



THE SPOONBILL

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HOUSTON, TEXAS Randy Pinkston, Editor

MINUTES OF THE OG MEETING, DEC. 2, 1982

Ted Eubanks opened the meeting by calling for the treasurer's report. Bob Behrstock said the report would be published in the Spoonbill.

Announcements:

Ted: The OG field trip for January will be to the HL&P cooling ponds and will be led by David Dauphin.

Ron Braun: Rare birds: Cerulean Warbler at Houston Baptist U., four Bronzed Cowbirds at Texas City Dike, Harris' Hawk near Kendleton in Fort Bend County. In the valley the Roadside Hawk is still at Bentsen State Park, the Golden-crowned Warbler and Jacana are at Santa Ana. Bewick's Wren is in west Harris County and Greater Black-backed Gull at Kemah.

David Dauphin: Eight Christmas Counts to be held in this area. The fee this year has been raised to \$2.00.

Ted: E.C. Robison will be the new Spoonbill Editor beginning in January. Ann Booth, Peggy Milstead, Barbara Darr were commended for their faithful help in putting out the Spoonbill.

The ONC donated \$500.00 to the Audubon Sanctuary at High Island.

The nominating committee for next year's officers has been appointed. The members are Ron Braun, Jim Morgan and Ben Feltner.

Ted introduced Ben Feltner who gave a program on birds we might see on the Christmas Counts. He showed skins of many birds and gave tips on how to identify some of the more confusing ones.

Ellen Red, Secretary

THE 1983 FEDERAL DUCK STAMP WINNER is Paul V. Scholer, 31, of Kasson, Minnesota, for an acrylic painting of a pair of Northern Pintails. It was his fifth year of entering the contest, and though this was his first win, he placed third in last year's federal contest, was first in the 1982 Minnesota state duck stamp contest, and first in the Nevada state contest in 1981. Second place went to Nolan Haan, Bethesda, Maryland, for an oil rendering of a King Eider. John P. Baumlin, Owego, New York, won third place for a watercolor of a pair of Redheads.

ON COPING WITH NONBIRDERS

by Dorothy Dimsdale

A birder's spouse leads a lonely life. A birder can bird anywhere as long as the outdoors can be seen; almost every other hobby is limited to either specific time periods or to particular localities, or both. From another viewpoint, one could say that a birder can be a pain in the neck 24 hours a day! The following exchanges must have taken place countless times between any given birder and nonbirder spouse traveling by car.

Birder: Look! Sitting in the road! Must be two feet tall, with bright orange wings and a crest!

Spouse: Oops, sorry! I couldn't stop. Was it a new one? It must be a mile away by now. Ah, well, I expect there'll be lots more!

Birder: On the wire! It's a motmot, but I can't tell what kind. Can you slow down a bit? It's hard to see when we're doing 75.

Spouse: I think we'd better get on. The restaurants get crowded by noon.

Long silence. Then, 15 minutes later:

Spouse: (casually) What has a long forked tail, is sort of black and white, maybe yellow, with blue or perhaps gray on its back?

Birder: Where is it?

Spouse: Oh, it was on the verge of the road about two miles back. I couldn't stop with this truck on my tail.

Parked on the road edge:

Spouse: When you've looked at that bird, come quickly, there's one over here you should see.

Birder: Thanks! Oh, it's a house finch.

Spouse: I thought I'd seen it before.

If any of these exchanges sound familiar, you are one of many birders who have partners with a minimal interest in birding. Frustrating it may be, but do you ever consider what a drag you are to your partner? For instance, lugging bird book(s) and binoculars everywhere and looking for birds everywhere - and I do mean everywhere. Examples: A shriek of rapture was once heard coming from inside a restroom in the San Gabriel Mountains when a western bluebird was discovered to be nesting there. Another time, through the window of a church during a funeral, a longspur species was sighted. The specifications were not noted, as the binoculars were wrenched from the birder's hands by the indignant spouse.

