



# The Spoonbill

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## Chairman's Message

BY DAVID BRADFORD

A certain event--that I will not specify--has spurred me to write this Chairman's Message. Often it is easy to forget that our officers and other volunteers for the OG and the ONC are just that--volunteers. Most have a regular job, and a family, but choose, for whatever reason, to take on more work helping their local bird or nature club. These volunteers work hard at their particular task and take pride in their efforts. Seldom, if ever, do they ask for anything in return other than the good feeling they derive from volunteer work. In most cases, if you ask a volunteer why they have opted to give their time to help, they will probably tell you they enjoy working with good people and it is fun.

*At the October OG meeting two items will be up for discussion . 1) Gail Luckner has resigned as Vice Chairman as she is moving to New Jersey. Chairman Dave Bradford has asked Bob Luckner to serve as Interim Vice Chairman. 2) Disposition of the club's used computer. Your ideas/proposals are welcome.*

The fun disappears very quickly when members of the club begin to blame a volunteer for an error that occurred, or even worse, an error that did not occur. Without an editor, there would be no newsletter. *The Spoonbill* is the very fabric that holds a large club like the OG together. I cannot imagine how to even begin to assemble a newsletter. What would our newsletter be without the Clearing House reports that must take hours to assemble? Our membership chairperson and treasurer handle our money and maintain a list of all club members--plus other matters I am not aware of...

Imagine no one devoting the hours necessary to get good speakers to all our meetings or no one organizing weekend or weekday field trips. What about the volunteers who affix mailing labels on each newsletter and take them to the post office on time? It surely is good to raise a little extra money recycling aluminum. Without your participation and a volunteer to sell our aluminum each month, we would lose a source of revenue. Each month a volunteer ensures that books can be checked out during our meetings. Each month a volunteer conducts the Learning Corner. What a great feature. Each month a volunteer conducts the monthly meetings and a volunteer fills in when he is absent.

In case you're wondering--I am not the person involved in the certain event I referred to at the start of my message. The good news is that person has put the unpleasant event behind them--and like myself--continues to have fun as a volunteer for the ONC/OG.

## Calendar

**Saturday, October 1: OG Field Trip to Candy Abshier WMA.** Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the WMA for a morning of hawk watching. You should have a Conservation Passport. From Houston, take I-10 east to exit 813. Turn south (right) onto Hwy. 61. At the intersection of 65, 61 and 562, continue south (straight) onto 562. Bear right at the intersection of 562 and 1985, and proceed to Smith Point. Near the end of the 562, watch for oil storage tanks on the left and signs pointing to the hawkwatching spot. Expect Broad-winged, Red-tailed, Sharp-shinned, Cooper's Hawks and others. *Dwight Peake, 409/740-4621.*

**Monday, October 3: OG Membership Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. Harris County Bayland Community Center located on the north side of Bissonnet just west of Hillcroft. OG member, Pete McLaughlin, will talk on the birds of Chilean Patagonia. Learning Corner begins at 6:30 p.m. Karen Beekman will conclude with Part III her discussion of "Fall Shorebirds."

**Saturday, October 8: OG Youth Field Trip to Brazos Bend State Park.** 8:00 a.m. For details of this trip, call David Veselka, 692-1384.

**Tuesday, October 11: OG Weekday Field Trip to Smith Point and High Island.** Join Winnie Burkett at Smith Point (Candy Abshier WMA) for hawkwatching at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and a chair. *Winnie Burkett, 992-5640.*

**Saturday, October 15: Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Conservation Passport Tour to Guadalupe Delta WMA.** 12 miles west of Port Lavaca, this area usually produces 110-120 species of birds. Conservation Passport is required for each participant. Leader: noted Texas biologist and birder Brent Ortego. Limited to 25. Reservations required. *512/576-0022.*

**Saturday, October 22: TPW Conservation Passport Tour to Mad Island Marsh WMA.** Led by Brent Ortego, this is a fantastically rewarding trip according to OG member John Erikson. Conservation Passport required. Limited to 25. Reservations required. *512/576-0022.*

