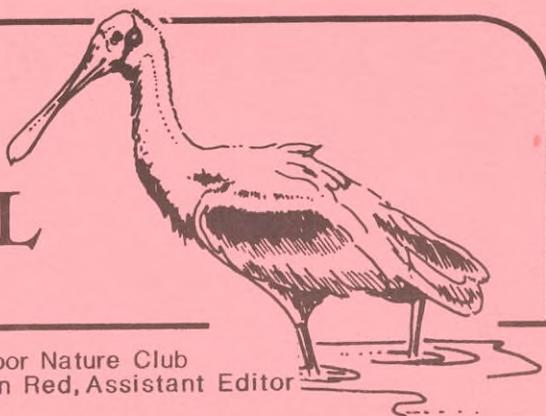


The SPOONBILL



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Coming Events

Saturday, Apr. 25: HAS Birdathon and also Ted Eubanks' "Bandathon" at Audubon Sanctuary in High Island: a chance to see migrants in the hand, and to photograph them.

Sat.-Sun., Apr. 25-26: Texas Wildflower Weekend at Houston Arboretum. Tours for children and adults, hands-on exhibits, lectures and discussions by wildflower experts. Hours are 10-4 on Saturday, 1-4 on Sunday.

Sunday, May 3: Deadline for Spoonbill and Clearing House material.

Thursday, May 7: Ornithology Group meeting at Bayou Manor, 4141 S. Braeswood at 7:30 PM. A representative of the Houston Zoo will present a program on the zoo's Captive Breeding Program. The members will vote on raising dues.

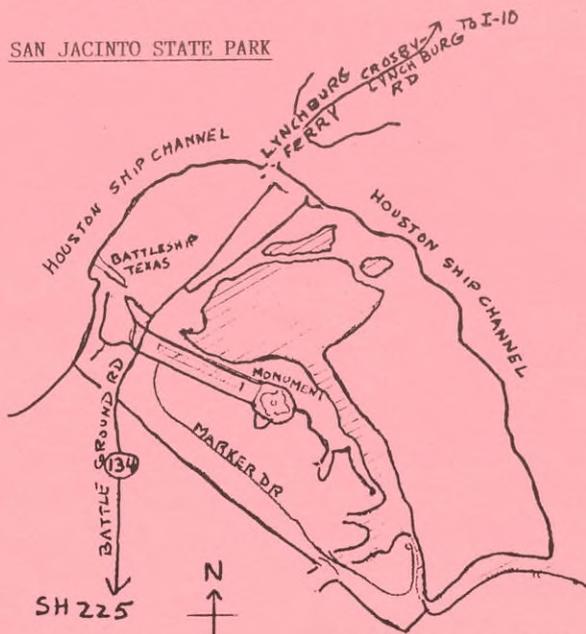
Tuesday, May 12: Outdoor Nature Club Potluck Dinner will be at the Garden Center in Hermann Park. See Nature Notes for details.

Sunday, May 17: Ornithology Group field trip to Austin's Wild Basin Preserve to view nesting Black-capped Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers. At the present Wild Basin management has restricted entry into this area to parties led by authorized guides. Greg Lasley, an OG member who lives in Austin, and an authorized guide, has agreed to lead this trip. He will meet interested persons at 8:30 AM at the Wild Basin parking lot. To reach this, drive north on Loop 360 (Capital of Texas Hwy) until you see RR2244 (Bee Caves Road). Drive past RR2244 for 3/4 of a mile to the entrance on the right (east) side of 360. If you plan to go please call Sterling Essmacher at 463-0931.

SAN JACINTO: GREAT BATTLE, GREAT BIRDS by Derek Muschalek

Located on the eastern edge of Metropolitan Houston, San Jacinto State Park is a great area for seeing coastal species. Although not very aesthetic, this small park packs power when it comes to seeing quality species. This park is located only 22 miles east of downtown Houston along the western edge of the Houston Ship Channel. At present the Lynchburg Ferry is shut down, so that there is no access to the park from I-10. Take SH225 off 610 South Loop East and turn left on 134, Battleground Road. Birding in the park is good throughout the year, with each season bringing surprises. If you do not want to drive all the way to the coast, a trip to this park is a must.

SAN JACINTO STATE PARK



(continued on next page)

Noel's Niche Looking Back

by Noel Pettingell

.....TEN YEARS AGO THIS MONTH
FROM APRIL, 1977 SPOONBILL

"SPECIAL REPORTS TO THE CLEARING HOUSE

Possible nesting of a Hooded Merganser in Ft. Bend County On March 4, 1977 several members of the OG team doing a bird survey for the TP&W Dept. on the Hale Ranch Park Site in Ft. Bend County observed a female Hooded Merganser as it flew into a hole about 20 feet up on the side of a dead pecan tree. An examination of the hole on the next day revealed one egg in the nest. Weather conditions prevented further examination or observation at the site until April 8, at which time the nest was found to contain 5 or 6 eggs. The merganser was not seen on the April date, and the park manager had not seen any mergansers for some time. Further observation and examination will be made. Observers in the original party were Mary Ann Chapman, T. Ben Feltner and C. Dean Fisher. There are no prior nesting reports by [sic] Hooded Mergansers in Texas.--C-H Editor"

.....THIRTY YEARS AGO THIS MONTH
FROM APRIL, 1957 SPOONBILL

"Gannet found in Galveston

On March 23rd, 1957, Mr. & Mrs. S. G. Kershner, Susan and Tommy Kershner, Ralph Peterson and John O'Neill made a birding trip to Galveston. All were interested in birds but Tommy Kershner was also working on his bird study merit badge.

"Along West beach they came upon what was thought to be a dead pelican washed up on the shore. After pulling it out of the sand, field guides were studied and it was discovered that the bird was an immature gannet.

"John who is an expert at mounting birds, took the gannet home and at the meeting of the Houston Ornithology Group on April 11, he displayed a mounted Laughing gull, a Screech owl and the immature gannet, all beautifully mounted and in perfect condition.

"The gannet is listed on our checklist as an accidental visitant. The only other recent record of this species in Galveston was an immature captured alive by George Williams and Lawrence Tabony on September 20, 1952. Identification was verified by Prof. George Williams of Rice Institute."

Almost all the birds at San Jacinto Park are found at the south end on the large sand bars. This area is open to vehicles in summer and has a picnic area with a rest-room. A visit to this area in summer and fall will always produce from 4 to 80 Wood Storks! These magnificent birds arrive here in early June and leave by October. They always associate with the Roseate Spoonbills to produce unparalleled beauty. This is the only spot near Houston besides Brazoria NWR where you are almost certain to find them. However, at San Jacinto they are quite tame and can be viewed from as close as 20 yards. In the evenings, watch them as they fly into the tall trees for their nightly roost.

