

N.P.



# THE SPOONBILL

Volume III Number 2  
JUNE 1954

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* "...Bird-watching...is an outdoor pursuit \*  
\* with endless opportunities for pleasure \*  
\* wherever you may live or wherever you may \*  
\* travel, since there are birds to be found \*  
\* by land or sea anywhere in the world, any \*  
\* day in the year." *John Kieran A.M. Mag. June 1953* \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston, Texas

SCHEDULED: June 27; Sunday 3 PM, O.G. Field Trip, Galveston, Island.  
July 1, Thursday 8 PM, O.G. Meeting, 5815 Schuler.

E X T R A

E X T R A

HOUSTON'S SPRING ROUNDUP TOPS IN NATION!!  
Outlists Rio Grande and D.V.O.C.

HOUSTON, Tex., June 14.-A determined group of 58 birders in some 21 parties defied wind and rain last May 2 in order to hang up a new local record of 230 species recorded in a single day. This was 9 more than last year's record of 221 species, 2 more than the Lower Rio Grande Valley's 228 set on April 25 this year (by 31 observers in 11 parties), and 4 more than the Delaware Valley's 226 species on May 16 (by 61 observers in 14 parties).

Last year the Upper Gulf Coast Area finished third in the Nation, topped by the Rio Grande's all-time record count of 244 species and the D.V.O.C.'s list of 230. Next year the Upper Gulf Coast Area will try to make it two in a row by enlisting the aid of an even greater "Army of Bird Watchers". Their Goal: 240 species (plus) in '55!

REPORT ON THE LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY NESTING CENSUS

The O.G. members congregated at the Sanctuary Saturday afternoon, May 29. At nightfall, a campfire was built, and the group had an enjoyable time chatting and admiring the clear, star-studded sky. Two shooting stars were observed. Bedtime was 9:30 PM and alarm clocks were set for 4:30 AM.

The next morning, territories were assigned and all departed from camp at 5:30 AM and returned at 11 AM to rest or return home.

But, we were not without excitement. During the night a Whip-poor-will was heard. As the song was heard by a majority of the group, it caused quite a debate as to whether one would be with us this late in the year. One party remarked that the song was the same as on the record. After further investigation that is exactly what it turned out to be. Unbeknownst to the group, two members had a phonograph a short distance away and were playing a recording of "Bird Songs". This was very disappointing as to some this bird would have been a "lifer".

The thirteen observers recorded some 45 (of known) breeding species- 5 more than last year. For further details see the June Supplement. \*

June 27, Sunday 3 PM, O.G. Field Trip, Galveston Island.

Meet at Humble filling station, Broadway and 69th Street. This is an excellent opportunity to study the summer residents of Galveston Island, and will provide ample time to cover our usual haunts in the cool of the evening.

July 1, Thursday 8 PM, O.G Meeting, 5815 Schuler.

The O.G. will have their monthly meetings at Mr. Leonard McWhirter's place of business one block north of the 5800 block of Washington Ave. The Photography Group has found this the ideal place to meet and we hope the Ornithology Group members will find it convenient also.

\* NEVER RAN IN THIS ISSUE;  
WILL BE INCORPORATED  
WITH DATA OF '55 CENSUS

Faint, illegible text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is scattered across the page and includes various words and phrases that are difficult to decipher due to fading and low contrast.

DID YOU KNOW...That the birds most commonly found in Houston the year round are: English Sparrow, Mockingbird, Rock Dove, Blue Jay, Cardinal, Shrike, Tufted Titmouse, Boat-tailed Grackle, Common Meadowlark, and Carolina Wren...?

...That feathers are the strongest structure for their size and weight known in nature? (See "The Miracle of Birds" by Alan Devoe in Oct., 1953 READER'S DIGEST.)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...The June 1 issue of LOOK magazine contains an article of interest to all birders entitled "Favorite Birds". It tells "why bird watchers watch birds" as well as depicting America's favorite birds in beautiful color photos.

\* \* \* \*

The May NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE also contains an article on birds - "Split Seconds In The Lives of Birds" - with photographs in color by the author, Arthur A. Allen.

\* \* \* \*

The POCKET GUIDE TO BIRDS by Allan Cruickshank is now available in a 50¢ pocket book edition (\$2.95 clothbound). This handbook supplements the earlier guide for beginners by Roger Tory Peterson HOW TO KNOW BIRDS (mentor - 35¢). Cruickshank's 215-page book includes 72 full-color photographs by the author's wife, plus 78 black-and-white drawings by Don Eckelberry. Other features include a visual key to identification by habitat and habits of the major bird groups, and a written key to identification by distinctive groups or families, size, color, shape, actions, pattern or field marks, flight, range and season of occurrence, habitat preference, and calls and songs.

