

The Spoonbill

Published by The Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Our May membership meeting will be of a different nature. As you now know we have more money in the OG bank account than a nonprofit organization should, and since our expenditures are, for the most part dependent on the size of our membership, I have been advised to spend our wealth. I was originally opposed to spending this money...I felt the more money the better. However, the thinking of those in the know indicates hoarding money is not the goal of a nonprofit organization like the OG. Our organization provides services such as field trips, speakers, a newsletter, and a meeting place, and it is hoped, gets people excited about birds. We do not deal with expensive endeavors such as lobbying or land acquisition. Though these are important, they are beyond our scope.

Our budget is driven by money raised through membership dues and our main expenditure is the printing of *The Spoonbill*. If we have to print more newsletters, it is because we have an increase in membership which increases our budget enough to handle the added expenses. Keeping a large amount of capital in our budget is not necessary. I believe we do need to keep a minimum amount in the budget each year to cover routine expenses and any minor expenses that may develop, or if we have to begin paying for the printing of "A Birder's Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast."

Over the past few months many of you have sent in suggestions as to how our money

should be spent. During the April meeting Mike Gremillion will read a list of the suggestions submitted to date, this will not be the time for discussion or input. During the May meeting we vote on which suggestions we want to implement. Only suggestions presented to Mike prior to the May meeting will be discussed. If you feel strongly about how this money should be spent, call Mike now (665-8502). At the start of the May meeting each topic will be presented by a person that has researched the topic. Discussion will follow. A vote will be held at the end of the meeting to determine which suggestions or suggestion will be funded.

After all the dust settles and the money is spent, we will have a "show and tell" by our own OG members. If you have interesting bird slides or just bird slides or a bird story, the May meeting is the time to show them off. This will be an opportunity for all members to show their slides and tell their stories. Novices and experienced program presenters are welcome. Each person should plan to hold the floor for no more than five to seven minutes. For this to be a success, we need you to be there in May with your slides!

Remember, our 4th Annual OG Picnic will be held Saturday, June 4, 1994 at Brazos Bend State Park. This is an event not to be missed.

Dave Bradford, 855-2615.

COMING EVENTS

Sat.-Sun., April 2 and 3: **OG FIELD TRIP TO BEEVILLE, AND CHOKE CANYON.** Check last month's newsletter for trip details or call Dwight Peake, 409/740-4621.

Monday, April 4: OG MEETING. 7:00 P.M. Harris County Bayland Community Center located on the north side of Bissonnet west of Hillcroft. Renowned birding expert, Ted Eubanks, will address "The Economic Impact of Birding on High Island." Ted is a member of the board for Texas Partners in Flight and an Advisory Board member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and he is past president of Armand Bayou Nature Center and the Houston Audubon Society and a former chairman of the Ornithology Group. His company, Fermata, is developing solutions to a wide range of environmental problems and is one of the first transportation companies to use alternative fuel. Ted's presentations are always informative, entertaining and enlightening. He has researched this topic for several years and published his findings in a recent issue of the ABA's "Birding." Karen Beekman will continue her discussion on the identification of spring migrants (passerines) at the 6:30 p.m. Learning Corner.

Wednesday, April 13: OG WEEKDAY FIELD TRIP to High Island. We'll meet at Boy Scout Woods at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch, waterproof shoes and mosquito repellent. Winnie Burkett, 992-5640.

Saturday, April 16: HOUSTON AUDUBON FIELD TRIP TO

SABINE WOODS. Houston Audubon field trip to Sabine Woods. Ellen Red (523-4287)

Saturday, April 30: OG "YOUTH" FIELD TRIP TO AUDUBON'S BOY SCOUT WOODS in High Island. Meet at the entrance at 9:00 a.m. David Veselka, 692-1384.

Monday, May 2: OG MEETING. "Show and Tell" Night. Members are invited to show their best bird slides and tell their best birding stories following a discussion and vote on various proposals for spending OG monies. Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. at the Harris County Bayland Community Park.

Saturday, May 21: OG FIELD TRIP TO SOUTHEAST TEXAS' PINEY WOODS This area is an excellent birding area for the post-migration period and is the breeding ground for several species often difficult to find at High Island in migration such as Prairie and Swainson's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. We will first visit the area along the road to the Wacuta Girl's Camp just north of Silsbee to search for Bachman's Sparrow, Prairie Warbler and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We'll then head for the Big Thicket's Hickory Creek and Turkey Creek Units north of Kountze. Here we'll look for Brown-headed Nuthatch, and a number of warbler species including Prothonotary, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Meet in the parking lot of Silsbee State Bank at 6:45 a.m. Take Hwy. 69 north from Beaumont into downtown Silsbee. The bank is

just past the railroad tracks on the right. Bill Tarbox, 356-4749 after 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 28: OG PELAGIC TRIP OUT OF PORT O'CONNOR. This trip is one of three tentatively scheduled for this summer. The 65-foot crewboat is well suited for carrying passengers. It has speed of 15-20 knots, has an open flat rear deck with shade, has air conditioned cabin, and has sturdy rails at the bow for good hand grip. On this deep water trip off the continental shelf we'll look for species rarely seen in Texas such as Storm-Petrels (Wilson's, Leach's, and Band-rumped are very possible). Audubon's Shearwater is likely as are Masked Booby, and Bridled and Sooty Terns. Trips near this area last year found these birds and extremely rare Brown Noddy and White-tailed Tropic Birds. You will get plenty of help with bird identification. The plan is to follow birds until people have had good views. Many previous trips have not gone to areas of deep water where the pelagic species of birds are found and no one can guarantee birds, but this trip should have an excellent chance for rarities. Sperm Whales and other cetaceans inhabit these waters and trips last year had Whale Sharks swimming around the boat. The trip will be canceled for bad weather or sea conditions. The cost is \$85 per person. Please call or write Dwight Peake (409) 740-4621; 30 Lebrun Court, Galveston, TX 77551 as soon as possible to sign up. We need a minimum of 20 people signed up by mid-April for the trip to be scheduled by the boat company.

