



# THE SPOONBILL

Volume IV No. 5

September 1955

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 \* "Theodore Roosevelt saw his name in type as \*  
 \* often as any man. Yet he knew that time has \*  
 \* a way of reducing the largest headlines to \*  
 \* finest print. And he knew that a bird-song \*  
 \* can drown a brass band. So he begged - yes \*  
 \* pleaded - with John Burroughs to write him \*  
 \* down a bird-lover, lest it should be thought \*  
 \* in after days that he was only a President!" \*  
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 \* ---Introduction to BIRDS by John Burroughs \*  
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## FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

September 18 -- Sunday morning field trip -- Galveston County Park -- 9:00 a.m.

This park is located on the south side of Old Galveston Road near League City. The group will meet under the large trees just inside the Park entrance. After birding here in the wooded sections and along the creek, the group will visit birding spots in the bay area -- Kemah, Seabrook, etc.

October 6 ----- The regular meeting of the Ornithology Group will be held Oct. 6th, 8:00 p.m. at the home of Mr. Jimmy Murray, 6032 Glen Cove.

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## ORNITHOLOGY GROUP REPORTS

August 4 - O.G. Meeting in Hermann Park - (Jerry Baker)

The Ornithology Group met at 6 p.m. at Hermann Park for a picnic and short business meeting. Business consisted of a discussion of plans for the field trip to Galveston on August 20, and a report on the status of the new check-lists by Josiephine Wilkin.

New members Martha Smith and Raymond McDavid were introduced, and also visitors Bettie Johnson and Bill Mattei.

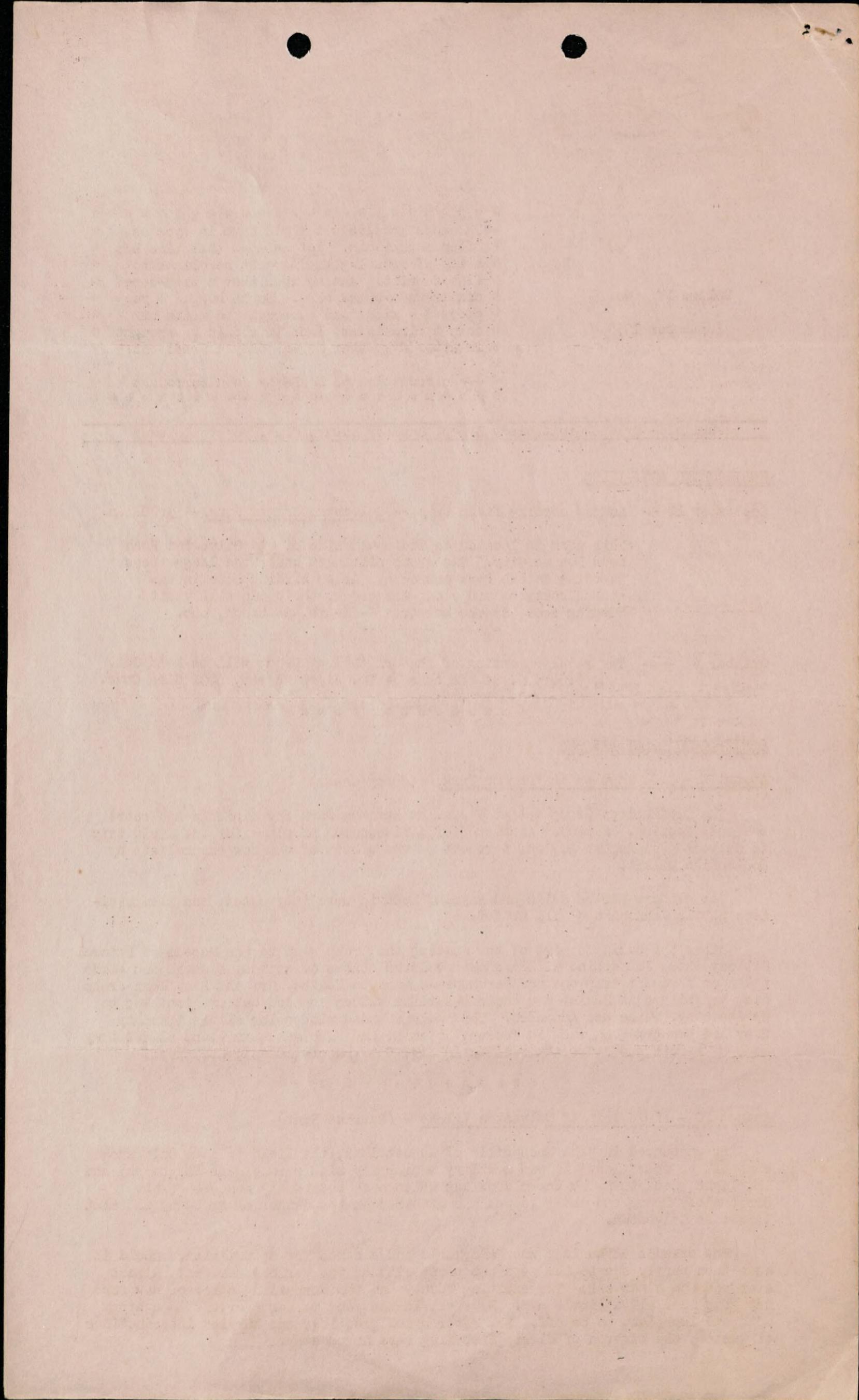
After the business part of the meeting the Group went to the Museum of Natural History where Josiephine Wilkin showed colored slides of scenes, flowers and birds taken on a recent trip she and her husband made to Mexico. Mr. and Mrs. John Frels also vacationed in Mexico and their beautiful slides rounded out our travelog to Mexico City, Taxco and Acapulco. The program ended with color slides taken by Ruby and Leonard McWhirter in Tucson, Arizona, and also some excellent slides they made of egrets and other water birds in Bird City, Avery Island, Louisiana.

