



# THE SPOONBILL

3

You did not come with spring this year,  
But another's settled here...in your own tree.  
Say was there somewhere in the flight  
Rush of owl on gusty night...too quick to flee,  
Or hawk burst down the blinding blue;  
Was it hawk or owl changed you--  
Or was it me?

William E. Mahoney

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## A CHALLENGE!

The letter from Joe M. Heiser, Jr., printed below, puts us to a test as to whether we are real conservationists.

"Every year, at the holiday season, some other O.N.C. "youngsters" join me in preparing arrangements of seasonal fruits and foliage for delivery to old-timers unable to enjoy a ramble afield.

Our bouquets this time lacked many of the colorful items abundant in other years--fruits of the red haws, viburnums, yupon, cherry laurel, beautyberry, Indian cherry, dogwood, chinquapin, Indian currant, Georgia holly, huckleberry, buckthorn and other species usually available on my own little natural wonderland in San Jacinto county.

Unfavorable weather at a crucial time has caused a substantial crop failure in native fruits and nuts over much of our area. What about the thousands of winter resident birds thus faced with famine at our very doorstep?

Measures to relieve this kind of situation are hard to implement because there is in the Outdoor Nature Club no "study group" which would enable interested members of the present groups--and others identified with no special nature hobby--to work together on numerous projects for the benefit of our endangered native plants, birds, and small mammals and reptiles.

If these little people of the wild have no helpful neighbors in the O.N.C., to whom can they turn for the aid they need and deserve?

For those who have ideas on this subject, now is a good time to speak out."

COST PROBLEM by T. Paul Jones, Chairman of Cost Committee

At the February O.C. meeting there will be more discussion and, hopefully, a decision on how to meet, or lower, the rising costs of the Spoonbill. As reported at the December meeting, a mailed copy which cost approximately 23¢ in 1969 cost approximately 34¢ this year, and under the present set-up, is expected to cost more next year. Various solutions to cutting costs have been suggested and explored, and Sarah Gordon asked at the December meeting for all members to think about it and bring their ideas on the subject to the February meeting.

COMMENTARY ON HUNTING IN WILDLIFE REFUGES by Miss Hazel D. Green

"I'd like to go on record with the O.C. as being unalterably opposed to hunting and killing on our wildlife Refuges. This opinion has been expressed many times over the past years to the organizations of which I am a member and to the Department of the Interior, Mr. Howard Dodgen, Dr. Cottam, etc., especially in the case of the Aransas Wildlife Refuge.

Hunting and killing in our Refuges is not compatible with the purpose for which a refuge is established in the first place. It is bad psychology from a public opinion standpoint. People who have desirable lands and might consider giving it for refuge purposes would, in my opinion, change their minds quickly if they thought it would ever be allowed for anything else than a "refuge and sanctuary" for wildlife. I know I would.

If an over-abundance of any species does occur, they could be trapped and moved to other locations where they have been extirpated or are low in numbers. This statement also

applies to species that are now shot at in open season, such as the Prairie Chicken. This is one of the worst things that has occurred in a long time, because in the minds of the general public, there is not the sharp distinction between the different kinds of prairie chickens. All they know is that we had a big national fund-raising campaign to save the Texas Prairie Chicken by purchasing a refuge and sanctuary, and now the Texans are shooting and killing them.

I am also not in favor of shooting in our State Parks. Shooting in our State Parks and our wildlife refuges will restrict the use for general purposes in favor of a "special interest group."

I would like to see all our conservation groups go on record and lobby against 1) shooting on our refuges 2) shooting in our parks and 3) open seasons on prairie chickens of any kind. They still are extirpated in many areas of Texas where they formerly were. Also 4) open season on sandhill cranes during the migration of the whooping cranes. There are other species, such as the Bighorn Sheep, Pronghorn Antelope etc., etc. Just as soon as a threatened species gets a few numbers ahead, then the hunting starts long before they are actually established again. I believe stricter controls should be exercised on shooting in our refuges and at our wildlife anywhere as long as it is scarce and there are areas in our state (or others, for that matter) where they were at one time, but still are extirpated.

I believe the word "refuge" means just that--a place where wildlife and people can take refuge and feel safe. Shooting and killing in refuges is about as low-down as the practice of ranchers who put out tons of corn in certain spots of their lands to lure the deer, and then during open season (and any old time in some cases) go to that spot--they, their friends and their leasors--and shoot them dead."

CHIMNEY SWIFT NOTES by Joe M. Heiser, Jr.

At 11:00 P.M. October 3 a Chimney Swift came down our chimney and was caught as it darted vainly about the livingroom. The same thing occurred at 8:00 P.M. and again at 9:30 P.M. October 5 and in mid-afternoon October 6. Weather was rainy or cloudy and damp on each occasion.

Swifts nested in this tall chimney this year and in several breeding seasons past.

