



Volume 47, No. 1
January 1998

The Spoonbill

February 2 Meeting Speaker & Topic

Birds of Costa Rica
a presentation by
John and Gloria Jones

Since retiring 11 years ago John and Gloria Jones have traveled extensively observing and photographing birds. They will share with us a fascinating program on the birds of Costa Rica.

The February 2 meeting is to be held at the Baylands Community Center, 6400 Bissonett (just west of Hillcroft) and starts at 7 p.m.

February Learning Corner

"Gulls of North America: Part 2"
an OG Special Video presentation

You've clamored for a sequel. Here it is: Part 2 on the saga of large gull ID. Please join other OG members at 6:30 p.m.

March Meeting Speaker

What Happened to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker & Who's Next?
a presentation by
Cliff Shackelford

Clearing House is BACK Baby!

submitted by David Sarkozi, OG Superman

The Clearing House (CH) sets the OG apart from other groups. Your observations make it worthwhile for the rest of us. We must continue the CH and in that spirit I have volunteered to edit it *temporarily* until a permanent editor can be found. If your interested in taking it over contact Dan Coleman or myself.

You can still use the old clearing house forms, *but mail them to David Sarkozi, 111 Welch, apartment B, Houston TX 77006 or via e-mail to dsarkozi@infocom.net.*

There is a new report format, which will make processing information more, automated when submitted as follows:

species,date,countycode,locationcode,count,observer

Notice there are no spaces after the commas. E-mail data in this format into the body of an e-mail message or attach comma delimited format (CSV), Excel (XLS) or Dbase (DBF) using the same format. You can submit data for several observers and date in this format.

For example, say I saw Yellow Rails at
cont'd last page

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The Spoonbill

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Mail, fax or e-mail submissions *by the 15th of every month* for possible inclusion. *Include contact information!*

Down and Up

A national survey finds participation in wildlife watching (observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife) *dropped by 17 percent*—down to 62.9 million participants in 1996 from 76.1 million in 1991—*BUT spending for trips and equipment increased by 21 percent* in the same period, when adjusted for inflation.

The survey, *1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation*, is the latest in a five-year survey series conducted since 1955 to measure participation and money spent on hunting, fishing and wildlife observation.

It was completed for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Census Bureau initially screened 80,000 households, choosing 28,000 sportsmen and -women and 14,400 other wildlife enthusiasts age 16 and older as subjects for detailed interviews conducted throughout the year.

The full report of the 1996 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation is available on the Internet at <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/titles>.

Fast facts from the survey:

☑ 62.9 million people 16 years old and older engaged in wildlife-watching (observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife) in 1996 (*31 percent of the U.S. population*).

☑ Dollars spent on wildlife-watching-related expenses: *\$29.2 billion UP 17 percent*.

☑ Residential wildlife-watchers (those who watch wildlife within a mile of their homes): *60.8 million*.

☑ Nonresidential wildlife watchers (those who watched wildlife more than a mile from their homes): *23.7 million*.

☑ Percent of residential wildlife watchers who are women: *54*; men: *46*.

☑ Percent of nonresidential wildlife watchers who are women: *50*; men: *50*.

☑ Five states with the most wildlife watchers, in descending order: *California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Texas, Illinois*.

☑ Top three residential wildlife-watching activities: *feeding wild birds, observing wildlife, feeding other wildlife*.

☑ Top three types of animals enjoyed by nonresidential wildlife-watchers: *birds, land mammals and fish*.

☑ Most watched critters. *Squirrels and their cousins were the most observed*.

CBCs Soon

Attention all CBC compilers. Please submit your reports by mid-February for the CBC roundup.

Many thanks to the folks who have already submitted. Thanks to the compilers and to all OG participants.

P.D. keep the midnight oil burning.

The Broadest Shoulders

Information, appreciation and education in birding relies on the efforts of volunteers. Birding libraries are full of authors from academe to commercial publishing who use HawkWatch, Christmas Bird Counts, Breeding Bird Surveys and even our own Clearing House data in the preparation of theses, books and guides.

Yep, folks make money off the sweat of volunteer birders. Yet we birders are happy to see research move forward and are glad for the field guides and books. Mostly we're relish the opportunity to advance bird appreciation and if we're lucky conservation.

