



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XVI, NO. 9

January, 1968

 *
 * A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION *
 *
 * Let us resolve not only to follow our *
 * fascinating hobby, birding, the study *
 * of ornithology, etc., during the coming *
 * year, but to work individually and as a *
 * group to further conservation in all of *
 * its aspects. *
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PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS

It is very probable that many of our readers have read the following article. For those who have not, we feel that the author presents a strong plea for support of the preservation of our fast disappearing, precious tidelands and we consider it perhaps a very appropriate beginning of our conservation efforts to re-print OUR VANISHING TIDELANDS by Polly Redford. Appeared originally in The Atlantic Monthly. Copyright ©1967 by Polly Redford. (Polly Redford is a member, Miami Fla. Tropical Audubon Society.)

Along the Gulf Coast and most of our seaboard from Florida to Massachusetts, a long, soft cushion of sand and mud, held together by huge mats of tough, resilient rushes and grasses, lies between solid ground and open ocean. Endless amounts of water can be hurled upon this natural barrier; each grain of sand, each blade of grass acts as a tiny baffle catching and holding the water back. And twice a day, like a sponge, it slowly soaks up the flooding tide, impounding the water until it subsides.

No/^{one}word describes the whole of this low, drowned country where fresh waters merge with salt: we speak instead of bays, basins, lagoons, deltas, sandbanks, marshes, mangroves, flats. Most people, seeing only a monotony of mud and grass, sand and silence, think of them as desolate wastes, uninhabitable, therefore worthless.

But they are not worthless. Without them, storm tides would pile higher and higher upon the shore, overflowing harbors, sucking away beaches and roads. Moreover, they combine with the Continental Shelf to make our south and east coasts the most productive in the world. In the swamps and marshes, along the shallow bays and creeks, biologists have discovered an annual growth of living matter equal to that of the most fertile farmlands. For tidelands trap the silt and organic matter washed down by rivers, holding them to be fertilized again and again by minerals and salts carried in from the sea. As the flowing tide spreads all these ingredients out in the sun, an extraordinary bloom of life takes place. It occurs in the surface water, where microscopic vegetables called phytoplankton grow in fantastic numbers; and on the flats and bottom, where algae and grasses draw substance from the water and energy from the sun; and in the marshes, where thick mats of decaying grasses make a compost of proteins, vitamins and carbohydrates.

So much lives and grows and breeds in our tidelands that more than half of the saltwater fish and shellfish that we take are called "estuarine dependent," which means that they either spawn or hatch here, or spend some vital stage of their lives here, or feed upon the life that flows from here out over out Continental Shelf, where 90 percent of our offshore seafoods are harvested. Thus, tidelands

represent the livelihood of about 100,000 American fishermen, whose three-billion-pound catch paid them \$250 million in 1965.

Still, we Americans go right on treating our tidelands as sewers and garbage dumps. We drain them, dredge them, fill them with rubble--and then enter these "improvements" on our tax rolls. Or we build massive piers, seawalls and dikes to hold back the tides as a fortress repels an enemy. This may be fine for engineers and contractors, but not for taxpayers--or tidelands.

As a result, some of our shores have recently become biological disaster areas. On Long Island, for instance, fish and wildlife surveys show that 29 percent of the coastal wetlands existing in 1954 were obliterated ten years later. Of the remainder, 88 percent were "vulnerable to destruction"--for housing, roads, airports, parking lots, factories, dumps--as are all wetlands and estuaries wherever population pressure swells the need for land near great harbors.

In June, 1966, many Long Islanders appeared before the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries to testify on what had happened in Hempstead and South Oyster Bay, a story that is just as true of Boston, Norfolk, Miami, Tampa, Houston or San Francisco. Town officials, many of whom thought they were putting useless swamps to work, sold publicly owned bay bottom for 10 to 35 cents a cubic yard to developers, who dredged it up onto the salt meadows. Since the fill cost so little, this made-land was cheaper than upland acreage, and so was the housing that was built on it. But dredging not only destroyed the marshes; it dropped the bay bottom 30 feet in places, too low for light to reach marine plants. As a result, said one witness, "Areas once highly productive of marine life were rapidly transformed into miniature biological deserts."