In short, this guide prepares the beginner for the "Bird-watchers' Bible", Peterson's A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS...

\* \* \* \*

Your Editor would appreciate receiving any articles about birds appearing in current magazines and newspapers (or references as to where such articles may be found) so as to be able to pass along the information to the rest of the SPOONBILL readers.

CLEARING HOUSE

(( May 22 - Flock of Cedar Waxwings seen at 1814 Berry St., in Houston, and a flock of Geese (sp.?) seen flying over rice fields along Gulf Freeway between Galveston and Houston (N.P.). ))

Article published in THE SAN ANTONIO LIGHT, June 11, 1954. <sup>INCORRECT - ACTUALLY FULVUS TREE-DUCKS</sup>

BIRDS AIMED AT DELINQUENCY

AUBURN, Calif.—Two boys stole 32 pigeons from merchant, Jack Patrick, but police caught the boys and recovered the birds. Then Patrick, hoping to combat juvenile delinquency, gave each boy two mated pigeons to start his own flock.

\* \* \* \*

Noel Pettingell, Editor  
1814 Berry Street,  
Houston 4, Texas  
June 14, 1954

It is time to renew your membership in the Ornithology Group. Send \$1.00 to Mrs. Chas. F. Baker, 6430 Jefferson, Houston 3, Texas.

I am inclosing \$1.00 for membership in the Ornithology Group.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

...of the birds was commonly found in the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

...the ... of the ...  
...the ... of the ...

N.P.

1954 SPRING BIRD ROUNDUP - UPPER GULF COAST AREA OF TEXAS

Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston, Texas

DATE OF ROUNDUP	May 2, 1954
TOTAL SPECIES RECORDED	230 (excluding Rock Dove)
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	58 observers in 21 parties.
APPROX. AREA COVERED	Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (San Jacinto Co.) south to Freeport Beach (Brazoria Co.); and Waller (Waller Co.) east to High Island (Chambers Co.); including parts of Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson and Montgomery Counties (110 N-S miles X 100 E-W miles).
HOURS OF OBSERVATION	3:15 AM to 12 midnight (179 "man-hours").
TOTAL MILEAGE	1,589-1/4 (1,521 by auto; 61-1/4 on foot 7 by boat).
WEATHER	Mostly cloudy with intermittent showers until 10:30 AM to 4 PM (according to locality); rain thereafter; 60-85°F.; wind S, 2-10 MPH until 10:30 AM to 4 PM (according to locality); thereafter N, 25-35 MPH.

**SUMMARY:** Despite unfavorable weather, we still managed a most successful Roundup this year, exceeding last year's count (with 42 observers in 8 parties) by 9 species. This clearly proved the effectiveness of widespread coverage with the emphasis on specific-locality lists rather than huge area-wide party totals with much duplication of routes. A total of 254 species was observed in both 1953 and 1954 Roundups; 33 seen this year but not in '53, and 24 in '53 but not this year (see list below and on following page), with 197 species common to both counts. This year's total was 74% of the 308 species listed in our local Check-list (70% in '53). Twenty-six Warblers were recorded this year, one less than in '53. Next year, with more efficient coverage of the 100-mile area (see Conclusion at end of Supplement) and more favorable weather, the Roundup total should be in the neighborhood of 240 species.

SPECIES RECORDED ON 1954 UPPER GULF COAST SPRING BIRD ROUNDUP

#Birds not seen on 1953 Roundup. (Total: 33 species)

\*Birds not included in printed Check-list of our area. (2; 5 in '53)

(-) Exclusive species; party number in parentheses. (Total: 42)

Unusual species are underlined.