RARE BIRD ALERT

Two rare bird visitors to our area have been reported in January, and they may stay long enough for our readers who have not yet seen them to get a look. Both were reported from Galveston Island. A Purple Sandpiper was first reported by Jerry Smith as being at the Galveston jetty at the East end of the island and has been seen by a number of observers since the first viewing January 1. A Great White Heron was found January 8 near a windmill close to the intersection of 11-mile Road and the new road which parallels Stewart Road. It was seen as late as January 13 by the editors further east than the windmill and across the road on the north side, with cattle feeding around it.

CLEARING HOUSE, DECEMBER, 1971

- Grebe, Hairy: (1)1,23, C&DP; (1)24, (23+)18, AKM, all in Cove area.
- Cormorant, Double-crested: (1-10)4 days, (200+)18, Cove, AKM.
- Olivaceous: (1-20)4 days, (150+)18, Cove, AKM.
- Anhinga: (1)23, Cove, AKM; (8+)26, Sheldon, JG & DHH.
- Heron, little Blue: (1-3)5 days, (5)11, Cove, AKM.
- Egret, Cattle: (2)20, (12)21, (1)22, Cove, AKM.
- Reddish: (1)11, Cove, C&DP.
- Bittern, American: (1)27, C&DP.
- Ibis, white-faced: (2)10, Cove, AKM.
- white: (38)13, Cove, AKM.
- Snowbird, Roseate: (1-13)5 days, (14)23,30, Cove, AKM; (22)23, Cove, C&DP.
- SWAN, WHISTLING: (2)11, P&W; (4)26, OG & DHH, Sheldon Reservoir.
- White-fronted: (2)11, (60+)20, (6)23, (30)30, AKM; (11)23, C&DP, Cove.
- GOSS: (1)4, C&DP (reported shot by a hunter, James Hoffman), Cove.
- Duck, BLACK-BELLIED TREE: (2)23, Warren Ranch Lake, DHH (see Clearing House Notes).
- Mallard: (1)14, (6)23, C&DP; (3)18, AKM; (1)23, JR, all at Cove.
- Mottled: (1)3, (NC)11,31, (4)23, AKM; (19)23, C&DP, Cove.
- Gadwall: (1-6)1,13,25,31, AKM; (100+)23, C&DP, Cove.
- Pintail: (30)3, (180+)10, (NC)18, AKM; (400+)23, C&DP, Cove.
- Teal, Green-winged: (40+)7 days, AKM; (50)23, C&DP, Cove.
- Blue-winged: (2)5, (1)8 days, C&DP; (3)11, AKM, Cove.
- Widgeon, American: (NC)11,18,20, AKM; (300)23, C&DP, Cove.

