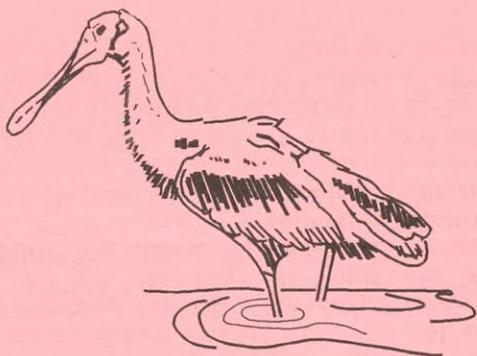


The Spoonbill



Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club Houston, Texas
Judith Mueller Boyce, Editor; Don Richardson, Technical Consultant

VOLUME XLI, No. 12
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COMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 9: OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY AND WALLER COUNTY. Join this all-day 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. Follow Hwy. 6 north to Clay Road. Turn right on Clay and continue past the golf course to the jogging trail parking lot. Bring a sack lunch.

Sunday, January 10: "BEGINNERS" OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY AND WALLER COUNTY. A trip just for beginners that will go slow and easy. David Bradford will help the beginner identify and find sparrows. We will also see geese, ducks and hawks. We will meet at 7:30 A.M. in Bear Creek Park at the jogging trail parking lot (see directions above). Bring lunch. Questions? Call David at 855-2615.

Monday, January 11: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. 7:30 P.M. Harris County Bayland Community Center located on the north side of Bissonnet just west of Hillcroft. Field identification expert and author, Jon L. Dunn, will present a program on the intricacies of North American flycatcher identification. Birding since age eight, Jon has spent most of his life in California where he began writing field identification articles for Western Tanager and Birding at age 23. In 1981 he, along with Kimball Garrett, published Birds of Southern California, and he has since published numerous articles in most of the finest ornithological journals. Jon also served as chief consultant for both editions of the National Geographic Society Birds of North America and is considered one of North America's top field identification experts. Jon's excellent slides and thorough coverage of the subject will open your eyes with a better way to view this difficult family of birds. Learning Corner is at 7:00 P.M. Waterfowl will be discussed.

Wednesday, January 20: WEEKDAY FIELD TRIP TO BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK. We will visit Brazos Bend State Park for a half-day looking for winter resident passerines, as well as waterfowl and raptors. We'll also stop at Davis Estates ponds to see if we can spot Bald Eagle and perhaps Tundra Swan. Meet trip leaders, Gail Luckner and Winnie Burkett, at 8:00 A.M. near the restrooms at 40-Acre Lake. Bring your scope! For more details, call Gail Luckner 328-6236.

Saturday, January 23: OG FIELD TRIP TO JONES STATE FOREST AND HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK. At Jones State Forest we will look for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Brown-headed Nuthatch and at Huntsville State Park we hope to find Wood Duck, White-breasted and Red-breasted Nuthatch, Winter Wren and Purple Finch. Last year we found seven species of woodpecker. Meet, Jim Stewart, at the headquarters to Jones State Forest at 7:30 A.M. Follow I-45 north from Houston about 35 miles to FM 1488. Turn west (left) on FM 1488. The headquarters is 1.4 miles west of I-45 on the north (right) side of FM 1488. At 11:00 A.M. we will meet Dick Payne at Huntsville State Park headquarters. You may join us for both or just one of our stops. David Bradford, 855-2615.

Saturday, January 30: OG "WINTER" PELAGIC TRIP. Here we go again! OG pelagic trip out of Freeport, Texas. The 65-foot Lady Ana will leave Freeport at 6:30 A.M. and return to dock about 6:00 P.M. The cost per person is \$46.00. We will take about 40 birders and NO FISHERMEN. The intent of this trip is to look for near-shore wintering sea birds such as Northern Gannet, scoters, Pomarine and Parasitic Jaegers and Black-legged Kittiwake. We will not go out beyond 20 miles. To reserve your spot, I must have your \$46.00 check made payable to Captain Elliot Party Boat by January 5, 1992. Mail your checks to David Bradford, 18046 Green Hazel Drive, Houston, 77084, ASAP. There is a Motel 6 within 15 minutes from the boat,

(409) 265-4764. To get directions to the boat, call Captain Elliot's Party Boat at (409) 233-1811 or from Houston 225-3497. David Bradford, 855-2615.

Monday, February 1: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. 7:30 P.M. Harris County Bayland Community Park. Texas Parks and Wildlife superintendent and photographer Kelly Bryan will present a program about the birds of Davis Mountains State Park. Learning Corner at 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, February 6: OG FIELD TRIP TO SAN BERNARD AND BRAZORIA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES. We will visit two very "birdy" refuges on the Upper Texas Coast. Birds expected include ducks, geese, Sandhill Cranes, raptors and sparrows. We hope to see LeConte's and Grasshopper Sparrow. Local guides will show us their favorite spots within the two refuges. Meet our first leader, Warren Pruess, at the headquarters of San Bernard NWR at 7:45 A.M. After an active morning in this refuge we will meet our second leader, Tom Morris, at 1:30 P.M. at the Brazoria NWR headquarters to finish out our day of birding. You may join us for one or both refuges. To reach San Bernard NWR, take Hwy. 288 south through Angleton to Lake Jackson. Turn right on FM 2004. Follow FM 2004 for about ten miles, crossing the Brazos and San Bernard Rivers, to the refuge sign. Follow the sign left for about one mile to the next refuge sign. At the second refuge sign go right onto the dirt road that leads to the refuge headquarters. Allow 1.5 hours drive time from Houston. Bring insect repellent.

Saturday, February 20: OG FIELD TRIP TO TEXAS CITY DIKE AND GALVESTON ISLAND. At the dike we expect to find wintering loons and ducks. In the past we have found Pacific Loon and Common Goldeneye at Texas City Dike. Galveston Island is always exciting this time of year. Meet our leader, Arch Dillard, at Texas City Dike at 7:30 A.M. To reach the dike take the Gulf Freeway (I-45 south) to the College of the Mainland/Texas City exit, FM 1764. Follow FM 1764 east (which becomes the Palmer Highway, which then becomes 9th Avenue) all the way through Texas City until it ends near the water front. Turn right at the "T" intersection and then turn right at the first traffic light. Turn left onto the dike road. On the left is a parking lot where we will meet. Call David Bradford at 855-2615 with any questions.

NEWS BRIEFS

.....**PLEASE WELCOME NEW OG MEMBERS:** Vaughn Hamilton of Wharton, Tina V. Fanning, Patricia L. Ireland and Nancy S. Callery of Houston, Pat Foreman of Baytown and Mark Elwonger of Victoria.

.....**AN INFORMATION HOTLINE FOR SOUTHERN BRAZORIA COUNTY** includes information for birders. Through the auspices of the Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Complex, refuge and birding reports are available by calling (409) 297-3447, extension 242. Extension 515 is also available for "exotic" or unusual birds. If no unusual birds are reported in the area, there will be nothing on this tape.

