



THE SPOONBILL

* 82ND ANNUAL AUDUBON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DATES: *
* 19 DECEMBER 1981 - 3 JANUARY 1982 *

Volume XXX, No. 7
November, 1981

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

COMING EVENTS

Saturday
November 21

OG field trip to Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the National Refuge Hdqtrs. on the north side of Angleton, 1208 N. Velasco, across Hwy. 288 from K-Mart in the Chenango Office Park. The group will arrange carpools and then proceed to the refuge.

Visitors' Day at the ONC Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Primitive camping in Cove Friday and Saturday nights. Those who do not have tents or campers are welcome to bring your bedroll, food, and water and sleep in the Shelter. (gates locked at dark and noon Sunday) Paul Nimmons leads Nature Walk, 10 a.m.

Wednesday
through Sunday
November 25-29

The Ark is coming! The what? The Ark is an attractive, professionally designed exhibit on endangered species, put together by the Nat'l. Audubon Society. The exhibit includes photos and interactive games, and the public is invited. Come by the Natural Science Museum in Hermann Park from 9:00 to 5:00 (Sunday, noon to 5:00). There will be a free showing of an Audubon Wildlife Film on each day at 1:00 p.m. Call Houston Audubon at 932-1392 or Marilyn Crane, after 5, at 493-6240.

Wednesday
November 25

Deadline for THE SPOONBILL announcements, articles, etc.

Wednesday
December 2

Photography Group regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 S. Braeswood Blvd. David Red will present a program on "Mayan Ruins". He will show slides of a trip to Middle America in 1941, sponsored by Edward Langley Scholarship of the American Institute of Architects.

Thursday
December 3

OG regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 S. Braeswood Blvd. Local Audubon Christmas Bird Counts will be discussed by count leaders. Clearing House deadline for observations for November. Please send early.

Saturday
December 5

Visitors' Day at Little Thicket. Mary Tigner will lead a walk concentrating on "Naked Trees" -- departing Cove at 10 a.m. Saturday. Be sure to watch for woodcocks! Primitive camping in Cove Friday and Saturday nights.

Sunday
December 13

Photo Group field trip will be led by David Red. It will be an urban experience in architectural photo-

graphy. The field trip will be one day in the city of Houston. Details will be given later.

Saturday
December 19

OG Field Trip of the Year -- The Houston Christmas Bird Count. Help out on this area's oldest count (in it's 69th year). Please call Paul Nimmons for details, 682-3597 or 224-6968.

Sunday
December 20

Freeport Christmas Bird Count. The 25th anniversary of the nation's premier Christmas Count will take place this year. Last year Freeport topped all counts north of the tropics with 214 species tallied. In the last 10 years the Freeport count has finished no lower than tied for second place in North America and it has come in first (or tied for first) 7 out of these 10 years. This is a great count to bird, so come help make our 25th anniversary a huge success. Contact your previous area leader or call Jim Morgan (461-3080) or, in Brazoria County call Tom Collins (713-297-3954). The count's originator, and other co-compiler, is Victor Emanuel who resides in Austin. Victor can be contacted at (512)454-0576. This is a super count and great fun, so give us your support and let's make the 25th anniversary of this great count a great success!

Wednesday
December 23

Atwater Prairie Chicken Refuge Christmas Count. This is one of the most dynamic counts in North America. Last year a handful of observers scored an amazing 167 species. Director Wayne Shifflett will host a coffee and doughnut pre-dawn get-together at 6:30 a.m. at refuge headquarters. If you wish to participate in the count please call Wayne at 1-234-3021.

Sunday
December 27

Buffalo Bayou Christmas Bird Count. This count is largely within the city of Houston, including the residences of many OG members in Bellaire and the Memorial area. Participants willing to spend the day in the field are most desired. If you must watch football though, please count birds at your backyard feeders during commercial breaks (but remember, the \$1.50 fee will apply to you too). Call Randy Pinkston at 667-1334 after 6:00 p.m. (221-5224 before 5:00 p.m.).

Sunday
December 27
through Monday
January 11 1982

Peregrine's Eastern Mexico New Year's Tour led by Ben Feltner, Bob Behrstock and Dr. David Mark. This is a grand tour of Mexico's eastern slope and includes birding in jungle, cloud forest and many other habitats. Over 400 species were recorded in 1980. If you want to see a toucan or an Aplomado Falcon this is your big opportunity. For further information please call 520-7747 or write Peregrine Inc., P.O. Box 3062, Houston, TX 77001.

Wednesday
December 30

El Naranjo Christmas Count. The most exciting Christmas Count available to UTC birders, this year El Naranjo celebrates its 10th Anniversary. Last years score was 248. Motmots and Macaws are closer than you think. If you would like to join us this year please call Ben Feltner at 528-4233 or 520-7747.

Sunday
January 3 1982

Teziutlan, Puebla Christmas Count. North America's only count held in true Cloud Forest. Red Warblers and Azure-hooded Jays could be in your New Year. For further information call Bob Behrstock at 520-7747.

The UTC has more counts than were mentioned in the above list, including the Cypress Creek, Galveston, Bolivar Peninsula, and Old River counts. Details of these will be discussed at the December meeting.

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY (An Editorial)

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is a truly unique phenomenon. It is as traditional to birdwatching as the life list and has an age of 82 years. No other birders' activity is synchronized over such a large geographical area on an annual basis with a comparable level of organization. To top it off the results are published in a widely circulated journal, American Birds, forming a permanent record of wintering bird species and their numbers.

I don't mean to overlook the count's inherent flaws. Anyone familiar with the count knows that only location and date are stable from year to year. Changes in habitat quality are recorded in crude fashion at best and observers are merely listed alphabetically with no hint of their differences in knowledge and experience. The truth of the matter is a statistician would drive himself to drinking trying to falsify null hypotheses with Christmas count data! But let's ignore these problems for the moment because my aim is to encourage and not to discourage participation.

A friend whose knowledge and experience exceeds my own recently wrote me and stated that he felt the value of Christmas counts dropped off sharply as the number of participants dropped below twenty. I feel this is a ballpark figure unless you, again, take into consideration observer quality, but his basic point is right.

Ponder for a moment the fact that a count circle is 177 square miles in area. That's a very large amount of ground to cover in one day! It's possible for fewer than twenty observers to make a fairly accurate census of large birds which are airborne much of the day, buteos or geese for example. But what about tiny woodland species? We're kidding ourselves if we think a handful of observers can approach even a marginal sampling of their numbers in one day on such a large area.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count was designed with one purpose in mind: To establish a record of wintering bird populations and to use that record to track fluctuations in those populations. The importance of such a record (particularly in the tropics) can't be stressed enough, and the Audubon count can be an accurate one if interested folks will participate. There's a place for everyone, regardless of experience. Novice or "backyard" birders can play a very important role by counting familiar species and/or unfamiliar ones which are easily identified - all you need is binoculars and a field guide. Beginners can tag along with more seasoned birders and aid them by adding an extra pair of eyes.

The cost to you is \$1.50 per count to cover the handling and publication of the data. The returns are invaluable. Newcomers will learn a great deal through "in field" experience with experts. For all there is the fellowship shared during this once-a-year get-together. In addition, you gain the satisfaction of knowing you were responsible for making this valuable record a little more accurate (and you egotists can gaze with satisfaction at your name in print). It's simply a great recreational and educational experience for everyone who participates.

Come one, come all to the 82nd Annual Christmas Bird Count!

A REMINDER TO CHRISTMAS COUNT COMPILERS

Christmas count bird records which affect the UTC Checklist (vagrant sightings, out-of-season reports, etc.) must be documented in THE SPOONBILL or details must be sent to one of the members of the OG's Checklist Committee if they are to be considered for acceptance as valid UTC records. No exceptions!

. . . The Checklist Committee

BIG DAY TEAM BREAKS OCTOBER RECORD IN RECORD-BREAKING HEAT

by Noel Pettingell

As with the June 1st effort (see July SPOONBILL, pp.7-9), the party covering the same route four months later had to contend with high temperatures and humidity throughout the day - higher, in fact, on October 4th than on the June run! This time our team consisted of Ben Feltner, Linda Roach and the writer as participants and Dr. B. C. Robison, columnist for the Houston Post ("Texas Naturalist" in Sat. edition), as a non-participating reporter.

Our major objective was to break the North American A.B.A. (Am. Birding Assn.) record for October of 160 species, which was set by a California team on Oct. 31, 1979 (breaking the previous record of 156 by other Calif. teams on Oct. 31, 1975 and Oct. 7, 1978). However, if the heat proved too much for both birds and birders we hoped to at least achieve our secondary objective - topping the Texas/UTC October Big Day Record of 152 species by a team of 3 on Oct. 13, 1979...

A summary by area of the October 4th run follows....

Lake Charlotte Area (NW Chambers Co.) 6:15 - 10:15 AM

The team found a total of 71 species here, including Barred, Horned, and Screech Owls, Osprey, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (bonus), flicker, all 5 swallows, and 10 warbler species, the best of which were Yellow-throated (bonus), Bay-breasted, and Palm (bonus). It was also here that the temperature was at its "lowest" for the day, 74°F, (2 degrees higher than the June 1st low), and the humidity at its highest - 97% (4% higher than June 1st). Finding another 90 species in such unseasonably hot and humid weather would be a real challenge. We even began to have doubts about being able to break the Texas/UTC record...

White Park/Highways 61-562-1982 (Chambers Co.)

During 40 minutes of birding White Park we added Red-eyed and Philadelphia (bonus) Vireos, three warblers (Black-and-white, Tennessee, Nashville) and Scarlet Tanager (bonus). Enroute to Anahuac Refuge another 7 species gave us a total of 84 for the day....

Anahuac Refuge (SE Chambers Co.) 11:55 AM - 2:10 PM

We spent the hottest part of the day in the muggy marshlands of Anahuac, although still managing to add the following birds in spite of the sweltering heat: Anhinga, Am. Bittern, White-fronted and Snow Geese, 7 species of ducks (including Gadwall and wigeon), Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks, both gallinules, and the best bird of the day, WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER - thanks to Linda's sharp eyes. At 1:30 PM the all-time highest Oct. 4 temperature for Houston was recorded - 94°! This was also about the same time that we found our first Killdeer of the day (a "latest ever" Big Day Record for this abundant species!), which resulted in much "whining and sniveling" over other common species still missing from our list: Bobwhite, Sora, Rock Dove(!!), nighthawk, swift(!), Crested Flycatcher, House Sparrow(!!), Painted Bunting. The 30 species added on the refuge gave us a total of 114 for the day - another 47 needed to top 160 and 5 hours of daylight remaining....