**Saturday, October 29: OG Field Trip/TPW Conservation Passport Tour to Peach Point WMA.** Brent Ortego, an avid birder and TPW biologist will be leading this trip. To reach the Peach Point WMA from Houston, take 288 south to Freeport and go north on

36 to Jones Creek. At the edge of Jones Creek, watch for the brown road sign for the Peach Point WMA and turn left onto a gravel road, go until you reach a sign for the check station, turn right, go through a gate and park at the check station. This area should produce a wide variety of birds and this will be an all day trip. Pack your lunch and bring drinks--no refreshments are available. Meet Brent at 7:00 A.M. at the check station. Each participant must have a Conservation Passport (not each vehicle). Reservations are required and the trip is limited to 25: (512)576-0022.

**Monday, November 7: OG Membership Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. Sparrow identification will be the topic of Don Richardson's presentation at this meeting. Learning Corner begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 12: OG Youth Field Trip to Bear Creek Park.** 8:00 a.m. For details of this trip, call David Veselka, 692-1384.

**Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13: OG Field Trip to the Rockport area.** The objective of this trip is to see the wintering Whooping Cranes and the \$28.00 (\$23.00 if we have the 15 people needed to get the group rate) cost of the SKIMMER boat trip is refunded if the Whooping Cranes are not seen.

This trip will be limited to 20. Call Capt. Ted's Whooping Crane tours at (512)729-9589 immediately to reserve your space on the boat. The boat trip lasts 3 hrs. and 15 mins. and we will be able to bird other Rockport area hotspots after the SKIMMER trip on Saturday and then have Sunday to bird our way back to Houston.

Accommodations close to the Sand Dollar Pavilion where the SKIMMER is docked include: Sand Dollar Resort (512)729-2381, \$40 for 1 or 2 persons; Best Western "Rebel" Motel (512)729-8351, \$39 for 1 and \$44 for 2 persons.

This will not be a physically demanding trip and we should not have any rough water in Aransas Bay. Please tell Capt. Ted's that you are with the OG and also please call Dwight Peake (409)740-4621 if you are planning to go on this trip.



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## Field Trips for Young Birders

The OG's series of field trips for young birders (ages 10-18) begins its second year on Saturday, October 8, at 8:00 a.m. at the Brazos Bend State Park headquarters. This year's schedule offers one Saturday morning field trip (3-4 hours) each month through May. The trips are offered at no cost to youth who want to learn more about the birds, wildlife and natural areas of the Upper Texas Coast. Trip leaders are David Bradford (855-2615) and David Veselka (692-1384).

The field trips begin at 8:00 a.m., but participants (or parents) should call the trip leaders in advance to confirm details about the trip. A few binoculars are available for participants who do not have their own. Participants must arrange their own transportation to the meeting place for the field trip. Information on carpools will be available from the trip leaders. Parents or other adult chaperones are certainly welcome to accompany the group in the field, but they are not required to do so.

For details on the first trip to Brazos Bend State Park on October 8 or future trips on the schedule, contact David Veselka, 692-1384.

- October 8 Brazos Bend State Park
- November 12 Bear Creek Park
- December 10 Galveston Island State Park
- January 14 Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge
- February 11 West Harris County
- March 11 Armand Bayou Nature Center
- April 29 Audubon Woods in High Island
- May 13 Brazos Bend State Park

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## Another Great Pelagic Trip

On July 23, I was fortunate to be one of about 35 people from across Texas that enjoyed and endured yet another 17-hour deep water pelagic trip on the Chip XI into the Gulf of Mexico. These trips leave the dock in Port O'Connor at 4:00 a.m. and return at 9:00 p.m. This trip was no exception.

Unfortunately, the seas at the start of the trip were a bit angry, tossing our vessel and participants in a variety of directions--something the inner ears of certain people object to, causing them to reveal their most recent meal. However--as the sun came up and the winds calmed, the seas became relatively calm and most participants enjoyed a great day of birding.

