



# The Spoonbill

Published by The Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston

## It's Not Just Chicken Feed Anymore.

by Fred Collins

As director of a nature center and a lifelong birdwatcher, I have tried a variety of bird feeding ideas. At the Hanna and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center in Russ Pitman Park we have a bird feeder with four separate bins. We can offer four different seeds or seed mixes at the same feeder. Currently we are experimenting with a commercially prepared parrot pellet of about 14% protein. It is advertised as a complete diet for parrots. So far, not even the squirrels have tried this strange looking offering. It took over a month before anything ate the safflower. Large, gray-striped sunflower seeds are surprisingly slow to be eaten, and the local fauna was completely stumped by shell peanuts. Even squirrels didn't recognize it as food! The favorites are black-oil sunflower and wild bird mix (mostly red and white millet). The millet, very attractive to doves, is relished by the five species of dove at the Nature Center.

At our family farm in central Texas I feed birds on the crushed rock drive outside my office window. I use black-oil sunflower and parakeet mix, which attracts Savannah and Chipping Sparrows. The black-oil sunflower attracts various finches, goldfinches, House Finches, Northern Cardinals and occasionally *Zonotrichia* sparrows. The large, open lawn area beyond the drive is frequented by meadowlark, pipits and killdeer. I sometimes spread chicken scratch for blackbirds, and noticed recently the occasional use of this scratch by meadowlark and pipit. The pipit would pick through the shells of the sunflower, looking for what I've yet to determine.

Recently I put parakeet mix and sunflower seeds on one side of the drive, and about 10 feet away on the other side, chicken scratch. Meadowlarks, pipits and killdeer stayed in the scratch area, but looked at the seed more than they ate. I then mixed some chick starter with the scratch. Bingo! The chick starter, about 30% protein, is relished by pipits and killdeer. The meadowlarks eat more of the starter than the scratch, but eat both regularly. Today, a new group of birds is eating the starter: five crows. It is interesting that sparrows and finches give the crows a twenty-foot berth, almost the same they give the cats. I've only been feeding the starter for a week. The rest of the winter will prove very interesting.

*Fred Collins is director of the Hanna and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discover Center in Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, Texas. He maintains a flock of over 30 species of parrots at his Center for Avian Research.*



# Calendar

## MARCH

Saturday, March 2: **OG "Youth" Field Trip to Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge.** David Veselka, 692-1384.

Saturday, March 2: **HAS Workday at High Island.** Boy Scout Woods anytime after 8:00 a.m. We will finish planting projects in our hummingbird gardens and spruce up trails for spring birding. Lunch and drinks are provided. Winnie Burkett, 992-5640.

Wednesday, March 20: **OG "Mid-week" Field Trip to Anahuac NWR.** 8:30 a.m. Meet Winnie Burkett at the entrance sign-in kiosk. Depending upon the weather and the birds, the group may visit the High Island sanctuaries after lunch. Tom Lewis, 497-2550.

Saturday, March 23: **Bolivar Flats Adopt-A-Beach Cleanup.** In order to avoid disturbing nesting terns and willets, Houston Audubon and the OG clean the "Flats" in March rather than on the statewide Great Texas Beach Trash-Off held in late April. Come early, before 9 a.m., and bird the "Flats."

Saturday, March 23: **OG Field Trip to Little Thicket Nature Preserve and Area.** Join Aaron Stoley on this trip to find the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and to bird the area around the ONC sanctuary. Aaron Stoley, 781-1372.

## APRIL

Monday, April 1: **OG Membership Meeting.** We may be meeting at Bayland Park if renovations have been completed. Please see next issue of *The Spoonbill* for meeting place and time. Mark Robbins will present a program entitled, "The Life of Ted Parker." Dwight Peake will review shorebird identification at Learning Corner.

Friday-Sunday, April 12-14: **ONC Reunion Day Weekend at Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.** See your *Nature Notes* for details. Bobbye Duryea, 471-6309.

Saturday, April 20: **OG "Youth" Field Trip to Audubon Woods.** Call to confirm details about this trip to High Island with David Veselka, 692-1384.

Wednesday, April 24: **OG "Midweek" Field Trip to High Island.** This is the place to be: High Island with Winnie Burkett for spring migration! Arrive early for scouting on your own then meet Winnie at Boy Scout Woods at 8:30 a.m. Don't miss this one! Tom Lewis, 497-2550.

## MAY

Friday-Wednesday, May 3-8: **ONC Field Trip to Davis Mountains and McDonald Observatory.** Call about the waiting list or inquire about making your own arrangements. Virginia Anderson, 932-8139.

Saturday, May 4: **OG Field Trip to Atkinson Island.** Participants will be ferried to Atkinson Island, located at the north end of Galveston Bay just off the tip of LaPorte, for a half-day of birding with P.D. Hulce. Bring your lunch and appropriate footwear for wet and muddy walking. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Bayland Park in Baytown (on the Baytown side of LaPorte bridge). Trip will be limited to the first 14 who sign up with Bill Eley (662-0034). It is possible that a second boat can be made available if 28 sign on for the trip. Expect to see breeding Least Terns and Black Skimmers, as well as rails and shorebirds. Bill Eley, 662-0034.



## New Editor Wanted!

We need a volunteer to take over publishing *The Spoonbill* beginning with the June/July issue which is mailed two weeks prior to our August 5, 1996 meeting.

If you are interested, please call Judy Boyce (668-5359). She will be able to tell you the time involved, the joys of the job and about the club's computer, programs and printer. If you need help getting started, she can help you with that as well.

This is the best job in the OG!

## Membership Meeting

### Wading Through Birding Software

Peter Thayer

**Date:** March 4, 1996

**Location:** St. Philip's Methodist Church, 5501 Beechnut at Renwick

**Time:** 7:00 p.m. Pre-meeting Learning Corner at 6:30 p.m. Peter Thayer will host an interactive session displaying his software.

Peter Thayer of Cincinnati, Ohio and owner of Thayer Birding Software will discuss the many types of birding software on today's market. Thayer Birding Software offers *Birder's Diary* with over 10,000 birds, a computerized field guide, birding hot spots, scientific articles and bird songs on CD-ROM.