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August 20 - Field Trip to Galveston Island - (Harriet Hunt)

As announced in "The Spoonbill" of August 1955, the field trip to Galveston came off as scheduled. It was a sultry summer day with rain clouds in the sky and the light shade borne by the clouds was welcome to the twenty members of the Ornithology Group and their guests who gathered on the corner of Broadway and 61st Street in Galveston.

The crowd's enthusiasm was remarkable and a cause for speculation. Could it have been partly due to the apparent prosperity of the various members? Almost everyone had a new car. The exciting beauty and the compelling color of new cars may have made all a little mad! However, it was good to see everyone in a happy mood and impatient to be off. So, after brief greetings and hurried introductions of guests, the caravan of eight glistening cars moved away.



The first stop was at the ball park which is known to be a likely place for a large variety of water birds. Black terns, green heron, tricolored heron, greater yellow-legs and one spoonbill were seen here. As the cars moved on someone sighted a pair of small yellowish birds feeding in the branches of low shrubs. With much interest everyone studied the birds' characteristics and sought to identify them by repeated reference to the "Field Guides." Opinion was divided and the birds were finally classified in that well-known category of "Confusing Fall Warblers". Further along, near the Galveston Skeet Club, and West Bay Fish Camp many heron and egrets (including four reddish egrets), several long-billed curlews, black-bellied plover (still in spring plumage) white ibis, black skimmers, black-necked stilts and one whimbrel were seen.

Toward nightfall the group drove to the Gulf beach where some bathed in the surf while others sat about and talked, or walked along the seashore looking for shells and specimen of marine life. Everyone enjoyed the cool breeze and the broad sweep of the Gulf. Along the shore Sanderlings were following the waves, brown pelicans were searching for fish just beyond the breakers and Ruddy turnstones and laughing gulls were feeding on the beach. A total of forty-one species were observed during the afternoon, which included three migrating Yellow warblers. At one stop our ex-chairman, Mac Ramsey, lost a five-cent wager, when a nighthawk he bet was a "rock or charred piece of wood", turned out to be a nighthawk!

Those who attended the day's outing were Josiephine Wilkin; Ruth Moorman; Mr. and Mrs. Carl Dodge and their children, Lee, Margaret and Carl Jr., (guests); Mr. and Mrs. John Frels; Raymond McDavid; Mrs. Hansen; Helen McMullen; Ross Burns; Noel Perley; Mac Ramsey; Jerry Baker; Norma Oates; Maurine Jarrel and her daughter, Betty Jarrell; Darris Massingill; Harriet Hunt; and Leonard McWhirter. Congratulations are due Jerry Baker who conducted the outing so successfully.

#### Report from Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary - (Joe M. Heiser, Jr.)

August 11, 1955 --Rains in San Jacinto County have never been sufficient to fill our pond, so we have had no opportunity to note the effect of open water upon the sanctuary's bird life. I'm hoping we have a heavy rain or two in September to fill "Half-Moon" to the brim.

"During the week of July 17th, Vic Emanuel and Carl Aiken discovered a Painted Bunting's nest not far from Camp Cove. The two nestlings proved to be cowbirds - drat their fat, sassy hides! I felt like throwing them out, but didn't have the heart, after the two buntings had worked so hard taking care of them.

"We had one pair of Roadrunners, probably nesting on the preserve, though nobody found the nest. The three Swainson's warblers I saw were probably migrants. Another Swainson's was observed a week later. However, we looked in vain for these birds during the nesting season now nearly over.

"This has been a successful season for Kentucky warblers, including the pair whose nest was located by O.G. members during their nesting-bird count at the Sanctuary. We did not record many rareties, but we have seen more young birds being fed, and heard more songs, than in any previous year.