I've found, however, that it's a good idea to carry binoculars everywhere, so that a bird can be examined quietly, even while you carry on a conversation with spouse or friend on quite another subject. I remember once in Galway, Ireland, I was helping to repair an old stone wall above Loch Corrib, and I was discussing with my nonbirder friend the problem of keeping sheep out of the vegetable garden, when a yellow wagtail came and perched 20 feet away. I gazed at it with my heart pounding and my mind yelling, "Yippee! Another lifer!" But I managed to keep my voice on an even keel, continuing to discuss the sheep and heft the stones.

Another time, in Dorset, England, I was feeding an orphaned lamb from a bottle. It's a job that requires all one's attention. Suddenly, through the barn door, I had my first sighting of a greater spotted woodpecker. It landed in an apple tree at a suet feeder. Trying to balance the lamb and the bottle in one hand and binoculars in the other proved too much. The farmer's wife, who was "mucking-out" a stable, looked up and said: "Be that ol' woodpecker back again? He's only just come from going - been at it all mornin'." Well, I thought, if he's just come from going, it was likely that he'd come from going again. Not having any choice, I finished feeding the lamb, then took my time looking at the woodpecker and accepting a compliment from the farmer's wife: "Most townies don't know t'other from which, when it comes to birds."

There is, quite obviously, a je ne sais quoi about birding. I love my creature comforts, and yet on a recent Monterey pelagic trip, there I stood, up forward, facing a cold wind and a driving fine rain. Feeling seasick, cold, and wet, having sat (accidentally) in a puddle of seawater which had thoroughly soaked my nether regions, I then stood under a pipe which sloshed out more sea water, this time down the back of my neck. I was not happy.

I gazed out across the drizzle and shifting fog on an empty sea and swore I would never again set foot on a boat. Almost immediately, a black blob appeared not 150 yards from the boat and someone called "Get that bird!" The engines slowed and there, bobbing up and down before us was a tufted puffin. A life bird and my 400th state bird! Suddenly I was wildly happy. I felt no cold, no wet, and I wouldn't have wanted to be anywhere else in the world, right at that moment. Try to explain that to a nonbirder and you'll get a sideways look.

(From The Western Tanager, Los Angeles Audubon Society)

CLEARING HOUSE November, 1982

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 (Ben Feltner, Jim Morgan, and Noel Pettingell) before they are considered valid and included in the next checklist.

