



# THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME VII No. 12  
APRIL 1959

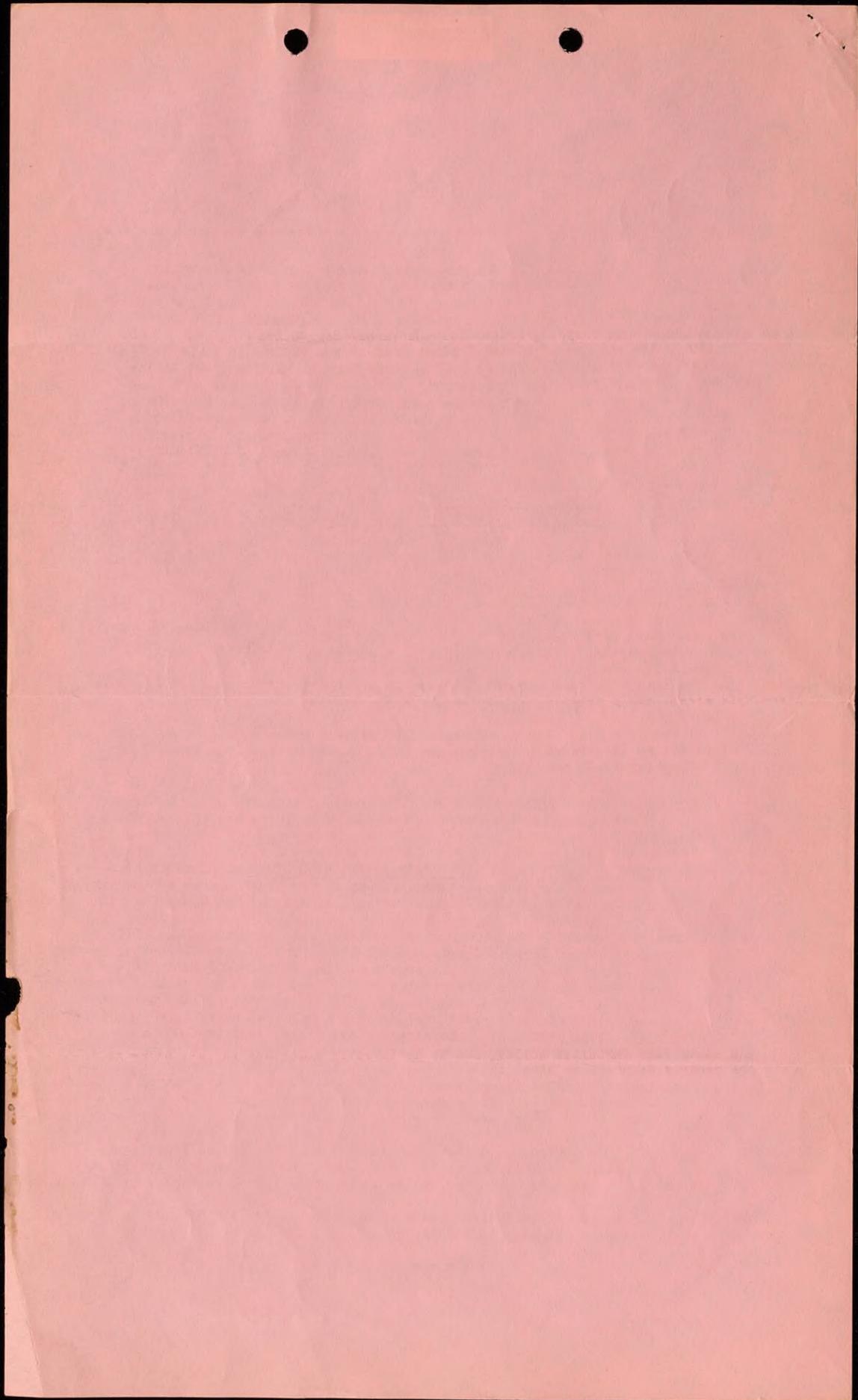
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\* HELP! HELP! \*  
\* Your records on migrating birds are wanted - \*  
\* in Texas! To you they may not be important. \*  
\* To us they are. The bird you see forms part \*  
\* of the whole migration picture. RONALD FOWL- \*  
\* ER is again preparing the report for T. O. S. \*  
\* but information can be called in to Ho 5-5852 \*  
\* or sent to Mrs. Henry S. Hoffman, 443 Hollow \*  
\* Drive, Houston 24. First and last of a spec- \*  
\* ies seen and heavy concentrations are needed. \*  
\* Houston bird watchers are fortunate in being \*  
\* on one of the major flyways, so our records \*  
\* have national significance. PLEASE HELP!! \*  
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PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP. OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS

## FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- April 14 Regular meeting of the Outdoor Nature Club at which Mrs. Wanda Henderson McNitzky will give a program on "A panorama of astronomy."
- April 16 Another of the Museum of Natural History lecture series at the Prudential Auditorium at 8:15 P.M. The subject: "India"
- April 17 Outdoor Nature Club annual SANCTUARY BENEFIT movie at the Lamar High School at 8:00 p.m. Our own Mr. L. A. M. Barnette will present: "To the shores of Tripoli."
- April 19 Outdoor Nature Club's spring wildflower field trip to the R. L. Praytor ranch. The leader, Mrs. Carolyn Simmons, says there are lots of birds in the area too.
- April 26 ORNITHOLOGY GROUP UPPER GULF COAST SPRING BIRD ROUNDUP! This is a record by species of the birds that are present in the Houston area during the Spring migration period. Further details in body of The Spoonbill.
- May 10 ORNITHOLOGY GROUP FIELD TRIP in Galena Park area with the possibility of going up to San Jacinto County. The leaders, Ben Feltner and Dudley Deaver, expect to show us nests of the purple gallinule, least bittern, killdeer, black-necked stilt and fulvous tree duck. Camera fans may be able to get pictures of nesting birds and young. If you have waders, that will increase your chances of getting closer to the nests, so bring them along. There will be plenty of woods birds to see also. Meet at the Sears Roebuck parking lot on Wayside at Harrisburg at 7:15 a.m. The party will leave no later than 7:30 a. m. and you won't be able to find the location by yourself, so come a runnin'. You'll be glad you didn't "stood in bed!" Unfortunately, this will be our only opportunity to get this notice in the "Spoonbill" so please post it on your calendar now.
- May 12 Regular meeting of the Outdoor Nature Club at which Armand Yramategui will speak on "Animal Migration" Both Armand and the subject are of interest to us, so we'll see your weatherbeaten face there, we hope.
- May 16 Annual Outdoor Nature Club picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Haver in Westfield, Texas. Good food, good birds, good time.

