



# THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME X No. 9  
February 1961

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 \* "Boobies can be distinguished from all other sea \*  
 \* birds by their exceptionally short legs . . . . . \*  
 \* Boobies can maintain their balance on the wildest \*  
 \* of rolling, pitching buoys, no doubt due to their \*  
 \* low center of gravity. They have a perfectly \*  
 \* streamlined body and are real amphibians, that is, \*  
 \* they can swim as well as fly, and fly as well as \*  
 \* swim! In addition they are one of the most per- \*  
 \* fect high divers in the world . . . . The booby \*  
 \* swims so fast under the water that when it comes \*  
 \* up out of the water it emerges at an angle of 45 \*  
 \* degrees - on the wing - and is in full flight." \*  
 \* (From MIDWAY ISLANDS by F. C. Hadden) \*  
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### FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Feb. 18 (Saturday) Outdoor Nature Club Field Trip - Meet in Jasper, Texas for an over-night jaunt into the virgin timber of East Texas. For further information call Darris Massingill WA 1-4441.
  - Feb. 22 (Wednesday) Museum of Natural Science - Lecture Series: "Water World" by Stan Waterman, Hammand Hall, Rice University.
  - Feb. 26 (Sunday) O.G. Field Trip - All day boat trip to the Gulf of Mexico, approx. 40 miles out to see possible pelagic and other offshore birds. The "Miss Annie" (with enclosed cabin) will leave Galveston from Pier 18 at 8 A.M. Contact trip leader, Leota Stilwell, MA 3-8671 for reservations.
- GOOD NEWS ON FARE Thanks to the perseverance of Jerry Strickling, the "Miss Annie" has been reserved at the rate of \$10 per hour with a \$100 minimum charge. There is a maximum capacity of 26 -- so be sure you make a firm reservation. In the event of rough weather the trip will be cancelled. Bring adequate lunch, coffee, etc. for the day.
- Feb. 27 (Monday) Audubon Screen Tour - "Pika Country" by Emerson Scott, 8 P.M. Lamar High School
  - Mar. 14 (Tuesday) O.N.C. Regular Meeting at Herman Garden Center "Beauty of Earth Unfolds" by Photography Group.
  - Mar. 31 The T.O.S. Spring Meeting will be held in San Antonio on the week-end of March 31 - April 2. More details later.

NOTE:-- The George West O.G. field trip canceled.

### JANUARY 29th FIELD TRIP TO CINCO RANCH AND LONGENBAUGH AREA - by Carolyn Simmons

In spite of the threats of the weatherman, nineteen brave souls and avid birders were on hand for the trip to see the Sandhill Cranes. Those signing in were Bob and Mabel Deshayes, Victor Emanuel, Gwen Field, Fran Gucherean, Edna Miner, Ruth Moorman,

Norma Oates, George Sibley, Carolyn Simmons, Jack and Peggy Smith, Thelma Smith, Jerry and Nancy Strickling, Katrina Thompson, Arthur and Eleanor Vieutel, and Armand Yramategui.

Our leader, Norma Oates, always the efficient one, had scouted the trip the day before and picked out the good birding spots . . . starting at Cinco Ranch. The Sandhill Cranes were not as numerous as in some previous years, but the few flocks that were there thrilled us with their call of the wild as they took flight. A wooded area nearby proved to be very profitable with some of the specials being Brown Creepers, Hermit Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Lincoln's Sparrow, Barred Owl, Solitary Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Fox Sparrow and House Wren. On a small pond nearby we saw Baldpates and Canvasbacks and in the same vicinity were Common Gallinules and a Long-billed Marsh Wren.

As the caravan was leaving Cinco Ranch, the sharp eyes of Bob Deshayes spotted a leaking gas tank in Edna Miner's car. For a few seconds things looked desperate but as usual the entire group rose to the emergency. Ruth Moorman had some chewing gum which Nancy Strickling chewed like mad so that Bob could plug the hole and take his finger out of the dike. Then a roll of adhesive tape from the Jack Smith's first aid kit added to the patch job. As Edna and I drove away, the rest all crossed their fingers but luckily the reinforcements held until we got back to Houston and left the car with her repairman. (Edna - How did your mechanic ever remove it? ed.) In my car we rejoined the group. . . found them watching a flock of longspurs near Hockley Salt Mine. On a pond on the Warren Ranch nearby, we saw literally thousands of Snow, Blue and White-fronted Geese. Proceeding to Longenbaugh Ranch we spotted the Bald Eagles which Norma had scouted the day before.

Our thanks to Norma for another one of her very successful bird trips.

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CLEARING HOUSE - Compiled by M. & B.D.