.....**COLORADO FIELD TRIP, JUNE 4-13, 1993:** The time is here to reserve rooms in Estes Park, the gateway city to Rocky Mountain National Park. If you are interested in participating, please call David Bradford to make arrangements. The basic itinerary is to fly to Denver, rent a van and spend three nights in Fort Collins exploring various parks and Pawnee National Grasslands. Three nights will be in Estes Park, and the next two or three nights will be spent in Denver birding the foothills and mountains of the area. Birds of particular interest include White-tailed Ptarmigan, Williamson's Sapsucker, Lewis and Three-toed Woodpecker, Mountain Plover, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared and McCown's Longspur, Pine Grosbeak, Rosy Finch, Cassin's Finch and many more. Please call ASAP so the correct number of rooms can be reserved. David Bradford, 855-2615.

.....**NEW WATERFOWL PROJECT, WOLFWEED RESERVOIR PROJECT, DEDICATED AT SAN BERNARD NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.** The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) recently announced a partnership project at its San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) near the mouth of the San Bernard River. Teaming up with FWS to support the waterfowl project are Phillips Petroleum Company, Ducks Unlimited and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Named after a low-value plant that covers much of the area, the Wolfweed Reservoir Project will provide the Refuge with much-needed water during waterfowl migration seasons.

The planned 374-acre reservoir will provide moist soil areas rich in waterfowl foods, eliminate areas of dense, undesirable wolfweed, provide resting and feeding habitat for a wide variety of migratory birds, provide freshwater inflows to the brackish marshes damaged by saltwater intrusion and enhance other conditions for wildlife using the Refuge. It is estimated that the Wolfweed Reservoir Project will be complete in the fall of 1993. **FWS News Release, November 3, 1992.**

.....**IS IT TIME FOR A NEW SPOONBILL LOGO TO GO WITH OUR** new typeface? Please send your drawings to be considered to The Spoonbill Editor, Judy Boyce.

.....PLEASE NOTE: THE BOARD OF THE OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB HAS VOTED to raise ONC dues from \$5 to \$8, effective 1 February 1993. This would raise total dues for OG members to \$17.00. (Get your checks in the mail to save a few bucks.) The Board's vote was based on rising costs and the fact that ONC dues have not been increased in quite a few years. OG costs similarly have increased. I would like to entertain a motion at the next OG meeting to increase OG dues from \$10 to \$12 (thus total ONC/OG dues would be \$20.00. If such a motion is made, this announcement will serve as advance notice to the OG membership so a vote can be taken immediately. **Bob Honig, OG Chairman.**

.....MINUTES OF OG MEETING, DECEMBER 7, 1992: David Bradford wrapped up his great sparrow identification session for the Learning Corner.

Chairman Bob Honig opened the meeting at 7:30 P.M. The proposed budget [shown below] for 1993 was presented and will appear in the December issue of The Spoonbill prior to membership voting on its approval at the January 11, 1993 meeting. Following a brief business meeting and field trip announcements, Bob requested notable bird sightings. Among the notables were Pyrrhuloxia, Ferruginous Hawk, Mountain Bluebird and Rufous Hummingbird.

Gail Luckner announced that the January meeting will be on the second Monday, January 11, and that Jon Dunn will be the speaker. Gail then introduced writer and photographer, John Tveten, who proceeded with a wonderful presentation of slides and stories of his trip to the Galapagos Islands. He explained the islands northwest of Ecuador are not tropical due to the cool (58-70 degree) Humboldt Current. Mr. Tveten described the system of tectonic plates in the area, the discovery of the Galapagos, evidence of visits from the Inca of Peru and Charles Darwin's visit which contributed to his theory of natural selection. Mr. Tveten introduced us to Lava Gulls, California Sea Lions, marine Iguanas and Lava Lizards. Mr. Tveten described snorkeling in grottos of crystal blue water where fur seals would make nose-to-nose contact while investigating the humans. Nesting Blue-footed Booby, Great Frigatebird, Tree Cactus, 700 lb. tortoise...there is a lot to wonder at in the Galapagos and the slide presentation whetted many appetites. **Christine Bourgeois, Secretary.**

1993 PROPOSED ORNITHOLOGY GROUP BUDGET

REVENUE

Membership Dues	\$3800
Spoonbill Subscriptions	230
Interest	210
Sales (maps, checklist)	175
Donations	0
	<u>\$4415</u>

EXPENSES

Spoonbill printing	\$2200
Bulk mailing	450
Post Office Box	39
Library	200
Program expense	850
Misc. supplies, stamps	100
Copying-forms, lists	100
Publicity	150
	<u>\$4089</u>
<u>BALANCE</u>	\$ 326

(Because the Budget for the oncoming year is prepared in early December, year-end values are not available and projected values are used.) **Frank S. Peace, OG Treasurer**

.....THE HAWK MIGRATION ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA (HMANA) will hold its sixth general conference on April 2-4, 1993, in Corpus Christi. The conference, held every five years, is timed to the passage of key spring migrations of raptors in Texas. William B. Clark, co-author of the Peterson Field Guide, Hawks, will lead organized raptor tours in South Texas before and after the HMANA Conference VI. The conference will offer extensive slide and video shows by some of the nation's top raptor experts, scientific papers on raptor migrations, and raptor conservation and re-introduction plans. Details can be obtained by writing HMANA Conference VI, 6100 Bandera, Suite 508, San Antonio, Texas 78238-1653.

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

By Noel Pettingell

10 YEARS AGO/FROM DECEMBER 1982 SPOONBILL

On Coping with Non-birders by Dorothy Dimsdale

A birder's spouse leads a lonely life. A birder can bird anywhere as long as the outdoors can be seen; almost every other hobby is limited to either specific time periods or to particular localities. From another viewpoint, one could say that a birder can be a pain in the neck 24 hours a day! ...do birders ever consider what a drag they are to their partners? For instance, lugging bird books and binoculars everywhere and looking for birds everywhere. Examples: A shriek of rapture was once heard coming from inside a restroom in the San Gabriel Mountains when a Western Bluebird nest was discovered there. Another time, through the window of a church during a funeral, a longspur species was sighted. The specifications were not noted, as the binoculars were wrenched from the birder's hands by the indignant spouse.

I love my creature comforts, and yet on a recent Monterey pelagic trip, there I stood, up forward, facing a cold wind and a driving fine rain. Feeling seasick, cold and wet...I was **NOT** happy. ...I swore I would never again set foot on a boat. Almost immediately, a black blob appeared 150 yards from the boat and someone called, "Get that bird!" ...bobbing up and down before us was a Tufted Puffin. A life bird and my 400th state bird! Suddenly, I was wildly happy. I didn't want to be anywhere else in the world, right at that moment. Try to explain that to a nonbirder and you'll get a sideways look. [The Western Tanager, Los Angeles Audubon Society]

ARTICLES

IS THERE A DIAL TONE?

by Pat Marks

Everyone gets phone calls. Some are more memorable than others. Pat Marks, naturalist at the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center, says that the following "was the best phone conversation I've had in my entire life," and has offered to take a lie detector test to document that she did not exaggerate her account in the slightest.

Caller: Hello, can you help me identify these birds I see in my backyard?

Pat: I can try.

Caller: Well, I live off of Memorial [Drive] ... and these birds come to my backyard every afternoon around four o'clock. They fly in flocks of 25 to a dozen and they look just like a duck except they don't have a duck's bill. They are bright beige and have spots on their backs. I used my binoculars to look at them and then I paged through the bird book and they look exactly like a flicker, but my husband said they aren't woodpeckers.

Pat, using the Socratic method: Do they feed on the ground?