If the forces now controlling our environment were only the "wicked industries," as most people think, life would be a lot easier. Ironically, the worst offender is usually the government itself--local, state or federal. Each government has its own plans for tidelands, most of them ruinous. Each agency, acting independently, rules its own part of the landscape like a feudal fief. The largest, most destructive agencies are: the Army Corps of Engineers, whose navigation and flood-control projects are often designed without regard for biological consequences; the Department of Agriculture, whose pesticide and drainage programs poison estuaries and obliterate marshes; state and federal highway systems, which find that tidelands make cheaper roadbeds than other lands.

To see the final result, you must go to the Gulf of Mexico, where Brobdignagian public-works programs have combined with pollution and real-estate development in a way that threatens not only tidelands but the entire Gulf. In the past three years, the brown pelican, state bird of Louisiana, has vanished from that state, believed killed by pesticides washed down the Mississippi and contaminating the pelicans' food. Salt water from the Corps' Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet Canal has intruded into the New Orleans area, affecting oyster production for miles around. In addition, the Soil Conservation Service plans to drain thousands of acres of Louisiana marshland for cattle grazing. In Florida, dredging for waterfront estates has laid ten feet of choking silt over once-productive areas of Boca Ciega Bay.

At a meeting in New Orleans last November, I listened as marine scientists from Mexico and the Gulf states catalogued the destruction. Saddest of all were the losses to come--the exact damage these men know in advance, but are helpless to prevent because no one listens to them. For, after 100 years of poverty, the Gulf states are enjoying the biggest industrial boom of their history; and when bank deposits are tripling, no one wants to be reminded of pollution and conservation.

"Our estuaries are dissolving in front of us," said one speaker, an angry man. "But after a 30-minute movie filled with pictures of shiny new automobiles in the factory parking lots, the state biologist must convince those people that the empty marsh on the proposed plant site is worth saving."

Fortunately, these state biologists do not always have to act alone. All along our coasts, people are working to save what they can. At Cape May, N. J., a small but determined chapter of the Izaak Walton League is leading the fight for county action to preserve 35,000 acres of coastal marshes. On the Gulf Coast, the Nature

Conservancy has bought 1600 acres of flats and mangroves in Rookery Bay and has an option on 1000 more. To protect Mobile Bay, the National Wildlife Federation joined with sportsmen, citizen groups and the state conservation department to push through a complete revision of fresh-and salt-water pollution laws. In Massachusetts, a coalition of conservation groups pushed through in 1965 the model Coastal Wetlands Act, which allows the state to restrict action damaging to coastal wetlands unless the landowner can prove that the restriction deprives him of practical use of that area. If he proves it, the state may either abandon the restriction or take the land interest by eminent domain.

But not all tidelands can become parks or preserves. We need other methods, a variety of them, to administer the nation's shoreline as an ecological unit. Several bills have been introduced in Congress which mark the beginning of an overall policy for these misunderstood, mismanaged areas. Though the budget and land acquisition are very limited in these bills, they give the Secretary of the Interior the job of studying which of our tidelands need protection most. And, they require his approval for any dredging and filling in the tidelands and the Great Lakes.

To pass even this much will take strong popular support--not just from people who understand the esthetics of marshlands and their importance to game and conservation, but from those who understand their economic value. Some Americans, of course, find it profitable to keep tidelands/^{just} as they are--divided among hundreds of ineffectual, conflicting jurisdictions. But this is something the rest of us can no longer afford--not if we hope to have fish or birds or open space left on our shores. No nation, even the richest, is rich enough to throw so much away.

--- CONSERVATION BEGINS AT HOME by Pat Ridge---

The morning of December 23, 1967, began bright and clear, which, after a long series of dull, wet days, seemed to be a true Christmas gift to be enjoyed in the out of doors. I was sitting around the house, thinking of slipping away from the last minute seasonal rush and enjoying an interlude with book and binoculars, when Julia Bradley telephoned me to ask if I might give her information regarding location of Bear Creek Park, as she and her husband wanted to visit it that day. Quite obviously, I decided to show the park first hand, and upon her suggestion, have decided to attempt to acquaint our other members with this park.

