



# THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXIX, No. 12  
April, 1981

## THE NEW ORDER ARRIVETH

My personal thanks go to Margaret Jones not only for her job as editor but for her help in getting me started. I'll do my best to preserve the reputation she's built for this publication.

Remember that THE SPOONBILL represents all OG members. In the months ahead, please submit anything which you feel might be of interest. Thanks.

Randy Pinkston

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## Coming Events

- April 21, 23, & 28 HAS announces a class in the "Preparation of Museum Bird Study Skins". Time: 7-10 p.m. Place: Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary. Instructors Nancy Crocker and Barry Hinderstein. Cost \$10.00 which will cover the cost of supplies. The class will be strictly limited to 10 persons. Call Mr. Carmine Stahl at 932-1392, weekday mornings, to determine if there are still places. If more than ten people call a waiting list will be set up for a possible second group.
- Weekend  
April 24, 25, & 26 Visitors' Days at Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. There will be camping, Youth Day activities on Saturday with hikes, games, picnics and a camp fire at night. This is your sanctuary, come enjoy it in the company of your fellow members. For directions, see "OG annual picnic meeting" below.
- Saturday  
April 25 Deadline for THE SPOONBILL announcements, articles, etc. Send your material to Randy Pinkston, 5447 Kuldell, Houston 77096 (667-1334).
- April 30  
May 1, 2 TOS annual meeting, Bryan/College Station, Texas. The hosting organization is Rio Brazos Audubon Society. Headquarters will be the Holiday Inn North in Bryan (2300 Texas Ave., 713-823-8131). Make reservations as soon as possible. The banquet will be Friday night featuring James Vardaman as speaker, well-known to most for his attempt to see 700 species of birds in North America in a single year. Organized field trips will be held on Friday and Saturday.
- Sunday  
May 3 OG annual "Spring Round-up". Form your own party (3-4 is ideal) and bird the coast at places of your choice. Object is to find as many birds as possible. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at Pizza Hut at 61st and Stewart Road in Galveston that night to compare observations. Those who can't make the dinner send your sightings to David Matson. (Be sure to send a copy of your party list, with numbers, to the Clearing House)
- Clearing House deadline for observations for April. Please send early.
- Wednesday  
May 6 Photography Group regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 S. Braeswood Blvd. Mrs. Louise

Hall will present a slide show on her trip to the northwest. Points of interest include the Oregon coast, the Olympic Nat'l. Forest, Canada, and the glaciers.

- Saturday  
May 9           OG annual picnic meeting at ONC Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Meet at the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. From Houston, take I-45 to New Waverly and turn right on State 150, go 17 miles to Evergreen, turn right on FM 945-entrance is 2 miles south on the left (for more info on location, see ONC roster).
- Tuesday  
May 12          ONC Annual Potluck Dinner at the Garden Center, 1900 Hermann Dr. (time to be announced in April Nature Notes). A volunteer chairman is needed. Call Barbara Duryea at 668-1979.
- Sunday  
May 17          ONC Trip: Palmetto State Park. Details in upcoming Nature Notes.
- Weekend  
May 23, 24      Photography Group field trip to the Enchanted Rock State Park. It is a huge pre-cambrian granite dome in the Texas hill country, fascinating to both geologists and nature lovers. It is located 18 miles north of Fredricksburg on FM-965. Primitive camping is available-no hook-ups. Motels available in Fredricksburg and Llano.

April through August: Boat trips for birders are being offered by Bob Bass, 3110 Heron Dr., Galveston. The trips are being offered to Jigsaw and North Deer Islands in West Galveston Bay for bird observation and photography. The trips will be about two hours in duration at \$20.00 per person with a minimum of three and a maximum of six persons. Trips will begin in April and continue through August when nesting gulls, terns, skimmers, herons, egrets, spoon-bills, ibis and others can be observed from the boat. The boat, Sea Bass, is a twenty-three foot fiberglass inboard with comfortable seating and a top for sun protection. Arrangements for this trip and others by request can be made by calling (713)744-0217 in Galveston.

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HENSLOW SPARROW BANDING

Dr. Arnold at A & M wrote last month with a schedule of WORK days at the Henslow Sparrow field. All dates are tentative. Contact Ron Braun (496-3108) or Randy Pinkston (667-1334) on Friday nights preceding scheduled work days to make sure of what's planned.

April 25	July 11, 25
May 9, 23	August 8, 15
June 6, 13, 20	

Meet at 7:30 a.m. for the April and May trips, at 7:00 a.m. for the June, July, and August trips.

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NEWS ON MYSTERY-GULL

Dr. Arnold also forwarded a letter from M. Ralph Browning (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) concerning the mystery-gull in the Kemah-Seabrook area. He had sent David Farris' slides as representation, and they wrote:

"Our resident expert on gulls and terns, Jim Stasz, and I agree that the gull is Larus marinus. Larus occidentalis is paler

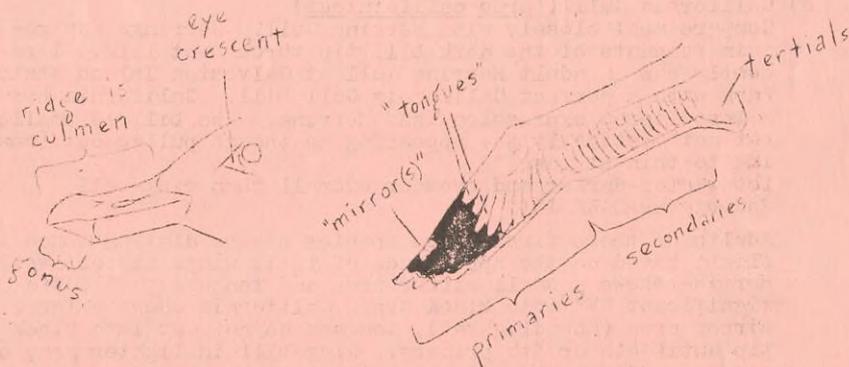
above and lacks the dark area on the distal portion of the bill. Mr. Stasz considers the represented gull to be a fourth-year L. marinus because of the brownish tinge in the wings and the dark markings on the bill. Larus fuscus has a less massive bill."

#### TIPS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF CONFUSING GULLS

The OG was privileged to have Eret Whitney as speaker at the January meeting this year. Eret is a true expert on the field identification of gulls, his emphasis being on North American species. I jotted down a few notes at that meeting, and here I pass them along. Use them in combination with a reliable field guide.

All of us, living and birding near a coast, should arm ourselves with a solid knowledge of gulls and their field marks. You never know what will show up. -Ed.

- 1) These illustrations should serve to define a few terms frequently used in gull descriptions:



#### 2) General Comments:

- a) Key characters to note when viewing gulls are mantle (or uppersurface) coloration, coloration and pattern of the primaries (both upper and lower surfaces), bill color, foot color, coloration and pattern on the tail, eye and eye-ring color (not highly reliable), and the bird's facial expression (fierce vs. dove-like).
- b) all white-headed gulls show streaking on crown and hind-neck during winter.
- c) unusual whitish patches at shoulder, etc., probably indicate a moult in progress. More specifically, they are areas where coverts have been lost.
- d) lost feathers will grow back as they would after next successive moult.
- e) tips of primaries on first year birds are very pointed (this is an exclusive character of birds this age).
- f) outer primaries not fully grown in or worn white ones, etc., make wing more rounded, giving bird faster wing-beat and apparent smaller size.