665-6963

NEWS BRIEFS

.....MINUTES OF THE APRIL 30, 1994 OG MEETING:

David Bradford opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The motion to use \$400 to rent a boat for use during the Houston Christmas Bird Count was approved. David expressed thanks to Liz Dear on behalf of the OG for volunteering to share The Spoonbill mailing duties with Gregg Mueller.

The Nominating Committee, Bob Luckner and Charles Letcher, announced the slate of officers for the 1994-95 OG year, to be voted on in the next meeting:

Chairperson: David Bradford
Vice Chairperson: Gail Luckner
Treasurer: Mike Gremillion
Secretary: Maggie Honig

Mike Gremillion presented the budget and recommended that we keep a minimum contingency fund of \$1,500, leaving the OG with a \$5,000 surplus. The suggested options for spending are: 1) Purchase The Birds of North America published by the American Ornithologists' Union and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; 2) Purchase VIREO, Cornell, or other slides/sets of slides to have available for speakers; 3) Upgrade Spoonbill Publishing System Hardware: IBM PC 80386 or better with Windows Software; or 4) Produce a new OG patch or t-shirt. The option of setting aside money for a summer youth birding scholarship was tabled until next year. These options will be presented in detail at the next meeting. If you still have suggestions, research and present your findings at the next meeting. Please contact Mike ASAP (665-8502) to reserve time.

David Veselka announced that we need volunteers who are willing to lead Girl Scout bird walks on Saturday mornings. If you're interested, contact David (692-1384).

Gail Luckner introduced the evening's speaker, Jim Morgan. Jim gave an excellent program on spring migrant fallouts on the UTC. He focused on data he has collected over the years which show the dates and numbers of bird species and individuals which he has observed at High Island and neighboring areas. He correlated his data with weather conditions during each observation. Jim concluded that while heavy rain was the primary factor leading to good fallouts in the past, now a good fallout cannot be expected unless there are both rain and headwinds; and, because of declining bird populations due to habitat destruction and other pressures, fallouts don't produce the huge numbers of birds and do not occur as frequently as they did previously. **Maggie Dinse, Secretary**



.....A NORTH CAROLINA PELAGIC TRIP is being planned by Dwight Peake for August 13-15. A group of local birders will travel to Cape Hatteras for this trip led by expert pelagic leader, Bryan Patteson, who has added this extra trip to his schedule. Call Dwight (409) 740-4621 if you are interested in seeing Wilson's and Leach's Storm-Petrel, White-tailed Tropicbird, Cory's and Greater Shearwater and Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, among many others.

.....THE FEBRUARY 12, 1994 "YOUTH" FIELD TRIP to west Harris County found the hawks and eagles they sought and they studied Snow (both phases), Canada, White-fronted and Ross' Goose in a single field. In addition, David Bradford showed the group his "secret" sparrow and Barn Owl spots. While the number of participants was low, the birding was excellent. The next birding adventure for youth will be a trip to Boy Scout Woods on April 30. Meet at the entrance at 9:00 a.m. Call David Veselka at 692-1384 for details.

.....THE 6TH ANNUAL HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION IN ROCKPORT/FULTON will be held September 8-11, 1994. To obtain more information call the Rockport/Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce 1-800-242-0071 or 1-512-729-6445. Young people are encouraged to participate in this exciting event. Admission to programs is free to all persons under age 16.

.....GO BIRD AND BAT WATCHING IN THE HILL COUNTRY OF TEXAS with George Regmund and Paula Kennedy of Armand Bayou Nature Center (ABNC) Friday May 20 to Sunday May 22, 1994. Trip fees include all transportation from ABNC, two nights lodging, all meals while at Neal's Lodges and guide services. Call ABNC at 713-474-2551 for more information and reservations.

.....OG/MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE BIRD WALKS IN HERMANN PARK. One-hour bird walks beginning at 9:00 a.m. will be held at

NEWS BRIEFS

Hermann Park on the following Mondays: April 4 and 18, May 2 and 16. The trips will be led by Doug Stein. Please contact Norma Barnes, 668-2918, if you want to participate. Trips will be canceled if there are not enough interest.

.....MOUNTAIN PLOVERS ARE GETTING A LOT OF ATTENTION IN TEXAS. Not only does Texas Parks and Wildlife want your reports of Mountain Plover sightings (see *The Spoonbill*, January, 1994), but so does Fred Collins of the Center for Avian Propagation and Research, Route 2, box 625, Hearne, TX 77859. Fred would welcome information of past and present locations, habitats, dates and numbers of Mountain Plovers observed in Texas.

.....COLUMBIA BOTTOMLANDS CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP...A partnership of public and private organizations, citizen's groups and private landowners is forming in response to the rapid loss of bottomland forests of the lower Brazos, San Bernard and Colorado Rivers. The initiative is centered in the West Columbia area. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) and The Nature Conservancy of Texas are all taking a role in the initiative.

There were once 700,000 acres of bottomland forests in this area, but today less than 25% remains. The remaining forest tracts are threatened with urbanization, logging, clearing for agriculture and chipping for the paper pulp industry.

The partners will bring public and private funding to the area for wildlife conservation. Existing programs, such as Partners for Wildlife, can provide money for wildlife enhancement on private lands. Technical assistance will be available to landowners who want to restore habitat. Some landowners may want to donate conservation easements for tax purposes; while others may want to sell their land to non-profit conservation organizations, private foundations, FWS or TPWD. The acquisition of land will depend on willing sellers, the quality of the habitat and the availability of funds.

