

THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXVI, No. 6
October, 1977

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

COMING EVENTS

- Saturday
Oct. 15 OG regular field trip--8:00 a.m., parking lot of Bolivar side of ferry.
Bring lunch and sack for aluminum.
- Wednesday
Oct. 19 Brazosport Birders regular meeting--7:30 p.m., Brazosport Museum of Natural Science on College Drive in Lake Jackson.
- Saturday
Oct. 22 ONC field trip to Sea Rim State Park--9:00 a.m., Beach Park Headquarters. Full details in Nature Notes. Guided tours morning and afternoon, canoeing, etc. This looks like one you don't want to miss, for there is something offered for all Groups.
- Tuesday
Nov. 1 Photography Group regular meeting--7:30 p.m., Bayou Manor Auditorium, 4141 Braeswood Blvd.
- Tuesday
Nov. 8 ONC regular meeting--8:00 p.m., Garden Center, Hermann Park. Program will be on the Little Thicket.
- Weekend
Nov. 12-13 ONC Little Thicket Open House. Camping if you wish. Remember to bring own food and water, and take home own garbage. It will be interesting to see if the woodcocks have returned to the swamp on Swamp Trail, what wintering sparrows have appeared, or, in general, just what the fall means to the Little Thicket bird population. Please give your bird sightings to Alfred Chandler or Marian Taylor, or mail them to Alfred, 1200 Bettles, Conroe, 77301. Members keys (\$1.00 deposit) available at ONC meetings.
- Saturday
Nov. 19 OG regular field trip--8:00 a.m. at Armand Bayou Nature Center parking lot, Bay Area Blvd.
- Now until
Nov. 17 Display of nature photography by John Tveten is being featured at Houston Museum of Natural Science. The OG has enjoyed John's wonderful bird pictures for years, so we know the treat in store for you if you have not yet seen this display.

Christmas Counts to plan for:

- Saturday, Dec. 17 Houston--Compiler, Paul Nimmons - 682-3597
- Sunday, Dec. 18 Freeport--Compiler, Victor Emanuel, 1603 West Clay, Houston, 77019
- Wednesday Dec. 21 El Naranjo--Compiler, Ben Feltner - PO Box 19687, Houston 77024
(You can join Ben at Los Arcos Courts, Mante, where he will be headquartered Dec. 13 - 22, while conducting a Merlin Birding Tour of Northeastern Mexico. Members of the tour group will also participate in the Count).
- Saturday Dec. 31 Catemacho--Compiler, Victor Emanuel, 1603 West Clay, Houston 77019

Exciting Trips to plan for:

- Dec. 29-Jan. 8--Panama. Merlin Birding Tour, leader, Ben Feltner. Tour members will join the world record breaking Panama Christmas Count (333 species in 1976). Contact Ben Feltner, PO Box 19687, Houston 77024
- Dec. 29-Jan. 4 Rancho Del Cielo. Winter trip to America's northernmost cloud forest, led by Fred Webster. Guests may participate in the Gomez Farias Christmas Count. At least 300 species have been reported in the count circle during this time period. Contact Fred for further information at 4926 Strass Dr.

Austin, Texas 78731. A note from Fred about the June trip to Cielo says: "We had a good June trip. The forest was green, the rainy season having started early this year. Birds were good, but nothing spectacularly different this time. We were pleased to have at least a pair of Plumbeous Kites in the cloud forest; we've missed these for several years. The best record for the area was made by a different party, on March 16, when Steve Benn identified a flock of about 75 Maroon-fronted Parrots in the humid pine-oak zone above (and almost within view of) Rancho del Cielo. We found none in June. George M. Sutton had reported them years ago from the same general area".

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE REALLY IS A GULF PELAGIC by T. Ben Feltner

Is there such a thing as a successful pelagic trip in the Gulf of Mexico? After the October 2nd excursion aboard the Scat Cat out of Port Aransas, the answer is an unqualified--yes. Despite an unusually high incidence of Mal-de-mer, due to rough water, almost all of the participants were functioning when we started to see "good birds".

It was still quite dark when we shoved off at 6:30 a.m. and the early going revealed little except two small flocks of sandpipers. Both were flying, close to the surface, in close-knit formations, toward the southeast. I suspect that they were Northern Phalaropes. As dawn broke we became aware of thousands of migrating Black Terns also pushing southeast. Their flocks stretched for miles in all directions. Suddenly as we watched dead-ahead, a jaeger was spotted pursuing individual terns. As the "sea-hawk" was silhouetted against the dawn sky at 300 yards, a positive identification was not possible. So we had to content ourselves by calling our first pelagic, jaeger (sp).

Our next "good bird" appeared out of nowhere almost over the boat. Jaeger number two was a far more co-operative bird. It flashed around the vessel exhibiting field marks for all observers. About the size of a Ring-billed Gull, it bore a brown cap, brownish wings and tail. The undersides were pale off-white with some heavy barring on the flanks and upper breast. A large pale patch was evident in each wing, and finally the central tail spikes were softly rounded instead of pointed. This field mark is a key to successfully telling Pomarine from Parasitic Jaegers in any plumage. Unfortunately this mark is not mentioned in any of the extant guides, as it is a fairly recent discovery. Our jaeger hung around the boat for about three minutes, permitting leisurely close study by all.

Our next adventure occurred at the forty fathom line, some thirty-five miles from land. Here we cut our engines and drifted on the rocking swells, waiting. In twenty minutes we saw only a couple of Royal Terns and an immature Laughing Gull. Then suddenly a call went up from the stern. All bodies including the indisposed turned to. Jim Morgan's sharp eyes had spotted a large shearwater. As the bird flew lazily by, its pale underparts and light brown upperparts were easily discernable. The dark top-side of the bird diffused unevenly with the pale lower regions, but the crowning field mark was the yellow bill: it was a Cory's Shearwater. This polite tubenose hung around for about 4 minutes enabling everyone on board to get an excellent look. It passed as close as 35 yards in marvelous light, turned ponderously to the southwest and disappeared. This bird turned out to be a lifer for all but about 6 people on board.

During the ensuing congratulations the motors were started and once again we pressed eastward. The next event to capture our attention was initiated by the forward observers. Three slow flying, large, whitish birds were spotted moving through the wave troughs about 300 yards ahead. We gave chase for about three minutes, but the quarry proved much faster than the boat. The birds, an adult and two immature, Blue-faced or Masked Boobies slowly flew out of range. Although the birds were easily enough identified it was an unsatisfactory experience for those who had never seen a Masked Booby. We returned to our original course.

The next flurry of excitement took place astern. On looking back at the horizon I spotted a small dark jaeger crossing the wake of the boat. About a 1/2 pound of suet chum was immediately thrown overboard. The ploy worked and the jaeger settled on the water to eat. Orders were hastily relayed to the wheelhouse and the Scat Cat came about. The jaeger sat tight until we were almost upon him. Then suddenly he was being pursued by an immature Laughing Gull. What was originally thought to be a Parasitic Jaeger became immediately suspect. Again we had great co-operation from the jaeger and as it flew around the stopped boat we were able to note its diminutive size, bright blue-gray legs and feet, and the greatly reduced amount of white at the base of the primaries. Only two or three quills showed white. Our quarry was an immature Long-tailed Jaeger. This is, perhaps, only the fourth record for the state. It is interesting to note that only the week before Mrs. Linda Snyder of LaPorte had reported a bird in the exact same plumage from the Bolivar Flats.

The next bird to gain our attention was an adult Masked Booby, which was first seen bobbing upon the water. This time we managed to slip right up beside the bird and again good views were afforded to all. Even the yellow eye was readily visible.