If you have a 486 or better lap top computer, bring it to the meeting. Peter will show you how his software works on your computer. Everyone will be able to follow Peter's talk as his computer program will be projected onto a screen for everyone to see.

# Strictly for the Bird-ers

## Buffalo Bayou CBC

(Jan. 1978-Dec. 1995)

SPECIES: 119

INDIVIDUALS: 36,227

PARTICIPANTS: 55

(37 in the field + 18 at feeders)

BEST BIRD: COMMON NIGHTHAWK  
AND HARRIS' HAWK

December 31, 1995: The 19th Buffalo Bayou CBC, the *real* Houston count (after all it's the only count within Houston), missed equaling its all-time high species count by one. Increasing familiarity with the count circle, mainly due to the dedication of our area leaders, is resulting in counts consistently between 100 and 120 species.

Fog made for an especially quiet morning in several areas. The Harris's Hawk at Eldridge and Redd Road was new to the count, as well as an exotic, Blue-crowned Parakeet. 147 White-winged Doves reflected an increasing trend of this species. Feeder watchers counted an impressive 18 Rufous Hummingbirds and a female Northern (Bullock's Oriole back at the same feeder for the ninth straight year. Common Nighthawks were hawking at dusk over the trees at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, as it has been three out of the past four years, but this year there were *three* of them!

Other species of note in this largely urban count circle were: Anhinga, Ross' Goose, Crested Caracara, Sandhill Crane, Common Gourd Dove, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Winter Wren, Wood Thrush, Rufous-sided Towhee, Harris' Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Rusty Blackbird. Our worst miss: Common Barn Owl. If you know the whereabouts of a Barn Owl in west Houston, please let us know! *Bob Honig and Doug Williams*

## OG Meeting Minutes

February 5: Chairman Bob Luckner announced that the March 4 meeting will be held at St. Philip's United Methodist Church and it is hoped that in April we will meet again at

Bayland Community Center. He urged those who have not paid their dues, as many as 150 of us, to do so.

Bob announced also that our newsletter editor, Judy Boyce, is resigning effective June 1, 1996. She was given a standing ovation in appreciation of her six years as editor. Bob requested that anyone wishing to assume these duties should contact either himself or Judy, and he reminded those thinking about it, "You get the computer and printer!"

Our speaker, Jon Dunn, first showed slides and discussed the Kelp Gull spotted on Galveston Island by Peter Gottschling, and then proceeded to give an excellent program on warblers. *Karen Vargas, Secretary*

## Brazos Bend S.P. Trip

February 7: On a beautiful "spring" morning, 24 birders accompanied Winnie Burkett on a stroll around 40-Acre Lake. Lots of birds: 61 species including great looks at five Masked Ducks (one male in breeding plumage and three females and possibly one male in non-breeding plumage), a glimpse at a Barred Owl and a good mix of woodland and water birds. It was a most satisfactory outing! *Tom Lewis*

## Lots of Birding Going On!

**March 21-24: Wings Over The Platte.** Grand Island, Nebraska Sandhill Crane festival. 1-800-658-3178.

**April 18-21: Migration Celebration** in Lake Jackson. Call Jan Scott, 1-800-938-4853, Southern Brazoria County Visitor and Convention Bureau.

**April 24-27: Texas Hill Country Bird and Bat Watching.** Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) trip, \$500. Call 474-3074 for information.

**April 26-28: Birdwatcher's Workshop at Big Bend NP.** \$120. Led by Anne Bellamy. See next item for contact information.

**May 3-5: Birds of the Chihuahuan Desert, Big Bend NP.** \$120. Led by Ro Wauer. Write: Seminar Coordinator, Big Bend Natural

History Association, P.O. Box 68, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834.

**May 4-5: Birding by Ear in Big Bend NP.** \$80. See above for contact information.

## UTC Spring Hawkwatch

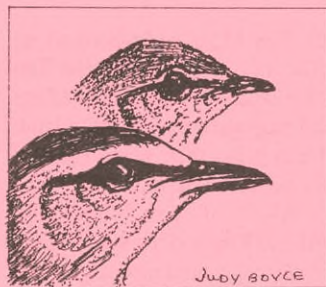
March 1-April 30: Dick Benoit (pronounced Ben-wah) will be identifying and counting hawks at Sylvan Beach Park in LaPorte. Though unofficial, data has been collected for the last three years. However, this year data will be submitted to John Economidy, Regional Editor of The Hawk Migration Association newsletter. This is the official organization that gathers hawk population data from Canada, Mexico, Central America and the United States.

Houston Radar, which cannot "see" individual or small flocks of hawks, but can see the large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks, will coordinate with Dick from March 24-April 14. Historically, the peak of Broad-winged migration has been April 6 and 7, but can be as early as the last days of March. Kettle location observed on radar by Frank Peace will be relayed to Dick by cellular phone.

Dick will be sitting on the tailgate of a bright red Ford pickup truck at the park most days. He loves company and he, a semi-retired teacher, loves to teach. Dick's birding experience is noteworthy. In addition to collecting Yellow Warbler/Brown-headed Cowbird nesting date for ten years, he was one of the initiators of the Holiday Beach Hawk Watch in southern Ontario twenty years ago. Last year, hawks were counted from five separate locations with watchers communicating with handheld radios.

Be careful, hawk watching is addictive!

*Frank Peace, 870-8238, Winnie Burkett, 992-5640, Dick Benoit, 338-*



Jim Morgan

## P E R S O N A L H I G H

When I was urged to submit my birding personal high it set off a mind game through a trail of 22 years of wonderful memories, so many that I suspected it would be difficult to arrive at an obvious personal high. I have been fortunate to have a job of global scope, plus the time and financial resources to bird in 20 countries on six continents. Would I be able to sort through fabulous tropical birding adventures, Christmas bird counts, UTC fallouts and other memorable experiences for a single birding high? It hardly seemed fair! Birding has been good to (and for!) me, so was there really one experience that truly rated a personal high? At the end of this exercise there was one experience that clearly claimed this exalted honor.

