



THE SPOONBILL

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NO MORE SPOONBILLS?

OG dues and subscriptions are now past due. Remember that dues and subscriptions are for the club year. For those joining or subscribing later in the year, the OG has always tried to provide previous issues of THE SPOONBILL as long as they are available.

Please check your address label on the back page. If there is a red mark beside your name we have not received your dues, and this is your last SPOONBILL. The June SPOONBILL will be mailed approximately June 8, so please mail your check today. We have a bulk mailing rate of 2.1¢ a copy, which applies only when 200 or more copies are mailed at the same time. When you are late in paying, it costs the OG 14¢ to mail you each copy you missed.

So please send your check (made payable to Ornithology Group) for \$2.00 for dues (plus \$5.00 for ONC dues if you've not yet paid them) or \$4.00 for a SPOONBILL non-member subscription to Mrs. J.M. Gillette, 5027 Longmont, Houston, Texas 77056. For your convenience, a form was printed on page 17 of the April SPOONBILL.

COMING EVENTS

- Tuesday May 16 Brazosport Birders meeting, 7:30 p.m., in classroom of the Center for the Arts & Sciences at 400 College Dr. in Clute. Last meeting until fall.
- May 18-20 TOS meeting in Alpine, headquarters--Ramada Inn.
- Sat./Sun. May 20-21 ONC Visitors' Days at Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (last ones until fall). Camping Friday and/or Saturday nights. Bring food, water, your friendship, and take home memories of spring beauty and your trash! Don't forget Insect repellent or to send your bird sightings (including nesting activity) to Alfred Chandler.
- Saturday May 20 ONC field trip on the Houston Ship Channel aboard the M.V. Sam Houston, sponsored by the Conservation Group. A few places are still open, check with Raymond McDavid. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in parking lot by the boat; enter city dock area by Gate 8 off Clinton Drive and Wayside, and follow arrows to Observation Platform and the Sam Houston. Check in with Raymond McDavid when you arrive. Early comers can stop at Observation Platform overlooking the turning basin. Bring lunch. Afternoon activities include visit to Coast Guard facility on ship channel; birding the ponds in Galena Park; possibility of visit to a cargo ship.
- Sunday May 21 HAS field trip to Galveston and other points in search of late warblers. Meet at 7:30 in Kempner Park.
- Thursday May 25 Next SPOONBILL deadline for notices, articles, etc. (Have you a Learning Corner bit of knowledge to share? Or a birding anecdote of interest?)
- Saturday June 3 Next Clearing House deadline. (Please get your sightings in as early as possible, for they should reach the CH editor by the 3rd. Last month several lists were postmarked on or after the 3rd and were delivered several days later, consequently those sightings were too late to be included in the CH).
- Sat./Sun. June 3-4 Fish-eating Nesting Bird Survey: during the May 27-June 11 period there will be a count of fish-eating birds in the Galveston Bay area in cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife. The area will be flown the last week in May and area birders are needed to make ground truth counts of active rookeries. We hope to make this a general nesting bird survey con-

centrated on the June 3-4 weekend. Anyone interested, and especially anyone with a boat, are invited to contact Dick Pratt (497-6138) or Fred Collins (493-5409).

June 17-25 Merlin Birding Tour--Maine/Nova Scotia. Information, 461-2589

July 1-14 Has Tour--Pacific Northwest. Information, 461-2589

June & July--There will be no OG field trips during these two months.

1977 FISH-EATING BIRD CONFERENCE AND BREEDING SURVEY by Mary Ann Chapman

One of the highlights of my 1977 birding year was an Indoor event - the Texas Fish-Eating Bird Conference, held in Dallas October 28-29. The Texas Fish-Eating Bird Committee is an institutional member organization whose members are U.S. Fish & Game, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Texas General Land Office, Welder Wildlife Foundation, National Audubon Society and a few educational institutions. Each spring the Committee holds a Fish-Eating Bird Breeding Survey, and each fall member representatives and other interested parties meet to review results of that spring's survey and, in general, the status of colonial nesters in Texas.

A number of fascinating papers were presented at the Conference. For example, Oliveaceous Cormorant numbers were reported remaining low though they have recovered somewhat since the mid-1960's. Hatching success in 1977 was about 60%. A small sample of eggs from 1971 and 1976 showed a 96% decrease in pesticides. The primary cause of mortality seems to be storm damage to nests. The birds are heavily damaging their nesting trees and will eventually destroy them. So far, attempts at providing man-made nesting structures have been unsuccessful because unlike trees, they are rigid and the nests blow out of them.

Terry Maxwell of Angelo State College reported on Great Blue Heron colonies in the Concho Valley, deep in West Central Texas. There a frequent cause of nesting failure is that whole colonies are shot out by the local populace. In 1977 the area had 135 pairs in 23 colonies, many in arid hilly areas where you would least expect them, and miles from the nearest wet feeding grounds. Great Blue Herons often abandon a colony site one year and then return to it the following year. They appear able to coexist with raptor neighbors.

John C. Smith of Texas P&W reported on the banding and color-marking program carried out in 1977 after several years of non-funding. The site was the Redfish Bay area near Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, a strategic area for date-gathering because of the growing super-port controversy. The project banded 2133 birds during May, June, and July, 1977, and returns to date had been excellent. TP&W personnel on the project were concerned about bird mortality resulting from the banding but felt that it was actually quite low, mammal predation being a much stronger factor.

A national Colonial Wading Bird Group has been formed to standardize colonial identification and reporting. At this time it is primarily Eastern-oriented, where terrific problems with industry still exist. In comparison, we seem to have had great success in obtaining cooperation from Texas industries in our conservation efforts. A representative from the Cornell Colonial Bird Register was complimentary of the Committee's success in amassing information on colonial nesters, saying that Texas could well serve as a role model for the rest of the country. Their data base contains about 5000 records, with approximately 2500 having come from Federal bird surveys.

The specific returns from the 1977 breeding survey showed very low numbers for the Upper Texas Coast in general and the Houston-Galveston area in particular, mainly because of the lack of manpower. Such poor coverage of such a strategic area impairs the overall effort and really makes us look like a bunch of lazy oafs. This year's survey will be held May 27-28 and June 3-4. Why not rest a week or so after the peak of migration and then summon up one more burst of energy and help with the survey before settling under the air-conditioner for summer? If you will help (or if you can help us obtain use of a boat for the survey) please call Dick Pratt at 497-6138 or Fred Collins at 493-5409.

(For a copy of a more detailed report on the Conference, call Mary Ann Chapman at 665-2895. For the information of those who have never been on one of these surveys, there are areas that need to be checked where a boat is not necessary. So if you don't want to go out in a boat, but want to help, there is a place for you. --Editor)

BRAZOSPORT REPORT by Sherry Collins

The next meeting of the Brazosport Birders will be May 16 (see Coming Events). At our April meeting new officers were elected. They are: John Ray and Jim Renfro - Co-

Chairmen; Joyce Norman - Secretary; Tom Collins - Program Chairman; Larry Ballard - Field Trip Chairman; and Sherry Collins - Publicity.

Our group participated in the Hawk Migration Watch on April 22. We manned our outlook on top of the old gun emplacements near Quintana jetty from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Visibility was good, but we had a count of zero hawks. One Swainson's hawk was seen at 8 a.m. at the Freeport City Park.

While it is too soon to make a definite statement, it does seem as though the Freeport Park will show a loss of migrating warblers due to the cutting back of the underbrush. So far this year 22 species of warblers have been seen. Noticeably lacking in numbers are those species that prefer underbrush. However, neither have the other species occurred in the numbers they have in years past. We have had two good fall-outs and are hoping for more. We are preparing a checklist of the park and perhaps can use it to persuade the city not to disturb more of the habitat. The park remains one of the most popular spots for local birders.

A NOVA SCOTIA PELAGIC EXPERIENCE by Jim Morgan

From March 29 through April 4, 1978, I was 120 nautical miles offshore Nova Scotia, Canada, carrying out some of my professional duties. As usual, I was working as much at night as during the day and I found numerous periods of time waiting on something, such as a ship, the weather, repair of equipment, etc. During the daylight hours these waiting periods were occupied by trying to get acquainted with the local pelagic birdlife. There were always birds around. During the seven days I observed 163 Northern Fulmars, one Sooty Shearwater, 206 Northern Gannets, one Glaucous Gull, 239 Greater Black-backed Gulls, 479 Herring Gulls, and 357 Black-legged Kittiwakes. As can be seen, I mostly saw the common species of the area. The Sooty Shearwater, however was a very good find, being exceptionally early in the season. The best sighting of all may turn out to be an Ivory Gull. Except for one perplexing field mark, there would be no question. This bird will have to remain my personal "mystery gull" until opinions from east coast experts can be obtained.

