



# THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XV, No. 10  
FEBRUARY, 1967

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 \* THE CARDINAL IN FEBRUARY \*  
 \* \*  
 \* Small and sumptuous you appear; \*  
 \* A flash and suddenly you're here. \*  
 \* What other lovely refugee \*  
 \* Could so become a winter tree? \*  
 \* Are you some rare exotic fruit, \*  
 \* Intrepid flower or scarlet flute? \*  
 \* Or, just delivered to the pine, \*  
 \* An ardent, airmail valentine? \*  
 \* \*  
 \* -by Anne Blackwell Payne \*  
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### COMING EVENTS

- March 14 (Tuesday) Regular ONC meeting at Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, at 8 PM. The program will include a study on "Some Features of Glaciers" by Dr. Max Garman, Professor of Geology at the University of Houston.
- March 16,17,18,19 (Thursday through Sunday) The Annual Spring Meeting of the Texas Ornithological Society will be held jointly with the Texas Academy of Science at Texas A & M University. Other state-wide scientific societies will participate. Dr. Sidney O. Brown is president-elect of TAS. Jack Kent, a TOS member and associate professor of mathematics at A & M is handling local details. He writes that those attending the convention are to make their own hotel reservations. Write to Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 726, Bryan, Texas 77801 for a free copy of their Visitors Directory which lists hotels and motels and places to dine. Be safe and make your reservations early! See your TOS Newsletters for speakers and other program features.
- March 18 (Saturday) ONC field trip, "Carmine," led by Wallace C. Mebane, Jr. See your Nature Club Notes for details.
- March 22 (Wednesday) Audubon Wildlife Film at the Auditorium of the Houston Homebuilders' Assn., 2710 W. Alabama, at 8 PM. "Everglades, River of Grass," will be presented by Robert C. Hermes. Please note the change in location.
- April 1,2 (Saturday and Sunday) OG field trip to the brush country, led by Clayton Gilman. Don't miss this great opportunity to see many different species of birds in the area of George West, Texas. Make your reservations at the Buenos Noches Motel on Rt. 59 in George West, or you may prefer to camp out at Lake Corpus Christi State Park. Mr. Gilman says that the Ferguson Restaurant in George West is a good place to eat. Meet Saturday morning at the Buenos Noches Motel at 8 AM. The meeting time and place for Sunday will be decided by the group on the trip, since some will be camping, and others will be at the motel Saturday night. We expect to see many interesting birds, including Scailed Quail, Black-throated Sparrows, and Olive Sparrows. This is also a wonderful area and time of year for herpetologists and botanists!
- April 6 (Thursday) Regular OG meeting at the Downtown Recreation Center at 7:30 PM. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoffman will show films of their last trip to Africa.

OG FIELD TRIP to CYPRESS by Ed. W. Taylor

It was Saturday morning, January 21, the day set by the OG for a birding trip to the Cypress area. We opened the drapes to see what the weather looked like, and it was fog, fog, and more fog. We could hardly see the houses next door, and this was the big day.

OG folks are hardy souls, so we dressed quickly and soon were on our way. The trip to Cypress should take no more than thirty-five or forty minutes, but when one makes the wrong turn in the fog, it takes over an hour. We arrived at the meeting place, Kitzman Chevrolet Co., a little late. There were a good many cars and a number of eager birders. Some extra time was allowed for the stragglers to arrive, and soon after 9 AM we were on our way.

Louise and Henry Hoffman, the leaders for the trip, headed down the road toward Rose Hill, driving slowly on account of the fog. We were able to spot a few birds right near the road. Our first stop was at Robert's Cemetery, where we expected to see some Bachman Sparrows—but we had no luck on that line. We did see some White-throated Sparrows, Carolina Wrens, Bob Whites and many other small birds. On the way to the cemetery we made a quick stop to see a beautiful Roadrunner. He performed quite well for us and was in good view for about five or ten minutes.

In our cars, we went on quite a distance to a farm owned by Mrs. H.L. Nicholls. This is a fine place to see birds, as there are a couple of lakes, a lot of woodlands and some meadows. There were many Eastern Bluebirds, a variety of sparrows, woodpeckers, ducks, and finally the Bachman Sparrow! Also several Cinnamon Teal flew close enough for identification. As we were leaving, the Hoffmans saw a Pileated Woodpecker, and the rest of us heard it.

We lunched at Camwood Park, a beautiful park owned by the Cameron Iron Works. We sat at the tables and enjoyed the rest; that is, all but a few of the "gals." On one side of the picnic table sat Sarah Gordon, Melba Drake and Tess Barry. On the other side the first one to get up was Nell Ray, and, as she got up, the table turned over and the three gals on the other side hit the ground with the remains of the picnic lunch on top of them. No one was hurt.

