



THE SPOONBILL

Volume 5 No. 6
October 1956

 * THE HOUSTON POST *
 * Texas is for the birds--and the birds are *
 * for Texas. Did you know that of the 720 *
 * species known to be in the United States, *
 * 540, or three-fourths of them may be found *
 * in this State? Such State popularity must *
 * be deserved. The birds like Texas probably *
 * for the same reason the rest of us do--be- *
 * cause it is so salubrious and offers them *
 * such varied attractions, good living con- *
 * ditions, and a good living. *
 * Sept. 30, 1956 Editorial *

Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston, Texas

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Oct. 14 - Special field trip to the Cypress-Katy-Hockley area. Meet 11:00 a.m. at Cypress Texas (Hwy. 290). This is a trip to observe the CATTLE EGRET which was located in this area by Leota Stilwell and Carrie Holcomb. Since the SPOONBILL may not be delivered before the 14th, members are being contacted by the telephone committee - additional details of the trip may be secured by calling Mrs. Jerry Baker (WA 1-2644)
 - Oct. 28 - Regular monthly field trip to San Jacinto Battlegrounds, Baytown Tunnel and Cove. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot at Thornhill's Cafeteria, just off the Gulf Freeway at Woodridge and Winkler.
 - Oct. 21 - Scheduled trip to Galveston - Leota Stilwell, leader
 - Oct. 27 - Scheduled trip to Galveston - Mrs. Jerry Baker, leader
 - Nov. 4 - Scheduled trip to Galveston - Vic Emanuel, leader
- Anyone wishing to go on one of the above trips to Galveston should contact the leader for information on time and meeting place.
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ORNITHOLOGY GROUP REPORTS

Ornithology Group Meeting - Thursday, October 4 - (Thelma Smith)

A hard thundershower rained out the picnic supper which was to have preceded the meeting but at about 7:45 p.m. Jimmy Murray, O. G. Chairman, called the meeting to order with about twenty-five present. He introduced Mr. Bob Bredehoeft and family, and John O'Neill, both new members, and Mr. Horace Jeter, a guest. Following the minutes Mr. Murray reported that the Ornithology Group resolution regarding wildlife sanctuaries within the City of Houston had been presented to the Board of Directors of the Outdoor Nature Club. The Board is to appoint a committee to talk to the proper city officials.

Norma Oates, in Carrie Holcomb's absence, presented at her request an idea for another O. G. project -- that of contacting Jones and Laughlin who has an option on some land at Cove for a steel plant, to see if they will set aside as a wildlife sanctuary, a small acreage on a point which is used as a feeding and resting station by migrants. After some discussion it was decided that Jimmy Murray would find out how we might best approach Jones and Laughlin on this matter.

It was also brought to the attention of the group that a bird recording by Norma and Jerry Stillwell will be played over Station KTRH on October 14 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. (Check newspaper to be sure of correct time of broadcast).

Mr. Aldrich requested the O.G.'s appoint a committee to work on the Garden Show to be held next March. Jimmy Murray will work with him and other volunteers are needed. Mr. Aldrich wants ideas and suggestions for creating an attractive booth for the Outdoor Nature Club at the flower show. If you can help with this project call Mr. Aldrich (HO 5-1272) or Jimmy Murray (UN 1-8837). Mrs. Maurine Jarrell, official hostess for the ONC booth at the flower show asked for volunteers to assist her in this work.

At the conclusion of the business meeting, everyone enjoyed hearing a record from Josephine Wilkin's collection "A Day in Algonquin Park." Each member present was given a script of the sequence of events in this thirty-minute presentation of bird songs and other marsh sounds. The program was concluded with the showing of color movies taken by Jimmy Murray at the beach and in his own yard.



FALL MIGRATION REPORT - GALVESTON ISLAND - September 1956

September 3, 1956 (Observers - Thelma Smith, Darris Massingill, Katrina Thompson) 1 coot; 15 long-billed curlews; 2 dickcissels; 1 crested flycatcher; 10 scissor-tail flycatchers; 5 blue-gray gnatcatchers; 1 rose-breasted grosbeak; 1 sparrow hawk; 150 eastern kingbirds; 2 knots; 50 horned larks; 4 nighthawks; 1 Baltimore oriole; 4 Orchard orioles; 1 wood pewee; 20 black-bellied plover; 4 ringed plover; 50 sanderlings; 10 least sandpipers; 5 pectoral sandpipers; 3 spotted sandpipers; 15 black-necked stilts; 1 pine warbler; 4 yellow warblers; 2 lesser yellowlegs.