#### 3) Plumage Sequences

- a) Large gulls (i.e. "Herring-type"): juvenal-1st winter-1st summer-2nd winter (preceded by first full moult)-2nd summer-3rd winter-3rd summer (i.e. adult)
- b) Medium gulls (i.e. "Ring-billed type"): takes only two years
- c) Small gulls (i.e. "Bonaparte's-type"): takes only one year

4) Notes by species

- a) Ring-billed Gull (Larus delawarensis)  
1st winter-head and body light brownish; wings with "contrasty" pattern (dark primaries and wide dark band through secondaries); tail with broad black band contrasting with white base of tail and rump; may already show mantle characteristic of...  
2nd winter-lighter below and on head; wings essentially like adult's, but this species is usually late in acquiring mirrors; tail may be all white but will probably show patchy remnants of dark band; mantle like adult with variable amount of brown mottling; bill may or may not show adult characteristics; eye probably pale by this time.
- b) Herring Gull (Larus argentatus)  
heavy-chested look; fierce expression relative to medium gulls  
1st winter-dark overall, brown; contrasty wings with very dark primaries (compare with Thayer's); bill large, pale with dark tip or all dark; may show light iris by this time, almost certainly by 2nd winter.
- c) California Gull (Larus californicus)  
Compare most closely with Herring Gull. Herrings may retain remnants of the dark bill-tip throughout life. I recently saw an adult Herring Gull at Galveston Island State Park with a perfect California Gull bill. California has a less fierce expression than Herring. The bill is smaller but not distinctly so, appearing as though pulled out (causing to thin at base)  
1st winter-darker and browner overall than ring-bill  
2nd winter-DARK IRIS  
Adults of these first three species may be distinguished in flight based on the appearance of their wings as follows: Herring shows a small mirror area and tongues that cut a significant "V" into black tip. California shows a large mirror area ("headlights"), tongues do not cut into black tip until 4th or 5th primary. Ring-bill is lighter gray of course, and usually late in getting mirrors.
- d) Glaucous Gull (Larus hyperboreus)  
1st winter-bill pale with dark tip; plumage white all over except for very pale gray mantle (with brownish mottlings posteriorly); FROSTY WHITE PRIMARIES  
2nd winter-bill as above; plumage entirely white
- e) Glaucous-winged Gull (Larus glaucescens)  
no Texas record yet  
very steep culmen, toward tip; almost flat gonys; young birds (esp. 1st winter) essentially identical to Thayer's in coloration but this species larger
- f) Thayer's Gull (Larus thayeri)  
Young is pale with light coffee-colored primaries with distinct pale edgings; underside of primaries white, to tip or almost to tip; strikes one as uniformly colored overall, primaries close to matching back; bill smaller, petite, proportionately than in Herring Gull, and all dark. For more information, see Birding, Dec. 1980, or American Birds, Dec. 1975.
- g) Great Black-backed Gull (Larus marinus)  
bill stout and thick, massive; adult usually has a red eye-ring; with reference to the Kemah bird, a 3rd winter individual may show only one mirror and may have a dark iris (adult with two, perhaps three, mirrors); also, the female may be only slightly larger than a Herring Gull.
- h) Lesser Black-backed Gull (Larus fuscus)  
When wing is viewed from below (with sun shining through it), this species shows most extensive dark shading between wing linings and tips of flight feathers. Also, it shows the heaviest winter crown and neck streakings.

- i) Western Gull (Larus occidentalis)  
no positive Texas record yet  
Adult with a single subapical mirror on outermost primary;  
dark gold eye, red eye-ring (variable); bill tip supposedly  
distinctly bulbous.
- j) Mew Gull (Larus canus)  
no Texas record yet  
Best mark is a distinctly small, petite bill; steep fore-  
head; young individuals show distinct barring on undertail  
coverts; shares dark iris and greenish legs with California  
Gull.  
I noticed in Bret's slides that this species shows a pro-  
portionately large eye relative to at least ring-bill.

For more information, refer to "Field Identification of West Palearctic Gulls" by Peter Grant in British Birds (1978). This three-part series is being condensed into monograph form and will be available at The Chickadee.

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RARE BIRD ALERT NEWS by Ron Braun

During March two birds were placed on the RBA. The first was on Monday evening, March 9th. A female Black-throated Gray Warbler was found along White Oak Bayou by Wes Cureton. Although one or two birds are seen almost annually now on the UTC, some people have not caught up with this species and since it was right in town, I decided to put it on the Alert. A second alert went out on Wednesday March 18th. This concerned a Black Brant seen at Sabine Pass. Thanks to Mac Read for calling this one in to me.

If you are currently on the RBA list (as published in the OG roster) and did not receive a call about the above birds, please call me. In addition, if you are not on the RBA and would like to be, let me know. Feel free to call me anytime at home (496-3108) or at work (754-7439, ask that I be located) about any rare or unusual bird you may find.

Remember Will Risser (669-9692) is attempting to organize a RBA for birds outside the UTC RBA area. If you would like to hear about these, give Will a call. Also if you hear or know about an unusual or rare bird in another part of the state, let Will or myself know.

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AROUND AND ABOUT

An issue of the Naturalist (a Minnesota publication), featuring regional articles on hawk migration, is currently being assembled. If you are knowledgeable about hawk migration on the UTC and you are willing to write about it, please contact Ron Braun. Preferred length would be 1700-2100 words.

Phil Glass of Galveston is interested in obtaining sight records of endangered species for any U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' managed areas such as Barker Reservoir or Wallisville Reservoir. If you have any such records, particularly some dating to earlier times when such species as prairie chickens could be found on these areas, please contact:

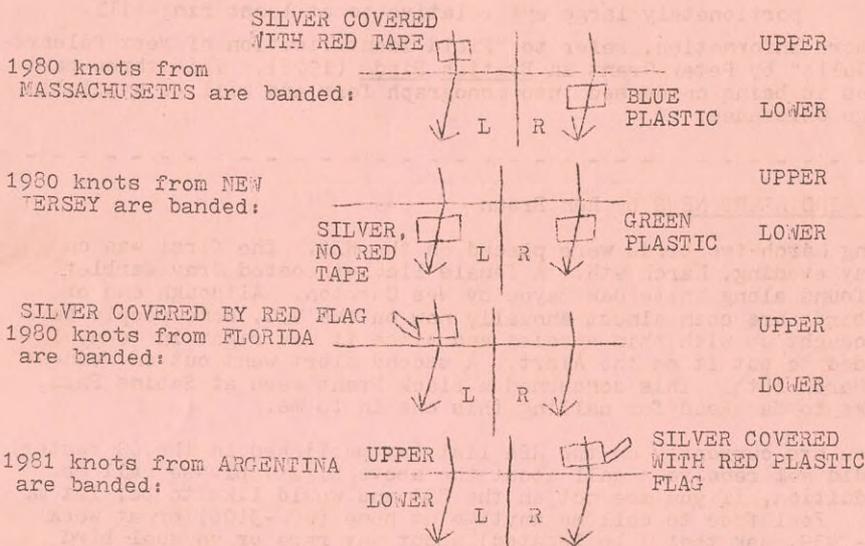
Mr. Phil Glass  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Galveston District  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, TX 77553