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ORNITHOLOGY GROUP REPORTSMARCH FIELD TRIP TO VARNER HOGG STATE PARK ----- REPORTED BY JERRY STRICKLING

In near perfect spring weather, 61 members of the Ornithology Group in 19 cars, departed the Sugarland Shopping Center for the Varner-Hogg State Park and Plantation at West Columbia. Several groups birded Fondren Road on the way to the assembly area and saw 4 PRAIRIE CHICKENS and listened to their booming. Also seen were 20 golden plover and 10 upland plover and 5 black-bellied plover.

Two stops were made at lakes on F.M. 762 between Richmond and Damon. A circling Swainson's hawk was "fixed" in the Balscope by Vic Emanuel and John O'Neill identified a western meadowlark.

The second lake was more productive with 7 species of ducks including mottled (through the courtesy of Armand Y.) pintails, shovelers, and a ruddy in spring plumage. Blue and green winged teal were present as well as dowitcher, yellow-legs, anhingas and peeps. Several caracaras were seen enroute.

The group toured the Plantation House at 11:00 a. m.; and after the picnic in the park, (attended by 3 pileated woodpeckers, 2 yellow-bellied sapsuckers, 2 red-bellied woodpeckers, and numerous myrtles) broke up into smaller parties to spend the afternoon birding the plantation. Several black-and-white warblers as well as yellow-throated warblers were seen. Numerous parulas and white-eyed vireos were seen and heard. John O'Neill, Doug Stine and the Kershners reported 2 mourning warblers and 4 wood ducks. Several species of sparrows were identified and the ruby-crowned kinglets and brown thrashers were still fairly common. Only two phoebes were reported. The expected residents such as chickadees, titmice, cardinals et al were abundant.

Edna Haver reported that she and the Barnettes and McWhirters returned via the River Road along the Brazos and saw 12 cattle egrets near West Columbia (is this a first report from this area?) and a scissor-tailed flycatcher.

Vic Emanuel and Ronald Fowler went on to Freeport and reported a bald eagle, pectoral sandpipers, 8 stilts, and a scissor-tailed flycatcher near Angleton.

Frazier Morian identified a lonesome sandhill crane flying low over West Columbia. Do we have later reports?

A total of 88 species were identified on the trip itself excluding Freeport.

Those making the trip were: Jerry Baker, Charlotte Reindl, Leonard and Ruby McWhirter, Carolyn Simmons, Louise and Henry Hoffman, Etta Coffman, Jim, Leary and John Triebell, Effie Henretty, Edna Minor, Virginia Parker, Ella Wolfer, Nance Cunningham, Austin and Mary Evans, Mr. and Mrs. L.A.M. Barnette, Armand Yramategui, Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Morian, Glen Vague and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith, John Geisler, Carl Reindl, Darris Massingill, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dehayes, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Daniel, Elsie Weldon, Mr. and Mrs. William S. Ward, Sid and Jimmy Barnette, Ruth and Stuart Kershner, Bess, Walter and Lee Barbara, Mrs. Gray from Dallas, Edna Haver, Jimmy and Johnnye Murray, Nancy and Jerry Strickling, Victor Emanuel, Ronald Fowler, Norma Oates, Ruth Moorman, Leota Stillwell, Thelma Smith, Luta Buchanan, Ruby and Tom Daniel

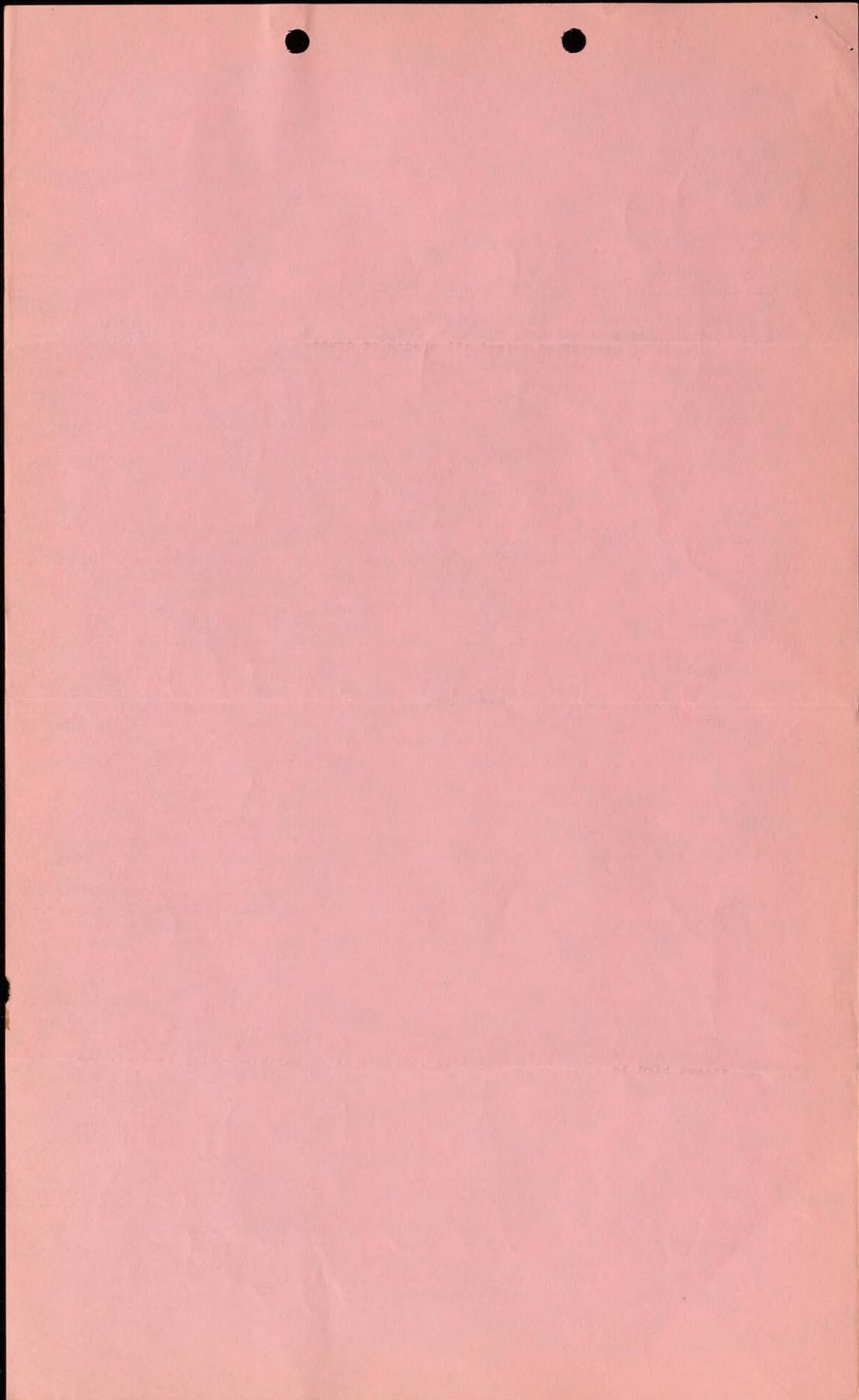
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VIN \*\*\* VIN  
 VIN means VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE, and it is terribly important to all of us to locate the records on previous bird counts in the Houston area. These were left with someone by Noel Pettingell, but WHO? They are full of information that is badly needed, and would be of value and interest to all of you. PLEASE!  
 VIN \*\*\* VIN

