



# THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XXIII, NO. 3  
JULY, 1974

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

## RARE BIRD ALERT CALL

If you would like to be added or deleted from the Rare Bird Alert in the next roster (to be published soon), please notify Margaret Anderson at 668-6405; if there is no answer, call Margaret Jones at 665-4197.

## SAN LUIS PASS TAMERISK GROVE CENSUS SPRING 1974 - by T. Ben Feltner

Approximately two miles east of San Luis Pass, Galveston Island, on the north side of S Road is an isolated stand of Salt Cedars (*Tamarisk grandiflora*). It is roughly 85-90 yards wide (east/west) and about 75 yards deep (north/south). The grove is horseshoe shaped with the open end exposed to the Gulf of Mexico. In the middle of the horseshoe are several detached clumps of Tamarisk, one of which encloses a small pond; another small pond is located in the north-western arc of the horseshoe. The stand appears to be fairly old as several of the trees possess 12" diameter holes. In places the width of the grove is up to 25', and some of the older trees reach a height of 16' - 17'. Since cattle are grazing the area almost constantly, these cedars are rather open and allow periodic entry to the center of the thickets, in a stooped manner.

Between 28 April and 18 May 1974 this grove was censused on seven separate occasions between the hours of 6 P.M. and 8 P.M. C.D.S.T. The counts were accomplished by walking the grove from its Southwest point to its Southeast point with observers either side of the hedge and someone working the middle bird-dog fashion. The results were always interesting and sometimes spectacular. A mixed flock of 25 to 35 migrants exploding out of one clump of bushes and diving into another nearby elicited exclamations from even the most jaded observers. On three occasions 5 May, 7 May and 12 May migrants were actually observed "dropping-in" from the Gulf. Although weather conditions were probably a factor in determining the numbers of birds seen, no accurate correlation was recorded. Nevertheless, migrants were present every day, in some cases when they were almost absent at other migrant traps (ie Old House 5 May). This, I believe, is due to the isolation of the grove. The counts were restricted to those birds thought to be migrants although resident species were present and recorded. On the 12 May two mist nets were set up and 41 birds of 17 species were banded in about a 2½ hour period. This represents over 18% of the migrants counted there that day. A remarkably high percentage that points out how concentrated the birds are.

The accompanying chart is self-explanatory, and details on the rare birds have already been submitted to the Clearing House. It is hoped that future censuses will be started earlier in the spring and that will allow us to build up statistics more indicative of Trans-Gulf migration in our area.

Entry to this property is allowed only with a permit at the cost of \$25. per annum.

The following is a list of people who participated in the counts:

G. Fred Collins	Dan Hardy
David Deifik	Elric N. McHenry
Victor Emanuel	Jerry Strickling
Homer Eshbaugh	Nancy Strickling
Marie Feltner	James Wolstencroft
T. Ben Feltner	Diamondback Rattlesnake (uninvited)
Orlyn Gaddis	

