



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME IX No. 3

JULY 1960

 * AN INVITATION *
 * Houston area birders have a cordial invitation *
 * to visit Sheldon Reservoir. Your editor for *
 * the summer is presently employed by the Game *
 * & Fish Commission and is working on a research*
 * project in the Sheldon area. Boat trips into *
 * the marsh may be arranged or short hikes may *
 * be taken if preferred. Birders should check *
 * with the personnel at the office before enter-*
 * ing State property, however. *
 * Some of the birds to be expected are Anhingas,*
 * Least Bitterns, Painted Buntings, Dickcissels,*
 * Mottled and Wood Ducks, Common and Purple *
 * Gallinules, White Ibis, Red-headed Woodpeck- *
 * ers, several egrets, herons and others. CHA *
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PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- July 24 - Field Trip to Galveston. Meet in Galveston at the Humble Station on 61st Street and Broadway at 1:00 p.m. Bring a picnic supper and bathing suit for a pleasant evening on the beach.
- August 4 - Our regular bi-monthly meeting will be held in Milby Park --- picnic supper at 6:30 p.m. Meet near the pavilion and first ones there hold tables for late arrivals. Program --- Reports from all the lucky ones who spent their vacations finding birds!

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

AUGUST EDITOR - Since our regular editor (Vic Emanuel) will be in Washington for another month the next issue of the SPOONBILL will again be edited by our "summer" editor. Please send Clearing House material, Vacation reports and other news for the August SPOONBILL to Carl H. Aiken III, 3767 Georgetown, Houston 5, Texas. DEADLINE for the next SPOONBILL is August 6.

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MAY 1960 FIELD TRIP TO LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY - Dudley Deaver

At 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22, 1960, a long convoy of automobiles (three) congregated at the Cleveland railroad station. They were filled to overflowing with a large group (the Gillmans, the Hoffmans, Mrs. Gwen Fields, our leader Trevor Feltner and his assistant Dudley Deaver) of excited, enthusiastic bird-watchers. Meanwhile, the first convoy (one car) with a smaller group of excited, enthusiastic bird-watchers (Bob and Mabel Deshayes) was congregating at another Cleveland railroad station, the existence of which was known only by them.

The larger convoy departed at 8:00 a.m. for a cabin about four miles west of Shepherd. On the way we stopped at a roadside park between the cabin and Shepherd. We

DUES ARE DUE !

found an Acadian Flycatcher's nest (the female was apparently in the process of laying) and identified Painted and Indigo Buntings, Yellow-billed Cuckoos, Red and White-eyed Vireos, and Carolina Wrens.

At the cabin the scenery was admired by all and a Wormeating Warbler was sighted carrying food, but a nest could not be found. A Hooded Warbler's nest had been staked out earlier by Trevor but when we arrived we found that the nest had been vacated. Further birding produced a very well developed Multiplying Onion Plant, Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, and Pine, Parula and Black-and white Warblers. Louise Hoffman then treated us to a new dip she expertly created. When writing in for the recipe, please refer to "Avocado pit dip".

We reluctantly left the wooded wonderland (at close to 70 miles per hour) and pushed on to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. On the way we stopped to admire a male Lark Sparrow singing in a small tree at the edge of a corn field. Our alert and courageous leader spotted a point from which a female Lark Sparrow took flight to join her mate and promptly found a nest buried in the ground at the base of a corn stalk. The nest, which was lined with horse hair, contained two well-marked eggs. Heartened by these wondrous achievements, we hailed our leader and, expecting even greater adventures, hurried to the sanctuary. Upon arrival we were shown the nest of a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, full of large mouths firmly affixed to small birds. On our way to the Enchanted Isle, we met the Deshayes who carefully explained that there were two railroad stations in Cleveland. At Enchanted Isle we located a White-eyed Vireo's nest. An Acadian Flycatcher was observed busily building one of her own. A quick trip to the lake near Joe Heiser's house added to our list a quick trip to the lake near Joe Heiser's house. At this point the Gillmans left the group and the remaining optimists went in quest of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Due to the irresponsibility of this particular species, the conquest was thwarted.

After taking the Deshayes to the Lark Sparrow's nest and bidding the Hoffmans fond adieu, the field trip came to an end; mainly because it was getting dark and there was no one else to lead.

Other species identified included Bobwhites, Scissor-tailed flycatchers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Little Blue and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Eastern Kingbirds, Summer Tanagers, Baltimore Orioles and a Robin.