Bear Creek Park was begun some two years ago, and now consists of 2600 acres of prime wilderness of both deciduous and evergreen trees along Bear Creek and Langham Bayou just north of the town of Addicks, 17 miles west of town. I became familiar with this area about four years ago, before any development and have compiled a list of birds now nearing the 100 mark in and around the park. Harris County has developed a portion of the park for picnicing and camping and is now building an 18 hole golf course. The golf course is being built in an area of light foliage, leaving a large portion of the dense forestation in its natural state.

What Harris County has done to develop this park, they can also do to destroy it and the surrounding area as a habitat for wildlife. Recent newspaper articles in the Houston Post have shown that the county now wants to sub-lease a sizeable portion of the Addicks Dam area to certain un-named persons for the purpose of building a race track similar to "Indianapolis," with the attendant heavy traffic, noise and destruction of untold acres for parking facilities and the like. The City of Houston, on the other hand has expressed the wish that it be developed more along natural lines, similar to Memorial Park, with little additional man-made development.

The land upon which Bear Creek Park is located is owned by the Federal Government and administered by the Army Corps of Engineers. This agency must make final approval of any development plan. In order to provide up-to-date information I spoke with an official of the Corps of Engineers at Galveston and was told that both the city and the county have made application for the remaining 10,000 acres behind Addicks Dam but neither showed in their application any plan for development, which is required. This official stated that a race track was not incompatible with Government policy and that final decision would be reached only after holding public hearings.

Information was requested from both city and county offices regarding their next steps in this controversy, and quite frankly, very little information was forthcoming. The city

said only that a study had been made "several years ago and is now out of print." The county said "plans are incomplete."

It is my conviction that it is incumbent upon each one of us who has an interest in wildlife preservation to be aware of this threat to a truly beautiful area and to keep abreast of any developments, particularly of any impending public hearings. Each of us who can, should be present at these hearings and be heard when the opportunity presents itself! Inasmuch as the Corps of Engineers is a Government agency, I feel that our Congressmen and Senators (each of whom appears to have a genuine concern for conservation) should also be apprised of our views in the matter. The City of Houston obviously has the better of the two plans from our viewpoint and it couldn't hurt to let our City Councilmen hear from us also.

This struggle is not as large, perhaps, as that concerning the Big Thicket or the California Redwoods; the principle is identical, however, and the stakes are at our very doorstep, here in Harris County. Shall we meet this challenge?

Both Pat Ridge and Noel Pettingell gave us detailed instructions as to how to reach Harris County Bear Creek Park. They are as follows:

Proceed on what is known as the Katy Freeway (Interstate 10) to the Addicks-Satsuma Road (1960). Turn right on Addicks-Satsuma Road and proceed north approximately 2.8 miles to Clay Road. Turn right and travel east approximately one mile to the entrance of the park. This is well marked with a brown oval sign. Turn right into park.

Pat Ridge was kind enough to send us the following information as to the names, addresses and proper salutations of those officials whom we in Harris County and area should contact regarding matters of conservation:

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

Honorable Stewart L. Udall
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Salutation: Dear Mr. Secretary

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Honorable Ralph Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Salutation: Dear Senator --:

Honorable John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES

Honorable Bob Casey
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Salutation: Dear Congressman --:

Honorable Bob Eckhardt
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Honorable George Bush
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

COUNTY JUDGE

Honorable Bill Elliott
County Judge Harris County
Harris County Courthouse
Houston, Texas 77002

Salutation: Dear Judge Elliott:

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Honorable W. Kyle Chapman
Honorable V. V. Ramsey
Honorable Philip E. Sayers
Honorable E. A. Lyons, Jr.

Address: Room 807
Harris County Courthouse
301 San Jacinto
Houston, Texas 77002

MAYOR

Honorable Louie Welch
Mayor of Houston
Houston, Texas 77002

Salutation: Dear Mayor Welch:

CITY COUNCIL

Honorable Johnny Goyen
Honorable Robert W. Webb
Honorable A. L. Miller
Honorable Lee McLemore
Honorable Homer Ford
Honorable Frank Mancuso
Honorable Bill Elliott
Honorable Frank E. Mann

Address: City Hall
900 Brazos
Houston, Texas 77002

Salutation: Dear Councilman--:

Although the following was sent in a letter of coverage to us and rather "off the record" so to speak, Pat Ridge wrote the following paragraph, which we think will be of sufficient interest conservation-wise to print:

"Incidentally, I had occasion to speak with a Mrs. Green in Congressman Eckhart's office here in Houston and received a most cordial welcome for both myself and any other members of the organization to visit with Mr. Keith Ozmore, Legislative Assistant. Mr. Ozmore is responsible to the Congressman for all matters pertaining to conservation and would purportedly be available for conservation discussions and meetings, given proper notice. Mrs. Green displayed a genuine interest in our organization and gave every impression Congressman Eckhardt was truly interested in our cause. "

ACORN WOODPECKER SIGHTED IN HARRIS COUNTY BEAR CREEK PARK!!!!

Wallace Mebane, Jr. reported that he and his wife Lynonda, sighted an ACORN WOODPECKER in Bear Creek Park on Sunday, January 7th. They saw this bird in the picnic area off the first road to the left after entering the park approximately .2 miles from the entrance. The bird was observed from the road at a distance of 50 feet with a 30 x 60 'scope and 7 x 35 binoculars from 4:15 to 4:30 p. m.. He called Mrs. Alvin R. Massingill, WA 1-4441, who immediately placed it on the BIRD CALL. (The BIRD CALL will be described later in this issue.)

January

Noel Pettingell also spotted the woodpecker in the park on Wednesday/10th. He states that after entering the park he also turned to the left on the same road, approximately .1 of a mile from the entrance, traveled about .2 mile in the picnic area and stopped and parked at the second restroom. He walked toward and along Langham Creek. He stated the bird flew across the creek, back and forth and was observed from a distance of 50 feet with 8 x 40 binoculars. This was at 1:10 p. m.

Noel states that according to the records, the nearest sighting of this bird to Houston was by Edgar Kincaid, May 3 and 4 of 1956, 17 miles southwest of Austin - almost 150 miles due west of Bear Creek Park. Mr. Kincaid had never seen one closer to Austin previous to that sighting than the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend Park.

WHISTLING SWANS

Russ Clapper, Manager of the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, reported that eight WHISTLING SWANS, five adults and three immatures, were seen on a small lake on the Barrow Ranch located on the Barrow-White Road, first by Mrs. Lambert who lives on the ranch, on December 30th, and then by Russ on January 5th. This was immediately placed on the BIRD CALL. - - To reach this ranch, travel from Houston on Interstate 10 (East Freeway) to Highway 61, turn right on Highway 61 and proceed approximately 2.7 miles to the Barrow-White Road (There is a marker at the intersection.), turn left and travel approximately 1 1/2 miles. The small lake on this ranch is on the left side of the road. These birds are known to move around in the area and may or may not be on this particular lake - but it's worth a chance!

WHAT IS THE BIRD CALL? (In the east this is known as the RARE BIRD ALERT)

The BIRD CALL is a method by which anyone sighting a rare or unusual bird can transmit this information to those who are on the Call List by telephoning Mrs. Alvin R. Massingill, WA 1-4441, who will in turn notify three people, those three people each notifying three people, etc. - thus setting up a chain of telephone calls. This does not impose a hardship on any one person, but gets the magic news around with electrifying rapidity.

Those who are not on the Call List at the present time and who wish to be placed on it, please notify Mrs. Massingill.

STRANGE NOISES IN WOODS INVESTIGATED BY COAST GUARD!

Linda Snyder whose son, Lt. Drew Snyder, U. S. Coast Guard, ^{is} presently stationed at Key West, Florida, sent in the following article:

Group Commander Southwest Harbor, Maine, received a report on 6 April, 1967 that strange high pitched oscillating sounds were heard coming from the marshes or woods. The informant also reported that mysterious beeps could sometimes be heard at the same time very loud and distinct. It was reported also that the beeps had been heard on two previous days. A Coast Guard investigating team was dispatched to track down the unusual noises and discovered them to be the mating call of a saw-whet owl. The owl was left to go about his business undisturbed.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OG MEETING HELD DECEMBER 7, 1967:

The December 7, 1967, meeting of the Ornithology Group was called to order by Chairman Dick Miller, at 7:30 at the Downtown Recreation Center.

