonbill Clearinghouse during the past 12 years, and some of these reports have marginal or no field notes.

The Black Duck is a very dark bird with uniform blackish-brown appearance. The body feathers, especially on the breast, flanks and scapulars, are characterized by a very narrow, buff-brown edge and no internal markings. Body feathers of the Mottled Duck show a broader edge and usually some irregular, internal buff-brown markings.

The head and neck of the Black Duck are somewhat lighter than the body; the crown, hindneck and eyestripe are dark, and the entire head and neck are covered with fine, dark streaks. The Mottled Duck is quite similar, but at close range it shows a distinctly unstreaked, buffy throat. Also, the Mottled Duck has a distinct black gape spot at the base of the bill.

The Black Duck displays a deep purple speculum, usually bordered in black, sometimes with a white trailing edge. Mottled Duck shows a bright blue or blue-green speculum bordered front and rear in white.

Gulf Coast populations of Mottled Duck may be considerably darker, approximating the general appearance of the Black Duck, particularly at a distance. Both birds show flashing white wing linings in flight, but the Black Duck may show a darker, less contrasting belly.

During the winter the Black Duck frequents such habitats as freshwater and brackish marshes, sheltered coastal bays and other brackish water areas. UTC areas where Black Ducks have been reported include Anahuac and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges, San Jacinto State Park, Galveston Island, west Harris County and the El Campo area. Your best chance of actually locating a Black Duck would probably be to the east of Houston, the farther east the better. If you do find a Black Duck, take good field notes and a number of photographs.

GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP - MARCH 22-24, 1991
by Barbara Neal

The weather was cool, but cooperative-no rain- for the Outdoor Nature Club's (ONC) field trip to Gunsight Mountain Ranch in Tarpley. Promised and delivered were opportunities for birders, botanists, photographers, hikers and just plain nature lovers. A goodly number turned out for this well-planned expedition which included a side trip to the Hill Country Natural Area.

Lining up in a caravan of cars and hikers, Saturday morning, visitors followed the trail of host Dorothy Mattiza as she led the way up and down and around on the rocky road that loops through her 700 acre ranch. Mattiza likes to personally share her knowledge and opinions so the tour incorporates lessons in ecology and visitors become attuned to this special land as they see it through her eyes.

Nor reluctant about sending a message back with her followers, Mattiza sees a need to educate others about the need for stewardship of the land, which despite its looks, is fragile and has suffered from overgrazing and agricultural use. Mattiza has some solution for this, saying the tax incentive structure must be changed to encourage better use of the land: "Tax incentives used to clear land must be matched equally by tax incentives for conservation."

Pointing out the special properties of native plants and their ability to anchor soil, Mattiza is a persuasive advocate of following nature's lead and a good person to wear the mantle of President of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

Trip organizer, Irene Leslie, expressed the opinion of many by saying she thought the trip was very satisfactory especially since everyone was able to get around and do what they wished. ONC hopes to have more "mixed group" trips.

CLEARING HOUSE

CLEARING HOUSE March, 1991

Editors: Tony and Phyllis Frank

March had slightly less rain than average for the month, but food supplies appeared good. Plants and insects were growing well because of generous rains earlier in the year and generally mild temperatures. The eagerly awaited spring migration got into full swing this month. A total of 241 species were reported for the month. Interesting reports include a Glossy Ibis from Anahuac NWR at the same location where one was observed last year (same bird?). A late Ross's Goose was reported. Anahuac NWR also had reports of Black Duck. The Swallow-tailed Kite returned to Creighton Rd. this year. Lingering raptor included a report of Golden Eagle from Colorado county. Purple Gallinule made their debut this month. Two notable gulls reports were Glaucous

Gull at the Quintana jetty and Franklin's Gull at Anahuac NWR. Buff-bellied Hummingbird was reported from Victoria. An early Ash-throated Flycatcher was reported. Nesting Cave Swallows returned to Sea Rim State Park again this year. An early Swainson's Thrush was reported and the visiting Varied Thrush first found in February lingered through March 12 (verbal-last CH report on 10th). Early Warbling Vireo and Blue Grosbeak were reported this month. Henslow's Sparrow found at Smith Point in February was present into March. A lingering Fox Sparrow rounds out the list.

Please remember to submit notes on very rare birds. As always early April reports will be appreciated, but they are due by May 3rd. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