Caller: Yes, they're all over the ground.

Pat: What color are their legs?

Caller: Their legs are not long and we don't get our lawn mowed until Friday!

Pat, gamely forging ahead anyway: Well, it sounds like they could be Mourning Doves.

Caller: No, they aren't doves because they aren't gray. They are bright beige!

Pat: Some of the doves in this area are beige with spots. Can you see the way that they move? Doves move their head forward and then the body follows.

Caller: I can't see them -- it's not four o'clock, yet. But they might move like that. Just look out your window at four.

Pat, continuing on just for the pure joy of it: What size are these birds?

Caller: I don't know, I don't have any way to measure them.

Pat: Compared to the size of a Blue Jay for instance ...

Caller: Well, they are as big as a Blue Jay--if a Blue Jay were smaller.

Pat: Gosh, these birds sound very interesting. Please give me a call when you find out what they are!

Caller: Oh, I will. They really do look just like a duck.



BOLIVAR FLATS - NOVEMBER 18, 1992

by Gail Diane Luckner

A blustery day threatening rain, and a high tide, along with a fine assortment of shorebirds, greeted 13 intrepid birders at Bolivar Flats on this Wednesday morning OG field trip.

A single, obliging Red Knot made an appearance early in the trip and allowed leaders Gail Luckner and Winnie Burkett to compare size, shape and bill with nearby Black-bellied Plovers, Western Sandpipers, Dunlins and Sanderlings. Several novice birders in the group had their first looks at Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone and Long-billed Curlew and were treated to the beauty and wonder of over 3000 American Avocets. And Al Clarke got his target bird for the day--American Oystercatcher.

While six tern species stood side-by-side, birders tried to differentiate Common from Forster's and Caspian from Royal. Hundreds of Black Skimmers lined up for inspection, and a few of them exhibited their "skimming" behavior at close range. After learning adult and immature Brown Pelican plumages, Barbara Horvitz accepted the challenge of counting numbers of each as she picked them out from among the large flock of American White Pelicans. Many of the birders also identified their first Black-shouldered Kites when two of these stunning birds sailed overhead.

As we headed for the marsh, Burkett explained the dynamics of the flats and how they are actually "man-made-created" by sediment deposits channeled from the jetties. In front of us, a female Merlin straffed the salt pans, scaring up hundreds of Western Sandpipers and Dunlins, and Savannah Sparrows popped up all around us.

In all, the OG birders identified 48 species, and the several newcomers to the area put Bolivar Flats at the top of their list for great places to see birds.

WEST HARRIS COUNTY FIELD TRIP NOVEMBER 21, 1992

by P.D. Hulce

For several days preceeding November 21st, clouds and rain dominated the local weather scene. This did not deter over 30 enthusiastic OG birdwatchers who showed up at Bear Creek Park on the cool, cloudy, windy morning of the 21st. Caravanning west on Clay Road, our first stops in the area of Peek and Porter roads had very few birds, thanks to the wind and to duck hunting season. Stockdick School Pond provided good looks at Black-crowned Night Herons, and in the hedgerows across the street, we had our best assortment of dickie birds of the day, highlighted by Harris' Sparrow and eight Pine Siskins. Further north on Pitts Road, five Fulvous Whistling Ducks were picked out of the flock of over 1000 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, an awesome spectacle of squealing waterfowl. Our next stop on Loganbaugh Road produced our largest concentration of waterfowl for the day, with Green-winged Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, and Snow Goose numbering in the thousands.

Continuing west on Sharp Road, the high winds completely frustrated our efforts to lure any passerines out of the woods, although it did provide some excellent flying demonstrations by several Caracara in Waller county. By lunchtime, we were headed north on Penick Road. In quick order, we had the two Ferruginous Hawks and an adult Bald Eagle in view, all at the same time. Most excellent!

We stopped at Mound Creek on Mathis Road to have lunch, and while eating, Pyrrhuloxias began popping out of the brushy fenceline, five in all. By this time, the approaching storm front was becoming very noticeable. It was obvious our birding day would be cut short. I still hoped to see some more sparrows, and so we headed from some of my favorite hedgerows, northeast of Hockley. Another 30 minutes of birding added a lovely Pine Warbler and some Carolina Chickadees, but the sparrows continued to elude us, and it was starting to rain, on and off.

As we pulled off the road at what I assumed would be our final stop of the day, observant birder Bob Schwartz, in the last car, quickly reported that he may have had a Mountain Bluebird! We drove the two blocks back to where he had spotted the bird and found it in the same spot, flycatching from a fence by the side of the road. The rain was just starting to come down as a dozen entranced birders watched this sky blue bird of the western mountains and struggled with raincoats. The bottom fell out, the bird disappeared and the November OG field trip was officially over. On Sunday the 22nd, the Mountain Bluebird was relocated and seen and photographed by several observers, but by Monday the 23rd, it had move on and was not seen again.

If participants on the trip will send or phone me their address or fax number, I will send you a bird list for this trip. P.D. Hulce, 339 West 23rd St., Houston, TX 77008-2030, 863-1142.

OG FIELD TRIP WEST HARRIS COUNTY by Bryan Tarbox

[Bryan Tarbox, young son of Bill Tarbox, participated in the November 21st field trip lead by P.D. Hulce. This is his side of the story! Ed.]

About 20 birders joined trip leader P.D. Hulce on our field trip to West Harris County. The day started with fair weather conditions and worsened throughout the day. We met at Bear Creek Park and headed to Peek Road and stopped to look around. We didn't see much, but we did see a Krider's Hawk and then we continued.

It was fairly good birding and then at about 11:35 A.M. we reach Penik Road, which turned out to be the best birding of the trip. First, P.D. Hulce pointed out two Ferruginous Hawk. As everyone looked at them, an adult Bald Eagle flew by giving everyone a good look. One Ferruginous flew off and then the other one flew up and circled giving us all great looks. We went to Mathis Road to have lunch and while some of our group went to Sonic Drive-Inn, those who stayed saw about three Pyrrhuloxia. The day had been poor for sparrows.

Someone told P.D. that we were in a Tornado Watch so instead of going into eastern Waller County, we went to Bauer Hockley and Bauer Road. At Bauer Hockley it wasn't too good for birding, but when we were about to leave someone said they saw a Mountain Bluebird. We all ran back to see it. We found it just before rain started to pour. Everyone got a good look at the spectacular Mountain Bluebird!

BIRDING THE MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN MEXICO

by Jim Day and Rob Thacker

A five-day drive through the Sierra Madre Oriental of Nuevo Leon and Coahuila in late November yielded few of the tropical and "Mexican" species hoped for. Seen instead were birds more associated with Big Bend or southeastern Arizona.

The trip had a propitious beginning. The first bird of the trip, seen south of Monterrey at the entrance to Cola de Caballo (Horsetail Falls), was a Blue-crowned Motmot. At the falls, our excitement mounted as we were greeted in turn by Painted Redstart (5), Clay-colored Robin, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Green and Gray-breasted Jay, Black Phoebe, Western Tanager, Black-throated Green and Rufous-capped Warbler. The last, a pretty bird with yellow breast seen at close range with its tail cocked, twitched much like an irritated wren.