Our return trip took about 2 1/2 hours with another stop to "chum in" the migrating terns. About 50 Common, Black and Royal Terns took advantage of our hand-outs and formed a little flock just astern. About 4 minutes into the stop yet another booby was sighted which eventually came to feed on the floating suet. Booby number five proved to be a Masked Booby in immature dress. Its plumage was white below and above on the wings. Its neck was white top and bottom and it already possessed a well defined mask. Again we were permitted a very close view including a flight directly over head. During the tail end of the trip we saw one more Masked Booby making a total of six for the day. As we came into the harbor two Northern Phalaropes passed us flying out to sea. We disembarked to a fly-by of three Brown Pelicans at 6:00 p.m. A fitting end to a great day. The next pelagic trip will be run April 2, 1978. Be ready to join us once again.

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, October 6, 1977

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., 6 October, 1977, by Chairman David Dauphin. Approximately 40 members attended. Dauphin showed members a photograph taken at Boot Springs, Big Bend National Park, of an Aztec Thrush. The photo, taken by Debbie DeKeyser, represents the first North American record for the species. Dauphin next gave a summary of the H.A.S.-OG pelagic trip out of Port Aransas that was taken on 2 October, 1977. Dauphin commented that almost everyone on the boat saw at least one "lifer". Ben Feltner told of a possible pelagic trip to be taken on 2 April, 1978. Dauphin reported on the passage of the new ONC constitution, and urged old members to actively recruit new ones. Corrections to the 4 August meeting minutes were read and approved.

Treasurer Mary Gillette reported that as of 30 September, 1977, the OG had a balance of \$1103.72 on hand. Gillette reported that during the preceding two months the club had received \$106.26 in income, and had \$332.69 in expenditures.

Seminar Chariman Marilyn Crane and SPOONBILL editor Margaret Jones gave no reports. Program Chairman Bob Moulton reported that the program for the 1 December OG meeting would be a slide presentation by members. Moulton added that Paul Nimmons would comment briefly on the upcoming OG Christmas Count at that meeting. Field trip Chairman Ted Eubanks next gave the dates for the upcoming OG field trips. The dates have been printed in the SPOONBILL.

Chairman Dauphin requested help from the membership with the mailing of the SPOONBILL. Suzi Campbell reported on the OG slide collection. Wes Cureton gave a brief report on the status of the Houston Arboretum checklist.

Margaret Jones, reporting on the Hale Ranch survey, said that since January, 1977, team members had recored 177 species. All team members were invited to join in on a visit to Hale October 8.

Mrs. E.W. Taylor reported that the weekend of 7, 8 October would be visitor's day at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. This weekend will include a Sanctuary Committee meeting and a work weekend.

Ben Feltner reported on the progress of the new OG Checklist. Feltner said that yearly updates will be printed in the SPOONBILL. Sarah Gordon introduced the new members to the group.

Under old business, Chairman Dauphin reported that Gov. Dolph Briscoe is possibly reconsidering his veto of the McFaddin Marsh purchase. Dauphin asked members to write the governor, "gracefully" requesting that he reconsider his veto. Paul Jones pointed out that hunters in the Jefferson County have apparently had a change of heart concerning the Fish & Wildlife Service's purchases. Dauphin also reported that Mr. Morris of the HL&P Cooling Ponds had been sent a certificate of appreciation by the OG, and that \$50 and a certificate of appreciation had also been sent to Linda Snyder for her work with injured birds.

Under new business, Chairman Dauphin requested that \$100 be appropriated yearly to the Program Chairman to pay for the expenses of guest speakers. The motion was presented to the membership, and approved. Dauphin next said that the Mercer Arboretum had requested that the OG put together a slide program on birds for children, and that Jack Gillette had consented to take on the task. Dauphin reported that Mary Ann Chapman would represent the OG at the Fish-eating Bird Conference. Dauphin said that he had appointed a nominating committee to nominate officers for the upcoming OG elections. The Nominating Committee will consist of Jim Morgan, Norma Oates and Sarah Gordon.

Dauphin next told of the T.O.S. Fall Convention which is to be held in Sherman during Thanksgiving. Margaret Jones reported that Jim Beaty had expressed thanks for the cards and letters he received during his recent illness. Melba Drake extended an invitation to OG members to join the Conchology Group on their 22 October field trip to Sea Rim State Park. Ben Feltner extended an invitation to OG members to join him on his 21 December Christmas Count in Mexico. Jim Morgan reported that he had received several membership applications for the Hawk Migration Association, if OG members were interested.

Bob Moulton then introduced the program for the evening, a film and talk given by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on their wetlands acquisition program on the Texas Gulf Coast. Representing the F&WS were Ed Jackson and Russel Clapper of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. After the film, Clapper answered questions from the group.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Eubanks, Secretary

BRAZOSPORT REPORT by Sherry Collins

The Brazosport Birders will meet on Wednesday, October 19, instead of our regular Tuesday date. This is necessary in order to resolve a conflict that our guest speakers face on Tuesday. Reavis Johnson, director of the Brazosport Center for the Arts and Sciences, and John Ray, Director of Wildlife Exhibits, will give a program on the preparation of bird skins. They will also tell us how we may help in building up the bird exhibits for the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science.

Our group has voted to participate in the Atlantic and Gulf Coast Beached Bird Survey, directed by Malcolm M. Simons, Jr. This project requires the survey of a 2 mile stretch of beach on a regular basis (weekly, bi-monthly or monthly) with a count of the dead birds found and a determination of the cause of death, if possible. Reports are sent in quarterly. We will be walking the stretch from the Quintana jetties toward the mouth of the Brazos River. If the OG or any individual or group of individuals is interested in participating in this project, please let me know, and I will send the details.

Our last field trip to the new Lake Jackson park netted a lot of mosquitoes but few birds. We found only one warbler--a Kentucky. Nevertheless, we enjoyed seeing the new area we will have to bird. It's a real pleasure to be able to add a birding area rather than subtracting one, which we've been doing a lot of lately. Our next field trip will be to the Dow Nature Trail on Oct. 22. This is with the permission of the Dow Chemical Co. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Trail parking lot.

MEMORABLE LIFERS

Polly Moore: When I was growing up in North Carolina I had a picture in my fifth grade geography book of prairie chickens. There was a very graphic description of their dance and speculation that the Indians had copied it for their ceremonial dances. I found this extremely interesting and filed it away right after Loch Ness Monster - for one thing I knew no real land could be as flat as the picture showed. After joining the ONC and the OG I read John Tveton's book and also heard vague mentions of Dickinson and the refuge, so credibility rose to about that of Abominable Snowman. So I was totally unprepared for our adventure last spring. Ellen Red, Ann Elston, Pat Lonecker and I went to Rockport for spring migration. We had seen marvelous sights of all kinds including a lazuli bunting. We met a young man in a park there who told us about the prairie chickens. The next morning well before first light we were on the side of the road at the designated spot between the flags on the telephone poles. Stepping out of the car we were inundated with this magnificent sound - there wasn't another human in sight - just that flat, flat land and the sky an inverted bowl with the last of the stars still visible and the grandest sound that enveloped the whole world. We set up scopes and there they were!!!! Stomping and strutting away. The sight outdid all my imagination had conjured up - this was by far my most thrilling and unforgettable bird.

Larry Ballard: My most memorable lifer was not the rarest nor the most beautiful, but I will never be able to forget him. It happened this summer, and a bird I thought would be fairly easy to find turned out to be as tough a bird as I have ever encountered--the bird was the Chukar. We started looking for him in Washington State in the more arid area around Moses Lake and Ephrata. We started checking this area carefully after talking to a State Park ranger in Eastern Washington who hunts them when they are in season.

We looked on our own, then tried to contact a fellow birder, who happened to be out of town. We then stopped at a campground to look for him. It started raining, that wiped that out for that afternoon and the next morning.

