



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XI No. 20
December, 1963

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*
* A few years ago, on a Tuesday night,
* during a meeting of my old bird club,
* the Linnaean Society of New York, I sat
* in the back of the room where I could see
* everyone present. There were boys not yet
* seventeen, men past seventy; several
* housewives; a man who lived in a hall bed-
* room in lower Brooklyn, and at least two
* millionaires. There was one banker, a
* publisher, a cartographer, two lawyers,
* at least three physicians, a playwright,
* two artists, assorted businessmen, and
* at least one man with no visible means
* of support. A lad of particularly dull
* intellect sat near John Kieran, paragon
* of quick wit and fabulous memory. What is
* the common denominator? Here is a chal-
* lenging opportunity for a group survey by
* some analyst. Instead of a behavior
* study of birds, why not a behavior study
* of bird watchers?
*
* R.T. Peterson from "The Bird Watchers
* Anthology"
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COMING EVENTS

- December 22 (Sunday) Freeport Christmas Count, Vic Emanuel, leader. Jerry Strickling, leader pro tempore, will dispense with information to interested persons.
- December 28 (Saturday) Houston Christmas Count. See below.
- January 14 (Tuesday) Regular ONC meeting. 8:00 PM at Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Dr. Program, "Texas Fish", A.G. Flury.
- January 19 (Sunday) ONC Field Trip. Sea Shell Hunt. Dr. W.W. Sutow, ldr.
- January 20 (Monday) Audubon Wildlife Film, "Manitoba Memories" by Roy E. Coy.
- January 26 (Sunday) O.G. Field Trip to Palmetto State Park. Josiephine Wilkin, leader. Meet at 9:30 AM at the park entrance. Take hiway 90 west to hiway 183 and then south 2 miles to the park or take hiway 90A west to 183 and then north 12 miles to the park.
- February 6 (Thursday) Regular O.G. meeting. Downtown Recreation Center, 7:30 PM. Program by Jerry Strickling.
- February 23 (Sunday) O.G. Field Trip to Longenbaugh Ranch and western Harris County led by Bob Braden. This will be an inside look at areas in the Longenbaugh Ranch which are never birded.

BIG THICKET FIELD TRIP

By Dick and Orbie Miller

This trip began auspiciously under a crisp, sparkling, cloudless sky on Saturday, November 23rd. The meeting place was the Livingston Court House and shortly after 9:00 AM a caravan of cheerful and anticipatory birders moved eastward toward the forest's heart in search of the somewhat exiguous Ivory-billed Woodpecker. Our leader was dashing Dr. David Marrack, who, with the skill and resourcefulness of a mountain man or a coureur de bois, guided us unerringly (well, at least, often) through the uncharted trails and tangled fastness of this East Texas wilderness.

Also present were Beth Elount and Betty Roberts, two charming ladies from San Antonio who proved to be capable birders. Members of the Houston Ornithology Group present were Pat Ellis, Louise and Henry Hoffman, Ralph Hunter, Nancy and Jerry Strickling and Orbie and Dick Miller.

On Saturday the area from Dallardsville to Warren was thoroughly covered including the Big Sandy Creek and Wood's Creek sections. Saturday night excellent accommodations were available at Woodville, and at 7:00 AM Sunday the file of cars again set out to visit the area east of Warren and Kountze including Big Turkey Creek, Drakes Brook, Village Creek and the tower near the Hampton oil field. Here occurred the high spot of the trip when two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were observed which stayed in the vicinity long enough for all to see. As we watched additional ones appeared until at last five of these rare birds were seen working on one tree. After this most satisfying experience the sublime ceremony most dear to a birder's heart was joyously performed, namely lunch. We then proceeded to the ranch of Mr. Williford (who says he has seen the Ivory-billed Woodpecker many years ago) near Kountze for an additional walk and then left for home.

The weather, food, lodging and companionship were all of the best and a most enjoyable time was had except for one jarring note when Ralph Hunter, noted for his amiability and extensive knowledge of birds, gave us the unwelcome news that he had accepted a position in Urbana, Illinois and would shortly be leaving us. We are sorry to lose Ralph but wish him good fortune in his new undertaking.

Oh yes, 66 species were identified including the House Sparrow. What's that you say? The Ivory-bill? No doubt next year will be different.

Species seen: Brewer's and Red-winged Blackbirds, Mallard, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Eastern Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Cardinal, Catbird, Brown-headed and Red-breasted Nuthatches, Black and Turkey Vultures, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo, Rufous-sided Towhee, Brown Thrasher, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Winter Wren, Eastern Phoebe, Robin, Myrtle Warbler, Pine Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Cattle Egret, Mourning Dove, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, American Woodcock, Loggerhead Shrike, Solitary Vireo, Hermit Thrush, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Belted Kingfisher, Killdeer, Common Crow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Slate-colored Junco, Brown Creeper, Empidonax Flycatcher, Common Grackle, American Goldfinch, Blue Jay, Eastern Bluebird, Bobwhite, Little Blue Heron.