It was now time to go farther afield, so we headed back toward Cypress and on the House Hahl Rd. This is really good sparrow country, and we saw many varieties. Two kinds of birds must have firsts for many of us. Four Groove-billed Anis put on a nice show for us, flying back and forth across the road and posing on the fences and bushes. They were probably doing some people-watching! The other first was a beautiful Bald Eagle. David Marrack had spotted him in a tree in the Josey Ranch. The Eagle stayed in the tree long enough for all to have a good look, and then he flew away.

The Hoffmans then led us out Jack Road and to Warren Lake, near the Warren Ranch Headquarters. This lake is a big one, and there was a good assortment of ducks for us to identify. We stayed there quite awhile and enjoyed the many birds.

Time was getting late and the Hoffmans wanted us to see the new Bear Creek County Park. This is above the Addicks Dam. On the way we saw a field where many geese were feeding. We stopped the cars and had a good look at them. They were seemingly unafraid of us.

On the way to the County Park, we lost about half our cars, and since it was late, we all headed for home. This was a fine trip, thanks to the Hoffmans for the careful planning. In spite of the heavy fog in the morning, we had a really good time and identified over ninety species of birds.

Birders on this trip included Louise and Henry Hoffman, Ann Elise and Jack Barker, Nan Bottler, Bill Goloby, Bitzy Goloby, Marian and Ed Taylor, Dick and Orbie Miller, Dirk Hagemeyer, Loyd Nelson, Violet Nelson, Eve and Ev Miley, Tess Barry, Sarah Gordon, Melba Drake, Nell Ray, and David Marrack.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Keep Your Spoonbill Coming

As discussed at the regular meeting of the Ornithology Group on February 2nd, it will no longer be possible to continue mailing the Spoonbill for an indefinite period to those whose dues become delinquent. Costs have risen (since we must now pay for multilithing) to 12  $\frac{3}{4}$  ¢ per copy, which means that the 12 copies issued per year cost more than \$ 1.50 which does not leave much of our income for other purposes.

We will mail the March, 1967 issue to everyone, but the April issue will be mailed only to those whose dues or subscriptions are current. Since 1967 dues are payable May 1st it will be necessary in the future to suspend mailings after the July issue to those who are delinquent.

If anyone knows where we can secure complimentary multilithing of our mats on paper furnished by us, please contact the Chairman, Dick Miller (Su 1-1747). We would, of course, print a credit to the donor.

Editor Needed

Bill and Betty Wright, who have done an excellent job of editing "The Spoonbill" for the past two years find it necessary to ask that they be relieved of that duty as of May 1st. This is, of course, one of the most important functions of our group and must be continued. The work consists of selecting the letters, articles, meeting notices, etc., to be published, consolidating the Clearing House lists each month, typing multilith mats (monthly average: 6 mats in 1966 using elite type and 8 in 1964 using pica), transmitting mats and paper to the printer in the Esperson Building, and arranging delivery of the finished pages to the Mailers, Melba Drake and Nell Ray.

This is an interesting and enjoyable activity and can present a challenge to anyone with the imagination, creative ability, and desire to produce a superior periodical. One of our members has offered to assist with the typing, if necessary. (Editor's note: 75 % of the work is typing.)

If you feel you would enjoy this experience, you can perform a major service for your organization by calling the Chairman and volunteering. Those interested in the Clearing House should give this matter particular consideration to ensure its continuation.

(Co-editor's note: In the Co-editor's opinion the Clearing House is the most important feature of The Spoonbill, with the possible exception of the Coming Events. However, Coming Events are covered in the ONC Notes and by announcements at the meetings. The CH, on the other hand, is not duplicated anywhere. We know of only three birders in the area that keep detailed records of their observations. The CH presents a means for those of us who are listers rather than recorders to contribute our observations to the advancement of the science of Ornithology.

(The principal reason some of our subscribers continue to subscribe to The Spoonbill is the CH, not for the travelogues, field trip reports, announcements, and other miscellany that are of primary interest to the OG clique. The loss of the subscribers would, in turn, increase the per issue costs of The Spoonbill and could result in another increase in members' dues.

(Further, the CH has contributed much to our enjoyment of this hobby. Many members update their copy of Williams Checklist directly from the CH each month. The accuracy of our Field Checklists is in part due to the CH and these updated Williams Checklists as the Field Checklist editors made use of this data. Without the CH future changes in bird populations on the Upper Texas Coast will not be as apparent as they are now, and hence future editions of the Field Checklists will not be as accurate as at present.

(Finally, the very thought of The Spoonbill without a Clearing House is sacrilegious to the present co-editors.)

#### Spotting Scope

Why spend big money for a spotting scope to enhance the pleasures of your birding trips when the OG members can rent the club's scope anytime except Field Trip dates for only \$ 1.00 per day? Contact Dr. Marrack, MO 7-1397.

#### Ornithology Group Field Checklists

These are complete lists of the "Birds of the Upper Texas Coast" showing their frequency by months. They have multiple uses. Use them to expedite listing species seen in the field as names are presented, thus eliminating writing.