Always of interest to me are the stray land birds found far offshore. On this trip several landed on board the ships I was on. These included an American Robin, 4 Starlings, a Red-winged Blackbird, 2 Northern Juncos, and a Song Sparrow. Another unidentified passerine fell victim to one of the efficient predators of the ocean, the Greater Black-backed Gull. I was observing 10 of these gulls on the water when all of a sudden they got up and began flying in a very erratic pattern. Putting my binoculars to my eyes I noticed they were in hot pursuit of a small land bird who was maneuvering frantically to avoid the gulls. Repeated swoops were made by the gulls toward the small bird. Finally, one of the gull's timing was just right and he caught in his bill and quickly downed it with one gulp! The gulls then returned to sit lazily on the water. One has to wonder how many stray passerines meet with this fate.

All in all it was a rewarding experience. Even though not too many different species were seen there was always a Gannet around. I will never tire looking at this magnificent sea bird. Next to the albatross this species has to rank as one of the great flyers of the ocean. And to watch them dive for fish is something else again! If you are ever up New England or eastern Canada way, go offshore for awhile. You will not regret it!

[The Merlin Birding Tour of June 17-25 to Maine/Nova Scotia includes some superb pelagic birding from the famed Blue Nose Ferry. Jim's account whets one's appetite for it, doesn't it? --Editor]

IS PELAGIC BIRDING OUT OF GALVESTON WORTHWHILE? by T. Paul Jones

On a bright Saturday morning, April 1, eight UTC birders booked passage on the party fishing boat, New Buccaneer, that left Galveston at 7:45 a.m. Pelagic birding out of Galveston has long been considered to be of negligible interest, but these birders wanted to see for themselves if there was anything out there.

Not much was seen until about 9:30, when a young Blue-faced Booby obligingly circled the boat. An hour later out into the Gulf a Gannet, Blue-faced Booby and Pomarine Jaeger were seen. Still later a Parasitic Jaeger was observed in a flock of Herring Gulls. As Galveston was approached late in the afternoon a spectacular view was had of an immature Gannet that circled the boat twice.

There was one dark, long-winged bird skimming the tops of the waves, which was determined to be a shearwater. It was at a considerable distance out from the boat, and a slight fog was just at wave top, so identification of the particular species of shearwater was all but impossible. Some of the observers, however, felt fairly sure it was a Cory's.

Other species sighted as far out at sea as 100 miles were Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Royal Tern and Gull-billed Tern. Particularly interesting were the Herring Gulls, which were seen in "bird-of-the-year", second year, third year, and full adult plumage. Few passerines were seen, though members of the crew mentioned seeing many "sea canaries" the day before, some even landing briefly on the boat-- obviously we had missed by one day a wave of warblers!

AROUND AND ABOUT

** From "Texas Highways comes news of Improvements to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, planned to benefit both birds and humans. Anyone who has been there during the past winter knows that traffic congestion has been worse than ever. According to the magazine article, the brushy 2,000-acre sanctuary for birds was beginning to lose some of its luster because of over popularity. At times during peak bird-watching season (October-April) traffic jammed the refuge's seven-mile loop road. (From personal observation, it seems that during a great deal of that time, most of that traffic is not birds, but "snowbirds", as Valley residents call winter visitors from the north who spend a few months in Valley sunshine). The article says that new funding will relieve congestion. The tour road will be closed to all but a quiet-running bus-tram system that carts visitors. Trails in the main refuge will be upgraded, and five satellite areas nearby, comprising an additional 2,000 acres, will be opened on a limited basis to birdwatchers who hike in. Those satellite areas sound interesting, we will try to learn more about them for you.

** Parks & Wildlife Department biologists, after an annual survey of nesting bald eagles, announced the finding of seven active nests this year, 2 unsuccessful and five producing nine young. The known nests occur in two major areas: southwest of Houston in Brazoria and Matagorda Counties and contains three of the nests, which produced six young. The other area, in Victoria, Calhoun, Goliad and Refugio Counties, had four nests but produced only three young. This was the area with the two unsuccessful nests. Around & About mentioned one of the successful nests last month, one from which two eaglets were visible. Several of our members have reported being thrilled by the sight through the scope of the eaglets stretching their wings, lifting up and settling back on the nest. Tom Collins of Lake Jackson says one eaglet seems reluctant to leave the nesting area and can still be seen perched in the tree above the nest or even on the nest itself.

The department wants to encourage the public to keep on the lookout for bald eagle nesting sites. Such reports are valuable; even if they turn out to be mistaken, there is always a chance a new nest may be spotted. The birds build the structures in the tops of large trees, repairing and adding to them each year until they become five or six feet wide and deep. P&WD biologists are particularly interested in locating any eagle nests around East Texas lakes.

** TP&WD's Information and Education Division has started a new service for us--a statewide toll-free telephone line to answer the public's questions about parks, wildlife, fish, etc. The number is 1-800-252-9327, and the line will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday except on state holidays. There will be a recorded message after hours.

THE LEARNING CORNER by Margaret Jones

Let me share with you something I learned the last weekend in April about cuckoos' calls. Most of us are familiar with the Yellow-billed Cuckoo's series of clucking notes with a hollow wooden quality, fairly fast until near the end, when they abruptly become slower and longer as they run down the scale. In fact, that series of *ka* notes that slows down to *kowlp* notes, which we most often hear on cloudy days from late April into July, assures us that the "raincrow" is somewhere around. But did you know it also calls on a single repeated note with no descending or diminishing effect?

Oberholtzer says, in Bird Life of Texas that Black-billed Cuckoos are not heard much in Texas. But the other day, when I heard a series of soft single notes, evenly spaced, of uniform pitch, more cooling whistle than hollow clucking, I was willing to bet I was listening to a Black-billed. Delving into the books, I found the Black-billed's common call was a series of evenly spaced soft notes in groups of two, three or four notes, but sometimes evenly spaced single notes are heard. As bird guides don't illustrate all plumages of a species, so bird call tapes don't give all calls, and on Peterson's tape one hears the series of notes in groups for the Black-billed, and the familiar notes with descending ending of the Yellow-billed. But by listening to the tape one can easily hear the distinct difference in quality of the voices of the two cuckoos.

At Hale Ranch that same day, Paul Jones, Ted Eubanks, Jr. and Woody Woodrow had twice heard a series of notes that they agreed was different; they described the sound as

more of a whistled coo, lacking the Yellow-billed's hollow sound and descending ending. Obviously we had heard similar voices.

The next day, again I heard in the yard a series of single notes of uniform pitch, but wait a minute! These notes definitely had a soft *knowlp* sound. This time the bird was located--a Yellow-billed Cuckoo. So then I had a problem, had my ear deceived me the day before? The matter was resolved in my mind the following day when the Yellow-billed was again heard to give the series of deliberate single notes, on the same pitch, not descending, and I watched him as he perched in the pecan tree. But in less than an hour I heard the other sound, repeated only about five or six times, and in a few minutes I saw the Black-billed. While I never saw the Black-billed as he was calling, it seems safe to say the softer coo sound was his. It seems rather odd that both cuckoos were not giving their common calls during the several days they were in or near my yard.

In this instance the quality of the voice had to be as important as what notes were being heard.

BACKYARD BIRDING

** A note from David Marrack: "On April 29th I'd just raked up some vegetable weed and dead ends on a bed where three Common Grackles were working it over. A starling was collecting odd ends for a nest, each time being harassed and chased off by an irate squawking grackle. The starling made no real hurry to go but just kept clear of wings and bill. A squirrel ambled close by and to my surprise a grackle took off after it. The squirrel looked surprised and lost a tuft of tail hair before it got to a tree. Two grackles then chased it around the trunk and up over the branches to the next tree. I'd not seen before such a determined chase by grackles of an intruder apparently harmlessly meandering by."

** Here is the editor's recipe for a memorable moment in birding: a bird bath, a few trees, a trickling fountain (for alluring sound), observers, and of course, a bird that wants a bath.