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Summer Day Run of 110 Species - Paul Corneil

After all but the last traces of spring migration have passed into history in the pages of the SPOONBILL each year, it becomes increasingly difficult to amass lists of over 100 species in a single day. In fact, after the first couple of weeks in June, no party had ever reached 100 species in a day. With this goal in mind, Steve Williams and I had planned since early May to make another attempt at the magic number during the summer. On June 18, consuming surprising quantities of gasoline (245 miles from beginning to end), drinking water, and encountering an extra supply of good luck along the way, Steve and I identified 110 species on the traditionally good Sheldon-to-Galveston circuit. The main advantage of this type of day run is the extra-long day, and our count was made three days before the longest day of the year; this allowed us to return from San Luis Pass to Houston before dusk and thus obtain four species we would not have had otherwise. Highlights of the day follow, with numbers in parentheses being the number of species up to that point during the day.

With a 4:30 a.m. start in Houston, we arrived at the woods west of Sheldon Reservoir early, and Steve's experienced ears added several species to the common "junk" which was everywhere (Cardinals, etc.). Most important: Wood Thrush, Barred Owl, Downy Woodpecker and Bobwhite (all singing). Farther down the road to Sheldon were Summer Tanager, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Pine Warbler, Crested Flycatcher, and Crow. The species at the Reservoir were very good: Painted Bunting, the common herons and egrets (except Black-crowned Night Heron), both true ibis, Blue Grosbeak, Wood Duck, Eastern Kingbird, Roseate Spoonbill, Dickcissel, Pileated Woodpecker, Fulvous Tree Duck, Orchard Oriole, Anhinga, Eastern Wood Pewee and Purple Martin (44 species - before 6:00). A Lesser Scaup, our first House Sparrow, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo were all at Lake Houston, but in the woods south of the lake, Steve saw a Chuck-will's-widow, a species he thought he had heard earlier. Our fiftieth species came shortly before 7:00, Red-shouldered Hawk, followed quickly by Eastern Bluebird.

At Buckhorn Lake we identified several more essential species (definition in June SPOONBILL page 7); Yellow-throated Warbler, Parula Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and Turkey Vulture. Most interesting was a group of Starlings in the grass exactly where they had been on the May 1 run. Breeding?

Highlands Reservoir gave us an American Coot, which we also saw later in Galveston, but no ducks. A Black Vulture on the horizon en route to Lynchburg, and the gulls, terns, and a Long-billed Marsh Wren there, extended the list. We ran into good luck at Miller Cut-off Road with one Caracara and one Swainson's Hawk (68), which was being chased across the road in front of the car by a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. A lingerer such as this should be checked again since it might be breeding somewhere in the area.

The dry Baytown Tunnel area did produce White Pelican, Black-crowned Night Heron, etc. After an unfruitful search for Avocets in this area and at Hog Island, where they had been regular last summer, an equally unfruitful search for Tropicbirds and Lazuli Bunting at Morgan's Point, we hurried down to Seabrook, which offered a Pied-billed Grebe and Common Grackle (78).

At 1:00 we reached Galveston, identifying Reddish Egret and Brown Pelican without stopping, on the way to the east end. There we added two essentials -- Seaside Sparrow and Sandwich Tern. A couple of minutes at Kempner Park produced an Inca Dove for each of us, and we were off to the west via Stewart Road. The ponds behind the lumber yard harbored Semipalmated Plover, Double-crested Cormorant, and a female Blue-winged Teal. The arm of Sweetwater Lake called the Ruddy Duck pond produced not only its namesake but six other welcomed species: Many Dowitchers, Ruddy Turnstone, Black-bellied Plover, Wilson's Plover, Black Tern, and one Pectoral Sandpiper (latest date ever by 4 days). Several Mottled Ducks were in the ditch under the road to West Bay Fishing Camp (Anderson Ways), where we finally located the bird it is famous for -- Clapper Rail.

Back on the road we found a family of Blue-winged Teal, 6 individuals including 2 young! This is getting to be a habit for this species. The Barn Swallows were where they were supposed to be, and at 4:30 we saw the first Cattle Egret, the 100th species although we didn't know it because of an arithmetic error many hours before. Farther along the road were several breeding Common Gallinules. While we were watching the youngsters, a Sora Rail walked right in front of them! Farther along, just before starting Termini Road, a single White-rumped Sandpiper (latest date by 12 days) presented itself, and at San Luis Pass we found the knot of Knots, which have been around for months, plus five more than those counted before, plus several Sanderlings.