Loon, Common: Galv--(1)14,28,PV,TE; Texas City Dike--(4)14,TE; (10)28, DD,PV; Brazos R--(1)6,WH
 Grebe, Eared: 2 reports (1)
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 6 reports (1-75)
 Pelican, White: 5 reports (1-300)
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 8 reports (4-175)
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: W.Harris Co--(1)6; Galv--(8)16, JM
 Anhinga: W.Harris Co--(1)13,G; (2)28, JM; Trinity R--(1)28, SW
 Heron, Great Blue: 10 reports (1-35)
 Heron, Little Blue: 6 reports (1-6)
 Egret, Cattle: 6 reports (1-250)
 Egret, Reddish: 4 reports (1-5)
 Egret, Great: 9 reports (1-50)
 Egret, Snowy: 8 reports (2-40)
 Heron, Louisiana: 6 reports (1-8)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 2 reports (5,35)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: Houston--(1)11, PM
 Bittern, American: W.Harris Co--(1)6, M
 Ibis, White-faced: all reports from W.Harris Co--highest number (200)
 Ibis, White: 3 reports (3-26)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 4 reports (1-200)
 Goose, Canada: all reports from W.Harris Co--highest number (1000)
 Goose, White-fronted: 4 reports (40-6500)
 Goose, Snow: 11 reports (20-30,000)
 Goose, Snow (Blue): W. Harris Co--(1500)highest number
 Goose, Ross': Warren Lake--(6)6, SW
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: W. Harris Co--(140)13, JM; (265)26, Bob & Mary Ann Moore
Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: W. Harris Co--(9)13, JM, SW; (8)6, (5)20, SW... notes submitted
 Mallard: all reports from W. Harris Co--(5000) highest number
 Duck, Black: W. Harris Co--(3)28, B...see notes
 Duck, Mottled: 4 reports (2-6)
 Gadwall: 4 reports (1-100)
 Pintail, Northern: 3 reports (7-3000)
 Teal, Green-winged: 4 reports (8-30,000)
 Teal, Blue-winged: 4 reports (1-200)
 Teal, Cinnamon: W. Harris Co--(2)6, M
 Wigeon, American: 3 reports (2-150)
 Shoveler, Northern: 6 reports (8-200)
 Duck, Wood: Bear Creek Pk--(5)28, B
 Redhead: W. Harris Co--(10)7, TE; Galv--(6)21, JH; Bolivar--(4)14, TE
 Duck, Ring-necked: several reports from W. Harris Co--(40)highest number
 Canvasback: several reports from W. Harris Co--(30)highest number
 Scaup, Lesser: 3 reports (3-25)
 Goldeneye, Common: W. Chambers Co--(2)14, DD
 Bufflehead: Mercury Dr--(5)28, WC
 Duck, Ruddy: 4 reports (75-250)
 Merganser, Red-breasted: Galv--(150)28, TE
 Vulture, Turkey: 7 reports (3-50)
 Vulture, Black: 5 reports (1-27)
 Kite, White-tailed: Rice U--(4)19, C; 6 other reports (1-7)
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: W. Harris Co--(2)13, 28, JM, G, B; Bolivar--(1)14, TE; Chambers Co--(1)16, JM; Tomball--(1)13, SW; San Bernard NWR--(1)14, PM

