



The Spoonbill

Published by The Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston

Calendar of Events

January

Saturday, January 7: OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY. Join this all-day field trip to look for geese, ducks, hawks and sparrows. Meet David Bradford at the jogging trail parking lot in Bear Creek Park at 7:30 a.m. (From Houston take I-10 west to Highway 6. Turn north onto Highway 6, then turn right or east on Clay Road. Continue past the golf course to the jogging trail parking lot.) Bring a sack lunch.

Sunday, January 8: "Beginners" OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY. Designed for beginners, this trip will go slow and easy. Leader, Dave Bradford, will help the beginner identify and find sparrows. We will also see geese, ducks and hawks. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Bear Creek Park at the jogging trail parking lot. See directions above. Bring lunch.

Saturday, January 14: OG "Youth" FIELD TRIP TO BRAZORIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. Leaders David Bradford and David Veselka invite youth ages 10-18 to join them. Call David Veselka at 692-1384 for further details.

February

Monday, February 6: OG Membership Meeting. 7:00 p.m. Larry Lof, Director of Research at Rancho del Cielo, will speak on birding at the research station. Learning Corner begins at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, February 11 and 12: OG FIELD TRIP TO LAKE TAWOKONI near Dallas. The main object of this trip will be to see Smith's Longspur, but the Lake Tawokoni and Dallas areas have many good birding opportunities. Many species of waterfowl and sparrows are likely. If we get the Smith's Longspur on Saturday afternoon, then we will bird our way back to Houston on Sunday morning looking for any rarities along the way. This trip will be limited to the first 20 people who sign up. To sign up, call Dwight Peake at (409) 740-4621. We will meet in the parking lot of the Brown Education Center at Houston Zoological Gardens, Gate 5 at 7:00 a.m. on February 11, and we will drive to the Best Western Motel at Exit 500 on I-20 at Terrel, Texas. For people who drive up separately, we should arrive at the Best Western between Noon and 1:00 p.m. For reservations at the Best Western, call (214) 563-2676.

Saturday, February 25: OG FIELD TRIP TO WALLER COUNTY. Jon Erickson will lead a trip to Waller County. This trip will require strenuous walking but should be very productive for sparrows, including Henslow's Sparrow. For more information, call Jon at (409) 826-4158.

Membership Meeting

Speaker: Bill Goloby

Date: Monday, January 9

Location: Harris County Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, just west of Hillcroft.

Time: 7:00 p.m. Pre-meeting Learning Corner to hear David Bradford discuss identification of sparrows at 6:30 p.m.

Bill Goloby, an environmental scientist and owner of Penfeathers Tours, will discuss Purple Martins and give us an update on the what he calls the "OG's colony" in Hermann Park. An OG member since 1966, Bill has actively birded the upper Texas coast since 1966 and has led professional birding tours in this area since 1984. Penfeathers Tours leads birding trips in Texas, Colorado and Arizona.

Newsbriefs

.....**THE FIRST SPRING MIGRATION FESTIVAL** will be held April 8-9 in the Lake Jackson/Freeport area. Currently in the planning stage, the festival will have booths, speakers and numerous field trips. Call Dick Hickner of the Friends of Brazoria and Brazosport Birders for more information at (409) 297-7726. Dick will send registration forms and a schedule of events when available to all who call.

.....**IT WAS RAINING HARD AT DAWN** on December 3rd, but about 12 birders met at the entrance to Barker Reservoir for the OG field trip. In answer to our wishes the rain stopped and the skies cleared. Unfortunately, with the lack of any cold weather to push them south, there were few winter birds--particularly sparrows. Everyone had a good look at Greater Yellowlegs, Snipe and American Pipits. About 40 species were observed. Peggy Bailey and I were the nominal leaders, but we leaned on Bob Honig who is better acquainted with the area. *Ed LeBeau*

.....**FERRY ALLOWS EASIER ACCESS TO MATAGORDA ISLAND.** The trip to Matagorda Island has been made easier with the addition this fall of the ferryboat McBride. The ferry operates out of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's docks in Port O'Connor Thursdays through Sundays. For reservations, contact Matagorda Island State Park at (512) 389-8900.

.....**BRAZORIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** is now open to the public the third full weekend each month through April 1995. This is in addition to the first full weekend each month.

As usual, the gate may be open occasionally on weekdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., when refuge crews are working there. Check with the refuge office (409) 849-6062.

.....**THE ARMAND BAYOU NATURE CENTER** has two trips scheduled of special interest to birders. On March 10-12, leaders George Regmund and Paula Kennedy, will take a group to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge to see Whooping Cranes. Trip fee includes tour boat, van transportation, overnight accommodations and naturalist guides. April 29-May 8, George and Paula will lead a group to Big Bend National Park (and vicinity) for birding, hiking, a raft trip, and a visit to McDonald Observatory for a "Star Party." Trip fee includes all transportation, accommodations, lunch everyday, some

other meals, raft trip fees and more. A Texas Parks and Wildlife Conservation Pass is required. For more information and detailed itineraries, call the Armand Bayou Nature Center at 474-2551.