Common Loon (5/6)	Mottled Duck	Clapper Rail
Pied-billed Grebe	Gadwall (12)	#Virginia Rail
White Pelican	Baldpate	Sora
Brown Pelican	Pintail	Purple Gallinule
Olivaceous Cormorant	Blue-winged Teal	Common Gallinule
Double-cr. Cormorant	Green-winged Teal	American Coot
Anhinga	<u>Cinnamon Teal</u> (16)	Piping Plover
#Frigate-bird (7)	Shoveler	Ringed Plover
Great Blue Heron	#Wood Duck (10)	Thick-billed Plover (19)
Common Egret	Redhead (10)	<u>Mountain Plover</u> (7)
Snowy Egret	Canvasback (9)	Killdeer
Reddish Egret	Lesser Scaup	Am. Golden Plover
Tricolored Heron	Ruddy Duck	Black-bellied Plover
Little Blue Heron	#Hooded Merganser (9)	Ruddy Turnstone
Green Heron	#Common Merganser	Common Snipe
Bl.-cr. Night Heron	Turkey Vulture	Long-billed Curlew
Yel.-cr. Night Heron	Black Vulture	Hudsonian Curlew
American Bittern	Cooper's Hawk (10)	Upland Plover
Least Bittern	#Red-tailed Hawk	Spotted Sandpiper
#Wood Ibis (9)	Red-shouldered Hawk	Solitary Sandpiper
<u>Glossy Ibis</u> (17)	Swainson's Hawk	Willet
White-faced Ibis	#Bald Eagle	Greater Yellowlegs
White Ibis	Marsh Hawk	Lesser Yellowlegs
Roseate Spoonbill	Osprey	<u>Knot</u> (19)
#Canada Goose (12)	Caracara	Pectoral Sandpiper
#Snow Goose (12)	#Prairie Falcon (20)	White-rumped Sandpiper
#Blue Goose	#Peregrine Falcon	#Baird's Sandpiper
Fulvous Tree Duck	<u>Prairie Chicken</u>	Least Sandpiper
Mallard (9)	Bobwhite	Dunlin
Black Duck.	#King Rail	Dowitcher



Stilt Sandpiper	Acadian Flycatcher (8)	Yellow Warbler
Semipalm. Sandpiper	Traill's Flycatcher	Magnolia Warbler
Western Sandpiper	Eastern Wood Pewee	Myrtle Warbler (13)
#Marbled Godwit (5/6)	#Vermilion Flycatcher (20)	Bl.-thr. Green Warbler
Hudsonian Godwit (12)	Horned Lark	Blackburnian Warbler
Sanderling	Tree Swallow	Yellow-thr. Warbler
Black-necked Stilt	Bank Swallow	Chestnut-s. Warbler
#Wilson's Phalarope	Rough-winged Swallow	Bay-br. Warbler
Herring Gull	Barn Swallow	#BL-polled Warbler (5/6)
Ring-billed Gull	Cliff Swallow	Pine Warbler
Laughing Gull	Purple Martin	Ovenbird
Franklin's Gull (9)	Blue Jay	Small-b. Waterthrush
Gull-billed Tern	Common Crow	La. Waterthrush
Forster's Tern	#Fish Crow	Kentucky Warbler
Common Tern (5/6)	Carolina Chickadee	Yellowthroat
Least Tern	Tufted Titmouse	Yellow-br. Chat
Royal Tern	#White-br. Nuthatch (8)	Hooded Warbler
Caspian Tern	Br.-headed Nuthatch	Canada Warbler (14)
Black Tern	House Wren	American Redstart
Black Skimmer	Carolina Wren	House Sparrow
(Rock Dove)	Marsh Wren	Common Meadowlark
Mourning Dove	Sedge Wren	#Western Meadowlark (7)
#Ground Dove (17)	Mockingbird	Redwing
*Inca Dove (5/6)	Catbird	Orchard Oriole
Yel.-b. Cuckoo	Brown Thrasher	Baltimore Oriole
Bl.-b. Cuckoo (12)	Robin	#Rusty Blackbird (5/6)
Roadrunner	Wood Thrush	#Brewer's Blackbird
Screech Owl (1)	Swainson's Thrush	Boat-tailed Grackle
Horned Owl (21)	#Gray-cheeked Thrush	Crow-blackbird
Barred Owl	#Veery (12)	Common Cowbird
Chuck-will's-widow	Common Bluebird	*Western Tanager (13)
Common Nighthawk	Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	Scarlet Tanager (3)
Chimney Swift	#Water Pipit	Summer Tanager
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Cedar Waxwing	Cardinal
Belted Kingfisher	Loggerhead Shrike	Rose-br. Grosbeak
#Yel.-shafted Flicker	White-eyed Vireo	Blue Grosbeak
Pileated Woodpecker	Yellow-thr. Vireo	Indigo Bunting
Red-bel. Woodpecker	Red-eyed Vireo	Painted Bunting
Red-headed Woodpecker	Philadelphia Vireo (18)	Dickcissel
Hairy Woodpecker (16)	Warbling Vireo	Savannah Sparrow
Downy Woodpecker	Bl. and Wh. Warbler	Seaside Sparrow
#Red-cockaded Woodp'r. (8)	Prothonotary Warbler	Lark Sparrow
Eastern Kingbird	Worm-eating Warbler	Bachman's Sparrow
#Western Kingbird	Golden-winged Warbler	#Chipping Sparrow (8)
Scissor-t. Flycatcher	Blue-winged Warbler	#Clay-colored Sparrow (20)
Gt. Crested Flycatcher	Tennessee Warbler	White-thr. Sparrow
Eastern Phoebe	Parula Warbler	Lincoln's Sparrow (2)

\*\*\*

SPECIES SEEN IN 1953 ROUNDUP BUT MISSED IN 1954

# Seen in 1954 area within one week of Roundup.

\* Not included in local Check-list.