Common Loon: (4) 1/15 Galv., (3) 2/1 T.C.Dike, **LS**; (10) 1/27 T.C.Dike **LS CS PC**; (3) 12/23 Freeport **SW VE**; (1) 1/31 T.C.Dike **SW VE**  
 Eared Grebe: (1) 1/15, (4) 1/27 Galv. **LS**; (15-20) 1/14 Galv. **HP**  
 Pied-billed Grebe: (1) 1/1, 9, 23, 27, (2) 1/8, 12, 18, (19) 1/10, (3) 1/20, (17) 1/21 (4) 1/26, (8) 1/30 Cove **AKM**  
 White Pelican: (25) 1/1, (300) 1/9, (50) 1/12, (20) 1/18, (6) 1/21, (100) 1/30 Cove **AKM**; (25-100) most days LaPorte **LS**; (13) 1/14 Galv. **HP**  
 Brown Pelican: (4) 1/27, (2) 2/1 Galv. & T.C.Dike **LS**; (1) 1/14 Galv. **HP**  
 Double-crested Cormorant: (2) 1/1, (6) 1/9, (1) 1/18, (4) 1/30, Cove **AKM**; (2) 1/22, (6) 2/1 LaPorte **LS**  
 Anhinga: (1) 1/30 Cove **AKM**  
 GREEN HERON: (1) 1/22 Oyster Creek **NS JS**  
 Cattle Egret: (1) 1/27, 2/1 Galv. **LS**; (1) 1/14 Galv. **HP**  
 Reddish Egret: (1) 1/27 Galv. **LS**  
 Black-crowned Night Heron: 1/1, 9, 31, (200) 1/18, (157) 1/31 Cove **AKM**  
 White Ibis: (1) 1/9 Cove **AKM**; (1) 1/15 Galv. **LS**  
 Roseate Spoonbill: (4) 1/7, (3) 1/8, (2) 1/9 Cove **AKM**  
 White-fronted Goose: (22) 1/1, (75) 1/4, (40) 1/10, (129) 1/21 Cove **AKM**; (NC) 2/5 Cinco and Longenbaugh **F**; 1/15 Longenbaugh **MD BD**  
 Snow & Blue Geese: (NC) 1/3, (25) 1/25 LaPorte **LS**; (Many thousands) Cove **AKM**; (hundreds) 2/5 Warren Ranch **F**  
 Mallard: (1 to 40) 15 days Cove **AKM**; 2/5 Warren Ranch **F**; (10,000) 12/24 Longenbaugh **VE**  
 Mottled Duck: (4) 1/2, (13) 1/9, (6) 1/10, (2) 1/12, 13, (7) 1/26 Cove **AKM**; (3) 1/27 Galv. **LS**  
 Gadwall: (4-15) 6 days Cove **AKM**; (2) 2/1 Galv. **LS**; (500) 12/24 Longenbaugh **VE**; (30) 1/14 Galv. **HP**  
 Pintail: (300) 1/14 Galv. **LS**; (75,000) Longenbaugh **VE**; (15,000) 1/9 Cove **AKM**  
 Green-winged Teal: (20) 1/2, 22, (2) 1/26 LaPorte **LS**; (6 to 25) 7 days Cove **AKM**; 2/5 Cinco **F**; (15,000) 12/24 Longenbaugh **VE**  
 Blue-winged Teal: (4) 1/2, (9) 1/12 Cove **AKM**; (2) 1/27 Galv. **LS CS PC**; 2/5 **F**; (35) 1/14 Galv. **HP**  
 CINNAMON TEAL: (1) 12/23 Longenbaugh **VE**; (2) 1/15 Longenbaugh **MD BD**  
 American Widgeon: (27) 1/2, (15) 1/7, (6) 1/9, (10,000) 1/10, (70) 1/12, (1200) 1/15, (1000) 1/26 Cove **AKM**; (75) 1/14 Galv. **HP**; (50) 2/1 Galv. **LS**; (1) 2/5 Cinco **F**  
 Shoveler: (100) 1/2, (25) 1/14, (10) 1/15, (25) 1/22, (NC) 1/27, (10) 2/1 LaPorte **LS**; (40) 1/8, (3) 1/9, (11) 1/12, (3) 1/28 Cove **AKM**; (65) 1/14 Galv. **HP**; (2000) 12/24 Longenbaugh **VE**  
 Wood Duck: (5) 1/29 Buckhorn Lake **Mr. and Mrs. JM**  
 Redhead: (8) 1/15 Longenbaugh **MD BD**; (2) 1/16 LaPorte **LS**

Ring-necked Duck: (1) 1/14 Galv. HP; (NC) 2/5 F; (4) 1/30 Cove AKM  
 Canvasback: (1000) 1/1, (1200) 1/9, (200) 1/12, 18, (400) 1/30 (average 216 on 17 days)  
 Cove AKM; (75 to 200 daily), LaPorte IS; (17) 1/14 Galv. HP; 2/5 Warren Ranch F  
 GREATER SCAUP: (1) 1/5 (Identified by greater amount of white in wing) LaPorte IS  
 Lesser Scaup: (75) 1/18 (40) 1/30, (50) 1/21 fewer on 11 other days Cove AKM; (100 est.)  
 daily LaPorte IS; (200) 1/14 Galv. HP  
 Common Goldeneye: (39) 1/1, (11) 1/9, (2) 1/10, (12) 1/18, (15) 1/30, Cove AKM; (3)  
 1/27 T.C.Dike LS CS PC  
 Bufflehead: (1) 1/27 T.C.Dike LS CS PC  
 OLDSQUAW: (6) 1/27 T.C.Dike LS CS PC; (3) 1/31 T.C.Dike SW VE (Note: These are 7th  
 and 8th records for our area - see Jan. SPOONBILL for 6th record)  
 Ruddy Duck: (1) 1/27 Galv. IS; (1) 1/30 Cove AKM; (400-500) 1/14 Galv HP  
 HOODED MERGANSER: (2) 1/18 Cove AKM  
 Red-breasted Merganser: (1) 1/9 Cove AKM; (6) 1/27 T.C.Dike LS CS PC; (3) 1/14  
 T.C.Dike HP  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1) 1/8, 13, 30 Cove AKM; (1) Intermittently, Memorial LH HH  
 Cooper's Hawk: Throughout Jan. Cove AKM; (1) LaPorte IS  
 Red-tailed Hawk: (23) 1/12 Cove AKM; (1 to 3) most days LaPorte IS; 2/5 F; (several  
 melanistic buteos - also 10 reported by AKM); Krider's (1) 2/5 F.  
 Red-shouldered Hawk: (2 to 6) most days LaPorte IS; (1) 11 days, (2) 4 days Cove AKM  
 SWAINSON'S HAWK: (2) 1/8 S.W. of Liberty SW; (1) 1/17 LaPorte IS  
 ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: (1) 1/15, (2) 1/17, (1) 1/27 LaPorte IS CS PC; (1) 2/5 EM  
 Bald Eagle: (4) (9) 1/22 Longenbaugh & Warren PS JS; (4) 2/5 Katy & Longenbaugh F;  
 (1) 1/24 Longenbaugh VE  
 Marsh Hawk: (59) 1/9 Cove AKM; (1 to 2) most days LaPorte IS; 2/5 F  
 OSPREY: (1) 1/22 Longenbaugh PS JS  
 Caracara: (1) 1/30 Cove AKM  
 Peregrine Falcon: (1) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 Pigeon Hawk: (1) 1/8, (1) 1/15 Galv. IS; (1) 1/16 Houston SW  
 Sparrow Hawk: (33) 1/9 Cove AKM  
 Prairie Chicken: (20) 12/30 Fondren Rd. JA VE RF  
 Bobwhite Quail: (15) 1/23 Memorial LH HH  
 Sandhill Crane: (11) 2/5 Cinco F  
 King Rail: (1) 2/5 Longenbaugh F  
 Clapper Rail: (1) 1/9 Cove AKM  
 Sora Rail: (1) 1/16, 17 Cove AKM  
 Common Gallinule: (1) 1/27 Galv. IS; (1) 2/5 Cinco F  
 Coot: (3000) 1/10, (1000) 1/21, 30 Cove AKM  
 Semipalmated Plover: (22) 1/1, (7) 1/9, (15) 1/30 Cove AKM; (3) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 Piping Plover: (1) 1/1, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 1/27 Galv. IS CS PC  
 Snowy Plover: (1) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 Black-bellied Plover: (10) 1/9, 21 Cove AKM; (6) 1/14 T.C.Dike, (26) 1/14 Galv. HP  
 Ruddy Turnstone: (1) 1/14 Galv. HP; (6) 1/15, (50) 1/27, (50) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 American Woodcock (Philohela Minor): (1) 1/12 Cove AKM; (2) 1/22 Memorial PS JS LH;  
 (1) 1/28 Memorial LH HH; (1) 1/29 Memorial MD BD  
 Long-billed Curlew: (75) 1/16 Cove AKM; (250) 1/14 Galv. HP  
 Spotted Sandpiper: (1 to 2) most days LaPorte IS  
 Willet: (12) 1/1, (2) 1/9, (7) 1/10, 12, (60) 1/18, (7) 1/21 Cove AKM; (8) 1/14 T.C.  
 Dike HP  
 Greater Yellowlegs: (10) 1/9 Cove AKM  
 Lesser Yellowlegs: (17) 1/9 Cove, AKM; (15) 2/1 LaPorte IS  
 KNOT: (1) 12/23 Surfside VE SW  
 Least Sandpiper: 1/1, 9, 18, 30 Cove AKM  
 Dunlin: (NC) 1/15, 27, (15) 2/1 LaPorte IS; (6 days) Cove AKM  
 Dowitcher (sp.): (225) 1/9, (3000) 1/21 & nine other days Cove AKM; (50) 1/14, 27,  
 (100) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 Short-billed Dowitcher: (15) 2/1 LaPorte IS  
 STILT SANDPIPER: (25) 2/1 Seabrook IS  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: (NC) 1/1, 9, 21, 30 Cove AKM  
 Marbled Godwit: (2) 1/14 Galveston HP  
 Western Sandpiper: (NC) 1/1, 9, 10, 12, 18, 21, 30 Cove AKM  
 Sanderling: (2) 1/3, (1) 1/4, (12) 1/7, (1) 1/10, (NC) 1/27, (9) 1/31, (15) 2/1 La-  
 Porte IS; (4) 1/30 Cove AKM  
 American Avocet: (200) 1/2, (100) 1/14, (100) 1/15, (50) 1/22, (50) 1/27 LaPorte IS;  
 BLACK-NECKED STILT: (1) 1/7 Cove AKM  
 Herring Gull: (1 to 14) 12 days Cove AKM; (100) 2/1 Galv. IS; (50-100) 1/14 Galv. HP  
 Bonaparte's Gull: (1) 1/2. 14, (5) 1/27 T.C.Dike, (1) 2/1 LaPorte IS; (20) 1/10, (17)  
 1/21 Cove AKM; (200) 1/14 Galveston HP; (185) T.C.Dike 1/31 SW VE  
 COMMON TERN: (10) 1/31 T.C.Dike SW VE