.....**YOUNG BIRDERS** on the November 12 field trip explored the muddy trails of Bear Creek Park and the fields of near west Harris County. Highlights of the day included a Black-throated Green Warbler in a mixed feeding flock near the picnic grounds and two adult plumaged White-tailed Hawks just west of the high voltage power lines on Clay Road. The January "Youth" field trip will visit Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge on January 14. *David Veselka, 692-1384.*

.....**MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5 OG MEETING:** Chairman David Bradford continued his discussion of sparrow identification and habitat for the Learning Corner, then opened the membership meeting with a reminder that annual dues are due this month. Treasurer Mike Gremillion discussed the OG Financial Summary he had prepared as well as the OG Savings Account and the 1995 Budget, with emphasis on the youth scholarship line item. A motion was made and seconded that the 1995 Budget be printed in next month's Spoonbill and be voted on at the next meeting, which will be held January 9th instead of January 2nd. Comments and revisions to the Budget were solicited in the interim.

Dwight Peake, David Veselka, Ellen Red and Paula Kennedy announced future OG field trips, OG field trips for youngsters, Audubon Society programs, and Armand Bayou Nature Center field trips, respectively. The January Audubon meeting will be held at the Museum of Fine Arts, where John James Audubon's watercolors of the Birds of America are on display. Dr. David Marrack urged members to write to the Forest Supervisor regarding Alternative Six of the National Forest Management Policy.

The upcoming Christmas Bird Counts were discussed, with special emphasis on the December 17th Houston Count, the official count of the Outdoor Nature Club as well as the OG.

Program Chairman Steve Bennett announced upcoming OG speakers and introduced the evening's speaker, John Tveten, author of Birds of Texas. John gave an enthusiastic presentation of the impetus for his book, how the decisions of which photographs to include were made, and the photographic techniques and individual bird encounters behind selected slides. *Geneva Lavern for Maggie Honig, Secretary.*

Clearing House

NOVEMBER 1994

EDITORS: PHYLLIS AND TONY FRANK

This month had many interesting reports of unusual shorebirds as well as lingering summer visitors. A total of 187 species were reported for the month.

Reports for next month are due by January 3rd, but early reports are welcomed. Readers are reminded that all decisions regarding checklist status are made by the checklist committee. Publication of a rarity does not imply acceptance of the record by the editors or the committee. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

Loon, Common 19-19 1/1 U-1/1
 Grebe, Least 11-11 1/20 CO-ATW(20)11,HS
 Grebe, Pied-bill 6-28 15/178 U-1/12 CH-5/57 CO-1/30
 GA-4/65 JE-3/6 WA-1/8
 Grebe, Horned 12-12 1/1 CH-AW(1)12,HW
 Grebe, Eared 11-11 1/8 CO-ATW(8)11,HS
 Pelican, Amer Wht 6-28 9/1131 U-1/12 CH-2/63 GA-3/1000
 HA-2/53 JE-1/3
 Pelican, Brown 6-24 6/469 U-1/60 CH-1/1 GA-4/408
 Corm, Dbl-crested 6-28 12/146 U-1/40 CH-4/43 GA-3/34
 HA-2/22 JE-2/7
 Corm, Neotropic 6-20 7/142 CH-1/2 GA-3/91 HA-1/20 JE-
 2/29
 Anhinga 6-20 5/6 U-1/2 CH-2/2 GA-1/1 HA-1/1
 Bittern, American 11-29 3/3 CH-AW(1)12,HW; CO-ATW(1)11,HS;
 FB-(1)29,DM
 Heron, Great Blue 3-28 15/95 U-3/29 CH-5/27 GA-4/31
 HA-1/4 JE-2/4
 Egret, Great 3-28 16/166 U-3/100 CH-5/39 GA-1/1
 HA-3/9 JE-4/17
 Egret, Snowy 6-28 19/227 U-3/22 CH-5/50 GA-5/97
 HA-2/10 JE-4/48
 Heron, Little Blu 6-28 11/25 U-1/2 CH-5/16 GA-2/3 JE-3/4
 Heron, Tricolored 6-28 11/24 U-1/3 CH-5/10 GA-4/10 JE-
 1/1
 Egret, Reddish 6-20 3/7 CH-1/1 GA-2/6
 Egret, Cattle 3-28 10/334 U-3/175 CH-4/64 HA-2/75
 JE-1/20
 Heron, Green 6-6 1/1 CH-(1)6,JW
 Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 11-24 3/4 CH-1/1 HA-2/3
 Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 6-6 1/1 GA-YBR(1)6,JW
 Ibis, White 3-28 16/272 U-2/42 CH-5/105 GA-3/22
 HA-3/53 JE-3/50
 Ibis, Glossy 13-13 1/1 JE-(1)13,JW
 Ibis, White-faced 3-28 14/442 U-2/26 CH-5/366 GA-2/3
 HA-1/6 JE-4/41
 plegadis, sp. 23-23 1/830 U-1/830
 Spoonbill, Roseat 6-28 10/36 U-1/6 CH-5/12 GA-1/1 JE-
 3/17