September 8, 1956 (Observers - Carrie Holcomb, Jimmy Murray, Leota Stilwell, Katrina Thompson) 10 long-billed curlews; 11 dowitchers; 3 fulvous tree ducks; 3 reddish egrets; 4 scissor-tailed flycatchers; 2 blue-gray gnatcatchers; 17 marbled godwits; 1 sparrow hawk; 15 eastern kingbirds; 10 horned larks; 1 nighthawk; 3 Baltimore orioles; 10 black-bellied plover; 7 ringed plover; 4 snowy plover; 1 thick-billed plover; 1 upland plover; 280 sanderlings; 1 pectoral sandpiper; 1 spotted sandpiper; 150 black skimmers; 3 lark sparrows; 6 spoonbills; 5 black-necked stilts; 4 barn swallows; 15 rough-winged swallows; 1 Canada warbler; 1 yellow-breasted chat; 1 yellow warbler; 12 greater yellowlegs; 10 lesser yellowlegs.

September 22, 1956 (Observers Mrs. Jerry Baker, Darris Massingill, Helen Wolfer) 3 long-billed curlews; 2000⁺ mourning doves; 8 lesser scaup ducks; 1 reddish egret; 4 empidonax flycatchers; 2 crested flycatchers; 100 scissor-tail flycatchers; 13 blue-gray gnatcatchers; 16 ring-billed gulls; 18 eastern kingbirds; 7 knots; 4 Eastern phoebes; 6 snowy plover; 100 sanderlings; 6 least sandpipers; 2 lark sparrows; 50 barn swallows; 6 rough-winged swallows; 20 tree swallows; 200 black terns; 1 red-eyed vireo; 1 Kentucky warbler; 3 yellow warblers; 1 house wren

September 29, 1956 (Observers Carrie Holcomb, Leota Stilwell, Ruth Moorman, Norma Oates) 2 dowitchers; 1 fulvous tree duck; 2 reddish egrets; 125 scissortailed flycatchers; 1 marbled godwit; 6 herring gulls; 1 Krider's red-tailed hawk; 2 belted kingfishers; 3 knots; 4 Baltimore orioles; 3 black-bellied plover; 15 ringed plover; 4 white-eyed vireos; *1 Audubon's warbler; 1 black and white warbler; 3 Kentucky warblers; 4 Nashville warblers; 6 Pileolated warblers.

*This Audubon's warbler was seen in Kempner Park both perching and in flight. All identifying marks were seen by all 4 observers. The throat was definitely creamy yellow and in flight the white in the tail was much more conspicuous than in the Myrtle warbler.

CLEARING HOUSE

Sept. 9 - Several sparrow hawks were seen on Galveston Island and one Sennett's white-tailed hawk on the power lines near the Freeway by Carl Aiken.

Sept.10 - A mourning warbler was found lying on a downtown street in Houston by Thelma Smith - cause of death unknown.

Sept.15 - Two-hundred-plus pintail ducks, 8 pied-billed grebes, hundreds of migrating swallows were observed at the Longenbough Lake on Katy-Hockley Road by Ruth Moorman, Carrie Holcomb, Leota Stilwell and NCO Jimmy Murray reported an ovenbird and empidonax flycatcher in his yard at 6032 Glen Cove.

A Canada warbler in the yard of NCO enjoyed a cooling shower under a back yard lawn sprinkler.

Sept.17 - Mr. and Mrs. B.H.Wilkin watched hundreds of migrant chimney swifts circling over the downtown Houston public library.

Sept.19 - An ovenbird and a yellow warbler were found lying on the ground in the yard of Josephine Wilkin - cause of death unknown.

Sept.22 - On a birding trip with Mr. Arlie K. McKay in Cove the following birds were observed - crested flycatcher, about 10 blue-gray gnatcatchers, three western kingbirds, one eastern kingbird, black and white warbler and several migrant white-eyed vireos. Returning via Kemah two catbirds, one Canada and one Chestnut-sided warbler were seen. Ruth Moorman, Carrie Holcomb, Thelma Smith, Horace Jeter and NCO.

Members of Outdoor Nature Club field trip reported wood ibis at Baytown Tunnel and an Osprey in Chambers County.

Mrs. Edna Eaver saw Wilson's warbler and yellow-breasted chat near Columbus.

Sept.23 - Twenty-five immature white-faced glossy ibis on Westheimer Road - L.Stilwell.

Sept. 25- Ronald Fowler reported 4 Baltimore orioles in his neighborhood.