We do not begrudge anyone their use of our data nor for making a profit from it. We do not expect royalties to filter back to the volunteers or the groups like OG who ask and organize birders to collect data. We do it to tell the story of Nature's fairest gift: birds.

From mutual endeavors the birding community learns to love avifauna in countless ways. Neophyte birders gain the valuable experiences of our community through the efforts provided by volunteers.

An old soldier's saw goes: "Find the broadest shoulders around and stand on `em. And when it's your turn let `em stand on you."

Not many people out of the birding community know about our broad shoulders. About the time, opportunities and other sacrifices volunteer birders supply for the advance-

ment of birding. We in the birding community do. We know how broad those shoulders we stand on are.

It is important when we get the chance to honor this wonderful spirit we do so. By doing so we reinforce our appreciation of each other. By doing so we show the effort is worth doing. To say otherwise is to view the efforts of volunteers in our community as automatic.

In the past few years few shoulders have been larger than OG Clearing House editors Tony and Phyllis Frank. Although I looked forward to the Clearing House, I never appreciated the amount of work the Franks devoted until I began working on the "Spoonbill." These two people worked month to month to uphold an OG tradition.

Another set of shoulders we've stood on is Judy Boyce's. Two years ago, I saw how Judy put together the "Spoonbill." It was literally cut and paste. I alone could never thank her fully for the years of effort except by striving to do as good a job as she did.

I strongly desire for the OG as an organization to be more demonstrative with their appreciation. It is true that those who do step forward to keep the club going, lead field trips and help us get the most out of OG would do it anyway. But the lack of will and desire to show these people how we feel should not prevail. Don't take these people for granted.

The worst excuse for avoiding the responsibility to show appreciation is to label it

"compensation." There is a world of difference between commemorating one's efforts and compensation.

Those who want to paint any demonstrative effort to say "thanks" as some sort of pay (and "you don't pay volunteers") have an agenda I don't fathom.

Next time you see Tony, Phyllis or Judy thank them for a wonderful view from up on their shoulders.

Field Trips

NE Lake Houston

Sat., Feb. 7 @ 8 a.m.

Yellow rail, Prryhuloxia and bushels of LeConte's sparrows in Kingwood? Bird the nook and crannies of Northeast Lake Houston with the beloved "Spoonbill" editor to find out.

Meet at the Kingwood Starbuck's. Exit Kingwood Dr. off US 59, head east, *cross the railroad tracks* to first traffic light, turn left then right into the shopping center parking lot. Starbuck's is just past the SteinMart. Bring rubber boots.

Contact: Damien Carey
(281) 361-4120.

Brazos Bend SP

Wed., Feb. 11 @ 8 a.m.

Meet park entrance.

Contact: Bob Ohmart
(281) 579-7403

December '97 Clearing House Report

Editor: **NEEDED**

Mail CH submission to:

David Sarkozi

111 Welch, Apt. B

Houston TX 77006

e-mail: dsarkozi@infocom.net.

On to the birds. The format this month is a little rough. I intend to list every sighting if possible. I'd prefer not to use abbreviations, but that's just not possible. I'm open to any and all format suggestions. Feel free to call me or e-mail me with suggestions. I intend to start using the AOU sequence with the most recent changes next month. Things are a little out of order this month, but that should be fixed next month.

December '97 Clearing House

Observer codes: JAW - John Whittle, BHC - Bob Honig et al, and DS - David Sarkozi.

Location Codes: JEF - Jefferson County, HAR - Harris County, CHA, Chamber's County, FB - Fort Bend County, NF - Katy Prairie Conservancy Nelson Farm, TP - Terrel Park, EB - East Beach, BF - Bolivar Flats.