Summer also brings many other coastal species that loaf in the sandy areas. Regular birds at this time include American White Pelican, Reddish Egret, Mottled Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Clapper Rail and Laughing Gull. Terns are abundant, including Caspian, Royal, Forster's, Least and Black. Black Skimmers fly about making their unusual "barking" calls. Great Blue Heron, Great and Snowy Egrets and Tricolored Heron can be seen throughout the extensive marshy area. Even the rare Osprey occurs during the hot humid summer.

As summer fades into fall the park begins attracting new residents. Late November brings the largest raft of Hooded Mergansers on the entire UTC littoral region. Indeed this is the only area on the UTC that I have enjoyed these handsome ducks. They are easiest to find on cold, damp, blustery days at the north end by an old submerged chain-link fence. During these cold spells I have counted up to 83, but on warm days I always find fewer than 15. If you see the wintering group of 200 Black-crowned Night-Herons, you are in the correct area of the park. Other ducks that are found in winter include Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall and a tremendous raft of 2000 Lesser Scaup.

Shorebirds are very common on the sand flats in migration and winter. You can always find Black-bellied and Semipalmated Plovers. In winter you should see American Avocet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Western and Least Sandpipers and Dunlin. Mixed flocks of dowitchers also winter in large concentrations. Common Snipe are occasionally seen feeding in the marshy area. Listen for calling Northern Flickers and singing Pine Warblers during this time.

During fall migration in August and September be on the lookout for migrating White Ibis. Herons and egrets begin showing up in tremendous numbers. Black-necked Stilts, Solitary and Stilt Sandpipers put in brief appearances. Check the hedge-rows for Blue-winged Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Orchard and Baltimore Orioles.

The park also has a permanent avian population that can appeal to numerous birders. Oliveaceous Cormorants can always be found preening on the old pilings. Ospreys have been recorded every month perching in the dead tree snags. Belted Kingfishers call constantly as they dive for fish. Red-shouldered Hawks, Blue Jay, Common Yellowthroat and Seaside Sparrows reside year round. Indeed I have recorded a total of 135 species since I started birding this park in 1985.

JOE HEISER

by Paul Nimmons

When Joe Heiser died last month, all of us became poorer. Because of his life, all of our lives are richer. He was a founder of the Outdoor Nature Club. He and a few others founded the club in 1923 by posting a notice of meeting at the Houston Public Library. He was also a founder of the Houston Zoological Society and the Nature Conservancy, and the driving force behind the acquisition of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.

The idea of a sanctuary spawned early in the history of the ONC. Money was the greatest problem, but there were also the questions of location, the type of habitat, the size of the land and its management to be answered. After many attempts by members to find land along the lower San Jacinto River, Joe searched the upper reaches and tributaries. Because he had no wife or children he was able to use all of his weekends, and he searched every weekend for five years. In 1950 he found a tract in San Jacinto County that was selling substantially below market price. The land was not prime natural habitat; it was overgrazed, hilly pasture. But the size of the tract (455.28 acres), its several creeks and the purchase price of \$19.12 per acre convinced Joe Heiser that this was the tract to buy. He purchased it for \$8,708.00 cash and sold it to the ONC for \$208.00 down plus a note for \$8,500.00 bearing interest at 3% per annum, payable in installments of \$50.00 per month for twenty years.

After the initial purchase Joe continued to search for adjacent land and tried to find benefactors to help pay for the property. In 1958 he contacted the Cullinan family, and through their generosity was able to add 137 acres to the sanctuary. Likewise, in 1961, he negotiated the purchase of 40 additional acres and obtained the funding through a gift from the Homeland Foundation in New York.

Later he came to believe that land protection could be accelerated by adding a network of landowners to the organized efforts of the Nature Conservancy. I know he was considering making an endowment to the Nature Conservancy to encourage landowners to practise ecological protection on portions of their land.

Joe Heiser was a birder as well as a protectionist. He had photographs of hundreds of Brown Pelicans around Galveston. He remembered the rediscovery of Roseate Spoonbills on Vingt-et-Un Islands. From Joe I learned that the early ONC members made annual spring treks to High Island. Because of the distance they stayed overnight with Mrs. Hooks, a member of one of the families benefiting from the oil discoveries at High Island.

Joe Heiser was interested in the early Christmas Counts. He knew George Findlay Simmons, the man who was the sole participant in the first two Houston counts in 1913 and 1914. Joe remembered him as a very intelligent, knowledgeable person. Joe himself was a participant in the Christmas Counts as early as 1924. In those days the group would take the Interurban to an area east of town, bird for the day and come back late in the afternoon.

His proudest avian accomplishment was his single-minded, successful campaign to have the Mockingbird named as the state bird of Texas. This and his other efforts have added something to our lives.

MINUTES OF OG MEETING APRIL 2, 1987

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by Chairman Rob Thacker. Treasurer Peter Vennema gave the following financial report:

PROJECTED REVENUES:	
Membership Dues, 370 x \$6 =	\$2,220
Spoonbill Subscriptions, 35 x \$9 =	315
Checklist and Map Sales	125
Aluminum Sales	75
Interest on Money Mkt Fund	225
	<hr/>
	\$2,960
PROJECTED EXPENSES:	
Spoonbill Printing, 11 x 250 =	\$2,750
Bulk Mailing, 11 x \$35 =	385
Bayou Manor Donation	150
Speaker Fees and Expenses	75
New Books	75
Birdathon Team	25
Roster (with ONC)	200
Texas Breeding Bird Atlas	250
	<hr/>
	\$3,910
	(950)

DEFICIT

Peter asked members to consider raising dues. **A vote on raising dues will occur at the May meeting.**

Libby Price urged members to submit articles to The Spoonbill. Ed Rozenburg reported \$3.65 worth of aluminum collected. (We need to improve this revenue by bringing more aluminum to monthly meetings..Ed.)

Barbara House asked for donations to World Wildlife Fund for the Monteverde Forest in Costa Rica. Ted Eubanks, Jr. announced a meeting of the monitors of the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas, and reminded members of the Birdathon at the Audubon Sanctuary in High Island to benefit the Atlas.

Noel Pettingell spoke of contributions made by Joe M. Heiser, recently deceased former ONC president. After discussion, members voted that Rob Thacker should make the suggestion to the ONC board that the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary be renamed for Mr. Heiser. Ted Eubanks moved, and members voted to make a donation in memory of not only Joe Heiser, but also Sarah Gordon, another recently deceased OG member and past ONC president. The donation of \$100 will be used for the Sanctuary.