Such a combination produced joy one recent late afternoon. A Gray-cheeked Thrush landed on a low limb of the small pecan tree which shades our fountain and bird bath. Deliberate in his actions, he stared unblinkingly at both of us, then gazed at the concrete bowl, hopped down to the top of the fence and looked some more. Finally he glided down to the bath, which was barely six feet from my chair, and started splashing. Even his splashing seemed dignified and deliberate. He faced us at all times and occasionally would stand up, fasten that stern stare on us for a bit, then resume his splashing. Needless to say, we hardly dared breathe as we feasted our eyes.

We thought this was such a rare occurrence it would probably not be repeated in a long while, but we were mistaken and delightfully so. The next evening four of us were sitting on the patio watching a Golden-winged Warbler flitting around among the Pine Siskins in the mulberry tree. It repeated the thrush's actions of perching in the pecan tree, then the fence top, the tree trunk, and finally landing on the edge of the bath. This bird didn't pay us any attention at all, readily wading into the water and splashing and dipping with abandon. It is pure joy to watch a warbler, especially a seldom-seen favorite like the Golden-winged, at eye level from six feet away! A bit of lagniappe was a male Yellowthroat who followed, but he came to drink, not to bathe.

** Ellen Red had a feast for the eyes one day in the first week of May, when a neighbor's loquat tree with over-ripe fruit proved an attraction for a host of birds. Ellen counted 12 male and 6 female Baltimore Orioles, several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, male and female Scarlet Tanager, and numerous other birds feeding in the tree at the same time. Ellen has a rock fountain and pool that she finds usually attracts migrants, while the resident cardinals, blue jays and house sparrows seem to prefer the bird bath. She conjectures that the migrants relate the running fountain to streams in their usual habitat. This time, however, the colorful beauties in the loquat tree ignored the fountain in favor of her bird bath near where they were feeding. Neither Ellen nor I had realized before that these mulberry-loving birds would also swarm extremely ripe or over-ripe loquat fruit. This can be another planting suggestion for your yard. (Gladys Galbreath says she has many "baby" loquats she will be happy to share with anyone. Call her at 523-5805)

PLACES TO GO

** Flooded rice fields are the spots to check now. Hudsonian Godwits, White-rumped, Baird's and Buff-breasted Sandpipers would be good birds to find in them. (See March 1977 SPOONBILL, page 4, for identification aids on White-rumped and Baird's Sandpipers).

** Linda Snyder reports that Patrick Lynch recently showed her a White-tailed Kite's nest on Port Road near Shoreacres. They watched the parents carrying something to the nest, and Lynch says he had seen three chicks. About a hundred yards away, Linda says there is a Marsh Hawks' nest, and they also observed adults carrying something to that nest. Oberholser-Kincaid, in Bird Life of Texas, lists a nesting report by T. Ben Feltner on the upper coast: nest with four eggs found April, 1971 near Hitchcock in Galveston County. Do any of our readers know of any confirmed nesting farther east than these two reports? If you go to Port Road, look also for an Osprey over Taylor Bayou; this bird has been observed here for some time, and it is possible it will nest here, though sighting of a pair has not been confirmed.

** On April 28th, P&MJ saw a number of Wood Ducks, among which was a female leading a procession of nine ducklings no more than a few days old. This was at a place we call the 521 Slough. Here are the directions: go south on Hwy 288 for approximately 36 miles, veer right at FM 521, proceed 9.8 miles then turn left into a small lane (this is just past bridge over Oyster Creek). On the right side of this lane is a slough in which have been found wood ducks, white ibis, etc. After about a mile this lane curves back into FM 521 about 1/2 mile north of the intersection with Hwy 35. At this intersection you can turn left to Angleton, right to Maner Lake area, or jog right then left and head toward Lake Jackson, Brazoria or Freeport.

** Cliff Swallows are again nesting under the Oyster Creek bridge on US 59 just south of Sugar Creek subdivision. They have nested here for several years, and last year were reported also nesting under the overpass at US 59 and Hwy 6, immediately south of the creek.

CLEARING HOUSE April, 1978

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made in the six counties comprising the upper Texas coast: Jefferson, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Ft. Bend and Brazoria. Those common species which can be readily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will be listed, followed by number of reports, with lowest and highest numbers seen in parentheses, i.e. (1-42). If any of these species is reported in unusual habitat or numbers that will be noted separately.

How to read the CH: Species: Location--(how many)date, observers.

Loon, Common: Offats Bayou--(1)10,JMo; West Bay--(1)21,P&MJ, (1)12,S, (1)5,U, (4)24, (1)27,J&BH; Texas City--(15)15,RN; Cooling Ponds--(1)22,Z.
 GREBE, WESTERN: High I.--(1)9,TE (see notes)
 Grebe, Eared: 23 reports (1-20, many in full summer plumage)
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 21 reports (2-15)
 SHEARWATER, SPECIES: Galveston--(1)1,B (see article on pelagic trip)
 Pelican, White: 16 reports, (1-100)
 Pelican, Brown: Galveston--(2)11,VE, (1)12,16,S, (1)15,R, (1)18,29,RN, (3)20,(1)24,(2)28,J&BH, (1)21,S&TC, (1)22,Z; Surfside Beach--(3)11,SS; West Bay--(1)21,P&MJ.
 BOOBY, BLUE-FACED: Galveston--(2)1,B (see pelagic write-up)
 Gannet: Galveston--(2)1,B (see pelagic write-up)
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 12 reports, (1-34)
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: Brazoria Co.--(1)all month,S&TC; W.Galveston--(1)16,S, (2)21,P&MJ, (1)22,Z, (1)29,RN; Bolivar--(2)30,TE.
 Anhinga: Ft. Bend Co.--(10)1,H, (12)8,E, (10)29,W; Maner Lake--(3)4,21,S&TC, (1)9,JMo, (3)28,P&MJ; Pearland--(2)10,S; Chambers Co.--(10)11,PN, (10)22,Z, (10)29,30,P&PN.
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: Galveston--(1)20,G.
 Heron, Great Blue: 24 reports (1-50)
 Heron, Green: Freeport Mun. Park--(1-nesting)all month, L&MB; 27 additional reports, (1-10)
 Heron, Little Blue: 29 reports (1-100)
 Egret, Cattle: 24 reports, (3-200)
 Egret, Reddish: Galveston--(1)9,19,(2)18,J, (2)11,(1)20,24,(5)28,J&BH, (1)12,16,S, (2)20,G, (1)21,P&MJ, (3)29,RN, (3)30,A&WE, (1)30,P&PN; Bolivar--(1)15,PM, (2)17,A, (1)18,RN, (5)22,Z, (2)27,J&BH; Bayou Vista--(2)30,A&WE
 Egret, Great: 25 reports (2-30)
 Egret, Snowy: 25 reports (2-100)
 Heron, Louisiana: 26 reports (1-20)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 14 reports (1-10)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: Ft. Bend Co.--(5)1,H, (20)8,E, (20)29,W; Galveston--(1)2,11,J&BH, (1)11,J, (1)16,S, (1)29,RN; Bolivar--(5)10,JMo, (5)11,PN, (5)22,Z, (5)29,30,P&PN; Lake Jackson--(5)15,21,S&TC; High I.--(1)17,A, (1)23,FC, (1)29,K; Clear Lake--(1)26,U
 Bittern, Least: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E; Anahuac NWR--(3)9,(1)30,TE, (1)22,C, (1)23,LBK, (3)23,RN; High Island--(1)11,PN, (1)26,J&BH; Freeport--(1)14,LB, (1)16,S&TC; Galveston--(1)16,S, (1)28,J&BH.