#Eared Grebe	Cerulean Warbler
Red-breasted Merganser	Connecticut Warbler
#Sharp-shinned Hawk	#*Bobolink
#Broad-winged Hawk	*Yellow-headed Blackbird
Pigeon Hawk	Pine Siskin
#Buff-breasted Sandpiper	*Green-tailed Towhee
#American Avocet	Eastern Towhee
#Barn Owl	Vesper Sparrow
Whip-poor-will	*Harris Sparrow
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	White-crowned Sparrow
Olive-sided Flycatcher	#Swamp Sparrow
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Song Sparrow

Note: Missed in '53 but seen within one week of '54 Roundup:  
 Ring-necked Duck, Mississippi Kite, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow.  
 Missed in '54 but seen within 1 wk. of '53 Roundup:  
 Bewick's Wren, Swainson's Warbler, and Am. Goldfinch.



HONORABLE MENTION - Although not to be found in this year's Roundup list, the following species are herewith recorded "unofficially" due to their rarity and lack of verification:

Mrs. J. L. Hooks - Violet-green Swallow and Starling.  
 Harold Johnson & Donald Haney - (Members of Mrs. Simpson's Texas City Junior High School Bird Club) Black-Swift, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Black-Phoebe, Least Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Bell's Vireo, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Vesper, Field, and Song Sparrows.  
 Elizabeth Mulloy - Yellow Rail (Immature)  
 Noel Pettingell - Swainson's Warbler

LIST OF THIS YEAR'S OBSERVERS

Note: Alphabetically listed by party leader, whose name is first if party consists of two or more persons.

\* Also participated in 1953 Roundup.

<u>Party</u>	<u>Approx. Area Covered</u>	<u>Exclusive Species</u>
X 1) Jebbie Brooks	711 E. 7th, Houston (Harris Co.)	1
X 2) Mrs. Wm. B. Brooks Mr. Claude Baggett Pat & Mike Baggett Billy English Don Illk Ronald Perryman Mr. Raymond Walley	Lake Jackson, Surfside Beach, Velasco, Clute. (S. Brazoria Co.)	1
X 3) Miss Edith R. Conant	418 8th Ave. N., Texas City (Galveston Co.)	1
X 4) *Miss Erna E. Giesecke	1509 Courtland, Houston (Harris Co.)	
X 5) *Dr. Charles E. Hall	(compiler for both parties)	6
" *Mrs. Charles E. Hall	Galveston Island	
6) Mr. Robert Binhammer		
" Mrs. Robert Binhammer		
" Mr. John Hildebrand		
X 7) *Mr. Charles Hamilton *Mrs. Charles Hamilton James W. Phillips	Houston, Galveston, Texas City, Baytown. (Harris & Galveston Counties)	3
X 8) *Joe Heiser, Jr.	Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. (San Jacinto Co.)	3
X 9) Mrs. J. L. Hooks Mrs. Bruce Reid Mr. Bruce Reid Mrs. B. H. Lindsay Mrs. S. T. <del>Wier</del>	Nome, High Island, Bolivar Peninsula. (Jefferson & Chambers Counties)	5
X 10) *Mrs. Minor A. Hurst *Mr. Minor A. Hurst	NW Harris Co., NE Waller Co., SW Montgomery Co.	3
X 11) Harold Johnson Donald Haney	Texas City (Galveston Co.)	
X 12) *Arlie K. McKay	Cove & NW Chambers Co.	6
X 13) *Charles H. McNeese *Carrie Holcomb *Ruth Stamm	Houston, Katy, Richmond, Sugar Land, Arcola, Juliff, Almeda. (Harris & Ft. Bend Counties)	2
X 14) *Edna Miner Luta Buchanan *Nance Cunningham Mable Kaiser *Ella Wolfer	Kemah, Seabrook, La Porte. (Galveston & Harris Counties)	1
X 15) Elizabeth Mulloy Jimmy Mulloy Eva J. Katzmark	N & NE suburbs of Texas City. (Galveston Co.)	