- GREBE, Eared, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 2/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- GREBE, Pied-billed, 12/6, JEF(TP), 20, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 11, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 6, JAW
- ANHINGA, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- CORMORANT, Double-crested, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 27, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 3, JAW
- CORMORANT, Neotropic, 12/6, JEF(TP), 13, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 4, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- PELICAN, American White, 12/6, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- BITTERN, American, 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- HERON, Great Blue, 12/6, JEF(), 3, JAW; 12/8, HAR(NF), 2, BHC; 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 5, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 2, BHC; Great Blue, 12/31, JEF(TP), 3, JAW
- EGRET, Great, 12/6, JEF(), 18, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 3, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 8, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 4, JAW
- EGRET, Snowy, 12/6, JEF(), 37, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 16, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 26, JAW
- HERON, Tricolored, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- EGRET, Cattle, 12/6, JEF(), 2, JAW
- NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr, 12/6, JEF(TP), 6, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- IBIS, White, 12/6, JEF(TP), 200, JAW
- IBIS, White-faced, 12/6, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 3, JAW
- IBIS, Plegadis, 12/6, JEF(), 610, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 31, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 750, JAW
- STORK, Wood, 12/18, JEF(TP), 3000, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 300, JAW
- goose, sp., 12/8, HAR(NF), 4000, BHC
- goose, sp., 12/19, HAR(NF), 3000, BHC
- duck, sp., 12/19, HAR(NF), 500, BHC
- MERGANSER, Hooded, 12/6, JEF(TP), 3, JAW
- MALLARD, 12/6, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; JEF(TP), 60, JAW; JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 4, JAW
- DUCK, Mottled, 12/6, JEF(), 15, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 5, JAW
- GADWALL, 12/6, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 50, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 10, JAW
- WIGEON, American, 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 6, JAW
- TEAL, Green-winged, 12/6, JEF(TP), 280, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 100, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 25, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 150, JAW
- TEAL, Blue-winged, 12/6, JEF(), 23, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 10, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 20, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/20, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 25, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 50, JAW
- SHOVELER, Northern, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2500, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1000, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1000, JAW
- PINTAIL, Northern, 12/6, JEF(TP), 13, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 15, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW
- REDHEAD, 12/6, JEF(TP), 7, JAW
- SCAUP, Greater, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- SCAUP, Lesser, 12/6, JEF(TP), 500, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 2000, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 250, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 200, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 100, JAW; JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 500, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 500, JAW
- DUCK, Ring-necked, 12/6, JEF(TP), 25, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 25, JAW
- GOLDENEYE, Common, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- BUFFLEHEAD, 12/6, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW
- OLDSQUAW, 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
- DUCK, Ruddy, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2500, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 500, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 250, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 500, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 200, JAW; 12/20, JEF(TP), 50, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1000, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2000, JAW
- GOOSE, Snow, 12/6, JEF(TP), 100, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 250, JAW
- VULTURE, Turkey, 12/6, JEF(), 7, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 9, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 8, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 5, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 15, JAW
- VULTURE, Black, 12/6, JEF(), 3, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 60, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 10, JAW

ONC -OG Membership Application

Join the Houston Outdoor Nature Club!
Fill in the information below and mail to:
ONC Membership
Mary Dodson
9618 Longmont, Houston TX 77063

Already a member and moved?
Then fill in your current address.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

If family membership list names of spouse or children:

Are you a _____ NEW MEMBER? or _____ Rejoining member?



ONC Annual Dues (Circle one)

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| Regular | -- | \$ 8 |
| Junior (under 18) | -- | \$ 2 |
| Family | -- | \$ 15 |
| Supporting | -- | \$40 |
| Life | -- | \$100 |

Additional Study Group Dues

| | | |
|-------------------|----|-------|
| Ornithology Group | -- | \$ 12 |
|-------------------|----|-------|

TOTAL* \$ _____



* - Please make checks payable to Outdoor Nature Club
Questions? Contact Mary Dodson at (713) 974-3089.



December '97 Clearing House

HARRIER, Northern, 12/6, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 4, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 3, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

HAWK, Sharp-shinned, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

HAWK, Red-tailed, 12/6, JEF(), 4, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 8, JAW; JEF(), 5, JAW; JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 4, JAW

HAWK, Red-tailed (Krieger), 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW

HAWK, Red-shouldered, 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(), 1, JAW

HAWK, White-tailed, 12/27, FB(), 1, DS

KESTREL, American, 12/6, JEF(), 8, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 8, JAW; JEF(), 7, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 3, JAW

RAIL, King, 12/14, JEF(TP), 2, JAW

RAIL, Virginia, 12/28, CHA(ANA), 5, DS

SORA, 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC; CHA(ANA), 2, DS

RAIL, Yellow, 12/28, CHA(ANA), 3, DS

MOORHEN, Common, 12/6, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW

COOT, American, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2500, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 3000, JAW; JEF(TP), 500, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 250, JAW; JEF(TP), 300, JAW; 12/20, JEF(TP), 100, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 500, JAW