Whsl-Duck, Fulvs 6-24 7/34 CH-3/3 CO-1/1 GA-2/28 HA-1/2
 Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd 11-23 2/230 HA-(30)11,HS; HA-(200)23,M
 Goose, Gr Wht-frn 6-28 7/2533 U-3/2125 CH-4/408
 Goose, Snow 3-28 10/29444 U-3/24600 CH-5/4780 HA-
 2/64
 Goose, Ross' 6-28 5/15 U-(6)19,HA; CH-AW(2)6,JW;
 CH-(3)24,JW; CH-(1)28,X; HA-(3)23,M
 Goose, Canada 11-11 1/20 U-(20)11,HS
 Duck, Wood 11-11 1/4 U-(4)11,HS
 Teal, Green-wing 6-28 8/9408 U-2/7000 CH-5/2407 JE-1/1
 Duck, Mottled 3-28 14/368 U-3/657 CH-5/133 GA-2/54
 HA-1/12 JE-4/102
 Mallard 11-28 4/13 U-1/6 CH-2/6 GA-1/1
 Pintail, Northern 3-28 8/10623 U-2/8010 CH-2/325
 GA-2/13 HA-2/2275
 Teal, Blue-winged 6-28 10/175 U-2/45 CH-5/112 GA-1/4
 JE-2/14
 Teal, Cinnamon 11-11 1/25 CO-ATW(25)11,HS
 Shoveler, Northrn 3-28 13/2985 U-2/650 CH-4/222
 GA-3/36 HA-2/2050 JE-2/27
 Gadwall 6-28 11/819 U-2/225 CH-5/552
 GA-3/32 HA-1/10
 Wigeon, American 6-28 7/206 U-2/120 CH-4/82 GA-1/4
 Canvasback 11-12 2/101 GA-(1)12,HW; WA-(100)11,HS
 Redhead 11-28 5/21 U-1/10 CH-2/4 GA-1/4 HA-1/3
 Duck, Ring-necked 11-28 5/101 U-2/56 CH-2/40 GA-1/5
 Scaup, Greater 19-24 2/4 U-(2)19,HA; CH-AW(2)24,JW
 Scaup, Lesser 11-28 5/40 U-1/20 CH-2/14 GA-2/6
 Bufflehead 20-28 4/12 CH-3/9 WA-1/3
 Merganser, Red-br 13-20 3/7 U-1/2 CH-1/2 JE-1/3
 Duck, Ruddy 11-28 5/543 U-2/415 CH-2/23 JE-1/105
Duck, Masked 19-29 2/4 FB-BB(2)19,JWR; FB-BB(2)29,DM
 Vulture, Black 6-28 8/67 U-3/18 CH-4/39 GA-1/10
 Vulture, Turkey 3-28 11/205 U-3/110 CH-5/73 GA-2/10
 HA-1/12
 Osprey 6-16 3/10 GA-2/5 HA-1/5
 Kite, White-taild 6-28 10/45 U-1/5 CH-4/23 GA-3/14
 JE-1/1 WA-1/2
 Harrier, Northern 3-28 13/197 U-3/122 CH-4/49 GA-3/14
 HA-1/10 JE-2/2
 Hawk, Sharp-shin 1-28 6/6 U-1/1 CH-2/2 GA-1/1
 HA-1/1 JE-1/1
 Hawk, Cooper's 11-28 3/4 U-1/1 CH-1/2 WA-1/1
 Hawk, Red-shouldr 6-19 3/4 U-2/3 CH-1/1
 Hawk, Broad-wingd 11-11 1/1 WA-(1)11,HS
 Hawk, Swainson's 23-23 1/1 WA-(1)23,M
 Hawk, White-taild 1-11 2/10 CO-ATW(8)11,HS; HA-(2)1,NP
 Hawk, Red-tailed 3-28 16/359 U-3/147 CH-5/164
 GA-4/22 HA-1/15 JE-3/11
 (Hawk, Harlan's) 11-11 1/1 CO-(1)11,HS
 Hawk, Ferruginous 11-23 2/3 WA-(1)11,HS; WA-(2)23,M
 Hawk, Rough-leggd 25-26 2/2 GA-(1)25,DM; GA-(1)26,DM
 Caracara, Crested 3-23 2/8 HA-WHC(1)3,HP; WA-(7)23,M
 Kestrel, American 3-28 17/292 U-3/110 CH-5/133
 GA-4/19 HA-2/9 JE-3/21
 Merlin 6-28 3/3 CH-(1)6,JW; CH-(1)28,X;
 GA-HI(1)6,JW
 Falcon, Peregrine 12-20 2/2 CH-(1)12,HW; CH-(1)20,JB
 Rail, Yellow 15-15 1/1 CO-ATW(1)15,JWR
 Rail, Clapper 6-19 3/3 U-1/1 GA-2/2
 Rail, King 11-23 3/4 CH-1/1 HA-2/3
Gallinule, Purple 6-13 3/3 JE-(1)6,JW; JE-(1)12,HW;
 JE-(1)13,JW
 Moorhen, Common 6-28 10/586 U-1/6 CH-5/540 GA-1/10
 JE-3/30
 Coot, American 6-28 13/5630 U-2/1350 CH-5/1890
 GA-4/189 JE-1/2001 WA-1/200
 Crane, Sandhill 11-19 2/153 U-(150)19,HA; CO-(3)11,HS
 Plover, Blk-belli 6-24 5/338 U-1/2 CH-1/4 GA-3/332
 Plover, Snowy 12-12 1/10 GA-BF(10)12,HW
 Plover, Semipalm 6-24 4/41 U-1/15 GA-3/26