About 11:00 a.m., we encountered five storm-petrels: two Leach's, one Band-rumped and two storm-petrel species. Later in the trip we found a few more Leach's and Band-rumped. I finally was able to see the dark line running down the center of the white rump on one of the Leach's. At 2:30 p.m. things got exciting. We found another Band-rumped, followed by the bird of the trip: a Sooty Shearwater. The Sooty was seen well by all on board and will become a ninth accepted state record. *Dave Bradford*

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992-2757

## Newsbriefs

.....**WE ARE SORRY TO HEAR** former OG member, Jerry Strickling, died recently. Jerry and his wife Nancy were "super birders in the Houston area, everyone's friends and always seeing something wonderful. I know Nancy would love to hear from OG friends." says Ellen Red. Nancy's address is 4270 Grandview Drive, Silver City, New Mexico 88061.

.....**JIM PETERSON**, our September 12 speaker, declined to accept his \$100 honorarium and asked instead that the OG make a donation to T.O.S.'s Sabine Woods Sanctuary Fund. Thank you, Jim.

.....**FOURTEEN BIRDERS ENJOYED OG'S HAWK ID WORKSHOP WITH WINNIE BURKETT** on September 14: Two kettles of Broad-winged Hawks, eight Frigatebirds, a flock of Eastern Kingbirds, one Red-shouldered Hawk and a few Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks made their appearance. Remember, the Smith Point Hawk Count runs through October 12, 8:00 a.m. to Noon daily. *Winnie Burkett, 992-5640.*

.....**WHAT A BEACH CLEAN-UP!!!** 75-80 volunteers from Houston Audubon, OG, Tenneco Oil and others moved like army ants over Bolivar Flats Saturday, September 17, picking up an estimated 300 bags of trash, mostly plastic. The coasts aren't clear, by any stretch of the imagination, but they're getting better, according to the cleanup program that began right here in Texas. "Between 1992 and 1993, the number of volunteers participating in a worldwide coastal cleanup increased 27 percent and there was a marked reduction in the volume of offshore ocean dumping," according to the Center for Marine Conservation.

.....**TRIP TO TRINIDAD!!!** Prompted by Jim Peterson's description of Trinidad's Asa Wright Nature Centre as having "the best porch [for birding] in the New World," the OG has jumped into action: we are putting together a group to go to Trinidad, May 13-21, 1995. The island of Trinidad lies barely 10 miles from the great Orinoco delta of Venezuela, and shares with its mainland neighbor a rich and varied fauna: species lists contain 366 regularly occurring birds, 55 reptiles, 25 amphibians, and 617 butterflies. Birds breed virtually year round; the island also attracts migrants from both North and South America.

We will be spending eight nights at the Asa Wright Nature Centre, a 200-acre sanctuary in Trinidad's

rainforested northern range. Several days at the Centre will afford us an opportunity to get very familiar with the rain forest habitat at a relaxed pace. A first-time visitor might see 20-30 life birds before breakfast. From the porch you can see Crested Oropendola, Tufted Coquette, Chestnut Woodpecker, and numerous tanagers and honeycreepers. The forest harbors manakins and Bearded Bellbirds; there is also an Oilbird roost, the only easily accessible colony known of this nocturnal species. Other zoological interests will be piqued as well by animals such as Agouti, Tayra, Tegu lizard, Morpho Butterflies, and Helicopter Damselies. And the food at the Centre is excellent, with almost all of the fruits and vegetables (including the coffee) grown on the property.

We also will include several day-trips in our schedule: the Caroni Swamp to view the spectacular evening flight of Scarlet Ibis returning to their mangrove roosts; lowlands for hawks, Southern Lapwing, Red-breasted Blackbird, Yellow-rumped Cacique, and White-headed Marsh Tyrant; and highlands for Bat Falcon, Ornate Hawk-eagle, and White-tailed Trogon. There will be a lot of flexibility -- additional day-trips are easily arranged for those who wish to visit other sites.