Eva Gilman introduced guests and long-absent members: Mr. and Mrs. Russel Clapper from the Anahuac Refuge, Mr. Hardy, Vic Emanuel and Noel Pettingill.

The minutes were approved as read.

Sarah Gordon, Treasurer, reported that the balance on November 30, 1967, was \$552.19.

Recent field trips led by Norma Oates and Ben Feltner were reported to be enjoyed by all who attended.

Marian Washburn announced that at the next meeting, Professor Jed J. Ramsey of Beaumont would give the program.

The Bradleys were complimented on the excellence of the Spoonbill.

Dick Miller announced that Nance Cunningham McDavid had been contacted and that she had agreed to be the compiler for records of birds seen at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.

John Tveten announced the Christmas Count to be held December 30 with the meeting afterwards to be at the Tower Restaurant in Baytown. Vic Emanuel announced the Freeport count on December 31; and Wally Mebane the Galveston count on December 23, organized by Steve Williams.

David Marrack announced that U. S. Steel is taking over some of the birdiest land in our area. He and Henry Hoffman are to meet next week with senior members of the company. The January field trip will be Sunday, January 21 - time, place and leader to be announced later.

Russel Clapper asked if the group knew about the trespass law in Texas. He said that he had heard that only if you were hunting, fishing, or camping, or doing actual damage to the property could you be prosecuted; just being on the land was not grounds. No one was able to confirm this.

The report of the nominating committee was presented:

President: Wallace Mebane
Vice President: John Tveten
Treasurer: Sarah Gordon
Secretary: Katrina Ladwig

The slate was favorably received. There were no nominations from the floor.

Louise Hoffman asked for volunteers to give their name to the Museum of Natural Science. People often call there for birding information and it would be nice if they could call someone who would take them around to see our birds.

Marian Washburn introduced Dirk Hagemeyer who gave the first part of the program, a beautiful movie of South Deer Island. His Masked Duck pictures are promised for a later date! Victor Emanuel then gave a provocative, informal talk on what the bird club could and should be doing in the field of conservation and public service. Discussion ensued and Vic promised to write his ideas up for the Spoonbill so that those who missed the meeting could read it, as well as those who wanted to hear it again.

Respectfully submitted,
Katrina Ladwig, Secretary

Louise Hoffman telephoned the Central Public Library, the Chamber of Commerce and the Museum of Natural History and received permission to send them a list of names of volunteers who may be called by interested birders. The list is as follows:

MRS. MARGARET ANDERSON	MO 8 6405
MRS. LINDA SNYDER	GR 1 1651
HENRY S. HOFFMAN	JA 3 2965
DR. JOHN TVETEN	427-4431
MRS. NORMA OATES	MO 8 6140
MR. CLAYTON GILMAN	MI 9 7716
MR. NOEL PETTINGELL	WA 1 2274
MRS. MARIANNE MOORE	HO 5 5864
MISS MELBA DRAKE	JA 3 8285
MRS. CHARLOTTE JOHNSON	SU 2 1795

Louise suggests that the list be kept by the above people so that if a person is called and can't take the caller out they can refer them to the others.

By interested birders it is meant people new to the area or even local people unfamiliar with the Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club.

ADDENDA TO OCTOBER CLEARING HOUSE

American Bittern: (17) 2, Anahuac Refuge, LS. (Linda Synder)
BURROWING OWL (1) 31, Anahuac Refuge, LS.
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER: (1) 17, Anahuac Refuge, LS. - a typical female with bay on breast.

ADDENDA TO NOVEMBER CLEARING HOUSE (All by Linda Synder)

Common Loon: (1) 11, (2) 15, Bayshore.
Horned Grebe: (2) 29, San Jacinto Bay.
Eared Grebe: (10-200) most days Bayshore and Anahuac Refuge.
Albino Grebe, sp.: (1) 3, San Jacinto Bay, - This is the 4th winter for this bird in San Jacinto Bay.
Pied-billed Grebe: (10-30) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
White Pelican: (100-1,000) most days Bayshore.
Double-crested Cormorant: (2-10), most days, Bayshore and Anahuac Refuge.
Little Blue Heron: (1-2) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Black-Crowned Night Heron: (nc), most days Bayshore.
American Bittern: (2-3) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
White-faced Ibis: (nc) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
White Ibis: (nc) 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Canada Goose: (25-100) 19, 24, Anahuac Refuge.
White-fronted Goose: (25-100), 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Snow Goose and Blue Goose: (5,000-10,000), 8, 14, 19, 24; (15,000), 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Mallard Duck: (2-10), 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Black Duck: (2), 14, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Gadwall: (25-100), 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Pintail Duck: (200-1,000), 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Green-winged Teal: (25-200) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
Blue-winged Teal: (10-100) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
CINNAMON TEAL: (2) 14, (1) 30, Anahuac Refuge.
American Widgeon: (2-10) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.