Sept.30 - In the Memorial Drive-Westheimer Road area - 20 lark sparrows (one singing), black-and-white, pileolated, redstart and yellowthroat LS, RM, NCO

Oct. 8 - Austin Evans reported avocets and spoonbills in the Freeport area.

Oct. 6 - Cattle egret reported in Hockley area by Leota Stilwell and Carrie Holcomb.

It was also observed in the same location by Horace Jeter on October 7.



Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds

Each year during the period of fall migration, the trees surrounding a farmhouse on the Steubner-Airline Road have been used by the above two species as a gathering station. During the day they are scattered over the fields feeding, but before dark they gather in the area on the fence wires, in the hedge rows and weedy fields. Thirty five scissor-tails have been counted at one time in a small leafless tree in the farm-lot. There is much activity as the birds restlessly move about among the branches of tall sycamore trees before selecting a satisfactory perch for the night. The branches of these trees extend over the highway and when a noisy car or truck passes underneath, hundreds fly out circling over the field then back to their roost in the trees.

This was a favorite birding spot of Winnie Hurst before she and Mr. Hurst moved to Clifton, Texas. Now Carrie Holcomb keeps an eye on the area and several times during September and October she drives out Steubner-Airline Road to see if the birds follow the pattern of congregating in the same trees as in former years.

This fall the scissortails and eastern kingbirds assembled as usual, reaching a peak of several thousand on August 29th (reported in September SPOONBILL). By September 9 the number had decreased to an estimated 500 birds, the majority of which were scissor-tails. On September 23 between sundown and dark Carrie Holcomb and Horace Jeter found around 300-plus scissortailed flycatchers assembled in the Sycamore trees, plus a very few eastern kingbirds, one western kingbird and one Baltimore oriole.

Canada warbler

Arlie K. McKay reported that no spring migrant Canada warblers were seen in 1956 at Cove, Texas. In 22 years this is the 4th time he has failed to see this species in the spring migration.

September Report from Cove, Texas

During September Mr. Arlie K. McKay did not spend more than a few hours birding on any one day during the month. The following list gives the dates of first fall migrants in the Cove area:

Sept. 2 - first pectoral sandpiper, long-billed curlew; snowy plover (very unusual), yellow-bellied flycatcher; Sept. 3 - Mississippi kite; Sept. 4 - Cooper's hawk; Sept. 5 - Marsh hawk; Sept. 7 - Green-winged teal, sparrow hawk, fish hawk (osprey); Sept. 8 water turkey, stilt sandpiper, whip-poor-will, summer tanager, wormeating, Kentucky, mourning, yellowthroat, Canada and Redstart warblers; Sept. 8 - Broadwinged hawk, rough-winged swallow, Philadelphia vireo (earliest ever by 29 days); Sept. 10 Wilson's warbler; Sept. 15 - white-eyed vireo; Sept. 22 - pigeon hawk, yellow-throated vireo, Magnolia warbler, house wren; Sept. 23 - Least flycatcher, brown thrasher; Sept. 26 - Vermilion flycatcher, catbird; Sept. 27 - pied-billed grebe; Sept. 29 - Baldpate, Nashville warbler, chestnut-sided warbler; Sept. 30 - Wilson's snipe.

Other late or uncommon records: - Sept. 8 - 9 tree ducks, 1 Cabot's tern, 2 lark sparrows, 4 least terns, 6 upland sandpipers, 2 ruddy turnstones, 2 reddish egrets, purple martins, 21 wood ibis. Sept. 15 - Yellow-bellied flycatcher, solitary sandpiper, stilt sandpiper, 2 upland sandpipers. Sept. 29 - 4 Mexican cormorants, 800 white pelicans, 50 wood ibis, 2 reddish egrets, 2 green heron, 2 ospreys, 1 western kingbird, 1 lark sparrow. Sept. 30 - 2 reddish egrets, 3 pectoral sandpipers, 4 kingbirds.

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OFF THE PRESS

HOUSTON PRESS - Sept. 13

Jail Sentences and Fines for Selling Wild Ducks

Galveston - A Stowell rancher drew the maximum six months in jail and a \$500 fine on his conviction as an illegal wild game market hunter and seven others were assessed jail terms in federal court. The first conviction was based on the sale of 194 wild ducks to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service undercover agent.

Fined \$27.50 in Mockingbird's Death

Demonstrating rifle marksmanship to his fiancee August 1, a University of Houston student drew bead from 40 yards and shot himself a \$27.50 mockingbird. At least that price tag was inserted when he pleaded guilty to killing a non-game bird and the justice of the peace fined him \$10 plus court costs. Besides his fiancee his only other audience was a State Game Warden, who with a pair of field glasses was watching the young couple's target practice on Bray's Bayou.