You are invited to join in this partnership. An open house will be held at the Civic Center, 514 East Brazos, West Columbia, on Saturday, April 9, 1994 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Representatives from the various partner organizations will be there to provide more information about this initiative. You may call FWS, 409/849-7771 or The Nature Conservancy of Texas, 210/224-8774 for further information.

.....RIO GRANDE VALLEY FIELD TRIP REPORT. A group of nearly 100 birders and botanists met in the McAllen area on February 19, 1994 for a President's Day Weekend trip. We began with a fruitless attempt to spot the elusive Collared Forest Falcon, but were rewarded by a cooperative Say's Phoebe along the levy at Bentsen-Rio Grande State Park. The group then moved into the State Park where everyone apparently got excellent looks at the rare Tropical Parula. We

found the "routine" valley species such as White-tipped Dove, Green Jay, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Chachalaca and Altamira Oriole around the trailer loop at Bentsen and ended the morning by observing a sleepy Screech Owl roosting at the picnic camping area near the boat ramp.

The caravan proceeded to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge for the afternoon and Least Grebe, Cinnamon Teal, Ringed Kingfisher, Green Kingfisher and a variety of other species posed for viewing. We ended the day on the levy at Bentsen, again without the Collared Forest Falcon.

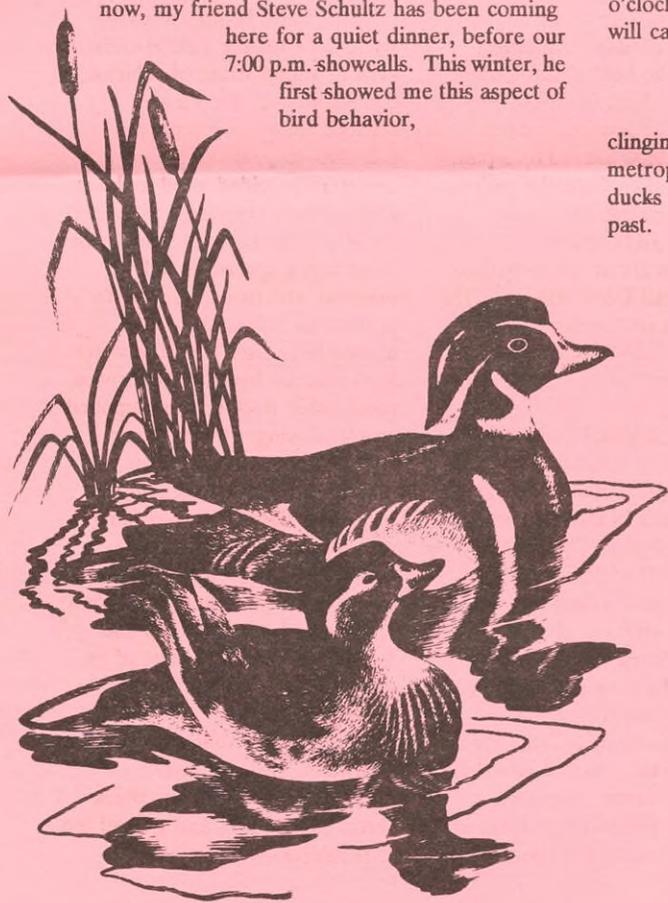
Early Sunday morning we headed for the Falcon Dam area in a long string of vehicles some passersby seemingly mistook for a funeral procession. Our first stop, at the Salineno cemetery provided good looks at Curve-billed Thrashers and along the Rio Grande, a splendid adult Gray Hawk spread its tail, preened, and turned around to provide an unbeatable observation. Although the water level was too high for Muscovies, many other duck species supplied ample viewing. A very warm thank you is due to Sharon Bennet, the DeWind's, and our own John Baird for welcoming our horde of birders at their feeders and bathroom facilities. The feeders produced Audubon's Orioles and other species and their yards provided most of us good sightings of the elusive Olive Sparrow. Mr. Littleton's feeders, also in Salineno, had Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Common Ground Dove, Black-throated Sparrow, and a hand fed Pyrruloxia.

DOWNTOWN DUCKS

by P. D. Hulce

Close to downtown Houston, an interesting opportunity exists for observation of a particular bit of bird behavior. On Washington Street, between Studemont and downtown, there are two cemeteries, the larger Glenwood Cemetery to the east and the smaller Washington Cemetery to the west. Both cemeteries can be excellent migrant traps, particularly in late April and early May, and in some years Great Horned Owls nest and can be readily observed in winter and early spring. Groove-billed Ani, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cooper's and Red-tailed Hawk have all been seen here in the last two years, and this year there was a *Chaetura* swift species seen in early February.

These cemeteries are about five minutes from the Wortham Theater downtown and for several years now, my friend Steve Schultz has been coming here for a quiet dinner, before our 7:00 p.m. showcalls. This winter, he first showed me this aspect of bird behavior,



which I certainly did not expect to see in downtown Houston. I refer to the nightly arrival of Wood Ducks coming off of Buffalo Bayou to roost (and occasionally nest) in the trees of the Glenwood Cemetery.

Right now, between about 6:20 and 6:45 p.m. between five and ten Wood Ducks can be observed almost every night. If you enter the Washington Cemetery and drive to the far end and park your car facing west, towards Studemont and just south of the abandoned grain elevators, you have the best chance of seeing the Wood ducks. Assuming your car is pointing at 12 o'clock, the ducks usually rise up off of Buffalo Bayou at about 10 or 11 o'clock, flying fast, and often fly low right over or on either side of your car as they head for the Glenwood Cemetery. Occasionally they will come in between one and three o'clock, over the grain elevators and sometimes they will call as they fly by.

It is a brief, exciting glimpse of a wild species, clinging to an ancestral heritage, within a modern metropolis. One can only imagine the numbers of ducks that made this nightly migration in times past.