Please report any fall/winter sightings of adult Harlan's race Red-tailed Hawk (Buteo jamaicensis harlani). Include plumage description or photographs along with sighting locations. Historical in-

formation is also welcome. Send information to:

David Mindell  
 c/o Bureau of Land Management  
 4700 E. 72nd  
 Anchorage, AK 99507

The Manomet Bird Observatory is eagerly seeking sightings of Red Knots banded and color-marked in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Florida, and Argentina. Remember left and right are the bird's left and right. In the drawings below, you are looking at the bird from the rear:



Please report all sightings, regardless of whether or not you can spot the location of the bands. However, any identification of the color and location of each band is very important. Please send your name and address, date of sighting, location, total number of knots in flock, total number of yellow and/or banded knots, location and color of bands for each banded individual (make drawings like those above) to:

Bird Banding Laboratory  
 Office of Migratory Bird Management  
 Fish & Wildlife Service  
 Laurel, MD 20811

and Manomet Bird Observatory  
 Box 936  
 Manomet, MA 02345

Newly developed leaflets are available on Brazoria and San Bernard National Wildlife Refuges by writing their offices:

P.O. Drawer 1088  
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 Angleton, TX 77515  
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Also, get A Field Guide to the Birds East of the Rockies (R. T. Peterson) and A Guide to North American Bird Clubs (J. E. Rickert), both for only \$15 (+ .95 handling), by writing the same people.

Jim Morgan has donated a book to our library, A Field Guide to the Seabirds of Britain & the World, in honor of a great SPOONBILL editor, Mrs. Margaret Jones.

Remember the Long-eared Owl in Hooke's Woods (High Island) on the Bolivar Peninsula CBC this past year? Earlier on count day, I found a Long-eared Owl carcass hanging by one wrist-joint on a barbed-wire fence in grassland adjacent to Smith's Woods. I would guess the bird had been dead a week or two, meaning High Island had at least two long-eareds this winter. Foolishly, I didn't salvage it. -Ed.

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THE SILENT KILLERS: DISEASES OF BIRDS by B. C. Robison, D.V.M.

Part 3: QUAIL BRONCHITIS/ULCERATIVE ENTERITIS OF QUAIL

After back-to-back installments of botulism and fowl cholera, our waterfowl friends need a rest. This month's patients will be upland game birds, primarily quail.

Ulcerative enteritis is an acute bacterial infection of young chickens, turkey poults, and numerous species of game birds. Quail, however, are by far the most susceptible; Bobwhite, California, Gambel's, Mountain, and Scaled Quail, as well as the Sharp-tailed, Blue, and Ruffed Grouse have all been naturally infected with ulcerative enteritis. This disease is economically important to the chicken and turkey industry, and presents a unique threat to a valuable segment of our wild bird population.

The causative agent is a spore-forming bacteria known as Corynebacterium perdicum. This organism is difficult to culture in artificial media, and its spore forming ability provides it with considerable resistance to heat and chemical disinfectants.

As its name indicates, ulcerative enteritis attacks the intestinal tracts of affected birds. It is generally acute, frequently causing among young birds a hundred percent mortality in only a few days. In a flock the disease will run its course over several weeks time.

In peracute cases (that means really fast acting, and then some), the birds will display no premonitory signs other than sudden death. When a clinical problem is evident, it usually occurs as a watery white diarrhea. If the birds hang on for several days, they become listless and ruffled, with half-closed eyes and a hunched-up appearance. In protracted cases the pectoral muscles will become atrophied.

Chickens can also be infected with C. perdicum, but they are more resistant to it than quail. A chicken flock can have losses ranging from 2 to 10 percent. Chicken and quail are usually infected around 4-12 weeks of age, and turkeys at around 3-8 weeks.

As might be expected, the disease is transmitted by fecal contamination. Infection can occur by direct contact, or by eating flies and other insects that have been feeding on feces from infected

flocks. Since C. perdicum is resistant to heat and chemicals, fastidious sanitation in commercial flock houses is obviously very important.

Ulcerations of various sizes occur throughout the intestinal tract, often causing bleeding. Portions of liver tissue die off, giving the organ a patchy, yellowish appearance. The spleen becomes engorged and hemorrhagic. Presumptive diagnosis is made by the observation of ulcers in the intestine accompanied by liver necrosis. The diagnosis is augmented by the demonstration of the rod-shaped bacteria on microscopic examination of stained liver tissue. Where possible, streptomycin given in the feed or water or by injection is effective as both a preventive and therapeutic measure against ulcerative enteritis.

Quail bronchitis is an acute, highly contagious viral respiratory disease of Bobwhite quail. Its prevalence among wild populations is unknown, and most of the medical data on it comes from captive flock producers.

As diseases go, this is a fairly recent one, having been first described in 1949. Since then, it has been reported only sporadically, mainly from states where quail are raised commercially. The high mortality rate among young birds and the immunity produced in surviving birds helps keep the disease localized and self-limiting.

Quail bronchitis usually hits young birds under 8 weeks of age. Non-symptomatic infections or mild cases, if such exist, are unknown, although the epidemiologic evidence suggests that the quail can be infected from other species such as chickens, sparrows, or blackbirds, who may carry the virus but not be clinically affected by it.

As with many respiratory diseases, quail bronchitis spreads rapidly, going through an entire flock in less than a week. Infection can occur annually on the same farm unless vigorous cleanliness is observed.

Sudden onset of wheezing and sneezing are typical symptoms. Mucus congests the trachea and air sacs; the spread is rapid and the mortality is high. Losses are higher in young quail than in older birds. Since no specific treatment is known for quail bronchitis, emphasis must be placed on prevention and control for effective management. Avoidance of crowding in the brood house, sanitation, separation of young from old, proper temperature regulation and ventilation are all essential.

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TROPIC-BIRDS TO TUFTED JAYS by Jim Morgan

On Friday, March 13, Virginia Davidson, Ted Eubanks, Jr. and I left Houston for Western Mexico. Overnighting Friday at Laredo we were through Mexican immigration Saturday morning and on our way to Durango, which we made that evening. This first day in Mexico was uneventful with only a sighting of a Lark Bunting flock to break up the monotony of the long drive.

On the following morning we began our birding along the Durango Highway, about 25 miles west of Durango. Alternating driving and birding we progressed through some beautiful grasslands into pine forests, then into a more diversified highland forest of magnificent scenery. Along the way we saw Mountain and Western Bluebirds, numerous sparrows, House Finch, Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches, and other western nearctic bird species. Nearing the village of El Palmito we spotted a large hawk over a ravine. Fortunately there was a pull-off right by the highway so we got out to get a good look at the bird. . . a Goshawk! While out of the car we birded the roadside and saw our first Red Warblers, Slate-throated Redstarts, and many, many White-eared Hummingbirds. Then another birding delight. . . over the same ravine where the Goshawk was, two Red-tailed Hawks were stooping on a Golden Eagle which had prey in it's talons. This was just

the first of many great birding experiences we were to encounter for the next week.