We moved on out of his range and decided to try northeastern California a few days later. When we reached Lower Klamuth Wildlife Refuge, we checked with the rangers there, and spent some six hours carefully peering into the area where we were told he might be. We couldn't find him there.

The next morning we decided to try the extreme eastern part of northern California and drove into that region. We stopped several times and were again unsuccessful. We then drove into Nevada and phoned an A.B.A. contact at Reno. He gave us instructions, so we set out for the Virginia City area. We birded Silver City and Mound House areas, again no Chukar although we were able to turn up a family of Gray Vireos. We returned to Virginia City and after talking to some of the local people who hunted Chukar, decided to try 7 Mile Canyon. We hiked along a stream in the canyon for about five hours--again no Chukar. The next day we went to Yosemite. While we were there we were told of an area where we should find them south of Bishop.

So we went to Big Pine, found some guzzlers that the California Game and Wildlife Commission provides for watering Chukars. Five hours later in 110° heat, we had seen birds but no Chukar. I was beginning to feel that Chukar either didn't exist or if they did, they were hiding in the rocks, quietly chuckling fiendishly at the two crazy people with binoculars in the sun. At dusk, we finally drove to a campground in town. The next morning we drove southeast toward Bakersfield. We stopped a dozen times and scoped likely areas. Finally we gave up for the time being. By that time I felt like giving up permanently, but Martha insisted that she wanted to see him. I told her that if we couldn't drive to Santa Barbara (brush fires over much of southern California) we would return from Mt. Pinos to the Mohave Desert on our way to Arizona. I was able to find the Condor the first morning on our second trip to Mt. Pinos. While we were there, a birder that had just returned from Arizona and eastern California informed me that Chukars could be found at Calico Ghost Town, near Barstow.

We then drove to Calico and located a ranger who offered to show us Chukar--they were in a restricted area above the town. The ranger called "Baby, Baby" and a dozen Chukars started moving around in the rocks. It seems that the head ranger had been feeding Chukar for twenty years. The birds are wild, there are approximately 50 of them. They range all over the hills in the area, but with food and water available, they usually wander to the ghost town in the morning or afternoon when the rangers feed them.

After eight days looking for them in 100+ degree temperature, I was glad to see them and Martha was satisfied!

AROUND AND ABOUT

** A note from Jim Beaty, who is at home recovering from a heart attack: "I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your cards, phone calls and visits while I was in the hospital. It sure meant a lot to me to know that you were thinking about me. I hope the Doc will let me get out and make some of the meetings and field trips real soon. Thanks again". Jim has weeks of rest ahead of him, so keep in touch with him and see that he stays up-to-date with all that goes on in the OG.

** Linda Snyder has a mystifying item for us. Recently she was called to identify a bird that was found in a shipment of parakeets from Cambodia received by a local pet shop. She found it to be an Upland Sandpiper, an identification confirmed by John Tveten. This bird is not mentioned in Asian books, it could not have survived a long trip for it doesn't eat the same food parakeets do, so how and when did it get into that crate? That's a head-shaker, folks!

** Jeannie (Mrs. Russ) Clapper is searching for a book, "Prairie Wings" by Edgar Queeny, published by Lippincott, which is out of print. If you have, or know of, a copy of this book which Jeannie could buy, she would appreciate hearing from you. Her address is PO Box 278, Anahuac, Texas 77514 or call AC713, 252-3346.

** Because of the recent sighting of an Everglades (Snail) Kite in Texas, this item from the Alachua County (Florida) Audubon Society newsletter is of interest, especially to those fortunate enough to have seen that rare visitor. "Wire baskets designed by Warren Roderick Chandler are helping the endangered Everglades kites hold on in National Audubon's Lake Okeechobee Sanctuary in Florida. Before Chandler devised the baskets, high winds would tip kite nests in the vegetation, causing eggs to fall out. Now the kites build their nests in the wind-proof baskets, which are 14" in diameter and 8" deep. It is estimated that some 80 per cent of all Everglades kites in the U.S. come from the sanctuary and that about 90 per cent of the fledgling kites come from the nests built in the baskets.....The species is doing well in South America, but the disjunct population in Florida has become extremely endangered because its habitat (sawgrass marshland) has been shrinking for the last several decades". We are indebted to Kathleen Brannon for sending us that item.

** The trapping program of the brown-headed cowbird on the Kirtland Warbler preserve has apparently been very helpful. The population of the Kirtland, which had risen sharply to 400 last year, has been set at 438 for this year. According to John Byelich, chairman of the Kirtland warbler recovery team, a singing male has been located far away from the known breeding ground in Michigan, being trapped and banded in the vicinity of Pembroke, Ont. A tape recording was made of his song, but it was not known whether the bird mated.

** Congratulations to Debbie DeKeyzer for her excellent photo of the Aztec Thrush we saw at the recent OG meeting. She and her fellow birders, Mimi Hoppe and David Wolfe, found the bird August 21st at Boot Springs, Big Bend. It must be a heady feeling to be the first to see a new North American species and have a great photo to show for it

** Many of us have been pleased to recently see Brown Pelicans at Bolivar; Galveston and Freeport sightings have also been reported. Ken Beggs, of Sea-a-rama, tells us that the yellow tags he placed on the Florida imports were not designed to be permanent and some have already come off. The TOS newsletter for September has an item about Brown Pelicans, reporting a banner year for them, with 34 young fledged this summer. The item asks that anyone sighting Brown Pelicans with colored leg bands is asked to report the sighting to D.R. Blankinship, National Audubon Society biologist, 721 Pine, Rockport, Texas 78382. Please note color of band (yellow, yellow with black stripe, etc.) and which leg the band was on if possible. There is no doubt our tagged Bolivar and Galveston birds are Sea-a-rama birds, but anyone sighting Brown Pelicans should check carefully for leg bands. When the editor went to Port Aransas for the HAS-OG pelagic trip, we were overjoyed to see six (including four immatures) of these majestic birds "roller-coastering" down the waterway ahead of the ferry. Quite a sight!

AN EXPEDITION TO THE WEST COAST with Larry and Martha Ballard

Martha's mother asked "Are you going to chase birds all summer"? We had to tell her, yes. On June 2, armed with Lane's Guides to Southeastern Arizona and Southern California, Terry Wahl's Guide to Birding in Washington, and David Stirling's Guide to Vancouver Island, and numerous local guides and lists, we set out on our expedition that was to last 70 days, would cover over 7,800 miles and cover 7 states and one Canadian province and give us a trip list of 345 birds, 72 of them lifers for each of us.

We considered 6 species and 1 family as must birds. They were the Colima Warbler, the California Condor, the Black-footed Albatross, the Great Gray Owl, the Trumpeter Swan, the Calliope Hummingbird and as many Alcids as possible.

Our first major effort was the Colima Warbler, a bird we had missed in 1974 and 1975. We decided to backpack up to Boot Canyon. After a long morning we finally made it after shifting our big canteen from one pack to the other. We were rewarded with five singing male Colimas, and although we heard a Flammulated Owl we couldn't call him down.

One of Martha's biggest thrills after we reached California was her sighting of four Condors soaring over the lower end of McGill Campground on June 17. Larry, who was looking for Flammulated Owls at the time with another birder, did not see a Condor until July 30 on our second visit to Mt. Pinos.

Our search for Alcids and other sea birds was partly accomplished by scoping about 70% of every sea stack, rock, sea cliff and small island from Morro Bay to Tatoosh Island. This yielded 6 Alcids and a number of other species.

We then crossed into Canada and started looking for the Canadian specialties. It isn't hard to bird fields, parks and lakes, but it looks strange to wander around Vancouver looking for Crested Mynahs around peoples' houses. Several people gave us rather peculiar looks. We were thankful when we got a good sighting and could head out of town.