The Washington Cemetery has a sign saying that it closes at 6:00 p.m., but they never close the gates before seven or eight. There are rarely any other people there, and it is a lovely spot for a short commune with nature within the Houston city limits.

[If you have a story worth sharing, won't you send it in soon? Editor]

Valley Trip Report continued...

We then travelled to Falcon Dam and observed the many species of ducks. Falcon Dam State Park produced Verdin and Cactus Wren. We stopped at Mr. Littleton's feeder before returning to McAllen and Arch Dillard announced that Ed Harper (from California) and his group had found a spotting scope at the Falcon Dam parking lot. Ed Lebeau led the group to the Green Parakeet site in McAllen through the busy Sunday afternoon traffic.

When I caught up with the group in McAllen, I had my spotting scope but no Green Parakeets were present. A Vent tour group drove by several times and the leader informed us that the parakeets had not been seen in months. Fortunately a local resident stopped and told us that the birds had moved to a new location a few blocks away. A scene reminiscent of a demolition derby, happily without accidents, ensued and we were rewarded with a tree full of bright Green Parakeets and several possible Aztec Parakeets. With fading light, several of us raced to look for Red-crowned Parrots -- the homeowner at Dallas and Mockingbird had just proclaimed that no parrots had been present for six months when a flock of nine flew over.

Monday morning we began on the levy at Bentsen again but this time were rewarded with spectacular views of male and female Hook-billed Kites perched and soaring. Most of the group disbanded after an unproductive Clay-colored Robin vigil. Fourteen of us headed to Brownsville to search for Tropical Kingbird. We did not find the Kingbird but did see a fine Vermillion Flycatcher and hundreds of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks. We ended the trip at the beautiful Brownsville Mexican Crow Park with Redhead, Chihuahuan Raven, and Mexican Crows.

Despite the large crowd, we had excellent views of 120 species and all of the participants made my job a pleasure. Special thanks are due to Bill Tarbox without whose assistance we would have missed many of the wonderful species we found.

Dwight Peake

TED PARKER

WORLD CLASS BIRDER/CONSERVATIONIST

by Noel Pettingell

The birding world was stunned by the death of Theodore A. Parker, III on August 3, 1993 in Ecuador. Among the many tributes to this 40-year old expert on neotropical ornithology was the following by J. P. Myers in American Birds, Fall 1993: "Ted's genius went beyond his ability to recognize many different bird sounds...in the span of his experience within the region--just two decades--what had seemed remote, pristine, unapproachable wilderness had fallen before machetes and bulldozers, chain saws and fires, and into the maw of proliferating herds of

cows, boats and sheep...Ted's focus shifted from the glory of exploratory birding and guiding to a forced, indeed hurried march for conservation. The last years of his life were consumed by this commitment: identifying those places of greatest value to biological diversity and working to ensure their conservation."

J.P. Myers is director of the W. Alton Jones Foundation which has awarded grants totalling \$100,000 to ensure that Parker's field observations and recordings are made accessible to the scientific and conservation communities and that his scientific collaborations are completed and published.

Ted's incredible skill at being able to instantly identify birds in the field is clearly evident among the various entries appearing in the second edition of The Pettingell Book of Birding Records (1991):

- 1) Highest life lists by country/Peru: 1,637 species (including ten heard only). Note: at the time of his death, Ted had identified a phenomenal 98%, or more than 1,675 of Peru's 1,705 species (Birding, Dec. 1993).
- 2) Highest annual list/A.O.U. N.Am.: 626 in 1971.
- 3) All-time top 10 annual listers/Lower 48 U.S.: 621 in 1971.
- 4) Highest annual lists by country/Peru: 642 in 1984.
- 5) All-time highest Big Days by continent/S.Am.: 331 in Peru by team of Ted Parker (328) and Scott Robinson (323), Sept. 5, 1982.
- 6) All-time highest Big Days/Worldwide: Peru, same as #5.
- 7) All-time highest Big Days/by Country: Peru, same as #5.
(Note: world's record by team not using air transportation.)
- 8) All-time highest Big Days by month/Worldwide: 331 on 9-5-82 (Peru) by same team as #5 and 278 on October 16, 1981 (Peru) by Parker and James M. Vardaman.
- 9) Highest Big Days within-smallest areas/Worldwide: 331 species within one square mile (maximum extent two air miles) on 9-5-82 in Manu National Park, Peru by Parker and Robinson.
- 10) Highest 5-Day and 10-Day Lists/Worldwide: Guide (with Allan R. Keith) for James M. Vardaman who added 490 species in Peru, resulting in a world 5-day record of 525 species and a world 10-day record of 1,041 species, October 7-16, 1981 and October 13-16, 1981 in Peru.

On additional category is not included in the above listing of accomplishments of Ted Parker and perhaps the most remarkable of all: Most Bird Vocalizations Personally Identified--nearly 4,000 neotropical species, 1974-1993.

As J. P. Myers so aptly stated, "He was and is irreplaceable. No one else--now, before him, or in the future--will master birds of the Neotropics as thoroughly as Ted Parker."

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

by Noel Pettingell

20 YEARS AGO/FROM MARCH 1974 SPOONBILL

"Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Whoopers--But Had Nobody To Ask"--from Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi.

David Blankinship, National Audubon Society Wildlife Biologist, presented the club's January program on the Society's Whooping Crane Research Program: Strictly through long hours of observation from boat or blind, Blankinship has discovered the natural food preferences of Whooping Cranes. The old method of examining the crops of dead birds was obviated by the rarity of the species. He says the gourmet delight of whoopers is the blue crab. The birds pull off the legs and eat them first. Then they swallow the body whole, shell and all, after removing the claws, which they eat last. That sounds like pass-the-Alka Seltzer-time to humans, but for whoopers, not nearly so tough to digest as their next gustatorial preference--unshelled clams. Blankinship brought several species of clams of the size the cranes eat and it is incredible to think of a bird swallowing them whole. They seem to prefer whole angel sings three or four inches long, razor clams, and a couple of species of ark-type clams with extremely heavy shells. He said the whoopers have a powerful grinding system, for their droppings disclose only dime-size pieces of shell. Fiddler crabs and small shrimp are relished also. When high salinity makes crabs scarce, and clams and shrimp are hard to find, the birds will eat acorns, snakes, fruits of sea plants and some crops. Blankinship has studied the habitat of the cranes through core samples of the mud in which they feed as well as net samples of surrounding waters.