Caroline Callery passed out information about members' efforts to oppose the passage of Texas House Bill 1117, which would permit the trade or sale of Jones State Forest. She urged members to write members of the State Affairs Committee, whose names she will gladly furnish to anyone calling her at 523-6800.

Carol Sloan presented Werner Stebner, a professional photographer who gave a beautiful slide program of birds seen on the Texas coast. The meeting then adjourned.

MASKED BOBWHITE RELEASE PROGRAM AT THE BUENOS AIRES NWR

by Mary Ann Chapman

After a limited effort in 1985, the first full-scale Masked Bobwhite release program was conducted at Arizona's Buenos Aires NWR in 1986. The program began on March 25 with receipt of the first shipment of adult male Northern Bobwhite from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and ended when the last coveys were released in December.

During the winter and spring reintroduction facilities were almost doubled by construction of 14 new holding pens and 20 new runs, enlargement of the screened holding enclosure to accommodate the new pens and purchase of two additional brooders. We now have a holding capacity of 280 Northern Bobwhite adult foster parents and 360 Masked Bobwhite chicks. We receive shipments of 300 chicks each, which we divide into broods of 15.

During March and April four shipments of adult Northern Bobwhite arrived. In May and June refuge personnel were busy surgically sterilizing 246 adults, with a very low mortality of only 4 birds. Sterilization prevents them from interbreeding with Masked Bobwhite in future years. Males are used because they are easier to sterilize than females and are equally good parents. Eight shipments of chicks from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife captive breeding facility at Patuxent, Maryland, began on July 16 and continued every two weeks until October 29. A total of 2,079 chicks were received, most of which were three weeks old.

Chick mortality prior to release is primarily due to stress caused by shipping. The loss in 1987 was 18%, up from 11% in 1985 mainly because of problems with airline schedules. Refuge staff tried to minimize the loss by meeting flights upon arrival, rushing the chicks to the refuge and immediately feeding sugar water to each of the 300. Though tedious, this remedy seemed to aid survival.

Chicks were then placed into heated brooders in which male adults had already been acclimated. After about a day to recover from shipping stress, the heat was turned down, forcing the chicks to seek warmth around the male. About 24 hours was allowed to determine whether the adult was adopting the brood. If not, another male was tried. When adoption was successful, the birds were left in the brooder for about a week and then placed in a run for another week to become accustomed to outdoor conditions and learn feeding behaviors. Then about five weeks old, the chicks were released with their foster parent.

When adoption did not occur on the second attempt the chicks were left in the brooder with the second male and gradually weaned off the heat over about a two-week period. Then they were placed in runs for about a month before being released at an age of 8-10 weeks. Often during that period a covey bond developed: the male seemed to develop some affinity for the chicks and became protective of them even though he had not adopted them in the brooder.

In 1986 56% of the adult males introduced to broods adopted them. Most broods were adopted by either the first or second male, resulting in 109

broods released while still chicks. An additional 19 groups were released as immatures in coveys, for a total of 126 releases and 1,699 chicks released. All releases were south of Arivaca Road which bisects the refuge about twelve miles north of the Mexican border, in a no-quail-hunting closure area.

Scaled Quail males and females were used as foster parents on a limited experimental basis. Of nine adoption attempts, six resulted in releases. Two of the broods were subsequently seen on several occasions, and one was known to have failed. In December three Masked Bobwhite originally released in two different Scaled Quail broods were trapped in a covey consisting of Masked Bobwhite only. If all foster parents could be Scaled Quail we could eliminate the cost of obtaining Northern Bobwhite and the effort of sterilizing them, since they would not interbreed with the Masked Bobwhite. In 1987 the biological and behavioral aspects and implications of using Scaled Quail will be studied further.

In February of 1986 some Masked Bobwhite trapped from the wild in Mexico were added to the Patuxent breeding stock to maintain genetic viability. About 160 of our chicks in late 1986 shipments were descendants of the new adults.

The 1987 release program will include two changes. No. 1: So far the program has been timed to coincide with the natural nesting period of the masked Bobwhite, which comes after the summer rains. However, Northern Bobwhite nest in Texas in the spring. Therefore in an attempt to increase the rate of adoptions we will move our release program about a month earlier, beginning in late June or early July and continuing through September. No. 2: This year we will begin releasing birds north of Arivaca Road, with supplemental releases south of the road. The Masked Bobwhite goal established in the refuge draft master plan is an average self-sustaining population of 750 birds, and peak numbers of 1,250. This exceeds the single population goal set forth by the overall Masked Bobwhite recovery plan.

This data was taken from a report prepared by Steve J. Dobrott, refuge biologist and chief mother hen of the Masked Bobwhite.

NON-BOBWHITE NOTES: In addition to four species of quail (Gambel's, Scaled, Montezuma and Masked Bobwhite), the refuge features a delicious assortment of other Arizona specialties including most of Patagonia's claims to fame: Thick-billed Kingbird, Rose-throated Becard, Northern Beardless Tyrannulet and Gray Hawk, the last three nesting. The birding highlights so far at my house, one of the refuge hot spots, were the Five-striped Sparrow found by Ben Feltner at my windmill in August, and the Painted Bunting which I found in my bird bath in October. Birders came from Phoenix to add it to their state lists.

My sincere apologies to the few people who were planning to visit last year, when my plans and good intentions were totally discombobulated by the five-day 11,000-acre wildfire which disrupted our lives in May. If you let me know of a planned

visit this year, I will do my best to accomodate you better. Call me at 602-823-4295 and speak quickly - something about my rural phone line makes the answering machine cut off after about 10 seconds. For a refuge bird list send me a self-addressed stamped envelope at PO Box 323, Sasabe AZ 85633. The Buenos Aires Refuge is south of Tucson on Hwy 286, about 1½-hour drive from Tucson. Camping is allowed. If you are coming to Arizona this nesting season don't miss it! Wayne Shifflett sends his best to all and joins in my invitation.

SARAH GORDON

A very wonderful lady and dedicated conservationist died this month after a long illness. An enthusiastic birder, Sarah Gordon was chairman of the Ornithology Group in the early seventies. She also served as president of the ONC in 1976-77, the first woman to be elected to that office.

Sarah had a delightful sense of humor. Some years ago she was in charge of the program at the May potluck supper. She announced it would be a slide show of bird pictures she had gathered from many sources. After the first few slides we realized that all the pictures were photographic goofs, such as a bird flying with only its tail showing at the side of the picture. Anyone who was there will remember that hilarious program. After that whenever a photographer missed a shot, he would say, "Well, I'll give that one to Sarah."