Plover, Piping 6-12 2/16 GA-(1)6,JW; GA-BF(15)12,HW
Killdeer 3-28 17/412 U-3/225 CH-4/62 GA-4/20
HA-3/49 JE-3/56
Oystercatcher, Am 6-24 4/26 CH-1/2 GA-3/24
Stilt, Black-neck 6-24 7/176 U-1/6 GA-3/63 JE-3/107
Avocet, American 6-24 4/145 GA-3/120 WA-1/25
Yellowlegs, Great 6-23 8/20 U-2/4 GA-1/4 HA-2/4
JE-2/7 WA-1/1
Yellowlegs, Less 11-24 7/46 U-2/17 GA-2/23 JE-3/6
Sandprr, Solitary 12-13 2/2 JE-(1)12,HW; JE-(1)13,JW
Willet 6-24 6/328 U-1/10 CH-1/4 GA-3/313 JE-
1/1
Sandprr, Spotted 13-13 1/3 JE-(3)13,JW
Curlew, Long-bill 6-24 5/57 U-1/1 GA-3/50 WA-1/6
Godwit, Marbled 6-24 4/126 U-1/6 GA-3/120
Turnstone, Ruddy 20-24 2/2 CH-(1)20,JB; GA-(1)24,JW
Knot, Red 12-12 1/5 GA-BF(5)12,HW
Sanderling 6-24 4/365 U-1/25 GA-3/340
Sandprr, Western 6-24 9/1361 U-1/35 GA-3/1260
HA-1/5 JE-3/41 WA-1/20
Sandprr, Least 11-19 4/35 U-1/10 GA-1/2 JE-1/15 WA-1/8
Dunlin 6-24 6/1130 U-1/20 GA-3/1060 WA-2/50
Sandprr, Curlew 24-24 1/1 JE-(1)24,JW
Dowitcher, S-bill 6-24 7/3442 U-2/2035 GA-3/1205 JE-
2/202
Dowitcher, L-bill 3-24 5/607 U-1/150 CH-1/12 GA-1/20
HA-1/400 JE-1/25
Snipe, Common 3-28 8/82 U-2/20 CH-3/9 HA-1/50 JE-2/3
Gull, Laughing 6-28 7/5008 U-1/1000 CH-2/7 GA-3/3995
JE-1/6
Gull, Ring-billed 3-28 7/801 U-1/200 CH-2/30 GA-3/570
HA-1/1
Gull, Herring 12-24 5/15 U-1/3 CH-1/2 GA-3/10
Tern, Gull-billed 12-12 1/1 GA-(1)12,HW
Tern, Caspian 12-19 2/33 U-(12)19,HA; GA-(21)12,HW
Tern, Royal 6-24 6/1141 U-1/28 GA-4/1112 JE-1/1
Tern, Sandwich 12-24 3/28 U-1/3 GA-2/25
Tern, Common 12-24 2/2 GA-BF(1)12,HW; GA-(1)24,JW
Tern, Forster's 6-28 7/726 U-1/15 CH-2/25 GA-4/686
Tern, Black 6-12 2/2 GA-HI(1)6,JW; GA-HI(1)12,HW
Skimmer, Black 6-24 3/751 GA-3/751
Dove, Rock 3-28 10/261 U-3/100 CH-3/28 HA-3/132
JE-1/1
Dove, Mourning 3-28 13/395 U-3/135 CH-3/77 GA-1/54
HA-3/60 JE-3/69
Dove, Inca 11-23 3/8 U-1/1 HA-1/6 WA-1/1
Parakeet, Monk 20-28 2/22 HA-(6)20,PBM; HA-(16)28,PBM
Screech-Owl, East 16-16 1/1 HA-(1)16,PBM
Owl, Great Horned 6-28 2/3 CH-SP(1)28,X; GA-HI(2)6,JW
hummingbird, sp. 19-19 1/1 BR-(1)19,HA
Kingfisher, Belted 3-28 20/69 U-2/9 CH-6/30 GA-3/7
HA-4/6 JE-4/15 WA-1/2
Wdpeckr, Red-bell 11-28 5/8 U-2/3 CH-1/2 HA-1/1 WA-1/2
Sapsuck, Yel-bell 11-28 3/8 U-1/1 CH-1/3 HA-1/4
Wdpeckr, Downy 21-28 2/2 CH-(1)28,X; HA-(1)21,PBM
Flicker, Northern 6-28 5/15 U-1/6 CH-2/7 GA-1/1 HA-1/1
Flycatch, Least 11-11 1/1 CO-ATW(1)11,HS
Phoebe, Eastern 3-28 12/116 U-3/66 CH-5/42 GA-1/1
HA-1/3 JE-2/4
Flycatch, Vermiln 11-23 3/3 CH-(1)20,JB; WA-(1)11,HS;
WA-(1)23,M
Flycatch, Ash-thr 23-23 1/1 HA-(1)23,M
Flycatch, Ss-tail 6-23 4/7 BR-(2)19,HA; CH-(2)6,JW;
GA-(2)6,JW; HA-(1)23,M
Lark, Horned 12-12 1/10 GA-BF(10)12,HW
Swallow, Tree 6-28 7/1017 U-1/6 CH-4/886 GA-1/25
JE-1/100
Swallow, Cave 12-12 1/6 CO-ATW(6)12,JWR
Swallow, Barn 11-11 1/10 U-(10)11,HS
Jay, Blue 1-28 10/66 U-2/36 CH-3/14 GA-2/9
HA-1/5 JE-2/2