The following day we birded in and around the area known to birders as the Rancho Liebre barranca. For me, the highlight of the day occurred as I rounded a bend on foot and found myself staring into a tree full of Tufted Jays! Also exciting was the sight of an Aztec Thrush which Ted found right at the edge of the barranca. It was an adult male in splendid plumage. Also seen that day were Williamson's Sapsucker, Tufted Flycatcher, numerous western warbler species, a "lost" spring plumaged Tennessee Warbler, White-throated Robin and Rufous-capped Brush-Finch.

The next morning we birded down the Pacific slope of the Sierra Madre Occidental. Particularly rewarding was the birding on the side road to Panuco. There we found numerous Military Macaws, Orange-fronted Parakeets, Lilac-crowned Parrots, Calliope Hummingbird, the magnificent Magpie Jay, Nutting's Flycatcher, Yellow-winged Cacique and Yellow Grosbeak. Once down the slope we turned at Villa Union and headed south towards San Blas. Very quickly we spotted a large flock of White-naped Swifts which we stopped to look closely at. Another one hundred miles down the road we stopped to relax a moment under a large fig tree only to find it full of Blue-rumped Parrotlets. We could not have seen these delightful little birds any better!

Once in San Blas we were ideally located to enjoy and experience 2½ days of great fun and good birding. Morning birding in the jungle and along the beaches turned up Collared Plover, Elegant Tern, Common Woodnymph, Berylline Hummingbird, Russet-crowned Motmot, Gray-crowned and Golden-cheeked Woodpeckers, Purplish-backed Jay, Happy Wren, Streaked-backed Oriole, Stripe-headed Sparrow and much, much more. Ted was fortunate enough to see, though briefly, the elusive San Blas Jay.

For me, the highlights of our stay in San Blas involved two boat trips. The first was a late afternoon/evening trip through the mangrove swamps which turned up a Bare-throated Tiger bittern, about 50 Boat-billed Herons, numerous kingfishers and water birds, and after dark we saw 8 Potoos and we also approached a Mottled Wood-Owl to within 6 feet as it sat on a low branch over the waterway. The second trip took place one afternoon and it involved about a 10-12 mile trip to Piedra Elefante, a large rock offshore which was literally covered with Brown and Blue-footed Boobies and Brown Pelicans. The sight (and delight) of this trip was the beautiful "el pajarito tropical con pico rojo", the Red-billed Tropicbird. The bird must be seen to be fully appreciated. It is simply fantastic! On our return to shore we got a bonus bird, a Black Storm-Petrel.

All in all our stay in San Blas was far too short. We could have stayed much longer. In addition to good and varied birding we found the food to be superb and our accommodations equally as good. It is just a great place to spend time.

Our final stop on the way home was a return trip to the barranca. We arrived early in the morning just after a front had passed through. The air was crystal clear, the temperature perfect and the scent of pines was in every breath. Our first look out over the barranca revealed a Tufted Jay perched on the very top of a conifer. This was a very fitting picture for the moment we were experiencing. Further birding well down into the barranca turned up 5 Aztec Thrushes, more Tufted Jays, and the beautiful Golden-browed Warbler, plus numerous other species. On the hike out of the barranca we found a robin which fits perfectly the description of a Mountain Robin, a species known only from the mountains of southern Chiapas and countries further south. We are hoping to get more information from experts on neotropical birds as to the validity of this sighting which, if correct, would be the find of the trip.

Leaving the barranca and beginning our long trip home via the Durango

Highway we were admiring the beautiful scenery when, about 3 miles east of El Palmito, a Tufted Jay flew across the road in front of us. We felt this was symbolic of the entire trip, for it would be difficult to witness again so many good looks at so many beautiful birds.

Our final tally of species seen showed that we had achieved a total of 270, including 27 species of warblers (which was most satisfying for the warbler "nut" in our trio). We all agreed that the two most beautiful species seen were the Tropicbird and the magnificent Tufted Jay. But we will long remember the other super sights like the Goshawk, the Golden Eagle being stooped on, Military Macaws flying in their formation flights, and much, much more. No doubt that we will all return, and hopefully sometime soon.

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CLEARING HOUSE, March 1981

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH: Species: Location--(how many) date, observers. Those common species which can be easily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by the number of reports, with the lowest and highest number of individuals seen in parenthesis, i.e. (1-40). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. Observations affecting the checklist will be published under the "Special Report" heading pending their acceptance by the checklist committee.

Loon, Common: 8 reports (1-20)  
Loon, Red-throated: Offats Bayou--(1)3,L  
 Grebe, Eared: 12 reports (4-175)  
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 14 reports (2-25)  
 Pelican, White: 10 reports (4-350)  
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 14 reports (2-300)  
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 5 reports (1-15)  
 Anhinga: 4 reports (1-4)  
 Heron, Great Blue: 17 reports (2-30)  
 Heron, Little Blue: 13 reports (1-35)  
 Heron, Green: Galveston--(1)18,J&JH; (1)29,C; (9)28,D; Anahuac--(1)29,A; Algoa--(1)18,22,25,DW  
 Egret, Cattle: 15 reports (2-200)  
 Egret, Reddish: 11 reports (1-26)  
 Egret, Great: 18 reports (2-35)  
 Egret, Snowy: 18 reports (1-23)  
 Heron, Louisiana: 14 reports (1-15)  
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 11 reports (1-32)  
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 10 reports (1-5)  
 Bittern, American: Hale Ranch--(3)14,G  
 Ibis, White-faced: 7 reports (2-11)  
 Ibis, White: 13 reports (2-60)  
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 12 reports (1-350)  
 Goose, Canada: 4 reports (10-300)  
 Goose, White-fronted: 3 reports (4-700)  
 Goose, Snow: 6 reports (17-10,000)  
 Goose, Ross': W. Harris Co.--(3)5,BF&BB; Fort Bend Co.--(2)14,G  
BRANT, BLACK: Sabine Pass--(1)30,J&NS  
Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Hale Ranch--(15)14,G; Big Slough--(14)28,BB  
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Bolivar--(1)29,C; Freeport Marsh--(2)14,BC  
 Mallard: 2 reports (2,10)  
 Duck, Mottled: 14 reports (2-30)  
 Gadwall: 9 reports (2-250)  
 Pintail, Common: 5 reports (1-12)  
 Teal, Green-winged: 11 reports (1-2,000)  
 Teal, Blue-winged: 16 reports (10-450)  
 Teal, Cinnamon: W. Harris Co.--(2)29,N; (14)5,TBF&BB  
 Wigeon, American: 10 reports (2-400)  
 Shoveler, Northern: 11 reports (2-2,000)