VIN \*\*\* VIN UPPER GULF COAST SPRING BIRD ROUNDUP - APRIL 26, 1959 VIN \*\*\* VIN

This may very well be the year Houston tops the nation on its spring bird count. Depending on YOU of course. Make up your own party or join another, choose an area (within 200 miles) you know from experience to be well populated with birds, and let 'er rip!

If you can't make a day's field trip out of it, spend some time in a neighborhood park or other promising area, or just take a look right around home. You might see the



species every one else has missed!

SEND YOUR CHECK LISTS TO VIC EMANUEL, 2228 DORRINGTON (25) BEFORE MAY 4th! ! !

Be sure to include full details for all unusual species, as well as names of the members of your party, area covered, total miles by car and foot, and hours afield.

GENERAL RULES:

- A. All observations shall be confined to one calendar day (April 26) 24 hours - midnight to midnight.
- B. All observations shall be in strict accordance with the A. O. U. checklist of North American birds, and shall not include subspecies (i.e., local racial variations of the same species must be counted as a single type-form)
- C. All birds must be identified beyond all shadow of doubt.
1. One qualified observer will suffice regardless of status of species in area, providing observer is positive of his identification.
  2. Rarities observed by inexperienced bird watchers should be confirmed by qualified observer at point of observation on day of count (or shortly thereafter) or by subsequent deduction derived from accurate and complete description.
  3. "Qualified observers" and "inexperienced birders" shall be arbitrarily adjudged by compiler of count.
- D. Any mode of transportation may be utilized.

E. Situation Rulings:

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Ruling</u>	<u>Justification</u>
1. Identification by sound alone	Valid	Provided the song, call, drumming, booming, pecking, etc. is a positive means of identification to the observer, recognition of species by ear is as valid as by sight.
2. Identification by deduction	Valid	Circumstantial evidence, provided it is of sufficient strength to enable certain identification of species, is a valid method of observation. Examples: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) On day of count only eye reflection of of previously identified nestor is observed; a valid situation.</li> <li>b) On day of count only silhouette of a previously identified common merganser is observed against light reflected on surface of pond at night; valid.</li> </ol>
3. Identification by eggs alone.	Valid	Technically eggs are birds in an extreme juvenile stage of development. However, there must be no doubt as to identity of species which laid eggs. Exception: Egg fragments or eggs known to be abandoned prior to count should be considered invalid.
4. Identification by family or genus rather than species	Valid	Provided bird is satisfactorily identified as to family or genus (e.g., hummingbird or "Empidonax flycatcher") and no additional form within the family or genus is observed, then bird is quite valid.
5. Dead bird is found on count	Invalid	Unfair observation from competitive standpoint; however, should be noted (not counted) for future reference ("for the record")
6. Injured or oil soaked bird is found during count	Valid	Provided bird is not totally disabled, should be counted inasmuch as it may eventually recover; however, rather unfair observation from competitive standpoint.
7. Bird is captured or killed on day of count, then identified.	Invalid	Same as 5. Exception: if bird is properly identified prior to being captured or killed, it is a valid observation.
8. Feral status of bird identified on count is uncertain	Invalid	"If in doubt, leave it out". (Note: Rock dove is included in 5th A.O.U. checklist but should not be counted around farmyards nor in urban areas if suspected of belonging to pigeon fanciers.)



General Rules; continued

Area Count Rules

- A. Diameter of area shall not exceed 200 miles.
- B. Any number of observers may cover the area.
- C. The official area count list shall include all species properly identified by one or more observers in accordance with the General and Area Count Rules herein outlined

Party Count Rules

- A. No limitations on area or distance covered within 24-hour period.
- B. A party shall be limited to 8 persons traveling in no more than two vehicles.
  1. Different parties may follow same route provided there is no liason between parties (i.e., "staking out" birds for other parties)
  2. Party need not maintain original membership throughout day, but may not replace absent members with a "second string" (i.e., pick up "fresh" observers to take the place of those dropping out) for example, if party consists of only 7 members upon arrival at rich birding area where a local birder has already "staked out" a number of hard-to-find species, it would not be fair competition to substitute this person as a temporary 8th member of the party; then too, endurance is part of the "game" and fresh observers would be more alert and thus see more.
  3. Whenever two vehicles are utilized they must remain in plain sight of one another at all times; failing this, only the observations of one of the two may be included in the count.
  4. Whenever members of the party are on foot they must remain within earshot (shouting distance) of one another.
- C. The official party list shall include all species properly identified by one or more members of the party in accordance with the General and Party Count Rules as outlined.