- Duck, Shovelers: (8+)1,3,18, AKM; (40)23, C&DP, Cove.  
 Woods: (19)3, (6)23, (1)29, Cove, AKM.  
 Mergansers: (14)19, (1)24, C&DP; (1 dead)23, AKM, Cove.  
 King-necked: (2000+) at Sulphur plant in Liberty Co., AKM; (14+)23, (165+)28, Warren Ranch Lake, OG & DHH.  
 Canvasback: (100+)16, Sulphur plant, AKM.  
 Scaup, Lesser: (2)14, (NC)20, C&DP; (2 dead)23, AKM, Cove.  
 Common Goldeneye: (1)18, Cove, AKM.  
 Bufflehead: (2)1, (1)18, Cove, AKM.  
 Muddy: (11-44)6 days, AKM; (4-40)3 days, (100-200)4 days, C&DP, Cove.  
 Merganser, hooded: (1)1, Cove, AKM; (5)26, Sheldon Reservoir, OG & DHH.  
 Red-breasted: (1)1, (100+)18, AKM; (1)5,20,23, C&DP, Cove.  
 Duck (sp): (90,000+)11, Warren Lake, DHH. (see Clearing House notes)  
 Vulture, Turkey: (1-9)16 days, (1)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Black: (1)7, Cove, AKM.  
 KITE, white-tailed: (2)4, Brazoria County, WI & BS.  
 (6)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Mississippi: (2)19, (1)20, Bellaire, F&J.  
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: (1)14, Cove, C&DP; (1)27, (1)28, Cove, AKM; (1)11,27, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Red-tailed: (1-9)12, days, (10-19)6 days, (21-23)6 days, (78)10, (46)13, (63)18, (5)22, (7)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Harlan's: (2)23, Cove, C&DP; (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Red-shouldered: (1)20, Cove, AKM.  
 Rough-legged: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Eagle, Bald: (1 immature)16, (1 adult)no date, Lake Charlotte in Chambers County, MI.  
 Hawk, Marsh: (1-5)18 days, (7)1,3, (12)10, (8)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Osprey: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Falcon, Peregrine: (1)11, Cove, C&DP; (1)28, Tri-City Beach road in Beach City, IC;  
 Prairie: (1)no date, Cove, DF.  
 Hawk, Pigeon: (1)18, Cove, C&DP.  
 Sparrows: (1-9)19 days, (10-15)8 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Rail, King: (1-10)5 days, (NC)22, (12)18,20,24, Cove, AKM; (1)11, Katy-Hockley Rd, DHH.  
 Clapper: (NC)15,22, (1)23, C&DP.  
 Virginia: (1 dead)23, Cove, AKM; (1)21,23,31, (3)24, Cove, C&DP.  
 Sora: (1)23, (3)24,25, (6)30, (2)31, Cove, C&DP.  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: (3)1, (6+)11, Cove, AKM.  
 Woodcock, American: (1)24, Cove, AKM; (1)7,8,12, 1601 woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Dunlin: (NC)10,13,18,25, (39)30, Cove, AKM.  
 Avocet, American: (19)1, (1)3, (76+)18, (7)25, Cove, AKM; (3)22, Cove, C&DP.  
 JACANA: (4)4, W&BS, J&J, (4)11, BS & J&J, Brazoria County.  
 Gull, Franklin's: (1)11, (2)14, (2)31, AKM; (2)23, C&DP, all in Cove.  
 Bonaparte's: (3+)30, (15)31, Cove, AKM (these were in the tidal area of the Trinity, where I have recorded only one before).  
 Dove, Inca: (7-8)1,3, (3-5)daily, 10215 Chatterton, DHH.  
 and Snow-billed: (1)26, Katy-Hockley Rd., OG & DHH.  
 Nighthawk, Screech: (1)12,26,30, N. MacGregor Hwy at Burkett (1 mi. east of Hermann Park), NP. (see Clearing House Notes)  
 Hummingbird, Rufous: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 BUFF-BELLIED: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG; (1)22, Freeport, WE et al.  
 Owl, Barn: (1)24, Cove, AKM.  
 Screech: (1)about 30th, Cove, MN.  
 Great-horned: (1)23, Cove, AKM (it killed and ate a Red-tailed Hawk that night).  
 Barred: (1)22,24,30, (2)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Short-eared: (1-4)5,24,27, (5)23,24, (7-8)14,20, Cove, C&DP.  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: (2)23, (1)29, Cove, AKM.  
 FLYCATCHER, SCISSOR-TAILED: (4)12, Hosharon, JI & DHH (see Clearing House Notes).  
 Vermilion: (1)3, Cove, AKM; (2)26, Sheldon, OG & DHH.  
 Swallow, Tree: (75+)3, (2)18, (3)21, Cove, AKM.  
 Barn: (1)3, Cove, AKM.  
 Creeper, Brown: (1)23, Cove, AKM.  
 Wren, House: (1-3)8 days, (4)30, Cove, AKM.  
 Long-billed Marsh: (2)22, (1)28, Cove, AKM; (3)23, Cove, C&DP.  
 Short-billed Marsh: (1)23, Cove, AKM; (3+)24, Cove, C&DP.  
 Catbird: (2)20,23,24,30, (1)31, Cove, AKM (no repeats, most ever in late December).  
 THRASHER, SAGE: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Bluebird, Eastern: (2)13, (5+)17, Cove, AKM.  
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: (1)11, 1601 woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Pipit, Sprague's: (1)18, Cove, AKM; (1)23, Cove, JI.  
 Vireo, White-eyed: (1)13,23,24, Cove, AKM.  
 Solitary: (1)3,23,30, Cove, AKM; (1)7 days, 1601 woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.

Warbler, Yellow: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 MAGNOLIA: (1)24, Cove, AM; (1)14, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Waterthrush, Northern: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Yellowthroat: (3)22, (2)23, (5)24, Cove, AM.  
 Warbler, Wilson's: (1)9 days, 1st-31st, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, B&DL.  
 WREN: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 Oriole, Baltimore: (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
 G. Wren, Red-bellied: (1)22, Cove, AM.  
 Finch, Purple: (1)22, Cove, AM; (1)19, 24, 10215 Chatterton, LRH; (3-5)23-31, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, B&DL.  
 Hiskin, Pine: (1)23, Cove, JA; (2)4, 10215 Chatterton, DMH.  
 Sparrow, Grasshopper: (1)23, Cove, Davis Parkway; (2)7, House-hill Rd., P&MJ.  
 In Containers: (7)21, (1)22, (3)23, (4)24, Cove, AM; (1)20, Jack Rd., P&MJ.  
 4 Henslow's: (2)23, Cove, AM; (1)19, Freeport, DM & CG.  
Sharp-tailed: (5)23, Cove, L&R.  
Seaside: (2+)23, Cove, G&L.  
Vesper: (1)25, Cove, M.  
Shipping: (1)23, Cove, AM.  
Field: (1-)28 days, (2)22, Cove, AM.  
White-crowned: (b) 3, (1)30, Cove, AM.  
Lincoln's: (1)8, 10, 23, 30, (5)22, 25, Cove, AM.  
Swamp: (1-5)4 days, (25+)22, (20+)24, Cove, AM.  
Song: (1)19, 20, 29, Cove, AM; (1)27, Cove, G&R.  
Bald: (1 adult)24, Natv-Hockley Rd., CG & DMH.  
Falcon, Peregrine: (1 immature)19, Freeport, DM & CG.