Moving west higher into the mountains, we arrived at San Isidro, where cliffs are home to Maroon-fronted Parrot, but not past early November, we learned to our chagrin. But we were mollified by Yellow-eyed Junco,

Mexican Chickadee, Bridled Titmouse, more Painted Redstart and Acorn Woodpecker. Interestingly, the woodpeckers were pounding acorns not just into light poles but also into a stone wall around loosely placed mortar.

After a cold night in an unheated motel room in the mountain village of La Cienega (the marsh), we headed west, out of the mountains and toward the city of Saltillo. Never heard of it? It was once the capital of Texas. Diverting us en route were a beautiful male Townsend's Warbler and White-throated Swifts, plus many of the birds already seen.

Not diverting us were Gray-silky Flycatcher, Crescent-chested Warbler, Olive Warbler and Brown-backed Solitaire--birds we had hoped for. Do they leave the high mountains in winter? Did the cold weather drive them south? Oh, well. Live and learn.

South of Saltillo is an altiplano, surrounded by mountains and populated by the adorable Mexican prairie dog. The setting suggested Prairie or Aplomado Falcon, but raptors actually seen were Ferruginous Hawk and American Kestrel.

This sweeping landscape is also home to Worthen's Sparrow, a near look-alike to our Field Sparrow. We had been advised we would have to traipse the grassy fields to kick up this elusive creature. But no sooner had we parked than a flock of 60 or more sparrow-like birds landed nearby on bushes, fence and the ground. Several fed almost at our feet, with Canyon Towhees. With plain breast, pink bill and chestnut cap, the bird does closely resemble Field Sparrow. But the white eye ring is prominent and complete. There is no line behind the eye. And the legs are blackish. Yep, that must be a Worthen's Sparrow.

The nearby village of Tanque Emergencia (Emergency Tank, presumably something to do with the nearby railroad) contained something completely different: cultivated cactus gardens of prickly pear and century plant. Drawn to this habitat were Western Bluebird, Lark Bunting, House Finch, Cactus Wren, Black-throated Sparrow, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Red-shafted Flicker and Vermilion Flycatcher. A resident proudly showed us her caged "red sparrow," in actuality a male House Finch.

Our last stop was an improvised campsite alongside a nearly dry creekbed near Sombreretillo, in the foothills of the Sierra Picacho, two hours' drive west of Falcon Dam. Habitat was thorn scrub but also oaks, "olive" and other substantial hardwoods. A dam at a farm house had created a small pond. That's where we saw a tree full of Audubon's Orioles, a good-sized flock of Pine Siskins, plus Great Kiskadee, Black-headed Grosbeak, Tropical Parula, Black-and-White Warbler and a pair of Hepatic Tanagers. Feeding in the rocky creekbed was an unexpected Rock Wren. More Clay-colored Robins were seen close by. Further down the creekbed, such Valley specialties as Brown Jay, Green Jay, Plain Chachalaca and White-tipped Dove were located. At dusk, and again at dawn, both Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and Eastern Screech Owl were heard clearly.

Also heard, but not seen, in the rocky creekbed in the middle of the night was an extremely loud cow. The stampeded scene from "Red River" flashed to mind, but troubled thoughts receded and sleep soon returned.

In summing up the trip, birds seen were species more of the temperate forest than the neotropics. Yet the sighting of numerous Painted Redstart (but not the hoped-for Slate-throated), Yellow-eyed Juncos and Bridled Titmouse in the rugged mountain setting, plus the Worthen's Sparrow in the stark altiplano, made the trip very much worthwhile--even if it meant exchanging traditional Thanksgiving turkey for enchiladas suizas and Cerveza Corona.

CLEARING HOUSE

November, 1992

Editors: Phyllis and Tony Frank

A total of 202 species were reported for the month. Interesting sightings this month included the second UTC record for Mountain Bluebird. Other notables included some lingering or out-of-range flycatchers. Read the remainder of the reports to find the other surprises.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted reports and documentation. Reports are due by January 3rd, but early reports are welcomed. 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	7-28	3/5	GA-1/1	JE-2/4
Grebe, Pied-bill	1-28	13/104	BR-5/31	CH-1/3
			GA-3/25	HA-2/4
			JE-1/1	
Pelican, Amer Wht	7-30	15/1576	U-1/2	BR-3/154
			GA-4/695	HA-3/353
			JE-3/370	
Pelican, Brown	7-26	5/936	GA-4/466	HA-1/470
Corm, Dbl-crested	1-28	16/691	U-1/6	BR-2/7
			GA-3/176	HA-5/383
			JE-4/117	
Corm, Olivaceous	7-30	10/105	FB-1/8	GA-5/42
			HA-1/40	
			JE-3/15	
Anhinga	8-14	2/3	FB-(2)14	HAFT; HA-WHC(1)8,8BT
Bittern, American	7-15	3/3	BR-2/2	CH-1/1
Heron, Great Blue	1-30	33/257	U-4/40	BR-7/36
			CH-4/13	
			FB-1/30	GA-5/56
			HA-8/66	JE-4/16
Egret, Great	1-30	30/276	U-4/51	BR-5/38
			CH-3/21	
			FB-1/15	GA-5/41
			HA-8/83	JE-4/27
Egret, Snowy	1-30	25/211	U-2/13	BR-5/28
			CH-4/17	
			FB-1/20	GA-4/61
			HA-3/14	JE-6/58
Heron, Little Blu	7-28	12/36	BR-4/8	CH-1/1
			FB-1/10	
			GA-2/2	HA-1/4
			JE-3/11	
Heron, Tricolored	1-28	13/36	BR-3/13	CH-2/2
			FB-1/6	
			GA-4/11	HA-1/2
			JE-2/2	
Egret, Reddish	7-26	3/5	BR-1/1	GA-2/4
Egret, Cattle	1-30	18/511	U-2/80	BR-2/31
			CH-2/12	
			FB-1/8	GA-1/10
			HA-9/367	JE-1/3
Heron, Grn-backed	14-14	1/1	FB-BB(1)14	HAFT

Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 1-28 18/200 U-1/12 BR-4/12 FB-1/12
GA-2/11 HA-8/151 JE-2/2

Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 7-15 4/10 BR-3/9 CH-1/1

Ibis, White 1-27 22/1402 U-1/20 BR-3/15 CH-4/791
FB-1/30 GA-3/101 HA-8/404 JE-2/41

Ibis, White-faced 1-28 17/979 U-1/1 BR-5/63 CH-2/660
FB-1/120 GA-2/2 HA-5/33 JE-1/100

ibis, sp. 8-27 2/177 HA-2/177

Spoonbill, Roseat 1-26 13/92 BR-4/26 CH-1/6 GA-4/33
HA-2/5 JE-2/22

Whsl-Duck, Fulvs 8-27 4/11 U-1/5 HA-3/6

Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd 8-27 12/6061 U-3/3200 BR-1/54
FB-1/300 HA-7/2507

Goose, Gr Wht-frn 1-27 20/14807 U-5/7550 BR-3/588
CH-3/88 FB-1/150 GA-1/60 HA-7/6371

Goose, Snow 1-27 23/264087 U-5/157500 BR-4/7557
CH-3/36225 FB-1/400 GA-1/250 HA-7/62015
JE-1/100 WA-1/40