Duck, Wood: ELMNS--(1)7,HAS; Lake Anahuac--(2)1,MA; Sugarland--(22)  
 22,R&AD; Hale Ranch--(1)14,G  
 Redhead: W. Harris Co.--(1)5,TBF&BB  
 Duck, Ring-necked: 3 reports (2-40)  
 Canvasback: 3 reports (2-50)  
 Scaup, Greater: W. Harris Co.--(2)29,N  
 Scaup, Lesser: 6 reports (1-6)  
 Goldeneye, Common: W. Harris Co.--(2)29,N; Galveston--(3)4,M  
 Bufflehead: Bolivar--(2)29,C  
 Duck, Ruddy: 4 reports (6-200)  
 Merganser, Red-breasted: 8 reports (1-50)  
 Vulture, Turkey: 23 reports (1-50)  
 Vulture, Black: 2 reports (2,4)  
 Kite, White-tailed: 8 reports (1-4)  
 Kite, Swallow-tailed: Lake Jackson--(1)22,MR; Alta Loma--(5)29,DS&JA  
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Houston--(1)8,HAS; (1)21,WC; Hale Ranch--(1)14,  
 G; High Island--(1)15,G  
 Hawk, Cooper's: W. Galveston--(3)28,R&AD; Lake Jackson--(1)19,L&MB  
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 20 reports (1-40)  
 Hawk, (Harlan's): W. Harris Co.--(1)5,TBF&BB  
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 16 reports (1-11)  
 Hawk, Broad-winged: ELMNS--(2)28,HAS; Galveston--(1)22,J; Bellaire--  
 (1)31,DM  
 Hawk, Swainson's: Intercontinental Airport--(1)28,MAu; Houston--(1)  
 28, W&GC; Big Slough--(1)28,BB  
 Hawk, White-tailed: Ellington AFB--(1)29,N  
 Eagle, Bald: Brazoria Co.--(3)21,BC  
 Hawk, Marsh: 20 reports (1-50)  
 Osprey: Lake Charlotte--(1)1,MAu; Armand Bayou--(1)8,MAu; Seabrook--  
 (1)11,MAu; Big Slough--(1)28,BB  
 Falcon, Peregrine: Galveston--(1)all month, several observers  
 Kestrel, American: 16 reports (1-40)  
 Prairie Chicken, Greater (Attwater's): Dickinson--(5 males)29,EM  
 Bobwhite: 6 reports (2-10)  
 Crane, Sandhill: Galveston--(85)18,MAu  
 Rail, King: 3 reports (1-2)  
 Rail, Clapper: 4 reports (1-8)  
 Rail, Virginia: Bolivar--(1)16,G  
 Sora: Anahuac NWR--(1)4,L; Galveston--(1)29,C; (1)29,N; Bolivar--(2)  
 15,G  
 Gallinule, Common: 9 reports (1-20)  
 Coot, American: 9 reports (20-500)  
 Oystercatcher, American: Galveston--(3)3,L; (1)29,N  
 Plover, Semipalmated: 7 reports (1-20)  
 Plover, Piping: 8 reports (1-45)  
 Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(20)4,M; (10)29,N; (20)15,PM  
 Plover, Wilson's: 7 reports (2-10)  
 Killdeer: 19 reports (1-60)  
 Plover, American Golden: Galveston--(18)28,R&AD, (6)27,J&JH, (9)3,  
 L, (125)29,C, (67)18,MAu, (20)22,J; Bolivar--(100)29,C, (6)29,B,  
 (5)14,(15)15,G, (1)14,PM; UTC--(400)29,N, (6)7,HH; Chambers Co.--  
 (20)29,B  
 Plover, Black-bellied: 11 reports (1-600)  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: 8 reports (1-20)  
 Woodcock, American: Brazoria Co.--(1)2,KW  
 Snipe, Common: 11 reports (1-25)  
 Curlew, Long-billed: 13 reports (1-100)  
 Sandpiper, Upland: Galveston--(9)28,R&AD; Bolivar--(2)29,C; (13)29,  
 B; W. Harris Co.--(8)29,N; Hale Ranch--(5)14,G  
 Sandpiper, Spotted: 6 reports (1-2)  
 Sandpiper, Solitary: Galveston--(1)18,MAu; Anahuac NWR--(1)29,B  
 Willet: 12 reports (4-175)  
 Yellowlegs, Greater: 10 reports (1-200)  
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 13 reports (1-300)  
 Knot, Red: Galveston--(8)3,L, (45)all month, MAu; Bolivar--(350)29,N  
RUFF: Galveston Daily News Pond--(1)29,N; (1 reeve)30,31,D... see  
 notes  
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: Galveston--(2)31,R&AD, (3)18,MAu, (10)29,B;  
 Bolivar--(5)29,C, (2)15,G; Freeport--(4)15,J; Anahuac NWR--(1)15,PM