Editor's note: Because of the publication of the Christmas Count in this issue, in the interest of conservation of space, the Clearing House was edited to leave out most of the common birds. Also the junior co-editor (all you husbands will know which one of us that is), besides temporarily forgetting the owls and thereby getting them out of order, also left out the added sightings of the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon added at the end.

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

|     |                       |     |                          |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| AM  | Arnie K. Hoxey        | JG  | Mr. & Mrs. John J. Jones |
| CSB | Chuck & Dennis Leting | MF  | Reel Lettingall          |
| IC  | Lois Clemens          | DM  | David Larrack            |
| LI  | Kerpan Labour         | CG  | Chris Garvie             |
| JK  | Jane Rushing          | VS  | Victor Swannell          |
| MD  | Mavis Dunaway         | LKH | Don H. Hardy             |
| LN  | Lemon Kelley          | CG  | Arym Gaddis              |
| MRJ | Margaret & Paul Jones | SI  | Jim Lane                 |
| W   | Wallace Lehane, Jr.   | B&L | Rochey & David Iefkovits |
| BB  | Bob Galvan            |     |                          |

#### SHARING HOUSE NOTES

From Don Hardy: Black-bellied Teal Duck: On the afternoon of December 23, 1971, I found two of these birds on the west side of Warren Ranch Lake, 2½ miles south of Hockley. I observed them standing on the edge of the water, then flying, from 3:05 P.M. - 5:30 P.M. through a 20X scope. The birds were apparently immature. The black belly was not strong, but it was evident. They stood out from the nearby green-winged teal by their larger size, long neck and long legs. Other marks: backs gray with a trace of white on the folded wing; legs and bill gray; neck and face brownish with a conspicuous eye-ring. In flight they resembled a goose, with neck outstretched and legs dangling behind. The wings were boldly black and white in flight. This was formed by the outer part of the upper wing being black and the central wing white. As the ducks flew they made a curious whistling sound. Bob and Mary Moore saw the free ducks on the following day, Dec. 24. I have only found one other record of this bird on the Upper Texas Coast, that of a nesting pair with 11 young on December 11, 1969, in Brazoria County (Audubon Field Notes, Vol. 24, No. 1, p. 67). Ducks on Warren Lake: December 11 at Warren Lake really defied description. Ducks are always numerous here, but on this afternoon they "blackened" every portion of the water. Most of the birds were so close together that water was not visible. As I looked across the water the birds were so deep, one behind the other, that it really made counting impossible. I crudely blocked off the birds and estimated around 90,000-120,000 ducks. There were ducks of 10 species, but Pintail, Gadwall and Green-winged Teal were predominant. Scissor-tailed flycatcher: 4 birds on telephone lines along Highway 248 near Rosharon. The long tail, grayish upper parts and salmon underparts were unmistakable.

From Arlie R. McKay: A Black Duck, banded, was reported killed by a hunter, but proof must await return of the band report. On hawks: Of the Red-tailed Hawks, one frequently seen is dark red (tail and below) and another is a sooty black immature. Also a Kreider's was seen 3 or 4 days and was positively identified January 6. Of the two Harlan's Hawks one was dark as reported in November, the other was a light phase with white tail, mottled black near the end. Damon McKay saw either a Peregrine Falcon or Pigeon Hawk Dec. 11. The Pigeon Hawk seen by the Petings Dec. 18 was seen to dive from about 1,000 ft. high into the grass in one swoop. It stayed there until they gave up seeing it again.

From Noel Pettingell: The Common Nighthawk was seen on all three dates silently flying near tops of loblolly pines in vicinity of Bray's Bayou, as in previous years (see Spoon-bill, Clearing House Notes, Dec., 1970, p. 6, and Jan., 1971, p. 4), between 5:33 and 5:42 P.M. CST. Temperatures at time of observations: Dec. 12-65°F, Dec. 26-73°F, Dec. 30-71°F.

