



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXV, No. 4
August, 1976

PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS

COMING EVENTS

- Sunday
Aug. 29 Regular OG field trip. David Dauphin has set Memorial Park for this, our first field trip this season. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the picnic area. We particularly hope that our new members will join us to get acquainted in a leisurely manner, and the new birders among us can get any help they may feel they need, neither of which can be done successfully when in a caravan of cars rushing from spot to spot. Bring insect repellent, and lunch if you wish to bird longer than just a few hours in the morning. Maps of the West Harris County area will be available, as well as reprints of the Smither's Lake - Maner Lake "run", for those who wish to continue birding after our bird "walk".
- Sept. 2
Thursday OG seminar on "Shorebirds", presented by T. Ben Feltner, 7:30 p.m., at Fonde Recreation Center, Memorial Drive at Sabine St. This is an excellent time for this subject, for our wintering population of shorebirds are now beginning to return to our area.
- Tuesday
Sept. 14 ONC regular meeting, 8:00 p.m., Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. The program is "Bayou Strategy", presented by a member of the Department of Architecture of Rice University. This is the slide show that was presented to the Chamber of Commerce and Harris County Flood Control District, containing the University's architectural studies of Buffalo Bayou, and suggestions for improvements.
- Saturday
Sept. 25 OG regular field trip to Anahuac Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at registration booth area, just inside entrance to Refuge. If weather permits and the marsh buggy is available, Russ Clapper says we will have a rail trip. This is set for a 1/2 day trip, but you'd better bring lunch along with your insect repellent, for Anahuac is about one hour and a half from Houston.
- Sunday
Sept. 26 Audubon regular field trip to same place, Anahuac. Details will be in Audubon newsletter, and next month's SPOONBILL. Because so many are eager to make the buggy trip, you who are members of both groups, are asked to please not go both days.

ROSTER READY FOR MAILING

The 1976 - 1977 roster of the OG has been completed and is being mailed this week. If you find an error in your name or address, please call Margaret Jones at 665-4197, and give her the corrected information, which will then appear in next month's SPOONBILL. Please make these corrections in your copy of the roster, so you will have the right information. Also, as new members and non-member subscribers are added and their names appear in the SPOONBILL, add them on the back pages of the roster.

WHERE DID YOU BIRD THIS SUMMER?

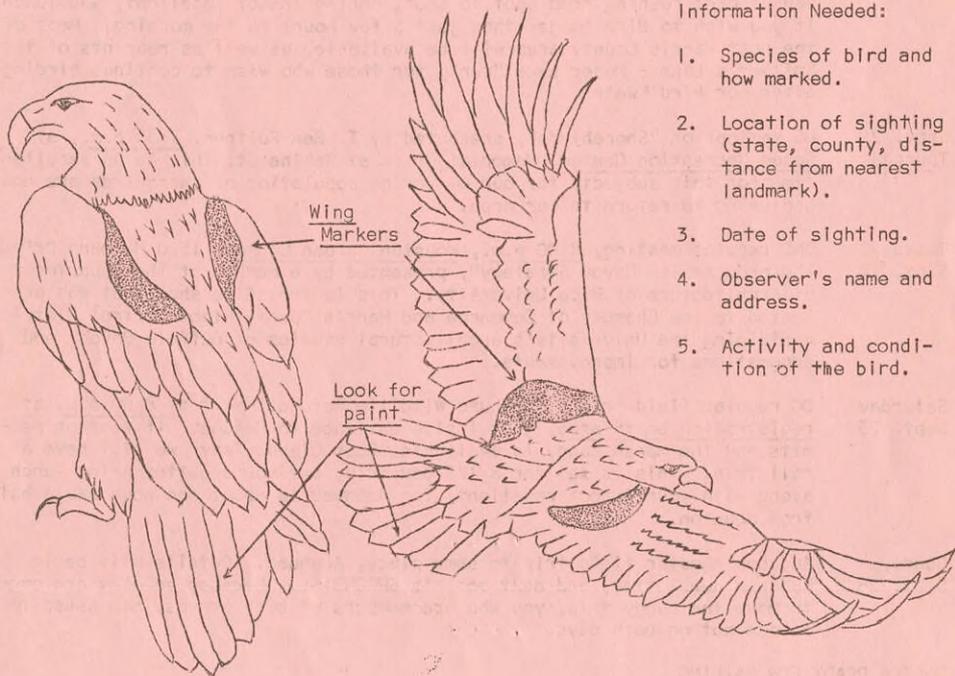
For the edification of the stay-at-homes and those who went in an opposite direction, share your birding trip by sending the SPOONBILL a short resume of your trip, including some of the most interesting sightings, or perhaps just an anecdote of some birding experience that you thought out-of-the-ordinary. For most of us, birding is considered slow in the summertime, so we would like to vicariously share your birding trips. So.....where did you go and what did you see?