Sarah was interested in all the activities of the ONC, and she particularly loved the Nature Sanctuary. One of her last outings was to plant some trees there in a memorial grove. She will be remembered for her happy, friendly personality, and she will be greatly missed.



Wood Ducks east of the Great Plains winter on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts. Northern ducks mingle with our residents. In spring at least half of the females return to nest within five miles of where they were hatched, but males have no homing instinct and disperse within their range. In this way both local populations and gene diversity are maintained.

Clearing House - MARCH, 1987

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH: Location--(how many) date, observers. Common, widely distributed species on the UTC during the reported month are listed as follows: number of reports, (lowest # - highest #; total # of individuals seen), e.g. 8 reports (1-20;82). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. Birds with very rare, vagrant, accidental, or no status on the Checklist at the date of sighting require details. Sightings needing details but submitted without them will not be included in the regular Clearing House. All observations affecting the species' status on the current UTC Checklist must be accepted by the Checklist Committee. Documentation is a must for consideration by the Committee.

ABBREVIATION CODES

AB = Armand Bayou NC	JC = Jefferson Co.
ANWR = Anahuac NWR	King = Kingwood
Bayt = Baytown	MA = Mercer Arboretum
BBCR = Bob's Bait Camp Rd.	MO.C = Missouri City
BBSP = Brazos Bend SP	MP = Memorial Park
BC = Brazoria Co.	NHC = N. Harris Co.
BF = Bolivar Flats	NWH = NW Houston
BHV = Bunker Hill Village	PA = Port Arthur
Bolv = Bolivar Peninsular	RP = Rollover Pass
CC = Chambers Co.	SBNWR = San Bernard NWR
CL = Clear Lake City	SJSP = San Jacinto SP
EG = E. Galveston	SLP = San Luis Pass
FBC = Ft. Bend Co.	SmP = Smith Point
Frdwd = Friendswood	SWH = SW Houston
Galv = Galveston	TCD = Texas City Dike
GC = Galveston Co.	WGI = W. Galveston Is.
GISP = Galveston Is. SP	WH = W. Houston
H = Houston	WHC = W. Harris Co.
HC = Harris Co.	WOB = White Oak Bayou
HI = High Island	

211 Species reported this month

Loon,Pacific: Galv-(1)22,AB (Notes, ed.)
 Loon,Common: 7 reports (1-15;54)
 Grebe,Pied-billed: 15 reports (1-30;143)
 Grebe,Horned: Galv-(3)22,AB (Notes, ed.)
 GREBE,RED-NECKED: Smp-(1)7,SBW (Notes, ed.)
 Grebe,Eared: 6 reports (1-44;658)
 Gannet,Northern: WGI-(15)12,DM; BC-(3)28,ME (Notes, ed.)
 Pelican,American White: 11 reports (24-300;1149)
 Pelican,Brown: RP-(1)7,SBW (Notes submitted, ed.);
 GISP-(1)7,MBM; BF-(1 ad)31,DM
 Cormorant,Double-crested: 10 reports (2-200;299)
 Cormorant,Olivaceous: 6 reports (1-15;38)
 Cormorant,sp.: 3 reports (1-60;64)
 Anhinga: 5 reports (1-30;37)
 AB-(1)6,DM; BC-(2)8,PM; ANWR-(1)9,MH;
 BBSP-(30)15,DLR;(3)20,WBG
 Bittern,American: ANWR-(1)24,MBM;(2)28,ARF
 Bittern,Least: ANWR-(1)29,JB
 Heron,Great Blue: 14 reports (1-17;82)
 Egret,Great: 13 reports (1-29;89)
 Egret,Snowy: 12 reports (1-100;252)
 Heron,Little Blue: 10 reports (1-51;99)
 Heron,Tricolored: 10 reports (1-7;33)
 Egret,Reddish: 10 reports (1-30;53)
 Egret,Cattle: 16 reports (2-250;625)
 Heron,Green-backed: 5 reports (1-3;8)
 BBCR-(1)7,SBW; BBSP-(2)15,DLR; HI-(1)28,MA;(3)31,DM;
 (1)31,JM
 Night-Heron,Black-crowned: 6 reports (1-10;22)
 Night-Heron,Yellow-crowned: 10 reports (1-5;25)
 Ibis,White: 10 reports (1-300;526)
 Ibis,White-faced: 10 reports (1-1000;1583)
 Spoonbill,Roseate: 11 reports (2-30;119)
 Whistling-Duck,Fulvous: 5 reports (2-50;114)
 CC-(2)22,AB (Notes submitted, ed.); ANWR-(4)27,BJH;
 (50)28,ARF;(38)29,JB; SBNWR-(20)28,ME
 Goose,Greater White-fronted: ANWR-(12)7,SBW; CC-(8)22,AB
 Goose,Snow: 5 reports (3-300;389)
 ANWR-(300)7,SBW;(55)9,MH;(3)29,JB; CC-(25)15,JB;
 (6)22,AB
 Duck,Wood: King-(2)1,SG; Hunters Creek-(1)9,BJH;
 BBSP-(10)15,DLR
 Teal,Green-winged: 7 reports (2-100;264)
 Duck,Mottled: 7 reports (2-25;82)
 Pintail,Northern: ANWR-(4)9,MH
 Teal,Blue-winged: 15 reports (10-800;1620)
 Teal,Cinnamon: WGI-(1)28,ME; SBNWR-(24)28,ME
 Shoveler,Northern: 13 reports (2-300;654)
 Gadwall: 9 reports (2-60;146)
 Wigeon,American: 4 reports (2-75;97)
 Canvasback: JC-(23)9,MH; CC-(125)10,DM;(30)22,AB
 Duck,Ring-necked: ANWR-(2)9,MH; TCD-(1)12,DM;
 WGI-(3)12,DM; HI-(2)31,DM
 Scaup,Greater: TCD-(5)15,JB
 Scaup,Lesser: 7 reports (2-2500;3307)
 scaup,sp.: CC-(1)22,AB