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS COUNT, January 2, 1972--Leader and compiler, Miss Sarah Gordon

| Species                   | 1   | 2    | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6    | 7   | 8    | 9    | 10   | Total  |
|---------------------------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|--------|
| Anhinga                   |     | 2    |     | 1   |     |      |     |      |      |      | 3      |
| Avocet, American          |     |      |     |     |     | 1    | 1   |      | 17   | 26   | 45     |
| Blackbird, Brewer's       |     |      | 102 |     |     | 90   |     |      |      |      | 192    |
| Redwinged                 | 250 | 5410 | 36  | 500 | 18  | 4035 |     | 1    | 500  | 135  | 10,895 |
| Musty                     |     |      |     |     | 125 |      |     |      |      | 7    | 132    |
| Bluebird, Eastern         | 16  | 21   |     | 5   |     |      |     |      |      |      | 42     |
| Bobwhite                  | 20  | 1    |     | 1   | 6   | 92   |     |      |      |      | 120    |
| Cardinal                  | 65  | 51   | 19  | 34  | 30  | 101  | 18  | 24   | 12   | 41   | 395    |
| Catbird                   |     | 1    |     | 1   |     | 5    |     |      |      | 2    | 9      |
| Chickadee, Carolina       | 30  | 65   | 15  | 9   | 7   | 51   | 5   | 14   | 10   | 14   | 225    |
| Coot, American            | 2   |      |     |     |     |      |     | 2    | 100  |      | 155    |
| Cormorant, Double-crested | 2   |      | 35  |     | 196 | 6    | 100 | 2000 | 500  | 1736 | 4565   |
| Cowbird, Brown-headed     | 38  | 28   | 39  |     |     | 3500 |     | 10   |      | 13   | 3628   |
| Creeper, Brown            | 1   |      |     |     |     | 1    |     |      |      |      | 2      |
| Crow, Common              | 6   | 15   | 8   | 16  | 19  | 4    | 8   | 4    |      | 9    | 59     |
| Curlaw, Long-billed       |     | 15   |     |     |     |      |     |      |      |      | 15     |
| Dove, Mourning            | 16  | 3    | 10  | 6   | 69  | 110  | 21  | 15   | 70   | 34   | 354    |
| Dowitcher (Sp)            |     |      |     |     |     |      | 7   |      | 30   | 500  | 537    |
| Duck, Bufflehead          |     |      |     |     |     | 1    |     |      |      | 2    | 3      |
| Gadwall                   | 6   |      |     |     |     |      |     | 10   | 150  | 151  | 317    |
| Goldeneye, Common         |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |      |      | 2    | 2      |
| Mallard                   |     |      |     |     | 1   |      |     |      | 1    |      | 2      |
| Mottled                   | 2   |      |     |     |     |      |     |      |      |      | 2      |
| Pintail                   |     |      |     |     |     | 72   |     | 50   | 50   | 112  | 284    |
| Ruddy                     |     |      |     |     |     | 67   |     | 30   |      | 150  | 247    |
| Scaup, Greater            |     |      |     |     | 1   |      |     |      |      |      | 1      |
| Lesser                    |     |      |     |     |     |      | 2   | 40   |      | 58   | 100    |
| Shoveler                  |     |      |     |     |     |      | 8   |      | 10   | 215  | 233    |
| Widgeon, American         |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |      | 20   | 30   | 50     |
| Wood                      |     |      |     |     |     | 12   |     |      |      |      | 12     |
| Egret, Reddish            |     |      |     |     |     |      |     |      | 1    |      | 1      |
| Cattle                    |     | 15   |     |     | 7   |      |     | 2    | 2    | 10   | 36     |
| Common                    | 3   | 7    | 7   | 1   | 27  | 33   | 38  | 12   | 30   | 263  | 421    |
| Snowy                     |     | 2    | 1   |     | 8   | 25   | 29  | 8    | 120  | 297  | 490    |
| Finch, Purple             | 3   |      | 8   | 2   | 6   |      |     | 24   | 2    |      | 45     |
| Flicker, Yellow-shafted   | 13  | 2    | 6   | 7   | 7   | 17   | 5   | 8    | 10   | 8    | 83     |
| Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray    | 6   | 16   | 4   | 6   | 18  | 69   | 6   | 15   | 4    | 15   | 159    |
| Goldfinch, American       | 150 | 162  | 105 | 30  | 62  | 249  | 100 | 36   | 200  | 117  | 1211   |
| Goose, Blue               | 45  | 95   | 165 | 60  | 153 | 210  | 5   | 14   | 70   | 25   | 842    |
| Canada                    | 22  |      |     |     | 30  | 11   |     |      |      |      | 63     |
| Snow                      | 85  | 240  | 380 | 90  | 335 | 227  | 10  | 190  | 150  | 76   | 1783   |
| White-fronted             |     |      | 4   |     |     |      |     |      |      |      | 4      |
| Grackle, Boat-tailed      |     |      |     | 1   | 4   | 5    |     | 6    |      | 14   | 30     |
| Common                    |     | 1    | 10  |     |     | 2    |     |      |      | 8    | 21     |
| Grebe, Eared              |     |      |     |     | 17  |      | 2   | 79   |      | 83   | 181    |
| Red-billed                |     |      |     |     | 7   |      |     | 1    |      | 3    | 19     |
| Gull, Bonaparte's         |     |      |     |     |     | 1    |     | 2    |      | 36   | 39     |
| Herring                   |     | 1    | 1   |     | 12  | 9    | 3   | 2    | 2    | 8    | 38     |
| Laughing                  |     |      | 50  |     | 111 | 51   | 200 | 100  | 1000 | 2480 | 3992   |
| Ring-billed               |     | 1    | 100 |     | 21  | 486  | 10  | 30   | 6    | 2800 | 3536   |
| Hawk, Cooper's            | 1   |      |     |     |     | 1    |     |      | 1    | 1    | 4      |
| Marsh                     | 3   | 10   | 5   | 5   | 1   | 14   | 2   |      | 3    | 4    | 47     |