CHRONICLE - October 4, 1956

Albino Hummer found at Rockport

Rockport has a strange, ghostly visitor, an albino hummingbird, which Mrs. Jack Hagar, bird authority says is the first she has seen in 25 years of daily bird watching on Live Oak Peninsula.

Dr. Clarence Cottam, former assistant director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, now in charge of the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton, said he had never seen one, although he has been a naturalist most of his life.



"There's been a big hummingbird migration the last three weeks," Mrs. Hagar said, "with numbers of western and Rocky Mountain species not ordinarily credited to this region."

(Ed.Note - Mr. Arlie McKay says he had an albino hummingbird in the Cove area in the 1930's.)

CHEMICAL & ENGINEERING NEWS - June 18, 1956

Fuel for Flight

The amount of body fat in migrating birds is well above normal according to a report in SCIENCE from E. P. Odum and C. E. Connell of the University of Georgia. Lipides (fats) make up about one-third of the body weight of birds that are winging their way to South or Central America for the winter; nonmigrating birds usually contain not more than 6 or 7% lipides. The added fat apparently is stored in all parts of the body except the heart, which is not hampered by excess fat as it is in obese human beings.

One far-flying migrant, the ruby-throated hummingbird, builds up its stored fat from about 13% of body weight (0.4 grams) during the summer to 43% (2.1 grams - enough fuel to carry it 800 miles nonstop) just before it starts its long seasonal flight across the Gulf of Mexico.

HOUSTON PRESS - September 27

Don't Shoot - Its a Whooping Crane

Warning to hunters not to shoot the whooping cranes. The great danger period is in the fall migration season when the birds head south. With people all over the country out for the hunting season, the birds are always in danger of being shot.

The birds spend the winter in Texas and this year one of the young spent the whole summer on the coast. Another is convalescing in the Breckenridge Zoo at San Antonio. Someone shot him in the wing last fall.

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BIRDING IN MEXICO - (Edna Miner)

There are too many interesting things to see and do in Mexico and too many to remember after coming back! I traveled with Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Whitaker, of the University of Oklahoma by car with a neat cupola-like rack on top that held our tent, cots and bedding. We made a seven weeks trip during July and August which is the rainy season. We visited ruins, churches, museums, markets and mines. We studied native Indian costumes and customs as well as architecture of past and present. We took pictures and studied plants and birds from the border down to the State of Chiapas that joins Guatemala, some 800 miles below Mexico City.

The most universal bird song in Mexico is that of the Inca Dove. In cities with buildings of some height and in canyons and sumideros the Canyon Wren could almost always be heard. The Vermilion flycatcher is widely distributed in a great variety of habitats.

In scenic Huasteca Canyon, near Saltillo, the Painted Redstarts and Broad-billed Hummingbirds were seen. On Mesa de Llera, near the Tropic of Cancer, the Varied Bunting reminded us of the Painted Bunting and was heard early and late. There, also a flock of Chachalacas was unbelievably noisy.

In Tehuantepec, on the Pacific Coast, we saw many of the birds that we see on our coast, as well as our first Magpie Jay, noisy and beautiful, with a conspicuous crest and greatly elongated tail feathers that give it a length of 28 inches.

In Patzcuaro we searched gardens and courtyards for the Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush, reported to be common here. We finally found it on the lawn of the Limnological Institute, where we heard its clear, liquid, two-syllabled call note, but not its song. Here, also, we saw our only Rufous-naped wren.

In the State of Chiapas, eight miles beyond San Cristobal de las Casas, on the Pan American Highway, we camped for seven days at Rancho Nuevo, a mountain-forest area with elevation above 7000 feet. At Santa Rosa, a ranch between Tuxtla Gutierrez and Ceozocautla, elevation 1700 feet, we spent four days. I shall try to summarize the birds that we identified in Chiapas by listing them according to habitat as given by Ernest P. Edwards in "Finding Birds in Mexico." We used Emmet Reid Blake's "Birds of Mexico" as our chief guide and got considerable help from Sr. Alvarez del Toro of the Museum at Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Birds of Grassy Fields

The Meadow Warbler (Gray-crowned Yellowthroat) sang all day long with a warble that suggests the blue grosbeak; Meadowlark; Yellow-faced grassquit.

Birds of Open Country with Grass and Scattered Small Trees

Mexican Black Hawk; Bobwhite (C.v. insignes); White-winged dove; Groove-billed ani; Lesser roadrunner; Lesser nighthawk; Pauraque; Russet-crowned Motmot; Tropical Kingbird; Fork-tailed flycatcher; Nutting flycatcher; Western wood pewee; Cliff swallow; Magpie jay; Tropical mockingbird; Blue mockingbird; White-lored gnatcatcher; White-collared seedeater; House finch; Dark-backed goldfinch.