Black Skimmer: (6) 1/18, 19 LaPorte IS  
 Short-eared Owl: (1) 1/30 Cove AKM  
 WHIP-POOR-WILL: (1) 1/12 Cove AKM (former January record 1/22/42)  
 Belted Kingfisher: (5) 1/27, (5) 2/1 LaPorte IS  
 Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1) 1/1, 12, 16, 18, 30, (2) 1/8, (3) 1/10, 20 Cove AKM  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1 to 2) most days LaPorte IS  
 Eastern Phoebe : (7) 1/18 Cove AKM  
 Vermilion Flycatcher: (1) 1/1, 9, 12, 19, 26, (2) 1/7, (3) 1/10 Cove AKM; (1) 2/5 F  
 Tree Swallow: (2) 1/10, 30, (4) 1/12, (6) 1/19, (11) 1/21 Cove AKM; (3) 2/1 Seabrook IS  
 BARN SWALLOW: (5) 1/8 LaPorte IS; (1) 1/12 Cove (first January record) AKM  
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: (2) 2 days Memorial LH  
 Brown Creeper: (1) 1/4 LaPorte IS; (NC) Frequently Memorial LH HH; (1) 1/12 Cove AKM  
 House Wren: (1 - 3) daily Cove AKM; 3 - 5 daily LaPorte IS  
 Short-billed Marsh Wren: (1) 1/27 Galv. IS; (1) 1/21, 30 Cove AKM  
 Catbird: (1) 1/2 & 2/1 Galv. IS; 1/21, 30 Cove AKM  
 Brown Thrasher: (1 to 4) daily LaPorte IS; (4) 2/5 Cinco F  
 Robin: (1) 1/1, 14, 16, 30, (10,000) 1/29 Cove AKM; (1) 2/5 Cinco AY; (25) 1/20 Memorial LH PS NM; (15) 1/28 Memorial LH  
 Hermit Thrush: (1) 1/1, 9, 12, (2) 1/30 Cove AKM; (1) 2/5 Cinco F  
 Bluebird: (20) 1/20 Memorial LH PS NM; (10) 1/28 Memorial LH; (5) 2/1 Memorial MC LH  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (3 to 5) daily LaPorte IS  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: (1 to 3) on 7 days Cove, AKM; (3 to 4) on 11 days LaPorte IS; (4) 2/5 Cinco F  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (5 to 10) daily LaPorte IS; (NC) 2/5 Cinco F  
 Starling: (800) 1/15 Galv. IS; (small flocks) Cove AKM  
 Yellow-throated Vireo: (1) 2/1 Memorial LH MC  
 Solitary Vireo: (2) 1/1, 12, 18, (1) 1/9, 16, (4) 1/30 Cove AKM; (1) 1/4, 9, 16, 17, 31, LaPorte IS; (1) 1/18 Memorial LH HH; (3) 2/1 LH MC  
 Orange-crowned Warbler: (1 - 7) daily Cove AKM; (5 - 10) daily LaPorte IS; 2/5 Cinco F  
 Myrtle Warbler: (2 to 15) daily LaPorte IS; (1) 1/14, (3) 1/18, (5) 1/30 (least ever) Cove AKM; (2) 1/14 Galv. HP; (1) 1/14, 26 Houston SW  
 Pine Warbler: (2 to 4) 12 days LaPorte IS; (1 to 9) 9 days Cove AKM  
 Yellowthroat: (1) 1/15, (3) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 CHAT: (1) 1/9, 18 Cove AKM (only other January record 1/15/50)  
 Wilson's Warbler: (1) 1/1 Cove AKM; (1) 2/1 Galv. IS  
 Brewer's Blackbird: Less than usual, Cove AKM  
 American Goldfinch: (5 to 50) most days LaPorte IS; (200) 1/26 Cove AKM  
 Towhee: (3) 1/18 Cove AKM  
 Savannah Sparrow: (1) 1/27  
 LeConte's Sparrow: (2) 1/1, (7) 1/9, (3) 1/30 Cove AKM  
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (3) 1/27 Galv. IS CS PC  
 Vesper Sparrow: (75) 1/12 Cove AKM  
 Junco: (2) 1/15, (10) 1/16 Cove AKM  
 Field Sparrow: (1 to 25) 7 days Cove AKM  
 White-crowned Sparrow: (1) 1/18, (3) 1/30 Cove AKM; (2) 2/5 Cinco F  
 White-throated Sparrow: (5 to 10) daily LaPorte IS  
 Fox Sparrow: (1) 1/18, 19, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 2/5 Cinco NS  
 Lincoln's Sparrow: (1) 15 days LaPorte IS; Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows scarce in Cove AKM  
 Song Sparrow (2) 1/10, 16, (1) 1/18 Cove AKM; (1) 5 days LaPorte IS