Goose, Ross' 7-21 7/18 U-2/9 CH-2/2 FB-1/1 HA-2/6

Goose, Canada 7-27 6/287 U-1/250 BR-2/26 CH-1/1
HA-2/10

Duck, Wood 14-14 3/10 FB-1/3 HA-2/7

Teal, Green-wing 7-27 22/11038 U-2/2000 BR-5/4292
CH-3/610 GA-2/27 HA-8/4106 JE-2/3

Duck, Mottled 1-28 24/351 U-2/81 BR-6/72 CH-3/46
FB-1/3 GA-2/14 HA-5/58 JE-5/77

Mallard 7-21 10/71 U-1/6 BR-1/23 CH-2/4
FB-1/2 HA-4/35 JE-1/1

Pintail, Northern 1-27 19/17151 U-2/2500 BR-3/1002
CH-3/9 FB-1/60 GA-1/2 HA-9/13578

Teal, Blue-winged 1-27 15/695 BR-4/77 CH-3/56 FB-1/100
HA-4/434 JE-3/28

Teal, Cinnamon 7-7 1/1 BR-SB(1)7, GL

Shoveler, Northrn 1-28 31/21592 U-2/1300 BR-7/1834
CH-2/105 FB-1/10 GA-4/48 HA-11/18186
JE-4/109

Gadwall 1-28 19/4060 U-1/2 BR-3/3516 CH-4/230
FB-1/30 GA-1/11 HA-8/261 JE-1/10

Wigeon, American 1-28 13/4380 U-1/2 BR-5/3890
CH-1/25 FB-1/15 GA-1/9 HA-4/439

Canvasback 7-14 2/41 CH-AW(1)7, JJW; FB-DE(40)14, HAFT

Duck, Ring-necked 8-21 3/72 U-1/2 FB-1/40 HA-1/30

Scaup, Greater 7-7 1/6 CH-(6)7, BBT

Scaup, Lesser 7-28 12/964 BR-1/20 CH-2/9 GA-2/20
HA-4/95 JE-3/820

scaup, sp. 18-18 1/27 GA-1/27

Bufflehead 14-28 5/207 FB-1/1 HA-3/6 JE-1/200

Merganser, Hooded 27-27 1/1 HA-WHC(1)27, PS

Merganser, Red-br 8-18 3/3 GA-BF(1)14, JW; GA-BF(1)18, OW;
HA-WHC(1)8, BBT

Duck, Ruddy 8-28 5/2238 FB-1/10 HA-2/8 JE-2/2220

Vulture, Black 7-27 16/222 U-3/54 BR-4/48 CH-1/3
FB-1/50 HA-5/33 WA-2/34

Vulture, Turkey 1-27 28/754 U-5/395 BR-6/112 CH-3/28
FB-1/70 GA-2/4 HA-7/132 JE-3/7 WA-1/6

Osprey 7-30 2/3 CH-(2)7, BBT; HA-(1)18-30, PTF

Kite, Blk-shouldr 7-28 20/63 BR-6/26 CH-4/16 GA-3/10
HA-3/4 JE-3/6 WA-1/1

Eagle, Bald 14-27 4/5 U-2/2 FB-1/2 HA-1/1

Harrier, Northern 1-28 32/394 U-5/176 BR-7/43 CH-3/23
FB-1/10 GA-4/18 HA-7/117 JE-4/6 WA-1/1

Hawk, Sharp-shin 7-27 11/13 U-1/1 BR-3/3 CH-1/2
FB-1/2 HA-3/3 WA-2/2

Hawk, Cooper's 7-28 14/22 U-2/3 BR-2/3 CH-2/2
HA-5/7 JE-1/1 WA-2/6

Hawk, Red-shouldr 7-27 17/37 U-3/9 BR-3/5 CH-2/5
FB-1/6 HA-4/8 JE-2/2 WA-2/2

Hawk, Swainson's 8-8 1/1 WA-(1)8, B

Hawk, White-taild 7-28 7/19 U-1/2 BR-2/5 HA-1/2 WA-3/10

Hawk, Red-tailed 1-28 35/925 U-5/373 BR-7/55 CH-5/66
FB-1/4 GA-3/34 HA-7/319 JE-6/67 WA-1/7

(Hawk, Krider's) 21-21 1/1 HA-(1)21, OG

Hawk, Ferruginous 8-27 7/10 U-2/3 HA-2/2 WA-3/5

Caracara, Crested 7-27 14/40 U-3/9 BR-3/4 CH-1/1
HA-4/10 WA-3/16

Kestrel, American 1-30 33/846 U-5/306 BR-7/56 CH-3/65

Merlin FB-1/20 GA-4/42 HA-7/309 JE-5/30 WA-1/18
4-28 10/10 BR-2/2 CH-2/2 GA-2/2
HA-3/3 WA-1/1

Bobwhite, Northrn 7-19 4/61 U-2/26 BR-1/13 HA-1/22

Rail, Yellow 8-8 1/1 HA-WHC(1)8, BBT

Rail, Clapper 14-26 3/7 GA-2/6 JE-1/1

Gallinule, Purple 21-21 1/1 CH-AW(1)21, JW

Moorhen, Common 7-21 11/400 BR-5/99 CH-4/41 FB-1/150
JE-1/110

Coot, American 7-28 18/2055 BR-7/221 CH-4/6 FB-1/250
GA-1/3 HA-3/1216 JE-2/359

Crane, Sandhill 7-27 8/252 BR-5/223 FB-1/25 HA-1/2
WA-1/2

Plover, Blk-belli 1-26 10/856 BR-1/5 CH-2/22 GA-4/825
HA-2/3 JE-1/1

Plover, Snowy 14-26 2/5 GA-(3)14, JW; GA-(2)26, RU

Plover, Wilson's 8-8 1/1 JE-(1)8, JW

Plover, Semipalm 7-18 3/63 GA-2/60 WA-1/3

Plover, Piping 7-26 4/146 GA-4/146

Killdeer 1-30 31/1193 U-5/495 BR-6/96 CH-2/34
FB-1/15 GA-4/22 HA-7/406 JE-5/113 WA-1/12

Oystercatcher, Am 7-26 4/33 GA-4/33

Stilt, Black-neck 1-26 11/140 BR-3/14 CH-2/44 GA-2/46
HA-1/8 JE-3/28

Avocet, American 1-27 14/6714 U-1/2 BR-3/73 CH-2/12
FB-1/17 GA-4/6600 HA-3/10

Yellowlegs, Great 1-27 15/112 U-2/6 BR-3/22 CH-2/27
FB-1/5 GA-2/17 HA-2/14 JE-1/3 WA-2/18

Yellowlegs, Less 1-28 21/285 U-3/34 BR-4/45 GA-3/56
HA-5/65 JE-4/80 WA-2/5

Willet 7-28 11/429 BR-3/18 CH-1/2 GA-4/405
JE-3/4

Sandppr, Spotted 7-28 3/4 BR-1/1 JE-2/3

Curlew, Long-bill 1-30 18/185 U-2/4 BR-3/13 GA-5/96
HA-6/43 WA-2/29

Godwit, Marbled 7-26 4/214 GA-4/214

Turnstone, Ruddy 7-26 4/58 GA-4/58

Knot, Red 14-26 3/3 GA-BF(1)14, JW; GA-BF(1)18, OW;
GA-(1)26, RU

Sanderling 7-26 5/1490 CH-1/8 GA-4/1482

Sandppr, Semipalm 7-7 2/34 CH-(14)7, BBT; GA-(20)7, BBT

Sandppr, Western 7-27 17/8129 U-2/70 BR-4/24 GA-4/7500
HA-3/362 JE-2/135 WA-2/38

Sandppr, Least 7-28 13/404 U-1/10 BR-2/108 CH-1/1
GA-1/6 HA-3/80 JE-4/185 WA-1/14