Birds of Farms and Villages

Inca dove; Ground dove; Guatemalan sparrow, or Rufous-collared sparrow (beautiful to see and a constant singer); Red-eyed cowbird; Boat-tailed grackle.



Birds of River-edge Woodland to Highlands

Red-billed pigeon; White-fronted dove; Common chachalaca; Green parakeet; Orange-fronted parakeet; Squirrel cuckoo; Rufous-rumped ground cuckoo; Swallow-tailed swift; Berylline hummingbird; Cactus woodpecker (*D.s.percus*); Masked tityra; Vermilion flycatcher; Social flycatcher; Derby flycatcher; Yellow-bellied elaenia; Green jay; Plain wren; Clay-colored robin; Rufous-browed peppershrike; Audubon oriole; Alta Mira oriole; Hooded oriole; Streak-backed oriole; Abbott tanager; Yellow-throated euphonia; Black-headed saltator; Yellow grosbeak; Hooded grosbeak; Blue grosbeak.

Pine and Pine-oak Woodland 2500 - 5000 ft. elevation

White-throated swift; Cowes' flycatcher; Black-capped swallow; Tropical house wren; Yellow-backed oriole; Painted redstart; Hepatic tanager; Black-capped siskin; Black-headed siskin; Red crossbill; Chipping sparrow; Rusty sparrow.

Pine and Pine-oak Woodland above 8000 ft. elevation

Sparrow hawk (*F.s.tropicalis*); Band-tailed pigeon; White-collared swift; White-eared hummingbird; Amethyst-throated hummingbird; Red-shafted flicker; Gilded flicker; Acorn woodpecker; Allied woodhewer; Tufted flycatcher; Unicolored jay; Stellar jay; Bushtit; Brown creeper; Banded cactus wren; Hutton Vireo; Spot-breasted warbler; Pink-headed warbler; Wagler Oriole; Bluebird (*Azure S.s.fulva*); Rufous-collared robin; Gray silky flycatcher; Rufous-backed robin; Clay-colored robin; Brown-backed solitaire; Chestnut-capped Atlapetes; Collared towhee; Red-eyed towhee (*P.e.chiapensis*); Chiapas Junco.

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BIG BEND VACATION -- (Carl Aiken)

At 7:40 on the morning of July 15, 1956, my parents and I left Houston for Big Bend National Park. No stops were made for birding until Del Rio where I saw my first lifer, the white-winged dove. The yellow-billed cuckoo, painted bunting, white-necked raven, and Arkansas goldfinch were also on my list of 28 for the day.

Early the next morning I looked out the window of my room at the Esquire Motel to find my second lifer, a yellow-headed blackbird. After breakfast we continued on our way across the beautiful valleys of Devil's and Pecos Rivers, and at Myrathon bought our camping supplies. The drive to the park was as dry and dusty as it had been all the way from San Antonio, but in the mountains everything changed. We drove on to the Basin and here I added the scrub jay to my life list. The drought had killed all the trees at the campsite so we decided to go to Santa Elena Canyon where we could make camp in the shade. After making camp, although it was getting late, I decided to go on a short birding trip along the Rio Grande. In about ten minutes I had added three lifers, the ash-throated flycatcher, verdin and scaled quail. Ladder-backed woodpecker, vermilion flycatcher, long-tailed chat (a race of the yellow-breasted) desert sparrow and house finch were also added to my list.

That night was one this family will long remember. About ten minutes after we got to bed, a striped skunk and a raccoon walked right by mother's cot. We chased them off but by midnight they had been back three times, so mother decided she would sleep in the car. At 3:45 in the morning an owl (possibly a burrowing) and a large raccoon woke me. Rabbits and frogs completed the list of intruders for the night.