CREDITS:-

"F"	O.G. Field trip	MC	Margaret Corey	JS	Jerry Strickling
AY	Armand Yramategui	LH	Louise Hoffman	JA	Jim Ambrose
AKM	Arlie K. McKay	HH	Henry Hoffman	RF	Ronald Fowler
IS	Linda Snyder	VE	Victor Emanuel	PS	Peggy Smith
CS	Clinton Snyder	SW	Steve Williams	JS	Jack Smith
PC	Paul Corneil	HP	Harvey Patten	MD	Mabel Deshayes
EM	Edna Miner	NS	Nancy Strickling	BD	Bob Deshayes

Mr. &amp; Mrs. JM - The Murrays

OBSERVATIONS - by Arlie K. McKay

More than fifteen years ago I thought I would never get more than one or two lifers in any one year in my limited area. But in 1960, the 26th year of collecting records, I got three: Lesser Nighthawk, Yellow-green Vireo and Mountain Bluebird. I counted 269 birds in 1960 and in 1959 I counted 276 species with only one lifer, Coue's Flycatcher.

## FOURTH ANNUAL FREEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS -- DECEMBER 26, 1960 -- Vic Emanuel, Compiler

Despite a dearth of passerine species, the Freeport Count exceeded last year's total of 148 species by two species. Of the one-hundred and fifty species seen on this year's count twenty-nine were species missed last year, but twenty-seven species seen last year were missed this year. These included such normally common birds as Hermit Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Common Snipe and Short-billed Marsh Wren. Other fairly common to uncommon birds seen last year, but missed this year included: Chipping Sparrow, Rufous-sided Towhee, Sora Rail, White-faced Ibis, White Ibis, Semipalmated Plover, Barn Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, and Purple Finch.

There were more observers (19) and parties (7) than on any previous Freeport Count. The following summary will give the details of this year's count.

The Parties

(Party Leaders and Exclusives  
are in Capital Letters)

1. TREVOR B. FELTNER, Dudley Deaver, Mabel and Bob Deshayes  
Area: A section of the old Clute-Angleton Road in the N.W. part of the circle including the Angleton Gun Club and woods to the south, almost entirely heavy deciduous woods plus the Gun Club reservoir. We are indebted to Dr. Caldwell and Mr. J. T. Suggs for permission to enter their land near Clute.  
Good birds and exclusives: WOOD DUCK (2), BALD EAGLE (1), YELLOW-CROWN NIGHT HERON (2), FOX SPARROW (1), FIELD SPARROW (2), WILSON'S WARBLER (3), ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (5), WHITE-EYED VIREO (3).
2. NANCY & JERRY STRICKLING  
Area: Lake Jackson and wooded area thereabout also the town of Lake Jackson, deciduous woods almost entirely. We are indebted to Mr. Maurice New for permission to enter his lease near Lake Jackson.  
Good birds and exclusives: EASTERN BLUEBIRD (5), \*PAINTED BUNTING\* (1) (excellent details were submitted by the Stricklings for this unusual find, this is the second winter record for this species in our checklist area, the bird observed was a female or immature male), BROWN CREEPER (1), GREEN HERON (1), SCREECH OWL (1), YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER (1), (of the warblers which normally winter south of our area this species is one of the most likely to linger), WINTER WREN (2), Cattle Egret (1), Catbird (1).
3. STEVEN G. WILLIAMS and James Ambrose  
Area: The northeast sector of the circle including Lake Barbara, an area of deciduous woods, fresh water marshes and lakes, and fields.  
Good birds and exclusives: BREWER'S BLACKBIRD (30), BOBWHITE (1), Cattle Egret (1)
4. CARL AIKEN, Ronald Fowler, Leota Stilwell and Katrina Thompson  
Area: Stubblefield Lake and Chubb Lake, both are excellent fresh water lakes surrounded by cattails. We are indebted to Mr. Duncan McDonald, Mr. L. L. Rhodes and Mr. Fred Brock for permission to cover these fine lakes  
Good birds and exclusives: MOTTLED DUCK (2), GREAT HORNED OWL (2), KING RAIL (2) SOLITARY SANDPIPER (1), (at the same locale where two were seen on last year's count), SPRAGUE'S PIPIT (8), this party also got fine counts for Canvasback (2,500), Ruddy Duck (329), Common Gallinule (16), and Ring-necked Duck (2,900). The Ring-necked Duck total is undoubtedly the all time high for our area.
5. Mr. Corneil and PAUL CORNEIL  
Area: Surfside Beach area - the area includes about 2 miles of beach and considerable amount of salt marsh and mudflats in back of the beach.  
Good birds and exclusives: BLACK SKIMMER (1), RED-BREASTED MERGANSER (3), Reddish Egret (1).
6. CLINTON SNYDER, Linda Snyder and Drew Snyder  
Area: Salt marshes north of the Intracoastal Canal in the Bryan Beach area and wooded area along the west bank of the Brazos.  
Good birds and exclusives: WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE (1), SONG SPARROW (1), PALM WARBLER (3), \*WESTERN KINGBIRD\* (1) (carefully identified by Clinton Snyder, one of the few winter records for our area), HUMMINGBIRD (sp.?) (1), PEREGRINE FALCON (1), INDIGO BUNTING (1), Cattle Egret (1) Catbird (1), BEWICK'S WREN (1)
7. VICTOR EMANUEL and Austin Evans  
Area: Includes Bryan Beach and the salt water marshes and mudflats in back of

the beach.