High Island (E. Galveston Co.) 2:45 - 4:45 PM

Woodland birds found here included Olive-sided Flycatcher, Warbling Vireo (bonus), 5 warbler species - including Black-throated Blue and Blackburnian (both bonus), Orchard Oriole, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Oil field marshes produced Black Tern (bonus), Horned Lark, and Seaside Sparrow, along with several other species. Altogether we had increased our day's list by 16, including the elusive House Sparrow at 3:25 (another "latest ever")!

Bolivar Peninsula (E. Galveston Co.) 4:45 - 6:40 PM

Our team list stood at 130 species when we left the High Island marshes - another 23 needed to exceed the Texas/UTC Oct. all-time high and 31 to set a new North American record. With only 2½ hours of daylight left to travel over 30 miles while birding the Bolivar "hot spots", as well

as another 3 miles by ferry to Galveston Island before nightfall, we couldn't help but feel we were doomed to failure - too many miles and species in too little time and too much heat...But since we were two species and 15 minutes ahead of the 1979 team at this point, we could at least have a go at the 152 Texas record...

After briefly birding the Rollover Pass sand flats and Sun Oil marshes we had added to our list no less than 15 essential shorebirds, gulls, and terns - 145 for the team! At the Johnson property we found our last two warblers - Black-throated Green and Chestnut-sided - 21 species for the day. A bonus Rufous Hummingbird, an Acadian Flycatcher, and Wood Thrush brought our day's total to 150 when we left for Bolivar Flats just before 6 PM. Half an hour at the flats and nine more species gave us a NEW TEXAS/UTC OCTOBER RECORD, thanks to the presence of such "goodies" as oystercatcher, Snowy and Wilson's Plovers, Knot, Dunlin, and skimmer. Only two species needed to beat the 160 record!

Enroute to the ferry we considered all the options remaining: could we make Galveston Island before dark? If so, should we head straight to Kempner Park to get the Inca Dove and then try to make the White-tailed Kite area at Pirate's Beach? We still needed Rock and White-winged Doves but the latter was absent at the usual courthouse roost in September and even the ubiquitous Rock Dove could be missed (as it was by a New Mexico team covering 766 car miles from midnight to midnight in 1978!).

When we arrived at Port Bolivar the ferry was waiting but it was almost loaded to full capacity. If we didn't make this one it would be dark by the time we reached Galveston. In a state of near panic we frantically counted the cars ahead of us and tried to estimate the space remaining on the ferry. It looked as though our car and the one in front of us would have to wait for the next boat but then, incredibly, we found ourselves in the next-to-last car to be waved on board! After hearty congratulations and a tremendous collective sigh of relief, we resumed the pursuit of our major objective: a new all-time high North American Big Day record for October...

Galveston Island/6:50 - 10:10 PM

We tied the record sooner than expected when Ben once again demonstrated his amazing field ability by finding a single Franklin's Gull among the hordes of Laughing Gulls following the ferry as we neared Galveston - a most significant bonus species. The record-breaking 161st species of the day holds the title of No. 1 Trash Bird but for us the single Rock Dove spotted in flight on the way to the county courthouse was extra special! Although we failed to find White-winged Doves at the courthouse, we did add Chimney Swift just before darkness descended. By the time we got to Kempner Park the Inca Doves had gone to roost but a Common Nighthawk was the 163rd on the list. Our final two species were seen by means of the car's headlights - Black-crowned Night Heron along Sportsman Road and Barn Owl on Nottingham Ranch Road....

* * * * *

We had covered 135 car miles in 14 hours from the first owl at Lake Charlotte to the last owl (and new species) on Galveston Island. Although we missed 21 of the 163 species we had expected on Oct. 4, we more than made up for these with 23 bonus species, a net total of 165 and a New All-time High A.E.A. North American and Texas/UTC One-day Record by a single team for the month of October!

* * * * *

SUMMARY - Oct. 4, 1981 Big Day

Total species: 165 (identified by one or more participants)

Shared " ": 158 (" " every participant/96%)

(165-Ben Feltner/164-Linda Roach/158-Noel Pettingell)

Car miles (begin and end at 2811 Westgate, Houston): 242

Foot " ": 4 Ferry miles: 3.2

Party hours: 17 3/4 (5:15 AM - 11:05 PM, CDT)

Weather: Clear to partly cloudy with no wind inland, SE 10-15 mph along coast; temperature ranges: Houston 74-94 (previous Oct. 4 high 93 in 1966) Galveston 78-86/Beaumont 75-88

* * * * *

History of All-time October Big Days North of Mexico

Oct. 13, 1968	- 135	species by team of 4	in SE Texas
" 31, 1975	- 156	" " " " " "	W. Central Calif.
" 7, 1978	- 156	" " " " " "	" "
" 31, 1979	- 160	" " " " 2	NW Calif.
" 4, 1981	- 165	" " " " 3	SE Texas

AN INTERESTING FALL MIGRATION PHENOMENON

by Jim Morgan

Most UTC observers know that rain grounds small migrants during both spring and fall migration periods on the Texas Gulf Coast. Frontal activity also plays a part, but it is the rain that is the dominant factor.

With the above in mind, on October 7, after two days of off-and-on rain, and more predicted, Tony Gallucci and I decided to bird coastal migrant traps in search of grounded migrants. In addition to finding various migrants we discovered a most interesting phenomenon that I have long suspected and only partially had witnessed before. This phenomenon will be described below.

Tony and I arrived at Smith's Woods in High Island about 15 minutes after first light. There had been light overnight rains and some morning fog. As soon as we got out of my truck it was obvious that birds were around and very active. Warbler "chips" and flycatcher "whits" were heard all around us. During the next one and one-half hours we found 12 species of warblers, several vireo species, and numerous pewees and empidonax flycatchers. Most numerous were 30 White-eyed Vireos and 20 Wilson's Warblers. Then a most interesting thing happened. The woods went dead! Not even 9:00 a.m. and no small migrants anywhere! So we thought we would see if anything was in Scout Woods. Again, no small migrants, only some Catbirds and Brown Thrashers. Where were the birds?

Leaving Scout Woods we did a little shorebirding then headed towards our next migrant trap destination. On the way we drove through a rain shower and arrived only minutes after the rain stopped. We immediately found numerous small migrants, including 2 Prairie Warblers and about 30-40 Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. But, again, in about 45 minutes this migrant trap was becoming devoid of small migrants. So, off again to our next destination.

We arrived at the next migrant trap before encountering any rain. This trap was dead! Hardly a bird anywhere, even the larger Catbirds and Brown Thrashers were scarce. Then it started raining and we sought shelter. We waited out the shower which was heavy at times and lasted about 45 minutes. When the rain stopped we were immediately in the woods and we found about 20 Common Yellowthroats plus a handful of other small migrant flycatchers, vireos, and warblers. Within 15 minutes it was raining again so we went to Bolivar Flats and looked at more shorebirds.

After about an hour on the flats, and about 40 minutes after the rain had stopped, we went back to the last migrant trap we had visited. We went into the trap, and found to our dismay, no more small migrants! Where did all those Yellowthroats go? Tony and I discussed this "on-off" phenomenon of first many birds, then no birds, that we had witnessed 3 times on that day. One possible hypothesis follows.

During fall, birds are migrating mostly overland before they reach the UTC. Being able to put down numerous times along the way the birds are probably not stressed very much. Also, as during spring migration, during the heart of migration there are almost always some migrants in the air. When these migrants encounter rain they seek shelter, and along the coast the migrant "traps" are heavily used by the small passerines. Once the rain stops it appears that the birds require little

or no feeding to maintain their energy so that they can continue their migration. Thus, the birds leave the migrant traps very quickly. How general this phenomenon is is hard to say but it surely was the case on October 7, 1981, on the UTC. Tony and I would be interested in hearing about similar experiences other birders may have had, or any other hypothesis which would explain the phenomenon.

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

Part 10: Duck Virus Hepatitis

Duck virus hepatitis is a highly fatal, rapidly spreading viral infection of young ducklings characterized primarily by hepatitis. Due to its extremely communicable nature, it is of considerable importance to the commercial duck raising industry.

The disease seems to be restricted to ducklings of 4 or 5 weeks of age or less; adult birds are not affected, even during an outbreak. The virus is shed in feces during an active epizootic, and for as long as 8 weeks after recovery. Wild birds are strongly suspected in the dissemination of DVH over short distances.

Outbreak and spread of DVH is rapid, with most of the mortality occurring within 3 or 4 days. Affected ducklings fall down, kick spasmodically with their hind legs, and die in a characteristic pose of having their heads extended abnormally far backward. In severe outbreaks, death can be extraordinarily rapid.

Morbidity (the extent of communicability throughout a susceptible population) is a cool 100 per cent, while mortality rates can vary. Severe epidemics may reach 95 per cent, but it can go as low as 50 per cent in some cases.

The liver is the target organ; large hemorrhagic areas are noted at necropsy. The liver, while not a glamorous organ like the heart or brain (ever hear of a Texas Liver Institute?), is utterly essential to life. It performs a host of vital functions such as carbohydrate metabolism, vitamin synthesis, blood clotting, storage, and filtration, excretion of the products of metabolism, catabolism (breakdown) of drugs, digestion, and secretion of bile. Needless to say, when this important organ is extensively invaded by a pathogen, a high mortality rate can result.

The favorable aspect of DVH is that recovered animals are immune, and an effective vaccine is available.

Treatment, when instituted quickly enough, can be useful in stemming the spread throughout a flock. The Duck Disease Laboratory in Long Island has a bank of antisera that has been collected from recovered ducks at slaughter. At the first sign of an outbreak, antiserum is injected into healthy ducklings. Breeding stock can also be immunized so that there will be a high level of antibody in the yolk of the hatching egg; the ducklings will therefore be protected at birth.

BROWN PELICANS PROGRESSING ON TEXAS COAST

Brown Pelicans, which all but disappeared from the Texas Gulf Coast in the early 1960s, are continuing their dramatic resurgence.

David Blankinship, a National Audubon Society biologist from Rockport, said 57 nesting pairs of pelicans were counted in 1981. Ten years ago, the count was down to fewer than 35 birds.

A tick infestation disrupted the birds' nesting efforts this year, Blankinship said, but about 46 young were fledged. "Last year, about 76 birds were fledged, so we were hoping for better production in 1981", said Blankinship.