SAN LUIS PASS TAMERISK GROVE CENSUS

	4/28	5/5	5/7	5/11	5/12	5/15	5/18		
1. Green Heron	15	-	2	3	1	7	2		
2. Red-shouldered Hawk	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
3. Solitary Sandpiper	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
4. Yellow-billed Cuckoo	4	-	3	-	3/1	8	6		
5. Black-billed Cuckoo	-	-	2	-	1	-	1		
6. Ruby-throated Hummingbird	-	-	6	2	5	-	-		
7. Common Nighthawk	-	3	2	6	2	-	1		
8. Lesser Nighthawk (A)	-	-	1	-	2	-	1		
9. Eastern Kingbird	5	22	30	8	20	4	19		
10. Western Kingbird	-	-	2	4	1	-	1		
11. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	-	10	15	10	2	-	2		
12. Great Crested Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
13. Empidonax (sp)	-	-	2	15	2	1	1(B)		
14. Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	-	-	2	4	-	-	-		
15. Traill's Flycatcher	-	-	-	-	1/1	-	-		
16. Eastern Wood Pewee	-	1	5	20	23/1	2	3		
17. Olive-sided Flycatcher	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
18. Blue Jay (C)	-	1	-	-	-	-	1		
19. Gray Catbird	-	-	8	3	5/1	2	1		
20. Wood Thrush	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
21. Swainson's Thrush	-	-	3	1	2/2	1	-		
22. Gray-cheeked Thrush	-	2	35	3	1	-	-		
23. Veery	-	3	25	5	3/2	1	-		
24. Ruby-crowned Kinglet (D)	-	-	-	1	1/1	-	-		
25. Cedar Waxwing	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
26. Red-eyed Vireo	1	-	5	-	-	-	2		
27. Philadelphia Vireo	1	1	1	-	1/1	-	-		
28. Black & White Warbler	1	1	5	2	3/1	-	-		
29. Worm-eating Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
30. Golden-winged Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
31. Tennessee Warbler	-	10	6	4	2	-	-		
32. Parula Warbler	-	-	2	-	-	-	-		
33. Yellow Warbler	1	23	4	2	10/1	1	4		
34. Magnolia Warbler	1	2	50	30	100/14	-	-		
35. Cape May Warbler	-	2(E)	1	-	-	-	-		
36. Black-throated Green Warbler	-	3	8	3	7/1	-	-		
37. Blackburnian Warbler	-	-	-	1	4	-	-		
38. Chestnut-sided Warbler	-	-	2	4	3/3	-	-		
39. Bay-breasted Warbler	-	1	-	4	2/1	-	-		
40. Blackpoll Warbler	2	-	2	2	-	-	-		
41. Palm Warbler	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
42. Ovenbird	2	1	1	-	-	-	-		
43. Northern Water-thrush	1	4	12	5	3/3	2	-		
44. Mourning Warbler	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
45. Common Yellowthroat	-	1	4	6	7/4	1	-		
46. Wilson's Warbler	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
47. Canada Warbler	-	3	-	8	-	-	-		
48. American Redstart	1	1	7	1	4/3	1	-		
49. Bobolink	1	-	-	-	-	-	-		
50. Orchard Oriole	10	-	3	-	1	-	-		
51. Baltimore Oriole	-	9	9	2	-	-	-		
52. Western Tanager	-	-	1	-	-	-	-		
53. Scarlet Tanager	-	3	-	1	-	-	-		
54. Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	3	8	6	1	-	-		
55. Blue Grosbeak	-	2	-	1	1	-	-		
56. Indigo Bunting	15	30	15	12	-	-	-		
57. Lark Sparrow (F)	1	-	-	2	-	-	-		
58. Lincoln's Sparrow	1	-	-	3	-	-	-		
TOTALS: INDIVIDUALS	65	142	292	189	225/41	32	45	990	41
SPECIES	18	25	39	40	33/17	13	14	58	17
								GRAND TOTALS	TOTAL UNDED

In seventeen entries for 12/5/74 dual numbers appear as fractions; the 1st or top number represents the counted/estimated total of individuals present in the Salt Cedars, the 2nd or bottom number represents the number of that species needed and banded.

- (A) The discovery of Lesser Nighthawks at this location leads one to suspect that they may nest on West Galveston. They have been reported fairly regularly for a number of years from other locations off of S road.
- (B) Probably least Flycatcher from its plumage
- (C) The finding of Blue Jays at this unlikely and isolated spot points up how little we know these common birds and their movements.
- (D) This sighting represents the latest ever in our checklist area for the Ruby-crowned Kinglet (See June 1974 Spoonbill, Clearing House)
- (E) On May 5th Elric McHenry found and showed to me a male Cape May Warbler. The bird possessed a strikingly beautiful plumage aberration: A triangular chestnut throat patch the same color as the cheeks. We have been unable to find this mark in any guide.
- (F) Another bird that may be nesting, the Lark Sparrow is not easy to find in the checklist area.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND SUBSCRIBERS:

New Members:

Randy L. Korotev, 502 S. Austin, #60, Webster, Tx. 77598  
Paul Whitfield, 4516 Rawley, Houston, Tx. 77020

New Subscribers:

Mrs. George M. Simmons, 4875 Laredo, Beaumont, Tx. 77703  
Mrs. James O. Calcote, Jr., 4895 Laredo Ave., Beaumont, Tx. 77703  
Mrs. Jerry B. Strickling, 7726 Meadowglen, Houston, Tx. 77042  
Mrs. L. W. Stankewitz, 700 W. Coleman, Iowa Park, Tx. 76367

Gift Subscription to:

Mrs. Mary L. Kelly, 1515 S. Post Oak Lane, #24, Houston, Tx. 77027

CLEARING HOUSE, JUNE, 1974

Grebe, Eared: (6)30, Pelican Island, FC & TBF; (2)16, Pelican Isl, FC  
Pelican, White: (1)25, Cove, AKM; (58)9, (22)16, Pelican Island, FC  
BOOBY, BLUE-FACED (also called Masked Booby): (1 immature)10-17, Drum Bay, near Freeport, Dr. Ray Flake; (1 immature)21-24, South Jetty at Galveston, James Tucker & Ro Wauer (discoverers), also TBF, J&NS, DH, EM, ER, MB, FC and others; (1 adult)25, Bolivar Flats, VE & TBF; see Clearing House Notes on all these birds.

Cormorant, Olivaceous: (4)25, Cove, AKM  
Frigatebird, Magnificent: (1 immature)22, West Bay, Galveston, MB & DH  
Heron, Great Blue: (30)30, Pelican Island, FC & TBF  
Heron, Green: (1)25, Cove, AKM  
Heron, Little Blue: (2)25, Bolivar Flats, VE & TBF; (3)25, Cove, AKM  
Egret, Cattle: (40)30, Pelican Island, FC & TBF  
Egret, Reddish: (4)30, Pelican Island, FC & TBF; (40p)15, North Deer Isl, FC  
Egret, Common: (400)30, Pelican Island, FC & TBF  
Egret, Snowy: (800)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF  
Heron, Louisiana: (1600)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF  
Nightheron, Black-crowned: (40)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF; (2)25, Cove, AKM  
Nightheron, Yellow-crowned: (6)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF; (3)27, Bellaire area, MJ, Gladys & Jess Eddy, see notes  
Bittern, Least: (1)15, Anderson Way, Galveston, FC; (1)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF  
Ibis, White-faced: (20)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF; (5)24, East Galv, P&MJ; (2)25, Cove, AKM  
Spoonbill, Roseate: (36)25, Bolivar Flats, VE & TBF; (35)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF; (3)25, Cove, AKM; (520)15, North Deer Island, FC  
TREEDUCK, BLACK-BELLIED: (2)2, (3)13, Smither's Lake Rd. and Rabbs Prairie Rd., about 7:30 - 8:00 P.M., HH - see notes  
Treeduck, Fulvous: (1)5, FM 529, West Harris Co., DH  
Duck, Mottled: (15)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF; (5)25, Cove, AKM  
Pintail: (5)5, House-and-Hahl Rd., DH  
Teal, Blue-winged: (3)16, Pelican Isl, FC  
Shoveler, Northern: (3)5, House-and-Hahl Rd., DH  
Scaup, Lesser: (2)5, House-and-Hahl Rd., DH; (4)30, Pelican Isl, FC & TBF; (8)16, Pelican Isl, FC  
Vulture, Black: (1)25, High Island, VE & TBF