Loon, Common	8-31 4/181 GA-4/181
Grebe, Pied-bill	2-31 26/202 U-1/4 BR-4/38 CH-7/81 CO-2/7 FB-3/48 GA-7/21 HA-1/1 JE-1/2
Grebe, Eared	19-19 1/1 BR-(1)19,DBP
Pelican, Amer Wht	2-31 18/2665 U-1/8 BR-1/30 CH-4/62 GA-10/2510 JE-2/55
Pelican, Brown	19-31 7/22 BR-2/4 GA-5/18
Corm, Dbl-crested	2-31 31/662 U-2/22 BR-5/108 CH-6/58 CO-2/21 FB-2/33 GA-8/367 HA-2/25 JE-4/28
Corm, Olivaceous	2-31 11/99 U-1/15 BR-1/10 CH-2/4 GA-5/52 HA-1/8 JE-1/10
Anhinga	17-31 4/14 BR-1/2 CH-1/1 FB-2/11
Bittern, American	2-31 8/14 U-1/3 BR-1/1 CH-2/2 FB-2/6 GA-1/1 HA-1/1
Heron, Great Blue	2-31 37/158 U-4/30 BR-6/32 CH-7/31 CO-2/6 FB-3/15 GA-10/39 HA-1/1 JE-4/4
Egret, Great	2-31 36/282 U-4/32 BR-6/50 CH-7/47 CO-2/9 FB-3/24 GA-9/101 JE-5/19
Egret, Snowy	2-31 30/255 U-3/12 BR-5/35 CH-6/50 FB-3/7 GA-6/119 HA-1/2 JE-6/30
Heron, Little Blu	2-31 21/105 U-3/9 BR-5/12 CH-6/64 CO-1/1 FB-1/12 GA-5/7
Heron, Tricolored	2-31 13/39 U-1/4 BR-3/4 CH-2/5 FB-1/1 GA-5/24 JE-1/1
Egret, Reddish	2-31 8/11 U-1/2 BR-1/1 GA-5/7 JE-1/1
Egret, Cattle	2-31 23/471 U-2/75 BR-6/137 CH-4/64 FB-2/42 GA-5/135 HA-1/10 JE-2/7 VI-1/1
Heron, Grn-backed	16-31 3/3 U-(1)16,B; U-(1)31,PS; HA-BU(1)24,PB
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	2-29 5/60 BR-2/48 CH-1/8 FB-1/2 GA-1/2
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	9-31 10/45 U-1/3 BR-1/1 CH-1/20 FB-2/9 HA-5/12
Ibis, White	2-31 18/707 U-2/23 BR-3/170 CH-6/375 FB-3/61 GA-4/78
Ibis, Glossy	10-29 2/2 CH-AW(1)10,A; CH-AW(1)29,PG
Ibis, White-faced	2-31 19/837 U-3/77 BR-4/94 CH-8/520 GA-2/26 JE-2/120
Spoonbill, Roseat	2-31 16/217 U-1/20 BR-1/40 CH-2/8 FB-2/20 GA-5/95 JE-5/34
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	3-31 13/274 U-1/1 BR-1/35 CH-5/89 FB-2/22 GA-2/50 JE-2/77
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd	2-17 4/143 U-1/30 BR-1/100 CO-1/2 FB-1/11
Goose, Gr Wht-frn	2-31 10/820 U-1/2 BR-1/3 CH-4/560 CO-2/110 FB-1/45 GA-1/100
Goose, Snow	2-31 13/7397 U-3/420 BR-1/75 CH-5/5812 CO-2/780 FB-1/300 GA-1/10
Goose, Ross'	3-3 1/1 CH-(1)3,JJW
Goose, Canada	2-16 4/235 BR-1/80 CH-1/40 CO-1/80 FB-1/35
Duck, Wood	9-27 4/7 U-1/2 CH-1/2 HA-2/3
Teal, Green-wing	2-31 15/7828 U-5/7000 BR-3/108 CH-3/113 CO-1/300 GA-3/307