Crow, American 3-28 7/165 U-3/120 CH-2/36 HA-2/9
Chickadee, Carol 11-28 6/27 U-2/12 CH-2/10 HA-1/1 WA-1/4
Titmouse, Tufted 11-11 1/6 U-1/6
Wren, Carolina 11-28 4/13 U-2/11 HA-2/2
Wren, House 11-28 5/29 U-2/15 CH-1/6 HA-1/6 WA-1/2
Wren, Sedge 11-23 2/4 U-(1)11,HS; HA-(3)23,M
Wren, Marsh 6-28 3/6 U-1/1 CH-2/5
Wren, Marsh 6-28 3/6 U-(1)11,HS; CH-AW(1)6,JW;
CH-(4)28,X
Kinglet, Ruby-crn 6-28 7/128 U-3/97 CH-2/26 GA-2/5
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 6-28 6/89 U-3/44 CH-2/41 GA-1/4
Bluebird, Eastern 11-28 3/34 CH-1/8 WA-2/26
Thrush, Hermit 28-28 1/1 CH-(1)28,X
Robin, American 6-28 5/133 U-2/80 CH-1/50 GA-2/3
Catbird, Gray 28-28 1/8 CH-(8)28,X
Mockingbird, N 1-28 12/134 U-3/55 CH-5/57 HA-2/11
JE-2/11
Thrasher, Brown 6-28 6/15 U-2/3 CH-1/6 GA-2/3 WA-1/3
Pipit, American 11-24 2/7 U-(2)11,HS; JE-(5)24,JW
Pipit, Sprague's 6-24 3/5 CH-AW(3)6,JW; CH-AW(1)12,HW;
CH-AW(1)24,JW
Waxwing, Cedar 28-28 1/150 CH-(150)28,X
Shrike, Loggerhed 3-28 17/236 U-3/87 CH-5/107 GA-3/8
HA-2/7 JE-4/27
Starling, Euro 3-28 15/4436 U-3/3130 CH-5/454
GA-1/100 HA-3/575 JE-3/177
Vireo, White-eyed 28-28 1/2 CH-(2)28,X
Vireo, Solitary 28-28 1/1 CH-(1)28,X
Vireo, Philadelph 16-16 1/1 HA-(1)16,JWR
Warb, Orange-crn 6-28 5/21 U-2/7 CH-1/6 GA-1/6 HA-1/2
Warb, Yellow-rump 6-28 7/418 U-3/260 CH-3/153 GA-1/5
Warb, Blk-thr Grn 16-16 1/1 HA-(1)16,NP
Warb, Pine 23-28 3/5 CH-1/3 HA-1/1 WA-1/1
Warb, Palm 19-19 1/1 U-(1)19,HA
Yellowthroat, Com 11-28 4/23 U-2/14 CH-2/9
Cardinal, Northrn 6-28 8/154 U-3/115 CH-1/30 GA-2/4
HA-1/4 JE-1/1
Towhee, Rufus-side 23-23 1/1 WA-(1)23,M
Sparrow, Chipping 28-28 1/3 CH-(3)28,X
Sparrow, Vesper 11-23 3/31 U-1/20 HA-1/9 WA-1/2
Sparrow, Savannah 3-28 12/306 U-2/100 CH-5/143
GA-1/3 HA-2/48 JE-1/2 WA-1/10
Sparrow, Le Conte 11-12 2/6 CO-ATW(3)11,HS; GA-BF(3)12,HW
Sparrow, Shp-tail 12-12 1/1 GA-BF(1)12,HW
Sparrow, Seaside 12-12 1/8 GA-BF(8)12,HW
Sparrow, Song 11-28 3/29 U-1/20 CH-1/6 WA-1/3
Sparrow, Lincolns 11-28 4/11 U-1/4 CH-1/3 HA-1/2 WA-1/2
Sparrow, Swamp 11-28 4/20 U-2/13 CH-1/5 HA-1/2
Sparrow, Wht-thrt 6-28 6/116 U-2/52 CH-1/20 GA-1/2
HA-1/25 WA-1/17
Sparrow, Wht-crn 11-28 3/20 CH-1/15 HA-2/5
Sparrow, Harris' 23-23 1/3 HA-(3)23,M
Blackbird, Red-wg 3-28 11/69198 U-3/22800 CH-4/46048
HA-1/250 JE-3/100
Meadowlark, East 3-28 14/194 U-1/50 CH-5/70 GA-1/6
HA-2/32 JE-4/34 WA-1/2
meadowlark, sp. 23-23 1/150 U-1/150
Blackbird, Brewer 11-28 3/67 CH-1/12 CO-1/40 HA-1/15
Grackle, Gr-tail 6-28 11/2493 U-2/50 CH-3/2072
GA-3/265 HA-2/85 JE-1/21
Grackle, Bt-tail 6-28 5/1531 U-1/20 CH-4/1511
Grackle, Common 3-28 9/7538 U-3/3900 CH-3/2010
HA-1/1500 JE-2/128
Cowbird, Bronzed 3-20 2/21 HA-WHC(1)3,HP; HA-(20)20,X
Cowbird, Brn-head 3-28 10/15802 U-3/12550 CH-4/2585
HA-1/500 JE-2/167
Goldfinch, Amer 11-28 3/46 U-1/1 CH-1/25 WA-1/20
Sparrow, House 1-28 10/148 U-3/80 CH-3/26 GA-1/1
HA-2/35 JE-1/6