CLEARING HOUSE

FEBRUARY 1994

Editors: Phyllis and Tony Frank

Spring migration by the beginning of April will be well underway. The February CH includes some early (?) migrants. Read below for details.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted reports and documentation. Reports for next month are due by April 3rd, but early reports are welcomed. 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.

Grebe, Pied-bill 2-27 11/71 U-1/12 BR-1/14
CH-1/6 CO-2/23 GA-1/7 HA-1/2 JE-4/7

Grebe, Eared 19-19 1/1 GA-BF(1)19, JW

Gannet, Northern 13-13 1/2 JE-SR(2)13, JW

Pelican, Amer Wht 6-27 5/390 U-1/50 BR-1/15
GA-1/300 HA-1/17 JE-1/8

Pelican, Brown 6-19 3/26 U-1/3 BR-1/3 GA-1/20

Corm, Dbl-crested 2-27 9/177 U-2/10 BR-1/100
CH-1/1 CO-1/6 FB-1/3 GA-1/14 HA-1/41
JE-1/2

Corm, Neotropic 7-27 5/65 U-1/12 CH-1/1 GA-1/25
HA-1/10 JE-1/17

Anhinga 6-20 2/3BR-(1)6, PS; FB-BB(2)20, PTF

Bittern, American 7-20 2/4 CH-AW(1)7, PF;
FB-BB(3)20, PTF

Heron, Great Blue 2-27 14/83 U-2/28 BR-1/16
CH-2/10 CO-1/10 FB-1/3 GA-1/2
HA-1/5 JE-5/9

Egret, Great 2-27 14/123 U-2/21 BR-1/12
CH-1/7 CO-1/6 FB-1/2 GA-1/2
HA-2/13 JE-5/60

Egret, Snowy 2-27 15/139 U-2/11 BR-1/6
CH-2/16 CO-1/2 FB-1/3 GA-1/20
HA-2/8 JE-5/73

Heron, Little Blu 6-26 8/34 U-1/8 BR-1/3 CH-2/7
FB-1/4 HA-1/1 JE-2/11

Heron, Tricolored 6-27 7/19 U-1/4 BR-1/2 CH-2/3
FB-1/6 GA-1/3 HA-1/1

Egret, Cattle 2-27 6/55 U-1/2 BR-2/30 CH-1/1
HA-1/18 JE-1/4

Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 2-27 5/68 U-1/8 CH-2/27 CO-1/1
HA-1/32

Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 19-19 1/1 CH-AW(1)19, JW

Ibis, White 2-26 8/263 U-2/115 BR-1/65
CH-2/35 CO-1/40 FB-1/3 GA-1/5

Ibis, White-faced 2-26 11/850 U-2/88 BR-1/1
CH-1/31 CO-1/7 FB-1/4 JE-5/719

Spoonbill, Roseat 7-27 8/40 U-1/6 CH-2/10 HA-1/7
JE-4/17

Whsl-Duck, Fulvs 19-20 2/5 CH-AW(2)19, JW;
FB-BB(3)20, PTF

Goose, Gr Wht-frn 2-26 9/2180 U-1/25 BR-1/500
CH-2/200 CO-2/1300 FB-1/120
JE-2/35

Goose, Snow 2-20 9/18125 U-2/4000 BR-1/4000
CH-1/4000

Goose, Ross' CO-1/4000 FB-1/75 JE-3/2050

Goose, Canada 2-20 5/17 U-2/13 CH-1/1 CO-1/1
FB-1/2

Duck, Wood 2-19 3/287 U-1/250 CH-1/12
CO-1/25

Teal, Green-wing 20-20 1/15 FB-BB(15)20, PTF

Duck, Mottled 2-27 8/2849 U-2/950 BR-1/750
CH-1/1000 CO-1/12 GA-1/50 HA-1/85
JE-1/2

Mallard 2-26 11/215 U-2/26 BR-1/20 CH-1/25
CO-1/12 FB-1/2 GA-1/2 JE-4/128
6-13 3/16 BR-1/14 CO-1/1 JE-1/1