PELAGIC TRIP - CALIFORNIA STYLE 10-5-63 By Clinton Snyder

I did something I didn't think that I could do any more. I got 15 lifers in 6 hours! Needless to say, the pelagic trip was a complete success. We took two boats out of Monterrey and kept in sight of each other while we kept in touch by radio. The boats were considerably smaller than the Captain Doc. It was almost calm going out. We saw many sharks - in fact, everywhere you looked you could see their fins. The water, of course, is clear immediately offshore. We also picked up a school of porpoise. Then, we started seeing Alcids - mostly flying away in pairs. We saw them all the way out - 30 miles. Eventually I got a good look at all of them; Xantus' Murrelet, Cassin's Auklet, Rhino Auklet, Tufted Puffin, and Common Murre. About 5 miles out we started seeing Shearwaters - Sooty

and Pink-footed. Just before we turned around we ran into a large flock (200) of Shearwaters, resting on the water and here we found the uncommon New Zealand Shearwater. Some of the Shearwaters were so gorged with food they couldn't take off. In fact, they even dove to avoid the boat. Also, there were many Jaegers offshore. We had as many as 10 following the boat--all Pomarine and Parasitic. The Petrels were more difficult because they would not follow the boat and the only way to separate the Ashy and Black is by flight. We did get a fairly good look at the uncommon Fork-tailed Petrel though. We saw about 50 Sabine's Gulls - a very distinctive bird. Also, perched on a piece of kelp was a Red Phalarope. A Skua followed the boat back for quite away. We also saw a 25 foot whale! The small boat was advantageous in that the Captain steered from the top deck where we were, but, coming in, it became quite rough and you really had to hold on. Otherwise the trip was quite pleasant - no fog and you barely needed a jacket. I'm disappointed though because we didn't see an Albatross but I guess there wouldn't be anything to go back for if we had! In all, we must have seen about 500 pelagic individuals.

FROM AUDUBON FIELD NOTES Vol. 17 No 4

The Delta Waterfowl Research Station (Delta, Manitoba) invites Audubon Field Notes readers who would like to cooperate in a field study of Non-hunting Mortality in Waterfowl to request a form for filing such reports.

Bird-watchers, who spend most of the weekends afield, can make a valuable contribution. Local Audubon Societies and bird clubs might well consider making this a study project for the season, compiling the information submitted by their members and thus minimizing the paper work at both ends--yours and the Research Station's.

If you wish to contribute to this study, write: Professor George W. Cornwell, Dept. of Forestry and Wildlife, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia. Copies of the questionnaire will not be ready for distribution until January, but the sooner notes are kept on dead waterfowl afield the better. Information on the September-December 1963 period is especially desired. Note should be made of sex, age, location, date, numbers found, species, cause of death (if determined), etc.

THE BATTLE OF THE HUMMINGBIRDS By Linda Snyder 10-15-63

My yard is no longer a safe place to roam! I am walking along when I hear an angry chittering and a strong whir of wings and I cringe as two aggressive midgets of the Avian society go zooming by within inches of my head. My yard is an arena for battling Hummingbirds. In each corner is a feeder with one hungry hummer guarding it against any intruders. The trouble is there are six feeders and some fifteen hummers who don't understand the polite rule of taking turns. The battles are phenomenal! It is worse than watching a tennis match as my head turns to follow the angry antics of these midgets. In one battle the clash of bills is ominous while one hummer actually knocks another to the ground and continues attacking. The poor hummer on the ground is helpless since he can neither stand nor walk on his tiny feet. My movement to his aid is enough to scare away the attacking hummer and enables the victim to fly away apparently unharmed. Then, there is the "elevator dance" when two hummers face each other and go up and down like two tiny elevators - a height of ten feet. Only when three or four birds gang up on a feeder at once does the harassed guard give way. It is quite a sight to see five hummers trying to feed from one little tube simultaneously - some even turn upside down. A large bumble-bee joins the melee, but, I find it is really a hummer without a tail. As yet, I haven't enticed a Rufous Hummingbird.

Addendum (Nov.1) - Mr. No-tail inherited a feeder and stayed around a couple of days before disappearing. I thought he would have to stay until he had more ballast but, evidently, he took his long Gulf trip sans tail. The Rufous (sub-adult male) finally appeared on Oct. 25th and fed through Oct. 28th. Now it is time for the feeders to come down and, somehow, before March I must find a way out of my current dilemma, however fascinating the phenomenon of the avian battles in miniature.

STREETS WITH BIRD NAMES LOCATED WITHIN THE HOUSTON POSTAL DELIVERY AREA

Compiled by Noel Pettingell, Member P.O. and O.G. of Houston, Texas

Source: "Postal Zip Code Directory - Houston, Texas" - June 1963

The above directory lists a total of 49 streets named after birds representing 28 of the 75 North American bird families. Twenty-two of the 45 Houston postal zone districts contain one or more bird-named streets. Zone 17 (Park Place) leads all others with 13 such streets. Zone 35 (South Post Oak) is second with 6 and tied for third place with 4 each are Zones 33 (South Park), 36 (Sharpstown), and 48 (South Park.)