Send lists to unfortunate acquaintances in other states to make them duly envious of the wonderful birding around Houston. Use the list of "Accidentals" as authority to bolster your confidence when listing that one you'd not so sure of. Highly recommended for illiterates as it is only necessary to write a check mark.

Secure them at regular meetings, field trips, or the Museum of Natural History. Also from our Treasurer, Sarah Gordon or the Compilers. 10 ¢ each or 15 for \$ 1.00. Out-of-townners wishing to have them sent by mail add 10 % (5 ¢ minimum).

#### Steve Williams Checklist of Birds of the Upper Texas Coast

This 75 page compendium lists the birds of this area, their scientific names, normal period in this area, earliest and latest dates observed for migratory species, useful information concerning habitats and specific areas most frequented. This is the Special, Deluxe edition, the World Almanac of the East Texas Birder, of universal interest and value whether to the scholar in his garret, the dynamic executive in his favorite cocktail lounge, or the love birds in their boudoir.

Get yours before the last one is sold and they become collectors items. Secure them at regular meetings, field trips, or from Sarah Gordon. Only \$1.25 each; by mail to out of towners add 5 % (10 ¢ minimum.).

#### SUMMARY OF THE GALVESTON CHRISTMAS COUNT, December 31, 1966. Steve Williams, Compiler.

The weather was wet, drizzly cold, foggy, windy, and otherwise miserable for the 1966 Galveston Christmas Count. Even though the Count participants were not exactly treated to luxurious birding because of the climate, the birds themselves did not seem to mind the weather too much. In fact, the inclement elements may have even made the birds more active -- so they could keep from freezing to death, perhaps -- because the Galveston Count of 1966 broke all previous records for number of species seen (156), records or ties for high number of individuals (56 species), and also -- bad weather notwithstanding -- number of observers on the count (20).

Among the brave souls who ventured out for the 1966 Galveston Christmas Count were: the Henry Hoffmans, the Jerry Stricklings, the Dan Washburns, the Sherwood Davises (late of Beaumont, now transferred to Monroe, La.), Wallace C. Mebane, Jr., Bill Wright, Paul Caillet and four Scouts from Paul's Boy Scout Troop, Wes Hetrick, Elvera Hasford from California, Elric McHenry, Bud Anderson and Steve Williams.

All parties came away with birds to be proud of. Wallace, Bud, and the Washburns picked up specialties such as some fine looking Cinnamon Teals, which they showed to those of us who went to the Galveston side of the Causeway for the noon countdown. They also got some Red-eyed (Bronzed) Cowbirds, a first for the Galveston Counts.

Wes Hetrick was also busy as he searched the Gulf and beaches. He got for the Count three species which have not previously been seen on Galveston Counts, and which are not usually seen in the area except far out at sea (pomarine Jaeger and an immature Sulidae type, either a Booby or Gannet, and three California Gulls), if at all.

Elric McHenry and parties in his area including Henry and Louise Hoffman, and Nancy and Jerry Strickling picked up a Least Grebe and Green Heron, both of which are hard to find this time of year. Elric, however, brought in what is surely the piece-de-resistance for the woule count, and for that matter, probably for counts in many states around us as well. The Bobolink has been observed only one other time in the last 16 years on any U. S. Christmas Count, and Elric saw one for which he submitted unquestionable details. His careful observation of the bird and write-up of substantiating details should leave no doubt in the minds of the publishers of Christmas Counts at the Audubon Field Notes home offices.

Other birds of interest included Indigo Buntings seen by the Sherwood Davises, and a Greater Scaup found at Texas City Dike by Steve Williams, Bill Wright, Paul Caillet, and Paul's Scouts. Steve, Paul, and the Scouts also found four Groove-billed Ani in a grove near LaMarque.

Parties interested in going on the Christmas, 1967, Galveston Count should contact Steve Williams, 7022 Bintliff Street, Houston, Texas 77036 or by phone at PR 4-1147. It will not be a Count made up at the last minute again, as it has been in the past.

Below are the figures for the December 31, 1966 Galveston Count. (See Clearing House, Co-ed.) Following that is a roster of species seen on Counts other than the 1966 Count with the highest individual counts and year in which this high was recorded.