- Kite, White-tailed: (1)19, Gulf Prairie Presbyterian Church, Jones Creek, A.C. Learned; (1)April 15, Texas 6 and Missouri City Limit, (1)April 21, May 30, June 6, Smither's Lake area, HH - see Notes
- KITE, SWALLOW-TAILED: (2)1, Calhoun and Old Spanish Trail, South MacGregor, HH - see Notes
- KITE, MISSISSIPPI: (2)19, (3)20, 21, Richmond State School, HH - see Notes
- Hawk, Swainson's: (1)6, 10, League City, (1)12, 20, July 1, NASA, (1)12, 17, 19, Dickinson, EM
- Rail, King: (4)5, West Harris Co., DH
- Rail, Clapper: (1 nest with eggs)15, Anderson Way, Galveston, (1 nest with eggs)30, Pelican Isl, FC
- Oystercatcher, American: (1)15, Anderson Way, Galv, (2)15, North Deer Isl, FC; (4)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF; (3)22, Galv Jetties, P&MJ
- Plover, Semipalmated: (8)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF
- Plover, Wilson's: (25)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (6)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Plover, Black-bellied: (20)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (2)23, East Beach, Galv, (1)29, Bolivar Flats, FC
- Turnstone, Ruddy: (3)16, (4)30, Pelican Isl, FC; (1)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF
- Curllew, Long-billed: (1)29, Bolivar Flats, FC; (42)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF; (1)21, South Jetty, TBF; (3)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (1)24, Bolivar, P&MJ
- Willet: (4)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (26)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF; (2)25, Cove, AKM
- Knot: (11)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Sandpiper, White-rumped: (45)5, House-and-Hahl Rd. & Warren Lake, DH
- Dowitcher species: (5)16, Pelican Isl, FC
- Sanderling: (20)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF; (50)16, Pelican Isl, (4)29, Bolivar Flats, FC
- Avocet, American: (200)16, Pelican Isl, FC
- GULL, GREAT BLACK-BACKED: (1)22, Bolivar Flats, James Tucker, Ro Wauer, MB, DH; (1)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (1)29, Bolivar Flats, FC - see notes.
- Gull, Herring: (3)16, Pelican Isl, (2)23, East Beach, FC; (1)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Gull, Laughing: (16,700 adults)16, Pelican Isl, FC; (20,000)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Gull-billed: (2)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (2)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Forster's: (20)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (10)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Common: (1)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF
- Tern, Least: (21)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (85)9, Pelican Isl, FC; (36)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Royal: (4500 adults)16, Pelican Isl, (80)23, East Beach, Galv, FC; (30)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (200)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Sandwich: (2000 adults)16, Pelican Isl, (30)23, East Beach, Galv, FC; (4)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (50)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Caspian: (1)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (1)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Tern, Black: (1)5, House-and-Hahl Rd., DH; (100p)22, South Jetty, MB&DH
- Skimmer, Black: (750)9, Pelican Isl, (250)15, Anderson Way, Galv, FC; (18)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (16)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Dove, White-winged: (3, including 1 on nest)22, Galv County Courthouse, NP
- Dove, Ringed Turtle: (1-5)6 days, Bellaire area, MJ; (1)several days, Gladys Eddy
- Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: (1)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Owl, Screech: (1 juvenile)19, yard, DH
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: (1)28, Cove, AKM
- Flicker, Yellow-shafted: (1)10, Memorial Park, FC; (1)22, yard, TBF; (1)1, 3300 block of Brays Bayou, DH; (1)1, McGregor Dr., P&MJ
- Woodpecker, Red-bellied: (1)13 days, Cove, AKM
- Woodpecker, Red-headed: (1-2)1, 2, McGregor Park, DH
- Kingbird, Eastern: (1)25, Bolivar Flats, VE&TBF; (2)25, (3)27, Cove, AKM
- Kingbird, Western: (1)25, Astrodome! young bird found inside ballpark; captured and fed, J&NS
- Lark, Horned: (6)30, Pelican Isl, FC&TBF
- Robin: (1-4)daily, yard, TBF

Yellowthroat, Common: (4)22, Mykawa Rd., TBF&EM

Dickcissel: (10)22, Mykawa Rd., TBF&EM

Sparrow, Henslow's: (6)22, Mykawa Rd., TBF&EM

Sparrow, Seaside: (NC)15, Anderson Way, Galv, FC; (1)30, Pelican Isl, FC&BF

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

MB	Mike Braun	P&MJ	Paul & Margaret Jones
FC	Fred Collins	EM	Elric McHenry
VE	Victor Emanuel	AKM	Arlie K. McKay
TBF	T. Ben Feltner	NP	Noel Pettingell
DH	Dan Hardy	ER	Elaine Robinson
HH	Holly Hobart	J&NS	Jerry & Nancy Strickling

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

BLUE-FACED BOOBY: (June 10-17 individual) Previous to June 10 there were strong offshore winds. Dr. Ray Flake found the booby near his beach house on Drum Bay, part of Christmas Bay, about 4 miles toward San Luis Pass from the tall bridge near Freeport. He offered it food for several days because it was unsteady of its feet and sickly. It would eat as much as a pound of fresh fish a day. On June 16 he replaced the booby where it was found. It flew a short way then lit, then flew further. It was seen on June 17 but disappeared afterwards. (account over phone from Dr. Flake) Description: Mottled brown immature booby with light patches on neck and rump to distinguish it from Imm. Gannet.