Miscellaneous

- A. These regulations are subject to National approval and adoption.
- B. The clearing agent for all spring counts - area and/or party - conducted in the U. S. will publish the results of all such counts each year for distribution to all groups submitting counts.
  1. Following information should be submitted to the clearing agent (Vic Emanuel, 2228 Dorrington, Houston 25, before May 4th.
    - a) Type of count (area or party)
    - b) Date of count (April 26)
    - c) Check-list of species with final total
    - d) Participants
    - e) Mileage (total by car, foot, boat, etc.)
    - f) Hours afield
    - g) Area covered
    - h) Any disputes arising during counts which cannot be satisfactorily settled by the count regulations.
    - i) Suggested revisions and/or amendments to the Spring Count Regulations.

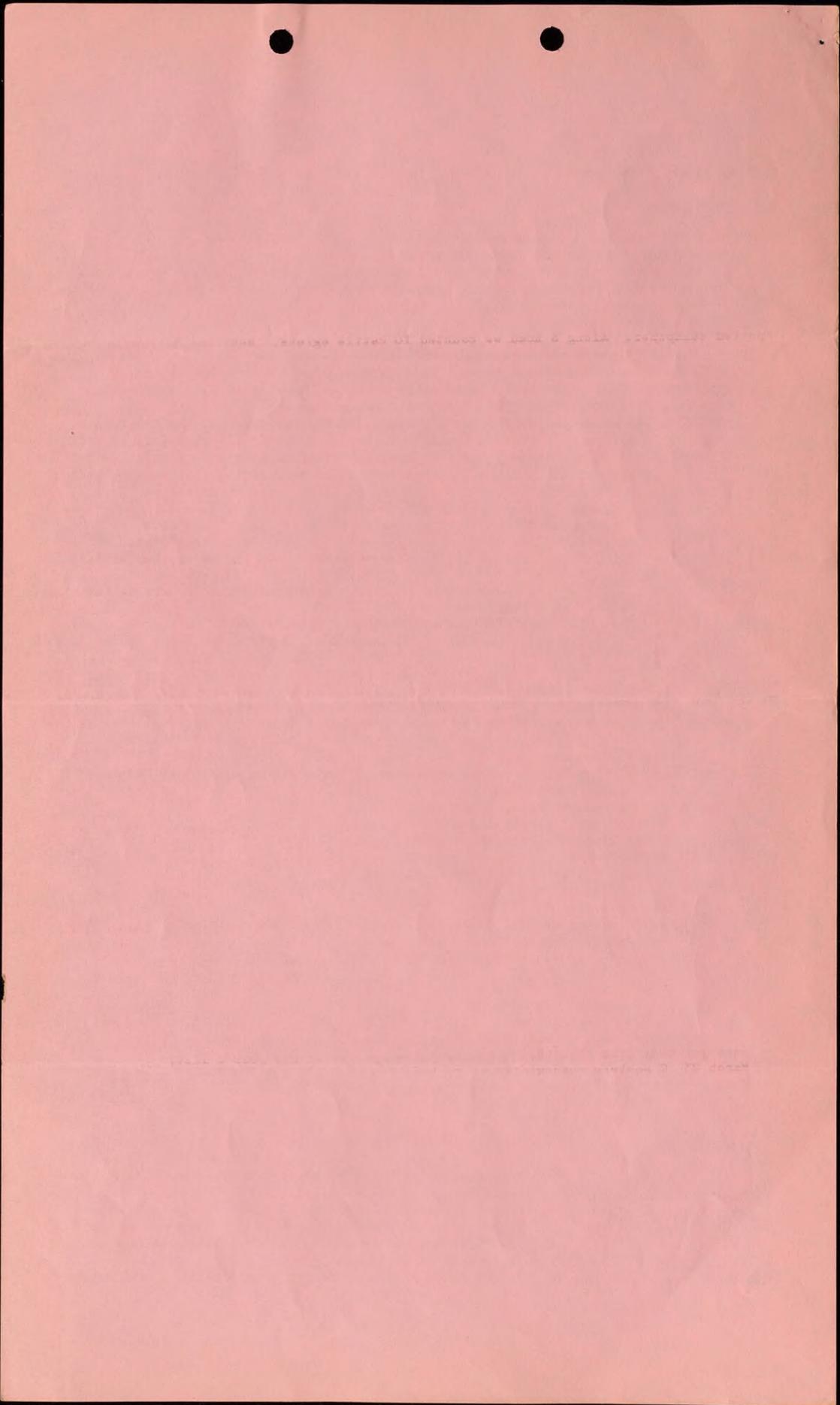
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LET'S ALL GO BIRDING ON APRIL 26APRIL 26 IS THE DAY FOR YOU TO GO BIRDINGA BIG FAT APRIL 26 COUNT TO YOU !!AND YOU!!!!

EARLY SPRING BIRDING IN HARRIS AND GALVESTON COUNTIES - Submitted by Ronald Fowler

On Friday, March 27, Carl Aiken, Vic Emanuel, Steve Williams, and I made a preliminary trip along our 1959 Spring Count run. This necessitates starting at Sheldon shortly after dawn and proceeding to Galveston via the San Jacinto Battlegrounds, the Baytown Tunnel, and the Texas City dike.

We arrived at Sheldon shortly after dawn where one of the first birds seen was a solitary vireo. At the refuge were many ducks including ruddy and ring-necked, also in the same area a painted bunting was heard singing. Many migrant pectoral sandpipers



were observed in the surrounding marshes. In the woods across from Buckhorn Lake we observed a barred owl, a rufous-sided towhee, and a Maryland yellow-throat.

Approaching the San Jacinto Battlegrounds, we added white pelicans, 21 broad-winged hawks, and a black-and-white warbler. At Miller Cut-off Road we added the white-crowned sparrow to our list. Near Seabrook we observed a crested flycatcher and hooded-warbler. On the road between Kemah and Texas City a peregrine falcon flew over the car.

At the Texas City Dike we counted 21 common loon with Steve's 30X scope. The highlight of this short excursion from the normal path was 167 eared grebes carefully counted with the scope. They were seen all along the dike in rafts numbering ten to fifty.