CRANE, Sandhill, 12/8, HAR(NF), 20, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP), 44, JAW

KILLDEER, 12/6, JEF(), 30, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 23, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 20, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 17, JAW

AVOCET, American, 12/6, JEF(), 6, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

STILT, Black-necked, 12/6, JEF(), 45, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 26, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 25, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 108, JAW

SNIPE, Common, 12/6, JEF(), 55, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 5, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC

DOWITCHER, Short-bill, 12/6, JEF(), 8, JAW

DOWITCHER, Long-bill, 12/6, JEF(TP), 4, JAW

DOWITCHER, species, 12/31, JEF(TP), 5, JAW

SANDPIPER, Stilt, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

SANDPIPER, Least, 12/6, JEF(), 135, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 55, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 12, JAW; JEF(TP), 32, JAW

DUNLIN, 12/6, JEF(), 6, JAW

SANDPIPER, Peep, 12/13, JEF(), 20, JAW

YELLOWLEGS, Greater, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC

YELLOWLEGS, Lesser, 12/6, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 2, JAW

SANDPIPER, Spotted, 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW

CURLEW, Long-billed, 12/19, HAR(NF), 2, BHC

GULL, Glaucous, 12/31, GAL(EB), 1, DS

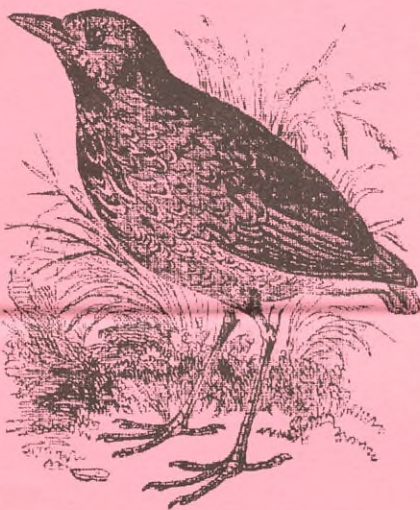
GULL, Thayer's, 12/31, GAL(EB), 1, DS

GULL, Great Black-backed, 12/31, GAL(BF), 1, DS

GULL, Ring-billed, 12/6, JEF(TP), 20, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 25, JAW

GULL, Laughing, 12/6, JEF(TP), 210, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 50, JAW; 250, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 50, JAW; 12/18, JEF(TP), 250, JAW; 12/19, JEF(TP), 100, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 3000, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 30, JAW

GULL, Bonaparte's, 12/6, JEF(TP), 15, JAW; 12/



31, JEF(TP), 6, JAW

TERN, Forster's, 12/31, JEF(TP), 3, JAW

BOBWHITE, Northern, 12/13, JEF(), 5, JAW

DOVE, Rock, 12/13, JEF(), 28, JAW

DOVE, Mourning, 12/6, JEF(TP), 4, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 11, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 50, JAW

GROUND-DOVE, Common, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; Common, 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

DOVE, Inca, 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 6, JAW

BARN-OWL, Common, 12/8, HAR(NF), 1, BHC

OWL, Great Horned, 12/19, HAR(NF), 4, BHC; 12/20, HAR(), 1, DS

KINGFISHER, Belted, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW

WOODPECKER, Downy, 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

WOODPECKER, Pileated, 12/6, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

WOODPECKER, Red-headed, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

WOODPECKER, Red-bellied, 12/6, JEF(TP), 4, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW

FLICKER, Northern, 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC; 12/19, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

NIGHTHAWK, Common, 12/27, FB(), 1, DS

PHOEBE, Eastern, 12/6, JEF(), 12, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 10, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC; 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 9, JAW

JAY, Blue, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC

CROW, American, 12/13, JEF(), 8, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 4, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 2, BHC

CROW, Fish, 12/14, JEF(TP), 70, JAW; 12/16, JEF(TP), 15, JAW

STARLING, European, 12/6, JEF(), 26, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 71, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 40, JAW; 12/31, JEF(), 5, JAW

PIPIT, American, 12/6, JEF(), 8, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 14, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 10, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP), 9, JAW

MOCKINGBIRD, Northern, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 3, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 5, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 3, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 2, BHC; 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 3, JAW

THRASHER, Brown, 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW

WREN, Carolina, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; JEF(TP), 1, JAW; JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