juffthead: SmP-(3)7,SBW; JC-(4)9,MH; TCD-(10)12,DM
 merganser,Red-breasted: 7 reports (2-12;31)
 Muck,Ruddy: 5 reports (1-350;498)
 Multure,Black: CC-(12)22,AB;(5)29,JB; AB-(1)28,RU
 Multure,Turkey: 12 reports (1-40;110)
 Msprey: AB-(1)6,DM;(3)28,RU; Frndwd-(1)20,MA;
 Seabrook-(1)22,AB
 Mite,Black-shouldered: 12 reports (1-2;13)
 Mrier,Northern: 13 reports (1-25;48)
 Mawk,Sharp-shinned: NWH-(1)1,VL; HI-(1)28,MA
 Mawk,Cooper's: CC-(1)9,MH; WHC-(1)14,MA; H-(1)26,DMA
 Mawk,Red-shouldered: 6 reports (1-2;7)
 Mawk,Broad-winged: 5 reports (1-9;13)
 King-(9)22,SG; Belleaire-(1)25,DMA; WOB-(1)26,WC;
 MA-(1)28,CG; BC-(1)28,ME
 Mawk,Red-tailed: 7 reports 8th thru 29th (1-21;27)
 (Hawk,Krider's): Bayt-(1)7,SBW; CC-(1)22,AB;(1)28,MA
 Maraca,Crested: SBNWR-(1)28,ME
 Mestrel,American: 19 reports (1-40;108)
 Merlin: CC-(1)9,MH (Notes, ed.); HI-(1 f)24,DM;
 ANWR-(1)27,BH
 Malcon,Peregrine: CC-(1)9,MH;(1)15,JB (Notes, ed.)
 Mwhite,Northern: HI-(2)31,DM
 Mraill,Clapper: CC-(15)7,SBW; EG-(6)7,SBW; WGI-(10)22,AB;
 (1)26,JJH
 Mraill,King: 6 reports (1-2;8)
 Mraill,Sora: ANWR-(1)9,MH; GISP-(3)28,ME
 Moorhen,Common: 8 reports (1-200;441)
 Moot,American: 12 reports (2-600;2927)
 Mlover,Black-bellied: 11 reports (1-650;712)
 Golden-Plover,Lesser: 10 reports (2-50;239)
 CC-(27)7,SBW;(30)31,JM; WGI-(20)12,MBM;(26)12,DM;
 (50)22,AB; WHC-(1)14,MA; Bolv-(2)28,MA;
 BF-(40)28,ARF; ANWR-(2)29,JB; HI-(25)31,DM
 Mlover,Snowy: HI-(2)10,DM; BF-(5)15,JB; Bolv-(2)28,AB;
 SLP-(2)28,ME
 Mlover,Snowy: 6 Bolv-(7)22,AB; SLP-(1)28,ME
 Mlover,Semipalmated: 6 reports (1-62;82)
 Inc. SLP-(6)28,ME
 Mlover,Piping: 7 reports (1-40;85)
 Killdeer: 12 reports (1-80;206)
 Myster,catcher,American: WGI-(1)26,JJH; BF-(5)28,ARF
 Mstilt,Black-necked: 6 reports (2-5;20)
 ANWR-(2)7,SBW;(2)28,ARF;(5)29,JB; WGI-(4)26,JJH;
 Bolv-(2)28,MA;(5)31,DM
 Mvocat,American: 6 reports (400-2000;7150)
 Myellowlegs,Greater: 11 reports (1-76;97)
 Myellowlegs,Lesser: 12 reports (1-642;721)
 Inc. SBNWR-(6)42,28,ME
 Myellowlegs,sp.: TCD-(1)28,RU
 Msandpiper,Solitary: 7 reports (1-10;19)
 HI-(2)24,31,DM; ANWR-(1)27,BJH;(1)29,JB;
 Galv-(2)28,ME; SBNWR-(1)28,ME; GC-(10)29,JB
 Mwillet: 11 reports (1-151;237)
 Msandpiper,Spotted: 7 reports (1-2;8)
 Msandpiper,Upland: CC-(1)24,MBM;(2)27,BJH;
 GC/BC-(38)28,ME; Bolv-(4)31,DM
 Mcurlew,Long-billed: 8 reports (1-50;96)
 Mgodwit,Marbled: 8 reports (1-90;250)
 Mturnstone,Ruddy: SmP-(3)7,SBW; RP-(2)7,SBW;
 Bolv-(6)22,AB; GC/BC-(6)28,ME
 Mknot,Red: Bolv-(30)22,AB; BF-(1)28,ARF
 Msanderling: 6 reports (1-100;126)
 Msandpiper,Semipalmated: PA-(15)7,SBW; SmP-(6)7,SBW
 Msandpiper,Western: 8 reports (1-550;1620)
 Msandpiper,Least: 7 reports (1-50;93)
 Msandpiper,Pectoral: 5 reports (1-300;305)
 WGI-(2)12,DM; CC-(1)22,AB; SBNWR-(300)28,ME;
 ANWR-(1)28,ARF; HI-(1)31,DM
 Mdunlin: 6 reports (10-615;1011)
 Msandpiper,Stilt: SBNWR-(4)28,ME
 Msandpiper,Buff-breasted: WGI-(1)22,AB (Notes submitted)
 Mdowitcher,Short-billed: 6 reports (1-60;129)
 BBCC-(20)7,SBW; BF-(1)15,JB;(60)31,DM;
 WGI-(15)26,JJH; TCD-(3)28,RU; GC/BC-(30)28,ME
 Mdowitcher,Long-billed: BBCC-(150)7,SBW; ANWR-(200)7,SBW;
 CC-(100)22,AB; GC/BC-(400)28,ME
 Mdowitcher,sp.: 6 reports (3-400;912)
 Msnipr,Common: 8 reports (1-25;48)
 Mjaeger,Pomarine: Bolv-(1)1 ph; imm)22,AB (Notes, ed.)
 Mgull,Laughing: 10 reports (1-700;1558)
 Inc. NWH-(1)1-31,VL (Very unusual location, ed.)
 Mgull,Bonaparte's: 9 reports (1-100;229)
 Mgull,Ring-billed: 11 reports (2-1000;1719)
 Mgull,Herring: 7 reports (3-60;157)
 Mtern,Gull-billed: 5 reports (1-4;9)
 Bolv-(1)22,AB;(1)28,MA;(2)31,DM; CC-(1)22,AB;
 BF-(4)27,BJH
 Mtern,Caspian: 11 reports (1-8;33)
 Mtern,Royal: 8 reports (5-300;785)
 Mtern,Sandwich: 5 reports (1-150;177)
 JC-(1)9,MH; Bolv-(10)22,AB; GC/BC-(150)28,ME;
 BF-(10)28,MA;(6)31,DM
 Mtern,Common: 7 reports (1-25;61)
 Bolv-(6)7,SBW;(1)imm)22,AB; RP-(15)7,SBW;
 SmP-(3)7,SBW; EG-(25)7,SBW; GC-(1)9,MH;
 GC/BC-(10)28,ME
 Mtern,Forster's: 11 reports (1-200;402)
 Mtern,Least: Bolv-(7)22,AB; GC/BC-(200)28,ME;
 BF-(8)28,ARF
 Mskimmer,Black: EG-(500)7,SBW; GC/BC-(500)28,ME;
 BF-(60)28,ARF;(100)31,DM
 Mdove,Rock: 6 reports (2-40;131)
 Mturtle-dove,Ringed: NWH-(3)1-31,VL
 M Dove,White-winged: Galv-(8)11,(7)16,(10)26,JJH
 M Dove,Mourning: 18 reports (1-40;211)