Blankinship and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department biologists banded 45 of this year's nestlings to monitor their survival and movements

from their Aransas and Corpus Christi Bay nesting areas.

Blankinship said an influx of sub-adult and adult Brown Pelicans from Mexico this year has swelled the total Texas population to between 450 and 500 birds.

Once plentiful along the Texas coast, pelicans began to decline in the 1950s. Biologists believe a lack of nesting success caused by use of the pesticide DDT was the main factor in the decline. Their numbers have continued to climb since the chemical was banned. Brown Pelicans still are classified as an endangered species in the U.S.
(reprinted from Texas Parks and Wildlife News, Oct. 21, '81 issue)

AROUND AND ABOUT

Information is needed on 1) Eating habits of hawks on migration, especially Broad-wings and Swainson's; very little is known so that any sightings of food gathering in these two species is significant, and 2) Correlation of temperature with rising time of sitting Broad-wings, vultures, and Swainson's on migration; During the fall of 1981, notes were made of temperature as well as time the foregoing species left the Bentsen State Park roost for Mexico; information is wanted from individuals or groups who have done any such studies; If you have not done anything in this line and would like to help, please take a thermometer with you to the roost area near you in spring of 1982 and note time, temperature and cloud cover when birds rise; do not forget the date. Send all pertinent information to Mrs. Gladys Donohue, P. O. Drawer 400, Penitas, TX 78576. Information received will be used in an article for the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Full credit will be given contributors.

If you are one of those people who have always wanted to go to the OLD WORLD to see such birds as Hoopoes, Bee-eaters, Bustards, Rollers, Sunbirds, Pratincoles, and Sandgrouse; but have never been able to finance a trip to Africa or India, keep reading. Texas birders know that by visiting migration traps during spring, a huge list of species can be tallied. Peregrine, with the aid of our British associates has arranged a 16 day migration tour in Israel. Situated at the junction of three continents, Israel has recently become recognized as one of the great places in the Old World to view migration, especially over 30 species of raptors which sweep through each spring. At half the cost of a trip to East Africa, this tour is a great introduction to the birds of Europe, Africa, and Asia Minor. The tour will be led by John Horsfall, who researches Coot behavior at Oxford, and has much experience leading tours in Israel. Co-leader will be Peregrine's Bob Behrstock, his third trip to the Old World. For a detailed itinerary, call the Peregrine office at 520-7747.

If you would like to participate on the Cypress Creek (W. Harris Co.) Christmas Count, the Lake Conroe count, or either of the Lake Livingston counts, please call Tony Gallucci at 932-9630.

There will be a new Christmas Bird Count this year in the pineywoods of east Texas. The count will be named after the small community of Timpson near the circle's center. Timpson is 25 miles northeast of Nacogdoches, as the crow flies. The date will be Saturday, 2 January 1982. We will meet at the service station where U.S. Hwy. 84 branches off to the west from Hwy. 59 (on left, just before you enter Timpson), at 6:00 a.m. UTC birders are welcome (and desperately needed). Although far from the UTC, this count should offer participants a great winter birding opportunity in beautiful pineywoods habitat. Please call Randy Pinkston at 667-1334 (after 6:00 p.m.) or 221-5224 (before 5:00 p.m.) for additional information.

MINUTES OF THE OG MEETING, NOV. 5, 1981

Ron Braun welcomed the large number of members and visitors. The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the treasurer reported a balance of \$2,711.00.

Two art prints donated by Jim Beatty were auctioned. Jaguar by Doug Pratt was sold for \$40.00 to A. E. Singleton, and Roadrunner by Nancy McGowan was sold to Gene Heitzman for \$25.00.

Announcements:

Ron: If your SPOONBILL is unduly delayed, let Ann Booth know. TOS will meet in Austin over Thanksgiving weekend.

David Matson: OG field trip will be Nov. 21 at Brazoria Wildlife Refuge. December field trips will be Christmas Counts.

Emory Froelich: OG members who would like to help in compiling the bird census will be allowed to go in the new state park being developed near Lake Houston. See Ron or Emory for a key.

Ted Eubanks, Fred Collins, Jack Gillette: OG members are urged to support the purchase of Boy Scout Woods with liberal donations. Send contributions to Houston Audubon Society, 440 Wilchester, 77079, and specify "Boy Scout Woods Purchase Fund" on check and envelope.

Christmas Counts were announced by the various chairmen.

Mary Gillette: James Watt will be at a lunch meeting at the Hyatt Regency on Nov. 24. This is open to the public (\$14.00).

Ron: Rare birds: Calliope Hummingbird at Glenn Cureton's; An immature gull, probably a Greater Black-backed, at Texas City Dike. Be on the look-out for herons, egrets, terns, anhingas that are tagged in colors. If you see any, call Ron.

A nominating committee has been appointed to choose a slate of officers for the OG term beginning June 1, 1982. Members are: Ben Feltner, Jim Morgan and Peggy Milstead. Send your suggestions for officers to them.

Photographs are needed for a new Texas Bird Guide. Gene Blacklock (Welder Wildlife Refuge) and others are assembling it. Call Ron for details.

Jack Gillette: Thanks for helping to defeat Proposition 4 in the Nov. 3 election.

Emory introduced Tony Gallucci, who presented an excellent program on raptor identification.

Ellen Red, Secretary

Don't forget the Houston Audubon Society's recent purchase of the Louis Smith property in High Island. The first payment is due very soon, and it all depends on you. Donate generously toward this cause which will benefit birds and birders alike.

Send your donations to:
Smith Purchase Fund
c/o Houston Audubon Society
440 Wilchester Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77079

Don't forget to stipulate Smith Purchase Fund on your check!

Thanks!

CLEARING HOUSE October 1981

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

Grebe, Eared: Freeport--(10)11,KW
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 22 reports (1-40)
 Pelican, White: 28 reports (8-500)
 Pelican, Brown: Atkinson's I--(3)Sept.22; (1)12,Barbara Duryea...notes submitted
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 20 reports (1-100)
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 17 reports (1-48)
 Anhinga: 7 reports (1-2)
 Heron, Great Blue: 32 reports (1-75)
 Heron, Green: 17 reports (1-6)
 Heron, Little Blue: 20 reports (1-50)
 Egret, Cattle: 25 reports (10-3000)
 Egret, Reddish: Bolivar--(40)7,M; 18 other reports (1-10)
 Egret, Great: 28 reports (2-220)
 Egret, Snowy: 26 reports (2-205)
 Heron, Louisiana: 25 reports (1-60)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 12 reports (1-25)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 11 reports (1-10)
 Bittern, Least: Anahuac NWR--(2)9,D; Freeport--(1)11,KW
 Bittern, American: 8 reports (1-8)
 Stork, Wood: Lake Charlotte--(2)4,P; Texas City--(1)20,NE; Winnie--(18)3,SC;
 Mercury Dr--(23)9,SW; W.Galv--(4)11,TG
 Ibis, White-faced: 23 reports (4-400)
 Ibis, White: 14 reports (1-50)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 19 reports (1-150)
 Goose, Canada: W.Harris Co--(40)10,R; (20)11,E; Jefferson Co--(20)25,F;
 Bolivar--(200)18,E
 Goose, White-fronted: Chambers Co--(60)4,P,J; (40)8,E; (400)9,D; (15)10,(100)25,
 SC; (1000)24,JM; (1000)18,G; Galv--(16)8,C; (100)18,R; W.Harris Co--(50)10,R;
 (500)24,SW; (50)11,E; Bolivar--(80)18,L,E; Houston--(40)18,WC
 Goose, Snow: Chambers Co--(25)3,B; (75)4,P; (2000)9,D; (5000)18,SC,JM;
 (400)10,(800)25,SC; (2000)24,JM; (25)19,W; Bolivar--(500)18,E; Galv--(75)18,R;
 W.Harris Co--(25)10,(5)17,R; (100)11,E
 Goose, Snow (Blue): Chambers Co--(80)3,OG; W.Harris Co--(50)10,R
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: W.Harris Co--(14)10, (15)17,R; (35)25,TG;
 Missouri City--(5)26,SW
 Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: W.Harris Co--(1)10, (4)17,R; (37)24,SW; (1)11,E;
 (48)25,TG; Winnie--(250)18,W
 Mallard: Freeport--(2)11,KW; W.Harris Co--(2)10,17,R; (6)24,SW; (1)11,E;
 Anahuac NWR--(20)24,SC
 Duck, Mottled: 22 reports (2-400)
 Gadwall: Chambers Co--(1)4,P; (40)18,SC,G; Texas City--(1)19,NE; W.Harris Co--
 (10)10,(25)17,R; (500)24,SW; (5)11,E; Bolivar--(15)24,JM; Mercury Dr--(10)24,WC
 Pintail, Common: Anahuac NWR--(6000)24,SC; 12 other reports (1-800)
 Teal, Green-winged: 8 reports (2-150)
 Teal, Blue-winged: Anahuac NWR--(4000)4,P; 17 other reports (2-1500)
 Wigeon, American: Anahuac NWR--(2)4,P; (15)8,E; High Island--(12)7,M; (50)24,JM;
 (50)18,E; Texas City--(3)19,NE; W.Harris Co--(450)10,(400)17,R; (150)24,SW;
 Jefferson Co--(15)25,F; Mercury Dr--(50)6,SW; Galv--(2)20,K; (1)25,JH
 Shoveler, Northern: 18 reports (1-300)
 Duck, Wood: Lake Charlotte--(2)4,P; Bolivar--(1)18,G
 Redhead: W.Harris Co--(10)25,TG
 Duck, Ring-necked: W.Harris Co--(1)10,(6)17,R; (15)24,SW; (2)11,E; Mercury Dr--
 (4)20,WC
 Canvasback: W.Harris Co--(80)25,TG...notes submitted
 Scaup, Lesser: Texas City--(1)19,NE; Anahuac NWR--(2)24,SC; W.Harris Co--
 (500)24,SW