WREN, House, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 3, BHC; 12/22, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

WREN, Sedge, 12/19, HAR(NF), 10, BHC

WREN, Marsh, 12/6, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2, JAW

CHICKADEE, Carolina, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW

KINGLET, Ruby-crowned, 12/6, JEF(TP), 8, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC; 12/22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP),

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3, JAW
 GNATCATCHER, Bl-gray, 12/6, JEF(TP), 16, JAW;
 12/14, JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/22,
 JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 5,
 JAW
 ROBIN, American, 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW
 BLUEBIRD, Eastern, 12/13, JEF(), 9, JAW
 SWALLOW, Barn, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
 SWALLOW, Tree, 12/6, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/13,
 JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 9, JAW;
 12/31, JEF(), 8, JAW
 SHRIKE, Loggerhead, 12/6, JEF(), 4, JAW; 12/13,
 JEF(), 8, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 10, JAW;
 12/22, JEF(TP), 3, JAW; 12/31,
 JEF(TP), 6, JAW
 VIREO, White-eyed, 12/27, FB(), 1, DS
 WARBLER, Orange-crown, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW;
 12/14, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/22,
 JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 3,
 JAW
 WARBLER, Yellow-rump, 12/6, JEF(TP), 25, JAW;
 12/14, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; "Myrtle" form,
 12/19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC; 12/22,
 JEF(TP), 10, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 32,
 JAW
 WARBLER, Pine, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/13,
 JEF(), 1, JAW
 WARBLER, Palm, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; JEF(TP),
 1, JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
 YELLOWTHROAT, Common, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2,
 JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP), 4, JAW; 12/19,
 HAR(NF), 1, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP), 2,
 JAW
 CARDINAL, Northern, 12/6, JEF(TP), 10, JAW;
 12/13, JEF(), 1, JAW; 12/14, JEF(TP),
 1, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 6, BHC; 12/
 22, JEF(TP), 2, JAW
 COWBIRD, Brown-headed, 12/13, JEF(), 3, JAW;
 12/19, HAR(NF), 25, BHC; 12/31,
 JEF(TP), 20, JAW
 BLACKBIRD, Red-winged, 12/6, JEF(), 77, JAW;
 12/13, JEF(), 26, JAW; 12/19,
 HAR(NF), 500, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP),
 1000, JAW
 MEADOWLARK, Eastern, 12/6, JEF(TP), 2, JAW;
 12/19, HAR(NF), 10, BHC
 BLACKBIRD, Brewer's, 12/19, HAR(NF), 400,
 BHC
 GRACKLE, Common, 12/6, JEF(), 25, JAW; JEF(),
 20, JAW; JEF(), 2000, JAW; JEF(TP),
 200, JAW
 GRACKLE, Great-tailed, 12/6, JEF(), 4, JAW; 12/
 13, JEF(), 60, JAW; 12/14, JEF(), 25,
 JAW; 12/31, JEF(), 10, JAW
 GOLDFINCH, American, 12/13, JEF(), 4, JAW
 SPARROW, Vesper, 12/14, JEF(TP), 4, JAW; 12/

19, HAR(NF), 1, BHC
 SPARROW, Savannah, 12/6, JEF(), 10, JAW; 12/
 13, JEF(), 2, JAW; 12/13, JEF(), 3, JAW;
 12/14, JEF(TP), 7, JAW; 12/19,
 HAR(NF), 20, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP),
 34, JAW
 SPARROW, Le Conte's, 12/28, CHA(ANA), 132,
 DS
 SPARROW, White-crowned, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW;
 12/14, JEF(TP), 2, JAW; 12/19,
 HAR(NF), 1, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP), 4,
 JAW
 SPARROW, White-throatED, 12/22, JEF(TP), 10,
 JAW; 12/31, JEF(TP), 5, JAW
 SPARROW, Chipping, 12/14, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/
 22, JEF(TP), 10, JAW
 SPARROW, Field, 12/6, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31,
 JEF(TP), 1, JAW
 JUNCO, Dark-eyed, 12/14, JEF(TP), 5, JAW
 SPARROW, Song, 12/6, JEF(TP), 5, JAW; 12/14,
 JEF(TP), 4, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF), 2,
 BHC; 12/19, JEF(TP), 1, JAW; 12/31,
 JEF(TP), 9, JAW
 SPARROW, Lincoln's, 12/19, HAR(NF), 2, BHC;
 12/31, JEF(TP), 1, JAW
 SPARROW, Swamp, 12/6, JEF(TP), 17, JAW; 12/
 14, JEF(TP), 18, JAW; 12/19, HAR(NF),
 15, BHC; 12/31, JEF(TP), 27, JAW
 SPARROW, Fox, 12/20, HAR(), DS
 SPARROW, House, 12/31, JEF(), 4, JAW