I will try to do this experience justice with the story that follows. It will help if you keep in mind that I get very little satisfaction chasing rarities already discovered but find the greatest pleasure in the "treasure hunt" of birding that often leads to that "moment of discovery" when you put your eyes and binoculars on a bird totally unexpected to be there or a bird you have never seen before. To me, that's birding nirvana!

It was the spring of 1984 and March had been dull, as had the entire previous spring of 1983. Champing at the bit for a repeat of the great fallout of May 7, 1982, April came and much to my disappointment my company sent me to the Fiji Islands on an assignment that would last three weeks. Now, there are much worse

places to visit than this tropical paradise but I always dreaded being away from the UTC in spring. Each day on this assignment I thought surely I must be missing a great fallout back home, but I endured until the end and returned to Houston on April 26 and immediately checked in with my birding buddies Ted Eubanks and Bob Behrstock to discover that I did not miss any fallouts and the spring had not shown any promise of surpassing the prior (1983) season. I breathed a big sigh of relief! But anxious to get into the field I made arrangements with Ted to meet him at his west Galveston beach house around daybreak Saturday morning, April 29.

When Friday night rolled around I received a call telling me that world renowned birder, author and illustrator Lars Jonsson had found a great shorebird on Bob's Bait Camp road on Bolivar Peninsula. Sleep did not come easy that night and I finally got up about an hour earlier than planned and headed off to Galveston. Arriving at Ted's beach house while still dark I proceeded to pound on the door. Soon I heard some stirring and then a grumpy bear of a man said "what the @\$% are you doing here at this hour?" I shot back "do you want to see a Curlew Sandpiper?" Being the shorebird freak he is, Ted gained his senses and shortly he, his wife Virginia and I were on the ferry en route to Bolivar Peninsula.

Arriving at the designated spot about the same time 20 other birders did, we proceeded to soak up

the thrill of seeing this Eurasian shorebird in Texas and on the UTC! A lifer for many but I had seen it once before in Africa. Nonetheless seeing the bird at home was truly a moment to remember.

After a bit more birding we went over to the Sun Oil (now Oryx Oil) property to check out the mixed oak-hackberry motte for neotropical passerine migrants. We ran into Larry White and he joined us as we birded the woods. At approximately 11:00 a.m., Larry called my attention to an odd vireo in a small Hercules club tree. Once on the bird I knew it was a species I had never seen before and I quickly got Ted and Virginia on the bird. While studying the bird, a new species for all of us, we noted it was banded. Checking with the banders working the woods that week end we found they had banded it the day before and recorded it as a Warbling Vireo, which we knew it was anything but! As luck would have it the bird flew back into the net and we requested permission from the bander to remove the bird so we could measure it and photograph it in the hand. He said that was fine with him so we had a wonderful up close opportunity to carefully examine, measure and photograph this bird.

With much anxiety within, we continued birding along the coast working our way back to the Sea Isle subdivision on Galveston Island to George Clayton's place where Lars Jonsson was staying and where he had

*Morgan continued on next page*

*Morgan from preceding page*

also found a Bell's Vireo! After relocating and observing the Bell's Vireo we went to Ted's place which is in the same subdivision. Once inside I went straight to his book shelf and pulled out Peterson's guide to the birds of Mexico. Going straight to the vireo plate I called out "here's our bird!" We all agreed that the Yucatan Vireo pictured was a dead ringer for the bird that we had so carefully documented.

When I arrived at home, still full of excitement, I received a call from David Wolf who was leading a VENT tour with Bret Whitney along the coast. David thought I would know the location of a Pacific (then Arctic) Loon he could show his group. I obliged and then took the opportunity to describe our "bird of the day." Upon completion of my description David said that I had described a Yucatan Vireo, a bird he was most familiar with based on his many trips to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico.

Still remaining cautious, though quite convinced of our discovery after talking to David Wolf, the following morning I called Bob Behrstock to see if he could go verify our find. Bob, also a birding tour leader, had seen Yucatan Vireo many times in Mexico. (Ted, Virginia and I had previous Mexican birding experience but not where the Yucatan Vireo is found.) Bob went to the Sun Oil property with Emery Froelich where they observed the vireo later that day for approximately 30 minutes. Bob played a tape of Black-whiskered Vireo in the vireo's presence and the bird did not react. Later that evening Bob called me and said there was no doubt in his mind the bird was a Yucatan Vireo.

After Bob spent several hours on the phone talking to Sun Oil personnel, and to the property owners from which Sun Oil leased the land, arrangements were made to let birders in to see the bird. It was now time to "let the cat out of the bag" and we informed the local rare bird alert. Subsequently more than 1,000 birders from all over the United States and

Canada saw the vireo daily through May 17. Then on May 24, after the bird had not been seen for six days, David Wolf rediscovered the vireo and Bret Whitney and Victor Emanuel saw it later that same day. All three of these premier observers gave further evidence based on their observations and the vireo's reaction to tape recordings of Red-eyed, Black-whiskered and Yucatan Vireo (the latter recorded on Cozumel Island) that the bird was accurately identified as *Vireo magister*. It was a great thrill to be part of the discovery of a new species for the United States! A personal high? Well, almost, but the bigger thrill was yet to come, and actually took place prior to the last sightings of the vireo on May 27, 1984.

On May 19, Linda Feltner and I made arrangements to go birding the following day while her husband and my good friend Ben was leading a tour in another part of the world. It was raining and it looked like we might get in one last good day of spring birding. On the morning of the 20th we started at Smith's Oaks in High Island where we found good numbers of grounded migrants. We moved on to "Boy Scout's Woods" (now the Louis Smith Bird Sanctuary) where we worked our way to the far southeast corner of the woods, a spot where I had often found Mourning Warbler. As we moved along the trail I noticed a small flycatcher about 30 feet in front of us. After Linda and I observed the bird for about 20 seconds I commented that the bird had the "jizz" and appearance of an elaenia flycatcher from the neotropics. After several more minutes of observation I was sure we were observing a Greenish Elaenia, a species both Linda and I had seen numerous times in Mexico.

During the next 20 minutes Linda sketched the bird and I recorded all visible field marks and behavioral characteristics. Attempts were made to photograph the bird, which proved to be very difficult. I gave up trying to photograph the bird and drove over to

the Gulf Way Motel and placed phone calls to both Ted in Galveston and Ron Braun in Houston and told them of our find and suggested they come to High Island and bring their nets (Ted and Ron are licensed bird banders).