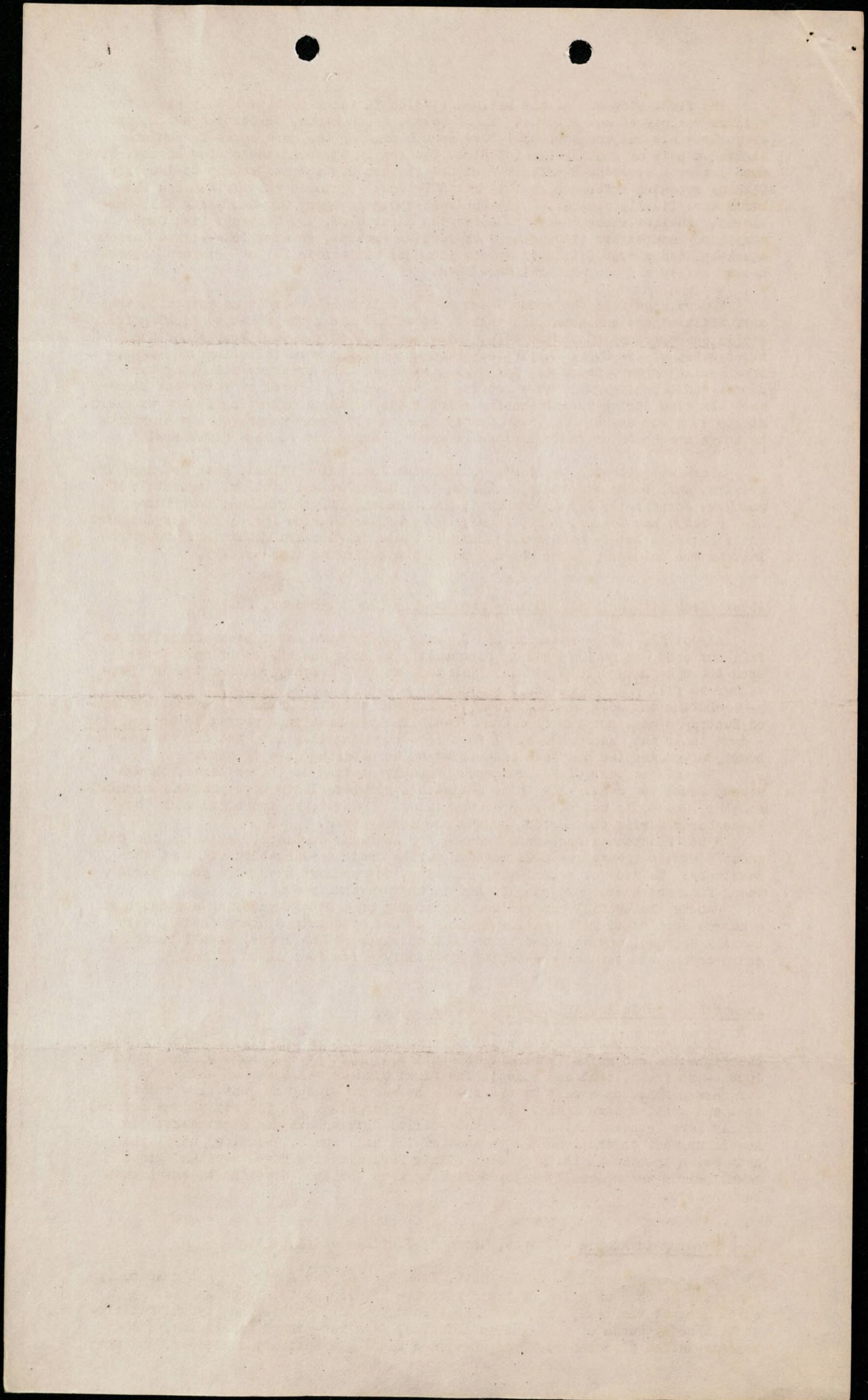
"Among the special experiences was coming on a Bobcat enjoying a stretch in a narrow section of Dillo-wallow Trail. It was evidently a young animal, very heavily spotted, and appeared to be as much surprised as I was, when I turned a sharp corner and saw the bob-tailed kitty only a few feet ahead of me."

#### August 16 Trip to Austin - (Jerry Baker)

Rita Mattei and I took a quick trip to Austin as a last fling before getting back into the old grind (Pub.Sch.Secretaries). Left at 4:45 a.m. by Fama Road 1093 -- so fresh, cool and quiet! The first bird we waked was an Audubon's Caracara perched on a post by the road - he was so sleepy he just flew about 50 feet and settled down again. It was a lifer for Rita. On the way we saw several fairly large concentrations of scissor-tailed flycatchers and nighthawks. In Austin we went to the lake and to some of the hill roads, "birding" until the heat began to make us think of cool Zilker Park with its huge trees and green lawn. Birds we especially enjoyed finding were the Inca dove and black-chinned hummingbird.

#### More Birding in Austin - (Oates, Moorman, J.Wilkin and L.Wilkin)

On Saturday morning, August 26th, Fred Webster and Edgar Kincaid graciously undertook to show us a few of their favorite birding spots around Austin. A quick stop at the lake, produced a spotted sandpiper, "teetering" by the water's edge, a noisy bunch of boat-tailed grackles, some red-winged blackbirds, and a scissor-tailed flycatcher. Fred mentioned finding a Solitary sandpiper, and the



next thing we knew we were walking along a path bordered by tall cypress trees - and, looking down below on the river bank, we saw, not one, but TWO Solitary sandpipers! Turk's-cap along the path attracted ruby-throated hummingbirds, and a Belted kingfisher flew to his station on a Cypress branch across the river near two motionless great-blue heron. A crested flycatcher called, and several noisy woodpeckers moved about in the trees above. A family of pied-billed grebes, including an adult and two young, were swimming in the cool shady water near the opposite bank. Above the path, in a more open area, E.K. spotted two migrating eastern kingbirds (first this season); here too we found several house finches and a yellow-billed cuckoo, while high above a red-shouldered hawk soared among hundreds of circling chimney-swifts.

From the river we drove through the hill country in the suburbs of Austin where we found the Rufous-crowned sparrow and heard its lovely song. We saw many colorful black-backed (Arkansas) goldfinch feeding on wild sunflower seed, and, as a fitting finale to our tour of Austin birding spots, we were privileged to see the hallowed ground where the Travis Audubon Society makes its annual nesting census - the ONLY census that reports nesting of the Golden-cheeked Warbler!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CLEARING HOUSE

- August 7 - Large flocks of black-necked stilts on Galveston Island reported by Josiephine Wilkin.
- August 8 - Swainson's hawk seen on Westheimer Road by A. Yramategui.
- August 12 - Hundreds of black terns feeding over golf course on west Galveston Island; Audubon's caracara seen flying over freeway near League City turnoff by Josiephine Wilkin.
- August 14 - Two yellow-crown night herons reported roosting near Little Jordan (Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary) by Joe M. Heiser, Jr.
- August 17 - Migrating blue-gray gnatcatcher observed in her yard by Mrs. Jerry & 19 Baker - 6430 Jefferson
- August 19 - From 40 to 50 migrating barn swallows seen at Albert S. Johnson High School, 1906 Cleburne in Houston by Noel Perley.
- August 21 - Twenty-five wood ibis were flying to roosting area (with usual egrets, heron, and white ibis) in trees around lake on Miller Road reported by Etta Coffman and N. Oates.
- August 22 - Bobwhite heard calling at Hermann and San Jacinto Streets, Houston, by Noel Perley.
- August 25 - Approximately 200 chimney swifts seen circling over Houston Art Museum, Main at Montrose by Vic Emanuel.
- August 28 - Several small groups of Reddish egrets, large flights of willets and numerous Marbled godwits seen on Padre Island by Ruth Stamm.
- August 28 - Two spotted sandpipers seen near Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary; Hooded warbler heard singing and four barn swallows seen at the Sanctuary by Joe M. Heiser, Jr.

#### Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

On Aug. 5, Jule R. Schmidt reported ruby-throats had been in his yard daily since July 15; two males were again feeding in his yard on August 13; also on August 13 Jerry Baker reported three female ruby-throated hummingbirds fighting over Turk's cap in her yard; on August 25th Armand Yramategui reported seeing ruby-throats feeding in his neighborhood daily for the past three weeks.

#### Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds

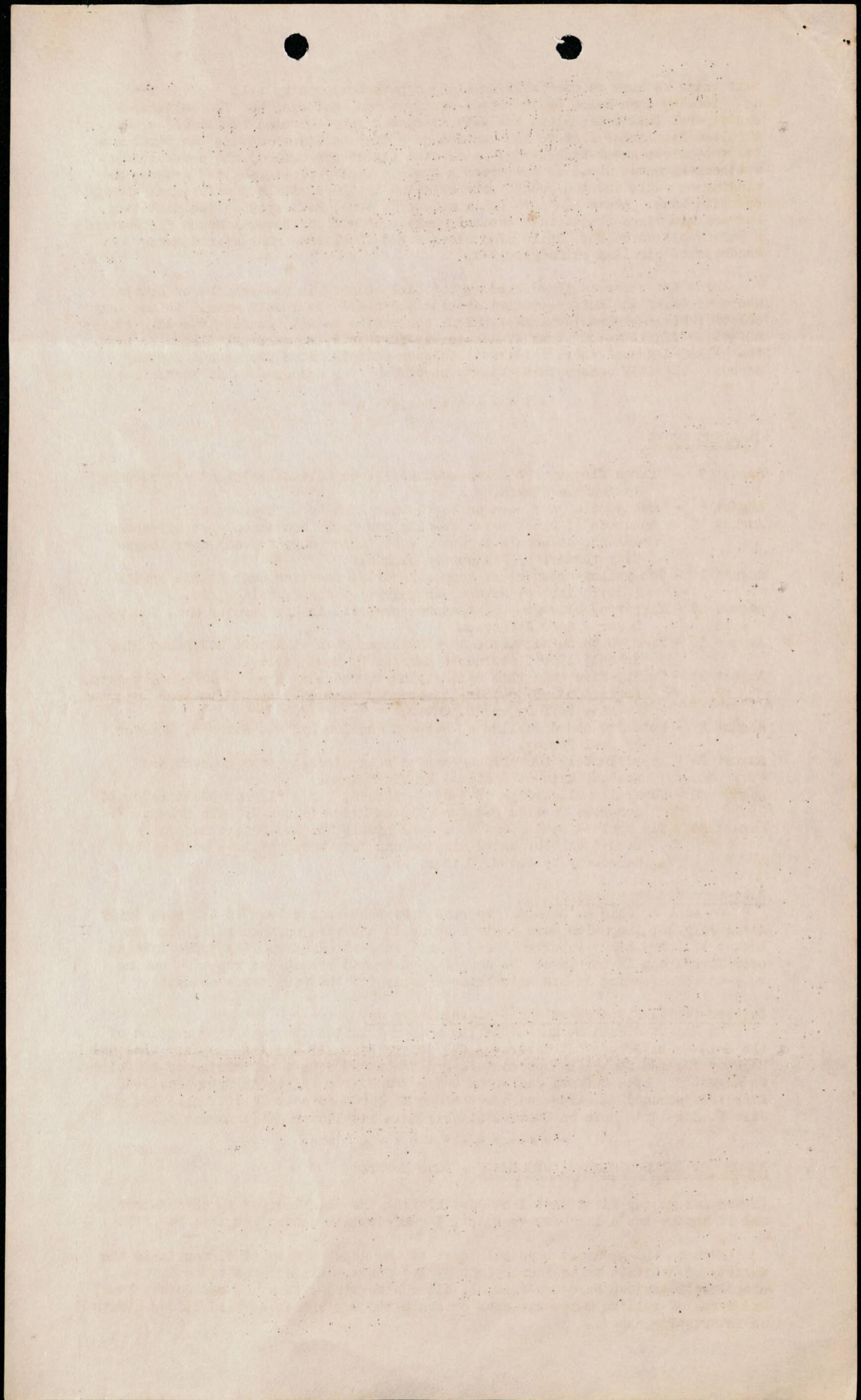
On August 6 Ruth Stamm and Carrie Holcomb visited the gathering station of the Scissor-tailed flycatchers near the intersection of Airline-Steubner Road and Highway 75, and found them present in great numbers with a sprinkling of kingbirds. On August 21, Etta Coffman and Norma Oates found from thirty to forty Eastern Kingbirds perched on wires and trees along Miller Road near Juliff. Also see Mr. Jule R. Schmidt's note on Eastern kingbirds in his letter dated August 24.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### REPORT ON AUDUBON CAMP OF WISCONSIN - (Sue Harris)

(Note: Let me say first that I am just hitting the "high spots" in this report, and if anyone has a half-day to spare, I can give him a more complete report).