Pintail, Northern 2-13 4/3130 U-1/2000 BR-1/1000
 CO-1/100 JE-1/30
 Teal, Blue-winged 6-27 9/195 U-1/30 BR-1/20 CH-2/124
 CO-1/8 GA-1/1 HA-1/6 JE-2/6
 Teal, Cinnamon 6-26 4/13 BR-SB(2)6,PS;
 CH-AW(3)19,JW;
 CH-AW(4)26,WF; CO-ATW(4)12,PW
 Shoveler, Northrn 2-27 12/3542 U-2/1350 BR-1/900
 CH-2/350 CO-1/800 FB-1/6 GA-1/50
 HA-1/65 JE-3/21
 Gadwall 2-26 8/408 U-2/112 BR-1/25 CH-2/25
 CO-1/40 FB-1/200 GA-1/6
 Wigeon, American 2-20 6/166 U-2/16 CH-1/5 FB-1/40
 GA-1/100 JE-1/5
 Canvasback 7-7 1/2 U-(2)7,PF
 Duck, Ring-necked 2-20 5/315 U-2/260 BR-1/40 CO-1/12
 FB-1/3
 Scaup, Greater 7-7 1/1 GA-BF(1)7,PF
 Scaup, Lesser 7-27 4/5085 GA-2/51 HA-1/34
 JE-1/5000
 scaup, sp. 7-7 1/15000 GA-1/15000
 Scoter, Wht-wingd 13-13 1/1 JE-SR(1)13,JW
 Merganser, Red-br 19-27 2/136 GA-(135)19,JW;
 HA-(1)27,G
 Duck, Ruddy 2-20 4/18 U-1/1 CO-1/6 FB-1/10 JE-
 1/1
Duck, Masked 20-20 1/2 FB-BB(2)20,PTF
 Vulture, Black 2-27 5/48 U-1/1 BR-1/15 CO-1/8
 FB-1/20 HA-1/4
 Vulture, Turkey 2-27 13/218 U-1/50 BR-1/45 CH-2/4
 CO-1/50 FB-1/30 GA-1/14 HA-1/3
 JE-5/22
 Osprey 6-6 1/1 BR-(1)6,PS
 Kite, Blk-shouldr 6-26 9/33 U-1/10 BR-1/10 CH-1/1
 GA-1/4 JE-5/8
 Harrier, Northern 2-27 12/84 U-2/22 BR-1/20 CH-2/14
 CO-1/12 GA-1/4 HA-1/1 JE-4/11
 Hawk, Sharp-shin 11-20 4/8 CO-ATW(2)12,PW;
 FB-BB(1)20,PTF;
 FB-(3)20,PTF; JE-(2)11,JW
 Hawk, Cooper's 12-20 2/2 CO-ATW(1)12,PW;
 FB-BB(1)20,PTF
 Hawk, Red-shouldr 2-27 6/19 U-2/3 BR-1/12 CO-1/2
 FB-1/1 HA-1/1
 Hawk, White-taild 2-12 3/11 BR-1/2 CO-2/9
 Hawk, Red-tailed 2-27 14/221 U-2/73 CH-2/39 CO-1/35
 FB-1/3 GA-1/6 HA-1/3 JE-6/62
 Hawk, Ferruginous 19-19 1/1 CH-AW(1)19,JW
Hawk, Rough-Leggd 26-26 1/1 CH-(1)26,WF
 Caracara, Crested 2-12 3/25 U-1/6 BR-1/1 CO-1/8
 Kestrel, American 2-27 16/248 U-2/44 BR-1/35 CH-2/22
 CO-1/10 FB-1/7 GA-1/8 HA-2/6
 JE-6/116
 falcon, sp. 12-12 1/1 CO-ATW(1)12,PW
 Bobwhite, Northrn 6-6 1/15 BR-(15)6,PS
 Rail, King 6-6 1/2 BR-(2)6,PS
 Moorhen, Common 6-26 6/338 U-1/85 BR-1/100
 CH-2/100 FB-1/50 JE-1/3
 Coot, American 2-27 10/1021 U-2/100 BR-1/150
 CH-2/305 CO-1/200 FB-1/200 HA-1/1
 JE-2/65
 Crane, Sandhill 2-12 3/950 U-1/75 BR-1/800 CO-1/75
 Plover, Blk-belli 7-19 5/1749 CH-1/10 GA-3/1729 JE-
 1/10
 Plover, Snowy 7-19 3/21 GA-2/9 JE-1/12
 Plover, Wilson's 7-19 2/13 GA-BF(10)7,PF;
 GA-BF(3)19,JW
 Plover, Semipalm 7-27 3/20 GA-2/11 HA-1/9
 Plover, Piping 7-19 2/60 GA-BF(45)7,PF;
 GA-BF(15)19,JW
 Killdeer 2-27 11/383 U-2/105 BR-1/35
 CH-1/120 CO-1/20 FB-1/1 HA-1/21
 JE-4/81
 Oystercatcher, Am 19-19 1/1 GA-BF(1)19,JW
 Stilt, Black-neck 13-26 3/90 CH-1/10 JE 2/80
 Avocet, American 13-19 2/5002 GA-(5000)19,JW;
 JE-SR(2)13,JW
 Yellowlegs, Great 2-27 9/102 U-2/21 BR-1/35 CH-1/11
 CO-1/3 GA-1/3 HA-1/11 JE-2/18
 Yellowlegs, Less 6-27 5/69 BR-1/1 CH-1/20 GA-1/2
 HA-1/6 JE-1/40
 Willet 6-27 4/29 U-1/5 BR-1/3 HA-1/1 JE-
 1/20
 Curlew, Long-bill 7-19 3/11 U-1/4 CH-1/5 GA-1/2
 Godwit, Marbled 19-19 1/50 GA-BF(50)19,JW
 Turnstone, Ruddy 7-19 2/560 U-(60)7,PF;
 GA-BF(500)19,JW
 Knot, Red 13-13 1/1 JE-SR(1)13,JW
 Sanderling 6-19 4/2116 U-1/85 BR-1/11
 GA-1/2000 JE-1/20
 Sandprr, Western 7-27 5/1148 U-1/75 CH-1/50
 GA-1/1000 HA-1/3 JE-1/20
 Sandprr, Least 7-27 3/32 U-1/20 GA-1/10 HA-1/2
 Dunlin 7-27 5/613 U-1/60 CH-1/50 GA-1/200
 HA-1/3 JE-1/300
 Dowitcher, S-bill 7-27 3/130 U-1/20 GA-1/50 HA-1/60
 Dowitcher, L-bill 2-26 7/1106 U-2/503 BR-1/3
 CH-1/200 CO-1/100 JE-2/300
 Snipe, Common 2-26 6/34 U-2/12 BR-1/12 CH-2/9
 CO-1/1
 Gull, Laughing 6-27 5/1203 U-2/304 BR-1/35
 HA-1/839 JE-1/25
 Gull, Bonaparte's 6-20 3/517 U-1/10 BR-1/7 GA-1/500
 Gull, Ring-billed 6-27 9/1503 U-1/50 BR-1/85 CH-1/1
 GA-1/600 HA-2/166 JE-3/601
 Gull, Herring 6-27 5/36 U-1/8 BR-1/4 GA-1/15
 HA-1/4 JE-1/5
 Tern, Caspian 6-27 4/11 BR-1/6 GA-1/2 HA-1/2 JE-
 1/1
 Tern, Royal 6-27 3/7 BR-1/1 GA-1/5 HA-1/1
 Tern, Forster's 6-19 5/342 U-1/50 BR-1/40 CH-1/2
 GA-1/200 JE-1/50
 Skimmer, Black 7-7 1/25 U-(25)7,PF
 Dove, Rock 2-27 7/216 U-2/70 BR-1/20 CH-1/25
 HA-2/76 JE-1/25
 Dove, Mourning 2-27 12/186 U-3/51 BR-1/25 CH-1/6
 CO-1/20 GA-1/1 HA-1/4 JE-4/79
 Dove, Inca 2-27 2/11 U-(5)2,PW; HA-(6)27,G
 Ground-Dove, Comm 2-12 2/13 U-(3)2,PW;
 CO-ATW(10)12,PW
 Parakeet, Monk 12-23 2/46 HA-(43)12,PM; HA-(6)23,PM
 Owl, Great Horned 2-2 1/1 U-(1)2,PW
swift, sp. 2-2 1/1 HA-(1)2,SS
Hummer, Blk-chind 5-5 1/1 HA-(1)5,X
 Kingfisher, Beltd 6-27 11/30 U-1/5 BR-1/4 CH-2/4
 GA-1/1 HA-1/3 JE-5/13
 Wdpeckr, Red-bell 2-27 5/9 U-2/2 CO-1/1 FB-1/3 HA-
 1/3
 Wdpeckr, Downy 2-20 5/10 U-1/2 BR-1/1 CO-1/2
 FB-1/4 JE-1/1
 Flicker, Northern 6-20 3/7 BR-1/4 FB-1/1 JE-1/2
 Wdpeckr, Pileated 20-20 1/1 FB-BB(1)20,PTF
 Phoebe, Eastern 2-27 11/42 U-2/9 BR-1/14 CH-1/3
 CO-1/2 FB-1/3 HA-1/1 JE-4/10
 Lark, Horned 19-19 1/5 GA-(5)19,JW
 Martin, Purple 11-27 2/5 HA-(4)27,G; JE-(1)11,JW
 Swallow, Tree 13-26 3/238 CH-1/6 JE-2/232
 Jay, Blue 1-28 8/32 U-1/4 BR-1/6 CO-1/4
 FB-1/2 HA-2/10 JE-2/6
 Crow, American 2-27 8/101 U-2/15 BR-1/22 CO-1/15
 FB-1/10 HA-1/5 JE-2/34
 Chickadee, Carol 2-27 4/12 U-1/2 BR-1/5 FB-1/2 HA-