Listed below are the 49 streets grouped by bird family (zone numbers in parentheses) :

Family Number	Street Name (SPECIES in caps; * North American species.)
1	Heron Road (17 and 33)
	Blue Heron (48)
2	*FLAMINGO (17 and 33)
3	Swan Court (58)
	Swan River (50)
	Teal (29)
4	Eagle (2 and 4)
5	*OSPREY
6	Falcon (15)
	*MERLIN Drive (55)
7	Quail (17)
	*BOBWHITE (36)
	West Pheasant (18)
	Peacock (33)
8	Crane (26)
9	Sandpiper (36)
10	*Parakeet (34)
11	Whippoorwill (24)
12	Swift (25)
13	Hummingbird (35)
14	Kingfisher (35)
15	Woodpecker (35)
16	Lark Lane (25)
	WOODLARK (17)
	*SKYLARK (27)
17	Swallow (17)
18	Jay (28)
	*BLUE JAY (34)
	*ROOK (17)
19	Chickadee (48)
20	*Mockingbird Circle (36)
	*Mockingbird Lane (19)
21	Robin (2 and 19)
	Red Robin (34)
	Thrush (17 and 33)
	NIGHTINGALE (17)
22	Kinglet (35)
23	Waxwing (35)
24	*Starling (17)
25	Redstart (35)
26	*BOBOLINK (17)
	Meadowlark (17)
	Oriole (17)
	West Oriole (18)
27	Tanager (36)
28	Grosbeak (48)
	Finch (9 and 28)
	*BULLFINCH (17)
	Sparrow (51)

- Notes: (a) Merlin is European name for Pigeon Hawk (both same species.)
 (b) All families/species names included above represent birds which are native residents of North America except for the following:

Peacock - Occurs in India, Ceylon, Burma, Malaysia, and Java. Commonly kept in captivity in continental U.S. and successfully introduced in Hawaii.

Parakeet - A common U.S. cage bird (native of Australia) which has been released in Florida and "must now be considered a successful introduced species" according to 1962 Christmas Bird Count Editor Allan D. Cruickshank (Aud.FieldNotes 4-63.)

Skylark - Native resident of Eurasia and NW Africa. Has been introduced and established on Vancouver Island, Canada.

Woodlark - Occurs in Eurasia and NW Africa.

Rook - Native resident of Eurasia; has accidentally occurred on Greenland.

Nightingale - Native of Eurasia and Africa.

Bullfinch - Occurs in Eurasia, accidentally on islands off Alaska.

CLEARING HOUSE

- Common Loon: (1)23 Cove AKM; (1)20 Bayshore LS.
 Pied-billed Grebe: 6 days (75)10, (60)20, 29 Cove AKM; (1)2 Sheldon JH BH;
 (6)16 Sheldon JH BH; (4)10 Lynchburg Ferry LH HH; (30)5
 Wolf Reservoir "A".
 White Pelican: 11 days (1000)1, 13, (1500)29 Cove AKM; (10-1000) most days,
 (2000) 6, 13 Bayshore LS; (50)16 Sheldon JH BH; (1)10
 Channelview LH HH.
 Double-crested Cormorant: 8 days (18)23, (10)29 Cove AKM; (20)14 Anahuac,
 (1-3) from 23 Bayshore LS; (4)10 Channelview, (6)10
 Sheldon LH HH.
 Cormorant Species: (40)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 Anhinga: (2)10 Sheldon LH HH; (3)5 Wolf Reservoir "A".
 Great Blue Heron: (4)16 Sheldon JH BH; (2)5 Old River "A".
 Green Heron: (1)10 Cove AKM.
 Little Blue Heron: (1)2 Sheldon, (6)16 Sheldon JH BH; (20)5 Old River "A".
 Cattle Egret: (25)4, 23 (50)5, (4)10 Cove AKM; (25)1, (8)3, 14, 20 Anahuac LS;
 (15)10 Longenbaugh BH; (1)5 Old River "A"; (2)3 West-
 heimer LH HH.
 Reddish Egret: (1)10 Cove AKM; (3)3 Bolivar LS.
 Common Egret: (10)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 Snowy Egret: (6)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 Louisiana Heron: (10)5 Old River "A".
 Black-crowned Night Heron: (40)13, (15)23, (6)29 Cove AKM; (1-3)most days
 Bayshore, (8)14 Anahuac LS.
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron: (1)6 Cove AKM; (1)12 Bayshore LS.
 American Bittern: (1)20, 29 Cove AKM.
 White-faced Ibis: 10 days (30)6, 26, (50)13 Cove AKM; (30)5 Wolf Res. "A".
 White Ibis: (30)25 Cove AKM; (50)14 Anahuac LS.
 Roseate Spoonbill: 10 days (175 - 138 in one flock)4, (up to 11 other days)
 Cove AKM; (2)14 East Bay LS; (3)5 Wolf Res. "A"; (7)12
 Long Island Bayou JMD FWD.
 Canada Goose: (10)3 Bayshore, (100)14, (5000)20 Anahuac LS; (4)greater 14 Cove AKM.
 White-fronted Goose: 7 days (225 migrating)7, (1300)23 Cove AKM; (2000)14
 Anahuac LS; (50 flight)10 Longenbaugh BH; (15)17 Western
 Harris County PE JE.
 Snow and Blue Geese: daily Cove AKM; (10-200) many days Bayshore, (10,000)
 14, 20 Anahuac LS; (500)10 Longenbaugh BH; (250)17
 Western Harris Cty. PE JE.
 Mallard: 20 days (25)13, 15, (30)24 Cove AKM; (3-50)1, 14, 20 Anahuac LS;
 (6)16 Sheldon JH BH; (10)12 Wallisville JMD FWD.
 Mottled Duck: 29 days (50)2, 18, (75)22 Cove AKM; (2-10)1, 14, 20 Anahuac LS;
 (2)3 Foster LH HH; (1)2 Sheldon JH BH.
 Gadwall: 12 days (200)10, (500)23, (1000)29 Cove AKM; (10)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 (40)21 Lake Anahuac JMD FWD.
 Pintail: 13 days (2000)4, (1000)10 Cove AKM; (10-200)1, 14, 20 Anahuac LS;
 (25)16 Sheldon JH BH; (120)21 Lake Anahuac JMD FWD;
 (10)15 Wolf Res. "A".
 Green-winged Teal: 14 days (1000)20, (10,000)23 Cove AKM; (8)16 Sheldon
 JH BH.
 Blue-winged Teal: 9 days (60)1, (80)2, (125)6, (300)10, (4)20 Cove AKM;
 (10-100)1, 14, 20 Anahuac LS; (50)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 American Widgeon: (50)10, (1000)23, (30,000)29 Cove AKM; (100)14 Anahuac LS;
 (300)16 Sheldon JH BH; (12)21 Lake Anahuac JMD FWD.
 Shoveler: 14 days (40)2, (20)10, Cove AKM; (1)2 Sheldon BH; (10)16
 Sheldon JH BH; (1)10 Sheldon LH HH; (2)5 Wolf Res. "A";
 (40)21 Lake Anahuac JMD FWD.
 Wood Duck: (3)5, 12, (14)13, Cove AKM; (1200) south of Dayton, Big Caney,
 29th AKM; (8)5 Wolf Res. "A".
 Redhead: 11 days, (5)2, 6, 10, 20, 29 Cove AKM; (2)16 Sheldon JH BH; (4)21
 Lake Anahuac JMD FWD.
 Ring-necked Duck: 9 days (800)2, (1000)10, 23 Cove AKM; (4)5 Wolf Res. "A".
 Canvasback: (10)2, (100)20, (1000)23 Cove AKM; (100)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 Lesser Scaup: 14 days, (175)2, (500)23 Cove AKM; (10-50)1, 14, 20 Anahuac,
 (5-25) from 18th Bayshore LS; (1)16 Sheldon JH BH;
 (20)5 Wolf Res. "A".
 Common Goldeneye: (6)23 Cove AKM.
 Bufflehead: (3)23, (9)29 Cove AKM.