At 2:20 p.m., Ted and Virginia and Ron and his wife Marcia arrived almost simultaneously at the sanctuary. Linda relocated the bird and the Eubanks and the Brauns, all having seen the species before in Mexico, agreed with our identification. Five mist nets were then set up in an effort to capture the bird. At 4:05 p.m., we succeeded in netting the bird. With the bird in hand we measured and photographed it. About 10 other birders, including Fred Collins and Betsy Cornelius, saw the bird that day. (About 75 birders saw the bird before it was last observed on May 23, 1984.) As it was now getting into the evening and since most of us were worn out with excitement, we all adjourned to the restaurant by the motel and it was there where it really hit me. Two new species for the United States in just 22 days!! This was, and probably will always be, my personal high in birding!

Upon examination of the measurements, photographs, and field notes, both species were confirmed by noted ornithologists at three museums. Two articles describing these discoveries were published in *American Birds* (Fall 1985, Vol. 39, No. 3) and both records were subsequently accepted by the American Ornithological Union and the American Birding Association Records Committees.

Looking back, I have often heard that those of us involved with these two exciting discoveries were very lucky. Yes, we were! But, I am a firm believer that you help make your own luck. During most of my years of birding I spent as much time as possible *in the field*. And, on May 20, Linda and I were out birding while many birders had already called it a spring! The moral of this story- you can't find the treasure if you're not in the hunt!

## The Spoonbill

Published 11 times a year by  
Ornithology Group  
Houston Outdoor Nature Club.

EDITOR: Judy Boyce  
668-5359

CLEARING HOUSE:  
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480-7878

PRINTING: Downtown Duplicating  
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### TEXAS

RARE BIRD ALERT TAPE:  
Houston Audubon Society  
992-2757



## Earth's Biodiversity Threatened By Man

BY RO WAUER

The catchword of the '90s, at least in science, seems to be "biodiversity." In the simplest terms, biodiversity refers to the realm of biological resources that exist on the planet--the total variety of life on Earth.

The majority of biologists who study those natural resources are convinced we are losing much of it due to habitat loss, often resulting from poorly planned developments, excessive use of biocides and the careless introduction of exotic species.

Some may ask, "What's all the fuss? So we lose a few wild animals or even a few species.

Human beings are part of nature, no matter how well we insulate ourselves. We live in a world in which everything, at least in some subtle way, is interconnected to everything else. Since mankind is part of nature's matrix, our long-term existence depends upon a healthy, viable environment.

The most threatened resources include freshwater streams, ponds and lakes; bays and estuaries; prairies; and forests.

Tropical forests are at greatest risk because they contain the highest diversity of plants and animals known to mankind, many of which have not even been identified. Some of those may eventually be the solution to the prevention of the common cold or cancer.

It is projected that we will lose between 5-15 percent of the world's species by 2020, approximately 50 to 150 per day. It has been estimated that three-fourths of the world's bird species are declining in population or threatened with extinction. About 1,000 bird species (more than 11 percent) are at risk of extinction, while about 70 percent, or 6,300 species, are in decline. For example, duck populations in the "prairie pothole" regions of the central United States and southern Canada have dropped more than 30 percent since 1955.

Frogs and salamanders are even more susceptible to pollutants and they, too, are declining worldwide. These amphibians, as well as many declining neotropical migrant birds, are like the proverbial canary in the mine. Their declines are a warning that something is dreadfully wrong.

The Endangered Species Act is so under attack that it loses value for protecting the myriad of declining species, including those that are our most important early warning systems.

If present trends continue, we can expect an annual rate of loss as high as 50,000 species by the year 2000.

*Ro Wauer, formerly chief park naturalist for Big Bend National Park, is retired from the National Park Service. He is the author of numerous publications on the Big Bend region and of A Naturalist's Mexico. We thank Ro Wauer for submitting this article which was originally published in The Victoria Advocate, February 12, 1995.*

# Clearing House

JANUARY 1996

EDITORS: PHYLLIS AND TONY FRANK

A total of 179 species were reported for the month including a Kelp Gull. If accepted by the Texas Bird Records Committee, this will be the first Texas record (and obviously the first UTC record). Kelp Gull, as well as Kelp Gull X Herring Gull hybrid, has been reported in Louisiana, although not all of these records have been decided by the rare bird committee. An amazing number of hummingbirds seem to have overwintered through the coldest winter in several years. Five species of hummers, including 16 individual Rufous Hummingbirds were reported. The Masked Duck is once again at Brazos Bend for the third winter.

All reports are due March 3rd. Readers are reminded that all decisions regarding checklist status are made by the checklist committee. Publication of a rarity does not imply acceptance of the record by the editors or the committee. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