Titmouse, Tufted 2-27 4/9 U-1/4 CO-1/2 FB-1/1
Wren, Carolina 6-27 4/10 BR-1/6 CO-1/2 FB-1/1
Wren, House 2-20 4/7 U-1/3 BR-1/2 CO-1/1
Wren, Sedge 2-12 3/9 U-1/2 BR-1/6 CO-1/1
Wren, Marsh 6-6 1/1 BR-(1)6,PS
Kinglet, Ruby-crn 2-20 6/56 U-1/10 BR-1/20 CO-1/18
FB-1/2 GA-1/2 JE-1/4
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 6-27 5/11 BR-1/2 CO-1/1 FB-1/1
HA-1/2 JE-1/5
Bluebird, Eastern 6-27 4/14 BR-1/6 FB-1/1 HA-1/2 JE-
1-5
Thrush, Hermit 6-6 1/1 BR-(1)6,PS
Robin, American 6-27 4/95 BR-1/50 CO-1/40 HA-2/5
Catbird, Gray 6-6 1/2 BR-(2)6,PS
Mockingbird, W 1-28 14/146 U-2/30 BR-1/35 CH-1/2
CO-1/15 FB-1/5 GA-1/1 HA-2/10
JE-5/48
Thrasher, Brown 2-28 5/19 U-1/2 BR-1/12 CO-1/3 HA-
2/2
Pipit, American 2-19 4/19 U-1/6 BR-1/6 CH-1/1 CO-
1/6
Pipit, Sprague's 19-19 1/1 CH-AW(1)19, JW
Waxwing, Cedar 12-12 1/25 CO-ATW(25)12, PW
Shrike, Loggerhed 2-27 15/275 U-2/27 BR-1/20 CH-2/43
CO-1/14 FB-1/2 GA-1/5 HA-1/11
JE-6/153
Starling, Euro 1-28 10/2546 U-2/210 BR-1/2000
CH-1/50 CO-1/100 GA-1/50 HA-2/77
JE-2/59
Vireo, White-eyed 6-6 1/1 BR-(1)6,PS
Vireo, Solitary 12-12 1/1 CO-ATW(1)12, PW
Warb, Orange-crn 2-20 5/21 U-1/4 BR-1/12 CO-1/3
FB-1/1 HA-1/1
Parula, Northern 13-13 1/1 JE-SW(1)13, JW
Warb, Yellow-rump 2-27 10/315 U-2/80 BR-1/35 CH-1/7
CO-1/35 FB-1/50 GA-1/50 HA-1/31 JE-
2/27
Warb, Pine 6-6 1/2 BR-(2)6,PS
Warb, Palm 6-6 1/1 BR-SB(1)6,PS
Yellowthroat, Com 2-20 4/11 U-2/4 BR-1/5 FB-1/2
Cardinal, Northrn 2-26 11/81 U-2/20 BR-1/25 CH-1/1
CO-1/10 FB-1/10 GA-1/3 HA-1/1
JE-3/11
Towhee, Rfus-side 12-12 1/1 CO-ATW(1)12, PW
Sparrow, Chipping 12-20 2/215 CO-1/200 FB-1/15
Sparrow, Field 2-12 2/56 U-(16)2, PW;
CO-ATW(40)12, PW
Sparrow, Vesper 2-12 2/110 U-(60)2, PW;
CO-ATW(50)12, PW
Sparrow, Savannah 2-27 10/337 U-2/125 BR-1/50
CH-2/18
CO-1/35 GA-1/20 HA-1/50 JE-2/39
Sparrow, Grasshop 2-6 2/6 BR-BW(1)6, PS; HA-BR(5)2, PW
Sparrow, Henslows 6-6 1/2 BR-BW(2)6, PS
Sparrow, Le Conte 6-19 2/10 BR-BW(8)6, PS;
GA-BF(2)19, JW
Sparrow, Shp-tail 7-19 2/3 GA-BF(2)7, PF;
GA-BF(1)19, JW
Sparrow, Seaside 7-19 2/5 GA-BF(4)7, PF;
GA-BF(1)19, JW
Sparrow, Fox 2-12 2/5 CO-ATW(3)2, PW;
CO-ATW(2)12, PW
Sparrow, Song 2-12 3/22 U-1/20 BR-1/1 CO-1/1
Sparrow, Lincolns 2-12 2/3 U-(1)2, PW; CO-ATW(2)12, PW
Sparrow, Swamp 2-20 3/30 U-1/8 BR-1/12 FB-1/10
Sparrow, Wht-thrt 6-27 3/19 BR-1/4 CO-1/1 HA-1/14
Sparrow, Wht-crn 2-27 3/80 U-1/14 CO-1/50 HA-1/16
Sparrow, Harris' 12-27 2/3 CO-ATW(1)12, PW; HA-(2)27, G
Blackbird, Red-wg 1-28 14/8835 U-2/2700 BR-1/2000
CH-2/450 CO-1/1000 FB-1/100 GA-1/235
HA-2/330 JE-4/2020