Bittern, American: Ft. Bend Co.--(4)1,H, (5)8,E, (2)29,RN; Galveston--(1)2,(3)20,(2)24,38,J&BH, (1)5,U, (1)12,S, (1)15,RN; Anahuac NWR--(2)9,TE, (2)22,C, (1)22,Z, (5)23, LBK, (4)23,RN, (2)29,P&PN; Brazoria Co.--(1)10,S, (1)16,S&TC; Bolivar--(2)15,OG
 Ibis, White-faced: 26 reports (1-100)
 Ibis, White: 24 reports (1-75)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 23 reports (1-30)
 Goose, Snow: Brazoria NWR--(4)1,SG,SS; Brazoria Co.--(1)11,SS; Chambers Co.--(6)10, JMo.
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: High I.--(6)13,VE
 Mallard: Galveston--(4)16,S, (2)22,A&WE; Houston--(2)22,29,WC (Mercury Dr.); Ft. Bend Co.--(1)29,W
 Duck, Mottled: Houston--(1,w/12 ducklings)11,Y, 22,WC (Mercury Dr.); Galveston--(1,w/10 ducklings)29,RN; 21 additional reports (2-15)
 Duck, Gadwall: 7 reports (1-10)
 Teal, Green-winged: 6 reports (1-15)
 Teal, Blue-winged: 27 reports (2-100)
 Teal, Cinnamon: W.Galveston--(1)11,J
 Wigeon, American: 5 reports (1-12)
 Shoveler, Northern: 19 reports (1-20)
 Duck, Wood: Ft. Bend Co.--(5)1,H, (2)29,W; Brazoria Co.--(3 adults - 1 w/9 ducklings)28,P&MJ, (3)16,L&MB
 Duck, Ring-necked: W.Galveston--(1)3,5,J
 Canvasback: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,S&TC, (2)12,SG; Cooling Ponds--(5)22,Z; W.Galveston--(1)16,S, (1)27,J
 Scaup, Greater: Cooling Ponds--(1)22,Z; Scaup, Lesser: Brazoria Co.--(1-5)all month, S&TC, (2)18,19,(18)22,SG, (1)28,P&MJ; Bolivar--(3)11,PN, (2)15,OG; Galveston--(2)16,S, (1)29,RN; Cooling Ponds--(200)22,Z
 Scoter, Surf: Jefferson Co.--(20)12,VE (approximately 10 miles east of High I.)
 Duck, Ruddy: Brazoria Co.--(1-30)all month,S&TC, (2-6)1-24,L&MB, (6)28,P&MJ; Galveston--(15)11,J, (1)16,S; Houston--(100)11,Y (Mercury Dr.); Cooling Ponds--(200)22,Z
 Merganser, Red-breasted: Brazoria NWR--(1)1,SG,SS; Bolivar--(15)15,OG; Texas City--(1)15,RN; Galveston--(1)16,S, (3)18,J
 Vulture, Turkey: 10 reports (2-30)
 Vulture, Black: 11 reports (1-15)
 Kite, White-tailed: Brazoria Co.--(1)2,21,(2)16,L&MB, (1)15,DM, (4)18,SG, (1)28,P&MJ; W.Galveston--(2)2,J&BH, (1)11,J, (1)16,TE, (2)16,S, (1)21,P&MJ; N.Harris Co.--(1)4, Bernice Comiskey (near Jetero); Winnie--(1)15,VE; E.Harris Co.--(2, nesting)PL
 Kite, Swallow-tailed: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,RP (see notes); Galveston--(2)1,DeK,HH (see notes); Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,J&BH
 Kite, Mississippi: Brazoria Co.--(1)22,L&MB; Clear Lake--(1)26,U
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)8,E; W.Galveston--(1)25,J
 Hawk, Cooper's: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E, (1)12,DM
 Hawk, Red-tailed: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E; Maner Lake--(1 Harlan's)1,S&TC; Brazoria Co.--(1)14,S&TC, (1)28,P&MJ; Anahuac NWR--(1)22,Z, (1)30,P&PN; W.Galveston--(1)25,J; W.Harris Co.--(1)27,PJ; Dickinson--(1)30,A&WE
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: Lake Jackson--(1-2)all month,S&TC; Ft. Bend Co.--(7)8,E, (6)29,W; Clear Lake--(1)26,U
 Hawk, Broad-winged: Bear Creek Park--(1)8,LBK; Brazoria Co.--(3)9,L&MB; E.Harris Co.--(4)22,A&WE
 Hawk, Swainson's: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)1,H; Brazoria Co.--(1)14,S&TC, (2)14,(1)18,SG, (1)28,P&MJ; Houston--(1)14,JMo (yard); Anahuac NWR--(3)22,C, (6)22,Z, (1)29,K; W.Galveston--(3)25,J; Baytown--(1)29,P&PN
 Hawk, White-tailed: Brazoria Co.--(1)21,26,L&MB (see notes)
 Eagle, Bald: Brazoria Co.--(1 nestling)1,N, (1-adult, 1-nestling)15,R, (1-nestling)28,P&MJ (prior reports); (1-4)all month,S&TC (nest west of Angleton)
 Hawk, Marsh: 17 reports (1-3)
 Osprey: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,S&TC, (1)2,6,16,L&MB; Chambers Co.--(1)2,J&KMo, (2)11,(1)30,P&PN, (1)23,RN; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E, (1)12,DM; Galveston I. State Park--(1)20,J&BH; E.Harris Co.--(1)all month,PL fide Linda Snyder; Bolivar--(1)30,TE.
 Falcon, Peregrine: Galveston--(1)16,S (Bank Bldg.); Houston--(1)16,S (see notes); Chambers Co.--(1)22,Z, (1)29,K
 Merlin: High I.--(1)15,OG (no field notes)
 Kestrel, American: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)1,H, (2)8,J&BH; Maner Lake--(1)1,S&TC; Galveston--(1)2,J&BH, (1)12,S, (1)16,TE
 Prairie Chicken, Greater: Spaceland Airport--(6)1,N, (8)29,RN
 PHEASANT, RINGED-NECK: Chambers Co.--(2)10,JMo (prior reports)
 Bobwhite: 22 reports (1-13)
 Rail, King: 23 reports (1-16)
 Rail, Clapper: 16 reports (1-5)
 Rail, Virginia: Freeport Marsh--(2)4,(1)16,L&MB; Anahuac NWR--(6)7,BF,ER, (1)22,C, (1)22,Z; Galveston--(1)18,RN; Bolivar--(1)30,P&PN; High I.--(1)30,P&PN
 Sora: 27 reports (1-10)
 Rail, Yellow: Brazoria NWR--(1)4,(3)18,(1)19,SG; Anahuac NWR--(2)7,BF,ER, (8)17,BF, (3)22,C, (2)22,Z; Virginia Point--(1)21,PJ