Thayer's Gull, East Beach, Galveston

December 31, 1997. Herring type gull, dark eye,
 head more rounded and bill smaller than nearby
 Herring Gull. Legs darker pink than Herring Gulls
 nearby. Overall a little smaller than other Herring
 Gulls, mantle slightly darker. Dark red bill spot, bill
 a dull yellow.

Great Black-backed Gull, Bolivar
 Flats, Galveston December 31, 1997. Large black-
 backed gull. Flat headed with a dark eye. Large pale
 yellow colored bill. Dark spot upper and lower
 mandible and a light tip. Legs were flesh colored.
 Bigger than Herring Gull. White undertail.

Thanks!

Special thanks for all the
 submissions to the "Spoonbill."
 It makes my job easier and this
 publication more interesting.

Please don't be shy. I
 give consideration to anything
 that is not of an outright com-
 mercial nature.

'98 Pelagic Birding Con't.

Expect: Cory's and Audubon's
 Shearwaters, Leach's and Band-
 rumped Storm-Petrels, Masked
 Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird,
 Pomarine Jaeger, and Sooty
 and Bridled Terns. Nearly half
 of all trips have produced ex-
 ceptional state rarities, includ-
 ing Black-capped Petrel,
 Greater Shearwater, Sooty
 Shearwater, Red-billed
 Tropicbird, Sabine's Gull, and
 Arctic Tern.

Other Marine Fauna:
 Atlantic spotted and pantropical
 spotted dolphins, spinner dol-
 phins, both onshore and off-
 shore varieties of bottle-nosed
 dolphins, clymene dolphin,
 short-finned pilot whale, sperm
 whale, pygmy sperm whale,
 Cuvier's beaked whale, whale
 shark, leatherbacked sea turtle,
 and others.

Comments: Trip shall spend
 the entire daylight period over
 pelagic waters beyond the Con-
 tinental Shelf edge. Travel to
 and from the birding areas will
 occur overnight. The 100 foot
 boat has sleeping berths for all,
 air conditioning, a full service
 galley with comfortable seat-
 ing for all passengers, and
 an upper deck observation and
 a shaded main deck observing
 area. The boat has been rated
 the "best overnight boat" by a
 national scuba diving maga-
 zine. Trip price includes two
 nights lodging onboard, four
 meals, and crew tip. An on-
 shore birding field trip will be
 available if the pelagic trip is
 cancelled due to rough seas.

Submitted by
 Dwight Peakes
 via *TEXBIRDS*

Going Pelagic

Another Pelagic Birding year is upon us and spaces on the Rinn Boats, Inc trips organized by HAS are going fast.

Assure your spot by acting quickly. The Migration Celebration trip is likely to be cancelled due to rough weather, but it has the potential to produce some of the most interesting records of any of the trips. However, if it goes, it will probably get Wilson's Storm-Petrel. Register through the Migration Celebration is required.

Trip 1. Gulf Of Texas

Depart: Port O'Connor, TX.

Destination: Waters 200-1,400 m deep off Continental Shelf.

Distance: 80-100 nautical miles.

Duration: 15.5 hours.

Contact: Dwight Peake, 30 LeBrun Court, Galveston TX 77551-1566; (409)740-4621; dpeake@phoenix.net

Dates: June 13, July 11, August 8, and September 5.

Cost: \$90. Make check payable to "Deep Blue Charters" (NOT D. Peake) and send to Dwight Peake, 30 LeBrun Court, Galveston TX 77551-1566 to reserve a place.

Expect: Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters, Leach's and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, Masked Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Pomarine Jaeger, and Sooty and Bridled Terns. Nearly half of all trips have produced exceptional state rarities, including Black-capped Petrel, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, Sabine's Gull, and Arctic Tern. Other Marine Fauna: Atlantic spotted and pantropical spotted dolphins, spinner dolphins, both onshore

and offshore varieties of bottlenosed dolphins, clymene dolphin, short-finned pilot whale, sperm whale, pygmy sperm whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, whale shark, leatherbacked sea turtle, and others.