SANDPIPER, BAIRD'S: Galveston--(1)29,N...see notes  
 Sandpiper, Least: 4 reports (15-200)  
 Dunlin: 8 reports (16-750)  
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(10)4,M; (1)29,B; Galveston--(400)29,C; (1)22,JB&ES; UTC--(250)29,N  
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: 4 reports (7-1,000)  
 dowitcher species: 6 reports (2-80)  
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: 2 reports (7,6)  
 Sandpiper, Western: 7 reports (20-9,000)  
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Galveston--(2)29,C  
 Godwit, Marbled: Galveston--(14)28,R&AD, (5)29,C, (3)all month, (34)18,MAU, (1)22,J; Bolivar--(40)4,M, (2)29,B, (20)15,G; UTC--(65)29,N  
 Sanderling: 7 reports (30-500)  
 Avocet, American: 7 reports (2-8,000)  
 Stilt, Black-necked: Freeport--(4)15,JB&ES, (21)28,BB; Chambers Co.--(1)29,B; UTC--(150)29,N; High Island--(10)29,C; Galveston--(20)29,C, (6)30,J&JH, (2)30,R&AD; Mercury Dr.--(5)24,WC  
 Gull, Herring: 8 reports (3-500)  
 Gull, Ring-billed: 12 reports (3-600)  
 Gull, Laughing: 10 reports (60-2,500)  
 Gull, Bonaparte's: 4 reports (1-10)  
 Tern, Gull-billed: Bolivar--(1)29,B; Galveston--(3)29,N  
 Tern, Forster's: 11 reports (2-1,700)  
 Tern, Common: UTC--(10)29,N; Galveston--(3)10,(1)19,(1)30,J&JH; Bolivar--(3)15,G; Quintana--(4)14, BC  
 Tern, Least: Bolivar--(5)15,(200)29,C; Galveston--(100)29,C, (2)22, AD  
 Tern, Royal: 10 reports (4-500)  
 Tern, Sandwich: Galveston--(25)29,N; Bolivar--(4)4,M  
 Tern, Caspian: 7 reports (2-200)  
 Tern, Black: Chambers Co.--(1)29,B  
 Skimmer, Black: 8 reports (30-800)  
 Dove, Rock: 6 reports (20-200)  
 Dove, White-winged: Galveston--3 reports (2-6)  
 Dove, Mourning: 13 reports (2-50)  
 Dove, Ground: Galveston--(1)29,C  
 Dove, Inca: 8 reports (3-50)  
 Owl, Barn: Houston--(2)27,J; Galveston--(1)19,30,J&JH, (1)28,J; Bolivar--(1)15,G; Brazoria Co.--(1)17,KW  
 Owl, Screech: Houston--(4)20,J,(1)29,C; W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N; Algoa--(1)all month,DW; Brazoria Co.--(2)all month,KW  
 Owl, Great Horned: W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N; Big Slough--(1)28,BB  
 Owl, Burrowing: Bolivar--(1)4,M; (1)7,HH  
 Owl, Barred: W. Harris Co.--(2-3)all month,V&DE; Brazoria Co.--(3)16, L&MB; (1)21,MR  
 Owl, Short-eared: Angleton--(1)15,J; W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N; Bolivar--(1)15,G; (7)7,HH  
 Chuck-will's-widow: Bellaire--(1)19-22,DM  
 Whip-poor-will: High Island--(1)22,PM  
 Swift, Chimney: Houston--(5)26,WC, (1)29,J, (3)31,HAS; Friendswood--(1)30,MAU; UTC--(30)29,C; W. Harris Co.--(3)30-31,V&DE  
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: Houston--(1)22,DW, (1)24,HAS, (1-2)22-31, ER; UTC--(20)29,N; Galveston--(4)29,C, (1)30,J&JH, (1)28,J; Algoa--(1)16-30,DW; Dickinson--(1-3)22-29,EM; Brazoria Co.--(2)21,BC  
HUMMINGBIRD, BROAD-BILLED: yard--(1)1-20,ER...see notes  
 Hummingbird, Black-chinned: Houston--(1)all month,ER  
 Hummingbird, Rufous: Houston--(1)all month,GC, (1)all month,ER; Algoa--(1)16-27,DW  
 Hummingbird, Buff-bellied: Lake Jackson--(1)21,MR  
HUMMINGBIRD, ANNA'S: Houston--(1)Feb. 1-25,GC  
 Kingfisher, Belted: 15 reports (1-5)  
 Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): 16 reports (1-10)  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 8 reports (1-4)  
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 8 reports (2-5), including High Island  
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: High Island--(2)15,G  
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 7 reports (1)  
 Woodpecker, Hairy: Lake Charlotte--(2)1,MAU; W. Harris Co.--(1)1-27, V&DE  
 Woodpecker, Downy: 12 reports (1-6), including High Island and W.

Galveston  
Kingbird, Eastern: Chambers Co.--(6)29,B; Galveston--(1)29,N, (4)29,  
C, (1)28,R&AD  
Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: Alvin--(1)22,J; Galveston--(1)22,J, (15)  
29,C, (2)27,(3)30,J&JH, (3)28,J; Houston--(1)23,J; Chambers Co.--(3)  
29,B; Bolivar--(1)29,B; UTC--(26)29,N; Brazoria Co.--(2)21,BC; High  
Island--(1)22,PM  
Flycatcher, Great Crested: Galveston--(1)22,J, (1)18,J&JH  
Phoebe, Eastern: 8 reports (1-5)  
Phoebe, Say's: Hale Ranch--(1)14,G...see notes  
Lark, Horned: High Island--(1)29,B, (15)15,G; Bolivar/Galveston--(10)  
29,C; (2)4,M  
Swallow, Tree: Galveston--(10)22,J,(1,000)29,C, (4)28,R&AD; UTC--  
(1,500)29,N; Bolivar--(20)15,G; Freeport Marsh--(4)7,(2)14,BC  
Swallow, Rough-winged: UTC--(20)29,N; Galveston--(1,000)29,C, (40)28,  
J  
Swallow, Barn: Galveston--(1)22,J, (100)29,C, (3)28,J, (5)16,G; UTC--  
(85)29,N; Houston--(1)15,RS, (2)23,DM; Freeport Marsh--(6)7,(2)14,BC  
Martin, Purple: 13 reports (3-500)  
Jay, Blue: 20 reports (1-20)  
Crow, Common: 10 reports (1-25)  
Crow, Fish: Seabrook--(2)17,BF  
Chickadee, Carolina: 13 reports (1-20)  
Titmouse, Tufted: 7 reports (1-12)  
Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Lake Charlotte--(2)1, MAU  
Creeper, Brown: 6 reports (1-3)  
Wren, House: 4 reports (1-2)  
Wren, Winter: Chambers Co.--(3)1,MAU; Hale Ranch--(1)14,G; White Oak  
Bayou--(1)1-22,WC  
Wren, Carolina: 9 reports (1-15)  
Wren, Sedge: Anahuac NWR--(25)4,M; Bolivar--(3)15,G; Hale Ranch--(2)  
14,G  
Mockingbird, Northern: 14 reports (1-80)  
Catbird, Gray: Galveston--(1)29,B; High Island--(1)29,B, (1)15,G  
Thrasher, Brown: 20 reports (1-20)  
Robin, American: 18 reports (1-46)  
Thrush, Wood: Galveston--(1)28,D; Wilderness Park--(1)16,L&MB  
Thrush, Hermit: 12 reports (1-4)  
Bluebird, Eastern: 6 reports (1-2), including Bolivar Flats  
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 16 reports (1-50)  
Kinglet, Golden-crowned: W. Galveston--(1)10,J&JH; W. Harris Co.--  
(2)29,N; Lake Charlotte--(1)1,MAU  
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: 14 reports (1-30)  
Pipit, Water: 5 reports (2-10)  
Waxwing, Cedar: 17 reports (6-400)  
Shrike, Loggerhead: 16 reports (1-31)  
Starling: 10 reports (10=1,000)  
Vireo, White-eyed: Galveston--(1)28,R&AD, (2)16,(6)18,J&JH, (4)22,J;  
Houston--(1)8,(3)29,(2)31,HAS, (1)21,WC; W. Harris Co.--(20)29,N;  
Friendswood--(2)24,MAU; Dickinson--(1)12,16,28,EM; Wilderness Park--  
(12)16, L&MB; High Island--(4)22,PM  
Vireo, Yellow-throated: High Island--(1)15,G, (1)22,PM; W. Harris Co.-  
(3)29,N  
Vireo, Solitary: 9 reports (1-2)  
VIREO, BELL'S: Kempner Park--(3)21, AD  
Warbler, Black-and-white: Houston--(1)3,WC, (1)16,RS, (1)8,26,HAS;  
Galveston--(1)21,AD, (10)10,(30)18,J&JH, (1)29,C, (2)18,MAU; W.  
Harris Co.--(1)23,27,V&DE, (4)29,N; High Island--(1)4,M, (2)29,MAU,  
(1)15,G, (4)16,PM; Friendswood--(1)21-24,MAU; Armand Bayou--(2)18,  
MAU  
Warbler, Worm-eating: High Island--(1)22,PM; Houston--(1)28,WC, (1)  
29,HAS  
Warbler, Blue-winged: Houston--(2)29,HAS  
Warbler, Tennessee: Galveston--(1)10,J&JH...? no notes  
Warbler, Orange-crowned: 5 reports (1)  
Warbler, Nashville: Houston--(1)29,HAS  
Parula, Northern: Galveston--(2)10,J&JH, (1)29,B; W. Harris Co.--(1)  
29,N; Friendswood--(1)21-24,MAU; Armand Bayou--(2)8,(4)11,MAU;  
Freeport--(2)15,J, (3)16,L&MB; High Island--(15)15,G, (1)16,PM;  
Dickinson--(1)12,EM; White Oak Bayou--(1)12,WC

Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle): 20 reports (1-300)  
 Warbler, Black-throated Gray: White Oak Bayou--(1)Feb. 27-March 16,WC  
 Warbler, Black-throated Green: Galveston--(7)18,(6)19,J&JH; Friends-  
 wood--(1)21,MAU; White Oak Bayou--(1)22,23,(2)24,WC  
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: Galveston--(2)10,(3)19,J&JH; White Oak Ba-  
 you--(1)22,23,WC; W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N; High Island--(2)16,PM  
 Warbler, Pine: 4 reports (1-5)  
 Warbler, Palm: Hale Ranch--(2)14,G  
 Waterthrush, Northern: Galveston--(1)18,19,J&JH  
 Waterthrush, Louisiana: High Island--(1)15,G, (1)23,PM; White Oak  
 Bayou--(1)22,WC; Galveston--(1)29,C  
 Warbler, Kentucky: Galveston--(1)29,J&JH  
 Yellowthroat, Common: 5 reports (1-2)  
 Warbler, Hooded: Galveston--(1)21,AD, (1)22,J; High Island--(1)22,PM;  
 Houston--(3)29,(1)31,HAS, (1)22,WC; W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N  
 Warbler, Wilson's: Galveston--(1)29,B; High Island--(1)29,C; White  
 Oak Bayou--(1)11-22,WC  
 Sparrow, House: 9 reports (1-110)  
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 14 reports (1-250)  
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 16 reports (10-2,500)  
 Oriole, Orchard: Galveston--(6)29,C, (1)29,J&JH; Dickinson--(3)29,EM;  
 Brazoria Co.--(2)28,BB  
 Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): Galveston--(1)29,J&JH  
 Blackbird, Rusty: Bear Creek Park--(40)5,BF&BB  
 Blackbird, Brewer's: 2 reports (10,30)  
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 6 reports (1-40)  
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 14 reports (1-500)  
 Grackle, Common: 11 reports (5-600)  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 13 reports (3-5,000)  
 Tanager, Summer: Houston--(1)29,HAS  
 Cardinal: 26 reports (1-75)  
 Finch, Purple: W. Harris Co.--(2)23,V&DE; White Oak Bayou--(1-2)1-15,  
 WC  
 Siskin, Pine: Houston--(2-22)3-25,DC, (1-10)23,WC, (3)15,(1)22,CS;  
 Friendswood--(1-23)5-26,MAU; Armand Bayou--(8)8,(6)11,MAU; Dickin-  
 son--(15)29,EM  
 Goldfinch, American: 5 reports (1-30)  
 Towhee, Eastern: W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N; Yard--(1)1-10,WC  
 Towhee, (Spotted): White Oak Bayou--(1 singing)all month,WC  
 Sparrow, Savannah: 10 reports (2-100)  
 Sparrow, LeConte's: Anahuac NWR--(2)4,M  
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: Bolivar--(30)15,G  
 Sparrow, Seaside: 3 reports (2-10)  
 Junco, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored): Houston--(1-6)1-10,(2)21,JN&ES,  
 (2-3)all month,WC; White Memorial Park--(7)1,MAU; Friendswood--(1-  
 2)5-22,MAU; W. Harris Co.--(2-7)1-21,V&DE; Wilderness Park--(1)16,  
 L&MB  
 Sparrow, Chipping: W. Harris Co.--(20)29,N, (10-50)all month,V&DE;  
 White Memorial Park--(6)1,MAU; Friendswood--(1)21,MAU; Bolivar--  
 (1)29,C  
 Sparrow, Clay-colored: Brazoria Co.--(1)28,BB  
 Sparrow, Field: Houston--(4)13,(1)21,JN&ES, (2)21,WC; W. Harris Co.--  
 (35)29,N; High Island--(2)29,B, (3)16,PM; Bolivar--(3)29,C; Algoa--  
 (1-2)23-30,DW  
 Sparrow, Harris': W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N  
 Sparrow, White-crowned: W. Harris Co.--(40)29,N; Anahuac NWR--(30)4,  
 M; (6)29,B; Brazoria Co.--(1)28,BB  
 Sparrow, White-throated: 23 reports(1-60)  
 Sparrow, Fox: W. Harris Co.--(1)29,N...see notes  
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: 5 reports (1-12)  
 Sparrow, Swamp: 3 reports (1-10)  
 Sparrow, Song: 7 reports (1-3)

Clearing House Contributors, March 1981: JA-Jan Acker; MAU-Mike  
 Austin;B-Mike Austin, George Regmund, Nick Escott;BB-Brazosport Bird-  
 ers; BB1-Bryan Bland;BC-Brazosport College birding class;L&MB-Larry  
 and Martha Ballard;LBr-Lucille Brooks;C-Jerry Caraviotis, Jim Morgan,  
 Walter Piper, Randy Pinkston;DC-Diane Cabiness;GC-Glenn Cureton;WC-  
 Wesley Cureton;D-R&AD,J&JH;A&RD-Arch and Ruth Dillard;E-Austin Evans,  
 Les Chamness, Charlie and Carolyn Becker,L&MB; V&DE-Vesta and Dick

Eshbaugh;BF-Ben Feltner;G-Greg Lasley,Becky Lasley,Charles Alexander, and group;HAS-Houston Audubon Society;HH-Holly Hobart and group;J-John Bargman,Ena Spalding;J&JH-John and Jane Hamilton;L-Ben Feltner, BB1,Linda Roach,David Matson;M-BF,BB1,Bessie Cornelius,Linda Roach;DM-David Marrack;EM-Elric McHenry;PM-Paul Micallif;N-BF,Noel Pettingell Linda Roach;MR-Matt Robinson;CS-Colin Summerhayes;DS-Doug Stine;J&NS-Jerry and Nancy Strickling;RS-Robert Sylvester,Jr.;DW-Diane Wise;KW-Kris Wilson

Fieldnotes, March 1981:

Ruff: In the pond just south of Galveston Daily News Building. Found at 1:50 p.m. on east or new shore of the pond. Following details noted: chunky wader with fairly long neck, and small head, larger than Lesser Yellowlegs, smaller than Greater Yellowlegs. Basic color brown, back scalloped similar to Baird's Sandpiper. Head clay brown, no visible eyestripe. Chest light brown with some streaking on the neck and upper chest. Several large crescent shaped dark brown patches on upper chest. Rest of underparts stone white. Leg color orangy-yellow matching basal half of beak. Rest of beak black. Bird was deliberately flushed to check for white rump patches which were immediately evident. Observers flushed bird a second time to further verify this field mark. No voice heard. Observation time about 15 minutes. Light overcast but bright. Distance 60'-150'. Optical equipment 20X Balscope, 8X40 binoculars. Three observers all have seen Ruffs before. Writer has seen several hundred in Alaska, Europe, etc., and 3 previous individuals on UTC.