| Species                   | Areas |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |      | Total |
|---------------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|------|-------|
|                           | 1     | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   | 8  | 9   | 10   |       |
| Hawk, Red-shouldered      |       | 5   | 2   | 9   | 1   | 3   |     | 1  | 2   | 4    | 29    |
| Red-tailed                | 11    | 15  | 11  | 10  | 6   | 27  | 1   | 2  | 10  | 11   | 104   |
| Sharp-shinned             |       |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |      | 1     |
| Sparrow                   | 10    | 12  | 10  | 5   | 5   | 17  | 5   | 2  | 5   | 5    | 76    |
| Swainson's                |       |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |      | 1     |
| Heron, Great Blue         | 5     | 34  | 2   |     | 13  | 26  | 38  | 20 | 25  | 33   | 196   |
| Green                     |       |     | 4   |     |     |     |     |    | 1   |      | 2     |
| Little Blue               |       |     |     | 1   |     |     | 7   |    | 2   | 1    | 11    |
| Louisiana                 |       |     | 7   |     | 11  | 2   | 7   | 2  | 5   | 13   | 55    |
| Black-crowned Night       |       |     |     |     | 40  | 1   | 46  | 5  | 500 | 165  | 759   |
| Yellow-crowned Night      |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    | 2   | 1    | 3     |
| Jay, Blue                 | 5     | 3   | 5   | 10  | 43  | 5   | 3   | 4  | 8   | 30   | 116   |
| Junco, Slate-colored      | 3     | 24  |     | 12  |     |     |     |    |     |      | 39    |
| Killdeer                  | 2     | 323 | 102 | 70  | 36  | 27  | 15  | 12 | 200 | 91   | 575   |
| Kingfisher, Belted        | 3     | 5   | 3   |     | 5   |     | 1   | 3  | 2   |      | 22    |
| Kinglet, Golden-crowned   |       |     |     | 1   | 1   |     | 2   | 1  | 1   | 1    | 7     |
| Ruby-crowned              | 25    | 37  | 20  | 30  | 16  | 65  | 10  | 60 | 50  | 51   | 364   |
| Loon, Common              |       |     |     |     |     |     |     | 1  |     | 22   | 23    |
| Meadowlark, Eastern       | 22    | 51  | 22  | 16  | 24  | 66  | 18  | 2  | 25  | 23   | 269   |
| Merganser, Red-breasted   |       |     |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |    |     |      | 237   |
| Mockingbird               |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |      | 239   |
| Mockingbird               | 35    | 37  | 40  | 15  | 90  | 111 | 28  | 40 | 50  | 60   | 506   |
| Owl, Barn                 |       | 2   |     |     |     | 4   |     |    |     |      | 7     |
| Barred                    |       | 1   |     |     |     | 5   |     | 1  | 1   |      | 8     |
| Great-horned              | 1     |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    | 1   |      | 3     |
| Screech                   |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |      | 1     |
| Pelican, White            |       |     | 11  |     | 66  | 42  | 51  | 20 | 225 | 208  | 623   |
| Phoebe, Eastern           | 17    | 3   | 5   | 4   | 9   | 16  | 9   | 5  | 2   | 5    | 75    |
| Pipit, Sprague's          |       |     |     |     |     | 4   |     |    |     |      | 4     |
| Water                     | 25    |     |     |     |     |     |     | 50 |     | 60   | 143   |
| Flover, Black-bellied     |       |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |     | 2    | 3     |
| Rail, Clapper             |       |     |     |     |     |     | 1   |    | 1   | 1    | 3     |
| Robin                     | 300   | 13  | 10  | 10  | 182 | 418 | 200 | 8  | 30  | 66   | 1235  |
| Sanderling                |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     | 10   | 10    |
| Sandpiper, Semipalmated   |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     | 2    | 2     |
| Spotted                   | 1     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 2  | 3   | 4    | 10    |
| Western                   |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     | 10   | 10    |
| Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied | 5     | 6   | 4   | 2   | 3   | 16  |     | 15 |     | 2    | 53    |
| Shrike, Loggerhead        | 40    | 29  | 19  | 25  | 26  | 35  | 17  | 10 | 25  | 12   | 238   |
| Siskin, Pine              |       |     | 3   |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |      | 4     |
| Skimmer, Black            |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    | 1   | 1350 | 1351  |
| Snipe, Common             |       | 2   |     |     |     |     |     |    |     |      | 2     |
| Sparrow, Chipping         | 20    |     | 1   | 12  |     |     |     |    |     |      | 33    |
| Field                     | 3     |     |     |     |     | 2   |     |    |     |      | 5     |
| Fox                       |       |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |     | 1    | 2     |
| Henslow's                 |       |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |    | 1   |      | 2     |
| House                     | 112   | 21  | 212 | 150 | 69  | 7   | 4   | 2  | 1   | 19   | 597   |
| LeConte's                 |       |     |     |     |     | 1   |     |    |     |      | 1     |
| Lincoln's                 |       |     | 1   |     |     | 1   |     |    |     | 3    | 5     |
| Savannah                  | 22    | 2   | 7   |     | 1   | 39  |     |    | 2   | 12   | 85    |
| Song                      | 10    | 2   |     |     |     | 1   |     |    | 1   | 3    | 17    |
| Swamp                     | 1     |     |     |     |     | 3   |     |    | 5   | 6    | 15    |
| Vesper                    |       | 1   |     |     |     | 2   | 1   |    | 1   |      | 5     |
| White-crowned             | 2     |     |     |     |     | 1   | 1   |    | 6   |      | 10    |
| White-throated            | 30    | 3   | 20  | 10  | 50  | 105 | 12  | 35 | 33  | 104  | 399   |
| Spoonbill, Roseate        |       |     |     |     | 4   | 14  | 3   |    |     | 55   | 61    |
| Starling                  | 35    | 156 | 23  | 45  | 188 | 16  | 3   | 10 | 2   | 10   | 480   |
| Teal, Blue-winged         |       |     |     |     |     |     |     | 10 |     | 2    | 12    |
| Green-winged              |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     | 12   | 12    |
| Tern, Caspian             |       |     |     |     | 8   | 11  |     | 35 | 1   | 140  | 195   |
| Common                    |       |     |     |     |     |     |     | 12 |     | 3    | 15    |
| Norster's                 |       |     | 25  |     | 7   | 25  |     | 65 | 20  | 557  | 699   |
| Gull-billed               |       |     | 2   |     | 3   |     |     | 10 |     |      | 15    |
| Royal                     |       |     | 25  |     | 4   | 15  |     |    |     | 126  | 170   |
| Sandwich                  |       |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |     | 2    | 2     |
| Thrasher, Brown           | 12    | 1   | 2   |     | 10  | 31  | 2   | 3  | 12  | 10   | 83    |
| Thrush, Hermit            | 1     | 3   |     |     | 2   | 1   |     | 2  | 1   | 6    | 16    |
| Wood                      | 2     |     |     | 1   |     |     |     |    |     |      | 3     |