Comments: The Chip XI, owned by Deep Blue Charters, is a 65' crewboat that has been taking birders to deep water since 1994. To get on our mailing list write Mark Elwonger at 2202 E Airline Suite D, Victoria TX 77901; Maebird@aol.com.

Trip 2. Gulf Of Texas

Depart: Freeport, TX.

Destination: Waters 200-1,400 m deep off Continental Shelf.

Distance: 80-100 nautical miles.

Duration: 36 hours; 9 PM Sunday to 9 AM Tuesday.

Contact: Send payment payable to Houston Audubon Society at Houston Audubon Society, Pelagic trip, 440 Wilchester Blvd., Houston, TX 77079-7329 (telephone 713-932-1639).

For more information, contact: Dwight Peake, 30 Lebrun Court, Galveston, TX 77551, 409/740-4621, or email: dpeake@phoenix.net.

Dates: June 21-23, July 19-21, and Sept. 20-22.

Cost: \$180.

Expect: Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters, Leach's and Band-rumped Storm-Petrels, Masked Booby, Magnificent Frigatebird, Pomarine Jaeger, and Sooty and Bridled Terns. Nearly half of all trips have produced exceptional state rarities, including Black-capped Petrel, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Red-billed Tropicbird, Sabine's Gull, and Arctic Tern.

Other Marine Fauna: Atlantic spotted and pantropical spotted dolphins, spinner dolphins, both onshore and offshore varieties of bottle-nosed dolphins, clymene dolphin, short-finned pilot whale, sperm whale, pygmy sperm whale, Cuvier's beaked whale, whale shark, leatherbacked sea turtle, and others.

Comments: All trips shall spend the entire daylight period over pelagic waters beyond the Continental Shelf edge. Travel to and from the birding areas will occur overnight. The 100 foot boat has sleeping berths for all, air conditioning, a full service galley with comfortable seating for all passengers, and an upper deck observation and a shaded main deck observing area.

The boat has been rated the "best overnight boat" by a national scuba diving magazine. Trip price includes two nights lodging onboard, four meals, crew tip, and a \$15.00 non-refundable donation to the Houston Audubon Society.

Trip 3. Migration Celebration Pelagic

Depart: Freeport, TX

Destination: Waters 200 to 1400 meters deep beyond Continental Shelf.

Distance: 80-100 nautical miles.

Duration: 36 hours; 9 PM Sunday-9 AM Tuesday.

Contact: Migration Celebration Committee at (800) 935-4853.

Dates: May 3-5.

Cost: Call for info.

continued on facing page

Anahuac NWR on December 28. I would e-mail myself with the following in the body of the message:

Yellow Rail, 28-Dec-97, CH, AN, 3, David Sarkozi

If you do not have a location code for a location you may simply spell it out or leave it blank.

Birds that require notes can also be sent as e-mail if you would like. Please follow the TBRC suggested report format. There is no need to wait to the last minute to submit data.

Please consider submitting data to the CH. You do not have to spend your entire day counting birds, but consider reporting one stop of your outings once a month.

The format this month:

Another List

The latest version of the Davis Mts. State Park bird checklist is hot off the press. It includes all of Jeff Davis County and was compiled by myself, Pansy Espy and Jody Miller, with help from several others including Linda Hedges, John Karges and Clay Miller.

If you desire a copy of it before your next trip out here it is available from the park headquarters for \$2.00 + tax which is \$2.15 total. You will need to send a SASE with 78 cents on it (the park does not have enough budget to cover mailing them out, especially if a lot of requests come in). State Park bird checklists are NOT available from the publications counter at the TPWD headquarters in Austin.

The checklist also includes all of the species currently recorded on the Livermore preserve of the Nature Conservancy of Texas. Hope you will find it informative and useful.

Write to:

Kelly B. Bryan
Resource Coordinator
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
P.O. Box 948
Fort Davis, Texas 79734
915-426-3897

*Submitted by Kelly B. Bryan
Resource Coordinator
via TEXBIRDS*

**Outdoor Nature Club
Ornithology Group
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Houston, TX 77277-0894**

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