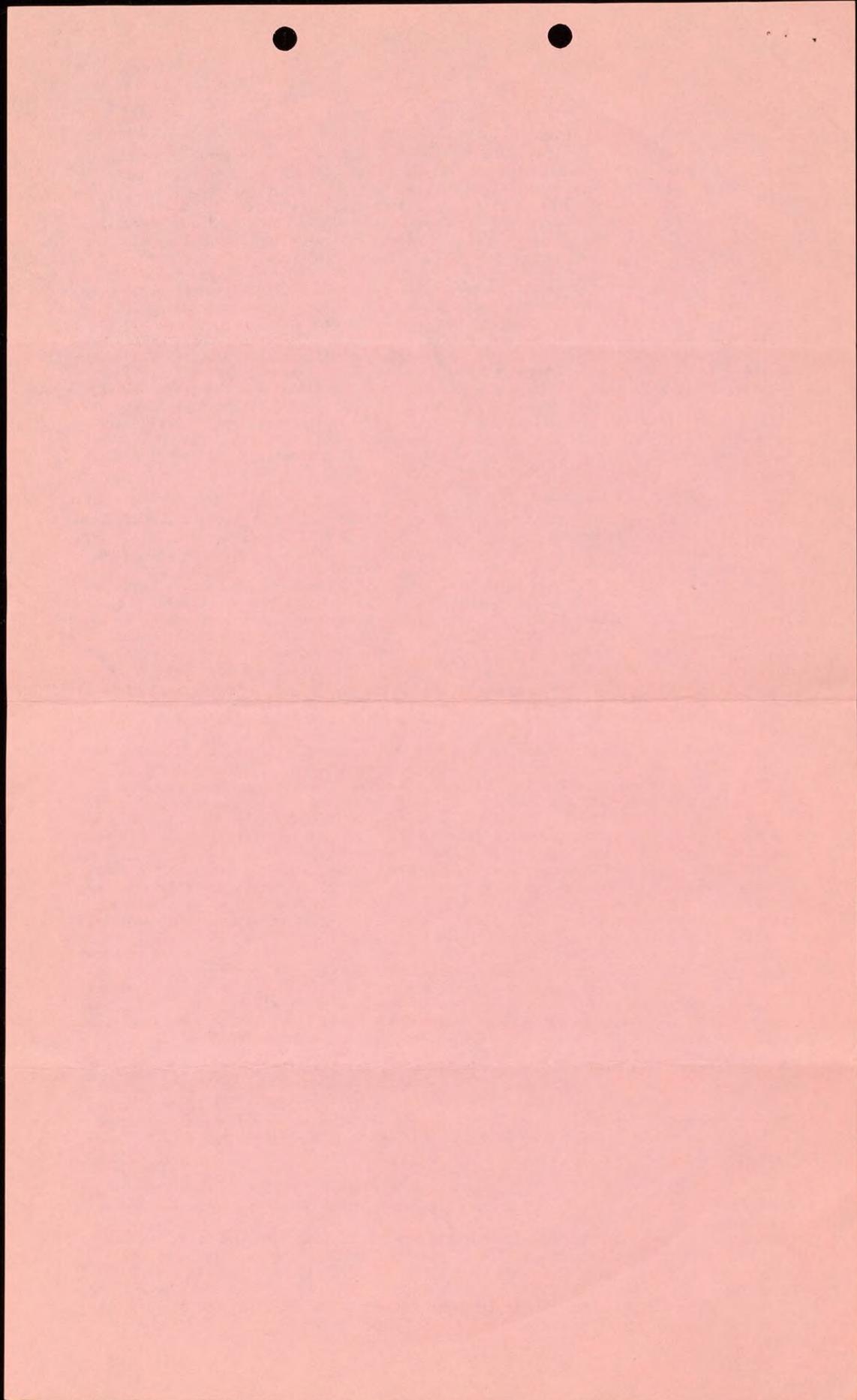
At 4:45 a.m. I went to a mesquite flat near camp. Here the plumbeous gnatcatcher, Texas nighthawk and varied bunting were added to my life list. After breakfast, mother and daddy decided to get a cabin so we returned to the Basin and when we were settled again I decided to walk up Lost Mine Trail. This is one of the most beautiful places in the park and is a must for anybody interested in nature.

When I returned to the Basin my parents decided they wanted to walk to the "Window" In a grove of oaks I found the band-tailed pigeon and western tanager just like Pettin-gill said in his "Guide to Birdfinding West of the Mississippi." Our walk to the Window made a total of ten miles for me that day and besides the birds already mentioned I saw acorn woodpeckers, rufous-crowned sparrows, Townsend's solitaire, scrub jay, house finch, black phoebe, scaled quail, white-winged dove, roadrunner, ladder-backed woodpecker, white-necked raven, black-crested titmouse and summer tanager.

The next morning (July 18) I started walking to Boot Spring and South Rim about 6 a.m. When I reached the first steep part of the trail I heard several bell-like notes above me, and saw about 200 white-throated swifts catching insects along the bluffs farther up the trail. I had walked for another two miles when a loud scream attracted my attention to the valley where a Mexican Black hawk was searching every crevice for his breakfast.