Dunlin 7-27 9/1274 BR-3/125 CH-1/4 GA-4/1070
WA-1/75

peep, sp. 14-14 1/50 FB-1/50

Dowitcher, S-bill 7-26 6/604 CH-1/19 GA-4/560 JE-1/25

Dowitcher, L-bill 1-27 13/8716 U-4/6005 CH-2/251
HA-6/2160 WA-1/300

dowitcher, sp. 7-14 4/460 BR-3/420 FB-1/40

Snipe, Common 1-27 16/107 U-3/21 BR-1/1 CH-2/15
GA-1/7 HA-7/60 WA-2/3

Woodcock, Amer 15-15 1/1 JE-SW(1)15, JW

Gull, Laughing 7-30 8/13238 BR-1/13 GA-5/13150 JE-2/75

Gull, Franklin's 7-26 2/2 GA-(1)7, BBT; GA-(1)26, RU

Gull, Ring-billed 7-27 10/898 BR-2/27 FB-1/1 GA-4/767
HA-2/3 JE-1/100

Gull, Herring 7-26 4/58 GA-4/58

Tern, Caspian 7-28 12/138 BR-2/2 FB-1/2 GA-4/79
HA-1/3 JE-4/52

Tern, Royal 7-18 4/798 BR-1/1 GA-3/797

Tern, Sandwich 7-26 3/51 GA-3/51

Tern, Common 14-26 3/58 GA-3/58

Tern, Forster's 7-28 10/693 BR-2/6 GA-4/638 JE-4/49

Skimmer, Black 7-26 4/738 GA-4/738

Dove, Rock 1-30 14/536 U-3/70 BR-2/35 GA-4/155
HA-5/276

Dove, White-wingd 7-15 2/6 BR-(3)7, GS; JE-SW(3)15, JW

Dove, Mourning 1-28 30/916 U-5/285 BR-6/135
CH-2/30 FB-1/50 GA-3/64 HA-8/222
JE-4/35 WA-1/95

Dove, Inca 1-28 11/25 U-1/3 BR-1/1 HA-6/12 JE-3/9

Ground-Dove, Comm 21-27 2/3 U-(2)21, OG; HA-(1)27, M

Ani, Groove-billd 15-15 1/4 JE-SW(4)15, JW

Owl, Barn 27-27 1/1 WA-(1)27,M
 Screech-Owl, East 14-14 1/1 WA-(1)14,M
 Owl, Great Horned 7-22 3/3 BR-(1)7,DB; JE-SW(1)15,JW;
 JE-SW(1)22,JJW
Owl, Burrowing 16-16 1/1 BR-BW(1)16,PL
 Owl, Barred 7-21 2/5 U-(1)21,OG; BR-SB(4)7,GL
 Kingfisher, Belted 1-28 29/79 U-3/6 BR-5/18 CH-4/11
 FB-1/2 GA-3/13 HA-7/12 JE-6/17
 Wdpeckr, Red-head 8-27 2/2 HA-(1)27,DB; WA-(1)8,B
 Wdpeckr, Red-bell 1-27 10/38 U-1/2 BR-3/4 FB-1/10
 HA-2/2 WA-3/20
 Sapsuck, Yel-bell 7-28 7/20 BR-1/1 HA-2/6 JE-1/1 WA-3/12
 Wdpeckr, Downy 1-28 7/18 BR-1/4 FB-1/4 HA-2/2
 JE-1/1 WA-2/7
 Flicker, Northern 1-27 14/67 U-4/41 BR-1/1 FB-1/2
 HA-6/21 JE-1/1 WA-1/1
 Wdpeckr, Pileated 8-14 2/6 FB-BB(5)14,HAFT; WA-(1)8,B
 Wood-Pewee, East 7-7 1/1 BR-(1)7,GS
 Phoebe, Eastern 1-28 28/249 U-5/85 BR-5/48 CH-2/7
 FB-1/40 GA-3/3 HA-7/56 JE-4/8 WA-1/2
 Flycatch, Vermiln 7-14 4/9 BR-3/6 FB-1/3
 Flycatch, Ash-thr 7-14 2/2 BR-(1)7,TD; WA-(1)14,M
 Flycatch, Gr Crst 7-7 1/1 BR-SB(1)7,GL
 Kingbird, Western 14-14 1/1 GA-YB(1)14,JW
 Flycatch, Ss-tail 1-14 5/16 BR-2/5 GA-1/2 HA-2/9
 Lark, Horned 7-18 4/17 BR-1/1 GA-3/16
 Swallow, Tree 7-21 5/130 BR-3/20 CH-2/110
 Swallow, N R-wing 7-7 1/2 BR-(2)7,GS
 Swallow, Barn 7-7 1/6 BR-(6)7,DB
 Jay, Blue 1-28 18/89 U-3/20 BR-1/1 FB-1/2
 HA-8/41 JE-2/8 WA-3/17
 Crow, American 1-27 19/817 U-5/158 BR-4/50 FB-1/500
 HA-8/106 WA-1/3
 Chickadee, Carol 7-27 10/72 U-2/5 BR-3/33 FB-1/12
 HA-1/2 WA-3/20
 Titmouse, Tufted 7-27 6/56 BR-2/11 FB-1/35 WA-3/10
 Wren, Carolina 1-27 10/23 BR-2/2 FB-1/10 HA-4/5 WA-3/6
 Wren, Bewick's 8-27 5/13 HA-2/3 WA-3/10
 Wren, House 7-27 13/65 U-5/28 BR-2/2 CH-1/1
 GA-1/1 HA-4/33
 Wren, Sedge 7-28 7/14 BR-2/4 CH-1/1 HA-4/9
 Wren, Marsh 7-18 5/18 BR-3/8 GA-1/9 HA-1/1
 Kinglet, Gold-crn 15-15 1/3 JE-SW(3)15,JW
 Kinglet, Ruby-crn 1-27 21/399 U-5/218 BR-4/64 FB-1/12
 GA-1/5 HA-7/94 JE-2/5 WA-1/1
 Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 7-27 11/57 BR-3/16 FB-1/10 HA-2/7
 JE-2/5 WA-3/19
 Bluebird, Eastern 8-27 9/323 U-1/50 FB-1/6 HA-2/126
 JE-2/6 WA-3/135
 Bluebird, Mountn 21-21 2/1 HA-(1)21,OG; HA-(1),RS
 Thrush, Hermit 7-27 6/16 BR-1/1 GA-1/1 HA-1/1 WA-3/13
 Robin, American 8-27 13/3422 U-3/715 FB-1/2 GA-1/30
 HA-6/2631 JE-1/4 WA-1/40
 Catbird, Gray 8-27 4/5 HA-1/2 WA-3/3
 Mockingbird, N 1-27 28/415 U-5/135 BR-6/48 CH-1/4
 FB-1/5 GA-4/22 HA-8/182 JE-2/3 WA-1/16
 Thrasher, Brown 7-27 11/47 U-4/26 BR-2/9 FB-1/1
 HA-2/3 JE-1/2 WA-1/6
 Pipit, American 7-26 7/268 U-1/20 BR-2/171 FB-1/6
 GA-1/50 HA-2/21
 Pipit, Sprague's 21-21 1/2 CH-AW(2)21,JW
 Waxwing, Cedar 26-26 1/1 GA-(1)26,RU
 Shrike, Loggerhead 1-28 36/561 U-5/222 BR-7/67 CH-4/49
 FB-1/6 GA-4/28 HA-7/138 JE-7/35 WA-1/16
 Starling, Euro 1-27 25/3604 U-5/606 BR-2/95 CH-2/205
 FB-1/50 GA-3/595 HA-7/1478 JE-4/425
 WA-1/150
 Vireo, White-eyed 7-7 1/2 BR-(2)7,TD
 Vireo, Solitary 7-27 7/8 BR-1/1 FB-1/2 GA-1/1 HA-2/2
 WA-2/2
 Vireo, Yell-thrtd 7-7 1/1 BR-(1)7,GS
 Warb, Tennessee 7-7 1/1 BR-(1)7,GS
 Warb, Orange-crn 7-27 11/65 U-4/33 BR-2/12 FB-1/10
 GA-1/1 HA-2/8 JE-1/1
 Warb, Yellow-rump 1-27 20/987 U-5/655 BR-2/18 CH-2/8
 FB-1/40 GA-1/7 HA-5/246 JE-3/9 WA-1/4