- Ruddy Duck: 7 days, (25)10, (75)29 Cove AKM; (12)5 Wolf Res. "A";
(6)16 Sheldon JH BH.
- Hooded Merganser: (1)18 Cove AKM.
- Turkey Vulture: (1)5 Old River "A".
- Black Vulture: (1)21 fewest ever Cove AKM; (6)5 Old River "A".
- Cooper's Hawk: (1)5,26 Cove AKM.
- Red-tailed Hawk: (10)10, (8)13,29, (12)23 Cove AKM; (15 / 1 Krider's)14,
(12)20 Anahuac LS; (2)10 Longenbaugh BH; (3)17 Western
Harris Cty. PE JE; (3)3 Foster LH HH; (1)5 Wolf Res. "A".
- Red-shouldered Hawk: 10 days, (2)1,23 Cove AKM; (1)5 Wolf Res. "A".
- Bald Eagle: (2)5 Wolf Res. "A"; (1)6 Wallisville JMD FWD.
- Marsh Hawk: (3)10, (5)13,23, (11)29 Cove AKM; (3-12)1,3,20, (28)14
Anahuac LS; (5)5 Old River "A"; (5)17 Western Harris
County PE JE; (4)10 Longenbaugh BH.
- Pigeon Hawk: (1 dead on road)15 Cove AKM.
- Sparrow Hawk: (16)10,13, (25)23, (34)29 Cove AKM; (2)17 Western
Harris Cty. PE JE; (8)10 Longenbaugh BH; (8)16
Sheldon JH BH.
- Bobwhite: (NC)4,5,13,29 Cove AKM; (12)17 Western Harris Cty. PE JE;
(5)16 Sheldon JH BH.
- Sandhill Crane: (115)17 Western Harris County PE JE.
- King Rail: (1)17 Cove AKM.
- Clapper Rail: (1)29 Cove AKM.
- American Coot: 7 days, (3000)2, (5000)10,20, (15,000)23, (25,000)29
Cove AKM; (4)10 Sheldon LH HH; (NC)16 Sheldon JH BH.
- Semipalmated Plover: (1)5, (2)10, (4)13,23, (3)29 Cove AKM.
- Piping Plover: (1)14 Anahuac LS.
- Black-bellied Plover: (1-15) 6 days, (15)29 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days
Bayshore LS; (1)12 Long Island Bayou JMD FWD.
- Ruddy Turnstone: (9)5, (4)10, (2)13, (1)29 Cove AKM.
- American Woodcock: (1)13 Cove AKM; (1)28 Houston DM.
- Common Snipe: 10 days, (10)22 Cove AKM; (30)17 Western Harris Cty. PE JE;
(4)5 Old River "A"; (2)14, (3)20 Anahuac LS.
- Long-billed Curlew: 8 days (50)17, (75)29 Cove AKM; (150)1, (16)14 Anahuac,
(3)3 Bolivar LS.
- Spotted Sandpiper: (1)2,10,23 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Bayshore LS.
- Solitary Sandpiper: (1)3 Bolivar LS.
- Willet: 6 days, (43)10, (16)13 Cove AKM.
- Greater Yellowlegs: 11 days, (15)2, (10)20,29 Cove AKM; (4)14 Anahuac LS.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: 9 days, (30)2, (15)6, (13)9 Cove AKM; (25)14 Anahuac LS.
- Least Sandpiper: 12 days Cove AKM; (15)14 Anahuac LS.
- Dunlin: 12 days Cove AKM; (50)1, (16)14 Anahuac, (5)17 Bayshore LS.
- Dowitcher species: 16 days, (100)2,6,20, (150)10 Cove AKM; (200)1
Anahuac LS; (NC)12 Long Island Bayou JMD FWD.
- Stilt Sandpiper: (6)1, (11)2, (3)6 equaling my latest Cove AKM;
(3)22 Sheldon DM; (100)1 Anahuac LS.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: 2 days Cove AKM.
- Western Sandpiper: 11 days Cove AKM.
- Marbled Godwit: (1)29 latest ever by 16 days Cove AKM; (5)12 Long Island
Bayou JMD FWD.
- Sanderling: (2)23, (1)29 Cove AKM; (5-20) most days Bayshore LS.
- American Avocet: (45 - 10 at Wallisville)4, (5)12 to 18 Cove AKM; (7)26
Wallisville AKM; (200)3 in surf at Bolivar LS; (38)22
Sheldon DM; (4)3 Foster LH HH; (18)16 Sheldon JH BH;
(15)5 Trinity River Bridge "A"; (8)13 Wallisville FWD.
- Black-necked Stilt: (2)2 Sheldon BH; (2)16 Sheldon JH BH.
- Herring Gull: (1-10)21,23,29,30 Cove AKM.
- Laughing Gull: (1)21 sitting on wire Cove AKM.
- Franklin's Gull: (200)1, (75)4, (10)5, (1)10,13 Cove AKM.
- Forster's Tern: (10)16 Sheldon JH BH.
- Common Tern: A large flock of hundreds staying about Swan Marsh feeding
in the bay, (200)10 Cove AKM.
- Royal Tern: 3 days Cove AKM.
- Caspian Tern: 12 days Cove AKM; (1)16 Sheldon JH BH.
- Black Skimmer: (3000)3 Bolivar LS.
- Ground Dove: (1)1, (2)5, (8)29 Cove AKM.
- Inca Dove: (4-5) daily in yard JH BH.
- Barn Owl: (2)14 Anahuac LS.
- Screech Owl: (1 or 2)10 Cove AKM.
- Great-horned Owl: (1-2)6,23,24,25 Cove AKM; (1)14 Anahuac LS.
- Burrowing Owl: (1)14,20 Anahuac LS.