Hawk, Cooper's: W. Harris Co--(5)13, JM, G, SW; (2)20, 28, EH, JM, B; Anahuac
NWR--(1)28, SW
Hawk, Red-tailed: 9 reports (1-60)
Hawk, Harlan's: W. Harris Co--(1)5, 13, M, JM previously described
Hawk, Red-shouldered: 6 reports (1)
Hawk, Harris': Houston--(1)16, Matt Pinkston, Frank Novak, Randy Pinkston;
Ft. Bend Co--(1)28, Randy Pinkston, Patricia Koency, Jerry Caraviotis...
see notes
Eagle, Bald: W. Harris Co--(1)6, 13, M, G; Brazoria Co--(1)14, PM; (2)28, WH
Hawk, Marsh: 7 reports (1-75)
Osprey: Warren Lake--(1)13, G; W. Chambers Co--(2)14, DD
Caracara: W. Harris Co--(2)28, B
Falcon, Peregrine: Bolivar--(1)16, JM
Merlin: W. Harris Co--(1)13, JM; Warren Lake--(1)13, G; Bolivar--(1)14, TE
Kestrel, American: 14 reports (1-80)
Bobwhite: 3 reports (8-37)
Pheasant, Ring-necked: Chambers Co--(1)16, JM
Crane, Sandhill: W. Harris Co--(3)13, G; (11)28, JM; W. Galv--(6)3, H;
(125)28, TE; (7)16, JM; Algoa--(70)15, (40)20, DW
Rail, King: 3 reports (1-11)
Rail, Clapper: 4 reports (1-4)
Gallinule, Common: Anahuac NWR--(2)28, SW
Coot, American: 4 reports (15-600)
Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(3)20, TE; Galv--(4)28, TE
Plover, Semipalmated: 4 reports (1-15)
Plover, Piping: 3 reports (5-30)
Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(2)16, JM; Texas City Dike--(2)28, DD
Killdeer: 13 reports (1-200)
Plover, Black-bellied: 4 reports (1-400)
Turnstone, Ruddy: 3 reports (1-200)
Woodcock, American: Stafford--(1)23, DM
Snipe, Common: 3 reports (1-12)
Curllew, Long-billed: 4 reports (8-55)
Sandpiper, Spotted: 4 reports (1-3)
Willet: 4 reports (3-400)
Yellowlegs, Greater: 5 reports (1-300)
Yellowlegs, Lesser: 7 reports (1-500)
Knot, Red: Galv--(8)22, JH; Bolivar--(50)14, TE; High Island--(24)28, SW
Sandpiper, Pectoral: W. Galv--(1)3, H...needs notes
Sandpiper, Least: 5 reports (5-400)
Dunlin: 4 reports (1-750)
Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(100)14, TE
Dowitcher, Long-billed: 4 reports (3-500)
dowitcher sp.: 3 reports (4-50)
Sandpiper, Stilt: Bolivar--(15)14, TE; Galv--(1)25, TE; (6)16, JM...notes
submitted
Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Mercury Dr--(5)7, AB
Sandpiper, Western: Galv--(25,000)14, TE; 5 other reports (1-1000)
Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar--(125)14, TE
Sanderling: 3 reports (5-1500)
Avocet, American: 4 reports (1-2000)
Stilt, Black-necked: Galv--(5)3, (10)21, (30)14, (40)25, JH, TE; Anahuac
NWR--(2)28, SW; Mercury Dr--(8)7, AB
PHALAROPE, WILSON'S: E. Galv--(2)28, DD...see notes
GULL, GREAT BLACK-BACKED: Kemah--(1)28, DD...see notes
Gull, Herring: 4 reports (1-35)
Gull, Ring-billed: 8 reports (1-200)
Gull, Laughing: 8 reports (3-1000)
Gull, Bonaparte's: Bolivar--(30)28, SW
Tern, Gull-billed: Galv--(2)14, PV
Tern, Forster's: 5 reports (1-100)
Tern, Common: Bolivar--(2)16, JM
Tern, Royal: 3 reports (16-300)
Tern, Caspian: 3 reports (6-150)
Skimmer, Black: 2 reports (50-600)
Dove, Rock: 6 reports (2-70)
Dove, White-winged: 2 reports from Galv--(4,8)
Dove, Mourning: 12 reports (1-150)
Dove, Ground: W. Galv--(4)22, JH