Meadowlark, East 2-26 12/264 U-2/90 BR-1/10 CH-2/34
CO-1/40 GA-1/13 JE-5/77
Blackbird, Brewer 6-12 2/60 BR-(20)6, PS;
CO-ATW(40)12, PW
Grackle, Gr-tail 2-27 12/1143 U-2/55 BR-1/30
CH-2/70 CO-1/35 FB-1/100 HA-1/78
JE-4/775
Grackle, Bt-tail 1-28 7/231 U-1/40 BR-1/65 CH-2/110
FB-1/1 HA-1/10 JE-1/5
Grackle, Common 1-28 8/6656 U-2/1100 BR-1/5000
CO-1/350 HA-2/131 JE-2/75
Cowbird, Brn-head 1-28 8/665 U-1/12 BR-1/500 CH-1/1
CO-1/75 HA-2/50 JE-2/27
Goldfinch, Amer 2-27 6/83 U-1/20 BR-1/4 CO-1/6
FB-1/50 HA-1/2 JE-1/1
Sparrow, House 1-28 6/143 U-2/32 BR-1/40 CO-1/10
HA-1/60 JE-1/1

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 98002 Two species were reported without notes: Ash-throated Flycatcher and House Finch.

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Gail Luckner (G); John Whittle (JW); P. D. Hulce, Flo Hannah (PF); Peggy Milstead (PM); P. D. Hulce, Mark Scheuerman (PS); Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); P. D. Hulce/Piney Woods Wildlife Society F. T. (PW); Steve Schultz (SS); John Whittle, Ross Foreman (WF); P. D. Hulce (X)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Attwater NWR (ATW); Anahzuc NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); Barker Reservoir (BR); Brazoria NWR (BW); High Island (HI); San Bernard NWR (SB); Sea Rim St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW)

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

Masked Duck - P. and T. Frank February 21, 1994

Observed two female plumaged Masked Ducks from as close as 8 feet near tower at Brazos Bend State Park. Photos taken. Two small golden-brown stiff-tailed ducks with a black crown, one black line extending from bill through eye and another black line below. Contrasted sharply with golden-brown face. Smaller and more golden than Ruddy Ducks also observed.

Rough-legged Hawk - John Whittle February 27, 1994

Essentially the same description as on December 31, 1993. Detailed description submitted, but not repeated here.

Swift - Steve Schultz February 2, 1994

Cigar-shaped body, narrower at short squared tail. Wings long bent back and pointed. Dark gray to black above and below except for pale throat and breast. Observed flying with constant wingbeats at distance of 50 yarddss. Bird flew behind trees and was in and out of view.

Black-chinned Hummingbird - P.D. Hulce February 2, 10, 1994

Details previously submitted.

Northern Parula - John Whittle February 13, 1994

Observed in Sabine Woods from 6 feet (briefly), mostly 30 to 50 feet. Foraging in lower canopy about 40 to 50 feet up in the oak trees. Responded to "pishing". Smallish warbler, smaller

than the Yellow-rumped Warblers. The bird was noticeable because it was basically gray above without the brownish tones of the Yellow-rumped Warbler. The sides of the head appeared to be a lighter gray than the back, with an observable but not particularly prominent light eye-ring, broken by a very faint darker eye-line. The two white wing bars contrasted sharply with the rest of the wing. The throat was bright yellow, very narrowly so just under the lower mandible, with the yellow widening out on the upper breast, giving way sharply to the white of the lower breast and belly. There was a greenish yellow patch on the upper back. The tail, slightly notched, was white below, gray above. Bill was thin sharp and short.

Henslow's Sparrow - P.D. Hulce February 6, 1994

Rear of crown and nape olive green, rusty flight feathers, fine streaks on buffy breast. Flushed from prairie. Weak flight.

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