16	*Noel Pettingell *Victor Emanuel Jerry Logan *Armand Yramategui	Houston, Sheldon Res., Almeda Arcola, Alvin, Alta Loma. (Harris, Ft. Bend, Galveston, and Brazoria Counties)	(2) CINNAMON TEAL & HAIRY WOODPECKER
X17	Ed. P. Rowell	Double Bayou, Smith Pt. (Chambers County)	2
X18	Leota Stilwell *Jerry Baker *Darris Massingill *Norma Oates	Houston, Sheldon Res., San Jacinto Battlegrounds, La Porte. (Harris Co.)	1
X19	*Frank Watson *David Watson *John Galley	Houston, Deer Park, San Jacinto Battlegrounds, La Porte, Seabrook, Kemah, Galveston. (Harris & Galveston Counties)	2
X20	*Josiephine Wilkin Don Melstrom Mac Ramsey	Houston, Pasadena, Galena Park, Deer Park, San Jacinto Battlegrounds, La Porte, Baytown. (Harris Co.)	23
X21	*Steve Williams *Lawrence Tabony	Houston, Sheldon Res., San Jacinto Battlegrounds, La Porte, Seabrook, Kemah, Galveston. (Harris & Galveston Counties)	1

\* \* \* \*

The following write-up of our Roundup was published in the HOUSTON CHRONICLE for May 21 and, although somewhat inaccurate is nonetheless excellent publicity in behalf of the sport of Birding:

ANY BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEES?

Observers for the Outdoor Nature Club have completed their 1954 count of birds passing through this area and the results are surprising.

In the first place, nine more species were counted this year than last ("better organization" and not necessarily more birds, said Noel Pettingell, editor of the club's newspaper.) More than 60 observers scattered over nine counties spotted 230 of the 380 species known to be in the upper Gulf Coast area.

This was a far better record, Mr. Pettingell emphasizes, than the Rio Grande Valley count ("our closest competitors") whose observers counted only 228 species.

Aside from the birds who flutter about like flies in the Houston area, these somewhat less than ordinary ones were seen: Blue, Snow, and Canadian Geese; Wood Duck, Peregrine and Prairie Falcons, a Bald Eagle, Man-o-war (Frigate Bird), Vermilion Flycatcher and the Western Meadowlark.

CONCLUSION: The second annual Upper Gulf Coast Roundup was a cooperative venture of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club and the Texas Ornithological Society, with many additional non-member participants taking part in the count. Each and every observer contributed in some way to the final total and it is hoped that all who took part in this year's Roundup will be available for next year's. The bigger the list of participants, the better the count. 1955's Roundup will be conducted in accordance with the Spring Count Rules and Regulations (subject to revision) proposed in the April 19, 1954, T.O.S. Newsletter. We had originally planned to apply these rules to this year's count, but since they are not as yet adopted on a national scale, and are still to be revised, we decided to wait until next year before doing so. If the rules had been followed, one species would have fallen outside the 100-mile area and an additional 13 species would have been invalidated because of the six parties consisting of only one observer.

Next year the emphasis will be on number of individuals as well as species (as in the Christmas Count) so as to provide a year-to-year record of the relative abundance or scarcity of the birds in the Upper Gulf Coast area at the height of spring migration.

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year. It is a summary of the work done and is intended to give a general impression of the work done and the progress made.

2. The second part of the report deals with the details of the work done during the year. It is a detailed account of the work done and is intended to give a detailed account of the work done and the progress made.

3. The third part of the report deals with the results of the work done during the year. It is a summary of the results of the work done and is intended to give a summary of the results of the work done and the progress made.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year. It is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done and is intended to give a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done and the progress made.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the recommendations made during the year. It is a summary of the recommendations made during the year and is intended to give a summary of the recommendations made during the year and the progress made.

6. The sixth part of the report deals with the financial statement of the work done during the year. It is a summary of the financial statement of the work done during the year and is intended to give a summary of the financial statement of the work done during the year and the progress made.

7. The seventh part of the report deals with the general remarks made during the year. It is a summary of the general remarks made during the year and is intended to give a summary of the general remarks made during the year and the progress made.

8. The eighth part of the report deals with the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year. It is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year and is intended to give a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year and the progress made.

9. The ninth part of the report deals with the recommendations made during the year. It is a summary of the recommendations made during the year and is intended to give a summary of the recommendations made during the year and the progress made.

10. The tenth part of the report deals with the financial statement of the work done during the year. It is a summary of the financial statement of the work done during the year and is intended to give a summary of the financial statement of the work done during the year and the progress made.

11. The eleventh part of the report deals with the general remarks made during the year. It is a summary of the general remarks made during the year and is intended to give a summary of the general remarks made during the year and the progress made.

12. The twelfth part of the report deals with the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year. It is a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year and is intended to give a summary of the conclusions drawn from the work done during the year and the progress made.