At the East Jetties in Galveston we observed snowy and piping plover as well as the spotted sandpiper. Along S Road we counted 10 cattle egrets. Near the Galveston Country Club we saw a house wren and several Wilson's plover in the marsh behind the golf course. Along S Road toward the southern tip of the island were 35 long-billed curlews, 10 whimbrels, and many golden plover. At San Luis Pass were 50 black skimmers and 5 least terns.

A fitting climax for the day was 3 roseate spoonbills seen in the marsh near the traffic circle on S Road. In this same marsh was a white phase reddish egret which was carefully identified with the scope. The roseate spoonbill was the last species to be seen that day. It was the 135th species on our check list! During the day we traveled 193 miles and birded continuously for more than thirteen hours. (In the editor's carefully studied opinion, it must be very nice to be young!)

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#### EVENING GROSBREAK SEEN IN HOUSTON -

Submitted by John O'Neill

On Saturday March 14, 1959, Mrs. S. G. Kershner happened to glance out her window toward the feeder. As she did, a cardinal sized bird with a short tail hopped up on a near fence post. On inspecting, she found it to be a grosbeak, and then all became clear. There sat a male EVENING GROSBREAK. She observed him at about 25 feet with 8X30 binoculars. He was preening and showed his marks well. Especially noted were the bright yellow beak, yellow eye mark, black and white wing pattern, and bright yellow surrounding the wings. When I heard about it on March 21, I wasn't too sure (he hadn't been seen for a week) but decided to try anyway. About 10 or 12 squeaks and up popped a male EVENING GROSBREAK! I too saw all of the beautiful distinctive markings at about 10 feet with 8X40 binoculars. He was last seen preening in a small oak in back of her house. (Editor's note: evening grosbeak listed in our checklist as accidental. Seen in Houston in 1955)

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#### BIRDING IN THE BAYTOWN AREA

----- Reported by Linda and Clint Snyder

March 9 Slate colored junco, 1,000 white pelicans, 400 avocets and least sandpiper.  
 March 10 Baird's sandpiper seen along with others. Also semi-palmated plover.  
 March 11 White faced ibis seen flying over house.  
 March 12 9 red-breasted merganser seen at Barber's Cut, also immature little blue heron.

March 16 First black-necked stilt of season seen at the Tunnel. Also 25 shovelers and hundreds of double-crested cormorants.

March 17 White-eyed vireo, red-breasted nuthatch, ruby-crowned kinglet, house wren and one goldfinch. First pectoral sandpiper of season. Golden and semi-palmated plover, Baird's sandpiper and others. Green winged teal.

March 19 Sandpiper unidentified on March 18 proved to be a buff-breasted. Pectoral sandpiper, sora rail, and mottled duck.

March 21 Went to Rockport with Dr. C. E. Marvel from the University of Illinois. They got 101 species right around Rockport before lunch time. He said it was the best birding he had ever had - and he has birded everywhere. In spite of the fact that he had just got back from Arizona, he added 49 new species to his year's list!

March 23 2 western meadowlarks at Baytown tunnel. Identified by call and sight. Numerous cormorants and avocets, blue-winged teal, lesser scaup, and 2 greater scaup, 2 mottled ducks. 200 snows and blue geese were seen flying east! Not north.

March 24 First ruby-throated hummingbird of year seen, which is a late record.

March 26 First records of scissor-tailed flycatcher in Baytown area (2 birds) Western meadowlark seen again at Tunnel. In La Porte: black-throated green warbler, black-and-white warbler, myrtles in full plumage, double-crested and olivaceous cormorants. Snyder's first 1959 record of broad-winged hawk.

March 27 15 broad-winged hawks, golden plover, first chimney swifts seen, 2 palm warblers, 4 scissor-tailed flycatchers, white-crowned sparrow, and western meadowlark.

March 28 parula, black-and-white, yellow-throated, and hooded warblers. Numbers of chimney swifts. Heard a wonderful bird song.

March 29 Tracked down this wonderful bird song, and it proved to be the song of the



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hermit thrush. It was unbelievably beautiful!

March 30 Solitary vireo and about 300 black skimmers.

March 31 Yellow-throated vireo

April 1 300 broad-winged hawks in a flight that lasted about 2 hours. 2 Swainson's hawks in group.

April 2 100 broad-winged hawks. Many of these had spent the night in the woods back of the house and were still there in the early morning - scaring the blue jays to death. 1 Swainson's with them. 1 ROUGH-LEGGED hawk in flight.

April 3 Last kinglet seen. Black-and-white warbler, yellow-throated, myrtle and worm eating warblers. Crested flycatcher and chuck-wills-widow seen.

April 4 Last broad-winged hawk seen. Crested flycatcher still seen. Myrtles gone. The sparrow and red-tailed hawks are gone. Some tree swallow seen.

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#### SOMETHING NICE HAS HAPPENED DEPARTMENT:

Clinton Snyder came out first in the biology group in the District #1 Science Fair held in Galveston on March 13. He will be sent to the National Science Fair in Hartford in May as a result. His exhibit was in ornithology and botany.

Ronald Fowler came in with a second prize in biology as a result of his presentation of Fall Migration notes.

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#### NOTES ON A BIRDING TRIP TO GEORGE WEST, TEXAS --- Submitted by Jerry Strickling.

A non-descript group of birders from the Ornithology Group visited the brush country of Live Oak and McMullin counties between the towns of George West and Tilden for a two day field trip, March 28 and 29, and reported the following items of interest for the area:

Total number of persons in party: 18

Weather: Clear to partly cloudy

Temperature range: 50 to 75 degrees

Wind: S.E. 0-5 M.P.H.

Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. 3-28-59

6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 3-29-59

Total species identified (including rock dove and house sparrow)

Entire trip, Houston to George West and return: 115 species

Brush country only: 92 species

#### Notes:

**DUCKS:** seen in ponds near Frio River crossing of HW 173 south of Tilden: gadwall-50, 5 baldpate, 5 pintail, 20 shoveller, 10 lesser scaup, 5 ruddy, 10 blue-winged teal, 10 green-winged teal.