Our next major goal was accomplished when we went to Turnbull Wildlife Refuge near Cheney, Washington. We were privileged to observe a greeting ritual between Trumpeter Swans when a male flew from one lake to another and joined his mate.

Our next major objective was met successfully when we joined Terry Wahl and the pelagic trip out of Westport, Washington on July 17. It was a very successful trip with a total of 30 birds sighted from the time we left the dock until we returned. This included Black-footed Albatross, 28 of them, and our seventh Alcids, the Marbled Murrelet.

We drove south, primarily concentrating on the Calliope Hummingbird. We finally found one at Crater Lake at the "Flower Garden". Little did we know that we would see doz-

ens of them on our return to Mt. Pinos.

After a lot of frantic searching in arid areas in Nevada for Chukar, we decided to look for the Great Gray Owl at Yosemite National Park. We finally located the owl after a three day stake out at Crane Flats in Yosemite. We were able to observe this bird with a timely assist from a group of birders from San Bernadino at Yosemite Institute led by Gene Cardiff.

We then headed for home, and after some fairly interesting experiences in Eastern California and Southeastern Arizona we arrived home on August 11. (Mama had it right, that is really chasing the birds! --Ed.)

SHARING

Sharing the joys of birding is what this newsletter is all about. Many of you share your sightings with us via the Clearing House, and in doing so give us ideas on where to go the next time we get out to bird.

Shared highlights of a birding vacation trip can give us hints on planning a trip ourselves as well as the vicarious pleasure of armchair birding.

All of us have enjoyed the "Memorable Lifers" we've been reading about. Share your special bird with us.

Do you have a way of identifying a certain bird that is not stressed in the books? Share that tip with us.

Have you noticed behavior of some bird that has interested, amused, or thrilled you? Share with us.

Is there some particular species you would like to know more about? Study up on it, write down what you learned and share it with us. You learn and we do too!

A sighting, a sentence, a paragraph, half a page--share your birding with us in THE SPOONBILL!

PLACES TO GO

Wintering waterfowl are beginning to come in. Large flocks of geese were noted on the 9th in West Harris County, Anahuac NWR in Chambers County and some in Ft. Bend County. Ann Elston, while watching a large flock come in to Anahuac, experienced the awesome, stunning silence as all of them, seemingly at the same moment, set their wings and started gliding down. (Your editor experienced the opposite once, while trying to find a reported Barnacle Goose among some 20,000 geese at Tishomingo NWR. All twenty odd thousand of them (and that Barnacle Goose was somewhere in their midst, drat it) took off in a body, and the noise of those wings was like the winds of a tornado).

On the west side of town, the Rice Mill Pond, behind Uncle Ben's Inc., Westheimer and Synott Road, continues to be interesting. Spoonbills and avocets, as well as various shorebirds have been seen lately.

On the east side, the Dredge Disposal area on Mercury Drive, as mentioned last month should get increasingly interesting. Morning sun will get in your eyes, so afternoon is best there.

A few sparrows will be trickling in this month, so, while out checking rice fields for waterfowl, watch the hedgerows for sparrows.

The rest of this month is the time left to look for migrating fall warblers. Some, like the Myrtle and the Palm, will be just coming in.

If you want to see an Osprey, check Galveston Island State Park, two were reported there the last of September. Polly Moore saw four on the bay side of Bolivar, near a shrimp plant. And remember, when you are near the beach, keep an eye out for a Peregrine Falcon.

We tend to concentrate on West Harris County rice fields, but don't forget that Chambers County and Ft. Bend County, especially just west of FM 762, have fields after fields that are attractive to wintering waterfowl.

When woods birding, check for returning wrens, also the Red-breasted Nuthatch, towhees and thrushes. There were 28 warblers reported to the C-H as September sightings, so this month should be even better.

CLEARING HOUSE September, 1977

(How to read the C-H: Species: Location, (how many) date, observers)

- Grebe, Eared: Mercury Drive, (1)17, WC; Baytown Tunnel, (1)24, TE&DD.
- Pelican, Brown: Freeport Jetties, (1)1, S&TC (see notes); Bolivar, (2)11, TE (previously reported), (2)13, DM (see notes), (1)17, A, BF, ER & WC (previously Reported); W. Galveston, (1)25, JH (see notes).
- Cormorant, Double-crested: W. Galveston, (1)15, JH; Baytown Tunnel, (1)24, TE&DD.
- Cormorant, Olivaceous: Bolivar, (5)3, M, (10/3 very young, light colored) 8, PJ, (9)13, DMA, (8)17, A, BF, ER; Baytown Tunnel, (250+)24, TE&DD.
- Frigatebird, Magnificent: W. Galveston, (1)Aug. 24, DM, (1)10, L&MB, (1)25, P&MJ, J&MG; Freeport Jetties, (1)1, S&TC; Bolivar, (1)8, PJ.
- Heron, Green: W. Harris Co., (10)5, TE, (8)11, P&MJ; Kempner Park, (2)8, PJ; Ft. Bend Co., (14)9, A; Brazoria Co., (2)17, A, (2)25, P&MJ; W. Galveston, (1)18, LEB, (1)23, JH; Baytown Tunnel, (2)24, TE&DD.
- Egret, Reddish: Bolivar, (5)3, M, (12)8, PJ, (14/1 white phase) 17, A, BF, ER, (10/2 white phase) 24, TEⅅ W. Galveston, (1)15, JH, (5)18, OG.
- Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: Bolivar, (2)3, M, (2)10, E; Ft. Bend Co., (6)9, A; W. Galveston, (4)10, L&MB, (40)25, P&MJ, J&MG; Brazoria Co., (2-3)18, LEB.
- Bittern, American: W. Galveston, (1)10, L&MB, (1)18, OG; W. Harris Co., (1)11, P&MJ (Beckendorf Road).
- Stork, Wood: Ft. Bend Co., (2)9, A; W. Harris Co., (1)11, P&MJ, (8)19, PJ, (200)29, C (Stockdick Rd.); W. Galveston (1)15, JH; Brazoria Co., (1)10, L&MB; Baytown Tunnel, (6)24, TE&DD.
- Ibis, White: Ft. Bend Co., (5)9, A; Brazoria Co., (4)9, A; Chambers Co., (1)10, E; W. Galveston, (2)15, (3)23, JH, (3)25, P&MJ, J&MG.
- Spoonbill, Roseate: Freeport Marsh, (4)12, L&MB; Chambers Co., (4)3, M; Brazoria Co., (4)5, DMA, (17)9, A, (10)18, LEB; Bolivar, (40)8, PJ, (31)13, (17)15, DMA, (8)17, A, (25)18, TEⅅ W. Galveston, (1)10, L&MB, (50)23, JH; W. Harris Co., (41)11, P&MJ, (n/c)29, C; Baytown Tunnel, (75)24, TE&DD, (100+)26, DD.
- Goose, White-fronted: W. Harris Co., (1)11, P&MJ (see notes).
- Goose, Snow: W. Harris Co., (1)5, TE (previously reported), (1)11, P&MJ (see notes)
- Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Ft. Bend Co., (8)9, A.
- Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Chambers Co., (15)3, M; W. Harris Co., (46)11, P&MJ, (4)19, PJ; Winnie, (1000)25, MA, et al.
- Mallard: Mercury Dr., (2)18, P&MJ (See notes).
- Pintail: W. Harris Co., (5)5, TE, (1)11, P&MJ; W. Galveston (17)25, P&MJ, J&MG.
- Teal, Green-winged: Anahuac NWR, (1)24, TEⅅ W. Harris Co., (26)11, P&MJ.
- Teal, Blue-winged: Chambers Co., (20)3, M; W. Harris Co., (15)5, TE, (50+)11, P&MJ; Galveston, (8)8, PJ; Bolivar, (1)15, DMA; Mercury Dr., (31)18, P&MJ.
- Wigeon, American: Bolivar, (1)15, DMA, (1)20, N; Anahuac NWR, (7)17, WC, (25)24, TEⅅ Mercury Drive, (1)17, (5)24, WC.
- Shoveler, Northern: High I., (5)3, M; W. Harris Co., (2)11, P&MJ; Bolivar, (5)17, A, BF, ER; Mercury Dr., (80)17, WC, (250+)18, P&MJ; Brazoria Co., (7)25, P&MJ.
- Duck, Ruddy: Baytown Tunnel, (20)24, TE&DD.
- Kite, Mississippi: Lake Jackson, (2)2, (1)4, L&MB; Memorial area, (3)2, (5)5, (1)7, (9)11, (6)14, JMo; High I., (1)3, M, (3)10, E, (15)19, 20, KB.
- Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Baytown, (2)7-30, DD; Bolivar, (8)24, TEⅅ W. Harris Co., (5)20, C.
- Hawk, Cooper's: Bolivar, (1)24, TEⅅ W. Harris Co., (1)29, C.
- Accipiter, species: Bolivar, (2)24, TE&DD.
- Hawk, Red-tailed: Ft. Bend Co., (2)9, A; W. Harris Co., (1)11, P&MJ; Maner Lake, (1)24, LEB.
- Hawk, Broad-winged: High I., (4)3, M, (3)3, (2)15, DMA, (2)10, E; Bolivar, (1)17, A; W. Harris Co., (19)19, (4)22, PJ; Houston, (1)11, WC, (Memorial Park), (20,000 est.) 21, MA, (Yard, W. University--see notes); Bellaire, (1)22, 29, P&MJ (yard).
- Hawk, Swainson's: (High I., (5)3, M, (10)10, E; Homestead Road, (1)17, WC; Galveston, (1)18, OG; Sugarland, (1)24, LEB.
- Hawk, White-tailed: Ellington AFB, (1)18, BF, ER (previously reported).
- Hawk, Marsh: W. Harris Co., (1)5, TE, (2)11, P&MJ, (2)22, PJ; Ft. Bend Co., (1)9, A; Brazoria Co., (1)17, A; W. Galveston, (4)23, JH, (4)25, P&MJ, J&MG.
- Osprey: W. Galveston, (1)23, 27, JH, (1)24, (2)25, P&MJ, J&MG (Galv. Is. State Park), (2)27, R; Brazoria Co., (1)25, P&MJ (levee between SH323 & FM 523).
- Caracara: Maner Lake, (1)24, LEB.
- Falcon, species: High I., (1)3, M.
- Falcon, Peregrine: Houston, (1)6, TE (see notes).
- Kestrel, American: W. Harris Co., (3)11, P&MJ, (4)22, PJ; Surfside, (1)17, A; Maner Lake, LEB; Hitchcock, (2)24, TEⅅ Ft. Bend Co., (2)25, P&MJ.
- Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar, (8)3, M, (8)8, PJ, (3)15, DMA, (6)18, A, BF, ER, (1)18, TE&DD, (5)20, N; Gilchrist, (1)13, DMA.
- Plover, Piping: Bolivar, (30)3, M, (14)8, PJ, (1)10, E; Galveston, (10)18, OG.
- Plover, Snowy: Bolivar, (2)3, M, (4)8, PJ, (1)18, 24, TE&DD.
- Plover, Wilson's: Bolivar, (2)3, M, (6)8, PJ.
- Whimbrel: High I., (1)10, E; Rollover Pass, (1)10, E.