Shoveler: (200-2,000) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Redhead Duck: (2) 14, Anahuac Refuge.
 Ring-necked Duck: (4-25) 8, 19, 24, 30; (35) 14, Anahuac Refuge.
 Canvasback Duck: (4-6) 14, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Lesser Scaup: (10-200) most days from 11th, Bayshore.
 COMMON GOLDENEYE: (8 - 1 male 7 females) 24, Anahuac Refuge.
 Ruddy Duck: (20-200) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 MASKED DUCK: (2-3) 8, 14; (4) 19, Anahuac Refuge.
 Hooded Merganser: (1) 14, Anahuac Refuge.
 Red-breasted Merganser: (6) 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Red-tailed Hawk: (1-4) most days, Bayshore and Anahuac Refuge.
 Marsh Hawk: (5-8) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Pigeon Hawk: (1) 11, Bayshore.
 Clapper Rail: (2-6) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Common Gallinule: (nc) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Black-bellied Plover: (1-2) most days, Bayshore.
 Common Snipe: (1-15) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Spotted Sandpiper: (1-2) most days, Bayshore.
 Greater Yellowlegs: (nc.) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Lesser Yellowlegs: (nc.) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Dunlin: (200) 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Dowitcher sp.: (10-50) 14, 19, 24, Anahuac Refuge.
 Sanderling: (5-20) most days, Bayshore.
 American Avocet: (600) 3, (100) 29, San Jacinto Bay.
 Franklin's Gull: (100-) 24, Chambers County.
 Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1-3) daily, Bayshore.
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1-2) several days, Bayshore.
 Horned Lark: (2-15) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Brown Creeper: (1) 4, Bayshore.
 Brown Thrasher: (1-2) daily, Bayshore.
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (1-5) most days, Bayshore.
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (1-3) most days, Bayshore.
 Water Pipit: (nc.) most days, Bayshore and Anahuac Refuge.
 Oranged-crowned Warbler: (1-2) most days, Bayshore.
 Yellowthroat: (1-5) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Savannah Sparrow: (25-100) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Seaside Sparrow: (5-30) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 Vesper Sparrow: (1-3) 24, 30, Anahuac Refuge.
 White-throated Sparrow: (1-10) most days, Bayshore.
 Swamp Sparrow: (1-5) 8, 14, 19, 24, 30, Anahuac.

CLEARING HOUSE, December, 1967

Common Loon: (1-2) 2, 9, 13, 16, 20, Bayshore, LS.
 American Bittern: (3) 3, Anahuac Refuge, LS.
 Roseate Spoonbill: (50) 3, Anahuac Refuge, LS.
 Cinnamon Teal: (1) 3, Anahuac Refuge, LS.
 WHITE-TAILED KITE: (1) 3, Anahuac Refuge, J>.
 Virginia Rail: (1) 3, Anahuac Refuge, LS.
 Bonaparte's Gull: (2) 3, Bayshore, LS
 Short-eared Owl: (6) 3, Anahuac Refuge, LS
 Hummingbird sp.: (1) 1, 4, 1737 Sunset Blvd., Houston, L&HH.
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1 female) 1st/30th each day; (1 male) 2, 6, 12, 13, 18, 20, 21, 24, 26, 28, 11926 Broken Baugh, Houston, RB&MAM.
 Robin: (3) 12, Bayshore, LS; (1) 19, 7146 Ilex, Houston, NP.
 Cedar Waxwing: (5-6) 20, Bayshore, LS.
 Pine Siskin: (1) seen with American Goldfinches, 3, Bayshore, LS.