**HAWKS:** 1 Cooper's near Caron ranch at same location seen in 1958, 3 red-tailed, 4 Swainson's - not as plentiful as same date in 1958, 1 caracara, 3 sparrow, 100 estimated Harris's - with 3 occupied nests, one with 4 one week old young was photographed. An estimated 25 more nests were sighted, some with Harris's nearby but were not inspected.

**BOB-WHITE** - were seen in greater number than in 1958. Common. An estimated 50 were seen by one party with many more heard.

**SCALED QUAIL:** were abundant over entire area with no estimate of number.

Wilson's snipe (50) and yellowlegs (5) at pond with ducks. Mourning dove were abundant and a few were paired. No nests were found. Ground dove were fairly common and some were paired, and Inca doves (2) were seen in George West where one was seen in 1958. Road runners were abundant (60) and were heard calling and cooing.

**OWLS:** Four barn owls were thought to be nesting near the Caron Ranch although the nest itself was not found. The birds would not leave the area but circled continually. Seventeen horned owl - fairly common and 4 occupied nests were found with young (3) with down and partially covered with feathers - all grouped in one tree.

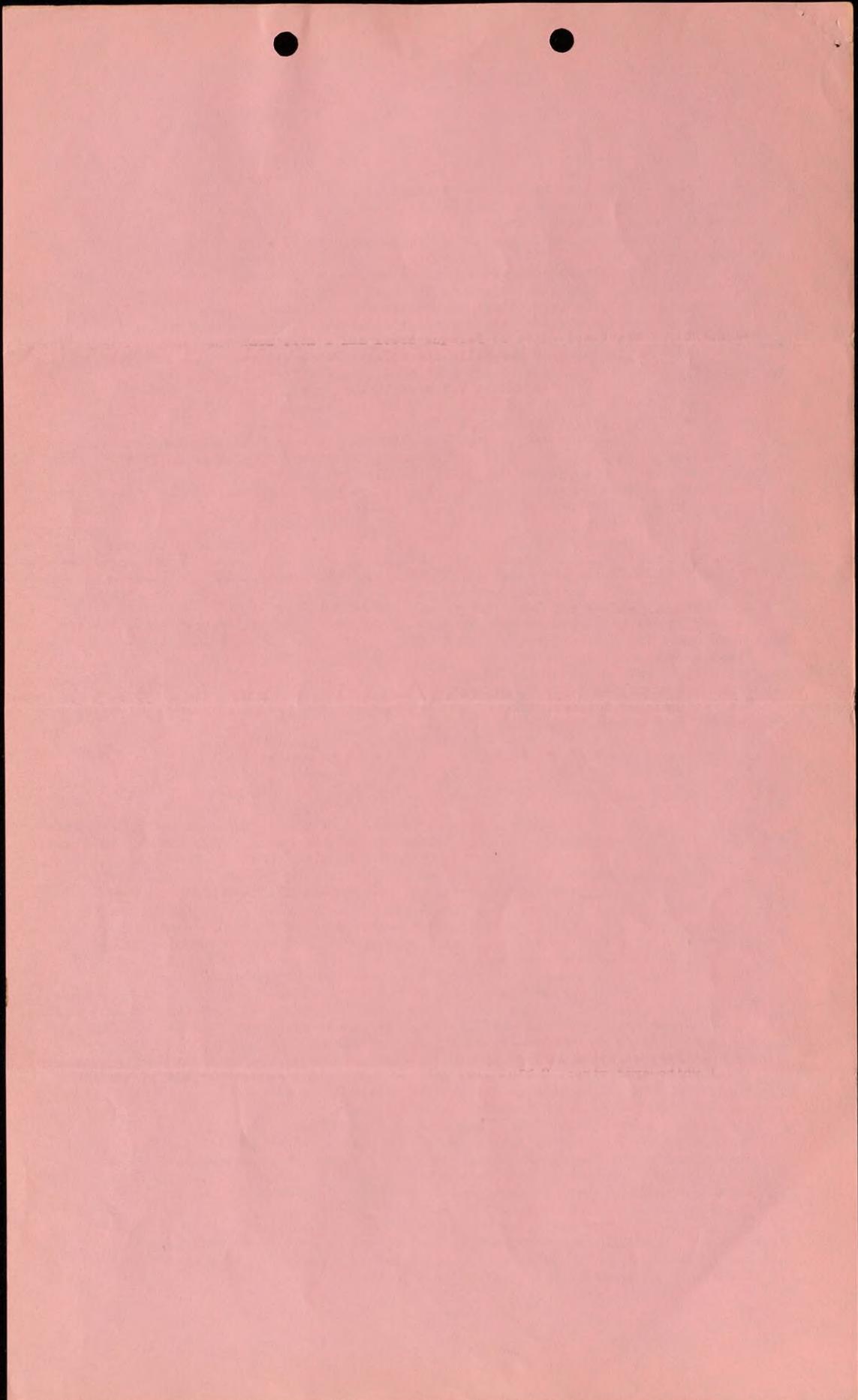
**Poor-will:** an estimated 4 were heard calling on FM 889.

**Paraque** - a pair was found nesting near the terminus of FM 889. The nest, a leafy depression near a dry creek, and the 2 eggs were photographed. The adults were seen sitting and flying at 20 feet on both days. Are there other records of paraque this far north?

**Hummingbird:** Broadtail - 1 was seen at 40 feet and heard by several persons.

**Kingbirds and flycatchers** - Scissortails were fairly common (100) whereas in 1958 only 25 were seen on this same date. Ash-throated (200) were numerous. In 1958 none were found in this area. Only 1 crested was seen whereas in 1958 they were numerous. The vermilion (8) were about the same as in 1958 as were the Say's (1) and eastern phoebe (1)

**Verdin:** Only 1 was seen by 2 persons at Tilden.



Wrens: Cactus wrens were common with no estimate, in 1958 only 25 were seen in the Caron Ranch area, they were nest building and 11 dummy nests were found in one prickly pear, apparently made by one pair of wrens. The Bewicks wren was also common and was singing and nest building. One house wren was reported and a Carolina wren was heard and seen at Tilden in the same bush with Bewicks.

Thrashers: The curve-billed (Brownsville) were common with no estimate whereas only some 25 were seen in 1958. The mocking bird was common also and 3 long-billed (Sennett's) were reported. Gnatcatcher, blue gray: common with no estimate.