Brown Pelican	318, 1949	Barred Owl	1, 1964
<u>Least Bittern</u>	1, 1957	<u>Chuck-will's-widow</u>	1, 1964
White-fronted Goose	6, 1965	<u>Chaetura genus Swift (sp)</u>	1, 1962
<u>Common Scoter</u>	1, 1962	<u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	1, 1957
Turkey Vulture	19, 1963	<u>Hummingbird (sp)</u>	1, 1965
Black Vulture	3, 1950	<u>Ladderbacked Woodpecker</u>	1, 1964
Cooper's Hawk	1, 1951	<u>Empidonax Flycatcher</u>	1, 1963
Harlan's Hawk	1, 1957	<u>Eastern Wood Pewee</u>	2, 1957
White-tailed Hawk	1, 1962	Tree Swallow	25, 1950
Swainson's Hawk	1, 1962	Rough-winged Swallow	2, 1962
Pigeon Hawk	1, 1962	Common Crow	2, 1957
Peregrine Falcon	2, 1964	Carolina Wren	5, 1962
<u>Whimbrel</u>	9, 1946	Golden-crowned Kinglet	3, 1962
<u>Pectoral Sandpiper</u>	30, 1964	<u>Northern Shrike</u>	1, 1964
Least Sandpiper	46, 1962	<u>Philadelphia Vireo</u>	1, 1963
<u>Silt Sandpiper</u>	1, 1964	<u>Warbling Vireo</u>	1, 1964
<u>Least Tern</u>	2, 1963	<u>Nashville Warbler</u>	1, 1965
<u>White-winged Dove</u>	1, 1962	<u>Black-throated Gray Warbler</u>	1, 1964
Ground Dove	5, 1963	<u>Prairie Warbler</u>	1, 1964
<u>Mangrove Cuckoo</u>	1, 1964	<u>Kentucky Warbler</u>	1, 1964
Short-eared Owl	1, 1953	<u>American Redstart</u>	1, 1965
Great Horned Owl	1, 1965	Brewer's Blackbird	1500, 1951
		Pine Siskin	36, 1963
		Grasshopper Sparrow	3, 1962
		Slate-colored Junco	10, 1963
		Chipping Sparrow	30, 1963

Birds highly unusual in the area, either in winter or at any other time of year, are underlined.

SUMMARY OF HOUSTON CHRISTMAS COUNT, January 2, 1967. Harvey Patten, Compiler.

Total Participants 69  
 Total Species 170  
 Estimated Individuals 997,360

Actual species and number of individuals will be published in this issue and next month's issue of The Spoonbill in the Clearing House. Area Exclusives are starred (\*).

OTHER CHRISTMAS COUNT DATA BY OUR AGENT FROM H.O.N.C.O.G., Nancy and Jerry Strickling.

Here are some good unofficial count figures that may be newsworthy. I hear the following:

Cocoa, Florida	206
San Diego, California	204
FREEPORT, TEXAS	190

"Just wait until next year", the Freeport Count will be December 31, 1967, Sunday.

Nancy and I got two light phased Pomarine Jaegers at the Freeport Jetties yesterday, January 14, 1967 at about 11:30 AM. I'd say the bird must be reclassified on our checklist.

SAD STORY

A little bird told us a tragic tale about a duck who flew upside-down and quacked up.

## ROSS' GEESE AND WHISTLING SWANS by Noel Pettingell

Harvey Patten and I decided to try our luck at adding the Ross' Goose to our Life Lists while adding a bonus species - the Whistling Swan (I'd never seen it in Texas and only once before - in New Jersey) - on January 14. We found the swans without difficulty exactly where Russ Clapper told us they would be (viz., pond near Barrow-White Road, 2.7 mile south of Interstate 10 and 1.4 mile east of Rt. 61). We saw the little yellow spot between the eye and bill on 3 of the 5 birds. Although many of the ducks also on the pond flew after we arrived the swans remained feeding during our stay. (Note: Pond located on left of road going east and is situated on the Irwin S. Barrow, Jr. ranch east of Lake Anahuac, northern Chambers County.)

Anahuac Refuge in Southeast Chambers County was our next destination. It had just rained and only the shell roads were safe for cars so we expected to do some walking in order to find the Ross' Geese since they had been reported near the salt cedar area, and the road to this locale was closed to autos. Fortunately we met Linda Snyder shortly after we had entered the Refuge and she told us the geese could be seen from the shell road northwest of the salt cedar area. Congratulating ourselves on this lucky turn of events we proceeded to Four Corners and 0.3 mile beyond this point we spotted our mutual lifer - the ROSS' GOOSE! In that one field (on the north side of the road about 1/2 mile from the northern boundary of the Refuge) we found five species of goose (6 Ross', plus Canada, White-fronted, Blue and Snow). At that moment we probably experienced the same elation a golfer feels when he has just made a hole-in-one! I now have 487 species on my Life List (365 in Texas) - just 13 more and I would attain Master Birder Status (North American Chapter)! For the record, here are the details of our observations: 6 Ross' Geese compared with nearby Snows at approximately 75 yards with 20X Binoscope Sr.; bills and general size of birds noticeably smaller than Snows; smaller size and whiter appearance of Ross' noted on both ground and when birds in flight; all 6 Ross' birds fed and flew in a close-knit group somewhat apart from the Snows throughout our period of observation (about an hour).