Duck, Ruddy: Texas City--(20)19,NE; W.Harris Co--(2)17,R; (25)24,SW; (20)25,TG;
 Mercury Dr--(20)20,WC
Merganser, Red-breasted: Mercury Dr--(1)20,WC...see notes; Bolivar Flats--
 (4)25,F...see notes
 Vulture, Turkey: 15 reports (1-40)
 Vulture, Black: 9 reports (2-13)
 Kite, White-tailed: 8 reports (1-6)
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Chambers Co--(1)4,P; (2)8,E; Galv--(7)7,M; Bolivar--
 (3)17,L; (14)18,G,E; (1)26,JH; High Island--(1)9,D; (24)18,W,MAU,SC,R,E;
 (1)8,SC; (4)24,JM; Webster--(1)22,25,MAU; Friendswood--(1)22,MAU; W.Harris Co--
 (5)10,R; (1)11,DM; (3)25,TG; Anahuac NWR--(4)18,(2)24,SC; Jefferson-Galv Co--
 (8)25,F; Houston--(1)4,WC; (1)15,SW
 Hawk, Cooper's: Anahuac NWR--(1)4,P; Bolivar--(1)7,M; (1)8,E; (5)18,G,E;
 W.Harris Co--(2)10,R; (1)24,SW; (2)25,TG; High Island--(5)18,E,R,SC; (1)24,JM;
 Winnie--(1)15,SC
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 12 reports (1-6)
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 8 reports (1-4)
 Hawk, Broad-winged: High Island--(4)3,B; (1)7,M; (1)8,E; (2)9,D; (5)18,R,G,E;
 Bolivar--(1)3,B; White Park--(2)4,P; UTC--(4)10,(3)11,D; W.Harris Co--(5)10,R;
 (1)14,TG; Houston--(1)9,HAS; Bellaire--(1)20,DM
 Hawk, Swainson's: High Island--(1)3,B; W.Harris Co--(2)10,R; (1)14,25,TG
 Eagle, Bald: Bar X Ranch--(1)11,KW...needs notes
 Hawk, Marsh: 24 reports (1-15)
 Osprey: Baytown--(1)8,DD; Lake Charlotte--(4)4,P; Bolivar--(2)7,M; (1)8,C;
 (1)10,(2)11,D; (1)18,MAU,G,E; (1)17,L; (1)25,F; Chambers Co--(2)18,SC,E;
 Galv--(1)25,NE; Kemah--(1)18,J; Armand Bayou--(1)11,TG
 Falcon, Peregrine: Freeport--(1)3,OG; Chambers Co--(1)9,D; Warren Lake--(1)17,R;
 Baytown--(2)8,DD
 Merlin: Chambers Co--(1)3,B; (2)10,SC; Bolivar--(1)8,C; High Island--(1)11,D;
 (3)18,W,RP,SC; Sea Rim--(4)18,W,R; Baytown--(2)8,DD
 Kestrel, American: Sea Rim--(203)18,W; 26 other reports (1-50)
 Bobwhite: 4 reports (8-15)
 Crane, Sandhill: W.Galv--(2)20,K...needs notes; W.Harris Co--(3)25,TG
 Rail, King: 9 reports (1-2)
 Rail, Clapper: 10 reports (1-5)
 Rail, Virginia: Stockdick School Rd--(3 in front of reaper)21,A
 Sora: Stockdick School Rd--(35 in front of reaper)21,A
 Rail, Yellow: Stockdick School Rd--(3 in front of reaper)21,A
 Rail, Black: Stockdick School Rd--(2 in front of reaper)21,A
 Gallinule, Purple: Anahuac NWR--(1)4,P
 Gallinule, Common: 15 reports (1-50)
 Coot, American: 22 reports (1-500)
 Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(3)3,B; (3)4,P,J; (4)10,D; (10)25,F
 Plover, Semipalmated: 13 reports (1-40)
 Plover, Piping: 14 reports (1-50)
 Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(10)4,P,J; (4)7,M; (6)8,E; (2)10,D; (3)18,R,G,E;
 (3)2,L; (2)24,JM; (9)25,F
 Plover, Wilson's: Bolivar--(2)4,P,J; (2)7,M; (10)18,R,G,E; (2)10,D; (10)2,L;
 (4)24,JM; (15)25,F
 Killdeer: 30 reports (1-75)
 Plover, Black-bellied: 21 reports (1-100)
 Turnstone, Ruddy: 12 reports (3-28)
 WOODCOCK, AMERICAN: Edith Moore--(1)2,HAS...needs notes
 Snipe, Common: Anahuac NWR--(1)9,D; Texas City--(10)19,NE; W.Harris Co--(2)10,
 17,R; Galv--(1)24,JM; Bolivar--(1)25,F; Mercury Dr--(1)20,WC
 Curlew, Long-billed: 17 reports (1-25)
 Sandpiper, Spotted: 5 reports (1-5)
 Willet: 18 reports (2-100)
 Yellowlegs, Greater: 21 reports (1-70)
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 18 reports (2-100)
 Knot, Red: 9 reports (3-600)
Sandpiper, Pectoral: Galv--(2)25,NE...needs notes
 SANDPIPER, WHITE-RUMPED: Anahuac NWR--(2)4,P...see notes
 Sandpiper, Least: 21 reports (1-100)
 Dunlin: Bolivar--(2)7,M; (1)8,E; (5)10,(20)11,D; (250)18,R,G,E; (10)2,L;
 (100)24,JM; (50)25,F; Galv--(1)8,C; (4)25,NE; Anahuac NWR--(1)9,D; Texas City--
 (25)19,NE; Chambers Co--(1)18,SC; Mercury Dr--(1)24,WC

Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(25)4,P,J; (300)7,M; (20)8,E; (400)10,
 (700)11,D; (30)2,L; (200)24,JM; (300)25,F; (100)18,G,E; Galv--(2)8,C;
 (4)20,K; Mercury Dr--(30)6,(12)9,SW
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: 13 reports (1-800)
 Dowitcher species: 8 reports (2-300)
 Sandpiper, Stilt: Bolivar--(1)8,E; Chambers Co--(1)10,SC; Mercury Dr--
 (50)20,24,WC
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: 5 reports (1-500)
 Sandpiper, Western: 18 reports (5-500)
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Chambers Co--(3)...needs notes; Lake Charlotte--
 (9)4,P...see notes
 Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar--(5)3,B; (35)4,P,J; (8)7,M; (20)10,(60)11,D; (20)18,R;
 (15)2,L; (28)24,JM; (10)25,F; Galv--(8)8,C;
 Sanderling: 15 reports (6-2000)
 Avocet, American: 16 reports (6-120)
 Stilt, Black-necked: 14 reports (2-100)
 Phalarope, Wilson's: Mercury Dr--(1)24,WC...see notes
 Gull, Herring: 13 reports (1-75)
 Gull, Ring-billed: 17 reports (1-1000)
 Gull, Laughing: 19 reports (20-14,000)
 Gull, Franklin's: Galv. Co--(1)4,P; W.Harris Co--(100)25,TG
 Tern, Gull-billed: Freeport--(2)3,OG; Galv.Co--(15)7,M; High Island--(4)9,D;
 Bolivar--(4)4,J; Baytown--(9)25,SW; San Jacinto R--(4)25,SW
 Tern, Forster's: 17 reports (2-600)
 Tern, Common: Bolivar--(3)4,P,J; (3)11,D; (2)2,L; (10)18,G,E; Chambers Co--
 (5)18,R; Jefferson Co--(2)25,F; Lynchburg--(4)6,SW
 Tern, Royal: Galv. Co--(10,000)7,M; 16 other reports (2-4000)
 Tern, Sandwich: 10 reports (2-200)
 Tern, Caspian: 19 reports (1-500)
 Tern, Black: Anahuac NWR--(2)4,P; High Island--(2)7,M; (2)9,D; Freeport--(15)11,
 KW; Lynchburg--(15)4,SW; Bolivar--(2)11,TG
 Skimmer, Black: 17 reports (2-800)
 Dove, Rock: 9 reports (1-30)
 Dove, White-winged: Bolivar--(8)25,F; (1)18,G; Galv--2 reports (2,4)
 Dove, Mourning: 30 reports (1-300)
 Dove, Ground: Freeport--(2)3,OG; Bolivar--(3)10,(2)11,D; (2)18,L,G; High Island--
 (1)18,R; W.Harris Co--(2)11,E; White Oak Bayou--(1)19,WC
 Dove, Inca: 12 reports (1-30)
PARROT, BROWN-HOODED: Sabine Pass--(1)10, Ben Feltner, Bob Behrstock...see notes
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: Chambers Co--(2)4,P; (1)8,E; (1)3, SC; Anahuac NWR--
 (1)25,SC; High Island--(1)11,D; (3)18,R,SC; Bolivar--(25)18,G; (2)25,F;
 (1)26,JH; (1)19,W; Maner Lake--(1)11,KW; Bellaire--(1)21,DM; W.Harris Co--
 (1)11,E; White Oak Bayou--(1)3,WC...an unusual number of late reports.
 Notes submitted.
Roadrunner, Greater: Sharp Rd--(1)11,E; Spring--(1)25,SW...need notes
 Ani, Groove-billed: Freeport--(1)3,OG; Galv--(4)8,C; (10)22,JH; High Island--
 (1)11,D; Sabine Pass--(1)10,D; W.Harris Co--(1)10,R; (1)14,TG
 Owl, Barn: Galv. Co--(1)4,P; Houston--(1)7,HAS; (1)20,28,SW; Bolivar--(1)18,G
 Owl, Screech: Lake Charlotte--(2)4,P; Manvel--(2)all month,KW; Houston--
 (4)6-8,HAS; (3)16,J; (1-3)all month,JM; (1)all month,SW; Alcoa--(1)12,28,DW
 Owl, Great Horned: Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P; Houston--(2)13,RP; (3)5,(1)7,8,
 Gretchen Oldham
 Owl, Barred: Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P; Arboretum--(1)16,J
 Chuck-will's-widow: Bolivar--(1)3,B; (1)11,MAU; (10)11,(3)18,L,G; (1)25,F;
 (1)19,W; High Island--(1)7,M; (1)9,D; (3)18,MAU,R,SC; (1)8,SC; Galv--(1)11,JH;
 White Oak Bayou--(1)3,10,11,WC
 Whip-poor-will: Bolivar--(1)7,M; (1)11,L; High Island--(1)18,R
 Nighthawk, Common: 9 reports (1-10)
 Swift, Chimney: W.Harris Co--(10)25,TG; 15 earlier reports (1-150)
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 26 reports (1-25)
 Hummingbird, Rufous: Bolivar--(1)4,P; High Island--(1)10,D; Alief--(2)12,J;
 Winnie--(1)10,20-25,SC; Houston--(1)all month, Nettie Lyons; Alcoa--(1 ad.m.)
 all month (1 imm.)10,23-24,(2 imm.)14,DW
HUMMINGBIRD, CALLIOPE: Houston--(1)24-Nov. 4, Glenn Cureton...see notes
 Hummingbird sp: Houston--(1)Aug.1980,David Matson
 Kingfisher, Belted: 34 reports (1-11)
 Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): 19 reports (1-50)
 Flicker, Common (Red-shafted): Arboretum--(1)18,SW...needs notes