Warb, Blk-thr Gra 7-7 1/1 BR-(1)7,TD
 Warb, Pine 7-27 9/18 U-1/1 BR-2/9 GA-1/1
 HA-4/5 WA-1/2
 Warb, Palm 7-7 1/2 BR-(2)7,TD
 Yellowthroat, Com 1-27 10/24 BR-4/11 FB-1/6 GA-1/2 HA-4/5
 Warb, Wilson's 7-7 2/2 BR-(1)7,TD; BR-(1)7,GS
 Cardinal, Northern 1-28 22/218 U-5/128 BR-4/11 FB-1/12
 HA-8/55 JE-3/6 WA-1/6
 Pyrrhuloxia 14-27 5/12 HA-WHC(2)27,M; HA-WHC(1)27,PS;
 WA-(1)14,M; WA-(5)21,OG; WA-(3)27,M
 Bunting, Indigo 7-7 4/10 BR-2/2 CH-1/5 GA-1/3
 Sparrow, Chipping 8-27 9/432 FB-1/8 HA-6/141 WA-2/283
 Sparrow, Field 8-27 10/46 U-2/7 FB-1/2 HA-5/34 WA-2/3
 Sparrow, Vesper 1-27 15/287 U-5/153 BR-2/3 HA-7/127
 WA-1/4
 Sparrow, Lark 28-28 1/2 BR-BW(2)28,WP
 Sparrow, Savannah 1-28 25/1519 U-5/579 BR-7/290
 CH-3/39 GA-2/12 HA-7/597 JE-1/2
 Sparrow, Grasshop 14-14 3/4 GA-BF(2)14,JW; HA-WHC(1)14,M;
 HA-WHC(1)14,PS
 Sparrow, Le Conte 14-27 3/50 HA-3/50
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 18-18 1/9 GA-BF(9)18,OW
 Sparrow, Seaside 7-26 4/10 GA-4/10
 Sparrow, Fox 8-27 4/7 HA-WHC(1)27,PS; WA-(1)8,B;
 WA-(3)14,M; WA-(2)27,M
 Sparrow, Song 7-27 12/53 U-3/12 CH-1/10 GA-1/1
 HA-5/28 JE-2/2
 Sparrow, Lincolns 8-27 10/164 U-4/101 FB-1/2 HA-5/61
 Sparrow, Swamp 7-27 17/92 U-5/34 BR-4/22 FB-1/6
 GA-2/5 HA-4/24 JE-1/1
 Sparrow, Wht-thrt 7-27 12/211 U-5/136 BR-3/8 FB-1/10
 HA-3/57
 Sparrow, Wht-crn 7-27 12/132 U-5/54 BR-1/2 HA-6/76
 Sparrow, Harris' 14-27 7/23 U-2/10 HA-4/10 WA-1/3
 Junco, Dark-eyed 27-27 3/5 HA-3/5
 Blackbird, Red-wg 1-27 27/18589 U-4/2680 BR-6/8502 CH-1/65
 FB-1/100 GA-2/50 HA-9/6532 JE-4/660
 Meadowlark, East 1-28 29/830 U-4/80 BR-7/289 CH-2/32
 FB-1/1 GA-4/43 HA-7/361 JE-2/3 WA-2/21
 Meadowlark, West 21-21 1/1 CH-AW(1)21,JW;
 meadowlark, sp. 8-27 2/210 U-2/210
 Blackbird, Rusty 8-8 1/3 HA-WHC(3)8,BBT
 Blackbird, Brewer 8-27 4/468 U-2/37 HA-1/400 WA-1/31
 Grackle, Gr-tail 1-28 21/3762 U-2/42 BR-3/1178 CH-1/500
 FB-1/50 GA-3/132 HA-7/1160 JE-4/700
 Grackle, Bt-tail 7-15 4/55 BR-2/18 CH-1/20 GA-1/17
 Grackle, Common 1-28 17/3701 U-2/600 BR-1/20 CH-1/60
 FB-1/30 GA-1/20 HA-8/2120 JE-3/851
 17-17 1/1 HA-(1)17,PD
 Cowbird, Bronzed 1-27 17/7313 U-5/2895 BR-2/56
 Cowbird, Brn-head CH-2/245 FB-1/100 HA-6/4015 WA-1/2
 blackbird, sp. 8-28 5/40167 U-2/3000 BR-2/167
 FB-1/10000
 (Oriole, Bullock) 7-7 1/1 BR-(1)7,TD
 Siskin, Pine 8-21 2/9 U-(8)21,OG; HA-WHC(1)8,BBT
 Goldfinch, Amer 14-27 12/197 U-3/44 FB-1/5 GA-1/35
 HA-5/63 JE-2/50
 Sparrow, House 1-28 18/282 U-5/89 BR-1/3 GA-3/32
 HA-7/118 JE-2/40

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 502775

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Bob Behrstock, Jim Morgan, Gretchen Mueller (B); Bryan and Bill Tarbox (BBT); David Bradford (DB); David Bradford, Garland Porter (DBP); Geneva LaVern, David and Elaine Wilson (GL); Gail Luckner, Steve Matherly (GS); Houston Arboretum FT/Bob Honig, Maggie Dinse (HAFT); John and Jana Whittle (JJW); John LaGroue (JL); John Whittle (JW); Jim Morgan (M); H. L. and Ellen Owens (MO); OG FT/P. D. Hulce (OG); OG Weekday FT (OW); P. D. Hulce (PD); Warren Pruess, Russel Leigon (PL); P. D. Hulce, Steve Schults (PS); Phyllis and Tony Frank (PTF); Richard Uzar (RU); Rob Thacker, Jim Day (TD); Warren Pruess (WP);

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); Brazoria NWR (BW); Davis

Estates Road (DE); San Bernard NWR (SB); Sabine Woods (SW); West Harris County (WHC); Yacht Basin Road (YB);

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

Purple Gallinule - J. Whittle November 21, 1992

Observed in the canal on the south-southeast side of Shoveler Pond at Anahuac NWR from a distance of 15 to 20 feet with 7X35 binoculars. The bird was feeding and walking on vegetation growing on surface of the canal. The bird was the size of a Moorhen, and of similar shape, but with longer legs and very long toes. The basic color was a vivid bluish-purple, especially on the neck and breast, with bluish-green wings. The undertail coverts were bright white, and frequently displayed. The outer 1/2 of the bill was yellow, the rest was red with a light blue forehead shield. It had bright yellow long legs with very long toes.