Cost of the trip will be approximately \$1500 including airfare, ground transportation in Trinidad, and most (maybe all) meals. Bob and Maggie Honig will be coordinating the activities before and during the trip. To reserve your place call Dottie Praus at Meteor International Travel, 621-5481 (just mention the OG trip to Trinidad). For information call Bob Honig at 665-6963, or call Dottie.

.....**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 12 OG MEETING:** Karen Beekman presented Part II of "Southbound Shorebirds" for the Learning Corner.

Chairman David Bradford opened the meeting with a welcome to new members and visitors. Treasurer Mike Gremillion reported the recent \$600 influx of membership dues. Dwight Peake noted highlights of recent pelagic trips -- storm-petrels in the Gulf on August 20, and a Red-billed Tropicbird on the North Carolina trip, a very unexpected sighting.

David Veselka announced that a handout has been prepared for the upcoming youth field trips (10-18 year-olds). The handout has all the dates and details -- see David for a copy. David Bradford added that they were always looking for volunteers to help out with these trips.

*Newsbriefs continued...*

David Bradford informed us that the ONC has adopted a stretch of road that we need to help keep clean. The next cleanup is scheduled for November 1, and will meet in front of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Call Aaron Stoley (781-1372) for details.

Kate Fine announced that she is involved with an upcoming youth field trip to Brazos Bend--call her at 669-8524 for more information. Ellen Red noted that the speaker for the upcoming Houston Audubon meeting on September 14 will be Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux. The meeting will be at the Zoo and will start at 7:00 p.m.

Frank Peace asked that anyone seeing kettles of migrating hawks (within 40-50 miles of League City -- this covers most of the UTC) report them as soon as possible after sighting them so he can try to track them on the League City radar. Please call Frank on his cellular phone 417-6113, or at 870-8238.

Richard Uzar announced the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center bird seed sale: call 681-8433 through September 27 to order (pickup is on October 15). Richard also announced the OG-sponsored Houston Christmas Bird Count, on December 17.

David Bradford encouraged OG members to informally arrange trips, such as the recent, highly successful expedition to Arizona organized by John Eriksson. Members can put announcements in *The Spoonbill*.

Jim Peterson, current President of the Texas Ornithological Society, presented the program on his five favorite birding spots in the American tropics: Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad ("the best porch in the New World"); Chan Chich in Belize; Costa Rica; Henri Pittier National Park in Venezuela (Jim's favorite national park); and Peru. *Maggie Honig, Secretary*

.....**THE FRIENDS OF BRAZORIA** meeting scheduled for October 12 at Armand Bayou has been cancelled. Ron Bisbee of the Fish and Wildlife Service will discuss the master plan for Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge at the November 10 meeting of the ONC at the Houston Arboretum.

.....**THE HOUSTON AUDUBON SOCIETY "TEXAS TREASURES" AWARDS DINNER** will be held November 3 at the Westchase Hilton. Steve Smith of Channel 11 will emcee the event and Roger Tory Peterson will present an award. John Tveten will be the keynote speaker. For reservations, call the Houston Audubon Society at 932-1639.

## **NOEL'S NICHE**

by Noel Pettingell

10 YEARS AGO/FROM SEPTEMBER 1984  
**SPOONBILL:** ...For the record: On May 3, 1973, a most unusual birding feat was accomplished by two of America's foremost field experts--Ben Feltner and Victor Emanuel. In just one hour (six to seven p.m. CDT) they recorded a total of 112 species along a 4 1/2 mile route at the western end of Bolivar Peninsula (Johnson Grove to Bolivar Flats). The maximum extent of the area covered was 3 1/2 air miles and the BIRD OF THE HOUR was a Brown Pelican. Each observer personally recorded 110 species, thus all but four of the 112 species were identified by both (i.e., shared total was 108).