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 193215

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: David Marrack (DM); P. D. Hulce, Houston Audubon Society Field Trip (HA); P. D. Hulce, Roger Tory Peterson (HP); P. D. Hulce, Mark

Scheuerman (HS); Keith Hansen, John Whittle (HW); John Buckman (JB); John Whittle (JW); Jan & Will Risser (JWR); Jim Morgan (M); Noel Pettingell (NP); Peggy & Bob Milstead (PBM); P. D. Hulce (X)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR (ATW); Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); High Island (HI); Smith Point (SP); West Harris County (WHC); Yacht Basin Road (YBR)

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria (BR); Chambers (CH); Colorado (CO); Fort Bend (FB); Galveston (GA); Harris (HA); Jefferson (JE); Waller (WA); Upper Texas Coast (U)

Least Grebe - P.D. Hulce November 11, 1994

Very small, medium gray grebes with small dark bill and dark crown. Yellow orange eyes. Some immatures present, with white throats, lighter crowns, whiter undertail coverts. At the marsh at Attwater NWR.

Masked Duck - W. Risser November 19, 1994

Pilant Lake Brazos Bend SP. Stiff-tailed ducks with dark crowns, dark lines through eye and across cheek. Same size as nearby Ruddy Ducks. Striping on sides, upper and under tail coverts. Flecking on back. One had warm buff on face, other was paler.

Masked Duck - D. Marrack

With Pied-billed Grebes and several Ruddy Ducks. Male readily spotted with its 2 horizontal dark lines through eye and below eye. Both have flank white patch. Very similar to Ruddy but distinguished by no white and single eye line.

Purple Gallinule - J. Whittle November 6, 1994

Typical gallinule/moorhen. The bird had a purple sheen on breast, sides and belly; and a brownish green color on folded wings. The tail was frequently cocked up to "flash" a bright white undertail patch. The base of the bill was red, the tip was yellow and the "shield" on the forehead was a dirty gray (physically dirty). Long yellow legs with long toes. Also documented at same location on November 12 and 13.