Duck, Amer Black 3-3 1/2 CH-AW(2)3,JJW
 Duck, Mottled 2-31 27/233 U-4/29 BR-4/63 CH-6/81
 CO-2/16 FB-1/4 GA-6/13 JE-4/27
 Mallard 2-31 10/39 U-3/10 BR-2/3 CH-1/2
 FB-1/2 JE-2/21 VI-1/1
 Pintail, Northern 2-17 11/2354 U-4/2275 BR-2/2
 CH-2/31 CO-1/25 FB-1/3 GA-1/18
 Teal, Blue-winged 2-31 32/1374 U-4/101 BR-4/205 CH-6/157
 CO-2/180 FB-3/100 GA-8/443 JE-4/184
 Teal, Cinnamon 9-16 4/33 U-1/6 BR-1/4 CO-2/23
 Shoveler, Northern 2-31 21/6746 U-5/5482 BR-4/773
 CH-6/290 FB-1/60 GA-5/141
 Gadwall 2-31 21/602 U-3/182 BR-4/86 CH-5/97
 CO-2/40 FB-1/19 GA-4/166 HA-1/2 JE-1/10
 Wigeon, American 2-31 17/575 U-4/370 BR-1/4 CH-4/55
 CO-1/4 FB-2/14 GA-4/108 JE-1/20
 Canvasback 2-29 6/65 BR-2/46 CH-4/19
 Duck, Ring-necked 2-29 14/249 U-1/6 BR-3/32 CH-5/98
 FB-1/43 JE-4/70
 Scaup, Greater 2-31 2/5 BR-BW(3)2,XX; BR-(2)31,PS
 Scaup, Lesser 2-31 8/3144 BR-2/15 GA-6/3129
 Merganser, Red-br 8-31 8/176 U-1/30 BR-2/8 GA-5/138
 Duck, Ruddy 2-9 2/16 U-(2)9,BB; FB-BB(14)2,DR
 Vulture, Black 2-31 18/126 U-4/10 BR-4/14 CH-4/54
 CO-2/20 FB-1/20 GA-1/2 HA-1/5 VI-1/1
 Vulture, Turkey 2-31 30/485 U-4/88 BR-6/93 CH-9/127
 CO-2/55 FB-3/75 GA-2/5 HA-1/35
 JE-2/6 VI-1/1
 Osprey 8-23 5/12 BR-1/1 CH-1/2 GA-2/2 HA-1/7
Kite, Am Swl-tail 16-31 3/3 GA-(1)29,DM; HA-AB(1)16,PD;
 JE-(1)31,PG
 Kite, Blk-shouldr 2-31 12/22 BR-4/7 GA-7/14 JE-1/1
 Harrier, Northern 2-31 28/190 U-4/49 BR-5/35 CH-8/62
 CO-2/17 FB-2/7 GA-6/19 JE-1/1
 Hawk, Sharp-shin 10-17 3/3 CH-(1)10,A; CH-SP(1)17,JJW;
 CH-AW(1)17,JJW
 Hawk, Cooper's 2-31 6/6 BR-2/2 CH-1/1 FB-1/1
 GA-1/1 HA-1/1
 Hawk, Red-shouldr 2-31 15/34 U-3/11 BR-4/11 CH-2/3
 FB-2/3 HA-2/4 JE-1/1 VI-1/1
 Hawk, Broad-winged 17-31 9/99 U-1/3 BR-1/3 FB-1/1
 GA-2/55 HA-4/37
 Hawk, Swainson's 31-31 1/1 BR-(1)31,PTF
 Hawk, White-tailed 2-31 4/8 BR-BW(2)2,XX; BR-(1)31,PTF;
 CO-(3)10,RU; CO-APC(2)16,RU
 Hawk, Red-tailed 2-31 35/272 U-5/71 BR-5/40 CH-10/91
 CO-2/17 FB-2/14 GA-6/28 JE-5/11
 (Hawk, Harlan's) 10-17 2/2 HA-(1)10,RU; HA-(1)17,RU
 Hawk, Ferruginous 10-10 1/1 CO-(1)10,RU
Eagle, Golden 10-10 1/1 CO-(1)10,RU
 Caracara, Crested 2-31 7/19 U-1/3 BR-3/3 CO-2/12 FB-1/1
 Kestrel, American 2-31 43/352 U-5/72 BR-6/68 CH-11/98
 CO-2/20 FB-2/28 GA-9/42 HA-3/4 JE-5/20
 Merlin 1-30 2/2 GA-(1)30,DB; HA-(1)1,JC
 Prairie Chick, Gr 16-16 1/2 CO-APC(2)16,RU
 Bobwhite, Northern 2-17 4/50 U-2/23 BR-1/25 CO-1/2
 Rail, Clapper 8-31 5/22 CH-1/4 GA-4/18
 Rail, King 10-29 2/3 CH-AW(2)10,A; CH-(1)29,PTF
 Sora 3-31 4/5 U-(1)16,B; U-(1)31,PS;
 CH-AW(1)3,JOM; HA-CU(2)23,X
Gallinule, Purple 3-31 2/4 BR-(2)31,PTF; CH-AW(2)3,JOM
 Moorhen, Common 2-31 20/494 U-2/50 BR-4/173 CH-6/145
 FB-3/107 JE-5/19
 Coot, American 2-31 23/2725 U-3/440 BR-5/1010
 CH-5/680 CO-2/260 FB-3/190 JE-5/145
 Crane, Sandhill 2-16 4/195 U-1/20 BR-2/100 CO-1/75
 Plover, Blk-belli 2-31 11/897 U-2/32 GA-8/855 JE-1/10
 Golden-Plover, Ls 9-31 12/437 U-4/57 BR-2/22 CH-1/210
 CO-1/1 GA-4/147
 Plover, Snowy 8-31 5/43 U-(1)31,PS; GA-(12)8,RU;
 GA-(12)15,RU; GA-(15)23,UH; GA-(3)30,DB
 Plover, Wilson's 8-31 9/37 BR-1/1 GA-7/35 HA-1/1
 Plover, Semipalm 8-31 7/95 U-1/1 GA-6/94
 Plover, Piping 2-31 8/263 U-1/8 GA-7/255