The biggest miss was a Great Blue Heron, which was present in the area prior to and following the count but overlooked during the Big Hour. Finding so many species in so short a time was made possible because two top birders familiar with a restricted area containing a variety of habitats could take advantage of ideal weather conditions, i.e., clear with NNE winds keeping migrants grounded following heavy rains and north winds during the evening of May 2. In short, being in the right place at the right time resulted in a record which to my knowledge has never been equalled in North America north of Mexico.

## **Clearing House**

August, 1994

EDITORS: PHYLLIS AND TONY FRANK

Shorebirds continued to be highlights for August. A total of 116 species were reported for the month.

Many thanks to the four report writers. Reports for next month are due by October 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	6-7	3/17 CH-1/10 GA-1/6 JE-1/1
Booby, Masked	7-7	1/1 GA-(1)7,CW
Pelican, Amer Wht	7-7	1/5 GA-BF(5)7,CW
Pelican, Brown	7-7	1/225 GA-(225)7,CW
Corm, Neotropic	6-7	2/66 GA-BF(50)7,CW; JE-(16)6,JW
Frigatebird, Magn	7-7	1/2 GA-(2)7,CW
Bittern, Least	7-7	1/1 CH-AW(1)7,CW
Heron, Great Blue	6-6	1/7 JE-(7)6,JW
Egret, Great	6-7	3/337 CH-1/25 JE-2/312
Egret, Snowy	6-26	5/179 CH-1/100 GA-1/25 HA-2/7 JE-1/47
Heron, Little Blu	7-10	2/77 CH-(76)7,CW; HA-(1)10,PM
Heron, Tricolored	6-7	4/18 CH-1/6 GA-1/1 JE-2/11
Egret, Reddish	6-7	2/18 GA-(17)7,CW; JE-SR(1)6,JW
Egret, Cattle	6-7	4/168 CH-1/77 GA-1/25 JE-2/66
Heron, Green	6-7	3/16 CH-1/12 GA-1/1 JE-1/3
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	6-7	2/2 CH-(1)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	6-23	4/11 CH-1/2 HA-2/3 JE-1/6
Ibis, White	6-7	2/66 CH-(44)7,CW; JE-(22)6,JW
Ibis, Glossy	7-7	1/1 CH-AW(1)7,CW
Ibis, White-faced	6-7	3/25 CH-1/22 JE-2/3
Spoonbill, Roseat	6-7	3/48 CH-1/25 GA-1/3 JE-1/20
Stork, Wood	7-7	1/2 CH-AW(2)7,CW
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	6-7	4/108 CH-1/100 GA-1/2 JE-2/6