Perhaps the greatest physical asset of the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin is the variety of habitats to be found right at its doors. All one has to do is to choose between deep hardwood forests, clear blue lakes, tamarack and spruce bogs, and acres of rolling meadows. Each presents its own brands of wild life - always an interesting change.



The deep forests of maples, birches, dogwood, oaks, ash and linden contain the greatest concentration of wild things. They are thickly carpeted with ferns - (maidenhair, cinnamon, interrupted, rattlesnake, bracken, sensitive, marsh and royal) interspersed with trillium, violets, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Wintergreen, hepatica, wood anemone, baneberry, bunchberry, Indian Pipe, and several species of lycopodium. Dwelling in this lush growth are such birds as vireos (red-eyed, yellow-throated, warbling) thrushes, scarlet tanagers, Baltimore orioles, rose-breasted grosbeaks, white-breasted nuthatches, purple finches, and many warblers such as the chestnut-sided, the yellow, the Blackburnian, mourning, Canada, black and white, black-throated green, ovenbird and the golden-winged.

The tamarack and spruce bogs, some of them floating islands of sphagnum moss, presented an entirely different picture in plant life with such specimens as pitcher plant, sundew, wild cranberries, Labrador tea, leatherleaf, and many varieties of wild orchids. Scattered among this growth were clumps of blueberry bushes in full fruit. Birds were scarce in this habitat. However, the song sparrow and the short-billed marsh wren were seen here.

Bird life around the lakes was more active in the form of black terns, loons, yellow-headed and red-winged blackbirds, bitterns, some ducks (wood ducks and teals) and, along the shores, Eastern kingbirds, least flycatchers, with phoebes and wood peewees making their forays out over the water. Here the plant life was interesting and varied. The arrowleaf, water lilies, wild callas, pickerel weed, blue iris, jewel weed, water plantain and some of the orchids met the ferns at the water's edge.

The open fields and fence rows were the most colorful with the large clumps of fireweed, lavender Bergamot, golden-rod (three species) Turk's cap lily, gay-feather, and Joe Pye weed. Here live and nest the flashy bobolink, the Western meadowlark, Song, vesper, Savannah, chipping and clay-colored sparrows, ruffed grouse, and the colorful little goldfinch.

In addition to studies right at our doors, we had an all-day trip to Flambeau National Forest where the size of virgin specimens of white pine, yellow birch and basswood made our eyes pop. Another trip was to Crex Meadows, a conservation project which is reversing the plant cycle in order to restore the original prairies with oak openings for grouse and waterfowl. Two more trips - one to a commercial cranberry bog and another to the State Experiment Farm - were most interesting.

My personal evaluation of this area is that it's a botanist's paradise with enough birds to keep the ornithologist's interest (about 120 species), enough insects to keep the entomologist buzzing, and enough turtles and non-poisonous snakes to keep the herpetologist mildly interested, if he insists on keeping his interests. Narrowed to that phase -- then, if there be those who decide they have mastered the living things, the geology of this glacial region should keep them occupied for a time.

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#### MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Julie R. Schmidt - 1723 Esperanza St.

August 6, 1955 - "This is to report that the wounded dove I wrote you about earlier healed nicely even though permanently blinded in its left eye, -- was given its freedom on July 28th \* \* \* for three days one black-chinned hummingbird has been here feeding and perching."

August 13, 1955 - \* \* \* While I sat in our back yard, I saw a tufted Titmouse taking a bath in our birdbath and a Ruby-throat dive bombing him for a drink with little success until the Titmouse had completed his Saturday night bath. Later that same pugnacious gentleman attacked another Ruby-throat male in an aerial combat which apparently neither won as they flew in different directions and almost instantly both returned to buzz before the flowers just behind me \* \* \*."

August 24, 1955 - " \* \* \* a flight of Eastern Kingbirds, a hundred or more, flying overhead in a southerly direction, in groups of three to nine birds \* \* \* A family of two adult and four juvenile Blue-gray Gnatcatchers feeding in a tree about 1:00 p.m. \* \* \* I had heard the song of Carolina wrens several times in the past week, so to make the day complete and a red-letter day for me, a pair came in search of spiders both inside and outside of my garage \* \* \*."

"In closing may I ask that you be so kind as to use the column of the SPOON-BILL to thank the many who sent me cards while I was in the hospital. I have been unable to get around to all with personal notes - I would appreciate it very much."



Leota Stilwell - Jackson Wyoming (on vacation)

August 12 - I saw a pair of Trumpeter Swans with three little cygnets on the reservation about half mile from town. Have seen some nice birds and lots of beautiful scenery - 2 Golden eagles at close range - one immature water ouzel - a family of green-tailed towhees and one of pink-sided Juncos.

L. M. Hardy

This is to let you know that my permanent address is - P.O.Box 494, Naples, Florida.

(Early this year, a leaflet containing information on Martins was published by Mr. Hardy and copies were distributed to O.G. members along with gourd seeds (to raise gourds for Martin houses). I'm sure Mr. Hardy would like to hear from those who received these pamphlets and seeds. - Ed.)

Larry Semander - 517 Teetshorn, Houston, Texas

August 31 - I have gone on one more birding trip this summer - to Lake Buchanan on August 5th. There I saw two new birds - Arkansas goldfinch and ground doves. At Painted Rock I saw a Texas Ladder-backed woodpecker, female vermilion flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, Bewick's wren and yellow-breasted chat. Coming back, we stopped at my aunt's farm and I saw numerous Wood Ibis.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### OFF THE PRESS

CONSERVATION NEWS - August 1, 1955

#### Whooping Crane Nests Found in Canadian Wilderness

"The nests of the last remnant of the once-great race of whooping cranes have been found in one of the wildest and most inaccessible regions of northern Canada after a ten-year search, according to a New York Herald Tribune Service story by John O'Reilly which appeared in newspapers of July 13.