We still had time for a run back to Houston, and on the way we found the Common Loon (a cripple) still at Offatt's Bayou, the White-tailed Hawks still at Ellington Air Force Base, the Robins, and a Brown Thrasher still at Hermann Park.

The final total after corrections had been made was 110 species which could not be increased by owl-searching. The more common species missed were Least Bittern, Barn Owl, King Rail and Yellowthroat. We think it is possible to see over 110 with just a little more good fortune.

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CLEARING HOUSE

- June 1 - Marsh Hawk, Painted Bunting and Dickcissel reported nesting at Morgan's Point by Linda Snyder. She also has Wood Thrush and Crested Flycatchers nesting near her home.
- June 3 - Barn Swallows (2 at Morgan's Point) and 10 Wood Ibis on Black Duck Bay recorded by Linda Snyder.
- June 10 - A Prothonotary Warbler and Brown Thrasher were noted in the Bayshore area by Linda Snyder.
- June 12 - John O'Neill recorded two Cedar Waxwings at LaGrange.
- June 19 - John Easter noted 2 adult Robins and one immature at Mason Park. This was his first immature bird for the area.
- July 3 - Trevor Feltner found 6 immature Frigate Birds coming into West Beach, Galveston.
- July 10 - The Hoffmans are still seeing Hummingbirds in their yard every few days.

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REPORT FROM COVE AREA - MAY & JUNE, 1960 --- Arlie K. McKay

The spring here was about average. I saw no spectacular waves, yet the number of days warblers could be found was unusually high. I was greatly surprised at the much more impressive migration elsewhere in this general area. My big days were May 1 (98 with 12 warblers), May 8 (101 with 7 warblers), May 10 (113 with 6 warblers), and May 11 (101 with 17 warblers). Other than the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and thrushes, there were no migrants in exceptional numbers. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Parula Warbler, and White-eyed Vireo

DUES ARE DUE!

were fewer than ever before. The Louisiana Waterthrush and Indigo Buntings were also very low.

Eared Grebe - one from April 29 to May 13; two others on May 10, latest ever by five days. Olivaceous Cormorant - one on May 10. Anhinga - 14 migrating on May 19; one on June 22. Green Heron - Peak of 9 on May 11. Black-crowned Night Heron - Unusually scarce. Yellow-crowned Night Heron - None for the second time in 26 years. American Bittern - One on May 6 & 10. Least Bittern - Two on May 10. White-faced Ibis - Three on May 3; peak of 300 on May 11; very few since. White Ibis - one on May 8; 5 on the 28th, and one on June 24. Roseate Spoonbill - Three to seventeen on eight days in May; 6 on June 4.

Fulvous Tree Duck - Seventy-five on May 1; with 3 or more ducklings on May 30; one flock on June 18. Mallard - One pair on May 2; 3 on the 11th. Mottled Duck - More than I have seen in many years. Blue-winged Teal - Forty on May 1; down to about 10 on May 15. Canvasback - 4 on May 10. Lesser Scaup - About 700 to May 8; 193 on May 10; 7 on May 15. Ruddy Duck - One on May 10, latest ever by 11 days. Snow and Blue Geese - One flock of five Snow and two Blue on May 9, latest ever by five days. Canada Goose - One reported dead about May 9.

Mississippi Kite - Two on May 10, latest ever by three days. Sharp-shinned Hawk - One on May 7. Red-shouldered Hawk - Two, one a fledgling in nest with dead screech owl or goatsucker on May 6. Swainson's Hawk - One carrying an item of food on May 6; 2 on 10th; one on the 12th. Broad-winged Hawk - One on May 1; 7 on May 7; 2 on May 10. Marsh Hawk - One on May 6; one near Texas City on June 9. Osprey - One on May 8. Caracara - One on May 10. Peregrine Falcon - One on May 8. Sparrow Hawk - One on May 8, latest ever by 3 days.