- Barred Owl: (2)29 Cove AKM; (1)5 Old River "A".
 Short-eared Owl: (6)20 Anahuac LS.
 Common Nighthawk: (3)5 Downtown Houston LS; (1)8 Downtown Houston, (1)9
 Downtown Houston NP.
 Belted Kingfisher: (2)1, (1)4 Cove AKM; (1)4,12,13,14 Bayshore, (2)14
 Anahuac LS; (6)16 Sheldon JH BH; (1)10 Channelview LH HH.
 Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1-2) 12 days Cove AKM; (1)4,5,6, Bayshore, (1)3
 High Island LS.
 Pileated Woodpecker: (1)3 Anahuac LS; (5)5 Old River "A".
 Red-bellied Woodpecker: (8)5 Old River "A".
 Red-headed Woodpecker: (5)5 Old River "A".
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1)5,14,23, (2)13,29 Cove AKM; (1)3 High Island,
 (1)29 Bayshore LS; (3)5 Old River "A"; (3)17 yard HH LH;
 (1)10,14 yard JH BH.
 Downy Woodpecker: (2)5 Old River "A".
 Western Kingbird: (2)1 Cove AKM.
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: (1)5 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Phoebe: 15 days (4)5, (6)1, (8)29 Cove AKM; (1)6,7 Bayshore LS;
 (2-3)17 Western Hrrs. County PE JE; (2)2, (5)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 Eastern Wood Pewee: (1)3 High Island LS.
 Vermilion Flycatcher: 10 days (2)2,6,29 Cove AKM; (1)5 Old River "A";
 (2 mature males and 1 immature)2 Sheldon, (1 female)16
 Sheldon JH BH.
 Horned Lark: (50)14 Anahuac LS.
 Tree Swallow: (2000)1, (200)14 Anahuac LS.
 Rough-necked Swallow: (NC)1,2,10, (1)21 Cove AKM.
 Barn Swallow: (2)2, (1)12,23 Cove AKM; (3)14 Anahuac LS.
 White-necked Raven: (1)21 dead about 3 weeks with head firmly fastened
 in forks in cedar fence post, a lifer.Cove AKM.
 Carolina Chickadee: (1-2)13 - why so scarce? Cove AKM.
 Brown-headed Nuthatch: (2-3) daily LH HH.
 Brown Creeper: (1-2) most days Bayshore LS; (7)5 Old River "A"; (1)9
 yard LH HH.
 House Wren: only 3 days Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Bayshore LS; (2)5
 Old River "A".
 Winter Wren: (1)25 to 29 Cove AKM; (1)5 Old River "A"; (1)4 yard LH HH.
 Long-billed Marsh Wren: (4)5,6, (3)10, (2)13, (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Short-billed Marsh Wren: (1)5, (2)10 Cove AKM.
 Catbird: (1)23, 29 Cove AKM; (3)5 Old River "A"; (1-3) daily yard FWD.
 Brown-Thrasher: (1)5 most days Bayshore LS; (1) daily yard PE JE; (1-2)
 daily yard FWD.
 Robin: (2)10,23, (1)13,29 Cove AKM; (2)14 Anahuac LS.
 Hermit Thrush: (2)29 Cove AKM; (6)1 then (1-4) most days Bayshore LS;
 (2)5 Old River "A".
 Eastern Bluebird: (1)1, (2)11, (7)29 Cove AKM; (3)5 Old River "A";
 (3)10 Sheldon, (6)18 yard LH HH.
 Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: 8 days Cove AKM; (1-3) most days Bayshore LS.
 Golden Crowned Kinglet: (2)5 Old River "A".
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 6 days Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Bayshore LS;
 (10)5 Old River "A"; (2)10 Sheldon, (1)18 yard LH HH;
 (1)17 Western Harris Cty. PE JE.
 Water Pipit: 14 days Cove AKM; (1-10) most days Bayshore, (50)14 Anahuac LS,
 (200)17 Western Harris Cty. PE JE.
 Sprague's Pipit: (NC)21, (2)23, (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Loggerhead Shrike: (1-2) daily Houston JE.
 Starling: (1000)1,14 Anahuac, (10,000)20 Cedar Bayou LS; (35)17 Western
 Harris County PE JE.
 Solitary Vireo: (1)29 Cove AKM; (1)10 Sheldon LH HH.
 Orange-crowned Warbler: (1)13,23 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Bayshore LS;
 (4)5 Old River "A".
 Nashville Warbler: (1)5,13 Cove AKM; (1)5,6 Bayshore LS.
 Yellow Warbler: (2)5 Old River "A".
 Myrtle Warbler: (7) on 2 days, (1)29 Cove AKM; (1-2) from the 2nd
 Bayshore LS; (NC)2 Sheldon BH; (1) daily yard PE JE.
 Black-throated Green Warbler: (1)1 Bayshore LS.
 Yellowthroated Warbler: (1)5 Old River "A".
 Pine Warbler: (1)29 Cove AKM; (4)5 Old River "A".
 Palm Warbler: (3)5, (1)23, (6)29 Cove AKM.
 Yellowthroat: (1)7, Cove AKM.
 Wilson's Warbler: (1)3 High Island LS; (1)5 Old River "A".
 American Redstart: (1)3 High Island LS.