 Killdeer 1-31 31/671 U-5/313 BR-5/76 CH-5/64
 CO-2/107 FB-2/61 GA-9/47 HA-2/2 VI-1/1
 Stilt, Black-neck 2-31 19/133 U-1/4 BR-3/11 CH-2/21
 GA-10/81 JE-3/16
 Avocet, American 2-31 10/23604 U-1/2000 BR-1/100
 GA-8/21504
 Yellowlegs, Great 2-31 24/280 U-4/84 BR-4/18 CH-2/41
 CO-2/50 GA-10/85 JE-2/2
 Yellowlegs, Less 2-31 22/563 U-3/270 BR-2/21 CH-4/117
 CO-2/18 GA-10/132 JE-1/5
 Sandprr, Solitary 16-31 5/6 U-1/1 BR-1/1 CH-1/2 GA-2/2
 Willet 2-31 17/654 U-2/16 BR-5/36 CH-1/2
 GA-8/575 JE-1/25
 Sandprr, Spotted 15-15 1/1 GA-(1)15,RU
 Sandprr, Upland 15-31 5/34 BR-(15)31,PTF; GA-(2)15,RU;
 GA-(8)30,PTF; GA-(4)31,PTF; GA-WHC(5)31,DB
 Whimbrel 2-31 6/31 CH-1/1 GA-5/30
 Curlew, Long-bill 2-31 17/170 U-2/20 BR-3/12 CH-2/51
 GA-10/87
 Godwit, Marbled 2-31 10/334 U-1/12 GA-8/318 JE-1/4
 Turnstone, Ruddy 2-31 10/91 U-1/4 BR-4/57 GA-5/30
 Knot, Red 15-31 3/95 GA-3/95
 Sanderling 2-31 11/1452 BR-4/47 GA-7/1405
 Sandprr, Semipalm 31-31 1/1 U-(1)31,PS
 Sandprr, Western 2-31 11/7542 U-1/12 BR-1/30 GA-8/7450
 JE-1/50
 Sandprr, Least 8-31 10/235 U-2/17 CO-2/9 GA-6/209
 Sandprr, Pectoral 16-31 6/101 BR-1/3 CH-1/1 CO-1/5 GA-3/92
 Dunlin 8-31 14/7636 U-2/100 BR-1/4
 CH-1/6 CO-1/3 GA-8/5498 JE-1/25
 Sandprr, Stilt 30-30 1/4 GA-(4)30,DB
 Sandprr, Buf-brst 17-17 1/1 CH-(1)17,JJW
 Dowitcher, S-bill 2-31 11/5880 U-2/80 BR-1/20 GA-7/5730
 JE-1/50
 Dowitcher, L-bill 9-31 9/3617 U-3/3112 CH-2/130
 CO-1/80 GA-2/285 JE-1/10
 dowitcher, sp. 3-16 2/125 BR-1/25 CH-1/100
 Snipe, Common 2-31 19/528 U-4/339 BR-2/12 CH-5/53
 CO-1/100 GA-6/21 JE-1/3
 Phalarope, Wilson 31-31 1/1 GA-WHC(1)31,DB
 Jaeger, Parasitic 30-30 1/1 GA-(1)30,PTF
 jaeger, sp. 30-30 1/1 GA-1/1
 Gull, Laughing 2-31 22/10153 U-2/503 BR-6/639
 CH-2/21 GA-10/8955 HA-1/15 JE-1/20
Gull, Franklin's 29-29 1/1 CH-AW(1)29,PG
 Gull, Bonaparte's 2-31 12/658 U-1/20 BR-4/37 GA-7/601
 Gull, Ring-billed 1-31 26/1782 U-3/102 BR-4/305 CH-3/31
 CO-1/2 GA-9/1310 HA-3/10 JE-3/22
 Gull, Herring 2-31 13/424 U-2/5 BR-3/13 CH-1/1
 GA-7/405
Gull, Glaucous 19-19 1/1 BR-FJ(1)19,DBP
 Tern, Gull-billed 23-31 3/15 U-1/4 GA-2/11
 Tern, Caspian 2-31 16/70 U-1/2 BR-5/17 CH-2/3
 FB-1/2 GA-7/46
 Tern, Royal 2-31 14/1849 U-2/7 BR-3/39 GA-9/1803
 Tern, Sandwich 10-31 7/121 BR-2/9 CH-1/20 GA-4/92
 Tern, Common 2-31 4/66 GA-4/66
 Tern, Forster's 2-31 19/2756 U-2/120 BR-4/91
 CH-4/29 GA-8/2510 HA-1/6
 Tern, Least 23-31 6/572 U-1/2 BR-1/40 GA-4/530
 Skimmer, Black 2-31 7/907 U-1/500 BR-1/1 GA-5/406
 Dove, Rock 1-31 22/629 U-4/165 BR-4/198 CH-1/2
 CO-2/19 FB-1/20 GA-5/74 HA-5/151
 Dove, White-winged 21-24 2/5 HA-(1)21,JC; JE-(4)24,JJW
 Dove, Mourning 2-31 43/521 U-6/102 BR-6/53 CH-5/92
 CO-2/40 FB-3/42 GA-8/61 HA-7/105
 JE-5/25 VI-1/1
 Dove, Inca 2-31 17/48 U-2/3 FB-2/5 GA-4/15
 HA-6/20 JE-2/4 VI-1/1
 Ground-Dove, Comm 9-9 1/1 WA-(1)9,BB
 Parakeet, Monk 31-31 1/2 HA-BU(2)31,PB
 Cuckoo, Yel-billd 31-31 1/1 JE-SW(1)31,PG
 Owl, Barn 2-10 3/11 CH-1/2 FB-1/1 HA-1/8
 Screech-Owl, East 1-15 4/6 HA-4/6
 Owl, Great Horned 2-30 5/8 U-1/3 BR-1/1 CO-1/2
 GA-1/1 HA-1/1
 Owl, Barred 2-31 4/9 FB-1/2 HA-1/4 VI-1/1 WA-1/2
 Nighthawk, Common 3-3 1/3 CH-AW(3)3,JOM