Woodpecker, Pileated: 7 reports (1-5)
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 11 reports (1-15)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co--(1)4,P; (2)8,E; (1)25,F; W.Harris Co--
 (2)10,R; Houston--(1)3,21,HAS; (1)11,WC; Galv--(1)20,K
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: High Island--(2)18,MAU; Galv--(1)25,NE; (1)19,JH;
 Houston--(1)24,PM; (1)22,(3)25,SW; (1)26,(2)27,WC; Chambers Co--(1)25,F;
 Sabine--(1)25,F; Bolivar--(1)26,JH; (1)19,W; Ballaire--(1)14,DM
 Woodpecker, Hairy: White Park--(1)8,E; Chambers Co--(1)25,F
 Woodpecker, Downy: 9 reports (1-4)
 Kingbird, Eastern: Freeport--(1)3,OG; Chambers Co--(1)3,B; (1)10,(3)17,(2)18,SC;
 Galv--(16)4,P; (1)8,C; (8)1,JH; (2)6,H; W. Harris Co--(1)10,17,R; Lake Charlotte
 --(2)9,D; Algoa--(1)4,DW
 Kingbird, Western: Galv--(2)7,M; High Island--(1)18,W
KINGBIRD, CASSIN'S: Chambers Co--(1)17,SC...see notes
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: Baytown--(174 on one power line)8,DD; 36 other re-
 ports (1-500)
 Flycatcher, Great Crested: 5 reports (1-2)
FLYCATCHER, ASH-THROATED: Sun Oil--(2)11,D...see notes; (1)12,I; Caplan--
 (1)12,SC
 Phoebe, Eastern: Varner-Hogg plantation--(3)11,KW; Texas City--(1)19,NE; Houston
 --(1)24,J; Chambers Co--(4)24,SC; Bolivar--(2)24,JM; (2)25,F; (2)18,G; (2)26,JH;
 (15)19,W; Humble--(1)25,SW; Galv--(2)6,H; (12)20,K
PHOEBE, SAY'S: Chambers Co--(1)24,SC...see notes
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: High Island--(1)9,D; Sabine Pass--(2)10,D;
 Bolivar--(2)11,D; (3 banded)2, (4 banded)10,L; (1)19,W...How
 were others identified?
 Flycatcher, Acadian: Bolivar--(1 by voice)4,P; (1 by voice)18,G; Houston--
 (1 by voice)18,SW
FLYCATCHER, WILLOW/ALDER: Houston--(1)25,SW...see notes
 Flycatcher, Least: High Island--(1)3,B...how identified?
Empidonax species: Freeport--(5)3,OG; High Island--(1)3,B; (1)8,E; (2)4,J;
 Bolivar--(3)10,(1)18,L; (2)24,JM; (4)18,G; Galv--(10)7,M; (2)6,H; Houston--
 (2)18,(3)21,(2)25,SW; Bellaire--(1)21,DM
 Pewee, Eastern: Freeport--(1)3,OG; Lake Charlotte--(3)4,P; Bolivar--(3)4,P;
 (5)10,L; (3)26,JH; Galv. Co--(10)7,M; Houston--(1)20,HAS; High Island--
 (3)9,(2)10,D; (2)18,MAU,RP,SC; Bolivar-High Island--(10)18,G; UTC--(4)11,D;
 Chambers Co--(1)24,SC; Houston--(3)11,(2)18,(1)22,25,SW; Galv--(1)1,JH
PEWEE, WESTERN: Bolivar--(1)25,F...see notes
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Bolivar--(1)3,B; (1)11,D; High Island--(1)4,P; Sabine
 Pass--(1)10,D
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: W.Harris Co--(1)18,R; High Island--(1)19,W
 Lark, Horned: 9 reports (2-12)
 Swallow, Tree: Chambers Co--(50)4,P,J; (6)10,(7000)24,(20)25,SC; Bolivar--
 (3)7,M; (400)10,L; (5)24,JM; (50)18,G; UTC--(200)8,E; (10)9,10,11,D; High
 Island--(1)8,(10)18,SC; (300)25,F; W.Harris Co--(60)24,SW; Houston--(35)24,DM
 Swallow, Bank: Lake Charlotte--(2)4,P; Bolivar--(5)18,G; Houston--(3)13,SW
 Swallow, Rough-winged: Freeport--(2)3,OG; High Island--(2)3,B; Lake Charlotte--
 (12)4,P; UTC--(200)8,E; (30)10,D; Galv--(6)25,NE; Chambers Co--(10)4,J;
 (1)10,(3)24,SC; Bolivar--(30)18,L,G; (1)24,JM; (200)19,W; W.Harris Co--
 (500)24,SW; San Jacinto St.Pk--(50)25,SW; White Oak Bayou--(12)24,WC;
 Mercury Dr--(15)24,WC
 Swallow, Barn: 24 reports (2-1000)
 Swallow, Cliff: Lake Charlotte--(14)4,P; High Island--(40)10,D
Martin, Purple: Bolivar--(30)8,E...needs notes; High Island--(3)25,F; Houston--
 (2)26, Ben Feltner & Linda Roach...see notes
 Jay, Blue: W.Harris Co--(50)14,(60)25...probable migrants over rice fields;
 28 other reports (1-60)
 Crow, Common: 13 reports (2-45)
 Chickadee, Carolina: 10 reports (1-20)
 Titmouse, Tufted: 7 reports (1-25)
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted: Bolivar--(1 banded)18,L
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: White Park--(2)8,E; Chambers Co--(3)25,F
 Creeper, Brown: Sabine--(1)25,F; Bellaire--(1)25,DM
 Wren, House: 11 reports (1-15)
Wren, Winter: High Island--(1)18,R; Bolivar--(2)18,G...see notes
 Wren, Carolina: 13 reports (1-20)
 Wren, Marsh: W.Harris Co--(1)10,17,R; Chambers Co--(2)10,SC; White Oak Bayou--
 (1)18,WC

Wren, Sedge: Anahuac NWR--(1)25,SC; White Oak Bayou--(1)19,WC
 Mockingbird, Northern: 32 reports (1-50)
 Catbird, Gray: Freeport--(1)3,OG; High Island--(1)3,B; (35)7,M; (6)8,E,SC;
 (2)9,(4)10,(10)11,D; (5)18,(3)24,SC; Galv--(25)24,JM; (2)6,H; (2)20,K; Chambers
 Co--(1)4,P; Bolivar--(4)12,SC; (10)10,(5)18,L; (30)18,G,E; (6)12,I; Sabine--
 (20)25,F; Houston--(1)1,18,(2)4,SW; (1)17,28,(2)18,WC; Algoa--(1)25,DW;
 Bellaire--(2)21,DM
 Thrasher, Brown: 28 reports (1-115)
 Robin, American: Houston--(2)11,(3)18,(12)22,SW; (1)31,WC; Galv--(1)6,H
 Thrush, Wood: Bolivar--(1)4,P; (2)10,(1)18,L; (1)12,I; (1)19,W; High Island--
 (1)10,D; (1)18,R; Houston--(2)4,(1)16,SW; (1)3,4,WC
 Thrush, Hermit: Sabine--(1)25,F; White Oak Bayou--(1)19,WC; Bolivar--(1)18,G;
 (1)19,W
 Thrush, Swainson's: Bolivar--(1)10,L; (2)24,JM; (2)25,F; (1)12,I
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked: Kempner Park--(1)5,JH...needs notes
 Veery: High Island--(1)10,D...see notes
 Catharus species: Mrs. Johnson's--(1)3,B
 Bluebird, Eastern: Chambers Co--(1)4,P; Deussen Park--(7)24,SW
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 24 reports (1-100)
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: White Oak Bayou--(1)19,WC...notes submitted; Humble--
 (1)24,SW
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: 24 reports (1-150)
 Pipit, Water: W.Harris Co--(5)25,(40)31,TG
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 33 reports (1-40)
 Starling: 25 reports (1-1000)
 Vireo, White-eyed: 28 reports (1-30)
 VIREO, BELL's: Sun Oil--(1)11,D...see notes
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P; High Island--(1)18,SC; Algoa--
 (2)4,(1)5,DW
 Vireo, Solitary: Bolivar--(1)24,JM; (1)18,G; Sabine--(3)25,F; Houston--(1)22,SW;
 Humble--(1)24,SW; Galv--(2)20,K
 Vireo, Red-eyed: Chambers Co--(1)4,P; High Island--(2)4,P; (5)7,M; (2)10,11,D;
 (6)18,MAU,R,SC,E; Houston--(1)9,HAS; (1)11,SW; Bolivar--(5)10,(2)18,L; (1)24,JM;
 (2)18,G; (1)26,JH; Galv--(2)5,JH; (1)20,K; Armand Bayou--(2)11,TG
 Vireo, Philadelphia: High Island--(1)3,B; (1)4,P; (3)7,M; (2)10,D; (1)11,MAU;
 (1)18,G,E; White Park--(1)4,P; Bolivar--(1)17,F; (1)25,F; Sabine--(1)25,F;
 Galv--(1)5,JH
 Vireo, Warbling: Bolivar--(1)4,P; (1)19,W; High Island--(1)10,D; (1)18,R,E;
 (1)4,J
 Warbler, Black-and-white: Freeport--(1)3,OG; High Island--(2)3,B; (8)4,P; (2)7,M;
 (1)8,E; (1)9,(2)10,D; (2)11,(3)18,MAU; Galv--(1)24,JM; (2)6,H; (2)8,JH;
 (1)14,DM; Bolivar--(1)3,B; (1)10,D; (1)12,SC; (10)2,18,(5)17,L; White Park--
 (2)4,P; W.Harris Co--(1)10,R; Houston--(1)17,HAS; (3)11,(1)13,SW; (1)4,11,17,
 (2)10,18,WC; Bolivar--High Island--(20)18,G
 Warbler, Prothonotary: Bolivar--(1)10,D...notes submitted
 Warbler, Worm-eating: Bolivar--(1)11,D; (1)2,L; (1)19,W...notes submitted; High
 Island--(1)18,MAU,SC,G,E...notes submitted
 Warbler, Blue-winged: High Island--(1)4,P; (1)10,D; (1)18,MAU,SC,G; Armand
 Bayou--(1)11,TG; Bolivar--(1)11,D; (1)19,W
 Warbler, Tennessee: High Island--(2)3,B; (4)4,P; (6)10,D; (5)18,MAU,R,SC,E;
 Chambers Co--(6)25,SC; White Park--(2)4,P; Bolivar--(10)11,D; (2)12,SC;
 (5)2,(10)10,L; (25)18,L,G; (45)25,F; (10)26,JH; Galv--(1)25,NE; (8)24,JM;
 (1)6,H; (1)20,K; Sabine--(125)25,F; Houston--(2)17,JM
 Warbler, Orange-crowned: Freeport--(2)3,OG; Galv--(2)25,NE; (2)24,F; Humble--(1)
 24,SW; Bolivar--(1)26,JH; (1)18,E
 Warbler, Nashville: Freeport--(2)3,OG; High Island--(2)3,B; (3)7,M; (3)11,MAU;
 (7)18,R,SC,E; White Park--(1)4,P; Bolivar--(3)7,M; (2)11,D; (3)12,SC; (1)2,
 (2)10,(12)18,L,G; (1)12,I; Galv--(1)25,NE; (2)24,JM; Sabine Pass--(1)10,D;
 (1)25,F; Houston--(6)18,JM; (9)25,(1)11,SW; (1-3)4-24,WC
 WARBLER, VIRGINIA'S: Sabine--(1)25,Ted Eubanks, Jr...see notes
 Parula, Northern: White Park--(1)3,B; Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P; High Island--
 (3)4,P; (1)7,M; (2)9,D; (1)18,R,SC; Galv--(1)20,I; Bolivar--(1)11,D; (1)18,SC;
 (1)2,18,L; (2)25,F; (1)26,JH; (6)19,W; Houston--(1)16,SW; (1)21,WC
 Warbler, Yellow: High Island--(1)3,B; (1)11,MAU; (1)4,J; Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P;
 Sabine Pass--(1)10,D; Bolivar--(1)11,D; (10)2,L; (12)18,G
 Warbler, Magnolia: High Island--(1)3,B; (5)4,P,J; (3)7,M; (2)8,E; (4)9,D; (7)18,
 MAU,R,SC,E; Galv--(3)24,JM; (2)5,22,JH; Lake Charlotte--(3)4,P; Bolivar--(3)7,M;
 (12)11,D; (4)12,SC; (10)2,(15)10,18,L; (10)25,F; (4)12,I; Houston--(1)7,9,20,
 HAS; (1)11,WC; UTC--(7)10,D; Sabine--(10)25,F; High Island--Bolivar--(40)18,G