Baltimore Oriole: (1)1 Bayshore LS.
 Brewer's Blackbird: (20)23, (NC)29 Cove AKM; (100)20 Anahuac LS.
 Boat-tailed Grackle: (NC) 7 days, total of a few dozen where there once were thousands Cove AKM.
 Common Grackle: (6)19, (20,000)20, (600)23,25 (less)21,29 Cove AKM.
 Indigo Bunting: (3)5, (1)29 Cove AKM.
 American Goldfinch: (50)23, fewer on 25th Cove AKM; (8)20,26 Bayshore LS.
 Rufous-sided Towhee: (2)29 Cove AKM; (1)5 Old River "A".
 Savannah Sparrow: (100)1,14,20 Anahuac LS; (4)3 Foster LH HH; (1)10, Longenbaugh BH, (2)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 LeConte's Sparrow: (2)23,29 Cove AKM.
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (1)4,13,23,29, (7)10 Cove AKM.
 Seaside Sparrow: 9 days (20)5, (30)10,13 Cove AKM; (1-5)14 Anahuac LS.
 Vesper Sparrow: (1)13, (4)23,29 Cove AKM; (6)14 Anahuac LS; (1)10 Longenbaugh, (2)16 Longenbaugh BH; (15)17 Western Harris County PE JE.
 Lark Sparrow: (12)13,23, (5)29 Cove AKM.
 Slate-colored Junco: (5)29 Cove AKM.
 Chipping Sparrow: (1)5 Old River "A"; (2)10 Sheldon LH HH.
 Field Sparrow: (2)4, (1)13,21,23, (3)29 Cove AKM; (2)5 Old River "A".
 Harris' Sparrow: (1)29 Cove AKM; (1)23 Houston JE.
 White-crowned Sparrow: (1)2,7,29, (5-6)5,23 Cove AKM; (4-5)17 Western Harris County PE JE; (3)25 Houston JE.
 White-throated Sparrow: (3-25) most days Bayshore LS; (30)5 Old River "A"; (3)3 Foster LH HH; (18)17 Western Harris County PE JE.
 Lincoln's Sparrow: (1-7) 6 days Cove AKM; (2)14 Anahuac LS; (6)3 Foster LH HH; (1)2, (2)16 Sheldon JH BH.
 Swamp Sparrow: (1-2) 4 days Cove AKM; (4)14 Anahuac LS.
 Song Sparrow: (1)7,23,29 Cove AKM; (6)1 Anahuac LS; (1)5 Old River "A"; (1)3 Foster LH HH.

AKM	Arlie McKay	JMD	John M. Daves	DM	Dave Marrack
LS	Linda Snyder	LH	Louise Hoffman	NP	Noel Pettingell
PE	Pat Ellis	HH	Henry Hoffman	"A"	Frankie Daves
JE	Jim Ellis	JH	Jean Harwell		Jeannine Thibodaux
FWD	Frankie Daves	BH	Bill Harwell		Pearl Green
					Jonell Buckels

NOTES FROM CLEARING HOUSE REPORTS

There are thousands of Wood Ducks feed out from Big Cainey Bracks. Walter Greene and I observed part of the westward flight. They were flying when we got there and when we left and as far up and down Dayton Road as we could see. Amos Tilton who works in the area said thousands more were feeding to the East and North.