- Loon, Common 15-15 1/15 GA-(15)15,HS  
Grebe, Pied-bill 7-31 12/158 U-2/40 CH-3/48 GA-3/31  
HA-1/1 JE-3/38  
Grebe, Eared 15-26 3/15 U-1/12 CH-1/1 GA-1/2  
Pelican, Amer Wht 5-28 7/859 U-1/250 CH-1/2 GA-4/600 JE-1/7  
Pelican, Brown 5-28 5/149 U-1/80 CH-1/15 GA-2/51 JE-1/3  
Corm, Dbl-crested 5-28 5/876 U-1/800 CH-1/1 GA-2/70 JE-1/5  
Corm, Neotropic 5-31 8/483 U-1/120 CH-2/5 GA-2/207 JE-3/151  
Anhinga 5-14 3/4 CH-2/2 JE-1/2  
Heron, Great Blue 5-31 13/114 U-3/39 CH-3/20 GA-1/28  
HA-2/8 JE-4/19  
Egret, Great 5-31 17/178 U-3/80 CH-3/18 GA-3/8  
HA-2/9 JE-5/58 WA-1/5  
Egret, Snowy 5-28 14/118 U-3/38 CH-3/20 GA-3/47  
HA-1/2 JE-4/11  
Heron, Little Blu 14-28 7/27 U-1/6 CH-4/18 GA-2/3  
Heron, Tricolored 15-28 6/19 U-2/13 CH-2/2 GA-1/3 JE-1/1  
Egret, Cattle 5-15 5/43 U-1/12 CH-1/2 GA-1/1  
HA-1/20 JE-1/8  
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 7-28 9/572 U-2/140 CH-4/247 GA-1/10  
HA-2/175  
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 28-28 1/2 CH-AW(2)28,JW  
Ibis, White 5-28 12/426 U-2/280 CH-3/72 GA-2/35  
HA-1/20 JE-4/19  
**Ibis, Glossy** 15-15 1/1 CH-AW(1)15,JW  
Ibis, White-faced 5-28 12/321 U-2/225 CH-3/49 GA-1/2  
HA-2/5 JE-4/40  
Spoonbill, Roseat 15-28 3/16 U-1/12 CH-1/1 JE-1/3  
Goose, Gr Wht-frn 7-28 8/743 U-1/50 CH-4/293 HA-3/400  
Goose, Snow 7-31 10/18930 U-2/8700 CH-4/5230  
HA-2/4000 JE-2/1000  
Goose, Ross' 7-28 3/4 CH-(1)15,JW; CH-(1)28,JW;  
HA-WHC(2)7,HB  
Goose, Canada 7-28 4/192 CH-2/160 HA-1/2 WA-1/30  
Teal, Green-wing 7-31 10/10326 U-1/200 CH-4/620  
GA-1/4 HA-3/9500 JE-1/2  
Duck, Mottled 5-31 14/207 U-2/43 CH-3/24 GA-1/10  
HA-3/26 JE-5/104  
Mallard 14-31 8/27 U-1/6 CH-3/10 HA-2/8 JE-2/3  
Pintail, Northern 7-28 9/853 U-1/20 CH-4/27 HA-3/606 WA-1/200  
Teal, Blue-winged 14-28 6/166 U-1/12 CH-4/104 GA-1/50  
Shoveler, Northrn 7-31 12/4095 U-2/165 CH-3/339  
GA-1/6 HA-3/3580 JE-3/5  
Gadwall 7-28 7/179 U-2/65 CH-3/79 GA-1/29 HA-1/6  
Wigeon, American 14-28 6/196 U-1/40 CH-4/147 GA-1/9  
Canvasback 14-28 4/29 CH-4/29  
Redhead 14-28 7/56 CH-4/32 GA-3/24  
Duck, Ring-necked 14-28 5/345 CH-5/345  
Scaup, Greater 15-28 3/20 CH-AW(4)15,JW; CH-AW(12)15,HS;  
CH-AW(4)28,JW  
Scaup, Lesser 5-28 9/486 U-1/200 CH-3/87 GA-2/180 JE-3/19  
Goldeneye, Common 14-26 4/6 CH-(1)14,JB; CH-AW(2)15,JW;  
CH-AW(2)15,HS; CH-AW(1)26,BH  
Bufflehead 15-15 1/15 U-(15)15,HS  
Merganser, Red-br 15-26 3/89 U-1/8 GA-2/81  
Duck, Ruddy 15-28 3/124 U-1/110 CH-1/9 GA-1/5  
Duck, Masked 14-14 1/2 FB-BB(2)14,JWR  
Vulture, Black 7-28 6/56 GA-1/6 HA-3/18 JE-1/25 WA-1/7  
Vulture, Turkey 7-31 13/228 U-2/61 CH-4/15 GA-2/81  
HA-2/42 JE-3/29  
Kite, White-taild 14-31 10/44 U-2/19 CH-2/7 GA-2/9  
HA-2/5 JE-1/3 WA-1/1  
Harrier, Northern 5-31 15/129 U-3/54 CH-3/19 GA-3/6  
HA-2/13 JE-4/37  
Hawk, Sharp-shin 5-31 4/6 HA-WHC(1)7,HB; HA-(1)27,M;  
JE-(2)5,JW; JE-(2)31,JW  
Hawk, Cooper's 5-31 4/5 CH-AW(1)28,JW; HA-(1)5,X;  
JE-(2)31,JW; WA-(1)27,M  
Hawk, Red-shouldr 7-27 5/5 GA-1/1 HA-3/3 JE-1/1  
Hawk, White-taild 7-7 1/1 HA-WHC(1)7,HB  
Hawk, Red-tailed 5-31 17/423 U-3/165 CH-3/43 GA-3/20  
HA-2/100 JE-5/89 WA-1/6  
(Hawk, Harlan's) 20-27 2/1 HA-(1)20,27,M  
Hawk, Ferruginous 7-27 3/4 CH-(1)15,JW; HA-WHC(2)7,HB;  
WA-(1)27,M  
Caracara, Crested 20-27 2/4 HA-(2)20,M; WA-(2)27,M  
Kestrel, American 5-31 15/257 U-3/55 CH-3/61 GA-2/30  
HA-2/12 JE-5/99  
Merlin 5-27 3/3 CH-(1)15,JW; HA-(1)27,M;  
JE-(1)5,JW  
Falcon, Peregrine 15-24 2/2 U-(1)15,HS; JE-(1)24,JW  
Bobwhite, Northrn 14-15 2/6 CH-(5)15,JW; GA-(1)14,JB