King Rail - One on May 9; three on May 11; a pair with seven immature on May 18; one on May 20 and seven on June 8. Clapper Rail - One on May 1, seven on May 7, and 3 on May 10. Sora Rail - One on May 6. Purple Gallinule - Five on May 8, one on May 10, and three on May 14. Common Gallinule - Five on May 8. Coot - Two on May 8 and May 15. Semipalmated Plover - One on May 10 and two on May 18. Wilson Plover - First two on May 8; one on May 10. Golden Plover - Peak of 110 on May 8; last one on May 11. Black-bellied Plover - Peak of 24 on May 10; last one on May 15. Ruddy Turnstone - 15 on May 1, six on May 10 and 2 on May 15. Long-billed Curlew - 16 on May 11. Whimbrel - Twelve on May 9; 2 on May 10; and 2 on May 11. Upland Plover - Four on May 1; 3 on May 2 and May 3; 2 on May 6, May 8 and May 10, latest ever by three days. Spotted Sandpiper - Peak of 8 on May 11; one on May 14. Solitary Sandpiper - One on May 1; two on May 10. Willet - Last one on May 11, a poor season. Greater Yellowlegs - Seen to May 11; peak of 13 on May 7. Lesser Yellowlegs - 200 on May 7; 500 on May 11; last one on May 15. White-rumped Sandpiper - First 3 on May 3; about 100 on May 11 to May 19. Least Sandpiper - Seen to May 15. Pectoral Sandpiper - Peak of 200 on May 11; last 10 on May 15. Dunlin - Seen to May 10. Sanderling - More this spring than ever before. Semipalmated Sandpiper - Seen to May 10. Dowitcher - One on May 8; three on May 10. Black-necked Stilt - First and last 15 seen on May 1. Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Peak of 98 on May 10; 20 on May 11. Hudsonian Godwit - 12 on May 2; 5 on May 8; 21 on May 9; 41 on May 10; 43 on May 11; 2 on May 18. Wilson Phalarope - 83 on May 7; 198 on May 11; 12 on May 13. Black Tern - Peak and last on May 18 (300).

Black-billed Cuckoo - One on May 2. Barn Owl - One on May 1. Chuck-will's widow - One on May 4; 2 on May 6. Whip-poor-will - One on May 8, latest ever by 4 days. Lesser Nighthawk - One on May 15; a lifer, three out of 5 field marks noted well - being chased by Common Nighthawks. Ruby-throated Hummingbird - First returning bird on June 24. Pileated Woodpecker - 2 on May 10. Red-headed Woodpecker - 2 on May 6 and May 10. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - One on May 2, my second May record (one on May 7, 1939).

Eastern Kingbird - Peak of 23 on May 11. Western Kingbird - One on May 1 and May 8, latest ever by 6 days. Great Crested Flycatcher - One on June 22. Eastern Wood Pewee - Eleven on May 1; eight on May 11; two on May 15; one on May 20 and one on June 1. Olive-sided Flycatcher - First one on May 10; last one on May 11. Bank Swallow - seen to May 15. Rough-winged Swallow - seen to May 15. Barn Swallow - seen to May 18. Cliff Swallow seen to May 11; one at Wallisville on June 23. Purple Martin - First migration on June 24. Catbird - Peak of 25 on May 2; last 2 on May 12. Brown Thrasher - Last 2 on May 6.

Wood Thrush - 2 on May 1; 10 on May 2; 1 on May 10 and 2 on May 11. Swainson's Thrush - About 200 on May 11 (last). Gray-cheeked Thrush - Last ten on May 11. Veery - 2 on May 6; 1 on May 8, and 3 on May 11. Sprague's Pipit - Latest April 25 - my latest is May 13. Cedar Waxwing - Last 60 on May 10. Starling - On May 6 I saw a pair feeding young in an idle oil well pump beam. On May 18, I saw the same or another pair feeding young in the same beam. I doubt if young stay in nest 13 days.

Yellow-throated Vireo - 2 on May 2 and 1 on May 4. White-eyed Vireo - One on May 1, May 2, and May 10. Red-eyed Vireo - Last 25 on May 11. Philadelphia Vireo - 1 on May 2. Warbling Vireo - 1 on May 2.