Rail, Black: Anahuac NWR--(1)14, Portland Ore. Aud. Soc., fide VE; Galveston--(1)22, RG & Jane Clayton ("Old House")
 Gallinule, Purple: Brazoria Co.--(1)4, (5)21, S&TC, (1)28, P&MJ; Anahuac NWR--(1)15, A&WE, (1)17, BF, (1)22, Z; Galveston--(1)15, (2)23, RN, (2)20, (3)24, (1)28, J&BH; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)29, N
 Gallinule, Common: 18 reports (1-30)
 Coot, American: 20 reports (1-200)
 Jacana: Maner Lake--(1)16, VE
 Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(3)17, A, (1)27, J&BH, (1)30, P&PN; West Bay--(1)21, P&MJ; Chambers Co.--(1)22, Z; Bayou Vista--(1)30, A&WE
 Plover, Semipalmated: 16 reports (1-50)
 Plover, Piping: Galveston--(4)6, (2)19, J, (4)15, RN; Bolivar--(2)9, TE, (5)11, PN, (2)22, Z, (5)30, P&PN, (75)15, OG, (12)17, A
 Plover, Snowy: Galveston--(1)6, J; Bolivar--(1)11, PN, (1)15, OG, (3)18, RN, (30)27, J&BH, (2)30, P&PN; Bryan Beach--(1)22, L&MB
 Plover, Wilson's: 13 reports (1-17)
 Killdeer: 19 reports (1-25)
 Plover, Golden American: 25 reports (1-200)
 Plover, Black-bellied: 21 reports (1-100)
 Turnstone, Ruddy: 19 reports (1-25)
 WOODCOCK, AMERICAN: Sheldon Reservoir--(1)29, EM, DMA (see notes)
 Snipe Common: 14 reports (1-6) (Last date: 21st.)
 Curlew, Long-billed: 21 reports (1-16)
 Whimbrel: 26 reports (1-15)
 Sandpiper, Upland: 19 reports (1-30)
 Sandpiper, Spotted: 11 reports (1-3)
 Sandpiper, Solitary: 13 reports (1-4)
 Willett: 17 reports (1-40)
 Yellowlegs, Greater: 18 reports (1-50)
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 24 reports (1-1,500)
 Knot, Red: 10 reports (1-100)
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: 18 reports (1-100)
 REEVE: Galveston--(1)24, Y (see notes) (Stewart Rd. near 12 mile Rd.)
 Sandpiper, White-rumped: Bryan Beach--(1)22, L&MB; Anahuac NWR--(4)29, K; Bolivar--(4)30, TE; High I.--(2)30, P&PN
 Sandpiper, Baird's: W. Galveston--(1)21, P&MJ, (1)29, RN
 Sandpiper, Least: 7 reports (1-25)
 Dunlin: 16 reports (1-500)
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(30)15, OG, (100)17, A, (20)30, TE; W. Galveston--(4)18, (5)29, RN, (1)22, Z, (1)30, P&PN, (2)30, B&EW
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: 16 reports (5-1,000)
 Dowitcher, Species: 6 reports (5-25)
 Sandpiper, Silt: 11 reports (2-100)
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(50)11, (4)17, A, (50)22, Z, (10)30, TE, (50)30, P&PN
 Sandpiper, Western: 9 reports (1-200)
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Ft. Bend Co.--(20)8, TE, (18)8, J&BH; Texas City--(7)11, VE; Bolivar--(1)9, TE, (1)15, R; Chambers Co.--(5)18, RN, (1)22, C, (25)22, Z, (4)30, P&PN; W. Harris Co.--(3)29, A&WE
 Godwit, Marbled: 11 reports (1-15) (numbers low-CH Ed.)
 Godwit, Hudsonian: High I.--(17)12, VE; Bolivar--(12)30, TE
 Sanderling: 13 reports (2-500)
 Avocet, American: 13 reports (6-2,000)
 Stilt, Black-necked: 25 reports (1-50)
 Phalarope, Wilson's: Brazoria Co.--(5-100) all month, S&TC, (2)25, P, (12)23, L&MB, (200)28, P&MJ (many in summer plumage); Houston--(2)10, (37)22, (83)29, SC, (2)11, M, (4)11, Y (Mercury Dr.); Bolivar--(3)13, OG, (2)30, TE; Chambers Co.--(2)18, RN, (4)23, LBK, (4)23, FC, (5)22, Z, (50)29, K, (25)30, P&PN; Bayou Vista--(3)30, A&WE
 Jaeger, Pomarine: Galveston--(1)1, B (pelagic trip)
 Jaeger, Parasitic: Galveston--(1)1, B (pelagic trip)
 Gull, Glaucous: Bolivar--(1)29, EM, DMA (see notes)
 Gull, Herring: 13 reports (1-50)
 Gull, Ring-billed: 14 reports (2-200)
 Gull, Franklin's: Quintana Beach--(1)22, L&MB
 Gull, Bonaparte's: Bolivar--(1)9, TE, (1)15, OG, (3)17, A.
 Tern, Gull-billed: Galveston--(1)1, B, (1)1, DeK, HH, (1)29, RN, (1)30, A&WE, (1)20, J&BH; Anahuac NWR--(2)15, A&WE, (2)22, M, (1)23, FC, (3)11, PN; High I.--(1)17, A; Bolivar--(1-18, RN, (1)22, Z; Freeport--(1)28, P&MJ
 Tern, Forster's: 20 reports (1-100)
 Tern, Common: 10 reports (2-50)
 Tern, Least: 11 reports (10-100)
 Tern, Royal: 16 reports (1-500)
 Tern, Sandwich: Bolivar--(25)11, PN, (25)22, Z; Galveston--(4)19, J, (20+)15, RN; Brazoria Co.--(2)21, S&TC

- Tern, Caspian: Galveston--(20)6,J, (2)16,S, (1)18,(1)29,RN; Bolivar--(3)15,PM, (2)18 RN
- Tern, Black: High I.--(2)11,PN, (1)15,26,J&BH, (10)22,Z, (25)30,P&PN; Bolivar--(1)14, VE, (4)15,OG, (3)27,J&BH, (20)30,TE; Galveston--(20)18,BF,ER; Anahuac NWR--(16)30, O&MH
- Skimmer, Black: 13 reports (2-150)
- Dove, Rock: 10 reports (5-50)
- Dove, White-winged: 7 reports (2-4) (all in Galveston)
- Dove, Mourning: 19 reports (2-60)
- DOVE, RINGED-TURTLE: Bellaire--(7 + 1 fledling)all month,P&MJ
- Dove, Ground: Galveston--(2)5,U, (6)20,G, (1)23,J; Ft. Bend Co.--(2)8,E, (1)8,TE
- Dove, Inca: Bellaire--(adult + 2 young)26,DM (yard) Additional reports (2-10)
- Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 30 reports (1-12) (first date: 11th at High I.PN)
- Cuckoo, Black-billed: Galveston--(1)23,JMo, (3)24,Y, (1)30,A&WE, (1)30,P&PN; High I.-- (2)23,FC, (6)26,J&BH, (2)30,P&PN; Bellaire--(1)29,MJ (heard-yard); Ft. Bend Co.-- (2)29,W (heard)
- Owl, Groove-billed: Kempner Park--(1)30,RG,JT
- Owl, Barn: Houston--(1)12,DM (Main & Fondren); Bolivar--(1)15,OG; High I.--(1)29,K; Battleship Texas--(2)22,Z
- Owl, Screech: Morgan's Point--(1)11,PN, (1)22,Z; Battleship Texas--(1)22,Z; Houston-- (1)all month,J&BH (yard)
- Owl, Great Horned: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E; Brazoria Co.--(1)16,L&MB; Cooling Ponds--(2) 22,Z; Morgan's Point--(1)22,Z
- Owl, Barred: Ft. Bend Co.--(5)1,H, (7)8,E, (3+ 1 owlet)29,W; Dow Nature Trail--(1)16, L&MB
- Owl, Short-eared: Galveston I. State Park--(1)21,P&MJ
- Chuck-will's-widow: Houston--(1)15,WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)28,P&PN (yard); Bellaire --(1)20,23,P&MJ; Pearland--(1)23,S; Galveston--(1)25,27,J, (1)27,28,J&BH
- Whip-poor-will: Houston--(1)2,WC (City Hall), (1)15,J&BH (yard); Bellaire--(3)4,(2) 5,(1)20,23,(2)29,DM (yard); Lake Jackson--(1)9,L&MB (yard)
- Nighthawk, Common: 23 reports (1-20) (first date: 15th,WC,yard)
- Nighthawk, Lesser: Bryan Beach--(1)23,BB (see notes)
- Swift, Chimney: 21 reports (1-500)
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 16 reports (1-5)
- Kingfisher, Belted: 15 reports (1-3)
- Flicker, Common: Ft. Bend Co.--(5)1,H; Freeport Mun.Park--(1)12,S&TC, (1)19,L&MB; Houston--(1)29,WC (White Oak Bayou)
- Woodpecker, Pileated: 11 reports (1-10)
- Woodpecker, Red-bellied: Houston--(2-nesting)all month,P&PN (yard); 12 additional reports (1-12)
- Woodpecker, Red-headed: Galveston--(1)20,G, (1)20,J; Chambers Co.--(1)22,Z, (1)26, J&BH, (1)29,30,P&PN; Houston--(2)25,J&BH (yard)
- Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 12 reports (1-3)
- Woodpecker, Hairy: Houston--(2)27,TE (North Blvd.)
- Woodpecker, Downy: 6 reports (1-2)
- Kingbird, Eastern: 28 reports (1-50)
- Kingbird, Western: High I.--(1)29,DMA,EM (2)30,TE
- Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 32 reports (1-25)
- Flycatcher, Great Crested: 19 reports (1-7)
- Flycatcher, Ash-throated: Bryan Beach--(1)23,BB (see notes); High I.--(1)29,K (see notes)
- Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: Galveston--(1)30,B&EW, (1)30,P&PN
- Flycatcher, Acadian: Galveston--(3)20,G; Ft. Bend Co.--(5)29,W
- Flycatcher, Least: High I.--(3)30,P&PN
- Flycatcher, Empidonax: 8 reports (1-15)
- Pewee, Eastern: 18 reports (1-5) (first date 15th at High I.,J&BH)
- Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Galveston--(1)18,BF,ER
- Flycatcher, Vermilion: W.Harris Co.--(1)26,VE
- Lark, Horned: 6 reports (1-3)
- Swallow, Tree: 18 reports (1-100)
- Swallow, Bank: High I.--(3)17,A; W.Galveston--(1)21,P&MJ; Bolivar--(1)22,Z, (5)30,TE, (1)30,P&PN; Clar Lake--(1)26,U; Ft. Bend Co.--(12)29,W
- Swallow, Rough-winged: 19 reports (1-40)
- Swallow, Barn: 26 reports (2-50)
- Swallow, Cliff: Ft. Bend Co.--(12)8,(20)9,J&BH, (1)28,P&MJ, (12)29,TE (all at Oyster Creek & US 59); Bryan Beach--(3)26,P, (1)23,S&TC; Bolivar--(1)30,TE
- Martin, Purple: 20 reports (2-40)
- Jay, Blue: 14 reports (1-21)
- Crow, Common: 12 reports (2-91)
- Chickadee, Carolina: 10 reports (2-30)
- Fitmouse, Tufted: 8 reports (5-38)
- Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Houston--(2)8,JMo (yard)
- Vren, House: Bellaire--(1)12,DM (yard); High I.--(1)15,OG, (1)23,JMo; Dow Nature Trail--(1)16,L&MB