## CLEARING HOUSE, January, 1967

	Galv. Xmas Count	Houston Christmas Count-by Area				
		1	2	3	4	Total
Common Loon: (30)21 Texas City JLT, GAT.	33					52
Horned Grebe:						
Eared Grebe: (10)19 (13)31 Cove AKM; (300)21 Texas City JLT, GAT.						1066
LEAST GREBE:	129					
Pied-billed Grebe: 9 days (40)31 Cove AKM.	48	11	1	1		45
White Pelican: 6 days (250)6 Cove AKM; (500)7 Wallisville, JLT, GAT.	20		5			508
SULIDAE, Sp.-Immature:	1*					
Cormorant, Double-crested: 4 days (22)26 Cove, AKM.	36			41		85
Cormorant, Sp.:						1
Anhinga:		2		2		4
Great Blue Heron:	51		5	3	5	223
Green Heron:	1			4		6
Little Blue Heron:	10			2		41
Cattle Egret:	41	5	1	4		18
Reddish Egret:	4				1	7
Common Egret:	105	1	10	75	2	300
Snowy Egret:	67			2	2	369
Louisiana Heron:	41			14		185
Black-crowned Night Heron: (No count; Below par) Cove, AKM.	36					188
Yellow-crowned Night Heron:	1			3		8
American Bittern:	3					2
WOOD IBIS: (10)14 Arcola MAM, RBM. (see notes)						
White-faced Ibis: (100-400) 20 days Cove AKM.	3					
White Ibis:	78					15*
Roseate Spoonbill: 25 days (150)2 (10-55) often, Cove AKM.	53					145
Canada Goose: (11 gtr.)2 (15 gtr.)6 (4 gtr.)7 (20 gtr.)11 (40 lesser)19 Cove AKM.	6		10			102
WHISTLING SWAN: (5 adults)25 Anahuac AKM; (4)7 Winnie JLT, GAT. (4)21 Winnie FK, MBK; (5)14 Anahuac NP, HP.						
White-fronted Goose: 7 days (150)2, 16 Cove AKM.		6	4	1		380
Snow Goose:	20	435	352	100	157	2942
Blue Goose:	1	25	91		20	648
ROSS' GOOSE: (2)29 Anahuac Refuge JLT, GAT; (6)14 Anahuac Ref. NP, HP.						
Mallard: 22 days (1-10) per day Cove AKM.	2	4	3	12		31
Black Duck: (2)7 Anahuac Refuge JLT, GAT.						
Mottled Duck: (1-20) 21 days Cove AKM.	23					50
Gadwall: (1-25) 14 days Cove AKM.	59	22		10		104
Pintail: (1-135)23 days, (2500)15, (250)19 Cove AKM.	71	4			7	1147
Green-winged Teal: (10-1500)30 days (3000)2 Cove AKM.	98		1			3857