--Ben Feltner

Reeve: Was seen at small pond south of Galveston Daily News through 20-60 power Swift telescope at easy distance in good light for extended period of time. On 31st was seen flying short distance and wading, standing, flying, and preening. In company with one Pectoral Sandpiper, 3 L. Yellowlegs, 3 Common Snipe, 1 dowitcher, and 1 Western Sandpiper, for size comparison. This individual resembled the Pectoral Sandpiper but was definitely the larger of the two. The bill was thick at base, tapering to thin middle and tip with faint suggestion of downcurve. The base was flesh colored and tip dark. Faint eye stripe. Buffy greyish color with breast streakings similar to Pectoral and white belly. The sides of tail showed some white, and in flight showed clearly more white than the Pectoral. The wings were longer and extended beyond tail. Legs were pinkish yellow, not as long as the yellowlegs. Bird finally flew across Hwy. 45 to east side into ponds there at 2:30 p.m. on Apr.1.

--Arch Dillard

Gull species (California): 23 March 1981. At Rollover Pass on the East Bay side. We were scanning the spoil bank at about 200 yards with a Bal zoom scope, about 4:30 p.m., and saw a gull. It was intermediate in size between Ring-bill and Herring (compared directly). It had a gray mantle (Ring-bill's color). It had a yellow mandible with a red and black mark on the lower mandible. The head and tail were white. The legs were yellow. We presume it was a California Gull (if there is such a species).

--Nancy and Jerry Strickling

Baird's Sandpiper: Observed feeding on the edge of small pond. The following pertinent field marks noted: peep sized brownish sandpiper with black legs. Obviously either White-rumped or Baird's. Back color rich buffy brown as was chest. Wings at rest protruded well beyond tail. General aspect very thin and racy looking. When flushed no white rump evident. 3 observers-1 minute observation-excellent light-45' with 8X40 binocs by all.

--Ben Feltner

Broad-tailed Hummingbird: I noticed a hummingbird coming often to feeder. Had bright green back, buffy flanks (I reported it as a

female Rufous last month). On March 16 I saw this bird perched next to a Rufous hummingbird. It was much larger, and it's tail was not pointed like the Rufous but was more rounded. It was also seen by Margaret Anderson.

--Ellen Red

Anna's Hummingbird: Im. female appeared in late December and remained until February 25. The bird was impressively larger than the Rufous that appeared about 3 weeks later. Rufous quickly dominated the already established Anna's. The bird's overall appearance was elongated. Viewed frequently at a range of 6'.

Front-

Breast-definite gray color, not white or off-white

Throat-gray; small strip of red gradually appeared on lower edge of throat area, almost on upper chest.

Back-bronzy green on top of head and neck, changing to emerald green on back and tail. No buffy flank.

Tail-relatively long and wide for the body with squared corner.

Green in color with broad white tips on each corner.

Head had flat-topped appearance.

--Glenn Cureton

Say's Phoebe: While birding in an open field with numerous dead trees and assorted brush piles we noted a medium-sized flycatcher approximately 200 feet away. The bird was making sallies for insects and returning to the same perch of a dead tree, approx. 20 feet off the ground. 7X35 binocs revealed a bird the approx. size of an Eastern Phoebe with its back to observers. The back was grayish brown, the tail appeared black, very noticeably darker than back. As the bird turned its head I saw a darkish throat, unlike the whitish throat of an Eastern Phoebe. With a 20X scope, and the bird turned to face observers, we observed a rusty colored belly, grayish brown upper breast which was unstreaked. Head appeared uniformly dark, darker than back or breast. The rusty, orange colored belly was bright and distinct. The bird was observed to pump its tail on several occasions in the manner characteristic of this genus. The wings appeared dark with very faint wingbars. The bird was observed for about 5 minutes as it continued to flycatch from the same perch. The only other similar appearing bird would be a female Vermilion Flycatcher which has a whitish, streaked breast; noticeably smaller bird.

--G

Bell's Vireo: a clutch of 3 staying together like migrators in yaupon bush and other low limbs. Definitely vireos but not White-eyed Vireos. Seemed smaller and shorter tails. Accompanied by Ruby-crowned Kinglet for size comparison. Thin spectacles of buffy greenish or whitish, dark eyes, 2 thin wing-bars, small yellowish wash on sides, dark olive-brownish backs and crowns. Observed at 30 ft. for 20 minutes with 8X binoculars on 21 March at 10:30 a.m.

--Arch Dillard

Fox Sparrow: Observed in hedgerow in West Harris County feeding with Field Sparrows and Cardinals. Noted: fox red tail and wings, blue-gray face, heavily blotched breast and sides-yellow lower mandible, and large size. Two observers at 100' with 30X scope. Observation time 1½ minutes-light poor but adequate. Well known bird to both observers.

--Ben Feltner

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MINUTES OF THE OG MEETING, APRIL 2, 1981

Ron Braun opened the meeting. The minutes of the March meeting were approved, and Mary Gillette reported a balance in the treasury of

\$3,224.10.

Announcements:

1. Ron is looking for someone who is experienced with phone mates and recording devices. He is working on a system for the Rare Bird Alert. Call him, if you can help.
2. Will someone please volunteer to be the Aluminum Chairman?!
3. It was suggested that a sheet of paper be available at the meetings for those people to sign who would like a ride, or someone to accompany them on field trips.
4. HAS is having a fund raising Spring Bird Count on May 2. Details from HAS.

Emory Foelic introduced his friend, John Dyes, who is a photographer and has been helping with a recent breeding bird survey in the Galveston area. He showed some fine slides of nesting and young shorebirds near Pelican Island and told of the disappearing nesting sites in that vicinity.

Ted Eubanks showed some slides of different color phases of Screech Owls.

David Marrack urged that we write the Corps of Engineers, P.O.Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553 on the subject of the Pine Island Flood control project now being studied. We are in favor of non-structural flood control management.

David advised wearing protective glasses when handling shorebirds. When caught, they aim for you eyes.

Ellen Red, Secretary

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How well are you versed on the distributions of North American birds? Try naming the species endemic to the United States (no Mexican, Canadian, or island records).

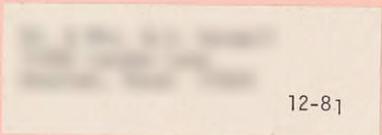
Hint: There are seven extant species.

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Ornithology Group  
(Outdoor Nature Club)  
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Mary Gillette, 5027 Longmont, Houston 77056 626-1755  
Annual Membership dues: \$7.00 (ONC-\$5.00, OG-\$2.00)  
Annual Subscriptions: \$4.00

Send material for THE SPOONBILL by 25th of month to:  
Randy Pinkston, 5447 Kuldeil, Houston 77096 667-1334

Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to:  
Ted Eubanks, Jr., 730 W. 42nd, Houston, Texas 77018 694-2242

Send requests for OG information, checklists, maps to:  
Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston, Texas 77096 723-8559