- Wren, Bewick's: Dow Nature Trail--(1)2, LB
Wren, Carolina: 10 reports (1-30)
Wren, Long-billed Marsh: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E; Freeport--(1)9,21,S&TC, (5)28,P&MJ; Galveston--(1)18,RN
Wren, Sedge (Short-billed Marsh): 7 reports (1-5)
Mockingbird: 18 reports (1-20)
Catbird, Gray: 30 reports (1-30) High I.--(30)30,TE
Thrasher, Brown: 22 reports (1-10)
THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: W.Galveston--(1)5,J, (1)5,U, (1)21,P&MJ, (1)23,JMo (prior reports)
Robin, American: 11 reports (1-2)
Thrush, Wood: 34 reports (1-200) High I.--(200)13,VE
Thrush, Hermit: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)1,H, (1)8,E; Bellaire--(1)12,DM (yard); High I.--(1)26,J&BH
Thrush, Swainson's: 35 reports (1-20)
Thrush, Gray-cheeked: 22 reports (1-5) (first date: 17th at High I., BF & A)
Veery: 22 reports (1-8) (earliest date: 3rd at Galveston,J, and Freeport Mun. Park, S&TC)
Bluebird, Eastern: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)8,E, (1)29,W; Maner Lake--(3)28,P&MJ; Eisenhower Park--(1)29,P&PN
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 19 reports (1-10)
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: Ft. Bend Co.--(10)1,H, (1)18,E; High I.--(1)15,PM, (1)15,J&BH; White Memorial Park--(1)22,Z; Houston--(1)23,WC (White Oak Bayou)
Pipit, Water: Ft. Bend Co.--(5)8,E; W.Galveston--(1)18,RN; Cooling Ponds--(1)22,Z
Pipit, Sprague's: Texas City Dike--(1)11,VE (no field notes)
Waxwing, Cedar: Houston--(2000)11,JT (near downtown) 10 additional reports (2-150)
Shrike, Loggerhead: 18 reports (1-15)
Starling: 16 reports (2-100)
Vireo, White-eyed: 27 reports (1-46)
Vireo, Yellow-throated: 18 reports (1-5)
Vireo, Solitary: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)8,E; High I.--(2)12,VE, (2)15,J&BH, (1)15,PM, (1)19,J, (1)22,A&WE, (1)23,FC; Galveston--(1)20,27,J; Freeport Mun. Park--(1)26,S&TC
Vireo, Red-eyed: 32 reports (1-20)
Vireo, Philadelphia: High I.--(1)12,VE, (4)29,K, (1)30,LBk, (5)30,TE.
Vireo, Warbling: High I.--(1)12,VE, (1)15,J&BH, (1)17,BH; Freeport--(1)13,L&MB; (10)14,S&TC; Galveston--(1)20,G, (5)20,24,J&BH, (4)25,J, (1)23,JMo; Houston--(4)25,J&BH (yard)
Warbler, Black-and-white: 39 reports (1-10)
Warbler, Prothonotary: 19 reports (1-10)
Warbler, Swainson's: 17 reports (1-2) (first date: 8th at Bear Creek Park, LBk)
Warbler, Worm-eating: 30 reports (1-5) (first date: (2)11, Galveston, Y and (1)11, High I. PM)
Warbler, Golden-winged: 19 reports (1-5) (first date: (1)11, Galveston, M)
Warbler, Blue-winged: 32 reports (1-8) (first date: (1)10, High I., JMo--last date: (1)29, High I., K)
Warbler, Brewster's: High I.--(1)23, JMo (see notes)
WARBLER, LAWRENCE'S: Galveston--(1)30, A&WE. (see notes)
Warbler, Tennessee: 51 reports (1-100) at High I. on 17th, A (first date: (3)11, Galveston and (15)11, High I. PN)
Warbler, Orange-crowned: High I.--(3)10, JMo, (1)12, VE
Warbler, Nashville: Freeport Mun. Park--(1)10, JMo, (2)18, (1)23, LB, (1)28, MJ; Clear Lake--(1)26, U; Houston--(1)27, TE (Bivds.)
Warbler, Northern Parula: 28 reports (1-40) (40 in Ft. Bend Co., H)
Warbler, Yellow: 33 reports (1-10) (first date: (1)13, Brazoria Co., L&MB, S&TC)
Warbler, Magnolia: Freeport Mun. Park--(1)21, L&MB, (1)23, JMo; High I.--(1)22, C, (2)26, J&BH, (2)29, K, (3)30, LBk, (3)30, TE; Galveston--(2)27, J, (1)29, RN; White Memorial Park--(1)29, (20)30, P&PN
Warbler, Cape May: W.Galveston--(1)23, JMo; High I.--(1)29, K, (1)30, TE
Warbler, Yellow-rumped: High I.--(1-Audubon's)15, LBk; Myrtle: 28 reports (1-100) (Last date 28th)
Warbler, Black-throated Green: 33 reports (1-7) (first date: (1)11, Galveston, M and (1)11, High I., PN)
Warbler, Cerulean: 23 reports (1-10) (first date: (1)11, Galveston, M)
Warbler, Blackburnian: 31 reports (1-10) (first date: (2)11, Galveston, M, J&BH)
Warbler, Yellow-throated: High I.--(1)12, VE, (1)23, LBk; Freeport--(1)13, L&MB; W.Galveston--(2)13, J, (1)18, RN; Lake Charlotte--(2)30, P&PN
Warbler, Chestnut-sided: 29 reports (1-10) (first date: (1)17, High I., BF, A)
Warbler, Bay-breasted: 25 reports (1-20) (20)23, High I., JMo (first date: (1)13, North Blvd., Houston, Robert Anderson)
Blackpoll: High I.--(3)15, (1)26, J&BH, (2)15, OG, (2)17, A, (10)17, BE, (2)18, RN, (3)19, J, (1)23, JMo, (2)23, LBk; Galveston--(1)15, (2)18, RN, (2)18, BF, (2)20, G, (3)20, J&BH, (1)21, P&MJ, (1)23, JMo; Freeport--(1)15, 26, (2)18, 20, 21, L&MB, (1)20, 22, S&TC; Bellaire--(1)24, P&MJ (yard)