Good birds and exclusives: AVOCET (30), SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER (80), MALLARD (3), BUFFLEHEAD (2), COMMON TERN (1), CINNAMON TEAL (seen sitting on a mudflat with about 160 Green-wings and 50 Blue-wings) SHORT-EARED OWL (2), SNOWY PLOVER (2), PIPING PLOVER (2), VIRGINIA RAIL (1), LEAST SANDPIPER (55), SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER (15), WESTERN SANDPIPER (75), SEASIDE SPARROW (6), SHARP-TAILED SPARROW (5), ROSEATE SPOONBILL (6), GULLBILLED TERN (2) Reddish Egret (3), (including one white phase). This party also got an exceptionally high count of American Bitterns (12), all were in one cattail marsh.

About 72,600 individuals were seen as compared with 40,600. The increase was largely Coots and Red-winged Blackbirds. Last year only 8,970 Coots were reported. This year's total is 25,660 and should be the highest in the nation (last year Mattamuskeet N.C. got nation's high with 15,000). Red-winged Blackbirds increased from 7,193 to 13,250.

This year's count proved that with "normal" passerine conditions, the Freeport Count can easily break 160. We still suffered from too few observers although we had more observers (19) than ever before. LETS BREAK 160 NEXT YEAR!

## FOURTH ANNUAL FREEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 26, 1960

Species	Party Number							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Anhinga	25	7	6	7	-	-	-	45
Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	30
Bittern, American	-	-	-	-	1	-	12	13
Blackbird, Brewer's	-	-	30	-	-	-	-	30
Red-winged	3,108	250	442	8,500	312	140	2,500	15,252
(Sp.?)	-	6,000	3,700	-	-	-	-	9,700
Bluebird, Eastern	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	5
Bobwhite	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Bunting Indigo	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
" PAINTED	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cardinal	308	125	64	19	6	29	2	553
Catbird	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	2
Chickadee, Carolina	51	100	164	21	-	24	-	360
Coot, American	16,344	250	707	4,937	339	870	240	23,687
Cormorant, D.-crest.	7	25	-	-	5	5	21	63
" Olivaceous	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
Cowbird, Br.-headed	8	90	2	390	222	-	-	712
Creeper, Brown	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Crow, Common	46	25	30	39	-	37	-	177
Curlew, Long-billed	-	2	24	-	-	31	-	57
Dove, Mourning	10	24	41	46	-	67	2	190
Dowitcher, Sh.-billed	-	-	-	-	-	-	80	80
" (Sp.?)	-	1	-	-	30	-	-	31
Duck, Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Canvasback	36	2	-	2,500	20	25	-	2,573
Gadwall	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	5
Mallard	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Mottled	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Pintail	34	-	9	2	-	-	57	102
Redhead	1	4	-	-	-	2	10	17
Ring-necked	2	8	3	2,900	-	-	-	2,913
Ruddy	33	1	8	329	-	5	1	377
Scaup, Lesser	22	2	2	6	32	15	20	99
Shoveler	-	-	-	-	-	2	69	71
(Sp.?)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30
Widgeon, Am.	-	-	12	-	-	2	75	89
Wood	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Eagle, Bald	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Egret, Cattle	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	3
" Common	21	15	8	10	17	11	165	247
" Reddish	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
" Snowy	-	4	1	-	17	5	5	32
Falcon, Peregrine	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Flicker, Yel.-sh.	3	10	4	2	-	2	-	21
Flycatcher, Vermilion	2	3	2	-	-	-	-	7
Gallinule, Common	1	-	1	16	2	-	7	27

## FOURTH ANNUAL FREEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 26, 1960

Species	Party Number							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray	91	70	98	36	1	55	12	363
Goldfinch, American	53	50	27	16	-	58	-	204
Goose, Blue	65	1	7	1	8	550	20	652
Canada	-	145	85	-	-	-	-	230
Snow	63	20	189	105	15	2,224	700	3,516
(Sp.?)	-	3,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,000
White-fronted	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Grackle, Boat-tailed	2	100	17	629	13	33	40	834
" Common	1	30	1	65	-	1	1	99
Grebe, Eared	2	-	-	27	2	5	13	49
" Pied-billed	27	35	17	46	10	12	15	162
Gull, Bonaparte's	-	10	-	-	2	6	-	18
Herring	-	2	-	-	-	-	110	112
Laughing	-	15	2	-	20	10	160	207
Ring-billed	71	300	6	17	133	50	75	652
Hawk, Marsh	1	4	5	5	24	28	3	70
Red-shouldered	8	12	11	8	-	8	-	47
Red-tailed	11	8	15	10	2	16	9	71
Sparrow	5	11	18	4	4	12	6	60
Heron, Great Blue	11	7	3	2	9	6	8	46
GREEN	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2
Little Blue	2	-	2	1	2	22	2	31
Louisiana	1	-	-	1	8	12	4	26
Bl.-cr. Night	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	2
Yel.-cr. Night	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
HUMMINGBIRD (Sp.?)	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Jay, Blue	1	10	2	-	1	-	-	14
Junco, Slate-colored	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	9	78	8	53	20	12	20	200
KINGBIRD, WESTERN	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Kingfisher, Belted	8	17	4	4	32	21	6	92
Kinglet, Ruby-cr.	247	50	78	11	-	21	1	408
Lark, Horned	-	-	-	-	8	10	25	43
Loon, Common	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	3
Meadowlark, Eastern	5	40	56	27	45	36	-	209
Merganser, Red-br.	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3
Mockingbird	3	17	6	2	-	14	2	44
Owl, Barred	8	2	1	2	1	1	-	15
Great Horned	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
Screech	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
SHORT-EARED	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Pelican, Brown	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	5
White	-	-	13	-	6	52	53	124
Phoebe, Eastern	8	10	11	9	-	23	-	61
Pipit, Sprague's	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	8
Water	21	5	5	50	3	84	60	228
Plover, Black-bel.	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	6
Piping	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Snowy	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Rail, Clapper	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
King	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Virginia	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
Robin	2	15	15	-	-	2	-	34
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	21	-	25	46
Sandpiper, Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Least	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	50
Semipalmated	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15
SOLITARY	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Spotted	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	3
Western	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	75
Sapsucker, Yel.-bel.	7	4	1	1	-	-	-	13
Shrike, Loggerhead	16	10	22	4	1	12	5	70
Skimmer, Black	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Sparrow, House	33	140	20	-	-	20	20	233
Field	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