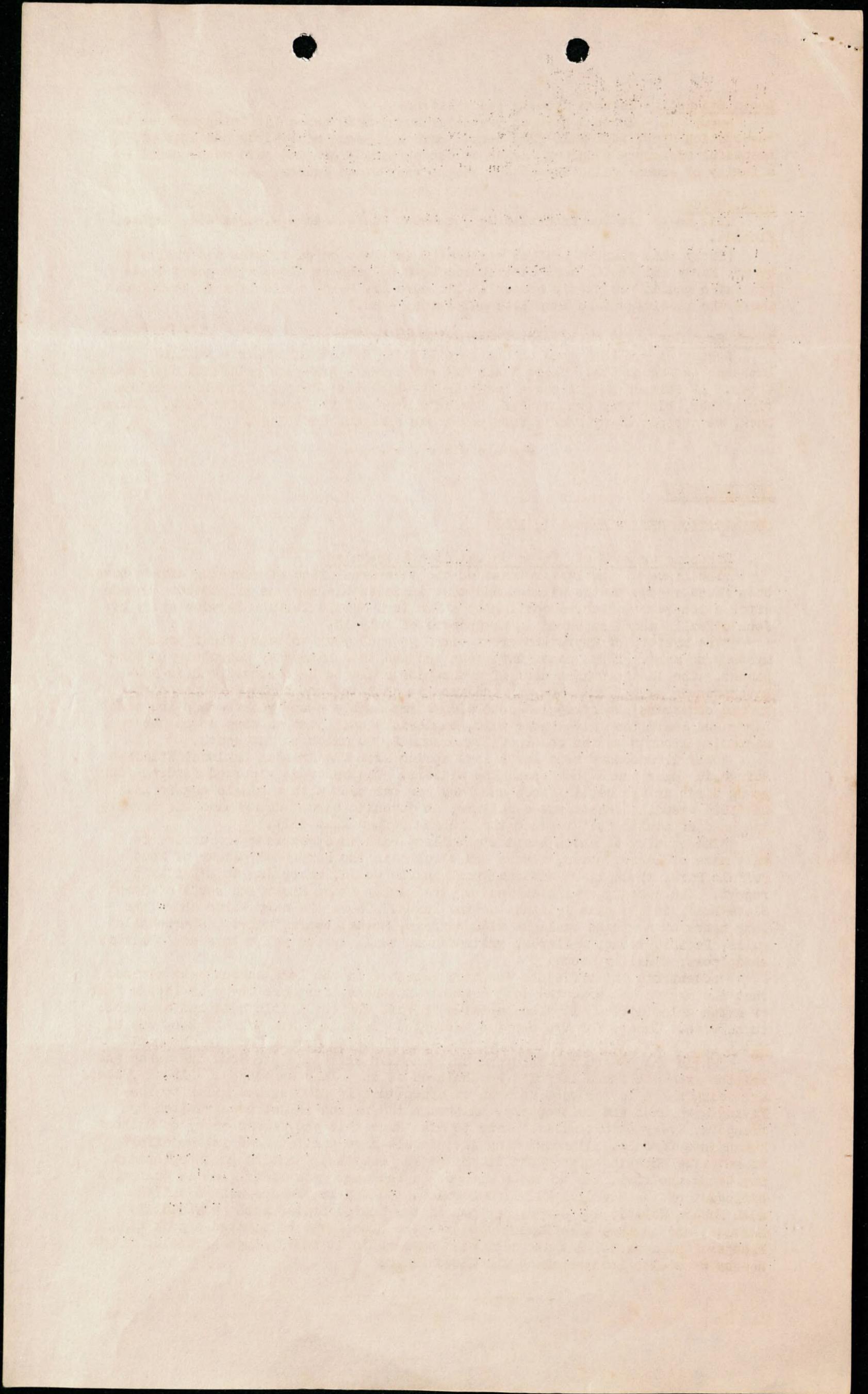
"The mystery of where the great birds go each year to raise their young is a mystery no more. Three nests have been spotted this summer by searchers in airplanes. The last previous nest of a whooping crane to be observed was in Saskatchewan in May, 1922. Now, in addition to spotting the nests from the air, ground observers who struggled into almost impassable country have seen the adult birds and heard them give their wild, bugle-like call just as they do on their wintering grounds on the coast of Texas some 2,000 miles to the south.

"Only 21 whoopers went north last spring from the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas where they spend the winters. The spotters reported finding four young birds in the nesting area and they saw one nest with a single egg in it. The 1954 breeding season was a failure; no juvenile birds accompanied the surviving band of adults that reached the Aransas refuge last fall.

"The country in which America's tallest bird is struggling to survive is a vast maze of lakes, ponds, rivers and sloughs in the northeast corner of Wood Buffalo Park, the largest national park in the world, according to O'Reilly's report. The nesting area lies west of the mighty Slave River and south of Great Slave Lake, in the same latitude as the Yukon. There the wary birds share the long hours of northern sunlight with buffalo, moose, bears, wolves, short-billed gulls, Pacific loons, mallards, green-winged teal, lesser yellowlegs and solitary sandpipers, O'Reilly wrote.

"Scientists and officials who have assisted in the long search were pleased that the cranes had selected such a remote fastness, for here there is little fear of human molestation. It also explains in part why the little band had been able to survive. Except for two captive, crippled birds in a New Orleans zoo, the 21 which came north in the spring were the only Whooping Cranes left in the world.