Boot Spring is the only place in the U.S. where the Colima warbler is found so I spent quite a while looking for it. I saw the white-breasted nuthatch, Bewick's wren, canyon wren, rock wren, blue-throated hummingbird and black-chinned hummingbird, but no Colima warbler.

The South Rim is one of the most famous places in Big Bend and the trail leading to it is very good for the nature student. Just as I was leaving the Rim I met the horseback riders coming up. The guide told me where the Colima warbler was usually seen and how I could take a short cut back to Boot Spring. Shortly afterward I met two Englishmen who were also birding. We went on to Boot Spring and spent two hours looking for the Colima warbler, still without success.



The rest of the day was spent birding around camp where I saw the cactus wren, Scott's oriole and the spotted towhee. Early on the morning of the 19th we left Big Bend for Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico. The last lifer for the trip was a lark bunting seen near Alpine.

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MEMBERSHIP LIST

There are now 78 members of the Outdoor Nature Club registered in the Ornithology Group. Following is the list of members with dues paid from May 1, 1956 through April 30, 1957:-

Aiken, Carl	Ferguson, Clever S.	McDavid, Raymond
Aldrich, H. V.	Ferguson, R. Lee	McKnight, Charles P.
Aldrich, Mrs. H. V.	Fowler, Ronald	McKnight, Mrs. Charles P.
Aves, Mrs. Chas. A.	Frels, John J.	Miner, Mrs. Edna W.
Bredehoeft, R. C.	Gilman, C. B.	Mooman, Miss Ruth
Bahr, Mrs. Charles A., Sr.	Gilman, Mrs. C. B.	Murray, J. F.
Baker, Mrs. Charles F.	Greer, Mrs. W. J.	Norvell, Mrs. Harvey
Barnes, Mrs. Lucille G.	Hamilton, Chas. W.	Cates, Mrs. Norma C.
Barnette, L. A. M.	Hamilton, Mrs. Chas. W.	O'Neill, John
Boettcher, Miss Agatha	Harper, Mrs. Duward	Palmer, Lt. Geo. K.
Bradley, Mrs. L. L.	Heiser, Mr. J. M.	Perley, Noel
Brown, Fred E.	Hilty, Dr. John	Ramsey, Mac
Bruhl, Dr. Charles K.	Hoffman, Henry S.	Reid, Mrs. Bruce
Buchanan, Miss Luta E.	Hoffman, Mrs. Henry S.	Riesen, Miss Alberta J.
Christie, Mr. E. B.	Holcomb, Miss Carrie	Simmons, Mrs. H. C.
Cline, Miss Mabel	Hunt, Mrs. Harriet C.	Smith, Mrs. Martha C.
Coffman, Mrs. Etta	Hurst, Mrs. Winnie	Smith, Miss Thelma H.
Cox, Miss Elenor	Hutton, Miss Leila Maude	Stilwell, Miss Lecta
Cunningham, Miss Nance	Jarrell, Mrs. Maurine	Thompson, Katrina
Daniel, Thomas M.	Kaiser, Miss Mable	Vuitel, Mrs. Arthur
Daniel, Mrs. Thomas M.	Kirk, Miss Blanche	Vuitel, Arthur
Deats, Conrad G.	Lambert, Lloyd	Wilber, Mrs. James G.
Dexter, Mrs. Laurence N.	Lindsay, Mrs. H. B.	Wilkin, Mrs. B. H.
Dodge, Mrs. Carl	Massingill, Mrs. Alvin R.	Wright, Mrs. Edward R.
Ekeroot, Stig	Mattei, C. R.	Yramategui, Armand
Emanuel, Vic	Mattei, Mrs. C. R.	Zimmerman, Lt. John L.