Solitary Sandpiper - J. Whittle November 12, 1994

Medium sized sandpiper, larger than Western Sandpipers, substantially smaller than Greater Yellowlegs. The bird was a dark gray above, white below. The back showed very inconspicuous small white flecks. The head

showed a very prominent white eye-ring, with the white extending into a white line through the eye in front of and (to a lesser extent behind) the eye. The throat and upper breast were dark. When the wings were briefly partially lifted, the upper wing surface was all dark. The upper surface of the tail had a dark stripe down the center with five or six medium width bars across the tail. Mainly dark bill, very slightly drooped at tip, with trace of yellowish orange coloration at the base of the lower mandible. Also documented November 13 at same location.

Curlew Sandpiper - J. Whittle November 24, 1994

The bird was shaped essentially like a typical Calidris sandpiper, significantly larger than Western Sandpiper, significantly smaller than Dowitchers and Killdeers. Appeared more upright than Western Sandpipers. The wings reached to approximately the tip of the tail when folded. The bill was dark, long and slightly curved through its entire length. It was tapered uniformly along its length to a relatively fine tip. Although the curvature was not great, it appeared to begin at the base of the bill. The legs were black, of medium length. The bird was gray-brown with a very distinct supercilium. The underwing was a very bright white. The rump and tail were white.

Black Tern - J. Whittle November 6, 1994

Small tern, slightly smaller than Forster's Tern. The upper wings were medium gray, the area behind the eye (and joining on the nape) was black. There was a black bar from the front wing-body join vertically down the breast, but all but hidden by wing when the bird was perching. Tail forked. Bill was dark, sharp and fairly long. Also documented November 12 at same location.

Least Flycatcher - P.D. Hulce November 11, 1994

Very small, gray Empidonax. Short bill. Short primary projection. White throat and wingbars. Prominent eye-ring, slightly pointed on back side. Twitched wings and tail. In riparian area at Attwater NWR.

Ash-throated Flycatcher - J. Morgan November , 1994

Obvious Myiarchus flycatcher. Olive brown above; very light gray throat; pale yellow belly and under tail coverts. Rufous in wings and tail. Bill all black and much less robust than Brown-crested Flycatcher. Diagnostic tail pattern was not seen from viewing angle but bill size, shape and color convinced me this was Ash-throated.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - J. Morgan November , 1994

Light grayish-white bodied flycatcher with

extremely long dark tail. All black bill. Salmon wash on sides.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - P.D. Hulce November 19, 1994

Very light, almost white bird, about size if a Mockingbird. Very long tail feathers. Warm pinkish flanks and auxiliary area. Flycatching from power line.

Cave Swallow - W. Risser November 12, 1994 Same notes as October.

Philadelphia Vireo - W. Risser November 16, 1994

Yard in West U. Gray-green back, grayer crown, white supercilium. dark eye stripe and lores. Thick bill.

White upperparts with yellow on breast and undertail coverts. About same size as Orange-crowned Warblers in same flock.

Bronzed Cowbird - P. D. Hulce November 3, 1994

Head and body concolor, blue-black. Large puffy neck and nape. Dark wings. Red eye. Seen in large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds.

Bronzed Cowbird - P.D. Hulce November 20, 1994

Uniformly dark blackbird, slightly smaller and with shorter tail than Common Grackle. Puffy neck. Red eye.

Documentation was also received for Glossy Ibis from John Whittle.

1995 ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the OG requires membership in the Outdoor Nature Club. Both memberships begin on January 1 and end December 31. Memberships purchased during the first nine months of the year apply to that year; however, memberships purchased in the last three months (i.e., October, November and December) are applied to those months and to the entire following year.

The OG has Regular (single) and Family memberships. Each membership receives one subscription to The Spoonbill (eleven issues). Subscriptions to The Spoonbill only (without membership) are also available.

PLEASE INDICATE CHOICE:

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(OG \$12 + ONC \$8)

_____ FAMILY.....\$40.00

(OG \$24 + ONC \$16)

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_____ NEW MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION? _____ RENEWAL?



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(Please use the form of your name/names as you wish them to appear in the Membership Roster.)

Checks are preferred. Make payable to: ONC Treasurer
Mail to: ONC Membership Chair, 7422 Foxton Place Court, Houston, TX 77095

BARKER RESERVOIR SPECIES INVENTORY/CHECKLIST

Richard Long, Park Manager, and Kris Tidwell, Park Ranger responsible for educational programs, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Barker and Addicks Reservoirs, expressed an interest to compile species inventories/checklists for Barker Reservoir (and maybe eventually Addicks Reservoir also). I have volunteered to help coordinate the gathering of data.