Nov. 29 I saw six Bufflehead feeding. Gulls were trying to rob them. Several times I saw one take flight with greater success than terns. They are faster at turning and in straight flight.

Ruddy Ducks are not rare any more. Homer Harmon said about 200 stayed on Lost Lake last Winter. S.L. Griffeth says there are hundreds in Lawrence's Marsh this Winter.

Nov. 11 I could stand on Swan Marsh beach and see, without turning my body, more Laughing Gulls than I saw in my first 20 years of birding in the county. Looking straight off shore from 50 to several hundred would be within the focus of my binoculars, and looking up or down shore from several hundred to several thousand in focus. Among them were at least one Ring-billed Gull and about 1% terns of four species.

Nov. 21 I saw 600 to 800 pipits on a few acres of pasture. They were actively feeding from place to place. I followed them about an hour. Had there been only a tenth as many I would say without doubting that I had never before seen so many Sprague's Pipits. I am greatly disappointed not to have identified them beyond doubt. All stragglers from then were Sprague's.

This is the fifth day of the duck hunting season. I heard more duck shooting on several afternoons than in the five days of legal shooting. More in November than the last two whole seasons combined. They would shoot with unplugged guns for hours and so frequently there was no time to retrieve cripples. A goose hunter told me he saw men shooting ducks just as if the

season was open except that they left them lay where they fell. One arrest publicized in September would have eliminated 90% of before season shooting. A law not enforced is not respected or even respectable, it ceases to be law.

AKM

Both fortunately and unfortunately (for reports) I was away the first part of Sept. (Calif.), Oct. (the Valley), and Nov. (T.O.S. Big Bend). Incidentally, I was the only Houston member at T.O.S. Where was everyone for it was a very interesting trip?

October at the Bayshore was marked by the concentration of thousands of gulls, terns, pelicans and shore birds over the Bay and on the shores of Atkinson's Island. This pile-up reached its peak on Oct. 29 when I saw some 10,000 White Pelicans strung out in a solid wedge from Sylvan Beach to the island (approx. 3 miles). Also seen were a Franklin's Gull and an Osprey. Of some interest are other Bayshore records of the Ruby-throated Hummer (3-15) daily, the Rufous Hummer, Oct. 25-28, Solitary Vireo, Oct. 10-12, Philadelphia Vireo , Oct. 11, Purple Martin, Oct. 14, Water Pipit (2), Oct. 15, Least Tern, Oct. 14. Add to these a Black Duck and Pigeon Hawk at Anahuac Oct. 24.

There was also a huge concentration (50,000+) of gulls, terns, etc. at Bolivar on Oct. 27. Included among these were some 300 Black Skimmers, 10 Reddish Egrets, 30 Knots. This climaxed a trip to High Island where there was a small concentration of migrants including Wood Peewee, Wood Thrush, 10 Catbirds, 50 Brown Thrashers, 200 Indigo Buntings and 7 species of warblers with 2 Wilson's and 1 Chestnut-sided.

LS

A Common Nighthawk was seen and heard between Crawford and LaBranch and Rosalie and Anita (near Elisabeth Baldwin Park) at about 5:30 PM December 6 by NP in case others may be interested in watching this area for later occurrences (my evening hours at the post office prevent continued observations, unfortunately, or I would do so "for the record".....)

NP

FUND FOR FAMILY OF GAME WARDEN

John D. Murphee, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Game Warden, was shot to death December 8 near Vidor, Texas while attempting to arrest a party of six hunters for game law violations. Murphee had a wife and three young children.

One of the hunting party, a 16 year old , has been charged with murder. Three other members of the party were charged with hunting violations, two with hunting ducks with unplugged shotguns and one with hunting ducks with an unplugged shotgun, exceeding the bag limit, and hunting without a license.

A fund has been started for the family of Murphee. Contributors should direct their contributions to, The John D. Murphee Fund, c/o R.E. Miller, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 2370 Rice Blvd., Room 212, Houston.

GULL PAINTING IN COLORADO

Mr. C.B. Gilman
10110 Telephone Road
Houston 17, Texas

Dear Mr. Gilman,

We are live-trapping, banding, and color-marking several species of water birds in the vicinity of Fort Collins and are writing you in hopes you or your associates might observe these color-marked birds and report the place and date of such sightings. All of these marking activities are a part of a study of the role water birds play in the dispersal of aquatic organisms. The following species are being dyed with various harmless dyes as well as banded with both regulation aluminum bands and colored by markers: Ring-billed Gull, Franklin's Gull, California Gull, Herring Gull, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, American Coot, Mallard, Pintail, Avocet, and Killdeer.

Please inform us of any observations you may make of these dyed birds. If you desire we will send you copies of progress reports of the study as they are prepared.

Sincerely yours,
 Ronald A. Ryder
 Assistant Professor of
 Wildlife Management

Department of Forest Recreation and Wildlife Conservation
 Colorado State University,
 Fort Collins, Colorado

P.S.

A progress report of our first year's work is in preparation and soon will be sent to those desiring copies. Last year one of our yellow-dyed Ring-billed Gulls was seen near Carlsbad, New Mexico. We are particularly interested in the current status of the California Gull in Texas.

R.A.R.