- Sandpiper, Solitary: Chambers Co., (1)3,A.
 Knot, Red: Bolivar, (4)3,M, (8)8,PJ, (1)15,Dma, (40)18,A,BF,ER, (100+)18,TEⅅ Galv. (5)18,OG.
- Sandpiper, Pectoral: W.Harris Co., (2)11,P&MJ; W.Galveston, (1)27,JH.
 Dunlin: Bolivar, (8)8,PJ, (3)15,Dma, (5)18, (1)24,TE&DD, (5+)20,N.
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar, (50)3,A, (40)8,PJ (I heard 3-note call), (50+)24, TE&DD.
- Dowitcher, Long-billed: Bolivar, (14)8,PJ; W.Galveston (8)23,JH; W.Harris Co., (150+)5, TE; Brazoria Co., (100)18,LEB.
- Dowitcher, Species: Brazoria Co., (16)9,A; W.Harris Co., (100+)11,P&MJ.
 Snadpiper, Stilt: W.Harris Co., (15)5,TE.
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: W.Harris Co., (3)5,TE.
- Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar (25)3,M, (19)8,PJ, (5)15,Dma, (3)17,WC, (37)18,A,BF,ER; Gilchrist, (1)15,Dma.
 Stilt, Black-necked: Chambers Co., (50)3,M; Galveston, (3)8,PJ, (2)23,JH; Maner Lake, (2)9,A; W.Harris Co., (50+)11,P&MJ.
- JAEGER, LONG-TAILED: Bolivar Flats, (1)16, Linda Snyder (fide DD--see notes)
 Gull, Herring: Bolivar, (2)3,M, (6)8,PJ, (n/c)17,A,BF,ER, (10)24,TEⅅ Galveston, (2)18,OG.
- Gull, Ring-billed: Bolivar, (30)3,M, (40)8,PJ, (5)10,B, (n/c)17,A,BF,ER; W.Galveston, (1)23,JH.
- Tern, Gull-billed: Bolivar, (1)3,M; Anahuac, (1)17,WC; W.Galveston (2)23,JH.
 Tern, Common: Bolivar, (6)3,M, (8)8,PJ, (10)10,E, (n/c)13,Dma, (16)17,A,BF,ER, (100+)24,TEⅅ Galveston, (25+)18,OG.
- Tern, Least: Bolivar, (25)3,A, (216)8,PJ, (5)10,E, (n/c)18,A,BF,ER; Warren Lake, (1)5, TE; Galveston, (75+)18,OG.
- Tern, Sandwich: Bolivar, (20)3,M, (250-260)8,PJ, (30)10,E, (n/c)17,A,BF,ER.
 Tern, Black: Bolivar, (25)3,M, (303)8,PJ, (20)10,E, (20+)18,A,BF,ER; Brazoria Co., (1)19,A; W.Galveston, (3 imm.)23,JH, (100+)24,PJ,m.o.b., (14)25,P&MJ,J&MG.
- Dove, White-winged: W.Galveston, (4)23, (also 2 in our yard-47th & R 1/2-every day,JH).
 Dove, Ground: W.Harris, (1)11,P&MJ, (1)23,PJ.
 Dove, Inca: Smith Woods, (1)24,TE&DD (unusual location).
- Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: High I., (2)3,M, (5)10,E, (7)18,BF,ER; Brazoria Co., (5)5Dma, (1)17,A; W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE, (3)11,P&MJ; Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ; Ft. Bend Co., (2)9,A; W.Galveston, (1)11,23,JH, (1)18,OG.
- Cuckoo, Black-billed: Lake Jackson, (1)5,L&MB (see notes)
 Owl, Barn: Bolivar, (1)3,M, (1)13,Dma; High I., (1)3,M.
 Owl, Screech: Chambers Co., (1)3,M; W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE; White Oak Bayou, (1)15,WC.
 Owl, Barred: Ft. Bend Co., (2)9,A.
- Chuck-will's-widow: Bolivar, (1)3,M, (1)18,TEⅅ High I., (2)3,M, (1)24,TEⅅ W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ; Houston Arboretum, (1)19,PC; W.Galveston, (1)27,R.
 Whip-poor-will: W.Galveston, (1)27,R
- Nighthawk, Common: Bolivar, (10)3,M; Spring Branch, (1)6,LEB.
 NIGHTHAWK, LESSER: W. Galveston, (2)Aug.24,DM (see notes).
- Swift, Chimney: Spring branch, (n/c)all month,LEB; Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ.
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: Houston, (2)1-15,JMo (yard), (1-5)all month,TE (yard); High I., (1)3,M, (4)10,E; W.Harris Co., (4)11,P&MJ; W.Galveston,(1)15,JH; Bolivar, (8)17,A.
- Hummingbird, Rufous: Houston, (1)15-19,J&MG (yard).
 Hummingbird, Species: Ft. Bend Co., (2)9,A, High I., (4)3,M, (10)10,E.
- Kingfisher, Belted: Chambers Co., (6)3,M, (5)10,E; Bolivar, (1)8,PJ, (1)18,A, (2)18, (5)24,TEⅅ Ft. Bend Co., (2)9,A; W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ, (2)22,PJ; High I., (1)5,Dma; Brazoria, (1)18,A; W.Galveston (1)23,JH, (4)25,P&MJ, J&MG, (2)27,R.
- Flicker, Yellow-shafted: Baytown, (1)5,DD; Freeport, (2)5,Dma; Memorial Park, (1)11, WC; Eisenhower Park, (1)23,P&MJ.
- Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co., (2)3,M, (1)10,E; Eisenhower Park, (2)23,P&MJ.
 Woodpecker, Hairy: W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE; White Memorial Park, (1)10,E.
- Kingbird, Eastern: Chambers Co., (250)3,M, (60)10,E; Bolivar, (5)8,PJ; Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ; Ft. Bend Co., (2)9,A; W.Harris Co., (100+)11,P&MJ; High I., (70)11,HAS; W.Galveston, (25)15,JH; Brazoria, (4)18,A.
- Kingbird, Western: W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE; Winnie, (1)18,LEB.
- Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: Chambers Co., (15)3,M, (1)10,E; W.Harris Co., (50+)11, P&MJ, (46)22,PJ, (4)24,LEB; Brazoria Co., (6)18,A, (5)25,P&MJ; W.Galveston, (1)25 P&MJ.
- Flycatcher, Great Crested: High I., (5)3,M, (5)10,E, (6)11,HAS; Bolivar, (10)10,E, (2)18,A,BF,ER; W.Harris Co., (3)11,P&MJ; Memorial (yard) (1)1, (2)14,JMo; Kempner Park, (5)18,OG, (1)24,P&MJ.
- Phoebe, Eastern: Ft. Bend Co., (1)9,A; High I., (1)10,E; Bolivar, (1)18,TE&DD.
- Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: High I., (1)3,M, (1)10,E; Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ, (2)18,A; Memorial (yard), (1)11,JMo; Galveston, (1)18,OG.
- Flycatcher, Acadian: High I., (1)3,M, (3)10,E, (2)11,HAS, (5)24,TEⅅ Memorial (yard) (1)14,JMo; W.Galveston, (1)23,JH.
- Flycatcher, Willow (Traill's): Bolivar, (1)10,E, High I., (10)11,HAS; W.Galveston, (1)15,JH (see notes).