Black-and-white Warbler - 8 on May 1; 7 on May 2; 1 on May 4 and May 6; and 5 on May 11. Tennessee Warbler - 10 on May 1; 20 on May 2; 30 on May 4; 3 on May 6 and May 8; 2

on May 10; 25 on May 11; 3 on May 12. Yellow Warbler - 3 on May 1 and May 2; 20 on May 4; 4 on May 5; 3 on May 6; and May 8; 20 on May 11; and 1 on May 14. Magnolia Warbler - 1 on May 1, May 4, May 5 and May 6. Black-throated Green Warbler - 5 on May 4; 2 on May 5; one on May 6 and 10; 30 on May 11; 5 on May 12; one on May 13. Black-burnian Warbler - 2 on May 1 and May 4; 1 on May 8 and May 10; 10 on May 11 and 3 on May 12. Chestnut-sided Warbler - 1 on May 1; 5 on May 4; 25 on May 11; and 4 on May 12. Bay-breasted Warbler - 5 on May 1; 10 on May 2; 30 on May 4; 4 on May 5 and May 6; 25 on May 11; 2 on May 12. Pine Warbler - One on May 6 and ten on June 23. Ovenbird - 4 on May 1; 3 on May 2; one on May 5 and May 6; 9 on May 11. Northern Water Thrush - 2 on May 1; 3 on May 2; 4 on May 5; 1 on May 11. Kentucky Warbler - 1 on May 1 and May 6; 2 on May 11. Mourning Warbler - One on May 11 - my third spring record. Maryland Yellowthroat - One on May 2, May 8, May 14 and May 15; 8 on May 11. Yellow-breasted Chat - 6 on May 1; 2 on May 2, May 6, May 10 and May 11. Hooded Warbler - One or two on May 11. Wilson Warbler - One on May 10. Canada Warbler - Three on May 6; 100 on May 11; one on May 12. American Redstart - 3 on May 1, May 4 and May 12; one on May 2, May 8, and May 13; 2 on May 5 and 25 on May 11. Orchard Oriole - 50 on May 1 and 25 on May 11. Baltimore Oriole - 50 on May 1 and May 2; 10 on May 4; 20 on May 8; 1 on May 7, May 10, May 11 and May 13. Scarlet Tanager - One on May 1 and May 8; five on May 2. Summer Tanager - Last 3 on June 14, may not have been migrants. Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 8 on May 2; 2 on May 4. Blue Grosbeak - Latest on June 17. Indigo Bunting - 60 on May 1; 20 on May 4; 20 on May 8; 25 on May 11; Last 50 on May 14. Savannah Sparrow - Seen to May 11. Seaside Sparrow 3 on May 1; one on May 8; 2 on May 10. Lincoln Sparrow - 2 on May 1.

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BIRDING IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA - Paul Corneil

For a few days after school was out this spring I had a chance to visit some friends in Pasadena and San Marino, California, and to bird in several places around the Los Angeles metropolitan area. For anyone planning a trip in this direction later this summer, I suggest the following places to see birds.

Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. Here the extensive foliage and small water areas have attracted Chinese Spotted Dove (not domesticated), Black Phoebe, Hooded Oriole Brown Towhee, Scrub Jay, and House Finch (almost replaces House Sparrow). Some ducks, probably domesticated Mallards, roam the ponds with Coots.

Huntington Beach-Balboa Beach. Although conditions were poorer than one time before when I had been here, Western Gulls and cormorants (probably Brandt's) were easy to find. Some other birds seen in this area are: Ruddy Duck, Black-necked Stilt, Whimbrel, Ring-billed Gull and Caspian Tern. Western Meadowlarks, nesting Cliff Swallows, and breeding Sparrow Hawks may be found shortly back of the coastline.

Huntington Estate, San Marino. Besides the Art Museum and Library which should not be missed, a variety of habitats (moist woods to cactus gardens) have attracted Plain Titmouse, Brown Towhee, Bushtit, Acorn Woodpecker, Anna's Hummingbird, Band-tailed Pigeon, Chinese Spotted Dove, California Quail (state bird) and more House Finches.

Arroyo Seco Park, Pasadena. A Dry Gulch, literally, but with good trees high on the sides; these attract Red-shafted Flicker, Band-tailed Pigeon, Chestnut-sided (Spotted) Towhee, Black-headed Grosbeak, White-throated Swift, and Acorn Woodpecker.

All these places but Huntington Estates are mentioned in Pettingill's "Bird Finding West of the Mississippi River" with more species listed. Four years ago, incidently, the mountains behind Los Angeles and San Bernardino were excellent as was the entire Pacific Coast between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The climax of the trip this spring was seeing a White-tailed Kite (I seem to be one of the few souls who hasn't seen one in this area). This one was near a flood control reservoir called Whittier Narrows, completely surrounded by metropolitan Los Angeles. Southern California is famous as the best part of the United States for seeing these graceful birds but it surprised me by being in an unexpected place.