Dove,Inca: 11 reports (1-40;148)
 Ani,Groove-billed: WGI-(1)10,JJH;(5)12,MBM
 Barn-Owl,Common: Algoa-(1-2)1-31,DW; HI-(1)22,AB
 Screech-Owl,Eastern: Algoa-(1)1-31,DW; WHC-(2)14,MA;
 WH-(2)30,JM
 Owl,Great Horned: HI-(1)24,DM
 Owl,Barred: King-(1)22,SG
 Chuck-will's-widow: HI-(1)10,DM
 Swift,Chimney: 12 reports 22nd thru 31th (1-10;32)
 CC-(4)22,AB; King-(10)22,SG;(1)22,JB; SWH-(2)25,
 (1)31,RB;(4)27,DMa; BHV-(3)25,MBM; Bolv-(2)28,MA;
 HI-(1)29,JB;(1)31,DM; Mo.C-(2)30,DMa; WH-(1)31,RMB
 Hummingbird,Ruby-throated: 10 reports 21th thru 31th
 (1-12;25) H-(1)21,WC; WH-(1-2)22-31,RMB;(2)28-31,JM;
 BHV-(1) m)22-27,MBM; HI-(1)22,AB;(1)24,DM;
 CC-(1)22,AB; NWH-(1)22-31,VL; Galv-(3)24,JJH;
 King-(1)28,SG
 hummingbird,sp.: HI-(1)7,SBW
 Kingfisher,Belted: 10 reports (1-6;23)
 Woodpecker,Red-headed: King-(1)1,SG
 Woodpecker,Red-bellied: 7 reports (1-12;23)
 Sapsucker,Yellow-bellied: 7 reports (1-3;12)
 SAPSUCKER,RED-NAPED: SWH-(1) m)9-10,17,DEM (Notes, ed.)
 Woodpecker,Downy: 8 reports (1-2;13)
 Flicker,Northern: 15 reports (1-4;34)
 Woodpecker,Pileated: King-(1)1,BG;(1)22,JB; BC-(1)8,PM;
 BBSP-(7)15,DLR
 Empidonax,sp.: HI-(1)10,DM (Notes, ed.)
 Phoebe,Eastern: ANWR-(1)9,MH; HI-(2)10,DM;
 BBSP-(2)15,DLR;(1)20,WBG
 Flycatcher,Great Crested: HI-(1)31,DM
 Kingbird,Eastern: 9 reports (1-6;18)
 ANWR-(1)24,MBM;(6)28,ARF; HI-(1)24,MBM;(1)28,ARF;
 (2)31,DM; CC-(1)24,MBM;(1)28,MA;(1)31,JM; H-(4)27,MA
 Flycatcher,Scissor-tailed: SWH-(1)27,DMa;
 GC/BC-(8)28,ME; ANWR-(2)28,ARF
 Lark,Horned: ANWR-(4)9,MH; WGI-(3)12,DM; BF-(1)15,JB
 Martin,Purple: 13 reports (1-40;143)
 Swallow,Tree: 9 reports (2-60;222)
 Swallow,Northern Rough-winged: CC-(1)9,MH;(3)22,AB
 Swallow,Bank: GC/BC-(4)28,ME
 Swallow,Barn: 5 reports (2-20;30)
 CC-(3)9,MH;(3)22,AB; GC/BC-(20)28,ME; NHC-(2)28,WC;
 ANWR-(2)28,ARF
 Jay,Blue: 12 reports (1-15;69)
 Crow,American: 13 reports (1-80;220)
 Chickadee,Carolina: 10 reports (1-40;65)
 Titmouse,Tufted: 8 reports (1-20;50)
 Wren,Carolina: 11 reports (1-50;68)
 Wren,House: 10 reports (1-4;19)
 Wren,Winter: WOB-(1)15,14,WC; King-(1)8,JB
 Wren,Sedge: ANWR-(5)9,MH; CC-(2)22,AB;
 H-(20) singing)28,MA
 Wren,Marsh: JC-(2)9,MH; GC/BC-(2)28,ME; ANWR-(16)28,ARF
 Kinglet,Golden-crowned: King-(2)1,SG; HI-(6)10,DM;
 WOB-(1)15th (last date seen during month),WC
 Kinglet,Ruby-crowned: 17 reports (1-48;250)
 Gnatcatcher,Blue-gray: 16 reports (1-130;303)
 Bluebird,Eastern: Tomball-(7)7,SBW; BC-(1)28,ME
 Thrush,Hermit: 6 reports (1-7;15)
 Thrush,Wood: HI-(1)24,DM;(1)31,JM
 Robin,American: 16 reports (1-50;296)
 Catbird,Gray: 6 reports (1-2;9)
 King-(1)1,SG; HI-(1)7,SBW;(1)9,MH;(2)24,31,DM;
 Galv-(2)27,JJH
 Mockingbird,Northern: 16 reports (1-40;122)
 Thrasher,Brown: 7 reports (1-16;41)
 Pipit,Water: HI-(3)7,SBW; WGI-(36)12,DM;(1)23,JJH;
 GC/BC-(15)28,ME
 Waxwing,Cedar: 5 reports (4-50;184)
 NWH-(5-30)1-31,VL; AB-(4)6,DM; King-(50)8,JB;
 JC-(50)9,MH; Galv-(50)14,JJH
 Shrike,Loggerhead: 12 reports (1-200;256)
 Starling,European: 12 reports (1-70;310)
 Vireo,White-eyed: 15 reports (1-30;116)
 Vireo,Solitary: 9 reports (1-8;35)
 Vireo,Yellow-throated: 6 reports (1-16;26)
 HI-(1)15,JB;(3)24,MBM;(16)24,(4)31,DM;
 (1)29,MA;(1)31,JM
 Vireo,Red-eyed: 7 reports (1-6;22)
 HI-(1)22,AB;(6)24,MBM;(6)24,(4)31,DM;(2)28,ARF;
 (2)31,JM; Galv-(1)27,JJH
 Warbler,Orange-crowned: 11 reports (1-11;42)
 Warbler,Nashville: WOB-(1)24,WC
 Parula,Northern: 11 reports (1-20;68)
 HI-(2)15,JB;(2)22,AB;(7)24,MBM;(20)24,(10)31,DM;
 (2)27,BJH;(1)28,ARF;(2)29,MA;(8)31,JM;
 Galv-(2)27,JJH;(12)28,ME
 Warbler,Yellow-throated: 22 reports (1-1008;1942)
 Warbler,Black-throated Green: 6 reports (1-3;11)
 HI-(1)24,MBM;(2)24,(1)31,DM;(3)28,ARF;(3)31,JM;
 WOB-(1)25,WC
 Warbler,Yellow-throated: 5 reports (1-8;14)
 HI-(1)24,MBM;(8)24,(2)31,DM;(1)31,JM; Galv-(2)28,ME
 Warbler,Pine: 6 reports 1st thru 28th (2-5;17)
 Warbler,Palm: SBNWR-(1)28,ME
 Warbler,Black-and-white: 17 reports (1-28;72)
 Redstart,American: WOB-(1)5-28,WC (Notes, ed.)
 Warbler,Prothonotary: 5 reports (1-6;12)
 HI-(1)24,MBM;(6)24,(3)31,DM;(1)31,JM; Galv-(1)27,JJH
 Warbler,Worm-eating: HI-(3)24,(1)31,DM;(1)28,ARF;
 Galv-(2)27,JJH
 Ovenbird: HI-(1)10,DM (Notes, ed.)
 Waterthrush,Northern: BBSP-(1)15,DLR (No notes, ed.);
 HI-(1)24,MBM