Galv. Xmas Count	Houston Xmas Count - by Area					Total	
	1	2	3	4	5		
Blue-winged Teal: (1 repeated)22-31 Cove AKM.	8		7			13	
Cinnamon Teal: (1)7 Anahuac Refuge JLT GAT; (2)29 Katy-Hockley Rd. MAM RBM.	2*						
American Widgeon: (1-40)14 days Cove AKM.	205	8	8			111	
Shoveler: (5-200)29 days (500)10,12 Cove AKM.	38		2			1094	
Wood Ducks: (10)2, (1)7 (8)30 Cove AKM.		16				30	
Redhead:	37					4*	
Ring-necked Duck: (1)19 Cove AKM.	26					28	
Canvasback: (1-40)6 days (127)30 Cove AKM.	3	30	44		7	384	
Greater Scaup:	1*						
Lesser Scaup: 15 days (45-100)7,19,31 Cove AKM.	5490	1	17	17	6	12583	
Common Goldeneye: (5+)19 (1)31 Cove AKM.	16					1*	
Bufflehead: (25)19 Cove AKM.	2*					7*	
Ruddy Duck:	402		4			3275	
Hooded Merganser: (2)2 Cove AKM.	1					2*	
Red-breasted Merganser: (1)19 Cove AKM.	27					4*	
Turkey Vulture:		17	21	8	7	3	120
Black Vulture: (9)2 (2)10 (25)31 Cove AKM.		11					34
Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1)2 (2)17 Cove AKM.	1*						1*
Cooper's Hawk: (2)2 Cove AKM.					2		7
Red-tailed Hawk:	6	3	14	4	5	3	53
Harlan's Hawk:							2*
Red-shouldered Hawk: (1)5 days Cove AKM.	4		1	1	1		16
Marsh Hawk:	25	10	5	3	3		34
Pigeon Hawk: (1)7 Gilchrist JLT GAT.							
Sparrow Hawk:	29	39	17	7	3	5	148
Greater Prairie Chicken: (1)22 Clay Rd. RBM.		20	2	3	11		160
Bobwhite:			90				91
Sandhill Crane: (11)2 (10)25 Cove, both by Amos Telton AKM; (14)28,31 Old River FWD.					1		9
King Rail: (1)19 Cove AKM.	2						
Clapper Rail: (5)19 Cove AKM.	38					2	13
Virginia Rail:	1						
Sora Rail:	10						4
Common Gallinule:	18						33
American Coot: (1-21)13 days (2000)30 Cove AKM	355	2		10		2	115
American Oystercatcher:	4						
Semipalmated Plover: (10)19 Cove AKM.	3		1*				1*
Piping Plover:	4						
Snowy Plover:	8						
Killdeer:	360	66	49	177	65	94	994
Black-bellied Plover: (2)2 (8)19 (1)31 Cove AKM.	75					1	46
Ruddy Turnstone: (4)19 Cove AKM.	7						2*
American Woodcock: (1)19,29 Cove AKM; (1)27 Old River FWD; (1)26 Medical Center by Dr. Hersh DM.	1	1					1*
Common Snipe: (1-20)11 days Cove AKM.	67	1			2		33
Long-billed Curlew: (1-22)7 days Cove AKM.	146			13		26	24
Spotted Sandpiper: (1)14 Cove AKM.	8			4			23
Willet: (3)19 Cove AKM.	267			1		1	64
Greater Yellowlegs: (1-15)15 days Cove AKM.	39	1		1		2	36
Lesser Yellowlegs: (1-25)11 days Cove AKM.	18		10	4	15	13	94
Knots:	81						
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER:							1*
Least Sandpiper:				20			277
Dunlin:	91						63
Short-billed Dowitcher:	80						
Long-billed Dowitcher:				13		26	71
Dowitcher (sp): 5 days (2000)2 (193)16 Cove AKM.	231						1365
Semipalmated Sandpiper: (1)5,12 Cove AKM.	242			30			1891
Western Sandpiper:	30					30	280
Marbled Godwit:	14						
Sanderling: (5)19 Cove AKM.	246						107
American Avocet: (254)19 (15)31 Cove AKM; (400)28 Galveston JLT GAT.	4						756
POMARINE JAeger: (2 light-phased)14 Freeport Jetties NS JS.	1*						
Herring Gull:	93						78
CALIFORNIA GULL:	3*						
Ring-billed Gull:	750		4	186		12	1751
Laughing Gull:	550			25			390
Bonaparte's Gull: (5)19 Cove AKM.	15						9
Gull-billed Tern:	1			3			11
Forster's Tern:	53			25		3	336