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A NORTHWESTERN VACATION - Linda and Clint Snyder

Our vacation trip carried us within 40 miles of Canada for our destination was Glacier National Park, Montana. Traveling almost constantly through prairies, canyons, and mountains, we should have had ample opportunity to see the birds of those areas, but a tight trip schedule did not permit intensive birding. Then, at Glacier, we were held indoors for three days by snow and rain! Of the many places recommended by Pettin-gill we were able to cover a few outstanding ones with good results - Capulin Mountain and Johnson's Mesa (N.Mex.), Mountain Parks (Denver, Colo.) Medicine Bow Mountains (Wyo.),

DUES ARE DUE !

Grand Teton National Park and National Elk Refuge (Wyo.), Yellowstone Park (Wyo.), Glacier National Park (Mont.), Nine Pipe National Refuge (Mont.), Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge (Utah) and Mesa Verde National Park (Colo.). We listed some 185 species for the trip including the Trumpeter Swan, Western, Red-necked and Eared Grebes, Avocet, Wilson's Phalarope, California Gull, Cinnamon Teal, Dusky Grouse, Chukar, Scaled Quail, Ring-necked Pheasant, Golden Eagle, Rough-legged and Swainson's Hawks, Mississippi Kite, Short-eared and Burrowing Owls, White-throated Swift, Black-chinned, Broad-tailed and Calliope Hummingbirds, Lewis' and Three-toed Woodpeckers, Western Kingbird, Cassin's Kingbird, Western Wood Pewee, Olive-sided and Western Flycatchers, Say's Phoebe, Steller's Jay and Scrub Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, White-necked Raven, Black-capped and Mountain Chickadees, Pygmy and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Dipper, Western and Mountain Bluebirds, Townsend's Solitaire, Ruby and Golden-crowned Kinglets, Warbling and Bell's Vireos, Common Bushtit, Sage Thrasher, MacGillivray's, Virginia's, Audubon's and Black-throated Gray Warblers, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bullock's Oriole, Western Tanager, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-headed Grosbeak, Luzuli Bunting, Cassin's Finch, Pine Siskin, both Goldfinches, Rufous-sided (Spotted) and Green-tailed Towhees, Rufous-crowned, White-crowned and Chipping Sparrows, Gray-headed and Pink-sided Juncos. The most common birds of the trip were Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Western Meadowlark, Common Raven, American Magpie, Red-shafted Flicker, Cliff Swallow, Yellow Warbler and Swainson's Thrush. Strangely enough we missed the usually omnipresent Roadrunner! There were many other species we particularly wanted to see and didn't despite "breath-taking" nature trail hikes and "top-gazing" at one-hundred foot conifers!

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A SOUTHWESTERN VACATION - Josiephine Wilkin

My husband and I headed west on June 4 for an Arizona vacation. Cave Creek Recreation area near Portal, Arizona, was our first extended stop. The campsite we chose was at Idlewilde Forest Camp, mainly because of the stream of water running beside it. We found the weather most pleasant in the daytime, and quite cool at night. Our main objective was the Coppery-tailed Trogon. Norma Oates and her party had scouted the area earlier and mailed a map showing where the trogons might be found. The birds were easily spotted as by the time we arrived, they had set up housekeeping in a hole in the trunk of a Scyamore Tree. Other "lifers" found nesting were Arizona Woodpecker, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and most thrilling of all was finding the Elf Owls nesting at our campsite. Other birdwatchers there were quite excited over this find too. So we invited them over to watch -- the Elf Owls fed quite frequently just as darkness descended - but we were lucky as we had a full moon!

The scenery along the mountain road to Rustler Park and beyond, is indeed spectacular. I do not believe it is surpassed by the view from the South Rim in Big Bend, and much easier to see as it can be reached by car.

A short distance from Portal, I was closer to a Golden Eagle than I have ever been (not counting caged birds). He was beside the road, on a post, with a Raven very close by. As our car approached, the eagle flew with the Raven in close pursuit.

In Tucson we were privileged to be the house guest of Lt. George K. Palmer (soon to be captain). George also served as our guide to Old Tucson, Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, Saguaro National Monument, and to Mt. Lemmon to see the Red-faced Warbler. Sure-nuff, our scouts batted a thousand, as the Red-faced Warbler was still in almost exactly the same spot we were told to look -- but I must admit the people outnumbered the bird population 100 to 1.