Duck, Mottled	6-7	3/57 CH-1/25 GA-1/20 JE-1/12
Teal, Blue-winged	7-7	1/6 CH-AW(6)7,CW
Vulture, Black	7-7	1/20 CH-(20)7,CW
Vulture, Turkey	6-7	2/13 CH-(6)7,CW; JE-(7)6,JW
Kite, White-tailed	7-7	1/1 CH-AW(1)7,CW
Kite, Mississippi	2-24	4/30 HA-(1)2,PM; HA-(5)8,PM; HA-(14)21,PM; HA-(10)24,PM
<u>Hawk, Broad-winged</u>	7-7	1/2 CH-(2)7,CW
Rail, Clapper	7-7	2/10 CH-(1)7,CW; GA-(9)7,CW
Rail, King	7-7	1/1 CH-(1)7,CW
Gallinule, Purple	7-7	2/22 CH-AW(20)7,CW; JE-(2)7,CW
Moorhen, Common	6-7	3/110 CH-1/100 JE-2/10
Plover, Blk-belli	6-7	2/30 GA-BF(25)7,CW; JE-(5)6,JW
Plover, Snowy	6-7	2/21 GA-BF(20)7,CW; JE-SR(1)6,JW
Plover, Wilson's	6-7	2/61 GA-BF(60)7,CW; JE-SR(1)6,JW
Plover, Semipalm	6-7	3/52 CH-1/1 GA-1/50 JE-1/1
Plover, Piping	7-7	1/200 GA-BF(200)7,CW
Killdeer	6-23	3/32 CH-1/18 HA-1/2 JE-1/12
Stilt, Black-neck	6-7	2/118 CH-(65)7,CW; JE-(53)6,JW
Avocet, American	7-7	1/16 CH-AW(16)7,CW
Yellowlegs, Great	7-26	3/3 CH-1/1 HA-2/2
Yellowlegs, Less	6-23	3/5 CH-1/3 HA-1/1 JE-1/1
Willet	6-7	2/88 GA-(26)7,CW; JE-(62)6,JW
Sandppr, Spotted	6-7	2/3 CH-AW(1)7,CW; JE-(2)6,JW
<u>Whimbrel</u>	7-7	1/1 GA-YBR(1)7,CW
Curlew, Long-bill	6-7	2/10 GA-(9)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
<u>Godwit, Marbled</u>	7-7	1/27 GA-(27)7,CW
Turnstone, Ruddy	6-7	2/34 GA-(11)7,CW; JE-(23)6,JW
Sanderling	6-7	2/175 GA-(75)7,CW; JE-(100)6,JW
Sandppr, Semipalm	6-7	2/4 CH-AW(1)7,CW; JE-(3)6,JW
Sandppr, Western	6-7	3/53 CH-1/2 GA-1/50 JE-1/1
Sandppr, Least	6-24	4/26 CH-1/5 HA-2/16 JE-1/5
Sandppr, Pectoral	7-7	1/3 CH-AW(3)7,CW
Sandppr, Stilt	7-7	1/200 CH-AW(200)7,CW
Dowitcher, S-bill	7-7	1/100 GA-BF(100)7,CW
Dowitcher, L-bill	7-7	1/125 CH-AW(125)7,CW
Gull, Laughing	6-7	2/7264 GA-(7000)7,CW; JE-(264)6,JW
Gull, Ring-billed	6-7	2/11 GA-(10)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
Gull, Herring	7-7	1/2 GA-BF(2)7,CW
Tern, Gull-billed	6-7	2/7 CH-(6)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
Tern, Caspian	6-7	2/6 GA-BF(2)7,CW; JE-(4)6,JW
Tern, Royal	6-7	2/2045 GA-(2000)7,CW; JE-(45)6,JW