## FOURTH ANNUAL FREEPORT CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 26, 1960

Species	Party Number							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Sparrow, Fox	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Lincoln's	18	14	7	5	1	33	10	88
Savannah	102	27	1	17	10	43	35	235
Seaside	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Sharp-tailed	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Song	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Swamp	8	-	11	1	-	3	-	13
Vesper	1	-	1	-	-	10	-	12
White-thr.	37	110	28	21	-	25	-	221
Spoonbill, Roseate	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Starling	4	300	200	12	120	175	-	811
Swallow, Rough-winged	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
Teal, Blue-winged	-	-	2	29	-	-	50	81
CINNAMON	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Green-winged	-	-	-	3	-	-	160	163
Tern, Caspian	32	-	1	1	9	1	25	68
Common	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Forster's	-	15	-	-	15	1	2	33
Gull-billed	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Royal	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3
Thrasher, Brown	27	30	3	6	-	2	-	68
Titmouse, Tufted	81	150	21	7	-	7	-	266
Vireo, Solitary	5	-	1	1	-	1	-	8
White-eyed	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Vulture, Black	38	2	1	5	-	-	-	46
Turkey	4	4	9	9	7	4	-	37
Warbler, Myrtle	15	10	2	-	-	24	-	51
Orange-cr.	18	7	7	2	-	35	1	70
Palm	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Pine	-	3	-	1	-	1	-	5
Wilson's	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Yellowthroat	34	1	1	9	-	19	-	64
YELLOW-THROATED	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Willet	-	-	-	-	6	10	2	18
Woodpecker, Downy	2	8	1	-	-	2	-	13
Pileated	7	1	5	2	-	2	-	17
Red-bellied	11	20	5	6	-	4	-	46
Wren, Carolina	41	100	61	7	-	4	-	213
House	7	2	3	-	-	16	-	28
Marsh, Long-billed	-	-	1	1	3	-	5	10
Winter	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	3
Yellowlegs, Greater	-	2	-	1	3	1	11	18
Lesser	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
SPECIES TOTAL	78	79	76	70	53	86	75	150

\* \* \* \* \*

## HOUSTON, TEXAS CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 31, 1960 -- Stephen G. Williams, Compiler

Possible Reasons for A Lower Count - The 1960 Houston Count was outstanding for one reason, if for no other. That reason was that for the first time in seven years there was a decrease in the number of species seen as compared with the previous year. Last year we piled up a record total of 156 species; this past count registered only 145. This was the problem stated in its briefest possible form.

What are some of the factors which could have accounted for the decrease? There are several which seem to be particularly responsible, and each probably contributed its share to a decrease in the number of species.

The first reason is possibly due to having one less party and three less observers than we did last year. It is difficult to tell just how having one less party would affect the number of species seen, but generally with more parties there is better coverage of a smaller area by some of the parties. Another factor which was a probable influence was the weather, both preceding and during the count period. As a rule the winter weather was fairly mild and quite wet before the count for a period of about two months. Because there had been no really cold weather which lasted for long, many of

the birds which only get to the Houston area because of such weather, were missing. This includes some of the smaller land birds. Because of the very wet weather which usually prevailed, the ground in much of the area was so soggy and submerged that birds of dry ground or brush country habitats would avoid such areas. Because of the wet weather during most of the late fall and early winter, it is also probable that a number of species which winter to the west of us may not have come farther east. This appears to be fairly likely, because in the drouth winters of 1949-56 more western species were reported in winter than in any other corresponding period. By the same token, then, these birds would not be coming east if the weather were too wet.

It is in these three categories (northern birds, birds which are principally ground and low-brush feeders, birds preferring drier areas such as western species) where we suffered the most. An additional reason might be put in here as well, and that is that the areas to the north and east of us reported alarming decreases in various land bird species during the summer and fall months. Some of these factors, then, might be due to more general causes than the ones mentioned above.

Comparison Between the Dec. 31, 1960 and the Jan. 2, 1960 Counts - Many species seen on the January count were missed this time. Birds missed this time but seen on the count previous to this past one are: Common Loon, Green Heron, American Bittern, Canada Goose, Hooded Merganser, Rough-legged Hawk, Sora Rail, Common Gallinule, Long-billed Curlew, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Tern, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Great Horned Owl, Horned Lark, Yellow-throated Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Indigo Bunting, Pine Siskin, Grasshopper Sparrow, Oregon Junco, Chipping Sparrow and Harris' Sparrow.

Also many species common last year were far down in numbers this year. The following include the number of individuals seen on the December 31, 1960 count and the number seen on the January 2, 1960 count (in parenthesis): Lesser Scaup, 706 (6133); Canvasback, 2021 (5150); Yellow-shafted Flicker, 50 (89); Greater Yellowlegs 5 (19); Bluebird 74 (112); Brown Creeper 2 (9); House Wren 35 (51); Short-billed Marsh Wren 3 (25); Brown Thrasher 78 (200); Mockingbird 120 (474); Robin 234 (15,916); Goldfinch 201 (1775); Nowhere was decrease more prominent than in the sparrows: Vesper 63 (131); Lark 2 (7); Slate-colored Junco 1 (30); Field 11 (25); Savannah 161 (302); White-crowned 13 (132); Lincoln's 17 (100); Swamp 16 (65); Song 2 (32).

Except for the above species, most other species increased. The individual count on the most recent Christmas Census was three times the individual count of the one before it.

The Parties - Each party will be listed as to persons in it, birds which were noteworthy, (birds not seen on last year's count by any party) and counts in which the party saw almost all the individuals of a species. Exclusives and party leader's name are typed in capital letters.

- 1A Dudley A. Deaver, Bob and Mabel Deshayes, TREVOR BEN FELTNER, Albert Hermie (of Washington, D.C.; Mabel's brother), Billy C. Pettit, Gene Pettit. Good birds: (ANHINGA 1); Cardinal 448; BROWN-HEADED NUTHATCH 1; Screech Owl 1; GREEN-TOWHEE 1; Palm Warbler 1; Am. Woodcock 1; RED-HEADED WOODPECKER 2; Pileated Woodpecker 13.
- 1B Mr. and Mrs. L.A.M. Barnette, Sidney Barnette, Mrs. Henry G. Corey, Mrs. Carl Dodge, JOE M. HEISER, Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Kershner. Good birds: VERMILION FLYCATCHER 1; White-fronted Goose 24; Song Sparrow 1; Black Vulture 53; Winter Wren 1; Mallard 69.
- 2 CLAYTON B. GILMAN, Eva B. Gilman, Ella Wolfer, Helen Wolfer, Good birds; PURPLE FINCH 6; (WOOD THRUSH 1).
- 3A Paul Corneil, ARMAND YRAMATEGUI. Good birds: CARACARA 1; BROWN CREEPER 2.
- 3B KATRINA THOMPSON, Jerry Baker, Jimmy Murray, Thelma Smith, Josephine Wilkin. Good birds: Yellow-crowned Night Heron 17.
- 4 Jim Ambrose, A. K. MCKAY, Vic Emanuel. Good birds: Am. Coot 3000; MOTTLED DUCK 2; WOOD DUCK 2; SHARP-SHINNED HAWK 1; SLATE-CLORED JUNCO 1; RED-BREASTED MERGANSER 1; SPRAGUE'S PIPIT 5; Semipalmated Plover 15; (LEAST SANDPIPER 1); Western Sandpiper 803; LeCONTE'S SPARROW 6; (SHARP-TAILED SPARROW 1); Vesper Sparrow 60; BLUE-WINGED TEAL 1; (ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW 2); Song Sparrow 1; White-eyed Vireo 1; (YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT 1).