GREEN KINGFISHER IN GALVESTON COUNTY Jim Ellis

A few weeks ago Bob Dooley, General Curator of the Houston Zoo, and I were shooting the bull about birds in particular and animals in general when during the rambling course of our conversation he mentioned seeing a Green Kingfisher near West Galveston Bay. I asked him for details about the certainty of identification and about the time and place. Dooley has the outdoorsman's intense interest in all living things. Professionally he is primarily a herpetologist, but he has a more than passing interest in mammalogy and ornithology. He is quite familiar with the Green Kingfisher and the Ringed Kingfisher from annual collecting trips to Mexico as well as familiarity with our Belted Kingfisher. There was no doubt in his mind of what he had seen. Dooley said also that he has seen Green Kingfishers in small numbers but fairly often while duck hunting near Port O'Connor.

The bird was seen several years ago, sometime from 1957 to 1960, as well as Dooley can remember. At the time he saw the bird, he was repairing duck blinds in Basford Bayou in anticipation of the duck season. This would place the time probably in October or November. Basford Bayou empties into West Galveston Bay (Jones Bay) about half way between the mouth of Highland Bayou and the intracoastal canal.

LAST MINUTE CHRISTMAS COUNT POOP

Parties as now constituted (leaders named first):

- 1A - Bill and Gene Pettit, Harvey Patten, Joe Farrell.
- 1B - L.A.M. and Johnnie Fay Barnette, Sue Harris, Norma Oates, Trevor Feltner.
- 2 - John O'Neill, Bob Braden, Joe Heiser, Jim and Pat Ellis, Karen Morse.
- 3A - Katrina Thompson, Edna Miner, Jerry Baker, Pat Sullivan, Johanna Grabbe.
- 3B - Jerry and Nancy Strickling, Irving Greenbaum, Betty Williams, Jonell Buckels, Jeannine Thibodaux, Mr. and Mrs. Evans.
- 4A - Vic Emanuel, Arlie McKay, Carl Hacker, Carl Aikin.
- 4B - David Marrack, Bob and Mabel Deshayes, Rickey Gallagher.
- 5 - Steve and Mary Ellen Williams, Hardin Craig, Jr., Mary Sears, Helen Via, Paul and Betty Caillet.
- 6 - Bill and Jean Harwell, Henry and Louise Hoffman, Doug Stein, Frankie Daves, Bud Anderson, Leota Stilwell.
- 7 - Linda Snyder, Mr. Snyder, Ralph Hunter, Noel Pettingell, Mrs. A.G. Susie.

For those going to the Snyder's:

1. No park on grass
2. Bring dry shoes
3. Bring covered dish (Snyders will furnish meat course)
4. Bring list with lots of species and individuals seen during day
5. Come into LaPorte on hiway 146. At the traffic circle 146 turns right. Don't go that way. Continue on around the circle and go on East on Old Main St. (Bolivar Pt. Rd.) Go .8 mi. to Blackwell. Turn right. Blackwell eventually forks. Take left fork. Just around the first bend on the right hand side of the road is the Snyder's house where fun and merriment await.

NEW MEMBERS, SUBSCRIBERS AND ADDRESS CHANGES

Mrs. B.W. Burns (sub.), P.O. Box 3591, Baytown, Texas.
 Mrs. E.H. Busby (sub.), P.O. Box 3717, Baytown, Texas.
 Mrs. E.B. Lewis (mem.), 1712 Banks, Houston.
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller (mem.) 10023 Sugar Hill, Houston.
 Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Miley, (mem.), 3814 Tartan Lane, Houston.
 Mr. and Mrs. John D. Orton (mem.), 1610 Milford, Houston.
 Mrs. James S. Robertson (sub.) 2705 Centenary, Houston.
 Martin Terry (mem.), 2624 Carolina Way, Houston.
 Mrs. D.C. Ring (sub.), Box 747, Alamo, Texas
 Mrs. Frank Rompf, (sub.), Alamo, Texas.
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wright, 6711 Kapri Lane, Houston 77025.
 Clinton Snyder's new address is 2627 Virginia St. , Berkeley, Calif.
 Jack and Peggy Smith's new address is 4507 Merrie Lane, Bellaire.

GALVESTON CHRISTMAS COUNT (late flash)

Several persons have shown interest in having another Christmas Count in the Galveston area. After a lapse of several years, the Galveston Count was revived last year and apparently a lot of people had a good time. Steve Williams is again leading this count. If you are interested, write or call him at 4326 Alconbury, #3, Houston 77021, RI 7-8830. The date is Jan.1.

CLEARING HOUSE FORMAT

For the benefit of new members and subscribers who may be bewildered by the Clearing House format, we will recapitulate. The Clearing House is a list of birds seen in the checklist area (generally, Harris, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, and Fort Bend Counties) for the month preceding the SPOONBILL issue in which it is printed. The number of individuals of any particular species is enclosed in parentheses with the date of the month immediately following. Then the place of observation and the initials of the observer are given. Contributions to the Clearing House from anyone are solicited. The compilation of statistical data is a tedious and time consuming one and we have a few rules to make our work easier.

1. Submit lists in taxonomic (A.O.U.) order. The list in the front of Peterson's guides is in this order.
2. Include detailed descriptions of identification criteria if rare or unusual species are reported. (If the Clearing House is to be of value, it must be sanitary.)
3. Mail contributions so that they will be received by the editors by the seventh of the month.

It is helpful, but not mandatory, if reports are made exactly in the Clearing House format. Careful adherence to rule no. 1 makes our work easier, to rule no. 2 enhances the value of the Clearing House, and to rule no. 3 makes sure that the contribution will be printed.

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