Whip-poor-will 25-29 2/2 HA-(1)25,JC; HA-(1)29,LP
Swift, Chimney 17-31 7/27 U-1/1 GA-1/15 HA-2/6
JE-2/4 VI-1/1
Hummer, Buf-belly 22-22 1/1 VI-(1)22,PR
Hummer, Ruby-thrt 8-31 13/26 U-1/1 CH-1/1 GA-3/4
HA-4/11 JE-2/7 VI-2/2
Hummer, Rufous 2-2 1/2 CH-(2)2, JW
Kingfisher, Beltd 2-31 31/68 U-3/14 BR-6/14 CH-8/18
CO-2/2 FB-2/2 GA-2/3 HA-4/4 JE-4/11
Wdpeckr, Red-head 2-30 7/8 U-1/1 BR-1/1 CH-4/5 HA-1/1
Wdpeckr, Red-bell 2-31 18/52 U-3/6 BR-1/1 CH-3/10
CO-1/1 FB-3/26 HA-6/7 VI-1/1
Sapsuck, Yel-bell 2-31 7/13 U-3/7 FB-1/3 HA-3/3
Wdpeckr, Lldr-bck 9-9 1/1 CO-(1)9, BB
Wdpeckr, Downy 2-31 15/19 U-2/2 BR-2/2 CH-3/5
FB-3/5 GA-1/1 HA-3/3 VI-1/1
Flicker, Northern 8-31 8/23 U-3/14 CH-1/5 CO-1/1
HA-2/2 JE-1/1
Wdpeckr, Pileated 2-31 8/17 BR-2/2 CH-3/8 FB-2/6 HA-1/1
Phoebe, Eastern 2-19 12/30 U-2/11 BR-2/2 CH-4/8
CO-1/1 FB-1/6 HA-2/2
Flycatch, Ash-thr 10-10 1/1 BR-SB(1)10, DRY
Flycatch, Gr Crst 29-31 2/5 GA-(3)29, PTF; GA-(2)31, RU
Kingbird, Eastern 25-31 8/19 U-1/1 BR-1/8 CH-2/3
FB-1/1 GA-2/5 JE-1/1
Flycatch, Ss-tail 20-31 11/28 U-1/10 BR-2/4 CH-1/4
FB-1/1 GA-3/6 HA-1/1 JE-2/2
Lark, Horned 15-16 2/28 BR-BW(25)16, HFT; GA-(3)15, RU
Martin, Purple 2-31 20/151 U-2/31 BR-2/13 CH-1/3
GA-8/71 HA-3/5 JE-3/16 VI-1/12
Swallow, Tree 2-31 18/345 U-1/15 BR-2/110 CH-4/118
CO-1/3 FB-1/8 GA-4/22 HA-1/6 JE-4/63
Swallow, N R-wing 8-29 6/73 BR-1/1 CH-3/66 GA-2/6
Swallow, Bank 29-29 2/3 CH-(1)29, JW; GA-(2)29, JW
Swallow, Cliff 16-16 1/8 CO-APC(8)16, RU
Swallow, Cave 31-31 1/6 JE-(6)31, PG
Swallow, Barn 9-31 16/215 U-3/56 BR-3/24 CH-4/25
GA-4/103 HA-1/2 JE-1/5
Jay, Blue 2-31 29/206 U-3/26 BR-2/4 CH-2/19
CO-1/2 FB-3/30 GA-6/25 HA-6/92 JE-6/8
Crow, American 1-31 28/216 U-4/33 BR-5/62 CH-6/27
CO-2/9 FB-3/61 GA-1/3 HA-6/18 JE-1/3
Crow, Fish 24-24 1/3 JE-SW(3)24, JW
Chickadee, Carol 1-31 15/73 U-2/10 BR-3/19 CH-2/17
CO-1/6 FB-2/14 HA-4/6 VI-1/1
Titmouse, Tufted 2-31 9/37 U-2/11 CH-2/16 CO-1/3
FB-3/6 VI-1/1
Creeper, Brown 2-16 3/7 U-(2)16, B; CH-(3)2, PTF;
CH-(2)9, RU
Wren, Carolina 1-31 14/35 U-3/6 BR-2/7 CH-1/3
FB-2/9 GA-1/1 HA-5/9
Wren, Bewick's 17-17 1/1 U-(1)17, RU
Wren, House 8-31 6/7 U-1/1 CO-1/1 GA-1/2
HA-1/1 JE-1/1 VI-1/1
Wren, Winter 17-17 1/1 HA-(1)17, JC
Wren, Sedge 2-31 8/18 U-1/1 BR-3/6 CH-1/8
CO-1/1 GA-2/2
Wren, Marsh 2-31 4/18 CH-1/8 GA-3/10
Kinglet, Gold-crn 9-31 7/12 U-1/2 BR-1/5 CH-2/2
FB-1/1 HA-1/1 JE-1/1
Kinglet, Ruby-crn 2-31 23/177 U-3/51 BR-2/27 CH-2/6
CO-1/3 FB-3/26 GA-5/36 HA-5/24
JE-1/3 VI-1/1
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 8-31 12/241 U-2/76 BR-1/1 CH-1/6
GA-5/81 HA-2/52 JE-1/25
Bluebird, Eastern 2-25 6/26 U-2/7 BR-1/2 FB-2/16 VI-1/1
Thrush, Swainsons 29-29 1/1 GA-(1)29, DM
Thrush, Hermit 2-31 10/16 U-2/6 FB-1/2 GA-4/5
HA-2/2 VI-1/1
Thrush, Wood 23-30 2/3 GA-HI(1)23, JW; GA-(2)30, DB
Robin, American 2-24 22/1396 U-3/630 BR-1/2 CH-5/409
CO-1/2 FB-1/160 GA-2/28 HA-6/59 JE-3/106
Thrush, Varied 2-10 3/1 CH-(1)2, PTF; CH-(1)3, JW;
CH-(1)10, A
Catbird, Gray 9-31 4/6 U-1/1 BR-1/3 CH-1/1 GA-1/1
Mockingbird, N 1-31 41/386 U-5/98 BR-5/49 CH-6/52
CO-2/23 FB-3/35 GA-7/58 HA-7/57
JE-5/13 VI-1/1
Thrasher, Brown 2-31 18/34 U-2/9 BR-1/1 CH-1/2
FB-1/1 GA-5/8 HA-6/11 JE-1/1 VI-1/1
Pipit, American 9-17 5/52 U-2/5 BR-1/20 CO-2/27
Pipit, Sprague's 2-9 4/7 BR-BW(2)2, XX; CH-AW(1)3, JW;
CH-(1)9, RU; CO-APC(3)9, BB
Waxwing, Cedar 3-31 17/881 U-3/300 CH-2/40 FB-2/16
GA-1/30 HA-7/194 VI-2/301
Shrike, Loggerhed 2-31 41/311 U-5/61 BR-5/48 CH-10/112
CO-2/19 FB-3/11 GA-6/26 HA-3/5
JE-6/28 VI-1/1
Starling, Euro 1-31 31/1325 U-5/470 BR-4/220
CH-2/110 CO-2/85 FB-2/65 GA-4/95
HA-6/174 JE-5/105 VI-1/1
Vireo, White-eyed 9-31 14/37 U-2/13 CH-1/1 GA-6/13
HA-2/6 JE-1/1 VI-2/3
Vireo, Solitary 16-31 8/14 U-1/3 GA-6/10 JE-1/1
Vireo, Yell-thrtd 16-24 2/13 U-(12)16, B; JE-SW(1)24, JW
Vireo, Warbling 23-23 1/1 GA-HI(1)23, UH
Vireo, Red-eyed 16-31 5/19 U-1/14 GA-4/5
Warb, Orange-crn 2-31 12/28 U-1/3 BR-1/6 CO-1/1
FB-1/1 GA-5/11 HA-2/3 JE-1/3
Warb, Nashville 22-30 2/2 GA-(1)30, PTF; VI-(1)22, PR
Parula, Northern 16-31 13/64 U-1/6 CH-1/10 GA-7/38
HA-1/2 JE-1/6 VI-2/2
Warb, Yellow-rump 2-31 34/1534 U-5/232 BR-2/115 CH-7/202
CO-1/8 FB-2/277 GA-8/386 HA-7/263
JE-1/50 VI-1/1
(Warb, Audubon's) 29-29 1/1 GA-(1)29, DM
Warb, Blk-thr Grn 23-23 2/4 GA-(3)23, UH; GA-HI(1)23, JW
Warb, Blackburn 31-31 1/1 FB-BB(1)31, PBM
Warb, Yel-throat 9-29 7/10 U-1/3 CH-1/1 GA-3/4
HA-1/1 JE-1/1
Warb, Pine 9-23 2/28 CH-(25)9, RU; GA-(3)23, UH
Warb, Palm 9-30 2/3 CH-(1)9, RU; CH-(2)30, PTF
Warb, Blk-and-wht 9-31 11/40 U-1/12 CH-2/2 GA-5/21
HA-1/1 JE-1/3 VI-1/1
Warb, Prothonotry 16-31 6/12 U-1/3 FB-2/4 GA-2/3 JE-1/2
Warb, Worm-eating 23-30 3/3 GA-HI(1)23, UH; GA-(1)30, PTF;
GA-(1)30, DB
Waterthrush, N 23-23 1/1 GA-HI(1)23, JW
Waterthrush, Lou 16-23 3/5 U-(2)16, B; CH-SP(1)17, JW;
GA-HI(2)23, JW
Yellowthroat, Com 2-31 7/29 BR-2/4 CH-2/21 FB-2/3 GA-1/1
Warb, Hooded 22-31 7/7 GA-5/5 JE-1/1 VI-1/1
Warb, Wilson's 23-29 2/2 GA-HI(1)29, JW; HA-CU(1)23, X
Chat, Yellow-brst 31-31 1/1 FB-BB(1)31, PBM
Tanager, Summer 31-31 1/1 JE-SW(1)31, PG
Cardinal, Northrn 2-31 33/351 U-5/97 BR-4/32 CH-4/13
CO-2/14 FB-3/74 GA-6/34 HA-5/80
JE-3/6 VI-1/1
Grosbeak, Blue 29-29 1/1 CH-SP(1)29, PB
Bunting, Indigo 23-23 1/1 HA-CU(1)23, X
Towhee, Rfus-side 22-22 1/1 VI-(1)22, PR
(Towhee, Spotted) 9-9 1/2 WA-(2)9, BB
Sparrow, Chipping 17-29 2/21 U-(20)17, RU; GA-(1)29, JW
Sparrow, Field 9-17 3/11 U-2/10 CO-1/1
Sparrow, Vesper 9-17 7/216 U-2/103 BR-2/7 CH-1/1
CO-2/105
Sparrow, Savannah 2-31 26/1625 U-4/310 BR-4/355 CH-7/222
CO-2/580 FB-1/25 GA-6/127 JE-2/6
Sparrow, Henslows 9-17 2/2 CH-(1)9, RU; CH-SP(1)17, JW
Sparrow, Le Conte 2-10 3/7 BR-1/3 CH-1/1 GA-1/3
Sparrow, Shp-tail 2-31 3/9 CH-1/2 GA-2/7
Sparrow, Seaside 10-31 4/8 CH-2/4 GA-2/4
Sparrow, Fox 9-9 1/5 CO-APC(5)9, BB
Sparrow, Song 2-16 6/14 U-2/7 BR-1/1 CO-1/2
FB-1/2 HA-1/2
Sparrow, Lincolns 2-31 9/49 U-1/5 BR-1/36 CO-2/2
FB-1/1 GA-2/3 JE-1/1 VI-1/1
Sparrow, Swamp 2-31 18/79 U-2/9 BR-4/24 CH-4/9
CO-2/3 FB-3/28 GA-3/6
Sparrow, Wht-thrt 2-31 14/124 U-2/20 BR-1/3 CH-1/30
CO-2/12 FB-1/19 GA-3/17 HA-3/22 VI-1/1
Sparrow, Wht-crn 9-17 5/128 U-2/40 BR-1/10 CO-2/78