- Flycatcher, Least: High I., (1)11,HAS; Kempner Park, (1)18,A.
 Flycatcher, Empidonax Species: High I., (2)03,M, (2)010,E, (10-20)20,N; W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE, (2)11,P&MJ; Kempner Park, (3)8,PJ, (3)18,A, (5)18,OG, (1)24,P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co., (4)9,A; Memorial (yard), (2)14,JMo; W.Galveston, (2)27,R.
 Pewee, Eastern: High I., (1)03,M, (3)10,E, (2)20,N; W.Galveston (1)15,JH, (5)18,OG; Bolivar, (1)18,A; Kempner Park, (2)20,N.
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Bolivar, (5)3,M, (3)10,E, (2)18,A, (3)20,N; High I., (1)3,M, (2)10,E, (7)11,HAS, (2)17,WC, (1)20,N; Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ, (1)18,A, W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ.
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: W.Galveston, (1)27,R.
 Swallow, Tree: Bolivar, (5)3,M, (3)10,E; Galveston, (10)18,OG.
 Swallow, Bank: Bolivar, (5)03,M, (2)8,PJ, (5)10,E, (5)24,TEⅅ W.Harris Co., (20+)5,TE; Ft. Bend Co., (10)9,A; W.Galveston, (300+)18,A, (1)23,JH; Maner Lake, (1)24,LEB.
 Swallow, Rough-winged: Bolivar, (3)3,M, (2)10,E; W.Galveston, (100+)18,A.
 Swallow, Barn: Bolivar, (300+)3,M, (36)8,PJ, (100+)10,E; W.Harris Co., (100+)5,TE, (4)11,P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co., (16)9,A; W.Galveston, (4)15,JH, (2)25,P&MJ.
 Swallow, Cliff: Galveston, (5)18,OG.
 Martin, Purple: High I., (2)3,M; Freeport, (1)5,DMA; Ft. Bend Co., (1)9,A; W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ; Houston, (1)12,DMA, (1)20,PC.
 Crow, Fish: Bolivar, (1)10,E (see notes).
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Memorial (yard), (1)14,JMo.
 Thrasher, Brown: High I., (2)3,M, (2)10,E, (5)24,TEⅅ White Oak Bayou, (2)15,23,WC; Bolivar, (2)18,A; Galveston, (2)18,OG.
 Robin, American: Kempner Park, (1)3,M, (2)18,A, (2)18,OG.
 Thrush, Wood: High I., (1)10,E.
 Thrush, Swainson's: Galveston, (1)18,OG.
 Veery: Houston (yard) (1)18,MA (see notes), (1)9,WC (City Hall - see notes)
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: Bellaire, (9)Aug,28,DM
 Vireo, White-eyed: High I., (1)3,M; Ft. Bend Co., (8)9,A; White Memorial Park, (10+)10,E; W.Harris Co., (15)11,P&MJ; Brazoria Co., (10)17,A; Bolivar, (1)20,N.
 Vireo, Solitary: Memorial (yard), (1)14,JMo (see notes).
 Vireo, Red-eyed: High I., (3)3,M, (10+)10,E, (1)13,(8)15,DMA; Bellaire (yard), (1)12,P&MJ; Memorial (yard), (3)14; Galveston, (5)18,OG.
 Vireo, Philadelphia: High I., (1)15,DMA, (2)18,BF,ER.
 Warbler, Black & White: High I., (2)03,M, (4)010,E, (10)11,HAS; Kempner Park, (3)8,PJ, (5)18,OG, (1)20,N; W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ; Bolivar, (1)18,A, (10)24,TE&DD, (1)20,N.
 Warbler, Prothonotary: High I., (2)3,M, (2)10,E.
 Warbler, Swainson's: High I., (1)10,E, (1)24,TE&DD (late occurrence).
 Warbler, Worm-eating: High I., (2)3,M, (1)10,E, (1)15,DMA, (1)18,TE&DD, (1)Aug,15,WC.
 Warbler, Golden-winged: High I., (1)3,M, (1)13,DMA, (1)17,WC.
 Warbler, Blue-winged: High I., (4)3,M, (10)10,E, (1)15,DMA, (2)17,WC.
 Warbler, Natches: High I., (1)3,M (see notes), (3)13,(1)15,DMA.
 WARBLER, NASHVILLE: High I., (1)3,M (see notes); Freeport Municipal Park, (1)9,A (see notes).
 Warbler, Northern Parula: High I., (5)3,M, (1)11,L&MB, (1)15,DMA; White Park, (1)11,TE
 Warbler, Yellow: High I., (5)3,M, (2)10,E; Kempner Park, (2)8,PJ, (10)18,OG; W.Galv., (2)15,JH; Bolivar, (5)24,TE&DD.
 Warbler, Magnolia: Freeport Municipal Park, (1)9,A; High I., (10)18,BF,ER.
 Warbler, Black-throated Blue: High I., (1 female)18,BF,ER (no field notes).
 Warbler, Black-throated Green: Bolivar, (2)10,E; White Park, (1)11,TE; High I., (1)11,HAS, (2)18,BF,ER.
 Warbler, Blackburnian: High I., (1)11,HAS, (1)15,DMA, (1)17,WC.
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: High I., (1)3,M; White Park, (1)10,E.
 Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Freeport Municipal Park, (1)9,A; Bolivar, (1)20,N.
 Ovenbird: High I., (1)3,M, (10+)10,E, (1)13,(15)15,DMA, (5)17,WC (see notes), (10)18,BF,ER, (2)18,(1)24,TEⅅ Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ, (1)18,A; Bolivar, (1)18,A,BF,ER.
 Waterthrush, Northern: High I., (2)3,M, (3)10,E, (1)11,HAS, (2)17,WC, (1)18,TEⅅ White Oak Bayou, (1)5,WC; Freeport Municipal Park, (2)9,A; W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ. Brazoria Co., (1)18,A.
 Waterthrush, Louisiana: High I., (1)3,M, (3)10,E.
 Warbler, Kentucky: High I., (1)3,M, (10+)10,E, (4)18,BF,ER; Lake Jackson, (1)17,S&TC; Bolivar, (1)18,A.
 Warbler, Mourning: Baytown, (1)4,DD; Houston, (1)4,WC(City Hall), (1)10,14,WC(White Oak Bayou); High I., (2)10,E, (1)17,WC, (1)24,TE&DD.
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: Kempner Park, (1)3,M, (1)8,PJ; High I., (2)3,M, (2)10,E, (1)11,HAS; Bolivar, (2)3,M, (2)10,E, (1)20,N.
 Warbler, Hooded: High I., (8)3,M, (5+)10,E, (1)11,L&MB, (1)17,WC; Kempner Park, (3)8,PJ.
 Warbler, Wilson's: High I., (1)3,M, (1)10,E, (9)13,(10)15,DMA, (2)11,HAS, (1)17,WC, (5)24,TEⅅ Houston, (1)5,10,12,(3)14,WC(White Oak Bayou), (1)6,TE City Hall (1)10,E(City Hall), (1)11,JMo yard. Kempner Park, (2)8,PJ, (2)18,OG, (1)27,R; Freeport Municipal Park, (3)9,A; Bolivar, (1)20,N.