| Species                  | Area   |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     | Total |
|--------------------------|--------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|-----|-------|
|                          | 1      | 2   | 3  | 4  | 5   | 6   | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10  |       |
| Towhee, Lutescent-sided  | 1      |     | 1  |    |     | 1   |    |    | 1   |     | 4     |
| Titmouse, Tufted         | 5      | 7   |    | 3  | 1   |     | 1  | 10 |     | 4   | 41    |
| Vireo, Solitary          |        | 2   |    | 1  | 1   |     |    | 1  |     | 1   | 7     |
| Vulture, Black           | 3      | 1   |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     | 4     |
| Turkey                   | 21     | 5   | 3  | 7  | 5   | 3   |    | 1  |     | 1   | 44    |
| Warbler, Black-and-white |        |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     | 2     |
| Myrtle                   | 10     | 51  |    | 25 | 150 | 232 | 13 | 50 | 150 | 221 | 1062  |
| Nashville                |        |     |    |    |     |     |    |    | 4   |     | 4     |
| Orange-crowned           | 5      | 2   | 1  | 5  | 3   | 14  | 2  | 15 | 6   | 20  | 73    |
| Phainopepla              |        |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     | 6     |
| Pine                     | 12     | 6   |    | 1  | 2   |     |    |    |     |     | 24    |
| Wilson's                 |        |     |    |    | 1   |     |    |    |     |     | 2     |
| Yellowthroat             |        |     |    |    |     | 1   |    |    |     |     | 8     |
| Waxwing, Cedar           | 26     | 3   | 3  | 50 | 6   | 55  |    | 5  | 25  | 151 | 335   |
| Willet                   |        |     | 1  |    |     | 16  | 3  |    |     | 1   | 21    |
| Woodcock, American       |        |     |    |    |     |     |    | 1  |     |     | 2     |
| Woodpecker, Downy        | 1      | 3   | 2  | 1  |     | 1   |    | 1  | 1   | 1   | 11    |
| Pileated                 | 5      | 2   |    | 5  |     | 1   | 1  |    |     |     | 14    |
| Red-bellied              | 11     | 4   | 4  | 3  | 8   | 1   | 1  | 3  | 2   | 7   | 40    |
| Red-headed               |        |     |    | 1  |     | 2   |    |    |     |     | 3     |
| Wren, Carolina           | 18     | 21  | 15 | 6  | 15  | 20  | 3  | 4  | 2   | 20  | 124   |
| House                    |        |     |    |    | 8   | 3   |    |    | 2   | 9   | 22    |
| Long-billed Marsh        |        |     |    |    |     | 1   |    |    |     | 1   | 2     |
| Short-billed Marsh       |        |     |    |    |     | 6   |    |    |     | 1   | 9     |
| Winter                   |        |     |    |    | 1   | 2   |    | 2  | 2   |     | 7     |
| Yellowlegs, Greater      |        | 1   |    |    | 2   |     |    |    | 4   | 4   | 11    |
| Lesser                   |        |     |    |    | 10  |     | 2  | 6  |     | 1   | 19    |
| Cuck (sp)                |        |     | 5  |    | 33  |     | 15 |    |     |     | 53    |
| Hawk (sp)                |        | 3   | 1  |    | 1   | 2   | 1  |    |     |     | 6     |
| Blackbird (sp)           | 500    | 175 |    |    |     |     |    |    |     | 20  | 5875  |
| Small Sandpiper (sp)     |        |     |    |    | 1   |     | 12 |    | 300 |     | 313   |
| Thrush, Swainson's       |        |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Oriole, Spitiwore        |        |     |    |    | 1   |     |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Redstart, American       |        |     |    |    | 1   |     |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Owl, Short-eared         |        |     |    |    |     | 1   |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Chuck-will's-widow       |        |     |    |    |     | 1   |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Flycatcher, Olivaceous   |        |     |    |    |     | 1   |    |    |     |     | 1     |
| Pheasant, King-necked    |        |     |    |    |     |     | 1  |    |     |     | 1     |
| Loon, Red-throated       |        |     |    |    |     |     |    | 1  |     |     | 1     |
| Cormorant, Olivaceous    |        |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     | 5   | 5     |
| Oriole, Bullock's        |        |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     | 1   | 1     |
| Total by area            | 68     | 40  | 61 | 81 | 73  | 95  | 58 | 74 | 77  | 106 |       |
| Total Species            | 156    |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     |       |
| No. of Observers         | 57     |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     |       |
| Total Individuals        | 54,320 |     |    |    |     |     |    |    |     |     |       |