Galv. Xmas Count	Houston Christmas Count-by Area						
	1	2	3	4	5	Total	
Common Terns:	1					6	
Royal Terns:	15		6		2	25	
Caspian Tern:	27		13		2	70	
Black Skimmer:	205					19	
Mourning Dove:	23	53	38	8	54	15	324
Ground Dove: (4)2,11 (2)8,16 Cove AKM.					4*	4*	
Inca Dove: (2)28 Galveston JLT GAT.	5	3*				3*	
Groove-billed Ani:	4*						
Barn Owl: (9)6, (7)21 (all different birds) Harris Co. DM.	5			1		4	
Screech Owl: (1)31 Cove AKM.						4	
Great Horned Owl: (1)5,10 Cove AKM.				1		6	
Burrowing Owl: (1)21 Gilchrist JLT GAT.	1						
Barred Owl: (1)14,18 Cove AKM.		3	1	3	4	13	
Hummingbird (sp): (1)16 11926 Broken Bough MAM RBM.							
Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1)1 24,27,28,29,30,31, 11926 Broken Bough 'MAM RBM; (nc)7,8,19,28,29,31, 303 Lakeshore Drive, Seabrook FK MK.							
Rufous Hummingbird: (1)6,11,15 11926 Broken Bough MAM RBM.							
Belted Kingfisher: (1)5 days (2)17 (3)30 Cove AKM.	31	1	3	5		2	29
Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1-7)23 Days Cove AKM; (1-5)most days Old River FWD.	40	33	24	15	33	14	285
Pileated Woodpecker: (2)17,21 Old River FWD.		2	4		4		12
Red-bellied Woodpecker: (3)12 (2)19 (1)31 Cove AKM; (1)daily Old River FWD.	3	3	4	1	11	2	77
Red Headed Woodpecker: (1)daily Cove AKM; (2)28 Galv: GAT JLT	3	9	5	1	1	1	25
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:	3	5	8	4	12	9	153
Hairy Woodpecker:							8
Downy Woodpecker: (1)12,30 Cove AKM; (1)24 Old River FWD.	3	1	1		2	1	11
EASTERN KINGBIRD:			1				2
Eastern Phoebe: (1-4)9 days Cove AKM; (1)daily Old River FWD.	17	11	9	6	4	4	97
Vermilion Flycatcher: (1)2,8,23,30 Cove AKM; (1)28 Old River FWD.	1		2				3
Horned Lark:	72	1					5
Blue Jay:	40	50	48	33	150	34	915
Common Crow:		20	20	12	32	24	152
Carolina Chickadee:	4	19	14	14	52	46	317
Tufted Titmouse: (3)19 (1)30 Cove AKM.	1	7	5	8	13	12	118
Red-breasted Nuthatch:		1					2
Brown Creeper:			2*				2*
House Wren: (1-2) 6 days Cove AKM.	4	5			13	2	56
Winter Wren:	1*						4*
Bewick's Wren:							1*
Carolina Wren:		9	6	13	15	12	113
Long-billed Marsh Wren: (1)2 Cove AKM.	22					1	6
Short-billed Marsh Wren:	6	1				1	7
Catbirds: (1-2)daily Old River FWD.	1				2		7
Mockingbird:	46	66	26	33	62	63	584
Brown Thrasher:	41	29	48	15	260	58	1445
Robins:	300	156	52	42	800	81	4037
Hermit Thrush: (1-5)9 days Cove AKM.	3	2	7	1	25		74
VEERY:					1*		1*
Eastern Bluebird: (2-13)9 days Cove AKM; (4)daily Old River FWD.		8	30		8	2	81
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:	23	6	15	2	36	31	233
Golden-crowned Kinglet: (1)2 Cove AKM.			4	3	3	1	13
Ruby-crowned Kinglet:	25	7	27	13	88	24	394
Water Pipit: (1-15)9 days Cove AKM.	143	10	15	68	16	19	419
Sprague's Pipit: (1)2,7 (2)31 Cove AKM.	13						5
Cedar Waxwing: (12)7 Cove AKM; (8)19, (15)20 Old River FWD.	5	25			30	9	225
Loggerhead Shrike:	62	127	42	22	16	28	387
Starling:	187	47	82	52	210	177	3623
White-eyed Vireo: (1)4,17-31 Old River FWD.				1			3
Solitary Vireo: (1)6 Cove AKM.	1	1					6
Black-and-white Warbler:							1*
Orange-crowned Warbler: (1-3)8 days Cove AKM.	7	2	3	5	13	1	73
Nashville Warbler:							2
Myrtle Warbler: (1-4)10 days Cove AKM.	12	10	40	22	9	27	374
Pine Warbler: (1)2 (15)6 Cove AKM.	11	5	2	6	1	1	27
Palm Warbler:	2						2
Yellowthroat: (1)5 days Cove AKM;	17	1		1			7
CANADA WARBLER:							1*
House Sparrow:	275	110	20	238	140	46	650

	Galv. Xmas Count	Houston Christmas Count - by Ar.					Total
		1	2	3	4	5	
BOBOLINK:	1*						
Eastern Meadowlark:	506	133	148	160	50	41	1106
Red-winged Blackbird:	12000	503	5440	180	4060	89	532570
Bullock's Oriole:	1						19
Rusty Blackbirds:							211
Brewer's Blackbirds:		6	4	10	24		2695
Boat-tailed Grackle:	837	51	1400	2	20		18788
Common Grackle:	81	11	2700	150	2000	320	302031
Brown-headed Cowbird:	1277	2	3	132	112		
BRONZED COWBIRD:	5*						
SUMMER TANAGER: (1 female)19 at Morris Fleschman's feeder AKM.							
Cardinals:	25	72	40	14	140	92	668
Indigo Buntings:	3*						
Purple Finch: (1)4 (10) (2)30 Cove AKM; (4)24,28,30 Old River FWD; (4)1 Bellaire BBW.		1					5
American Goldfinch: (35)4 (10)7 Bellaire BBW.		40	85	190	338	83	1455
Rufous-sided Towhee: (4)2,12 Cove AKM.	1	5	2		22	1	160
Savannah Sparrow:	74	33	27	13	9	17	294
Le Conte's Sparrow: (2)2,11 Cove AKM.	1				1		18
Henslow's Sparrow: (2)7 Cove AKM.			1				3
Sharp-tailed Sparrow:	39						1*
Seaside Sparrow: (1-2)19 Cove AKM.	119			1		4	11
Vesper Sparrow: (1-10)2,7,19,30 Cove AKM.	3			2			9
Slate-colored Junco: (20)2 (24+)30 Cove AKM; (2)4 Old River FWD.			1	3			84
Chipping Sparrow: (10)8 (24)12,14 Cove AKM.					1		3
Field Sparrow: (5)4,19 Cove AKM.	2	6			7		50
Harris Sparrow: (4)7 Cove AKM; (2)28 Clay Rd. MAM RBM.	1						2*
White-crowned Sparrow: (1)2, (12)7 (1)19 Cove AKM.	11		2			5	39
White-throated Sparrow:	28	45	14	36	144	56	1681
Fox Sparrow:		1					4
Lincoln's Sparrow: (3)10 (1)12 Cove AKM.	9		2	2	13	9	96
Swamp Sparrow: (1-4)7 days Cove AKM.	76	60	17		10	4	134
Song Sparrows: (1)2,4,19 Cove AKM.	1	1	3	1	2		22
No. of Species:	156	76	73	87	70	73	170
No. of Birds:	-----	2551	11192	2970	9104	1876	997,360

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

Galveston Christmas Count: \* --Seens for the first time on a Galveston Christmas Count

Houston Christmas Count: \* --means Area Exclusives. Areas 6-10 will be published in next month's Clearing Houses, along with Area 5 (Common Loon to Green-winged Teal).