Dove, Inca: 5 reports (1-30)
 Ani, Groove-billed: W. Harris Co--(3)6,M; Galv--(1)28,TE
 Owl, Barn: W.Harris Co--(1)13,JM,G; Galv--(1)15,16,18,JH; Houston--
 (1)20,SW
 Owl, Screech: Algoa--(1)25-30,DW
 Owl, Great Horned: W.Harris Co--(1)13,JM; W.Chambers Co--(4)all month,
 DD; San Bernard NWR--(2)14,PM
 Owl, Barred: W.Harris Co--(1-2)all month,E
 Nighthawk, Common: Houston--(2)2,SW; (2)6,RP; Angleton--(2)28,WH
 → Swift, Chimney: Houston--(1)8,9,Noel Pettingell...notes submitted
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: Galv--(1)3,H; W.Chambers Co--(2)1-6,DD;
 Yard--(1)14,15,WC
 Hummingbird, Rufous: Yard--(1)mid month,Margaret Anderson
 Hummingbird, Buff-bellied: Lake Jackson--(1)23, Tom Collins
 Kingfisher, Belted: 9 reports (1-6)
 Flicker, Northern (Yellow-shafted): 14 reports (1-30)
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 3 reports (1-3)
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 7 reports (1-6)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co--(4)16,JM; Houston--(1)12,SW;
 Eisenhower Pk--(1)11,AB; Sheldon Res--(2)14,AB
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 8 reports (1-15)
 Woodpecker, Downy: 6 reports (1-7)
 KINGBIRD, TROPICAL/COUCH'S: Chambers Co--(1)16,JM...see notes
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: W. Harris Co--(2)6,M; (1)7,TE; W. Galv--
 (3)3,H; Hockley--(2)6,SW; Oak Island--(1)28,SW; Houston--(3)14,RP;
 (2)9,DM
 Phoebe, Eastern: 8 reports (1-20)
 Empidonax species: W. Galv--(1)3,H...needs notes
 Pewee, Eastern: Galv--(1)6,(2)15,JH
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: San Bernard NWR--(1)14,PM
 Lark, Horned: 2 reports (1-20)
 Swallow, Tree: W. Harris Co--(75)6,(40)13; Bolivar--(200)14,TE; Galv/
 Chambers Co--(600)16,JM; Anahuac NWR--(3)28,SW; Eisenhower Pk--(45)
 11,AB
 Swallow, Rough-winged: W. Galv--(3)3,H; W. Harris Co--(2)28,B
 Swallow, Barn: W. Harris Co--(2)6,M; (5)7,TE; W. Chambers Co--(100)14,
 DD
 Jay, Blue: 14 reports (1-25)
 Crow, American: W. Galv--(4)14,PV; 9 other reports (1-25)
 Chickadee, Carolina: 8 reports (1-10)
 Titmouse, Tufted: 5 reports (1-8)
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted: W. Galv--(2)6,JH; Bellaire--(1)20-30,TE
 Creeper, Brown: W. Galv--(1)16,J; W. Harris Co--(10)7,TE; Bolivar--
 (5)14,TE; Houston--(1)21,JM; (1)20,WC
 Wren, Northern House: 7 reports (1-6)
 Wren, Winter: W. Harris Co--(3)11,PV; White Oak Bayou--(2-3)all month,
 WC
 Wren, Bewick's: W. Harris Co--(1)28,B...even though not required by
 Clearing House rules, notes would be good on this species
 Wren, Carolina: 7 reports (1-2)
 Wren, Marsh: W. Harris Co--(1)6,M; (3)28,JM; W. Galv--(3)14,PV; Bolivar--
 (3)14,TE; Anahuac NWR--(2)28; Texas City Dike--(4)28,PV
 Wren, Sedge: 4 reports (1-8)
 Mockingbird, Northern: 15 reports (1-100)
 Catbird, Gray: Galv--(1)3,16,H,JM; Bolivar--(1)14,TE; Houston--(1)7,PM
 Thrasher, Brown: 10 reports (1-10); seem scarce this season
 Robin, American: 15 reports (1-750)
 Thrush, Wood: Galv--(1)3,H
 Thrush, Hermit: 9 reports (1-20)
 Bluebird, Eastern: 5 reports (1-3)
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 8 reports (1-14)
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: W. Harris Co--(1)6,13,M,G; (15)7,TE; (2)28,JM;
 Galv--(2)13,TE; Bolivar--(15)14,TE; NW Houston--(1)20,21,SW; Anahuac
 NWR--(2)28,SW; Houston--(1)21,JM; (1)20,WC; Eisenhower Pk--(1)14,AB;
 Rice U--(1)23,WC
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: 15 reports (1-150)
 Pipit, Water: 6 reports (1-100)
 Waxwing, Cedar: 5 reports (8-35)