Warbler, Canada: High I., (15)3,M, (40)10,E, (29)11,HAS, (20)18,BF,ER, (5)18,24,TEⅅ
 Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ, (1)18,A, (1)20,N, (1)27,R; Freeport Municipal Park, (1)9,A;
 Memorial (yard), (2)14,JMo; Bolivar, (1)18,A.
 Redstart, American: High I., (3)3,M, (1)7,WC, (3)10,E, (5)15,Dma, (4)11,HAS, (17)18,
 BF,ER, (2)20,N, (5)24,TEⅅ Houston, (1)6,14,WC(White Oak Bayou), (1)20,TE(City
 Hall) Bolivar, (2)10,E, (1)18,A,BF,ER; W.Harris Co., (1)11,P&MJ.
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed: W.Galveston, (4 1st year males)23,JH (see notes
 Oriole, Orchard: High I., (5)3,M, (5)10,E; W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE; W.Galveston, (1)15,
 JH, (1)27,R; Kempner Park, (1)18,A, (10)18,OG; Bolivar, (1)20,N.
 Oriole, Norther (Baltimore): Bolivar, (10)3,M, (2)18,A,BF,ER; High I., (5)3,M, (7)10,
 E, (4)13, (2)15,Dma, (2)17,WC, (10)24,TEⅅ W.Harris Co., (4)11,P&MJ; Houston, (4)
 11,JMo(yard), (8)12,WC(White Oak Bayou) W.Galveston, (1)23,JH, (20+)18,OG, (1)27,R.
 Tanager, Summer: High I., (2)3,M; Kempner Park, (1)8,PJ; White Park, (2)10,E, (1)11,TE
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: W.Galveston, (1)15,JH.
 Grosbeak, Blue: White Oak Bayou, (1)6,23,WC; Bolivar, (2)17,WC, (1)18,A.
 Bunting, Painted: High I., (1)3,M; W.Harris Co., (1)5,TE; Brazoria Co., (3)18,A.
 Dickcissel: W.Galveston (1)27,R.
 Sparrow, Seaside: Bolivar, (5 adult, 2 fledglings)8,PJ; Anahuac, NWR, (5)24,TE&DD.
 Sparrow, Lark: W.Galveston (2)18,OG, (4)23,JH.

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS September, 1977

MA-Margaret Anderson; L&MB-Larry & Martha Ballard; LEB-Leron E. Bielak; KB-Kathleen
 Brannan; S&TC-Sherry & Tom Collins; P&WC-Penny & Wesley Cureton; DD-DAvid Dauphin;
 TE-Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.; BF-T.Ben Feltner; J&MG-Jack & Mary Gillette; JH-Jane Hamilton;
 P&MJ-T.Paul & Margaret Jones; DM-David Marrack; Dma-David Matson; JMo-Jim Morgan;
 Elaine Robinson; A-Party of MA,P&MJ; C-Party of MA, Virginia Courtney, Norma Oates,
 Pat Warner; E-Party of DD,TE & JMo; HAS-Houston Audubon Society Field Trip (fide BF);
 M-Party of WC,DD,TE & JMo; N-Party of MA,MJ, Norma Oates; OG-OG field Trip (fide TE);
 R-Party of MA,MJ, Ellen Red.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES September, 1977

Pelican,Brown: A large uniformly dark bird, flapping and gliding between the Surfside
 and Quintana jetties. The large size, large bill, and head pulled back onto its
 shoulders as it flew identified it as a pelican. The uniformly dark coloration
 with a lighter shade underneath and the lack of any darker area on the wingtips
 identified it as an immature Brown. This is the same spot where Shirley Wright and
 Ann Atkins glimpsed a bird they thought was a brown pelican in the early summer.

--Sherry Collins

Bird in Gulf on pilings in front of SeaArama, and can be found in same spot most
 every day around noon. We felt it was an immature. Checked with people at Sea-
 Arama, they looked at bird with us and said it was one of theirs, an immature, but
 not hatched there; the bird goes back to Sea Arama every day to feed. --Jane Hamil-
 ton

One bird at the ferry had a yellow band on the right leg; legs of the other birds
 could not be seen; all were free flying. --David Matson

Goose, White-fronted: Standing at edge of pond on Pitts Road. Large gray bird, yel-
 low bill and longish neck. Neck was darker than rest of bird. "Flaky" look to
 feathering of breast and belly, Dark tail, edged with white. --T. Paul Jones

Goose, Snow: Walking along dike of pond on Porter Rd. Big, pure white goose with
 black wing tips. Has been reported earlier at this location by TE.--T. Paul Jones

Mallard: Two drakes in late afternoon sunlight showing bright yellow bills, brilliant
 green head and neck, gray back and sides, black curled tail, white undercoverts.