Blackbird, Red-wg 2-31 35/7516 U-5/1525 BR-6/910
 CH-6/1770 CO-2/1085 FB-3/805 GA-5/745
 HA-2/115 JE-5/560 VI-1/1

Meadowlark, East 2-31 32/1250 U-5/365 BR-6/268 CH-5/112
 CO-2/300 FB-2/55 GA-7/105 JE-5/45

Blackbird, Brewer 2-17 4/86 U-2/55 BR-1/6 CO-1/25

Grackle, Gr-tail 2-31 33/4993 U-4/280 BR-5/260
 CH-5/177 CO-2/2506 FB-3/185 GA-4/1150
 HA-3/64 JE-6/370 VI-1/1

Grackle, Bt-tail 2-31 16/413 U-1/50 BR-5/102 CH-4/144
 GA-5/107 JE-1/10

Grackle, Common 2-31 25/1979 U-4/1060 BR-2/220
 CH-1/12 CO-2/140 FB-2/37 GA-2/25
 HA-5/372 JE-6/112 VI-1/1

Cowbird, Brn-head 2-31 20/1145 U-4/195 BR-4/551 CH-1/100
 CO-1/6 FB-2/9 GA-5/268 JE-2/15 VI-1/1

Oriole, Orchard 29-31 2/3 GA-(2)29,PTF; GA-(1)31,RU

Oriole, Northern 23-23 1/1 HA-(1)23,UH

Finch, Purple 7-7 1/1 HA-(1)7,PBM

Goldfinch, Amer 2-24 6/50 U-1/6 CO-1/5 FB-1/6
 HA-2/32 VI-1/1

Sparrow, House 2-31 27/569 U-4/218 BR-3/80 CH-1/5
 CO-1/4 FB-2/45 GA-4/28 HA-7/141
 JE-4/47 VI-1/1

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 150077

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES:

A = Mike Austin
 B = P.D. Hulce, Don Francis
 BB = PDH, DF, Mark Scheuerman
 DB = David Bradford
 DBP = DB, Garland Porter
 DM = David Marrack
 DR = Don Richardson
 DRY = Don Ryan
 HAFT = Houston Arboretum FT/B. Honig, J. Ricketts
 JC = Jerry Caraviotis
 JJW = Jana & John Whittle
 JOM = John McLemore
 JW = John Whittle
 LP = Libby Price
 MLO = ML & Ellen Owens
 NP = Noel Pettingell
 PB = Patrick Baum
 PBM = Peggy & Bob Millstead
 PD = Patricia Doreen
 PG = Peter Gottschling
 PR = Peter Riesz
 PS = PDH, Steve Schultz
 PTF = P & T Frank
 RU = Richard Uzar
 UH = R Uzar, B. Honig
 X = P. D. Hulce
 XX = PDH, Mark Scheuerman

LIST OF LOCATION CODES:

APC = Attwater
 BU = Buffalo Bayou Park
 CU = Cullinan Park
 RP = Rollover Pass
 SP = Smith Point
 WOB = White Oak Bayou

American Black Duck - Jana and John Whittle March 3, 1991
 Ducks were observed for over 1 minute at 3:45 PM at the southwest corner of Shoveler Pond at Anahuac NWR. The light conditions were excellent with light from behind. The ducks were observed from 40 to 60 feet while on the water using a scope at about 40X. The ducks were first observed roosting with bills hidden in back, became alert and then flushed.