Kinglet, ruby-crowned: 3 were seen at the duck ponds and 5 were reported on the Frio River at Tilden. Vireo, white-eyed: were heard at Paraque creek, 3 were seen and heard at the Caron Ranch pond and several more reported at other areas.

WARBLERS: 2 black-and-white at Paraque creek and 2 more near the ranch. Orange-crowned (8) scattered over the area, 2 Nashville one at Caron Ranch and one at duck pond. 1 yellow-throated at Tilden, 1 Audubon's at the duck pond, 1 black-throated green at the duck pond high in a willow (considerable effort was made to turn him into a hermit but with not too much success) Louisiana water thrush (1) at the Caron ranch pond and 1 at the Frio River 1 yellow throat at duck pond and myrtle (5) scattered over area.

Oricle, Audubon's - one was seen by 5 persons in a shrub at 40 feet near Paraque creek. He was flushed and pursued but could not be found again in the thick brush (but the origin of the phrase "brush country" was fully explained)

Cardinals and pyrrhuloxia were common with the pyrrhuloxia outnumbering 3 to 1. Common goldfinch (10) at various areas including Tilden, lesser (1) at Tilden. Other finches, etc. - Texas sparrow (3) at Paraque creek, spotted towhee (2) at Caron pond, green tailed towhee (2) near Caron Ranch, lark bunting (16) in one flock. Savannah sparrow common with no estimate, grasshopper (1), 1 Baird's, vesper (no estimate) lark sparrow (no estimate) desert sparrow numerous, 15 clay-colored, 5 rufous crowned, 25 white-crowned, 50 white-throated, 1 song, many unidentified sparrows were seen and the foregoing is only records of identifications and could not be considered a census.

Lacking on the trip were several species reported on this same date in 1958, notably were Carl Aiken III, ruby-throated humming bird, sage thrasher, bufflehead and turkey.

Also reported enroute but outside of the brush country was a black-chinned hummingbird near Beeville, field marks were clearly seen by 2 persons. Chimney swifts were reported near Rosenberg (200) on 3-29, at Louise (10) on 3-27 and near Hallettsville (5) on 3-29.

The consensus of Houston birders is that the Brush country is a great place to bird in the last week end in March.

Submitted by Jerry Strickling

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#### CLEARING HOUSE:

- March 1 Charles Hamilton reported seeing 3 vermilion flycatchers in one spot in Galveston.
- March 6 A scarlet tanager in moulting plumage seen by the Charles Hamiltons in their yard. On March 15, two tanagers were seen, one a female. By March 29 the male was still evident and in full spring plumage.
- March 8 JON observed a flock of slate colored juncos and one OREGON JUNCO at DeWalt.
- March 9 JON at his home: one male purple finch
- March 11 Vic Emanuel heard a white-eyed vireo singing at West Blvd.  
JON at his home: pine, myrtle, orange-crowned, parula, black-and-white, and yellow-throated warblers.
- March 12 JON observed a solitary and white-eyed vireo, also red-eyed vireo at home. Hoffmans saw first cowbirds at feeders.
- March 13 JON observed 1 black-and-white warbler, and 1 to 5 martins every day this week.  
Vic Emanuel reports black-and-white, numerous myrtle warblers and 2 blue-gray gnatcatchers at Hermann Park.
- March 14 Vic Emanuel noted at West Blvd: 18 brown thrashers, one black-and-white warbler, 1 white-eyed vireo, 2 blue-gray gnatcatchers, and 3 yellow-crowned night herons being harassed by a large flock of blue jays.  
JON at DeWalt: Barred owl nest with 2 eggs in it, 2 occupied red-shouldered hawks nests within 500 to 1,000 feet of one another! Parula warbler singing on top of blooming haw blossoms (beautiful) 4 male parulas seen, 5 slate-colored juncos, and white-eyed vireo. 5 PRAIRIE CHICKENS booming on Fondren Road.
- March 15 Observed by Norma Oates at Little Thicket: 30 cedar waxwings and 1 parula  
JON at Dad's Club: 11 INCA DOVES with one occupied nest and 1 new nest!  
Henry Hoffman at Braesmont: 12 water pipits  
Observed at the Sand Pit by Hoffmans: 50 blue gray gnatcatchers, black-and-white warbler, 4 ruby-crowned kinglets, flicker, sapsucker, 8 myrtles, 1 orange-crowned warblers, solitary vireo, no chipping sparrows, first broad-winged hawk.
- March 16 4 purple martins seen by HSH at Braesmont.

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CLEARING HOUSE:

- March 17 JON 25 to 30 blue-gray gnatcatchers
- March 18 Josiephine Wilkin saw a white-eyed vireo near home.  
Jerry Strickling reported a black-necked stilt near S. Main and Willow Bend Blv d.  
JON Barn owl noted
- March 19 Seen on Rice Campus by Vic Emanuel - 6 blue-gray gnatcatchers  
Seen in his own yard by JON: 1 green heron. 6 white-fronted geese overhead  
Observed by the Charles Hamiltons on Westheimer Road: 100 plus MOUNTAIN PLOVER,  
also a king rail just run over by a car.
- March 20 An ALBINO COWBIRD was seen at the intersection of Alief Road and Westheimer by  
Peggy Smith and Mabel Deshayes  
Josiephine Wilkin observed a downy woodpecker at her home.  
The Hoffmans still have 1 chipping sparrow, a sapsucker, some white-throats.
- March 27 Seen by Joe Heiser and Mabel Kaiser near Eagle Lake: 2 scissor-tailed flycatchers.  
Seen by Peggy Smith and Mabel Deshayes on Hayes Road: two scissor-tailed flycatch-  
ers. On Daisy Ashford road: 14 upland plover as well as black-and-white warbler,  
white-eyed vireo, and 5 thrashers.
- March 28 Vic Emanuel observed 1 male hooded warbler, 1 parula, 2 myrtle and 5 chimney  
swifts at West Blvd.
- March 29 Seen by the Charles Hamiltons: parula and black-throated green warblers, white-  
eyed vireos.  
Little Thicket observations by Joe Heiser: red-shouldered hawks calling and the  
following birds singing: (Joe says that to his old ears, the effect was that of  
a hallelujah chorus!) pine warbler, parula, sycamore, hooded, black-and-white  
(first of the season) yellow-throated (first of the season) warblers; white-eyed  
vireo, gnatcatcher, ruby-crowned kinglet (these have been in full song for more  
than three weeks) chipping and lark sparrows, pine-woods sparrow (mostly at ear-  
ly morn and dusk) Also heard: dove, bobwhite, chimney swift (first of season)  
roadrunner, several woodpeckers including pileated; also, voices of our resident  
birds in impressive numbers. Added to the chorus were voices of common tree frog,  
spring peepers, cricket, frog, and Mexican toad. Bluebird and roadrunner carry-  
ing food to young!  
Vic Emanuel and Carl Aiken observed upland plover near Westfield and 5 scissor-  
tails between Houston and Willis. Eastern kingbird near Conroe.  
53 species tallied up by Ben Feltner at Horse Shoe Bend including an american bit-  
tern in a pine woods on the ground! yellow-shafted flicker, 23 goldfinches in  
spring plumage, 11 broad shouldered hawks, nesting sparrow hawk, 2 kingfishers,  
2 phoebes, field sparrow, 2 brown thrashers, hermit thrush, white-eyed vireo,  
pine warbler singing, 6 black-and-white warblers, 1 hooded, 7 myrtle, 3 orange-  
crowned, 2 parula, 9 yellow throats, 1 worm-eating warbler, 1 northern water-  
thrush, 2 pileated woodpeckers, 1 red-headed woodpecker, 1 house wren, greater  
and lesser yellowlegs.
- March 30 JON's observations at hole: 1 chipping, 1 house wren, 15 chimney swifts, 7 mar-  
tins, 1 parula, 1 yellow-billed cuckoo, red-eyed vireo, white-eyed and yellow-  
throated vireos, 1 AUDUBON'S WARBLER.  
Josiephine Wilkin observed two flights of cedar waxwings of about 20 to 25 birds.
- April 1 Following the strong winds of the previous night, Vic Emanuel observed the follow-  
ing at West Blvd: 1 hooded, 1 parula, 1 yellow-throated, 6 myrtle warblers; 1  
white-eyed vireo, 6 blue-gray gnatcatchers  
Darris Massingill says this is positively not an April Fool joke: She and her  
husband saw a ROADRUNNER at 1532 Munger!  
Seen by the Roy B. Silers in Galveston on S. Road near Stewart home: 6 to 8  
yellow-throated warblers, 12 black-and-white warblers, 1 Kentucky warbler, 1 stilt,  
gallinules, several upland plover, plus the usual birds.
- April 3 A mourning doves nest with eggs seen by JON. Also 4 red-eyed vireos.
- April 4 Seen by the Hoffmans on the Museum of Natural History field trip with Dr. Edwards:  
the usual plus chuck-will's widow, mallard duck, crested flycatcher, over a 100  
broad-winged hawks, sharp-shinned hawk, ruby-crowned kinglet, golden and upland  
plover (very numerous) least and western sandpipers, HARRIS, white-crowned and  
white-throated sparrows, blue-winged teal.  
JON reports: hooded warbler, 1 black-throated green warbler, 12 cedar waxwings,  
2 black-and-white, lots of myrtles singing, parula warbler, 3 solitary vireos,  
4 white-eyed vireos, 1 indigo bunting (first) 2 brown-headed nuthatches, 2 hum-  
mers, 2 yellow-crowned night herons, 4 pine warblers, 25 white-throated sparrows,  
1 Lincoln, 3 chipping sparrows, 1 crested flycatcher, 1 hairy woodpecker.
- April 5 Observed by JON and the Stricklings off Buffalo Bayou at end of Kuhlman Road:



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## CLEARING HOUSE: Continued

- April 5 1 Nashville, 1 hooded and 5 parula warblers, 1 solitary vireo, 12 waxwings. 2 eastern kingbirds observed by the Stricklings on Look Road. Seen by the Hoffmans in their yard: first red-headed woodpecker of season on suet, Kentucky and AUDUBON'S WARBLER. Leota Stillwell, Darris Massingill, and Josiephine Wilkin had a lulu of a day in Galveston with these plus the usual species: American bittern, bobwhite, chuck-wills widow, cormorant, long-billed curlew, INCA DOVE, dowitcher, the following ducks: mottled, widgeon, pintailed, ruddy, shoveler, lesser scaup; reddish egret, scissor-tailed flycatcher, blue-gray gnatcatcher, pied-billed grebe with 5 young (hardly recognizable) Louisiana heron, white and white-faced ibis, king fisher, brown and white pelican, water pipit, black-bellied, semi-palmated and upland plover, Baird's sandpiper as well as pectoral, semi-palmated and solitary sandpipers, simmer, roseate spoonbills, stilt, rough-winged and tree swallows, ruddy turnstone, Tennessee warbler, willet.
- April 7 Observed by the Roy B. Silers near Stewart House on S. Road in Galveston: 6 golden winged warblers, 6 blue-winged warblers, Kentucky and yellow warblers, 6 redstarts, 1 wood thrush, 1 orchard oriole, American bittern, shoveler and pintail ducks, stilts, blue-winged teal, Florida gallinule, upland and golden plover, 1 eastern kingbird, 12 American pipits.

## IT ISN'T TOO EARLY TO START PLANNING FOR YOUR VACATION:

There isn't space in this edition of the SPOONBILL to give you all the material we have collected to help you in planning your vacation, but we do want to pass on at least this much: Information, including bird checklists if requested, about the wild-life refuges can be obtained by writing the Fish and Wildlife Regional Offices as follows:

- Region 1 California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington:  
600 Weatherly Bldg., Portland 14, Oregon.
- Region 2 Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Wyoming:  
Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Region 3 Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North and South Dakota, Wisconsin:  
928 Plymouth Bldg., Minneapolis 2, Minnesota.
- Region 4 Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi North and South Carolina, Tennessee:  
316 Glenn Bldg., Atlanta 3, Georgia
- Region 5 Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York Vermont, Virginia:  
1105 Blake Bldg., Boston, Massachusetts.

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We all hope to give you a good year of birding and that much discussed "togetherness"



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