The following 23 persons are subscribers to the SPOONBILL:-

Albertson, E. A.	P.O.Box 689, Sacramento 3, California
Baggett, Mr. Claud Jr.	514 Magnolia, Lake Jackson, Texas
Brown, Mrs. Ethel	1413 Isabella, Houston 4
Chandler, Milton	704 N. Bowie, San Benito, Texas
Clark, Mrs. Wm. R. (Mary)	Route 1, Box 338, Houston
Evans, Mrs. A. O.	Box 330, Sweeny, Texas
Evans, Austin	Box 222, Freeport, Texas
Hagar, Mrs. Jack	P.O.Box 508 Rockport, Texas
Hooks, Mrs. J. L.	1849 Calder, Beaumont, Texas
Jeter, Horace	Shreveport, Louisiana
Kineaid, Edgar, Jr.	702 Park Place, Austin 5, Texas
Kitzmann, Mrs. John A.	Route 1 Box B, Cypress, Texas
Lindsay, Burt W.	4520 Highland Terrace, Austin, Texas
Longenbaugh, Mrs. H. J.	Cypress, Texas
McKay, Mr. A. K.	Route 2, Box 184, Baytown, Texas
Oberholser, Dr. H. C.	2933 Berkshire Road, Cleveland 18, Ohio
Perryman, Elbert L.	155 Trumpet Vine, Lake Jackson, Texas
Smith, Miss Beth	P. O. Box 337, Arcadia, Oklahoma
Stamm, Miss Ruth	e/o Edward's, Bartlesville, Okla.
Suhm, R. P.	1721 Bolsover St., Houston 5, Texas
Webster, Fred S., Jr.	4926 Strass Drive, Austin 3, Texas
Williams, Mrs. Harold	Route 2 Box 45-B, Midland, Texas
Worrell, Mrs. Dorothy O.	531 Ceylon, Eagle Pass, Texas

Please check the above lists for your name and if it does not appear and you are now a member - call Miss Thelma Smith, 2148 Harold, Apt. 11 (JA 4-3574).

* * * * *

New Members

Two of the Ornithology Group's newest junior members (Ronald Fowler and John O'Neill) are proving to be most enthusiastic birders. They live in a thickly wooded section in the Spring Branch area and after school spend much time birding near their homes.

In addition to building up a life list Ronald is making a collection of bird feathers. One of John O'Neill's hobbies is raising wild game birds (pheasants etc)



in his yard. John's interest in birds is known by neighbors and often wild birds found dead in the area are brought to him. At the O.G. meeting on October 4th, John brought a female hummingbird which had been killed probably by flying into a neighbor's plate glass window. The bird had markings which indicated it might be a female Broad-tail and the specimen was turned over to Horace Jeter who will take it to L.S.U. for final determination as to its species. If it proves to be a Broadtail, it will be a new species for this area.

Another project the two boys are undertaking is a check-list of the birds in the areas surrounding their homes including Hedwig, Bunker Hill, Hunters Creek and Pine Point Villages.

The following birds were reported by John for the last part of September:-

- Sept. 23 - Saw one Inca dove and was brought a dead Inca dove (killed by cat)
 Sept. 24 - Hundreds of broadwinged hawks, also red-shouldered, sparrow hawk red-tailed and Cooper's.
 Sept. 25 - First brown thrasher of the year.
 Sept. 26 - First yellow-shafted flicker, Kentucky warbler, olive-sided fly-catcher, chuck-will's-widow, two more Inca doves, both phases of screech owl and heard barred owl.
 Sept. 29 - Myrtle warbler.

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VAUX SWIFT MAY OCCUR IN EAST TEXAS - (Noel Perley)

Roger Tory Peterson, in his Eastern Field Guide, includes the following significant statement about the Vaux's swift: "Has been taken in Baton Rouge and believed to be rare but regular in Louisiana in winter."

This "junior edition" of the Chimney swift probably strays across the Gulf to coastal Louisiana from the Yucatan Peninsula, a distance of some 630 air miles. Since the Texas coast is only about 50 miles further, it might well be that extremely late or early swifts seen in our area are actually Vaux's, rather than the more familiar and closely similar chimney swift. In other words, any swift seen in our area between the middle of October and the first of March should be very carefully observed, as it may well turn out to be the first recorded occurrence of the Vaux's swift in Texas. Therefore, in order to insure positive identification of any swift seen during the above period, the following chart should be thoroughly studied and memorized:

	Chimney Swift	Vaux's Swift
Underparts	Blackish-brown breast and belly, ashy throat	Uniformly light-colored underparts
Voice	Loud rapid ticking or chipping notes	A feeble chipping, decidedly weaker than Chimney swift
Size	5 - 5½ inches	4¼ - 4½ inches
Range	Breeds in U.S., winters in So. America, via Haiti and Gulf Coast of North and Middle America	Breeds in Eastern and Southern Mexico, winters extensively in Southern Mexico including Yucatan Peninsula
Migration Dates	Latest fall: Houston Oct. 28 La. & Fla. Nov. 8 Earliest Spring: Houston Mar. 21 Mar. 7 ? Feb. 19? Feb. 12? Louisiana Mar. 12 Florida Feb. 23	Earliest Fall: Baton Rouge, La. Oct. 14 Latest Spring Baton Rouge, La. Mar. 3

Please send detailed reports of any swifts seen between October 15 and March 15 to the writer at 3010 Prospect, Houston 4, Texas.

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