Burrowing Owl - W. Pruess, R. Leigon November 16, 1992

Small injured owl was found on the ground in a landscaped garden in front of a two-story building near industrial complex in Freeport, TX. Bird was unable to stand. A small owl with no ear tufts, yellow eyes, mottled buffy to brown plumage mostly spotted over the crown and nape, mostly barred in wings and tail. Lightly barred on the breast and belly. A dark brown "collar" extended across mostly white plumage throat. Cream colored plumage extended less than 1/2 down the proportionately long legs. Bird was cared for by TWRC rehabilitator, but died after 48 hours.

Ash-throated Flycatcher - J. Morgan November 14, 1992

At end of Harper's Church Rd. Responded to owl tape. Small myiarchus flycatcher with relatively small, all black bill, very pale gray throat and pale yellow lower belly. Crown and upperparts mouse gray-brown. Tail with much rufous, but black outer webs wrapped around to inner webs at tail tip. Extensive rufous in wings, plus two whitish wing bars. Bird called repeatedly, a quick, mellow "prrrt", very well-known to the observer. Seen for 5 minutes in excellent light as close as 5m.

Ash-throated Flycatcher - R. Thacker November 7, 1992

Observed at about 5 pm on the Scissor-tail Trail at San Bernard NWR. Bird had a very pale yellow lower belly and a gray throat. Tail was reddish brown. Had bright rust color on side of wing near breast. Two white wing bars. Smallish bill unlike Brown-crested Flycatcher. Yellow on belly did not seem bright enough to be a Great-crested Flycatcher. Had a crest which it raised in response to "pishing".

Great-crested Flycatcher - G. LaVern November 7, 1992

Bird was herded along Scissortail Trail, where it continued to flycatch and perch tamely on sunlit branches. Bird showed contrast between thick brown crest, ash-gray throat, mouse-gray nape, brown-gray back and lemon yellow belly. Red-bronze in folded primaries and fanned tail from tip to base. Heavy bill with black of upper and lower mandibles broken by orange at base of lower mandible and extending along outer edges as thin line halfway to tip. Viewed with 20X spotting scope.

Mountain Bluebird - P.D. Hulce November 21, 1992

A beautiful, ethereal azure-blue bird. Much lighter blue than eastern bluebird, with no brown or red markings or color anywhere. Underparts lighter than upperparts. Pale or eggshell blue on the breast, lightening to bluish-white on the belly. Appeared longer than Eastern Bluebird. Observed sitting and flying from barbed wire fence over short grazed pasture. Seen at northeast corner of Roberts Rd. and Bauer-Hockley Rd., north of 290. About 10 observers, as close as 30 feet. Relocated and photographed on November 22, 1991 at the same location.

Notes were also submitted by Robert Schwartz for Mountain Bluebird at this time and location.

Pyrrhuloxia - P.D. Hulce November 21, 1992

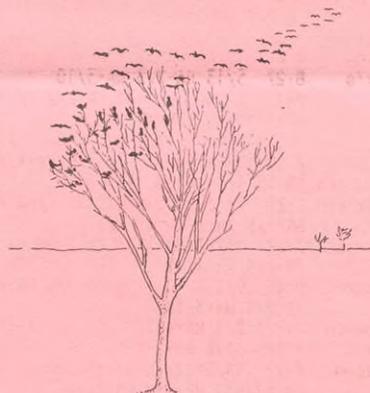
Large gray cardinal-like birds, with yellow beaks; wispy, long crests; wings and tail showed extensive cranberry. Observed on Mathis Rd. Notes were also submitted for a sighting near the above location on November 27 by this observer.

Black-throated Gray Warbler - R. Thacker November 7, 1992

Observed about 9 am at the Big Slough in Brazoria county just past the small cemetery. Was observed in a small flock of passerines including Ruby-crowned Kinglets and a Wilson's Warbler sitting on an exposed branch in a live oak tree. A black and white warbler with a bright yellow spot between the eye and the bill. It had a black throat and a black and white patterned head with white belly and gray back.

Fox Sparrow - J. Morgan November 8, 1992

Early fall arrival date. Attracted to bird by well-known "clock" call note. Large sparrow, primarily rufous with gray head and bicolor bill (lower mandible yellow). Heavy rufous splashing on white breast; rufous rump and tail. Seen in heavy yaupon thicket in fair light at 6m for one minute with 10X42 binoculars. Reports on Yellow-throated Vireo by G. D. Luckner and Western Kingbird by J. Whittle were submitted, but are not published in entirety because of space. Those observers are thanked for their reports.



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SEND CLEARING HOUSE bird sightings to: Clearing House,
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TEXAS RARE BIRD ALERT TAPE, sponsored by Houston Audubon
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SEND SPOONBILL MATERIAL to Editor, Judy Boyce, 5546
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hours.

OG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, dues, subscriptions and
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Drive, Houston, 77079, (713) 713/870-8238. Annual
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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

By the time you receive this Spoonbill, another successful Christmas Bird Count (CBC) period will have ended--or almost ended, if the U.S. Mail cooperates. It has been another year in which upper Texas coast (UTC) birders have had their choice of a large number of CBCs concentrated in a relatively small region. There are a dozen or so CBCs in the Houston vicinity that I regularly hear UTC birders mention, most are concentrated on the three weekends of the CBC period. Those of us who enjoy these events often must forego one or more counts because they occur on the same day as another in which we participate.

While CBCs are still fresh in our minds, I propose an approach to ease these conflicts: hold each UTC CBC every second year rather than annually, thus only about half the current number of UTC counts will occur in a given year.

There seems to be general agreement that the primary objective of CBCs is to have fun. There is a secondary objective of compiling a long-term record of bird populations, a record that often serves as an indicator of environmental quality. Neither of these goals would be

compromised by this plan. In fact, with this system birders can maintain commitments to certain counts, yet explore new areas in alternate years (that's more fun, isn't it?). From a compiler's viewpoint, every second year would have no pressure to organize a count (as a count compiler, I wouldn't mind that at all). Furthermore, the value of the long-term records provided by these counts would not be impaired; in fact, I suspect there will be increased participation in each count due to the elimination of conflicts, resulting in more thorough coverage.

I suggest a schedule in which one count from each of the following, somewhat adjacent pairs be held in alternate years: Houston/Old River; Freeport/San Bernard; Attwater/Cypress Creek; Brazos Bend/Brazoria; Galveston/Bolivar; Buffalo Bayou/Armand Bayou. Spring Creek would also need to be worked into the schedule.

What do you think? Please send your opinions to Spoonbill Editor Judy Boyce. I would especially like to hear from the compilers of each of the CBCs noted above. I also will send a copy of this to American Birds, the journal that coordinates the CBC program worldwide, for their thoughts.
Bob Honig, 665-6963

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