Waterthrush, Louisiana: 9 reports (1-4:16)
 HI-(1)10,(3)24,(4)31,DM:(1)15,JB:(1)22,AB;
 (1)27,BJH:(2)31, JM: WOB-(1)23,WC: SBNWR-(2)28,ME
 Warbler, Kentucky: HI-(1)24,31,DM
 Yellowthroat, Common: 10 reports (1-12:41)
 Warbler, Hooded: 9 reports (1-15:38)
 WOB-(1)21,WC: Galv-(2)24,27, JH:(1)15,24,(8)31,DM;
 (3)27, BJH:(1)28, ARF:(3)29, MA:(3)31, JM
 Warbler, Wilson's: AB-(1)16, DM
 Tanager, Summer: HI-(1)24,31,DM: Galv-(1)25, JH
 Cardinal, Northern: 20 reports (1-200:338)
 Bunting, Indigo: WOB-(1)22,WC: H-(1)22,WC: HI-(6)31,DM;
 (1)31, JM
 Dickcissel: H-(1)11-21, CM (Notes, ed.)
 Towhee, Rufous-sided: King-(1)1-22, SG
 Sparrow, Chipping: BBS-(1)15, DLR
 Sparrow, Savannah: 9 reports (2-75:179)
 Sparrow, Le Conte's: H-(2) singing)28, MA
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: Bolv-(5)22, AB
 Sparrow, Seaside: ANWR-(7)9, MH: Bolv-(1)22, AB
 Sparrow, Fox: King-(1)1, SG
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: WOB-(1)14, WC: SBNWR-(1)28, ME;
 H-(1)31, WC
 Sparrow, Swamp: WOB-(3)1-31, WC: ANWR-(3)9, MH;
 HI-(1)24, DM: SBNWR-(6)28, ME
 Sparrow, White-throated: 10 reports (1-10:42)
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 15 reports (1-500:1834)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 14 reports (1-40:106)
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 13 reports (1-75:366)
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 12 reports (2-300:685)
 Grackle, Common: 13 reports (3-24:171)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 10 reports (1-190:519)
 blackbird, sp.: GC/BC-(1000)28, ME
 Oriole, Orange: HI-(2)24, MBM:(3)24, DM
 Siskin, Pine: 11 reports (1-9:44)
 BHV-(9)13, (1)14, (3)15,25, (2)16,17, (4)18,24, (5)19,20,
 (6)22, MBM
 Goldfinch, American: 8 reports (1-30:62)
 Sparrow, House: 11 reports (1-50:169)

The following reports, requiring details, were submitted without them:
 Wren, Bewick's: SBNWR-(1)28, ME
 Warbler, Prairie: SBNWR-(1)28, ME

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CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - MARCH, 1987

Pacific Loon: 3/22/87 Mike Austin
 In "feeding frenzy" of 150 Eared, 3 Horned Grebes, 10
 Bonaparte's Gulls and a dozen Common Loons (at least 2
 in full breeding plumage). Very active feeder, seldom
 up for more than 15 seconds and then very hard to see
 for extended periods. Often adjacent to Common Loons
 for direct comparison. Smaller, more oval, less angular
 head with small, straight bill. White throat and
 foreneck contrasting sharply with hind neck with no
 trace of developing square neck patch which all Common
 Loons, even those in winter plumage, showed at least a
 trace of. Total observation time (2 observers) 1".
 Distance 150-400 yd. Optics: 25x Baiscope and 40-60x
 Questar. Bright overcast. Location: Offats Bayou west
 of 61st St., Galv.

Horned Grebe: 3/22/87 Mike Austin
 Three birds in an immense flock of Eared Grebes. Two in
 winter plumage - white cheeks and foreneck contrasting
 sharply with black crown and hindneck. Slightly longer,
 thinner all-dark bills than Eared Grebes. Third bird in
 a strange stage of moult - all white cheeks like winter
 plumage but entirely brick red throat and foreneck as in
 spring. At a cursory glance it strongly resembled a
 breeding-plumaged Red-necked Grebe but, of course, it
 was much smaller (but this would have been difficult to
 judge if it hadn't been in a mixed flock) and had a much
 shorter, all-dark bill. Weather and optics as under
 Pacific Loon description.

RED-NECKED GREBE: VAGRANT - 7 Accepted UTC Records
 No March records 3/7/87 Steve Williams
 A large grebe first thought to be a loon was observed in
 excellent light for about 10 min from about 120 yds with
 a 25x Bushnell telescope. It was entirely gray on the
 back, gray on the neck, blackish on top of the head, and
 white below. The bill was long and yellow, and the face
 was whitish with a lighter, clearer shade of white going
 up a bit higher on the back of the head. The exact
 location of this sighting was at White Heron Estates,
 about 7 mi toward Smith Point from the junction of FMS
 562 & 1985, (where one would turn east towards Anahuac
 NWR.)

Northern Gannet: 3/28/87 Jim Morgan
 Large sulids seen in flight offshore S of San Luis
 Pass. Typical sulid flight - body held at slight angle
 to horizontal and deep, strong wing beats. Long slim
 pointed wings, pointed tail and long neck with pointed
 head/bill. Much larger than gulls and terns nearby.
 Seen at distances of 300-400 meters with 10X binocs in
 excellent light by both observers who know species well.