On the way home we spent several days in the Chiricahua National Monument. We hiked one or more trails per day including the "Heart of Rocks" which is truly fantastic.

During the trip I added 14 "lifers" to my list, the most abundant being the Bridled Titmouse and the Painted Redstart. The Redstarts were all over the mountains, feeding, nesting, bathing, and singing. Other new birds not previously mentioned were: Saw-whet Owl (heard), Rivoli's Hummingbird, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Mexican Chickadee, Pygmy Nuthatch, and Olive Warbler - he was quite a thrill, too. Birds George failed to produce (because time ran out) were Hutton's Vireo and Lucy's Warbler which he has seen on several occasions - something to go back for. That is, if I need an excuse.

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ROCKPORT DISCOVERY THROWS BIRDWATCHERS INTO TIZZY (Reprint from Houston Chronicle)

"Rockport - Mrs. Jack Hagar, nationally-known ornithologist, and rare birds seem to have an affinity for one another. Early this spring she discovered a Ruff, a rare European bird 10,000 miles from home, and threw the Texas bird-watchers world into a tizzy. The news spread like wildfire.

"Now, with the aid of a couple of local bird watchers, she has come up with two new species, both of them completely lost according to the books.

"Mrs. Charles Barnett of Port Aransas saw a couple of birds on the jetties and told Mrs. Hagar about them. Immediately the Rockport bird watchers and Mrs. Kay McCracken, newswoman from Corpus Christi, took off to see if the feathered visitors were still there. They were.

"Mrs. Hagar says they were Noddy Terns, dark-colored with a silvery head and pigeon-like tail. They have never been reported in this area before.

"The same day, when Mrs. Hagar and Mrs. McCracken were en route for Mrs. Barnett's home here, they discovered a Black-throated (Pacific) Loon whose wild laughter is normally heard only on the far northern lakes of Canada and the United States at this time of the year."

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College of the Pacific Gets a LUCKY-BUCK -
Ornithology Group Gets a SLOW BURN

The Ornithology Group of Houston is considering suing the College of the Pacific for alienation of affection or something! We have all become so fond and proud of the Edwards, and then the College of the Pacific waves the Headship of the Department of Biological Science at Dr. Edwards and lures him away from us. Not one whit better than he deserves --- but aren't we going to miss both of them. It was such a pleasant surprise when someone of Dr. Edwards' stature made himself so much a part of our group; no wonder we were so completely charmed by both Buck and Mabel.

The Edwards will probably live in Stockton about 50 miles east of San Francisco and will leave Houston as soon as they sell their home here. So - Dr. Edwards, Head of the Department of Biological Science, we say goodbye with much regret, and hope you are going to the very best of academic and personal situations.

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BIRDING HERE & THERE ON THE LONG 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND

Louise and Henry Hoffman spent an eventful day in Austin finding interesting birds and Birders. They were joined in the afternoon by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Webster and their well-trained ("Birding") dog, Sambo. The Hoffmans were late for the Golden-cheeked Warbler - and the Black-capped Vireo didn't show for them. However, other birds of the area were more cooperative and their list included lots of Rufous-crowned Sparrows, Field Sparrows singing, Blue-gray gnatcatchers, many House Finches singing, numerous Black-backed Goldfinch and Painted Buntings.

Nancy and Jerry Strickling who spent the week-end of July 4th at Lake Whitney near Meridian, Texas, reported many nesting birds in that area, - such as Bewick's and Carolina wrens, Killdeer, Cardinals and at one spot found Black-crested and Tufted Titmice nesting in the same tree.

John O'Neill, Buck Edwards and Harvey Patten camped over the July 4th week-end in the Rio Grande Valley and among other things found the nest of the rare Rose-throated Becard at Benson State Park. Another rarity found was a Beardless Flycatcher.

Leota Stilwell, Norma Oates and Ruth Moorman spent a pleasant July 4th week-end in Rockport where birding was made "joyous" by a cool gulf breeze. Near Ingleside a pair of Bullock's Orioles were seen feeding young while a beautiful male Blue Grosbeak sang from a nearby telephone wire. On Padre Island the nest of a Snowy Plover was found with two spotted eggs that looked much too large for such a small bird. Two Man-of-war birds were seen floating over the jetties on Mustang Island and several Wood Ibis were found in a marsh on Highway 881.

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Typist - NCO - Not too many errors this time PLEEZE!

Dues are due - send your \$1.00 to Ella Wolfer !!!
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