WOOD IBIS - Observed in flight directly overhead, as near as 75 feet with 7 X 35 and 7 X 50 binoculars. Noted dark, naked head, large black area in wings, and decurved bill. MAM, RBM.

Excepting White-throats and Savanahs, sparrows were never so scarce and the exceptions were never less common. AKM.

Barn Owl--On Jan. 6, Dr. Marrack saw 2 adults and 7 young, all of similar size, about one week old. On Jan. 21, he saw another family of 2 adults and 5 young. Again, the young were all of similar size, and were about two weeks old. Dr. Marrack points out that Barn Owls usually lay their eggs, one at a time, every week or two weeks; therefore, the similar size of the young is unusual. In addition, this is an unusually early time of year to see baby Barn Owls. (Co-ed.)

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS:

AKM--- Arlie K. McKay  
FWD--- Frankie W. Daves  
MAM--- Mary Ann Moore  
RBM--- Robert B. Moore

JLT--- John L. Tveten  
GAT--- Gloria A. Tveten  
DM--- David Marrack  
NP--- Noel Pettingell  
NS--- Nancy Strickling

HP--- Harvey Patten  
FK--- Frank Kokesh  
MBK--- Mary Belle Kokesh  
BBW--- Bill and Betty Wright  
JS--- Jerry Strickling

CYCLE 'FIX' BLAMED FOR CRANE DROP -Bulletin from The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 12/14/66

AUSTIN---The majestic Whooping Cranes apparently are having cycle trouble along with assorted civilization perils, according to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The total of 43 checking in down on the Texas coast is one below the record mark for the preceding winter.

The drop is due to the failure to maintain the 1965 nesting success of eight young Whoopers that boosted the flock total to 44.

This winter, reports Manager Phil Morgan of the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge near Austwell,

only five young accompanied the giant birds on the 2500 mile hop from the Great Slave Lake area in far North Canada.

Fate of the missing cranes remains as much of a mystery, said Morgan, as their puzzling migration habits.

The refuge manager said the flock has been so securely harbored on the ancestral wintering grounds on Blackjack Peninsula that within his memory only two cranes had been lost. Their carcasses were found, one on nearby Matagorda Island, but too late to determine the cause of death.

Now, the huge white birds standing five foot tall with seven foot wing spread, are exploring new feeding ground as they feast on acorns in brushy areas. Coyotes, red wolves, foxes, and other smaller predators exist on the refuge but Morgan said danger from attack is slight.

"I imagine the cranes would take care of themselves because they are very alert and very agile," he said.

The last norther pushed water from their favorite bay feeding areas so the cranes are being fed wheat and milo to supplement the two fenced plots where grain and tubular crops have been experimentally grown. The extra supplies are grown on other National refuges to safeguard against pesticide treated food reaching the precious whoopers.

All of this is very exciting to some 3,000 Sandhill Cranes who raid the feed plots generally ahead of the ponderous whoopers.

#### ANOTHER SAD STORY

One of our members had an unfortunate experience during one of the recent bird counts: A large, strange bird kept flying into him, bruising and scratching him. The birder thinks that it was a Rough Grouse!

#### WELCOME

Our newest members are Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Gillette, 1504 B Nantucket, Houston, Texas 77027 (SU 2-3311)

#### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mrs. A.L. Sweitzer, 423 Bendwood, Houston, Texas 77024

Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Davis, 5204 DeSiard, Monroe, Louisiana, 71201

#### OFFICERS:

Chairman: Mr. Richard Miller, 10023 Sugar Hill, Houston, 77042  
 Vice-chairman: Mrs. Edna Miner Fielding, 4141 S. Braeswood, Houston, 77025  
 Secretary: Mrs. Bill (Katrina) Ladwig, 4200 Mt. Vernon, Houston, 77006  
 Treasurer: Miss Sarah Gordon, 1746 Wroxton Court, Houston, 77005  
 Field Trip Chairman: Dr. David Marrack, 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, 77401  
 Program Chairman: Mrs. C.B.(Eva) Gilman, 10110 Telephone Rd., Houston, 77017  
 Co-editors of The Spoonbill: Bill and Betty Wright, 5216 Valerie, Bellaire, 77401



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