- Rail, Clapper 15-28 2/9 U-(8)15,HS; CH-AW(1)28 JW  
 Sora 26-26 1/2 U-(2)26,BH  
 Moorhen, Common 14-28 8/471 U-2/170 CH-3/282 GA-1/15 JE-2/4  
 Coot, American 14-31 9/3277 U-2/1350 CH-3/1800  
 GA-2/123 JE-2/4  
 Crane, Sandhill 20-20 1/3 HA-(3)20,M  
 Plover, Blk-belli 5-26 4/476 U-2/170 GA-1/300 JE-1/6  
 Plover, Snowy 5-26 4/68 GA-3/51 JE-1/17  
 Plover, Semipalm 15-26 2/8 GA-BF(2)15,JW; GA-(6)26,BH  
 Plover, Piping 5-26 4/246 GA-3/245 JE-1/1  
 Killdeer 7-31 15/612 U-3/385 CH-3/49 GA-3/18  
 HA-2/95 JE-4/65  
 Stilt, Black-neck 15-28 4/57 U-1/20 CH-1/2 JE-2/35  
 Avocet, American 5-26 4/2475 U-1/1220 GA-2/1105 JE-1/150  
 Yellowlegs, Great 7-31 9/52 U-2/11 GA-2/2 HA-2/8  
 JE-2/29 WA-1/2  
 Yellowlegs, Less 5-31 8/99 U-1/20 GA-1/6 HA-2/6  
 JE-3/66 WA-1/1  
 Willet 5-26 4/430 U-2/266 GA-1/126 JE-1/38  
 Sandprr, Spotted 5-26 4/5 U-(1)15,HS; GA-BF(1)26,BH;  
 HA-WHC(1)7,HB; JE-(2)5 JW  
 Curlew, Long-bill 15-28 5/49 U-1/20 CH-1/2 GA-2/23 HA-1/4  
 Godwit, Marbled 15-26 3/376 U-1/22 GA-2/354  
 Turnstone, Ruddy 15-26 3/25 U-1/10 GA-2/15  
 Knot, Red 15-15 1/1 GA-BF(1)15 JW  
 Sanderling 5-26 5/905 U-1/120 GA-3/729 JE-1/56  
 Sandprr, Western 7-26 5/775 U-1/50 GA-2/650 HA-1/50 JE-1/25  
 Sandprr, Least 7-15 2/32 U-(20)15,HS; HA-WHC(12)7,HB  
 Dunlin 5-27 6/1058 U-1/80 GA-2/673 HA-1/25  
 JE-1/80 WA-1/200  
 Dowitcher, S-bill 15-15 2/95 U-(25)15,HS; GA-(70)15 JW  
 Dowitcher, L-bill 7-31 7/887 GA-1/5 HA-3/600 JE-2/202 WA-1/80  
 dowitcher, sp. 26-26 1/250 U-1/250  
 Snipe, Common 7-28 8/77 CH-3/3 HA-3/64 JE-2/10  
 Woodcock, Amer 27-27 1/1 GA-HI(1)27,DV  
 Gull, Laughing 5-31 9/2511 U-2/2100 CH-1/2 GA-2/351  
 JE-4/58  
 Gull, Franklin's 15-15 1/1 GA-TCD(1)15,HS  
 Gull, Bonaparte's 5-26 5/358 U-1/110 GA-2/201 JE-2/47  
 Gull, Ring-billed 5-31 14/1680 U-1/350 CH-3/10  
 GA-3/813 HA-2/27 JE-5/480  
 Gull, Herring 5-26 5/120 U-1/80 GA-3/29 JE-1/11  
 Gull, Lsr Blk-bck 15-27 2/2 GA-EB(1)15,HS; GA-BF(1)27,DD  
 Gull, Glaucous 20-20 1/1 GA-EB(1)20,PTF  
 GULL, KELP 15-15 1/1 GA-EB(1)15,HS  
 Tern, Caspian 5-28 6/21 U-1/3 CH-2/4 GA-2/9 JE-1/5  
 Tern, Royal 5-26 5/70 U-1/30 GA-3/29 JE-1/11  
 Tern, Common 15-15 1/2 GA-BF(2)15 JW  
 Tern, Forster's 5-26 4/318 U-1/50 GA-2/257 JE-1/11  
 Skimmer, Black 5-26 4/412 U-1/80 GA-2/331 JE-1/1  
 Dove, Rock 1-31 9/246 U-1/120 CH-1/20 GA-1/2  
 HA-3/44 JE-3/60  
 Dove, White-winged 1-28 2/13 HA-(12)1-28,BIS; JE-SW(1)5 JW  
 Dove, Mourning 1-31 15/222 U-2/36 CH-3/45 GA-1/1  
 HA-4/54 JE-5/86  
 Dove, Inca 1-27 4/12 U-1/4 GA-2/5 HA-1/3  
 Ground-Dove, Comm 24-24 1/1 JE-(1)24 JW  
 Parakeet, Monk 1-28 1/7 HA-(7)1-28,BIS  
 Owl, Barn 7-7 1/5 HA-WHC(5)7,HB  
 Screech-Owl, East 1-7 2/2 HA-(1)1,X; HA-WHC(1)7,HB  
 Owl, Great Horned 27-27 1/1 GA-HI(1)27,DV  
 Hummer, Buf-belly 2-2 1/1 HA-RPP(1)2,BC  
 Hummer, Ruby-thrt 1-31 2/2 HA-(1)1-31,JWR; HA-RPP(1)16,BC  
 Hummer, Blk-chind 2-14 3/3 HA-RPP(1)2,BC; HA-(1)7,MB;  
 HA-(1)1-14,BIS  
 Hummer, Brd-taild 2-16 3/4 HA-RPP(1)2,BC; HA-(1)8-9,X;  
 HA-RPP(2)16,BC  
 Hummer, Rufous 1-31 7/16 HA-(4)1-31,JWR; HA-(3)1-31,BIS;  
 HA-(3)1-31,X; HA-(1)1-31,PTF; HA-RPP(1)7,BC;  
 HA-(3)7,MB; HA-RPP(1)9,BC  
 archilochus, sp. 7-7 1/1 HA-(1)7,MB  
 Kingfisher, Belted 5-31 13/56 U-1/6 CH-3/20 GA-3/7  
 HA-3/5 JE-3/18  
 Wdpeckr, Red-bell 15-27 3/5 GA-1/2 HA-1/1 WA-1/2  
 Sapsuck, Yel-bell 5-27 3/6 HA-1/1 JE-1/1 WA-1/4  
 Wdpeckr, Downy 10-27 2/4 HA-(2)10,X; WA-(2)27,M  
 Flicker, Northern 5-27 5/8 U-1/2 GA-1/1 HA-1/2 JE-1/1 WA-1/2  
 Phoebe, Eastern 5-31 15/92 U-2/37 CH-4/11 GA-3/4  
 HA-2/21 JE-4/19  
 Flycatcher, Vermiln 7-27 4/5 GA-HI(1)27,DV; HA-WHC(1)7,HB;  
 JE-(1)24 JW; WA-(2)27,M  
 Lark, Horned 15-15 1/1 GA-BF(1)15,HS  
 Swallow, Tree 5-31 8/290 CH-2/32 GA-2/15 JE-4/243  
 Jay, Blue 1-31 14/65 U-1/15 CH-1/1 GA-4/11  
 HA-4/24 JE-4/14  
 Crow, American 7-31 8/113 U-2/47 CH-2/17 HA-2/32 JE-2/17  
 Chickadee, Carol 5-27 4/16 HA-3/12 WA-1/4  
 Nuthatch, Red-brs 15-15 1/1 GA-HI(1)15,HS  
 Wren, Carolina 1-31 4/9 HA-3/7 WA-1/2  
 Wren, Bewick's 7-20 2/5 HA-WHC(2)7,HB; HA-(3)20,M  
 Wren, House 14-27 4/25 U-2/16 CH-1/1 HA-1/8  
 Wren, Winter 27-27 1/2 GA-HI(2)27,DV  
 Wren, Sedge 14-27 3/9 CH-1/1 GA-1/3 HA-1/5  
 Wren, Marsh 15-15 2/16 CH-AW(1)15,JW; GA-BF(15)15,HS  
 Kinglet, Gold-crn 5-27 4/19 CH-1/1 GA-2/14 JE-1/4  
 Kinglet, Ruby-crn 5-27 10/101 U-2/36 CH-1/1 GA-3/33  
 HA-3/28 JE-1/3  
 Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 5-27 6/29 U-1/1 CH-1/1 GA-2/16  
 HA-1/1 JE-1/10  
 Bluebird, Eastern 24-31 4/23 JE-3/13 WA-1/10  
 Thrush, Hermit 20-20 1/1 HA-(1)20,M  
 Robin, American 7-31 7/1049 U-1/400 GA-1/300  
 HA-2/270 JE-3/79  
 Catbird, Gray 5-27 3/6 CH-(1)14,JB; GA-HI(2)27,DV;  
 JE-SW(3)5 JW  
 Mockingbird, N 1-31 15/139 U-2/37 CH-1/4 GA-3/11  
 HA-4/28 JE-5/59  
 Thrasher, Brown 15-27 5/15 GA-3/11 HA-1/2 WA-1/2  
 Pipit, American 7-28 6/124 U-1/60 HA-3/60 JE-2/4  
 Pipit, Sprague's 5-7 2/3 HA-WHC(2)7,HB; JE-SR(1)5 JW  
 Waxwing, Cedar 7-27 3/31 GA-1/10 HA-2/21  
 Shrike, Loggerhed 5-31 14/246 U-3/41 CH-3/37 GA-2/19  
 HA-2/28 JE-4/121  
 Starling, Euro 5-31 14/588 U-2/300 CH-2/3 GA-2/39  
 HA-3/111 JE-5/135  
 Vireo, Solitary 15-27 3/8 U-1/1 GA-1/6 HA-1/1  
 Warb, Orange-crn 5-28 11/74 U-3/31 CH-1/2 GA-2/18  
 HA-3/15 JE-2/8  
 Warb, Blk-thr Blu 1-31 1/1 HA-(1)1-31,JWR  
 Warb, Yellow-rump 5-28 14/278 U-3/86 CH-3/15 GA-2/62  
 HA-2/60 JE-4/55  
 Warb, Pine 15-27 4/4 GA-(1)15,JW; HA-(1)15,X;  
 HA-WHC(1)20,M; HA-WHC(1)27,M  
 Warb, Palm 14-14 1/1 GA-(1)14,JB  
 Yellowthroat, Com 14-26 3/14 U-2/12 CH-1/2  
 Warb, Wilson's 15-27 2/5 GA-HI(1)15,JW; GA-HI(4)27,DV  
 Cardinal, Northrn 1-31 14/113 U-2/36 CH-1/1 GA-3/10  
 HA-4/43 JE-4/23  
 Sparrow, Chipping 7-27 3/33 HA-2/21 WA-1/12  
 Sparrow, Field 7-27 2/5 HA-WHC(3)7,HB; WA-(2)27,M