Merlin: 3/9/87 Art MacKinnon
 A medium size hawk, in a tall tree about 2 mi W from
 124 on FM 1985, on the N side of the road. Notice the
 bird about 0900 in good light in a Tallow tree the bird
 was observed for 5 to 8 min in the morning sun from a
 distance of 50-70 meters through 10X50 binocs. A medium
 size falcon, with a bluish back, white front with
 chocolate brown vertical streaking. Face was whitish
 with thin malar stripes.

Peregrine Falcon: 3/9/87 Art MacKinnon,
 A large falcon in a Tallow tree about 4 mi E of the ANWR
 on FM 1985 on the N side, at 1300. The bird was observed
 for 2 min from a distance of 15-20 meters through 10X50
 binoculars. A large hawk with a bluish gray back, white
 throat, breast with gray horizontal streaking. Head
 black with black cheeks.

Peregrine Falcon: 3/15/87 John Buckman
 This bird was seen on the 3-legged power pole on Hwy 124
 in Chambers Co. & is undoubtedly the same bird
 frequently reported by others all winter.

Pomarine Jaeger: 3/22/87 Mike Austin
 Light phase immature at distance of 10-600'. No
 adjacent bird for comparison. Crown black contrasting a
 little with dark brown nape & upper back. Cheek cream,
 lores dark brown. Sharp crown/cheek contrast, moderate
 nape/check contrast. Dark eye, dark gray bill with
 heavy hook to upper mandible. Legs & feet dark gray.
 Uniformly gray back with some brownish tones. No
 back/wing covert contrast, mild nape/back contrast.
 Very prominent "heavy-chested" look. Heavy barring to
 flanks & undertail coverts. Belly white. Breast &
 throat with faint horizontal barring, brownish
 background merging to black mid-breast (oiled?). Dark
 chocolate brown rectrices - concolor with dorsal wing
 surfaces. Square without hint of elongated central
 rectrices. Dorsal surface of wing: dark chocolate
 brown, concolor with back. Small white area at bases of
 outermost primaries. Heavy flight like a Herring Gull.
 Sat preening on dry part of beach. Let vehicles, people
 pass within 10'. Eventually flew slowly 600' down beach
 for full dorsal view. Viewed for 10 min, in full hazy
 sun on beach just east of Bolivar Flats. Unlike
 emaciated bird last year at San Luis Pass, heavy flight
 "jizz" & prominent chest left little doubt this jaeger
 was a "Pom" although rump and white crescent at base of
 underwing lesser coverts not seen. All dark bill &
 square tail = immature bird.

RED-NECKED SAPSUCKER: No UTC Records
 3/9-10, 17/87 Gary Clark
 It had a bright red forehead, red throat, black patch
 on the upper breast, & a pinkish red blush on the nape.
 The face was black with a superciliary white line
 extending anteriorly above the eye to the posterior side
 of the face & running vertically along the nape
 bordering the reddish nape. A white bar circled in
 front of the face at the base of the bill & extended
 along the lower throat outlining the black "malar" of
 the chin, throat, & breast. The red on the lower throat
 crossed the posterior section of the black "malar"
 blending with the white bar on the lower cheek; the red
 on the throat also blended into the black of the upper
 breast. The typical white wing patches seemed mottled.
 On each side of the back were 2 verticle white lines
 interrupted by black bars which created a chain-like
 pattern. This bird was distinguished from yellow-
 bellied sapsucker by 1.) the presence of a reddish blush
 on the nape, 2.) the fact that the red of the throat
 crossed the black border of the throat as well as
 blending with the black patch of the upper breast, & 3.)
 the occurrence of twin broken white lines on the back.
 The bird rested somewhat passively on the mid-trunk of a
 water oak, occasionally feeding. Five people observed
 the bird in good light on the afternoon of March 10 for
 over an hour. Excellent photographs were taken.

Empidonax species: 3/10/87 Derek Muschalek
 Small Empidonax flycatching at "Smith Oaks Sanctuary" in
 High Island. White eye-ring, bold white wing-bars, and
 tail flicking habit eliminates the pewees.

American Redstart: 3/5-28/87 Wesley Cureton
 Female - pale gray with yellow patches in wings and
 tail. Frequently spread wings and tail. Because it was
 seen almost always in same spots as one seen on Dec. 21,
 I'm tempted to think this bird wintered at White Oak
 Bayou, but I never saw it during that period.

Ovenbird: 3/10/87 Derek Muschalek
 In mild winters these birds are uncommon, and in cold
 winters they are rare! This bird was seen at "Smith
 Oaks Sanctuary" in High Island and was no doubt the same
 bird I saw on December 28, 1986. Migrants reach the UTC
 by early April, so any bird found in mid-March probably
 "wintered" locally. No fewer than 15 warbler species

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Annual Subscriptions: \$9

were recorded on the UTC this winter, and ovenbirds were widespread! Field Marks noted: orange patch on crown bordered by black stripes; bold white eye-ring; brownish-olive back; white underparts with black streaking. Used 10x50 binocs at 30' for 40 seconds.

Dickcissel: 3/1-21/87 Charles Morrow
... at my backyard feeder in West University. The bird is a male and has been present since January 15, 1987. He returns daily and has evolved into breeding color. If necessary I can submit a photograph of the bird.

CH EDITOR'S NOTES - MARCH, 1987

Sugar Red-bellied vs. Marvelous Starling?:

The following note from David Marrack is a reminder that life is not always fair in the bird world either.
"A Red-bellied Woodpecker pair have chipped out 2 holes in dead Chinese tallow limbs on separate trees in my yard. The first is occupied by starlings. On the 18th of Mar. at the second there was a tremendous commotion & squawking. A starling was inside the new hole & a Red-bellied was trying to evict the trespasser! There were multiple bill stabbings by both sides then the R.B. grabbed the Starling's bill and yanked it out of the hole! The claws interlocked & they fluttered to the ground. I saw a vicious stab by the R.B. as the starling squawked off. Alas, Starlings are now nesting in the hole & the Red-bellied Woodpecker is digging yet a third hole."

March Kentucky Warblers:

Derek Muschalek asked about the last time Kentucky Warbler was reported to the CH during March. A summary of the number of individuals reported during March follows:

1976 - 35	1980 - 19	1984 - 0
1977 - 9	1981 - 1	1985 - 0
1978 - 1	1982 - 12	1986 - 0
1979 - 0	1983 - 0	1987 - 2

The earliest spring date is March 20, 1973. The earliest date for the years 1976 - 1987 is March 24th.

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