Very dark brown duck with not very obvious paler feather edgings and lighter head feathers. One bird had fairly bright yellow bill and the other had dull yellow bill with very obvious dark streaking. These ducks appeared slightly larger or heavier built than nearby Mottled Ducks.

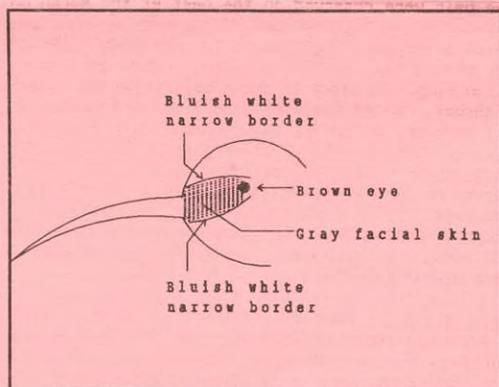
When flushed, the white wing linings contrasted vividly with the rest of the duck. The speculum was not clearly seen, but no obvious white was observed on the upper wing.

The basis of elimination is given below. Female Mallard: Unlikely as these birds were obviously paired. The bill was only streaked. Too much contrast was observed between the head and the body of the duck. Mottled Duck: These ducks were too dark with too vivid contrast in white wing linings. Streaks were observed on the bill. Four Mottled Duck were nearby for comparison. "Mexican" Mallard: Too much contrast between the head and the rest with too dark a body.

On Mar 8-10, Mallards and Black Ducks were carefully observed in Maryland and Delaware. Most Black Ducks were paired. Although not all pale billed (female) Black Ducks had the streaking on the bill, all that did were black Ducks. The birds in Shoveler Pond were as dark as the typical Black Duck.

Glossy Ibis - Mike Austin March 18, 1991

This bird was observed, with full sunlight behind the observer, feeding in belly-high grass in a flooded field for about 15 minutes from 75 yards using a Questar telescope. It was an adult *Pelagedis ibis*: mahogany wings with a purple sheen, no white streaking on the neck or head. Due to the depth of cover the legs were not clearly seen, but the facial pattern was unmistakable. The dark gray facial skin had a narrow bluish-white border superiorly and inferiorly, but absent posterior to the dark brown eye. On this same morning, at least 150 dark *Pelagedis ibis* were observed through the scope, many under less optimal lighting conditions than this bird. All had obvious pink facial skin, obvious red irises and none had as fully developed a white border to the facial skin as this bird. I am as positive of my identification this year as last and strongly suspect this is the same bird.



Swallow-tailed Kite - Peter Gottschling March 31, 1991

One adult was observed flying over Craigen Rd. near Taylor's Bayou near Hamshire. The kite was all white underneath with a gray back and black flight feathers. The black tail was long and forked.

Golden Eagle - Richard Uzar March 10, 1991

This bird was first sighted to the WSW of Teal Pond on Attwater's Prairie Chicken NWR at approximately 11 AM. The bird was soaring and heading NE more or less over the pond from approximately 50 meters to 100 meters in height. The flight was fairly direct with some circling. This raptor had very dark undersides contrasted by lighter flight feathers, not uniform in tone. The wings showed white patch at center of underside at end of lining/base of flight

feathering. The wings were held in a slight dihedral. Upperparts were dark with bold white band in basal portion of the tail. Head was very light appearing whitish when seen head-on while circling. Large bird with Turkey Vultures.

Glaucous Gull - Davis Bradford March 19, 1991

The gull was observed on the Quintana Jetty for about 3 minutes from 20 meters in good light. The entire bird, tail included, was a dingy white. When using the scope light brown could be seen giving the bird an almost barred appearance. The head was flat, not rounded. The legs and base of bill were pink. The tip of the bill was black and clearly separated from the pink part of the bill. Although this gull was larger than nearby Herring Gulls, it did not dwarf the Herring Gulls.

Ladder-backed Woodpecker - P.D. Hulce March 9, 1991

Medium sized *Pocoides* with black and white barred back and harsh "pik" call. Observed in Colorado county, between Hwy 949 and IH-10 south of IH-10.

Ash-throated Flycatcher - Don Ryan March 10, 1991

The bill was all black. The crown was gray brown with the face and ear patch gray blending to olive gray on nape and mantle. The wings were dark gray brown with ash gray feather edgings and reddish primaries. The throat and upper breast were a light whitish gray. The belly flanks and undertail coverts were whitish yellow (more white than yellow). The tail was reddish above and below. The bird was slightly smaller than the Great crested Flycatcher and bill was proportionately smaller. This bird was seen in small trees along the Scissor Tail Trail at San Bernard NWR. The time was 11 AM on a sunny and windy day with the sun behind and to the right. Observation time was 15 minutes at a distance of 10 to 25 feet with 10X50 binoculars.

Cave Swallows - Peter Gottschling March 31, 1991

Three pair were observed on the nest at the Marsh Unit of Sea Rim State Park at the boathouse. These swallows had a reddish chin and throat, and red forehead. The reddish color extended up the side of the neck like as collar above the tan ring. No black or dusky coloration was observed in the throat. Cliff Swallows have a white forehead in this area; however, no Cliff Swallows were present yet.