- WARBLER, CAPE MAY: Bolivar--(1)18,G...see notes
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue: High Island--(1 m.)4,P; Bolivar--(1)24-25,JM,F
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle): High Island--(6)18,MAU,R,SC,G,E; Anahuac NWR--(6)25,SC; Bolivar--(2)18,L; (9)19,W; Houston--(1)23,SW; (4)18,WC; Galv--(2)19,JH; (2)20,K; (1)14,DM
- Warbler, Black-throated Gray: White Oak Bayou--(1)10,WC...see notes; Sun Oil--(1)12,I...see notes
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: High Island--(1)3,B; (3)7,M; (2)9,(1)10,D; (10)18,MAU,R,SC; (1)24,SC; Sabine--(8)25,F; Bolivar--(1)4,P; (2)11,D; (2)24,JM; (15)25,F; (2)26,JH; Bolivar-High Island--(12)18,G; Houston--(1)17,JM; (1)11,16,18,SW; (1-2)11-24,WC; Galv--(2)20,K
- Warbler, Blackburnian: High Island--(1)4,P; (1)10,E; Sabine--(4)25,F; UTC--(1)8,E
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: Smith Wds--(1)10,D
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Bolivar--(1)4,P; (2)7,M; Sabine--(1)25,F; High Island--(3)7,M; (2)8,E; (1)9,11,D; (3)18,MAU,R; Galv--(1)27,JH; Armand Bayou--(2)11,TG
- Warbler, Bay-breasted: High Island--(1)3,B; (1)18,MAU; Lake Charlotte--(2)4,P; Sabine--(5)25,F; Bolivar--(2)25,F
- Warbler, Pine: Bolivar--(3)26,JH; 5 other reports (1-10)
- Warbler, Prairie: Bolivar--(2)7,M
- Warbler, Palm: Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P; Galv--(1)25,NE; Anahuac NWR--(1)24(3)25,SC; Bolivar--(1)24,JM; (3)25,F; (3)19,W; High Island--(2)19,W
- Ovenbird: Sabine--(3)25,F; Lake Charlotte--(2)4,P; High Island--(3)4,P; (7)18,MAU,R,SC,G; (1)24,SC; Bolivar--(10)2,10,(5)18,L; (1)12,I; Galv--(1)11,D; (1)8,(2)16,JH; UTC--(2)8,E
- Waterthrush, Northern: Bolivar--(1)3,B; (5)2,10,18,L; Sabine--(1)25,F; White Oak Bayou--(1)17,WC
- Warbler, Kentucky: High Island--(1)10,D; Sabine--(1)25,F...see notes
- Warbler, Mourning: Edith Moore--(1)1,HAS; Bolivar--(1)2,17,L
- Yellowthroat, Common: 26 reports (1-20)
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: Lake Charlotte--(1)4,P; High Island--(3)7,M; Bolivar--(2)10,L; White Oak Bayou--(1)3,WC
- Warbler, Hooded: Freeport--(1)3,OG; High Island--(6)18,MAU,R,SC,G,E; Houston--(1)8,HAS; (1)18,SW; (1)19,TG; (1)10,17,18,WC; Bolivar--(2)2,10,(1)18,L
- Warbler, Wilson's: Freeport--(4)3,OG; High Island--(2)3,B; (4)4,F; (20)7,M; (1)9,D; (2)11,MAU; (3)18,R,SC,E; (10)24,JM; Bolivar--(10)7,M; (9)11,D; (4)12,SC,I; (15)2,(10)10,L; (12)18,L,G,E; (5)25,F; UTC--(1)8,E; (9)10,D; Houston--(1)13,RP; (2)8-10,HAS; (1)3,10,11,16,21,WC; (1)14,22,23,24,Sabine--(6)25,F
- Warbler, Canada: Freeport--(1)3,OG; High Island--(1)4,P; (2)7,M; (1)10,D; (2)18,MAU,SC; (1)8,SC; Kempner Park--(1)18,JH; Bolivar--(2)11,D; (5)2,(4)10,L; Armand Bayou--(1)11,TG
- Redstart, American: Freeport--(1)3,OG; High Island--(4)3,B; (5)4,P; (7)7,M; (6)9,D; (15)18,MAU,R,SC; (1)8,SC; (2)24,JM; Sabine--(25)25,F; Bolivar--(2)3,B; (1)7,M; (12)11,D; (6)12,SC,I; (30)17,(20)18,L; (10)25,F; White Park--(1)4,P; UTC--(15)8,E; (4)10,D; Houston--(1)13,RP; (1)7,(3)9,(2)10,HAS; (1)10,17,18,WC; Bolivar-High Island--(50)18,G; (12)19,W; Galv--(4)6,H; (3)8,(2)16,JH
- Sparrow, House: 20 reports (4-200)
- Meadowlark, Eastern: 26 reports (2-65)
- Blackbird, Yellow-headed: Galv--(3)7,M
- Blackbird, Red-winged: 23 reports (2-10,000)
- Oriole, Orchard: High Island--(1)4,P; Bolivar--(2)17,L
- Oriole, Baltimore: Freeport--(1)3,OG; High Island--(2)4,P; (30)7,M; (1)8,E; Bellaire--(2)21,DM; Galv--(1)7,M; (1)6,H; (1)20,K; Bolivar--(3)12,SC; (1)19,W; White Oak Bayou--(2)3,WC
- Grackle, Boat-tailed: 13 reports (2-200)
- Grackle, Great-tailed: 22 reports (1-200)
- Grackle, Common: 10 reports (7-500)
- Cowbird, Brown-headed: 18 reports (1-300)
- COWBIRD, BRONZED: Galv--(3)7,M...see notes
- Tanager, Scarlet: High Island--(1)4,P...needs notes; (1)18,RP...see notes
- Tanager, Summer: Chambers Co--(1)3,B; (1)4,P; High Island--(1)9,D; (1)18,RP,G; (6)4,J; Sabine--(3)25,F; Bolivar--(2)11,D; (2)10,L; (1)18,G; Houston--(1)13,RP; (2)6,9,HAS; (2)11,SW; UTC--(2)10,D; Galv--(1)6,H; (1)20,K
- Cardinal: 23 reports (1-25)
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: High Island--(1)4,P,J; (1)9,D; Houston--(7)2,HAS; (2)11,(1)17,18,WC; Bolivar--(1)11,D; (10)17,L; (1)24,JM; (8)25,F; (4)18,G; Sabine--(2)25,F
- Grosbeak, Black-headed: Freeport--(1)3,OG...notes submitted but misplaced; High Island--(2)18,R...needs notes; W.Galv--(1)6,H...see notes; (1)20,K...needs notes

Grosbeak, Blue: Freeport--(2)3,OG; Chambers Co--(2)4,P; High Island--(6)10,
(10)11,D; (1)8,SC; Houston--(2)13,RP; (1)18,WC; Bolivar--(4)18,L,G; (1)24,JM;
(10)25,F; Sabine--(10)25,F

Bunting, Indigo: Freeport--(15)3,OG; Bolivar--(50)3,B; (1)7,M; (1)12,SC; (15)2,
(10)10,18,L; (10)26,JH; Chambers Co--(12)4,P; Galv--(10)25,NE; (40)24,JM; High
Island--(1)7,M; (3)9,10,(20)11,D; (8)11,(30)18,MAU,R,SC; (10)4,J; (3)8,(1)24,
SC; Houston--(1)13,RP; (7)12,SW; (1-10)3-24,WC; Jefferson-Galv Co--(400)25,F;
Bolivar-High Island--(100)18,G

Bunting, Painted: Bolivar--(2)7,M; (1)25,F; High Island--(1)10,(4)11,D; (1)18,
MAU; Kempner Park--(1)16,JH

Dickcissel: SW Houston--(2)20,23,SW; W.Harris Co--(1)25,TG...notes submitted

Sparrow, Savannah: Texas City--(1)19,NE; Galv--(3)25,NE; (5)24,JM; W.Harris Co--
(3)17,RP; Chambers Co--(20)24,SC; Bolivar--(10)25,F; (4)19,W; Coast--(6)18,W;
White Oak Bayou--(5)19,WC

Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: Bolivar--(6)8,C; (3)10,D; Sea Rim--(2)18,W

Sparrow, Seaside: 6 reports (2-20)