5. Dr. Otis Cook, Dr. Hardin Craig, STEPHEN G. WILLIAMS. Good birds: (BLACK SKIMMER 57); COMMON TERN 1; (RUDDY TURNSTONE 9); Short-billed Marsh Wren 1; (BUFFLEHEAD 1); (AMERICAN WIDGEON 6).
- 6 Charles McIntire, Harry McElroy, John O'Neill, Jack Smith, Peggy Smith, Doug Stine, JERRY STRICKLING, Nancy Strickling, Skippy Wehner, Ted Van Velzen. Good birds: Screech Owl 1; Bonaparte's Gull 38; Fox Sparrow 6; LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN 2; Short-billed Marsh Wren 2; Winter Wren 1; (Avocet 1).
- 7 Grant MacNichols, Harvey Patten, Clint Snyder, Drew Snyder, LINDA SNYDER. Good Birds: (Avocet 200); (Bufflehead 1); RUDDY DUCK 54; Shoveler 135; (Am. Widgeon 2); (REDDISH EGRET 1); (BROAD-WINGED HAWK 1); BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER 51; SANDERLING 4; Forster's Tern 620; (Tree Swallow 15); GREATER YELLOWLEGS 5.

The total number of individuals on this count was about 189,000. Of this number, about 155,000 were large flocks of blackbirds and Starlings. Another 6,000 were geese, over 5,000 were the two commonest gulls and about 3,000 were Coots.

(\* Exclusive)

HOUSTON, TEXAS CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 31, 1960

Species	Party Number									Total
	1A	1B	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7	
Anginga	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Avocet	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	200	201
Blackbird (Sp.?)	4850	-	-	144	300	6500	1000	6000	600	20000
Brewer's	5	3350	-	403	-	220	49	41	77	4145
Red-winged	1744	4647	600	21	172	20000	3055	4715	180	35000
Bluebird	4	45	-	-	-	-	-	2	25	76
Bobwhite	11	29	-	-	-	1	-	25	-	66
Caracara	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cardinal	448	136	5	44	12	166	10	78	28	849
Catbird	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	3	1	9
Chickadee, Caro.	53	38	9	40	11	27	5	28	10	193
Coot, Am.	-	-	20	-	-	3000	-	4	1	3025
Cormorant, D.C.	2	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	7	11
Cowbird	338	203	200	2246	3	62625	3500	700	-	70000
Creepers, Brown	-	-	-	2*	-	-	-	-	-	2
Crow	32	7	4	16	4	10	19	37	5	134
Dove, M.	7	95	19	6	10	114	3	81	2	337
Dowitcher (Sp.?)	-	-	-	-	-	60	-	25	50	135
Duck (Sp.?)	39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	575	614
Bufflehead	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2
Canvasback	-	-	-	-	164	130	27	-	1700	2021
Gadwall	-	-	4	-	-	2	-	30	71	107
Goldeneye	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	-	17	35
Mallard	-	69	-	-	4	1	2	-	-	76
Pintail	28	672	-	-	-	505	40	65	160	1470
Ruddy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54*	54
Scaup, Lsr.	-	-	-	-	9	14	216	67	400	706
Mottled	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	-	-	2
Shoveler	12	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	135	157
Widgeon, Am.	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	2	8
Wood	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	-	-	2
Egret, Reddish	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Common	-	9	-	-	8	15	18	19	6	75
Snowy	75	-	3	-	4	24	118	3	11	241
Finch, Purple	-	-	6*	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Flicker, Yel. sh.	11	7	-	-	5	8	2	11	6	50
Flycatcher, Vermilion	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Gnatcatcher, Bl.-gr.	233	13	10	9	16	222	12	125	26	666
Goldfinch	11	8	27	8	-	-	5	102	40	201
Goose (Sp.?)	100	-	-	40	-	-	-	-	-	140
Blue	350	350	225	2	50	843	-	107	10	1937
Snow	800	655	585	33	50	1767	-	225	20	4085
White-fr.	-	24	-	-	-	-	-	2	7	33
Grackle, Boat-tail.	99	19	150	5	-	21	4	5	-	303
Common	16	15	300	1	-	-	2	4	3	341

(\* Exclusive)

## HOUSTON, TEXAS CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 31, 1960

Species	Party Number									Total
	1A	1B	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7	
Grebe, Eared	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Pied-billed	-	-	-	-	-	7	5	2	16	20
Gull, Bonaparte's	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38	7	45
Herring	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	29	20	51
Laughing	2	-	12	1	11	40	350	407	500	1323
Ring-billed (Sp.?)	2000	69	18	33	200	423	15	730	278	3766
Hawk, Broad-winged	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	1
Cooper's	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	4
Marsh	10	27	2	5	4	24	2	25	5	104
Red-shouldered	4	7	-	1	3	1	3	14	5	38
Red-tailed	9	18	15	13	4	37	11	29	15	151
Sharp-shinned	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Sparrow	5	-	25	13	7	42	4	32	12	140
Heron, Gr.-blue	2	5	1	2	11	45	7	11	61	145
Little Blue	-	-	-	-	1	12	-	1	7	21
Louisiana	12	-	3	-	4	21	31	13	11	95
Bl.-cr.Night	-	-	-	-	-	30	1	3	404	438
Yel.cr.Night	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	2	-	19
Jay, Blue	6	5	-	8	4	13	2	23	30	114
Junco, Slate-col.	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Killdeer	7	105	30	35	25	217	61	148	90	718
Kingfisher, Belted	1	3	3	1	2	4	12	9	1	36
Kinglet, Golden cr.	11	1	-	3	-	10	-	21	4	50
Ruby-crowned	71	20	-	24	5	150	45	119	28	462
Meadowlark, E.	107	141	20	26	6	142	10	38	7	497
Merganser, Red-br.	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Mockingbird	3	17	7	6	11	40	3	22	11	120
Nuthatch, Br.Headed	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Owl, Barn	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	4
Barred	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	7
Screech	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Pelican, White	103	-	2	-	130	111	144	316	600	1406
Phoebe, Eastern	10	4	6	4	3	10	4	14	2	57
Pipit, Sprague's	-	-	-	-	-	5*	-	-	-	5
Water	30	43	-	-	2	-	51	22	350	498
Flover, Blk.-bel.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51*	51
Semipalmated	-	-	-	-	6	15	1	-	-	22
Rail, Clapper	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	1	6
Robin	47	-	3	28	-	2	1	152	1	234
Sanderling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4*	4
Sandpiper, Dunlin	-	-	-	-	-	152	1	-	119	272
Least	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Semipalmated	-	-	-	-	18	200	4	-	5	227
Spotted	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	4
Western	-	-	-	-	1	803	3	-	10	817
Peep (Sp.?)	-	-	-	-	-	-	103	-	218	321
Sapsucker	12	4	-	8	-	1	-	7	1	33
Shrike, Loggerhead	14	30	36	23	13	29	20	49	20	234
Skimmer, Black	-	-	-	-	-	-	57	8	3	68
Snipe, Common	21	-	5	4	-	6	-	-	-	36
Sparrow, Field	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	3	11
Fox	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	6	-	10
House	1	37	87	181	1	95	25	10	38	475
Lark	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
LeConte's	-	-	-	-	-	6*	-	-	-	6
Lincoln's	1	2	-	-	-	7	1	5	1	17
Savannah	50	3	1	47	-	40	1	15	4	161
Seaside	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2	6