(June 21-24 individual) On June 21, 1974, Roland Wauer and I observed a Blue-faced Booby sitting on the sand flats adjacent to the south jetty at the north end of Galveston Island. The bird was first observed at 3:30 P.M. The following description was produced while the bird in question was under observation: The bird was obviously a Sullid, but since it appeared to be an immature we were not sure which species at first. The bill, the most immediately prominent feature, was basically a light bluish-gray on top shading to greenish and then yellowish at the tip and at the commissure. At the base of the bill the color appeared charcoal black. The iris was a bright yellow-olive. There was a very narrow band of white around the bill which was especially noticeable when the bird faced the observer head on. The head and neck were a soft light brown. The breast and entire underparts were clear white. The flanks were mottled and dusky, appearing slightly darker than the head. The trailing edge of the wings on the upper side, as well as the entire tail, were dark brown. The wing coverts were medium brown except for the "shoulders," which were white. There was a band of white where the back and neck joined. The back was splotched black and white. The underwing was bright white over the entire underwing surface except for a narrow trailing edge and the ultimate tip. The feet and legs were brownish, but the skin on the upper legs (where leg met plumage of flank) was sky blue. This color didn't seem to characterize the legs or feet. We were able to approach the bird to within 30 yards or less. But the bird was quite able to fly and did so on several occasions--once lighting out in the ship channel between the dikes and then later returning to the flats. --James A. Tucker

(June 25 individual) At about 9:45, June 25, Vic Emanuel and I found an adult Blue-faced Booby sitting on the beach at Bolivar Flat. The bird was approximately Herring Gull size only with a massive dagger-like bill. Except for the wing primaries and secondaries, the tail, and a small area of the base of the bill the plumage was a soft snowy-white. The rest of the bird was sooty brownish-black. The beak was straw-yellow, the feet greenish-yellow, the iris extreme pale yellow. The bird was quite tame and allowed approach to within 35 feet. It was photographed--black and white and color in various poses including flight. We had it under observation on and off for about an hour. The light was bright sunlight. All in all ideal conditions; binoculars, when used, were 8X40's. The bird was last seen 200 yards east of dump road sitting on the water after a dive. --T. Ben Feltner

Yellow-crowned Nightheron: Gladys and Jess Eddy called me to observe some Yellow-crowned Nighthérons nesting in a yard near them in the Bellaire area. There were two nests quite high in some Hackberry trees, with a heron standing on each nest, sleeping. Another adult was standing about a yard from one nest. We could discern some movement in the

rather ramshackled nests, but caught only a glimpse or two of a small head in one nest. This was the first time I realized such a bird would nest in highly populated, urban area with no body of water of any size to speak of nearby. --Margaret Jones

BLACK-BELLIED TREEDUCK: (June 2) White wing patch plainly visible as birds flew between rice fields. Distance 200 yds. Color absent, head lighter than underbody, neck longer than Black or Mallard Duck. (June 13) Three birds seen, head brown underneath very dark color better tonight. White wing patch clearly visible. 7X35, 20-45X60. --Holly Hobart

White-tailed Kite: (4-21) Apparently made kill flew across lake. 2 observers. (5-30) Made kill (small mammal, long tail) ate in dead tree, preened, flew across lake; 2 observers. (6-6) Made kill (small mammal, long tail) flew across lake. --Holly Hobart

SWALLOW-TAILED KITE: (June 1) One observed over trees "upstream" of MacGregor Park. Much contrast between head (white) and upper back (dark "gray"). Large birds. Slower flapping than crow but faster than Great Blue Heron. Swallowtail visible with 7X35. 12 Noon. 12:15-12:30, 3334 S. MacGregor 2 birds, low just over trees (40 ft.?) circled around many times, one with small long-tailed mammal. No need for binoculars, swallow tail head "white" also front of wings underneath. 2 observers. 7X35. --Holly Hobart

MISSISSIPPI KITE: (6-19) Observed over Richmond State School. 12 noon. Juvenile, barred tail similar to Red-tail but longer, in molt, wings pointed as a falcon attitude. 50 ft. to 350 ft. distance, 7X35, soaring and swooping; duration 3 minutes; 2 times later (one 5 P.M.) 2 birds observed. --Holly Hobart

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: This bird is the same bird that was discovered on March 24, 1974. For details see June SPOONBILL.