Sparrow, Vesper: Anahuac NWR--(1)18,24,SC...see notes

Sparrow, Lark: Galv--(3)7,M; (2)11,D; (3)25,NE; (1)20,K; High Island--(1)4,J

Junco, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored): White Oak Bayou--(1)24,W...see notes

Sparrow, Chipping: Bolivar--(1)11,D; W.Galv--(1)11,D; Spring Creek Pk--(6)24,SW;
High Island--(4)19,W

Sparrow Clay-colored: Sun Oil--(2)11,D...see notes

Sparrow, Field: High Island--(1)19,W...needs notes

Sparrow, White-crowned: W.Galv--(1)11,D; (1)25,NE; (4)20,K; High Island--(1)18,
MAU; (1)19,W; Bolivar--(1)24,JM; W.Harris Co--(2)25,TG

Sparrow, White-throated: Sun Oil--(1)12,I...needs notes; Chambers Co--(30)25,F;
Humble--(3)24,SW; Algoa--(1)29,DW; White Oak Bayou--(2)24,WC

Sparrow, Lincoln's: Freeport--(1)3,OG; Galv--(1)3,B; (1)25,NE; (1)24,JM; Bolivar
--(1)7,M; (1)12,SC; (1)17,L; (1)25,F; (4)18,G; White Oak Bayou--(4)18,19,WC;
High Island--(1)24,SC; Deussen Park--(1)24,SW

Sparrow, Swamp: White Oak Bayou--(1)18,19,(2)20,24; Anahuac NWR--(2)24,SC;
Chambers Co--(1)25,F; Bolivar--(1)25,F; Mercury Dr--(1)24,WC

Sparrow, Song: Anahuac NWR--(1)18,G...see notes; Galv--(1)25,NE; W.Harris Co--
(1)25,TG

Clearing House Contributors - October, 1981: A-Margaret Anderson, Virginia Court-
ney, Norma Oates; B-Bob Behrstock, June Leibfarth; C-Ben Feltner, Bob Behrstock,
Dottie Leslie; D-Ben Feltner, Bob Behrstock, Linda Roach, Ted Gouldan, Mary
Louise Clark, Harold&Margaret Haley, Nick&Debbie Jackson, Helena Kimball, Dottie
Leslie, Bob&Edith Willman; DD-David Dauphin; DM-David Marrack; DW-Diane Wise;
E-Ted&Virginia Eubanks; F-Jim Morgan, Ted Eubanks, Jr.; G-Tony Gallucci, Jim Mor-
gan, Woody Woodrow; H-John&Jane Hamilton, Fay Humphrey, Carolyn Killian; HAS-
Houston Audubon Society; I-John&Jane Hamilton, Martha Micks; J-Ena Spaulding,
John Bargman; JH-John&Jane Hamilton; JM-Jim Morgan; K-Jane Hamilton, Martha Micks,
Fay Humphrey, Carolyn Killian; KW-Kris Wilson; L-Greg&Becky Lasley; M-Jim Morgan,
Tony Gallucci; MAU-Mike Austin; NE-Nick Escott; OG-Ornithology Group field trip;
P-Ben Feltner, Noel Pettingell, B.C. Robinson, Linda Roach; PM-Peggy Milstead;
R-Jerry Caraviotis, Randy Pinkston; RP-Randy Pinkston; SC-Steve Calver; SW-Steve
Williams; TG-Tony Gallucci; W-David&Mimi Wolf; WC-Wesley Cureton

Field Notes - October 1981

Red-breasted Merganser: a uniformly brown duck with shaggy crest and pointed
salmon-colored beak. Seen at 100 yds with telescope. --Wesley Cureton

Red-breasted Merganser: 4 birds in flight at 80-120 yds. in excellent light with
binocs and scopes for 10 seconds. Merganser flight profile, thin bills hooked
on end, and crested heads noted. Lacked white patch of hooded, and common not
expected. Conclude they were red-breasted. --Jim Morgan

White-rumped Sandpiper: seen at Anahuac NWR Oct. 4. Two large peeps flying
south about 2 p.m. Typical sandpiper flight. General color was brownish. White
rump on each bird was obvious. Distance of 100 yds., bright sun, 8x40 binocu-
lars. Also seen by Ben Feltner, Noel Pettingell, B.C. Robinson. --Linda Roach

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: 9 birds observed in flight at approx. 8:45 a.m. as
close as 40 yds. Medium-sized sandpipers with medium-sized bills flying east,
with sunlight from behind observers. Clay-colored bodies contrasting strongly
with silver-white wing linings. Call note heard before birds were seen was a

sharp "krik." Observation about 20 secs. by 4 observers. 8x40 binocs. Yellowish legs apparent when birds were directly overhead. --T.B. Feltner

Wilson's Phalarope: very pale--almost white--shorebird about size of lesser yellowlegs, but plumper and shorter-legged. Had thin straight black beak. Because water was very shallow, fed not swimmin in circles but swaying head from side to side. Possibly injured; right wing hung a little. --Wesley Cureton

BROWN-HOODED PARROT: observed flying SW at Sabine Pass. Small square-tailed parrot. Brownish chest, red axillars, and red at base of underside of tail visible in flight. Spotted by Bob Behrstock and Ben Feltner and identified independently from two different locations. Both observers have seen this species many times in Mexico and Panama. Subsequently found feeding in a chinaberry tree by Linda Roach. Although undoubtedly an escapee, this species is infrequently kept in captivity and to my knowledge has never been reported free-flying in the U.S. --Ben Feltner

CALLIOPE HUMMINGBIRD: beak black and fairly short and straight. Back solid green. Tail noticeably short in flight. When perched, wings definitely extended beyond tip of tail. Tail forked with white tips, and individual feathers appeared pointed. Rufous in tail seen only when bird was perched and stretching. Wings long and thin. Throat a series of slurred dots or broken lines against white background. These lines began at chin and spread outward towards breast, resembling inverted V. Near bottom of throat were a couple of dark spots that flashed purple in good light. In poorer light, speckles or lines took on bronzy appearance. Breast whitish with semblance of dull green vest. Sides pale buff, not rufous, where wings joined body. Bird seemed fairly tame and fed primarily at shrimp plants in my yard. Flight extremely quick and, while feeding, very jerky. Very quiet hummer--familiar hummer chips were subdued and made only while feeding. Never seen near another hummer, but seemed smaller than a ruby-throat that occasionally came into yard during the same days. Seen also by Wesley Cureton, Bessie Cornelius and others from Beaumont, Peter Vennema, Mike Austin, Josie Wilkin, Will Risser, Robert Thacker, Bob Behrstock, Linda Walsh, Mary Ann Chapman. Present Oct. 24-Nov. 4. --Glenn Cureton

Hummingbird sp.: This is the first hummer at our feeder and my impression of the size is that of a ruby-throat or greater. An immature-plumaged bird. Bill black, smoothly and slightly decurved. Green of back continuing onto central tail feathers. Crown and cheeks dark green to black. Gorget is immature with light scaled appearance on sides of gorget. Dark central spot on lower gorget is clear azure blue. White mark behind the eye. Below gorget and extending to shoulder is a dusky, clear white area. Over breast is scaled green feathering, with color becoming more solid and fused toward sides of breast. No trace of rufous either on back or front. Tail has 2, maybe 3, white-tipped outer retrices. Wings black and unmarked, reaching tip of tail. When bird sits, tail is slightly notched. Vent same color as clear area of breast. Undertail is unmarked black except for tips of retrices. Intensity of color on breast depends on angle of view. In profile there appears to be a white color between gorget and breast. When seen front-on, most obvious mark is the dark spot on gorget; the rest of the color from this angle is washed out. Seen at a feeder approx. 5 ft. from window and perched 35 ft. away. Fed briefly 1-10 times a day for 10 days before gorget color seen at which time these notes were written. Lightly passed off as a ruby-throat except that breast seemed too dark and gorget blue spot. Lack of rufous would eliminate Allen's, rufous, and Anna's. The most likely species, to my mind, would be blue-throat. Against this is my not recognizing it as a large hummer when I first saw it. But this was the first hummer at our feeder, and I don't know how to use the feeder to judge size. The other likely species is black-chin but there is no hint of purple. If the color I saw is purple, it extends all the way to the bill, instead of being confined to the bottom of the gorget. Came to feeder in Aug., 1980, and stayed ca. 2 weeks. I hesitated submitting these notes because I thought the white in a blue-throat's tail was much more than I saw. Recently, however, I have seen a photograph of the underside of a blue-throat's tail. I have seen blue-throats twice in SE Arizona. --David Matson

KINGBIRD, CASSIN'S: Chambers Co., FM1985 at Oyster Bayou. Watched under partly cloudy skies in sun and shade from 2:40-3:40 and 4:45-5 p.m. Watched from all angles with 25x scope and 10x50 binoculars at 30 ft. to 40 yds. First seen on wire perched next to scissortail. This bird noticeably heavier-bodied. Most

striking feature was the very white chin. This white area extended underneath the eye to just past the back of it. These feathers were often fluffed out more than the throat feathers. There may have been a dark malar streak, or it may have just been a place where the feathers were parted. Throat was light gray. This changed gradually to a mixture of dark gray and yellow on the breast. When perched on a wire, bird showed this dark gray area extending just above the feet. The belly was bright yellow, which graduated to pale yellow or whitish undertail coverts. Bill black. Head, sides of neck and nape gray. When observed on wire, back appeared grayish. However, when bird was seen perched on or near ground (against dark background), the back down to the upper tail coverts appeared greenish. Wings were brownish with feathers edged with off-white. This edging gave the impression of an inconspicuous upper wingbar and very obscure lower wingbar. Tail slightly darker than the dark color in primaries. It appeared dark gray with perhaps a hint of brown. Tail was held together most of the time and appeared rounded. When flying or landing, tail appeared very slightly notched. When bird was seen against dark background, tail barely tipped with off-white to light gray. It actually appeared worn at the tip as much as anything else. Seen mostly perched on electric wire with 6 scissortails. It flew up every time a car went by. It flew down and disappeared in some tall bushes and weeds on 6 occasions during the 35-40 minutes it was on the wire. On each occasion it came back up to the wire with a grasshopper. It then knocked the grasshopper against the wire until the legs came off and then swallowed it head first. It was later seen to perch in low weeds by rice field. It also spent some time sitting in the middle of a dirt road. On a few occasions it perched on dirt clods at the edge of the just-plowed rice field. Not a western kingbird because chin was too white, breast too dark, and tail did not have white outer tail feathers. Not a tropical kingbird because tail was not notched and breast was too dark. I have never seen a Cassin's kingbird before, but have seen many westerns and several tropicals. My wife Sandra also saw this bird and concurred with my identification.