"While the search was in progress, Canadian officials promised that when the nesting area was found it would be declared an inviolate sanctuary. Already, steps are being taken to restrict an area of approximately 2400 square miles to low-flying airplanes and helicopters. Although the region is not even visited by trappers, every effort will be made to make sure that the cranes carry on without human interference. Although many individuals have participated in the effort to save the Whooping Cranes and in the search for their nesting grounds, credit for being the first man to see a Whooper on the nest goes to William A. Fuller, a biologist of the Canadian Wildlife Service. On May 18, Fuller was on a flight with Edward Wellein and Wesley Newcomb of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, and as they were flying low over the Sass River he spotted a pair of Whoopers and a nest. A third nest with one egg in it and a single crane in flight nearby were also located along the Klewi River."



HOUSTON PRESS - August 15, 1955

Ain't That Just Like a Woman

Lodi, Wis., Aug. 15 - "Local folks were so impressed with "Susie" the duck's regularity in nesting each year at the same spot on Spring Creek that they held a big festival in her honor yesterday. Some 8000 persons showed up and took part in the parades, soft ball games, art and puppet shows. But, there was one hitch -- for the first time since 1947, Susie didn't show up."

The NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE - September 1955

The Kiwi, New Zealand's Wonder Bird

This is the story of Belle, one of the few live kiwis ever seen in the United States. She arrived at the San Diego, California Zoological Garden last December. This flightless, tailless bird has rudimentary wings hidden under hairlike feathers, and whiskers that sprout in front of beady eyes. It is the only bird with nostrils at the tip of its bill. For its size, the kiwi lays the largest egg known; a four pound bird may lay a one-pound egg. It is a nocturnal bird and campers, occasionally hear the shrill cry "kee-wee" that gives the bird its name. It scratches away forest litter with sharp claws and drives its long flexible bill into soft earth and rotted logs in search of worms and grubs.

The kiwi is steadily diminishing and unless a way can be found to protect its thinning ranks, this bird may one day join the extinct dodo, great auk and passenger pigeon -- casualties of man's encroaching civilization. Meanwhile, the Kiwi's picture greets New Zealanders every day; the islanders have honored thier "national bird" by placing its likeness on coins and postage stamps. (The above article in the September National Geographic contains some excellent pictures of this unusual bird.)

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW BOOK ---Finding Birds in Mexico

An item of particular importance to persons interested in travel and bird watching in Mexico is the announcement of a new guide book "Finding Birds in Mexico", illustrated with 7 black-and-white plates figuring about 70 species of Mexican birds. The book contains detailed directions for finding birds in the vicinity of 56 readily accessible localities in Mexico. In addition the book includes a discussion of the birds to be expected generally in various habitats throughout the country. It includes a complete list of Mexican birds, a partial glossary of Spanish names for birds, and a wealth of general information on birding in Mexico. The author, Ernest P. Edwards, is an Audubon Screen Tour lecturer and a long-time student of Mexican birds. The book, 101 pages in length and bound in paper cover, can be obtained for \$1.90, through your local bookstore or by writing to E. P. Edwards and Co., Box 611, Amherst, Va.

(Sue Harris also reports that Mr. Edwards was a member of the very efficient staff of the Audubon Camp of Wisconsin.)

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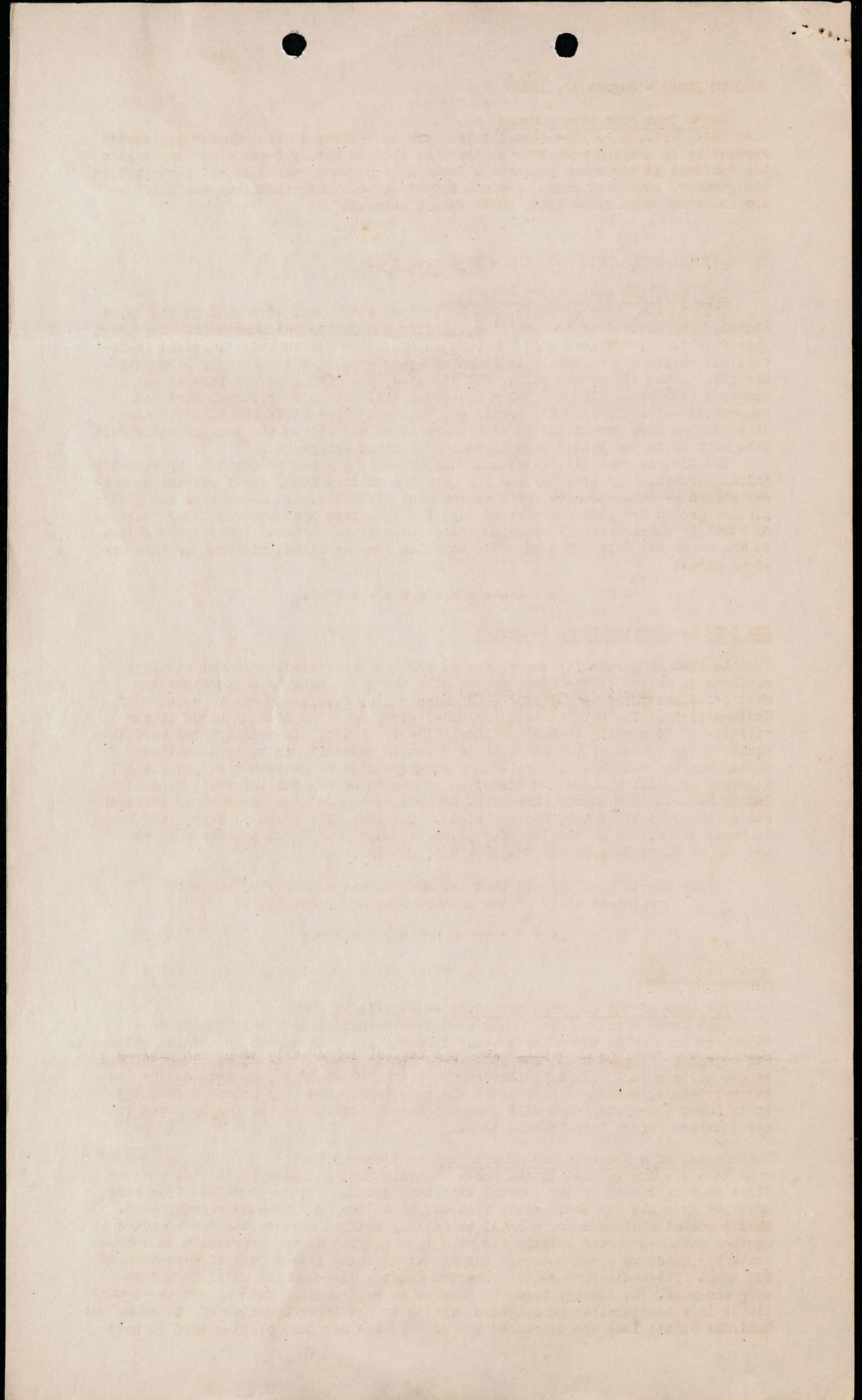
SHORT BIRD TALES