Warbler, Pine: Houston--(10)8,JMo (yard); Bolivar--(5)9,TE; White Memorial Park--(1)11,PN, (1)22,Z, (2)23,FC, (1)26,J&BH, (1)30,P&PN
 Warbler, Prairie: Kempner Park--(1)13,J (see notes); High I.--(1)22,A&WE
 Warbler, Palm: High I.--(1)15,LBk, (1)15,J&BH, (1-western race)15,OG, (1)16,EM, (1)18,RN, (1)22,A&WE, (1)22,BH,EM, (1)23,FC; Galveston--(1)18,RN, (1)20,J&BH
 Ovenbird: 22 reports (1-12) Galveston--(12)20,G)
 Waterthrush, Northern: 27 reports (1-8)
 Waterthrush, Louisiana: High I.--(1)9,TE, (2)10,C, (2)15,(3)23,LBk, (1)17,BF, (1)18,RN, (2)22,A&WE; Galveston--(1)10,JMo, (1)15,R
 Warbler, Kentucky: 34 reports (-6)
 Warbler, Mourning: Galveston--(1)29,RN; High I.--(1)29,K
 Yellowthroat, Common: 37 reports (1-40)
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: 17 reports (1-3) (first date: (1)13,Galveston,J)
 Warbler, Hooded: 44 reports (1-20)
 Warbler, Wilson's: Freeport--(1)26,L&MB, (1)28,P&MJ
 Warbler, Canada: Galveston--(1)23,JMo; High I.--(1)29,K
 Redstart, American: 28 reports (1-10) (first date: (1)12,Freeport,S&TC)
 Sparrow, House: 14 reports (5-20)
 Bobolink: Surfside--(1)10,VE; Galveston I. State Park--(1)11,VE, (1)20,Jerry Baker & Josiephine Wilkin; High Island--(1)29,K
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 18 reports (3-45)
 Meadowlark, Western: Bryan Beach--(1)23,L&MB
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed: San Bernard NWR--(1)19,SG; Galveston I. State Park--(1)21,P&MJ, (1)28,J&BH, (1)29,RN
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 20 reports (40-500)
 Oriole, Orchard: 47 reports (1-50)
 ORIOLE, HOODED: Mt.Belview--(1)23,MA, Jonell Buckels, DD,TE (see notes)
 Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): 44 reports (1-75) High I.--(75)30,TE (first date: (1)10,Galveston,JMo)
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: Maner Lake--(n/c)9,J&MBo, (12)28,P&MJ; Anahuac NWR--(100's)11,PN, (50)22,C, (100's)22,Z, (100's)30,P&PN; Galveston--(2)11,M, (5)23,RN
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 13 reports (4-20)
 Grackle, Common: 12 reports (1-12)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 16 reports (1-100)
 Cowbird, Bronzed: Freeport--(1)14,S&TC (no field notes); Kempner Park--(2)16,EM (see notes)
 Tanager, Western: Galveston--(1)28,J&BH ("Old House")
 Tanager, Scarlet: Anahuac NWR--(1) March 25, PM (~~delete~~ Tanager, Summer in March CH) 32 reports (1-50) (50 at Galveston on 27th,J)
 Tanager, Summer: 45 reports (1-20) (first date: (1)10,High I.,JMo)
 Cardinal: 17 reports (1-30) (nesting activity noted)
 PYRRHULOXIA: Galveston--(1)5,U, (1)16,T&JE, (1)16,S (Nottingham Ranch Rd. - prior reports), (3m, 2f--one pair noted to fly together)23,RG ("Old House") (see notes); David Dauphin, keeper of unusual bird alerts, says a total of 16 Pyrrhuloxias was called in to him the weekend of April 22,23. Birds were seen in three locations in Galveston, High I., W. Harris Co., and Freeport.
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: 40 reports (1-50) (50 at High I. on 26th,J&BH and 30th,TE) (first date: (1)13,High I.,VE)
 Grosbeak, Black-headed: Galveston--(1)1,Dek&HH (see notes)
 Grosbeak, Blue: 25 reports (1-30) (first date: (1)8, Ben Chrisman - yard)
 Bunting, Indigo: 43 reports (1-100) (100 at Galveston on 20th,G) (first date: (2)4, Dow Nature Trail,S&TC)
 Bunting, Painted: 19 reports (1-30) (first date: (1)13,Galveston,J)
 Dickcissel: 12 reports (1-1,000's) (1,000's on 29th in Ft. Bend Co.,W) (first date: (1)15,High I.,LBk)
 Grosbeak, Evening: N.Harris Co.--(2-4)1st to app. 17th,Janet Edmiston fide MJ
 Siskin, Pine: 14 reports (1-100) (15+ all month with 100 on 30th, yard, P&MJ)
 Goldfinch, American: Houston--(3)6,P&PN (yard, (1)9,JMo (yard)
 Towhee, Rufous-sided: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)8,E
 Sparrow, Savannah: 14 reports (2-35)
 Sparrow, Seaside: 7 reports (2-30)
 Sparrow, Vesper: Ft. Bend Co.--(4)9,J&MBo; W.Galveston--(1)11,J
 Sparrow, Lark: Anahuac NWR--(2)15,A&WE
 JUNCO, DARK-EYED (OREGON): Houston--(1)20,WC (City Hall) (see notes)
 Sparrow, Chipping: Ft. Bend Co.--(10)1,H
 Sparrow, White-crowned: Galveston--(1)6,J, (3)16,T&JE, (2)18,RN; Pearland--(6)11,B&EW
 Sparrow, White-throated: 19 reports (1-42) (last date: (3)29,Ft.Bend Co.,W)
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: 14 reports (1-7)
 Sparrow, Swamp: 7 reports (1-15)
 Sparrow, Song: Galveston--(1)6,J

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS April, 1978

MA-Margaret Anderson; RA-Robert Anderson; L&MB-Larry & Martha Ballard; LBk-LeRon E. Bielak; J&MBo-Janice & Mary Bourgeois; FC-Fred Collins; WC-Wesley Cureton; S&TC-Sherry & Tom Collins; DeK-Debbie DeKeyser; A&WE-Ann & Willard Elston; VE-Victor Emanuel; T&JE-Ted & Janet Eubanks, Jr.; BF-T. Ben Feltner; SG-Steve Gnadek; RG-Rich Goldfarb; J&BH-Jean & Bill Harwell; O&MH-Oscar & Margo Hibler; HH-Holly Hobart; P&MJ-T. Paul & Margaret Jones; PL-Patrick Lynch (fide Linda Snyder); DM-David Marrack; DMa-David Matson; EM-Eiric McHenry; PM-Peggy Milstead; J&KMo-Jim & Kevin Morgan; P&PN-Paul & Phyllis Nimmons; RN-R.L. Norris; NO-Norma Oates; RP-D. Randall Pinkston; ER-Elaine Robinson; SS-Susan Snidt; B&WE-Bob & Edith Willman; BB-Brazosport Birders Field Trip; OG-Ornithology Group Field Trip; A-party of FC, Kieth Dixon, Jan Gessman, June Liebfarth, & group of Utah State Univ. students; B-Pelagic party of MA, George, Jane & Billy Clayton, FC, PJ, Nancy & Jerry Strickling; C-party of WC, J&KMo; E-party of TE, J&BH, P&MJ, DMa, EM; G-party of MA, RA, Virginia Courteney, NO; H-party of WC, David Dauphin, TE; J-party of Jane & John Hamilton, Martha Micks; K-party of Tom & Alberta Childress, FC, Lorne Curran, Annette Johns, Mr. & Mrs. Kidwell, Jim & Betsy Massey; M-party of MA, RA, MJ, NO; N-party of L&MB, Joyce Norman, Matt Robinson; P-party of MA, MJ, Pat Warner; R-party of L&MB, Matt Robinson; S-party of P.O. Hulze, Buz Plene, Steve Schultz; U-party of UH Biology 414 class, TE; W-party of TE, PJ, Woody Woodrow; Y-party of Ann Booth, J&BH; Z-party of David Dauphin, TE, PN, Noel Pettingell.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES April, 1978

WESTERN GREBE: Large, long-necked grebe located near Shorty's pier at High Island; long, dagger-like bill, red eye, black crown, nape and back; white cheek, throat, front of neck and breast; bird near size of large duck, obviously larger than other species of grebes frequenting the area, observed for 30 minutes in excellent light with 10x glasses and 20x scope from as close as 20 yards; bird photographed. --Ted Eubanks, Jr.

Swallow-tailed Kite: All distinctive markings were clearly observed: dark, deeply forked tail; white head, underparts, and wing linings; dark back. The bird was observed for several minutes; 10x50 binoculars. --D. Randall Pinkston

Swallow-tailed Kite: In "downtown" Galveston (51st St.) we spotted two swallow-tailed Kites soaring over the street. At first, they seemed to be just more laughing gulls, but it was noted that the flight characteristics were not right to be gulls. Then we spotted the long streamer-like tail feathers, spread to their maximum. We hurriedly drove down the street until a satisfactorily close look could be had and jumped out with our 10x binocs. The birds were in view for about 2-4 minutes, were soaring with nary a wing-flap due to high winds, and gradually moved away from a closest distance of about 35-50 yards. My best looks ever at this species occurred on that day. I had never before noted the two-toned black and gray of the upper wing surfaces. I was reminded of the patterns seen on white-tailed kites though the darker areas were more extensive on the swallowtail. The white head and back or rump areas presented a very aesthetically pleasing contrast with the wings. --Holly Hobart

White-tailed Hawk: Observed flying, soaring and banking above FM 521 at Bailey's Prairie. White body and wings, with dark trailing edge and wing tips, white tail with single black band near end of tail, dark eyepatch. --Larry Ballard

White-tailed Hawk: Observed at 3 o'clock flying low over Freeport Municipal Park. Large white hawk, back part of wings black and wing tips black, black band on tail, yellow beak with black tip, black patch around eye. --Martha Ballard

Peregrine Falcon: Seen between the Shamrock and Rice University sitting on a telephone pole eating a jay. --Buz Plene

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Flushed along path through wet woody area at Sheldon Reservoir. Chunky rich brown bird with short tail, rounded wings, and long bill. Flew up quickly and disappeared in foliage. --Eiric McHenry