--Steve Calver

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: About 11:30 a.m. we observed a Myiarchus flycatcher atop a huisache. Bird clearly smaller than great-crested or brown-crested. Bill was proportionately smaller than either of those species. Breast was pale gray, becoming even paler in throat. Belly was light yellow. We observed the bird for at least 5 minutes, during which it changed perches several times, always taking an exposed perch no more than 10 ft. in height. Other four members reported another ash-throat several hundred ft. away. Both birds were seen in good light with a variety of types of binoculars. Several of us are quite familiar with this species as well as similar species, including olivaceous flycatcher and several more southern species, which we eliminated because of size and plumage characteristics.

--Bob Behrstock

SAY'S PHOEBE: Chambers Co., 2 mi. east of Oyster Bayou on FM 1985. Seen from 12:00 - 12:15. Bright cloudy. About size of e. phoebe or slightly larger. Dark brown head and light brown back. Tail was black and appeared long and wide and square on tip. Throat light-gray-brown. Belly and undertail coverts were orangish. Bill appeared perhaps shorter and thinner than e. phoebe's. No stripes above or below. One faint wingbar on brown wing. Flipped tail fairly often. Bird flew from fence wire or posts to top of nearby short weeds where it fluttered for a second before returning to fence. I watched it move south from one section of fence to another (fence was at right angle to road) until it was too far away to be seen clearly. I have seen only one other Say's phoebe. --Steve Calver

WILLOW FLYCATCHER: closely observed for 4 min. from 40-50 ft. with 10x50 binocs and compared with pewee for part of that time. One of the largest Empidonax I've ever seen, a bit larger than the pewee. Call note was a sharp "chak" or "kak" and loud for an Empidonax. Quite grayish brown and darker underneath than most Empidonax I've seen, rather than having a lot of whitish or yellowish wash. Gene Blacklock made a presentation on Empidonax with specimens in hand for the ONC at Welder Refuge in Sept., 1981. All data on this bird match his descriptions and my own observations of the specimens. Blacklock said the willow is the largest Empidonax which occurs here regularly.

--Steve Williams

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE: Ted Eubanks was first attracted by this bird's voice. We both then noted a pewee in a chinaberry tree singing a raspy, buzzy, descending pewee. Repeated the call numerous times while we watched and saw the mouth open. We became immediately aware that it must be a western wood pewee. Ted

had heard the identical song from western pewees in Arizona in early Sept. That night we listened to Peterson's Western Bird record, and we heard exactly the call note we had heard from the bird in question. Though eastern and western pewees cannot be separated by plumage, these field marks were noted: a very dark pewee with dark, heavy smudging on breast, two wing bars, no eye ring, and wings extended one-third to one-half way down tail when bird was at rest. Upper mandible black, lower mandible dark orange. We watched and heard the bird for 3-4 minutes at 15-25 ft. in excellent light. Seen at 3 p.m. in a wooded migrant trap on Bolivar Peninsula. This, if accepted, is a new UTC species. --Jim Morgan

PURPLE MARTIN: 3 birds circling over High Island with tree and barn swallows. Martins' wings much broader at base than swallows'. Dark upperparts; whitish to light gray underparts becoming dark gray on breast. Larger in all respects than swallows. Excellent light, 100 ft., 10-20 seconds with binocs. --Jim Morgan

PURPLE MARTIN: 2 birds in female or immature plumage flying at treetop level over Houston zoo. Excellent light at 50 ft. --Ben Feltner & Linda Roach

Winter Wren: very small, round, russet-colored wrens with very short stubby tails held erect. Also calling, making them easy to separate from numerous house wrens nearby. Seen by all observers in good light with binocs. --Jim Morgan

Winter Wren: On road in to Smith Woods, we noticed a small, dark rusty wren fly in front of car. It lit in brush, where Caravictis got the best looks. He noted short tail and distinct barring below. --Randy Pinkston & Jerry Caravictis

Veery: moved secretly through brushy tangles of Smith Woods. We had excellent views of the side and back. An overall rusty color on head, back and wings. Tail a medium brown-gray. Rump and nape a richer rust color than back and wings. Breast pale gray with warm buff tinge and indistinct grayish spots. Cheek the same rusty color of head. No eye ring, black button eye. Observed with good light, 8x40 binoculars, at 20-25 ft. Other observers were Laura Singleton and Nick and Debbie Jackson. --Linda Roach

BELL'S VIREO: seen feeding in huisache bushes, at first for only 2-3 seconds, then later for 4-5 minutes by 12 observers. Much like white-eyed vireo in size and shape, but differed significantly as follows: much more uniformly washed out coloration. Yellow on abdomen suffused to mere off-white on abdomen. Head grayish blending into grayish green back, except that the rump was bright green. Eye brown, appearing more monocled than spectacled. Eye ring definitely dirty white, not yellow. Two whitish wingbars. Although many immature white-eyed vireos exhibit brown, not white, eyes, the overall coloration and activity of this bird bespoke Bell's. All observers agreed to its identification, and at least 5 of us have seen virtually hundreds of them. Normally fairly common as far east as Junction, Texas, it is very rare on the UTC, with only 2 prior records accepted. This observer has never seen it here before. Observation with 8x40 binocs down to 30 ft. --Ben Feltner

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER: observed with 9x glasses in Sabine Woods at approx. 9:30. Feeding in association with large number of migrant passerines in a live oak no more than 10 ft. above the ground. Came to within 10 ft. of me in response to my whistled owl call. Although my observation was less than 10 seconds and the light was fair to poor, I was able to record the following description: Grayish warbler totally lacking wingbars. Comparable in size to the associated warblers. Upper-sides a noticeably darker gray than the undersides. Complete white eye ring. Undertail coverts a distinct greenish yellow. Breast was a light gray with no hint of yellow. I was unable to observe the rump. All other warblers can be eliminated, I believe, by the above description, save one. The Colima warbler can be eliminated by the greenish yellow color of the undertail coverts (which I recorded in the field as being "near a female scarlet tanager in hue") as opposed to the orange-yellow of the Colima. I have seen Virginia's warblers as recently as September, when in Arizona I observed what I believed to be immature birds which very closely matched this bird in actions, size, and description. --Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.

CAPE MAY WARBLER: brownish upperparts including top of head and upper tail surface. Rich yellow rump noted. Rich yellow from throat to belly. Heavy black streaks on sides and breast. Underside of tail and undertail coverts white.

Cheek patch dull brown outlined in yellow. Legs black. A male in classic fall plumage and easily identifiable. Seen with binocs as close as 15 ft. for up to 10 seconds. This is only the third fall record on the UTC, the other two occurring in the last week of October. We also have two winter records.--Jim Morgan

Black-Throated Gray Warbler: first detected by its flat chipping, which I mistook for black-throated green. Ca. 20 ft. up in oaks with other warblers and kinglets. Small warbler with white breast streaked on side with gray. Dark cheek patch bordered above and below with white. Indistinct gray patch in throat--female or immature. Gray back and wings with white wing bars. I wonder if it was not the same bird seen there this spring. Perhaps heard again the next morning.
--Wesley Cureton

Black-Throated Gray Warbler: Large white mark above eye, slightly less below eye, black cap, black through eye, and black bib. Back was semi-dark and plain. Bird not behaving like black-and-white as he was hopping around on a good size bush. Viewed from 20 ft. for over 5 minutes. My binocs are Leitz 7x35.

--John & Jane Hamilton, Martha Micks

KENTUCKY WARBLER: olive upperparts, yellow underparts, no wingbars, black facial eye and "sideburns" mark. Stayed in dense woodland on ground covered with leaves. Fair light for 10 seconds with binocs. Latest fall date except for one winter record.
--Jim Morgan

BRONZED COWBIRD: seen on Nottingham Ranch Rd. Red eye on adult, noticeable ruff on all 3 black cowbirds. Two of birds believed to be young, as eyes were yellow-orange and plumage not as black as adult. Seen by both observers as close as 20 ft. with binocs for up to one minute. This is the first October record. We speculate that the young birds were hatched on UTC because this species has been seen at this location all spring and summer. --Jim Morgan

Scarlet Tanager: This bird jumped from ground level to a perch 4 or 5 feet high on the edge of Smith Woods. This was in thick undergrowth, and it appeared to have been feeding. It was small, only slightly larger than a bunting (actually suggested a female Painted Bunting at first). Structurally its bill was distinctly tanager-like, waxy in texture and blackish. Upperparts rich yellow-green and underparts very rich, deep yellowish (no sharp contrast between dorsum and venter). The wings and tail were distinctly darker in shade than remainder of back. The bird never vocalized. I watched it a minute or so in excellent light with 10x50 binocs from 20 feet.
--Randy Pinkston

BLACK-HEADED GROSBEEK: We sighted a female, we thought, Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. After careful observation, 10 minutes within 50 ft. of bird, we decided it was a Black-Headed Grosbeak because of the gold wash on the chest and very light streaking on the chest. My binocs are Leitz 7x35.

--John & Jane Hamilton, Fay Humphrey, Carolyn Killian

Vesper Sparrow: feeding at edge of road. Grayish brown sparrow, streaked above and below. Whitish eye ring. White outer tail feathers seen when it flew. Seen in front of car at ca. 25 ft. with 10x50 binocs. --Steve Calver

Junco sp.: This identification based completely on call. In a willow grove where a group of juncos stayed last winter, I heard the rapid chipping that has always proved to be a junco in the past. I looked for the bird, but could not find it. There are two previous sightings of slate-colored junco in October at White Oak Bayou.
--Wesley Cureton

Clay-colored Sparrow: There is little doubt that recent years have produced an increase in the numbers of this bird passing through our area. It is one of the earliest sparrows, and October is its month. Its checklist status will undergo review for possible upgrading. Small Spizella seen at 18 ft. in good light by half a dozen observers. Warm "clay-colored" upper chest and rump were noted along with pink bill and legs, buffy cheeks, and crown with stone-colored median stripe. Two whitish wingbars evident. Subject bird was quite excited and exhibited a pronounced crested appearance. 8x40 binocs, bright sunlight behind observers.

--T. Ben Feltner

Song Sparrow: medium-sized sparrow with dark brown upperparts. Heavily streaked below with breast spot. Thick dark malar stripe noted. Seen by two observers at 15 ft. in good light with binocs for 2-5 seconds. --Jim Morgan

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