Clearing House Contributors:

L&HH	Louise and Henry Hoffman
RB&MAM	Robert B. and Mary Ann Moore
NP	Noel Pettingell
LS	Linda Snyder
J>	John and Gloria Tveten

COMING EVENTS:

- Thursday, February 1, 1968: Regular OG Meeting, Downtown Recreational Center, 7:30 P. M. The speaker: Dr. Jed J. Ramsey, his subject: BIRDS AS FLYING MACHINES WITH SOME INFORMATION ABOUT CHIMNEY SWIFTS AND COLD WEATHER. - - Dr. Ramsey was born near Dighton, Kansas. He was reared on a farm near Dighton, attended High School at Lane County Community High School in Dighton. B. S. Kansas State University. M. S. Kansas State Teachers College. Thesis Title: An Ornithological Survey of Ottawa County State Park in Kansas. Taught High School Science and Mathematics at Courtland High School, Courtland, Kansas, Minneapolis High School, Minneapolis, Kansas. Ph. D. Oklahoma State University. Began teaching at Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont, Texas, in 1965, Freshman Biology and Ornithology. His family: Wife-Frances M., Children-David Jed, Robert Lynn, Julia Frances, and Daniel E. Ph. D. Dissertation - Some Metabolic Changes in Chimney Swifts (Chaetura pelagica) at Lowered Environmental Temperatures.
- Saturday, February 10, 1968: Regular OG Field Trip, N. and W. Harris County. Leader: Noel Pettingell. Meet at 8:00 A. M. off North Freeway (U. S. 75) at Spring-Cypress Road/Tomball exit in the Minimax parking lot. About 23 miles and 20 minutes from downtown and 3.7 miles (4 minutes) north of Addicks Humble/F. M. 1960 exit. Late-comers (after about 8:30) may catch up with the main group along the following route: Spring-Stuebner, Kuykendahl, and Huffsmith Roads to Humble; Waller-Tomball Rd. to Roberts Cemetery Rd. and Spring Creek; Waller-Tomball Rd. to Hegar Rd. and Hockley; Warren Ranch Rd. to Hockley Salt Mine; Jack Rd. to Katy-Hockley Rd. and return to Houston via Clay Rd. and Hempstead Rd. (U. S.290).
- Tuesday, February 13, 1968: Regular ONC Meeting held at the Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, 8:00 P. M. The speaker: R. A. Thompson, Jr. His subject: "Conservation For Controlled Subsistence Houston Area."
- Saturday, February 17, 1968: Regular ONC Field Trip. Leaders: Tom and Dorothy Kister. "Shells and Beach Trails." Details in next NATURE NOTES.
- Monday, March 4, 1968 Audubon Wildlife Film "The Real Yellowstone" by Fran William Hall, Houston Homebuilders Auditorium, 2710 W. Alabama, 8:00 P. M. - - Modern Yellowstone! Here is an up to date story of our oldest and largest National Park. In the heart of the Rockies and at an elevation above 7000 feet this plateau provides the country with its finest wildlife refuge. Here live remnants of the great herds that once roamed the west in their wild solitude. Fran Hall of Northfield, Minnesota takes us on a color film tour of this great park to show us the scenic beauty and many of the wild creatures still inhabiting the high meadows, woods and streams. He has captured in this film the real Yellowstone--its true wilderness character--its summer and winter moods. Come and live or relive your trip to the Yellowstone National Park.

OFFICERS:

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| Chairman: | Mr. Richard Miller, 10023 Sugar Hill, Houston, Texas 77042 |
| Vice-Chairman: | Mr. Wallace C. Mebane, Jr., 7106 Mobud, Houston, Texas 77036 |
| Secretary: | Mrs. Bill (Katrina) Ladwig, 4200 Mt. Vernon, Houston, Texas 77006 |
| Treasurer: | Miss Sarah Gordon, 1746 Wroxton Court, Houston, Texas 77005 |
| Field Trip Chairman: | Dr. David Marrack, 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, Texas 77401 |
| Program Chairman: | Mrs. Daniel T. (Marian) Washburn, 2101 59th St., Galveston, Texas |
| Co-Editors of | Mr. and Mrs. Ewell C. (Julia) Bradley, #3 Briarway, Houston, |
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Jan 68

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