### COMING EVENTS

- January 29 ~~1968~~ OWC field trip. Meet at 7:00 A.M. on Galveston side of San Luis Pass bridge for "Shell Safari" led by Dorothy Sorrells. Bring lunch, drinks, shelling accessories, including insect repellent.
- February 3 Thursday Regular OWC meeting at 7:30 P.M. at Conde Recreation Center. Program will be a movie by Jimmy Murray on "Blind Birding."
- February 6 Sunday OWC field trip to West Harris County led by Dan Hardy. Meet at Bear Creek Park at 7:30 A.M. Bring lunch.
- February 9 Tuesday Regular OWC meeting at 8:00 P.M. at Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. The program will be of special interest to birders. Steve Williams will talk on "Finding the Best Birding Spots During Spring Migration."
- Feb. 19, 20, 21 OWC bus trip to the Rio Grande Valley. Contact Clayton Gilman if you want to go and have not yet made reservations.

February 21 Audubon wildlife Film at 8:00 P.M. at Greater Houston Builder's Association Auditorium, 2210 West Alabama. Have supper at 6:00 at Suzanne's Monday Cafeteria. We move from 14,410 foot Mt. Rainier in January to as much as 282 feet below sea level in February, as Kent Lurden presents "Death Valley--Land of Contrast." Mr. Lurden takes us with him as he explores this fascinating place from the low point to bordering mountains with pinon and pristle cone pine forests. A surprising variety of plant and animal life is found, and this movie shows 40 species of animals and birds, including the ringtail cat, desert bighorn sheep, kit fox, American Avocet, prairie Falcon and Golden eagle.

March 25 & 26 Our field trip to Corpus Christi. Those going will make their own travel Sat. & Sun. arrangements and reservations. Headquarters will be the Padre Motel, 9401 South Padre Island Drive, phone 512-937-1433. Ralph Hunter and Kay McCracken of Corpus will lead the trips. Meet Saturday morning at 7:30 at the motel for birding in the Corpus Christi area. Trip to Flour Bluff to look for Least Grebes and to a park in town, where there may be Olive Sparrows. Saturday evening will be a trip to listen for Paragules. Sunday there will be a visit to the Welder Wildlife Refuge to look for Curved-bill and long-billed Thrashers and Verdin, among others. Arrangements will have to be made for each birder to take his own lunch both days.



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 Outdoor Nature Club

*Jan 72*