REEVE: Bird seen about 6:15 p.m. in short-grass field alongside a shallow pond. There was still good sunlight, on a clear day. Seen at 15-20 feet for 5-10 minutes; 7x50 binocs and 30x Balscope. Bird was in close association with Dowitcher, Willet, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs. Seemed just smaller than Dowitcher in length, and was much slimmer. Brown color of head, neck, and back was distinctive as compared to Yellowlegs and Willet. Light feather-edging gave back a "scaly" appearance. Head finely striped, with striping continuing down neck and on to breast. White on belly and under tail. Legs dull yellowish, and seemed moderately long, similar in length to Lesser Yellowlegs. Bill moderately long, and two-toned: yellowish at base, and dark in distal half. Bill seemed to have a minimal decurved appearance. Flushed bird several times and white areas noted on each side of brownish tail. We have not

seen a Reeve before, but this bird seemed different to us, and seemed to possess the field marks. --Bill Harwell

Glaucous Gull: First sighted by David Matson while scoping the Bolivar mud flats. The bird moved in within 100 yards. We walked out to within 100 feet of the gull and set up David's 25x scope. We observed the bird for at least 15 minutes in excellent light. The bird was all white with flesh colored legs and flesh colored bill with a dark tip. It was noticeably larger than nearby second year Herring Gulls. The folded wings appeared to slightly overlap the tail. We reduced the possibilities to Glaucous or Glaucous-winged by the size comparison to Herring Gulls and by the white plumage. We eliminated the Glaucous-winged because of the absolute lack of any dark color in the mantle or primaries. In our opinion the bird was a second winter Glaucous Gull. --Eric McHenry

Lesser Nighthawk: Observed for about 6 minutes flying in company with Common Nighthawks. Very buffy on top of back and wing areas, it was noticeably smaller than Common Nighthawks, the wing stripe was very near the tip of the wing. This bird was seen almost simultaneously by Sherry, Tom and Greg Collins, Jim and Paula Haddox and ourselves. --Larry Ballard

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Initially observed by Sherry Collins, who called everyone to observe it. A Myiarchus flycatcher with typical profile of head, a grayish white ashy throat, with yellow and gray belly and rufous tail. Observed for four minutes in good light. This bird also observed by Tom, Sherry and Greg Collins, Jim and Paula Haddox. --Larry Ballard

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: One individual seen for about one minute. Observers were Fred Collins, Lorne Curren, and Betsy Massey. Seen in very bright light in full view. Bird perched on bar limb. My binoculars were 8x10. The bird was observed from 40 feet. A small flycatcher larger than a wood pewee, smaller than Eastern Kingbird. High forehead crested look. Upperparts not seen well, appeared dull brown or olive with greenish sheen on back and wings in right light angle. Secondaries edged white, indistinct but wingbars present, white. No eye ring. Bill-lower mandible light. Rump dull brown, tail dull rufous, contrasting with back. Underparts very pale yellow becoming buffish white on upper breast, white on throat.

Bewick's Wren: A white bellied and chested wren with a white eyestripe and a brown and white rounded tail, singing. Observed at a range of twelve feet in good light with 8x50 binocs for three minutes. --Larry Ballard

Brewster's warbler: Seen in Scout Woods. Gray back, nape and wings, the latter with yellow wing-bars. White below, including throat. Black eye-line; yellow forehead. White in tail (outer feathers). Seen for 2 minutes in fair light at 25 feet with binocs. Also seen by Tyrrel Harvey who did not see all field marks (notably yellow forehead) but he did see general color, wing bars and the fact that throat was white and bird had no black cheek mark. --Jim Morgan

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER: While watching feeding Northern Orioles in the large bushes on the south edge of the parking lot for the Galveston State Park Nature Trail, a bright yellow warbler lit on the edge of the main Prickley Ash. Most striking first impression was of totally yellow crown, very solid black bib, and the same black eye-patch as the Golden-winged we'd seen at High Island the week before - plus white wing bars! The entire breast and belly below the black bib were solid yellow. There was no black above the eye patch, ruling out the Hooded warbler. The back and tail coloration was a soft light yellow-green. Watched for about 8 minutes, from 40 feet in hazy sunlight, with 8x40 and 7x50 binoculars and 20x scope. --Ann Elston

HOODED ORIOLE: Observed at Jonelle Buckels' house at Mt. Belvieu at hummingbird feeder; orange crown, nape, belly, rump; black chin, breast, wings and tail (tail solid black); single wing bars visible on wings, slight greenish cast to crown and nape; observed from as close as 15 feet in excellent light with 10x glasses; bird photographed. --Ted Eubanks, Jr. (There is no previous confirmed sighting of this bird in the UTC. --Ed.)

Bronzed Cowbird: Two large all dark cowbirds with slight ruffs and red eyes were observed for 1-2 minutes sitting on a telephone line near Kempner Park. --Eric McHenry

PYRRHULOXIA: Unmistakable gray crested cardinal-sized bird with pinkish red crest, chest, wing lining and tail; marked curved yellow bill. --Rich Goldfarb

Black-headed Grosbeak: Male Black-headed Grosbeak. Although in a ratty condition, the bird was entirely orangish on the breast, with the black head, very large beak and white wing marking, making the identification easy. --Holly Hobart

DARK-EYED (OREGON) JUNCO: Dark gray head contrasting sharply with back, sides, and breast. Dark eyes, dull russet-colored back, pale buffy sides. Dark tail with white outer feathers. Very approachable. Sang weakly. Up to 10 feet with and without 7x50 binoculars. I have seen this junco in the winter in the Big Bend. Head much darker than Peterson's pictures of the pink-sided. --Wesley Cureton

COMMENT BY CLEARING HOUSE EDITOR

While there did not seem to be any spectacular "fall out" of migrants during April, there was a steady stream of reports of them by many observers. The Clearing House has reports of 288 species for April as reported by more than 70 observers. These are the highest totals reported for any one month.

Please send your records of observations so that they get to me by the 3rd of the month following sightings. Compilation is much easier if the birds are listed in Checklist order and in Clearing House format. The necessary data is location, date, and numbers of each species. Rare, unusual and accidental birds must be substantiated by good physical description, habitat and activity.

I am pleased by the great interest and help all observers give me in making the CH better each month.

ANOTHER INFORMAL PELAGIC TRIP PLANNED

The group of birders who went out from Galveston on the "New Buccaneer" April 1 (as described on page 3) so enjoyed themselves they are planning on going again May 20, to see what else can be seen. You are invited to join them if you wish. This is a fishing boat, but non-fishermen may ride along (\$22.00), and no reservation is needed if you don't fish. The boat leaves the dock at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 7:30 p.m. If the weather is doubtful, you may call AC713/222-7025 as early as 5:00 a.m. that morning to see if the boat is going out. If it can't go Saturday, the group is going to try again for Sunday.

Jerry Strickling did some research on the Cory's Shearwater, which several of the group believed was probably the shearwater that was seen on the last trip. Following is the account he sent us, it could be an identification aid for those going on a pelagic trip.

This is from "Smithsonian Identification Manual: Seabirds of the Tropical Atlantic Ocean" published by the Smithsonian Institute in 1966.

Cory's or Mediterranean Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*

Characters: Body - 16-18" / wings - to 44". Uniformly greyish brown upperparts merge into white underparts; underwing white. Bill mostly straw, but dark grey in Cape Verde Islands birds. Newly molted birds in November-December are greyest. Some individuals show a suggestion of white at the base of the tail.

Flight: Buoyant and albatross-like. Soars and swoops more and flaps less and usually at greater heights than other shearwaters. In banking from side to side, exposes first white underparts, then darker back. Over a quiet sea, the lower wing tip often skims the surface.

Food: Largely squid taken on surface at night; to a lesser extent small fish driven to the surface by predaceous fish schools. Seldom dives. More likely to be attracted to ships than smaller shearwaters.

Habitat: Subtropical offshore waters.

Distribution: Small, dark, local birds (*C. d. edwardsi*) breed and feed in Cape Verde Islands. Larger North Atlantic subspecies (*C. d. borealis*) breeds in Azores, Madeira, and Canary Islands; migrates via northwest Africa to feed in Gulf of Guinea and off South Africa mostly December to April; also recorded at sea off Trinidad and northern and southern Brazil which may also be regular feeding grounds; vagrant to eastern Florida, Bahamas, and Cuba.

Mary K

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Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to: T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	66 -4197
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