Tern, Sandwich	6-7	2/66 GA-(50)7,CW; JE-(16)6,JW
Tern, Forster's	6-7	3/48 CH-1/1 GA-1/20 JE-1/27
Tern, Least	6-7	2/245 GA-BF(200)7,CW; JE-(45)6,JW
Tern, Black	6-7	3/90 CH-1/31 GA-1/21 JE-1/38
Skimmer, Black	6-7	2/47 GA-(11)7,CW; JE-(36)6,JW
Dove, Rock	6-24	5/43 GA-1/25 HA-2/8 JE-2/10
Dove, Mourning	2-7	5/59 CH-1/12 GA-1/10 HA-1/3 JE-2/34
Dove, Inca	2-7	2/4 GA-HI(2)7,CW; HA-(2)2,PM
Parakeet, Monk	5-7	2/20 GA-SLN(12)7,CW; HA-(8)5,PM
Cuckoo, Yel-billd	7-7	2/2 CH-AW(1)7,CW; GA-HI(1)7,CW
Owl, Barn	6-7	2/2 GA-YBR(1)7,CW; JE-SW(1)6,JW
Screech-Owl, East	21-21	1/1 HA-(1)21,PM
Nighthawk, Common	6-21	4/8 CH-1/1 GA-1/2 HA-1/1 JE-1/4
Swift, Chimney	2-26	4/27 CH-1/2 HA-3/25
Hummer, Ruby-thrt	6-7	2/2 GA-(1)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
Kingfisher, Beltd	6-7	2/5 GA-(1)7,CW; JE-(4)6,JW
Wdpeckr, Red-bell	2-8	2/3 HA-(1)2,PM; HA-(2)8,PM
Wdpeckr, Downy	6-7	2/2 JE-SW(1)6,JW; JE-(1)7,CW
Flycatcher, Acadian	7-7	1/1 GA-HI(1)7,CW
Kingbird, Eastern	6-7	4/133 CH-1/58 GA-1/2 JE-2/73
Flycatcher, Ss-tail	6-7	3/23 CH-1/5 GA-1/3 JE-1/15
Lark, Horned	7-7	1/4 GA-BF(4)7,CW
Martin, Purple	6-7	2/15 CH-(5)7,CW; JE-(10)6,JW
<u>Swallow, Cliff</u>	6-6	1/10 JE-SR(10)6,JW
Swallow, Cave	6-6	1/3 JE-SR(3)6,JW
Swallow, Barn	6-7	2/44 CH-(26)7,CW; JE-(18)6,JW
Jay, Blue	1-31	3/12 GA-1/5 HA-1/5 JE-1/2
Crow, Fish	6-7	2/6 GA-(1)7,CW; JE-(5)6,JW
Chickadee, Carol	8-8	1/2 HA-(2)8,PM
Wren, Carolina	7-7	1/1 GA-HI(1)7,CW
Wren, Marsh	6-7	2/6 CH-AW(5)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra	7-7	1/1 GA-HI(1)7,CW
Robin, American	1-9	2/3 HA-(1)1,MBM; HA-(2)9,MBM
Mockingbird, N	2-7	5/26 CH-1/8 GA-1/2 HA-1/1 JE-2/15
Shrike, Loggerhed	2-7	5/27 CH-1/13 GA-1/2 HA-1/3 JE-2/9
Starling, Euro	6-21	3/192 GA-1/25 HA-1/12 JE-1/155
Warb, Yellow	6-6	1/2 JE-(2)6,JW
Warb, Blk-and-wht	6-6	1/1 JE-SW(1)6,JW
Yellowthroat, Com	6-7	2/12 CH-(8)7,CW; JE-(4)6,JW
Warb, Hooded	7-7	1/1 GA-HI(1)7,CW
Cardinal, Northrn	2-8	5/15 CH-1/2 GA-1/5 HA-2/4 JE-1/4
Bunting, Painted	7-7	1/1 CH-(1)7,CW
Dickcissel	7-7	1/5 CH-(5)7,CW
Sparrow, Seaside	6-7	2/11 GA-(10)7,CW; JE-(1)6,JW
Blackbird, Red-wg	6-7	3/825 CH-1/525 JE-2/300
Meadowlark, East	6-7	4/7 CH-1/2 GA-1/1 JE-2/4
Grackle, Gr-tail	6-7	4/139 CH-1/25 GA-1/25 JE-2/89
Grackle, Bt-tail	7-7	1/2 JE-(2)7,CW
Grackle, Common	6-7	2/15 JE-(5)6,JW; JE-(10)7,CW
Cowbird, Brn-head	7-7	1/15 CH-(15)7,CW
Oriole, Orchard	6-7	3/20 CH-1/3 GA-1/9 JE-1/8
Sparrow, House	6-24	4/42 CH-1/1 GA-1/5 HA-1/20 JE-1/16