(\* Exclusive)

## HOUSTON, TEXAS CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS - DECEMBER 31, 1960

Species	1A	1B	2	3A	3B	4	5	6	7	Total
Sparrow (contd.)										
Sharp-tailed	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Song	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2
Swamp	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	5	1	16
Vesper	-	1	1	-	-	60	-	1	-	63
Wh.-crowned	-	-	-	-	2	5	-	6	-	13
Wh.-thr.	117	79	9	8	3	221	24	110	51	503
Starling	32	161	400	47	-	21011	2700	900	100	25000
Swallow, Rough-winged	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	-	-	2
Tree	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	15	21
Teal, Blue-wing.	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Green-winged	-	-	-	-	-	35	-	-	19	54
Tern, Caspian	7	-	-	-	7	2	25	25	10	76
Common	-	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	1
Forster's	2	-	1	-	15	1	123	140	620	902
Gull-billed	1	-	-	-	2	-	5	-	1	9
Royal	2	-	3	-	6	1	16	42	22	92
Thrasher, Brown	31	6	-	-	3	16	1	18	3	78
Thrush, Hermit	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	16
Wood	-	-	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Titmouse, Tufted	37	1	2	12	-	13	2	50	7	124
Towhee, Green-tailed	1*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Rufous-sided	6	-	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	12
Turnstone, Ruddy	-	-	-	-	-	-	9*	-	-	9
Vireo, Solitary	3	1	-	1	-	7	-	3	-	15
White-eyed	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3
Vulture, Black	8	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61
Turkey	5	11	2	4	2	6	2	4	1	37
Warbler, Myrtle	-	27	-	6	3	6	2	65	43	152
Palm	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
Orange-cr.	26	4	-	2	3	22	10	22	20	109
Yellowthroat	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	5	2	9
Yel.-br.Chat	-	-	-	-	-	1*	-	-	-	1
Pine	26	1	-	23	-	41	-	2	-	93
Waxwing, Cedar	16	2	-	18	-	-	30	34	103	203
Willet	-	-	-	-	1	22	-	-	13	36
Woodcock, Am.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Woodpecker, Downy	4	3	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	10
Pileated	13	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15
Red-bellied	11	5	1	13	1	1	1	9	9	51
Red-headed	2*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Wren, Carolina	30	31	1	11	5	15	3	14	14	124
House	1	-	2	-	-	16	-	5	11	35
L.B. Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2*	-	2
S.B. Marsh	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Winter	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Yellowlegs, Gr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5*	5
TOTAL SPECIES	78	59	46	46	51	103	74	91	93	145
Exclusives	3	1	1	2	0	12	2	1	6	

\* \* \* \* \*

Hummingbird in a Spider's Web (May-June 1960 AUDUBON MAGAZINE)

"Memorable experiences of a lifetime sometimes happen unexpectedly. It was a sparkling spring morning when our neighbor called to me about a bird in her yard, and asked me to help. I dashed into her garden and saw a male Anna's hummingbird enmeshed in a spider's web that hung in the entrance to her lath-house. Evidently he had been hunting for webs with which to bind his and his lady love's nest and had become the victim instead.

"I gently lifted the bird out of the web, expecting him to take wing immediately, but found that the spider web had encased his whole body. He confidently perched himself on my left forefinger as I slowly walked back to our house, all the while marvelling at this wee vibrant bit of life that was in my care. In the bright sunshine, his feathers flashed and glowed in rose, metallic-green, and bronze, despite the enveloping sticky web.

"I carried him into our bathroom and there tried mopping off the spider web with cotton soaked in witch hazel, without effect. I tried alcohol next, without success, and I was despairing until I thought of the brand new cosmetic I had purchased. With my free hand, I uncorked the bottle and soaked a wad of cotton in the fragrant liquid. The web slowly softened and some of it came off on the cotton. I mopped my diminutive friend several times with fresh applications until no trace of the cobweb remained. Then, with the hummer still clinging to my finger, I carried him into our patio where he preened his wet feathers with his long beak. When thoroughly dry, he fanned his wings, gave a shrill squeak and darted away." --- Mrs. M. H. Johnson, San Jose, California.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Reminded me of the hummingbird that flew into the screen wire on our patio and got her bill caught in the mesh. - - - - She pulled herself out. (ed.)

WHERE NEXT? (AP) -- The Cattle Egret has been sighted on a farm near Dousmon, Wisconsin.

HELP FOR THE EAGLE CENSUS

Mrs. John A. Kitzman of Cypress, Texas sent the following letter to T. Ben Feltner: - "Saw the request regarding the Bald Eagle's wintering grounds, my husband has been seeing eagles every winter in Montgomery County on his deer lease. We would be happy to take a small group of birders to the location on any Sunday that can be agreeably arranged. Sincerely, Mrs. John A. Kitzmann."

(Will interested census takers please contact Field Trip Chairman, Mrs. Peggy Smith, to finalize plans to accept this fine invitation (ed.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Editor's Note: ---

PLEASE have data for March issue of SPOONBILL at 215 Marshall, Houston by March 2.

OFFICERS OF THE O.G.

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