The Case of the Unwanted Barn Owls -- (Carrie Holcomb)

Some friends in the River Oaks area have been hostesses this summer to a family of Barn Owls, numbering seven. It seems the owls nested in a false chimney and were not detected until the young owls began to make outside appearances, and became quite noisy. Finally, fearing the wrath of neighbors, my friends had the chimney capped, hoping to discourage the owls, whereupon they became more noisy. It is hoped the young ones will become self-sufficient and the family moves to new quarters before harm befalls them.

Antics of a Broad-tailed Hummingbird -- (Jerry Baker)

It was a day in June in the Rocky Mountain National Park (Colorado) when we first were attracted by the "shrill trilling" sound. Then we saw this tiny bird shoot up into the air about sixty feet and then dive bomb a squaw currant bush. This happened again and again until he finally settled down on the top branches of another bush and rested quietly for some time, giving us an opportunity to appreciate his handsome green back and his throat gleaming like a ruby at each turn of his head. The whole process then started again - dive-bombing until he had to stop and rest. We finally began to suspect he was courting when we saw the demure little lady broad-tailed hummingbird sitting in the lower branches of the bush. Ho! Hum! She didn't look too impressed but perhaps she was just playing hard to get!



The Art of Dunking -- (Norma Oates)

This spring a pair of common grackles moved into the oak trees in my yard driving out the blue jays who have nested there for the past ten or twelve years. I always keep drinking water in the yard for the birds and in the mornings throw stale bread outside the window so I can watch the birds feed while I'm working in the kitchen. The pair of grackles raised their first brood, and the second brood left the nest early in July, although the young birds were still unsteady on the wing. On the morning of July 7 the bread I threw in the yard was quite hard but the usual flock of house sparrows and one of the adult grackles came in to feed, while the two young grackles fluttered down into a bush and watched. The parent, after eating for a few minutes, broke off a bite-size piece of bread, flew to the drinking water, held the piece of bread down in the water for a second, then flew to the bush and fed one of the young!

This action was amazing to me and seems to prove that birds are capable of a certain amount of reasoning and do not always act on instinct alone.

CONTRIBUTIONS WANTED

for "Short Bird Tales". Stories must be short, must be true and from the contributor's own knowledge or experience. Every reader should have at least one such story to share with others.

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE SPRING ROUNDUP REPORTS - (Noel Perley)

St. Marks, Fla. Count

153 Species - April 23, 1955  
Wakulla & Franklin Counties, W. Fla.  
Approx. 40 E-W x 25 N-S  
5 parties - 11 (plus) observers  
Best party total - 128 species  
(Best Roundup on record - 172 species)

Southern Calif. <sup>BIG DAY</sup> Roundup

184 Species - April 30, 1955  
One party - 4 observers  
(Estimated total on a proposed multi-party Roundup - 220 or more species)  
(Best party total on record - 187 species on April 30, 1950)

REVISION of Spring Roundup Report from D.V.O.C.

"The Pipit was added to our tally sheet and therefore the D.V.O.C. total now stands at 240 species" -- David Cutler

(See July 1955 Spoonbill, page 7 for full Delaware Valley Orn. Club Report.)

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THE SPOONBILL STAFF

Our "Staff" is composed of every member of the Ornithology Group, and it is most gratifying that so many members have written letters, and contributed other items for publication in the "Spoonbill". The editor then dutifully assembles and sorts the material, edits when necessary, composes if forced to, and types the final draft. The associate editor (Josiephine Wilkin) collects and summarizes magazine articles; types supplements; and biggest job of all, keeps the mailing list up to date. A big job is performed by the man in charge of the "press" (Mac Ramsey) who gives freely of his time and brawn, as he cranks out, page by page, a hundred or more copies of the "Spoonbill" each month.

We believe this is a good time to say, "thanks a million" to all who have contributed or otherwise assisted in getting out the "Spoonbill", and if the "Staff" continues to keep up its good work, we may be able to survive our year's servitude at hard (?) editorial labor!

\* \* \* \* \*

OFFICERS OF ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

- Chairman - Mr. James (Jimmy) F. Murray, 6032 Glen Cove
- Vice-Chairman - Field Trips - Miss Leota Stilwell, 3009 Rice Blvd.
- Secretary-Treasurer - Miss Mabel Cline, 5218 Lamar
- Editor - Mrs. Norma Oates, 5908 Charlotte St.



Outdoor Nature Club  
(Ornithology Group)  
402 Sue St.  
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