--T. Paul Jones

Hawk, Broad-winged: A very enormous kettle of hawks, very high in the sky. Seen first
 about 11:45 a.m., viewed until after 12:00. Constant stream of hawks, approximately
 3,000 to 4,000 in view at all times during observation. --Margaret Anderson

Falcon, Peregrine: Immature Peregrine Falcon observed on September 6th at 10:00 a.m.
 near corner of Allen Parkway and Sabine St. Falcon flew east along Buffalo Bayou,
 eventually disappearing among the buildings downtown. Falcon flew in a rather
 typical falcon fashion, alternating breast-stroke wingbeats with short glides.
 Bird flew approximately 30 feet above the bayou. The falcon easily eclipsed nearby
 Rock Doves in size. Dark brown crown and nape, combined with the dark auricular
 patch, gave the bird a "helmeted" look; brown back, upper wings and tail; wing
 linings light, marked with dark brown parallel barring; wing long and slender,
 darkly tipped (pointed); breast and belly were light with heavy dark brown streaking;
 tail color, in excellent light light, seemed quite rufous. Observed for approximate-
 ly 5 minutes in excellent light with 10x glasses from as close as 25 feet.

--Ted Eubanks

JAEGER, LONG-TAILED: An immature seen on Bolivar Flats by Linda Snyder, who reported that the bird seemed very tired, allowing her to approach quite closely. Looked like a dark pigeon among the gulls. Study revealed that the feet were blue, a diagnostic feature of the Long-tailed Jaeger. Bird was as pictured in Pough's Audubon Field Guide to Waterbirds. --fide David Dauphin
(Also, see article on HAS-OG Pelagic trip - C-H Ed.)

Cuckoo, Black-billed: Observed from distance of 5 yards - 11:10 a.m. in good light.

Black beak; small spots on underside of tail; red eyering. --Larry Ballard
NIGHTHAWK, LESSER: Driving west in late afternoon near 16 mile road on Galveston Is. over open pasture recognised the two birds were not Common Nighthawks, but very like them in flight behavior. At 500-600 feet could not judge size, but the white wing marks were at tips of wing. Later seen at down to 20 feet near Terramar. Seemed smaller; white wing marks formed part of wing tips, and not "cross wing" bars at 2/3 way out as in Commons. Could see them catch grasshoppers as they flew just above grass tops and frightened the insects to flight. --David Marrack

Flycatcher, Willow (Traill's): White throat in contrast to olive sides, wing bars, light eye ring, no yellow wash, brown back. --Jane Hamilton

Crow, Fish: Seen by all three observers of party on telephone pole on Bolivar Peninsula. This was a small crow with noticeably smaller and finer beak. When flushed the bird uttered repeated low and quiet "car car" type of note, definitely not the loud raucous call of the common crow. --Jim Morgan

Veery: Back was reddish from head through tail; faint or no eyering; faint buffy streaks on breast. --Margaret Anderson

Very much the bird pictured on Plate 19 of Pough's Audubon Land Bird Guide of the eastern birds. Seemed a little less russet on the back than those I've seen in spring. Face was buffy, but definitely had no eyering. Upper breast covered with buffy wash and had a few brown spots. Rest of underparts were pale pearly gray. Beak was fleshy in color with a dark tip. 7x50 binocs up to 15 ft., full shade to partial sun. --Wesley Cureton

VIREO, SOLITARY: Blue-gray head with large, white spectacles. Olive back and wings, the latter with two white wing-bars. White breast and belly with strong yellow wash on sides and flanks. Bird was seen feeding high in trees with typical deliberate vireo actions. Bill relatively heavy. Seen in excellent light for 5 minutes at 60-100 feet with 8.5x44 binocs. --Jim Morgan

Tennessee Warbler: Greenish (olive) above with a yellowish tint. Faint eye-line. No wing bars. Yellowish olive wash on throat and chest. Whitish belly and white undertail coverts. Seen by Jim Morgan, Ted Eubanks and Sharon Hackelman for 5 min. with binoculars in good light. --Jim Morgan

NASHVILLE WARBLER: Bluish gray head, olive back, yellow throat and chest. No wing bars. Full eye-ring. Seen by Ted Eubanks at 15-25 feet with binoculars for 3 min. In good light. --Jim Morgan

Ovenbird: One of several Ovenbirds at Boy Scout Woods was specially noticeable in that it was partially albino. One of the coverts in the right wing was white, and the outer third of the left wing was white. While albinism occurs in many species, I have never heard of it in Ovenbirds. --Wesley Cureton.

Blackbird, Yellow-headed: White wing patch lacking - still a small amount of dark on head, but much too yellow for females, thus judged to be first year males.

--Jane Hamilton

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE CLEARING HOUSE

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: High Island, (1)3, M.

Notes: First seen 15 feet up in an oak immediately to the right of the house at Smith's Woods. Throat looked a little grayer and the belly a little yellower than would seem right; but once, when the bird faced the sun, the throat did look whiter than the breast. The tail showed some russet when folded. Beak was dark, but not black with a tiny bit of yellow at base. Buffy wingbars. Seemed smaller than a Great Crested with a smaller, less elongated head and a beak shorter and not as heavy. While I was looking for the bird again in order to show it to the others, David Dauphin saw a *Myiarchus* species he thought was smaller and lighter in color than the Great Cresteds nearby. Later I saw the bird perched on an outer twig of a yupon thicket across from the Brannan's driveway. While hovering head high, it plucked a spider from a web and lit in a pecan sapling to eat it. Finally, it flew downward into the thicket and disappeared. Made no sound. I am not positive about this identification, but considering the bird's proportions and behavior, I think there is a good possibility that it was an Ash-throated Flycatcher. --Wesley Cureton

COMMENT FROM THE SPOONBILL EDITOR:

Because of space limitations we cannot always list the exact location of many birds listed in the Clearing House. However, any contributor will be glad to give you more exact directions to any bird sighting he/she has turned in. If you can't find them in the roster, or if you don't have a roster, call me and I'll try to locate the person you want. We are trying to keep the C-H readable as well as informative. The recent change in format of listing the location before the date and observers helps make the listing clearer we hope. If you have any suggestions please send them to me, or call 665-4197.

ROSTER CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS

Jane Hamilton's Rare Bird Alert telephone number - 1-762-7569

Tom Collins' Rare Bird Alert telephone number - 1-265-4847

Mr. & Mrs. Pat Swingle - make it Spring instead of Houston

Mrs. John A. Sims, Jr. (Nancy)

David Matson, Brompton Court

Add new member:

Mrs. William Friemel (Adele), 1603 Burke Road, Pasadena, 77502 472-3278

Add new subscribers:

Steve Gniadek, U.S.F.W.S., PO Drawer 1088, Angleton 77515

Donald H. Hall, 3244 Norfolk #A, Houston 77098

Mrs. R.L. Johnson, 2050 Valencia Dr., Florissant, Mo. 63033

Mrs. George R. Ross (Rena), 2805 Travis, Amarillo, 79109

Mrs. Edith S. Waxman, 6805 Rowan, Houston 77074 774-4926

Change addresses:

Doug Bibee, 105 Van Winkle Dr., Lake Jackson 77566

Mrs. William J. Cox (Merry), Route 3, Box 502 Orange 77630

Add new exchanges:

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7377 Santa Monica Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90046

Sabine Audubon Society
Editor, WINGBEAT
1670 King Arthur Court
Orange, Texas 77630

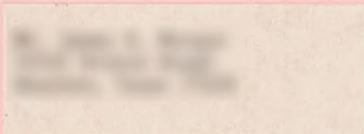
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Names for Reference:

Chairman: David Dauphin, 2300 Taft #165, Baytown, Texas 77520	422-7536
Treasurer: Mary Gillette, 5027 Longmont, Houston, Texas 77056	626-1755
SPOONBILL: Margaret Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Clearing House: T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Rare Bird & Unusual Bird Alert: David Dauphin	422-7536
Change of address: Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston, Texas 77096	723-8559