Sparrow, Vesper 7-27 3/37 HA-2/28 WA-1/9  
 Sparrow, Savannah 7-31 11/425 U-2/240 CH-2/31 GA-2/15  
 HA-2/83 JE-3/56  
 Sparrow, Le Conte 5-15 3/7 GA-BF(2)15, JW; HA-WHC(2)7, HB;  
 JE-(3)5, JW  
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 15-15 2/35 GA-BF(15)15, JW; GA-BF(20)15, HS  
 Sparrow, Seaside 15-28 3/19 CH-1/1 GA-2/18  
 Sparrow, Song 7-31 9/31 CH-2/8 GA-2/6 HA-3/7 JE-1/1 WA-1/9  
 Sparrow, Lincolns 14-27 2/5 GA-(1)14, JB; WA-(4)27, M  
 Sparrow, Swamp 5-27 8/33 U-1/6 CH-1/3 GA-3/5  
 HA-2/3 JE-1/16  
 Sparrow, Wht-thrt 5-27 9/36 U-1/1 GA-4/14 HA-2/11  
 JE-1/3 WA-1/7  
 Sparrow, Wht-crn 7-27 5/47 CH-1/2 HA-3/30 WA-1/15  
 Sparrow, Harris' 20-27 2/4 HA-WHC(1)20, M; WA-(3)27, M  
 Blackbird, Red-wg 1-31 16/6167 U-3/1500 CH-3/475  
 GA-3/547 HA-3/2330 JE-4/1315  
 Meadowlark, East 5-31 12/262 U-3/43 CH-2/31 GA-1/4  
 HA-2/36 JE-4/148  
 meadowlark, sp. 20-27 2/215 U-1/185 HA-1/30  
 Blackbird, Brewer 7-27 3/36 HA-2/24 WA-1/12  
 Grackle, Gr-tail 5-31 13/756 U-2/150 CH-2/57 GA-2/128  
 HA-2/36 JE-5/385  
 Grackle, Bt-tail 14-28 7/153 U-2/55 CH-3/93 GA-2/5  
 Grackle, Common 1-31 10/1170 U-1/200 HA-5/320 JE-4/650  
 Cowbird, Bronzed 7-7 1/1 HA-RPP(1)7, MB  
 Cowbird, Brn-head 1-31 8/3870 U-1/3000 GA-1/5 HA-5/840  
 JE-1/25  
 (Oriole, Bullock) 7-7 1/1 HA-(1)7, MB  
 Goldfinch, Amer 1-31 11/233 U-1/2 CH-1/1 GA-1/10  
 HA-6/199 JE-1/6 WA-1/15  
**Finch, House** 1-31 2/37 HA-(35)1, X; HA-(2)13, BIS  
 Sparrow, House 1-31 9/80 U-1/15 GA-1/2 HA-5/55 JE-2/8