Varied Thrush - Jana and John Whittle March 3, 1991

Observed at 12:45 PM for approximately 20 seconds using 8X40 binoculars from a distance of 30 to 40 feet on the Joe Whitehead ranch. The bird was robin-sized with a brownish-black back, two dull orange wing bars and a dull orange breast with distinct gray-black chest band.

Sprague's Pipit - Jana and John Whittle March 3, 1991

The bird was observed on the ground for approximately 3 minutes on a clear day from a distance of 20 to 30 feet using 10X40 binoculars and a scope at 30X. The bird was in the grass along the road from the entrance station to the Willows at Anahuac NWR. The bird was an overall brown pipit with very obvious white streaking down the back including upper back. The legs appeared a relatively deep orange. The bill was yellowish/pinkish. No good view of the breast or belly was obtained. American Pipit would not have streaking on upper back-at least not as obviously- and would not have orange legs.

Warbling Vireo - Bob Honig March 23, 1991

This bird was the approximately the same length of warblers seen at same location in the treetops, but appeared slightly chunkier. Underparts were light brown, upperparts were medium brown. The bird had a pale supercilium; no wing bars; and a short stubby dark bill. Bill was not thin and sharp. No olive or yellow was visible anywhere on the bird. The bird was observed under shaded conditions with an unobstructed view from approximately 4 seconds at 15 M using 10X42 binoculars at the Audubon Sanctuary in High Island.

Worm-eating Warbler - Bob Honig March 23, 1991

Same general size and shape as other warblers at same location. Seen at eye-level and below from a distance of 20 feet. Appeared warm brown all over body except for dark stripes on head. Dark eye and no wing bars.

Yellow-throated Warbler - Richard Uzar March 9, 1991

Bright yellow-throated warbler seen feeding with Black-and-white and Yellow-rumped Warblers. Boldly patterned face, dark above, white below with wing bars.

Blue Grosbeak - Patrick Baum March 29, 1991

One male was observed at 9:45 AM at Smith Point from 10 to 15 yards using 8X binoculars. The bird was at eye level in the bush margin of stand of oaks. The bird had a harsh loud call note. The bill was thick and conical. The bird had overall blue plumage with a chunky shape and was larger than the Yellow-rumped Warblers. The wing bars were rusty colored with light buffy streaks.

Henslow's Sparrow - Richard Uzar March 9, 1991

Observed at Smith Point. Notes were published last month.

Henslow's Sparrow - Jana and John Whittle March 17, 1991

Observed at Smith Point. This bird was well documented. Observers commented on the greenish head and nape and large flat head.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY BIRDING

For anyone who needs to recover from a sore neck from craning to look for warblers in the treetops and cursing in frustration when the warblers exhibit a remarkable talent for hiding behind the leaves, try looking for the late migrant shorebirds. These species may present their own challenge, but at least no treetop craning. Flooded rice fields and relatively short grass pastureland are excellent habitats to check. Areas where this habitat may be found include far eastern and western Harris county, Chambers and Waller counties. Areas of Matagorda or Jackson county may also be productive.

Many breeding birds are well established in May and it can be an excellent opportunity to look for these species. A potential breeder of special interest this year to the Texas Department of Park and Wildlife is the Swallow-tailed Kite. Please report all sightings-especially any evidence of breeding. If you have a favorite birding place you would like to share, please include it in your monthly reports.

CONTACTS

SEND CLEARING HOUSE bird sightings to: Clearing House, (OG), P.O. Box 271374, Houston 77277.

TEXAS RARE BIRD ALERT TAPE, sponsored by Houston Audubon Society, 992-2757.

SEND SPOONBILL MATERIAL to Editor, Judy Boyce, 5546 Aspen, Houston 77081. Home: 668-5359 Work: 771-2432.

OG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, dues, subscriptions and address changes. Arch Dillard, 142 Imperial Dr., Friendswood 77546, (713) 996-0107. Annual dues \$15. Non-member Spoonbill subscriptions \$13.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It's a pleasure to be sitting down to write my final chairman's message -- or chair mess as Judy Boyce, our Spoonbill editor, has coded these monthly ramblings on the computer. I'm not sure what all I have said over the last two years in this column. There's no time for keeping track of such things...I've been so busy keeping up with the changes and growth personally experienced from my association with you all.

It has been my hope to promote and encourage more active participation from as much of our membership as possible. When John Buckman and I began our term, I recall him saying this should be our only goal - more active birding. "Get people out looking at the birds," he said. He was right! There is no more important thing for our group to be doing.

The repetitive going out to look, especially with the field trips David Bradford has orchestrated so well, will naturally elevate individual expertise. Don Richardson's tireless efforts at group and individual education are a real blessing to the OG. All this must lead one to a greater sense of appreciation (even awe) for the wonderment that surrounds us daily.

Having had this pleasure of serving the OG as chairman, it is time for this fellow to get out of the way

and let some new blood take the helm. It seems obvious to me that rotation of leadership is essential for the health of any group.

In large measure the "work" I have been asked to perform as your chairman is not really mine to do. The group really does act on sort of a "caretaker" status. The bulk of what is done for our membership is accomplished by the many volunteers who give of their time and energy on a regular basis.

It would be foolish of me to attempt to catalog each of these selfless individuals here. There is little doubt someone would be overlooked. The list is long indeed, reaching well beyond those listed in the OG officer's roster printed in the OMC yearbook. Some do stand out in my mind as being particularly memorable and I do wish to call them to attention.

A special thanks to Don and Lee Richardson who tirelessly contribute to the OG and who most graciously and very generously helped me on numerous occasions. Ed Rozenburg has worked diligently to provide us with an informative and interesting series of programs for two years. Ted Eubanks and his birding buddy, Jim Morgan, have taught me much about birds and inspired me to reach well past previous horizons. Christine Bourgeois, a good birding pal and hard to tire out, brought a new friend into my world. And last, but certainly not least, Tony and Phyllis Frank who have taken on the gargantuan task of editing the Clearing House monthly. Thank you all and thanks to the OG for permitting me this honor.

Richard Uzar 527-0454

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