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 14690

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Merry Cox, John Whittle (CW); John Whittle (JW); Mary Ann & Bob Moore (MBM); Peggy Milstead (PM)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahuac NWR (AW); Bolivar Flats (BF); High Island (HI); San Leon (SLN); Sea Rim St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW); Yacht Basin Road (YBR)

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

Glossy Ibis - J. Whittle August 7, 1994

NE corner of Shoveler Pond, Anahuac NWR. Typical *Plegadis ibis*. The head and back were now completely black with white flecks, with the remaining chestnut color on the wing coverts being replaced as the moult progresses. The light blue-gray facial skin in front of the eye was still clearly visible, although appearing somewhat narrower. The skin was bare from the top of the eye to the base of the upper mandible. This skin narrowed to a point which ended at the top of the eye. No light was observed behind the eye. The eye was studied carefully and repeatedly and the iris was brown with no hint of red. Bill light gray.

Broad-winged Hawk - J. Whittle August 7, 1994

Two birds, one at each location (TX 124 and Anahuac Access Rd.). Crow-sized hawk. TX 124: The hawk was dark brown above; the side of the face was also dark brown; the belly was barred- medium thickness bars - light brown on white. The upper surface of the tail was banded with wide dark and white bars. The trailing edge and tips of the wing showed a very dark, almost black edging on an otherwise very light underwing. The tail, while not short, was not very long. The legs were bright yellow and quite thick.

Anahuac Access Rd: the underwing was light with a dark trailing edge; the underside of the tail was banded with two wide dark bands and two wide light bands.

Whimbrel - J. Whittle August 7, 1994

Yacht Basin Rd. Relatively small curlew, smaller than a nearby Long-billed Curlew. The bird was buffy, with darker marking on the upperside. There was a white crown stripe in the center of a darker brown stripe. In addition, there was a dark brown stripe through the eye. The down curved bill was short for a curlew, a medium dark gray, noticeably thicker and stouter than those of the Long-billed Curlews. Most of the curvature was in the distal 1/3 of the bill.

Marbled Godwit - J. Whittle August 7, 1994

15+ birds at Rollover Pass, 12+ birds observed at Bolivar Flats. Typical Godwit shape and size, grayish/buffish brown. No white on rump. Bill slightly upturned, dark towards the tip, pink at the base.

Cave Swallow (3+) Cliff Swallow (10+) - J. Whittle August 7, 1994

Sea Rim St. Park, March Unit boathouse. Medium-sized swallows with squared off tails. The birds

were blue above, with buff rumps. The Cliff Swallows had whitish foreheads and deep reddish throats, the lower border of which was blackish. The Cave Swallows had reddish foreheads and paler red throats.

## Footnotes

.....**THE FIRST RIO GRANDE VALLEY BIRDING FESTIVAL** will be held November 3-6 in Harlingen, Texas. Speakers include Mike Austin, Roger Tory Peterson, Greg Lasley and John Tveten. Numerous field trips, an art exhibit and auction, a world premier showing of the John Bax film "Treasures of the Rio Grande Delta," and a trade show Friday and Saturday fill out the schedule of this festival. *Harlingen Chamber of Commerce, 1-800-531-7346.*

..... **THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE** expects 146 Whooping Cranes, including 10-12 young, to migrate south this September. Last fall, 143 birds, including 16 young, made it to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. ...In June, Canadian and U.S. biologists counted 28 nesting pairs and 15 young. The high percentage of birds not nesting (28 pairs instead of last year's 43-46 pairs) is believed to be due to a late winter and possibly to low food resources on the wintering grounds. ...Whooping Crane populations have been gradually increasing from a low of 15 or 16 birds in 1941 to a high of 290 in July 1994. ...Recovery accomplishments include: second and third captive flocks established in Baraboo, Wisconsin and the Calgary Zoo; the migrating Aransas/Wood Buffalo flock continues its steady growth (4.6 percent annually); and in 1993 and 1994, 33 captive-reared cranes were released in the Kissimmee Prairie, south of Orlando, in hopes of establishing a nonmigratory population. (15 of the original 33 released currently survive. Habitat management and modification of crane rearing techniques are being employed to try to cut losses to bobcats.) *FWS, September 1, 1994.*

.....**DUCK POPULATIONS REBOUND IN RESPONSE TO IMPROVED HABITAT CONDITIONS:** After years of declines caused by drought and generally poor habitat conditions, the estimated breeding population of ducks in North America rebounded sharply this year in response to widespread precipitation in key breeding areas. This year's index is 71 million ducks, compared to a record low of 55 million ducks in 1985. *FWS, August 31, 1994.*

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