#### RARE BIRD ALERTS IN JUNE

Your editor has been requested to list the rare bird alerts that have been called. The following were called in June, with the date first, then the bird who created the furor:

- 1st - Swallow-tailed Kite
- 22nd - Blue-faced Booby
- 23rd - Parasitic Jaeger

#### RECIPES FOR BIRDS, SO RECIPES FOR BIRDERS...

Someone suggested that we publish the following recipe in the SPOONBILL since there have been so many requests for it (and I thought birders only took time away from the binoculars to cook for the birds..) and another interested party said if we can publish recipes for birds, we could publish them for birders. Here are two sent to me that have been highly recommended.

#### BIRDERS' COFFEE CAKE

Mix in large bowl: 1 pkg. Duncan Hines Butter Golden Cake Mix  
1 t. vanilla  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup white sugar  
 $\frac{1}{4}$  eggs  
 $\frac{3}{4}$  cup Wesson Oil  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  pint sour cream

Add: 1 cup chopped nuts  
Pour half of mixture in well greased, floured tube pan or Bundt pan.  
Sprinkle over mixture: 1 T. Cinnamon, 2 T. brown sugar  
Pour in remaining mixture.  
Bake at 350° for about 1 hour. Test with toothpick.  
Cool in pan before removing.

BEER BREAD

2 cups Bisquick  
2 T. sugar  
6 oz. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  can) beer

Measure Bisquick into bowl.  
Measure beer.  
Add sugar to beer.  
Mix beer mixture into Bisquick.  
Fill greased muffin tin  $\frac{1}{2}$  full.  
Bake at 450° 8-10 minutes or until brown.  
Makes 8-10 muffins, depending on muffin tin size.

Can also be used as the liquid in cornbread mix, some of which already has sugar in it.

COPIED FROM JUNE, 1958 ISSUE OF "THE SPOONBILL"

UP FROM THE EGG:  
THE CONFESSIONS OF A NUTHATCH AVOIDER  
by Ogden Nash

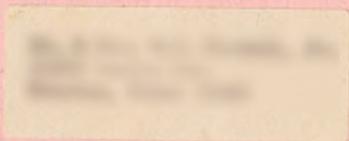
Bird watchers top my honors list.  
I aimed to be one, but I missed.  
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic,  
My aim turned out to be erratic,  
And I, bespectacled and binocular,  
Exposed myself to comment jocular.  
We don't need too much birdlore, do we  
To tell a flamingo from a towhee;  
Yet I cannot and never will,  
Unless the silly birds stand still.  
And there's no enlightenment in a tour  
Of ornithological literature.  
Is you strange creature a common chickadee,  
Or a migrant alouette from Picardy?  
You rush to consult your nature guide  
And inspect the gallery inside,  
But a bird in the open never looks  
Like its picture in the birdie books --  
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage,  
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage.  
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,  
Watching the clock instead of finches,  
But I sometimes visualize in my gin  
The Audubon that I audubin.

COMING EVENTS:

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Thursday<br>August 1     | Regular OG Meeting - 7:30 P.M., Downtown Recreation Center. "ARIZONA - DESERT, PEAKS AND CANYONS" begins the new year for OG. Southeastern Arizona is an area of diversity which has many excitingly unusual birds, presenting both a challenge and a delight to birders. Come to the film and narrative account of the recent Arizona birding trip made by a number of our group. This will feature the excellent slides of Jim Beaty, Harry Brister, Frank Hsu, Howard Kunz, Fred Stigale and Ella Wolfer combined into a presentation you will want to see. Plus added attraction! Rated GF (Great Fun) |
| Saturday<br>September 21 | Audubon Field Trip to Bolivar & High Island, led by Steve Williams. Meet at 8 A.M. at the East End of the Seawall in Galveston. Bring lunch and insect repellent.  |
| Saturday<br>September 28 | OG Field Trip to Cove led by Arlie McKay. Meet at 7:30 A.M. at the roadside park just before you get to the Trinity River Bridge (on the north side of IH 10.) Bring lunch.  |

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OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB  
(ORNITHOLOGY GROUP)  
1746 WROXTON COURT  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005  
Return Postage Guaranteed



NAMES FOR REFERENCE

- Chairman: Mr. Harry Brister, 2314 Saxon,  
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- Treasurer: Miss Melba Drake, 1746 Wroxton Court,  
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- Spoonbill: Mrs. Irving (Laura) Greenbaum, 5615 Portal Dr.,  
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- Clearing-House Mr. Dan Hardy, 10215 Chatterton,  
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