Copies of your records and observations of birds, animals and plants in Barker and Addicks Reservoirs are needed. Please indicate in which portions of the reservoir(s) the observations were made, if such information is available. Any records from past Buffalo Bayou Christmas Bird Counts from these sites are also most welcome. (Unfortunately we have not kept the results from Barker and Addicks separated from the rest of our observations.) Barker Reservoir includes Cullen-Barker Park. Addicks Reservoir includes Bear Creek Park and Cullen Park. Thanks for your help. *Bob Honig, 3803 Purdue, Houston, TX 77005-1129*

LAKE JACKSON GOLF COURSE PLANS REVIVED *Your Help is Needed*

The city of Lake Jackson, Texas is proposing to clear a 204-acre tract of mature bottomland forest near the lower Brazos River to build a golf course. The tract is within a larger (1200-1600 acre) forest and contains stands of huge (to 7-foot diameter and 90-foot height) live oaks, water oaks, Shumard oaks, pecans, green ash, water tupelo, resurrection fern and even native canebrake. It contains many old sloughs and oxbows and hundreds of ponded depressions. A few native forests left in this lower Brazos/San Bernard River bottoms were specifically identified by Dr. Sidney Gathreux in his radar studies of trans-Gulf migrating birds as stopover habitat for great numbers of songbirds during spring migration.

The site is just to the west of the SH 332 and FM 2004 intersection, just west of Lake Jackson. It lies adjacent to the Lake Jackson Wilderness Park.

Gretchen Mueller, Executive Director of Houston Audubon Society (HAS), is currently gathering any site specific bird lists and other pertinent natural history information on this or adjacent forest tracts in Brazoria County which HAS members might have, to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies document its value. If you know of any such information, or wish to visit the adjacent Wilderness Park to help in the documentation efforts, please contact Gretchen at 932-1639. It is expected that the permit to fill wetlands on the site (clearing would follow) will be submitted soon. Now is the time to act!

The Spoonbill

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EDITOR: Judy Boyce
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MAILING: Gregg Mueller and Liz Dear

MAILING LABELS: Pat Wight



CHAIRMAN: David Bradford
855-2615

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Bob Luckner

TREASURER: Mike Gremillion

SECRETARY: Maggie Honig

FIELD TRIPS: Dwight Peake

(409) 740-4621

PROGRAMS: Steve Bennett

LIBRARY/RESOURCES: M. A. Correll

LEARNING CORNER: Karen Beekman

MEMBERSHIP: Mary Pat Haddican

241-5315

ALUMINUM RECYCLING: Bob Schwartz

BIRDING MAPS: P. D. Hulce



CLEARINGHOUSE REPORTS

Ornithology Group

P.O. Box 271374

Houston, Texas 77277



TEXAS RARE BIRD ALERT TAPE:

Houston Audubon Society

NOEL'S NICHE

BY NOEL PETTINGELL

20 AND 10 YEARS AGO/FROM DECEMBER 1974 & 1984 SPOONBILLS:

1954: As noted in the minutes, Ben Feltner's records show the decline and disappearance of the Brown Pelican in this locality. "On the return ferry trip to Galveston, our efforts to locate a Frigatebird amongst the myriad Brown Pelicans was again to no avail." We have some active members who were on that trip 20 years ago: Jerry Baker, Jimmy Murray, Norma Oates, Noel Pettingell, Leota Stilwell, Josephine Wilkin and Ella Wolfer. [Remember that trip, folks?] There are quite a number of our members who have seen the Frigatebird, but never a Brown Pelican.

1984: A newspaper item recently gave some encouraging news on Brown Pelicans [though not for our area]. "There's a baby boom among California's Brown Pelicans and ecologists are tickled pink. The Brown Pelican became an endangered species after only one of the species was born four years ago. This year, however, there have been 305 births reported by the California Fish and Game Department. The count was made by teams of federal and state biologists on west Aracapa Island and Santa Cruz Island off the southern California coast. The insecticide DDT was blamed for disrupting the reproductive ability of the pelicans threatening them one with extinction. Use of the chemical is now restricted. State officials said further encouraging signs of the pelican population's rebounding have been reported on islands off coastal Mexico."

Proposed Budget 1995

The proposed 1995 budget for the OG was presented and accepted by the membership at the December 5, 1994 meeting. The final vote on acceptance will be held at the next regular meeting on January 9, 1995. If you have any questions, additions, modifications, or other changes please contact the treasurer, Mike Gremillion, at 665-8502.

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| SURPLUS (1994) | \$2,200.00 |
| INCOME | |
| MEMBERSHIP | \$4,800.00 |
| SALES | \$325.00 |
| INTEREST | \$50.00 |
| TOTAL | \$5,175.00 |
| EXPENSE | |
| SPOONBILL | \$2,900.00 |
| MEETINGS | \$1,700.00 |
| FACILITIES | \$80.00 |
| LIBRARY | \$200.00 |
| SUPPLIES | \$125.00 |
| HAWK COUNT | \$200.00 |
| XMAS COUNT BOAT | \$400.00 |
| YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP | \$800.00 |
| TOTAL | \$6,405.00 |
| SURPLUS (1995) | \$970.00 |

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