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 78812

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Bob Behrstock, Fred Collins (BC); Bob Honig, Adrian Del Nevo, Dan Ransbottom (BH); Billir Strickland (BIS); David Dauphin (DD); Don Verser (DV); P. D. Hulce, David Bradford, et.al. (HB); P. D. Hulce, Mark Scheuerman, Rob Van Zandt (HS); John Buckman (JB); John Whittle (JW); Jan & Will Risser (JWR); Jim Morgan (M); Gretchen Mueller Bob Behrstock (MB); Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); P. D. Hulce (X)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); East Beach (EB); High Island (HI); Rollover Pass (RP); Russ Pittman Park (RPP); Sea Rim St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW); Texas City Dike (TCD); West Harris County (WHC)

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria (BR); Chambers (CH); Fort Bend (FB); Galveston (GA); Harris (HA); Jefferson (JE); Upper Texas Coast (U); Waller (WA)

Glossy Ibis - J. Whittle January 15, 1996

Typical Plegadis ibis. The body of the bird was a deep chestnut. The head and neck were dull black flecked liberally with white. The eye was brown. Bare light blue-gray facial skin from above the eye forward to the base of the upper mandible, and a much thinner line from

the bottom of the eye to the base of the lower mandible. No bare skin behind the eye.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - P.D. Hulce January 15, 1996

Slightly smaller than Herring Gull, with smaller head & slimmer neck. Bill black and slimmer than Herring Gull. All primaries were uniformly dark. Greater coverts formed a noticeable warmer brown band or bar than on Herring Gull. Back seemed darker and more contrast than Herring Gull. Seen with many Herring Gulls at Big Reef.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - D. Dauphin January 27, 1996

Bird was seen with many other gulls. Slightly larger than adjacent Ring-billed and noticeably smaller than Herring Gulls behind the Lesser Black-backed. Little, if any streaking seen of head, neck or breast. All white, except charcoal-gray mantle. Yellow legs and feet. Yellow bill with reddish-orange gonys. Bill was not nearly as stout as the Ring-billed Gulls beside it.

Kelp Gull - P.D. Hulce January 15, 1996

Immediate impression was of an adult Greater Black-backed Gull, all white head and body, all black wings and back, large yellow bill with red gonial spot - closer inspection revealed the following field marks that indicate Kelp Gull rather than GBB Gull: 1) size of this gull was almost exactly the same as Herring Gull, 2) leg color was a dull greenish-yellow, 3) there appeared to be no white spots in any of the primaries (although I'm waiting for my slides to come back to check on this) 4) all white head was completely unstreaked. Other details include: bright yellow eye, red orbital ring - bill fairly massive, with noticeable gonys - distinct white trailing edge to wing - white rump and tail. Yellow-footed Gull is presumably eliminated by the dull greenish-yellow legs. Seen in Big Reef Nature Park area of east beach, Galveston Island.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird - B. Behrstock Jan 2-9, 1996

Many photos depict a moderately large hummer with a decurved, striking bi-colored bill that is black above and bright coral red below-tipped with black. Immature hummer, green above with golden iridescence. Below largely gray with scattered green and blue iridescent feathers on the throat. Buffy eye ring, expanding slightly to a white crescent behind the eye. Under-tail coverts are white. Eyes and feet are black. The tail is dark rufous with a diffuse black subterminal band.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird - B. Behrstock January 2-9, 1996

Larger than male and female Rufous Hummingbirds. Photos show an all black nearly straight bill. The bird is golden green above, below it is white through the center of the belly, broadly washed with buff on the flanks. White spot behind the eye. Cheeks are gray. Upper chest is white, giving a collared effect below the gorget. Lower portion of the gorget is iridescent magenta red, the upper gorget feathers are white with dark centers. The outer tail feathers are broadly tipped with white, black subterminally. Rufous patches occur at the bases of the outer tail feathers. Central tail feathers black with a green

gloss. Eyes and feet are black. The bird utters a high-pitched "seek" note, often for many minutes.

Another two birds were documented January 16-23. Photos taken.

Broad-tailed Hummingbird - P.D. Hulce January 8-9, 1996

All green crown & back. Very noticeable buff sides and flanks. Tail of perched bird appeared quite long, esp. the two center feathers. Basically all green with just a touch of rufous at base of outer tail feathers. Throat was evenly covered with distinct spots. Slightly larger than Rufous Hummingbird.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - J&W Risser January 1-31, 1996

Size of Rufous. Greener, less bronze-green back. White underparts. Greenish sides. Tail green at base (no red) with black subterminally & white tips on all but center feathers. Gorget with ruby red along distal border.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - B. Behrstock January 16-23, 1996

Photos. Crown and back very dark green with golden highlights. Flight feather black. Tail feather largely black, outer several tipped white. Below exhibits a deep red gorget about 3/4 developed and much darker red than nearby male Broad-tailed. Chin white, feathers with dark centers. Cheek blackish. White spot behind eye. Underparts off white, flanks with grayish suffusion; a few green spangles mixed in. Bill, eye and feet all black. Bill not especially long, shorter than nearby Black-chinned.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - J&W Risser January 1-31, 1996 In yard. Notes previously submitted.

House Finch - P.D. Hulce Jan 1-31, 1996

Males with rosy red head and breast, heavy streaking on belly. Females gray-brown with no facial pattern, black beady eye, underparts completely streaked. Present since mid-December.

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