Shrike, Loggerhead: 13 reports (1-80)
 Starling: 10 reports (6-1000)
 Vireo, White-eyed: Galv--(1)6,14,JH,PV; High Island--(1)14,TE
 Vireo, Solitary: 4 reports (1-5)
 Warbler, Tennessee: Galv--(1)6,22,JH; (1)28,TE...needs notes
 Warbler, Orange-crowned: 8 reports (1-25)
 Warbler, Nashville: White Oak Bayou--(1)1,7,WC; Armand Bayou--(1)13,BH;
 Eisenhower Pk--(2)18,BR
 Warbler, Magnolia: Galv--(1)3,H
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle): 12 reports (1-75)
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's): W. Harris Co--(1)13,JM...yellow
 throat clearly seen
 Warbler, Black-throated Green: White Oak Bayou--(2)7,WC; High Island--
 (1)14,TE
 WARBLER, CERULEAN: Houston Bapt U--(1)29,SW...see notes
 WARBLER, BLACKBURNIAN: W. Chambers Co--(1)28,John McLemore...see notes
 Warbler, Pine: 6 reports (1-8)
 Warbler, Prairie: Galv--(1)15,JH...see notes
 Warbler, Palm: Galv--(1)13,14,16,TE,PV,JM
 Yellowthroat, Common: 3 reports (2-3)
 Warbler, Wilson's: Houston--(1)1,WC; (1)30,PV; Galv--(1)15,16,JH
 Redstart, American: Galv--(1)3,16,JH; High Island--(1)14,TE...need notes
 Sparrow, House: 13 reports (1-200)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 8 reports (2-75)
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 8 reports (1-12,000)
 Oriole, Northern (Bullock's): Eisenhower Pk--(1)14,AB
 Blackbird, Brewer's: W. Harris Co--(1)20,BH
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 1 report (5)
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 7 reports (3-150)
 Grackle, Common: 6 reports (30-5000)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 3 reports (50-50,000)
 COWBIRD, BRONZED: Texas City Dike--(4)28,PV...needs notes. No records
 in November
 Cardinal: 15 reports (2-20)
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: Galv--(1)13,16,TE,JM...see notes
 Grosbeak, Blue: Bolivar--(1)16,JM...notes submitted
 Bunting, Indigo: Galv--(1)3,16,(8)6,(2)28,JH,JM,TE; Bolivar--(2)16,JM;
 NW Houston--(1)2,SW
 Towhee, Green-tailed: Galv--(1)13,28,TE...see notes
 Towhee, Eastern: White Oak Bayou--(1)20,28,WC
 Goldfinch, American: 8 reports(2-700)
 Sparrow, Savannah: 5 reports (1-300)
 Sparrow, Le Conte's: W. Harris Co--(9)6,M; (2)28,JM
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: Galv--(12)14,PV; Bolivar--(10)14,TE
 Sparrow, Seaside: 3 reports (1-28)
 Sparrow, Vesper: 2 reports (10,35)
 Junco, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored): Galv--(1)13,16,(2)15,TE,JM,JH; W.
 Harris Co--(2)28,JM; White Oak Bayou--(1)13,28,(3)14,WC
 Sparrow, Chipping: 9 reports (1-50)
 Sparrow, Field: W. Harris Co--(8)13,(2)28,JM; Galv--(1)13,28,TE; White
 Oak Bayou--(1)14,(2)28,WC
 Sparrow, White-crowned: 2 reports (5,60)
 Sparrow, White-throated: 11 reports (1-35)
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: 5 reports (1-35)
 Sparrow, Swamp: 3 reports (2-25)
 Sparrow, Song: 6 reports (1-12)

Clearing House Contributors - November, 1982: AB--Dr. A.B. Benson; B--
 Bob Honig, Doug Williams; BH--Bob Honig; C--Mary & Janice Bourgeois;
 DD--David Dauphin; DM--David Marrack; DW--Diane Wise; E--Dick & Vesta
 Eshbaugh; G--Bob Behrstock, Linda Graetz; H--John & Jane Hamilton, Faye
 Humphrey, Carolyn Killian; J--John & Jane Hamilton, Martha Micks; JH--
 John & Jane Hamilton; JM--Jim Morgan; M--Jim Morgan, Wesley Cureton;
 PM--Peggy Milstead; PV--Peter Vennema; RP--Randy Pinkston; SW--Steve
 Williams; TE--Ted Eubanks; WC--Wesley Cureton; WH--Dr. Warren Hardwick.

Correction: The Virginia's Warbler at Anahuac NWR on Sept. 24 was seen
 not by Greg Lasley, but by Linda Graetz and Bob Behrstock.

Field Notes - November 1982:

Black Duck: 3 ducks in a group, not associating with the few other ducks in the same temporary pool. Very dark body contrasting greatly with light neck and head. White wing linings observed as ducks rose from water. Observed in bright sunlight from 100 ft. with 8X30 binoculars.

--Bob Honig, Doug Williams

Harris' Hawk: Matt Pinkston noticed this bird perched atop a telephone pole in the backyard of a residence just southeast of the intersection of Willowbend and S. Post Oak in Houston. He constructed a live-catch box trap and, baiting it with a live pigeon, succeeded in capturing the hawk within minutes. It showed no feather wear, bill scars, jesses, or other signs of having been captive. Also, it was very nervous in our presence and would not eat. A smallish dark buteo with bay-colored shoulders. Bill mostly light gray, tipped with black. Cere, lores, and edge of gape were yellow. Lores bare. Irides chestnut. Head and back very dark brown with pale edgings. Underparts same, but boldly mottled with white. Shoulders very striking bright rust color; thighs also rusty, barred. Flight feathers above dark brown, almost black, without barring. Wing linings buffy, lightly barred. Tail long and solid black above; bold white patch at base and white-tipped; undersurface of tail brownish, barred. Our guess is a first-winter individual. Bird released on Nov. 19 at same point.

--Randy Pinkston

Harris' Hawk: smallish buteo spotted along Hwy. 59 one mile north of Kendleton, Ft. Bend Co. As it perched in a treetop, we noted very dark blackish-brown plumage overall except for bay-colored shoulders and thighs. Lores bare. Tail long and dark, white-tipped. We also noted the long-legged appearance. When it flew, we noticed white rump patch. Our guess is a full adult. Observed under clear skies with binoculars for several minutes as close as 40-50 yds.

--Randy Pinkston

WILSON'S PHALAROPE: 2 spin-feeding birds seen at 75 yds. in excellent light with telescope. Black still-to-beak; white belly, rump, and tail; gray back; dark wings. Seen feeding and in flight.

--David Dauphin

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: same size as or larger than adjacent Herring Gulls. All white bird with black mantle. Light eye and legs. Yellow beak with spot on end of lower mandible. Excellent light, 50 yds. with telescope for 15 minutes.

* --David Dauphin

TROPICAL/COUCH'S KINGBIRD: light gray head, olive back and wings (wings darker), and brown notched tail. Very bright yellow underparts which extended well on to upper breast. Ashy white throat and chin. The tail shape and extensive yellow underparts eliminate both Western and Cassin's Kingbirds. Perched on telephone wire. Seen at 25-60 ft. with binocs in fair-to-good light for total of 5 min. Seen in flight and perched, and no white was seen in tail at any angle. Never called.

--Jim Morgan

CERULEAN WARBLER: the bird's call, a weak "tsip", first attracted my attention. Accompanied by two Yellow-rumped Warblers, which of course called much differently. Observed for about 30 seconds without binoculars in bright sunshine as close as 15 ft., generally above me. Looked a great deal like the illustration in Robbins et.al. Birds of North America, except that it was not so greenish above, but more blue-gray. It had much white on the face like that illustration, but otherwise was colored more like the illustration in Peterson. There was slight streaking on the sides and back, and the cheeks were very white as in Robbins. Plumage generally resembled the description of a first-year female in Oberholser's The Bird Life of Texas. Very few records anywhere in Texas in fall. My first record other than in spring in nearly 35 years of Texas birding.

--Steve Williams

(continued on outside flap)

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER: seen by John McLemore, who gave details to me. With large group of myrtles. White belly and chest. Orange throat. Dark streaks on flanks. Dark wings with white bars. Orange- and black-striped head. Dark legs. Seen in trees at 25 ft. in excellent light with binocs for 10 minutes.

--David Dauphin

Prairie Warbler: 40 ft. away on ground. Conspicuous olive green head and back. Yellow underparts with black streaks on sides. Yellow around eye and yellow wing bars. Watched for several minutes with binocs.

--Jane Hamilton

Rose-breasted Grosbeak: female or imm. feeding shrubs at Old House. Huge beak, clearly streaked breast, and orange/yellow wing linings.

--Ted Eubanks

Green-tailed Towhee: in large oleander at Old House. Reddish cap, white throat, black moustache, and greenish cast to wings and tail. Responded to whistled screech-owl call on both occasions.

--Ted Eubanks

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