RAPTORS MARKED

The Bureau of Land Management currently is conducting a long-termed study on the ecology of raptors in the Snake River Birds of Prey Natural Area, located 35 miles south of Boise, Idaho. The greatest known concentration of breeding raptors in the world has been protected by a land withdrawal by the Bureau of Land Management and additional withdrawals are pending. Multifaceted research has been initiated to determine breeding biology, population dynamics and hunting territory utilized by birds of prey, population dynamics of their prey species, and the impact of non-avian predators upon this prey base.

Juvenile birds of prey were marked to aid in their identification within the study area and to provide additional data on migration routes and wintering areas. This information is vital for a complete understanding of raptor biology and can aid in the management of the Birds of Prey Natural Area.

Research personnel at the Snake River BPNA would like your help in recording birds-of-prey movements. They have placed color-coded vinyl wing markers and/or yellow "paint" on juvenile birds of prey to help determine post-fledgling movement. Wing markers and the tail paint, as illustrated, may show only on the dorsal surface of the birds. In excess of two hundred birds (golden eagles, prairie falcons, red-tailed hawks and ravens) were marked this year and several hundred were marked in previous years. The program will continue until 1980.



Information Needed:

1. Species of bird and how marked.
2. Location of sighting (state, county, distance from nearest landmark).
3. Date of sighting.
4. Observer's name and address.
5. Activity and condition of the bird.

Please send to:

Dean Bibles, District Manager
Boise District, Attn: Mike Kochert
Bureau of Land Management
230 Collins, Boise, Idaho 83702

Editor's comment: From time to time, requests for aid in studies such as the above are printed in the SPOONBILL. As birders, it behooves us all, whenever we can, to help these researchers. All birding studies and the knowledge gained thereby eventually sifts down to us, the casual birder-in-the-field, in the form of additional information helpful to us in the pursuit of our hobby. Consider keeping these requests for survey help with the bird books you carry with you, so, when you see an oddly marked bird, leg pennant, tail paint, or wing mark, you can check to see where to send your sighting. Don't forget, those people are depending on us for help in determining the success of their studies.

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, AUGUST 5, 1976

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Jack Gillette. Since there were no corrections or additions to the Minutes of the May 23rd. Meeting, as published in the SPOONBILL, the Chairman declared the Minutes would stand approved as read.

Mary Gillette presented the Treasurer's Report as of July 31st. with a balance on hand of \$1015.27 (\$728.27 Operating fund and \$287.00 in Savings Accounts). She also reported receiving a very nice letter from April Yellott in appreciation for the spontaneous contribution taken up for the Raptor Preservation Fund after she spoke at the April 1st. meeting. Mary has still not received any information on the latest Jim Lane books.

Our SPOONBILL editor, Margaret Jones, reminded everyone that the 1976-77 Rosters could be picked up, that as of August 3rd. there were 185 members, 77 subscribers, 14 exchanges, and 18 complimentary copies, and that many people have mentioned the nice job of editing, which is a good morale booster. She also expressed gratitude to the "map maker and mimeo maintenance man", Paul Jones.

Paul Jones, Clearing House Editor, compared the number of species of birds reported in June of '74, '75, and this year and said that he was glad to hear from all the people turning in reports. Paul also reminded everyone of the bird list to be compiled for the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary and asked birders to jot down birds seen there and telephone him their sightings.

David Dauphin, as Rare Bird Alert Chairman, asked us to check the Roster Alert to make sure that all 'phone numbers were correct. As Field Trip Chairman, he said that the first field trip would be the last Sunday in August (Aug. 29th) from 8 to 12 a.m. at Memorial Park, meeting at the picnic area on the south side of Memorial Drive. The second field trip will be the last Saturday in September (Sept. 25th). The Audubon Society has the same trip scheduled for the last Sunday in September, and members are asked not to go on both trips. The only rare bird so far reported has been a western kingbird at the Shell Lab on Highway 6. Paul Jones said that he had seen an American bittern fly up in front of a rice harvesting machine and also a Virginia rail cross in front of the road another time near a harvester--It might be a good idea to stop and observe around the area where harvesters are working.

Paul Nimmons, Christmas count chairman, said that he thought the Christmas count would be the first Saturday allowed, probably December 18th., and that he was very anxious for the April issue of "American Birds" to come out so we can see how well we did last year. A few members are going on the trip to Southern California and Washington from the middle of August to the end of August. Paul also told about coaxing out a Swainson's warbler by imitating its call. He also reported some robins staying around this summer.

Our Librarian, Avis Brister, informed us our library now contained 69 books (appraised at around \$700) and she has compiled a list, a copy of which she will give to the Treasurer. Members who wish to borrow books may stop by Avis' house or call her and she will bring the book to the next meeting. She again reminded anyone who is interested in obtaining Michael Hoke's "A Census of the Avian Fauna of Smith Woods, High Island" may do so by sending \$3.40 to him, 1802 W. Rein, Orange, Texas 77630. The money will be used for more ornithological research. } ✓

Publicity Chairman Gladys Galbreath said she had sent out 17 notices.

Since Study Seminar Chairman Marilyn Crane was not present, it was assumed the seminar on "Shorebirds" was still planned for Spet. 2nd.

Immediate past-Chairman Harry Brister presented certificates of recognition and appreciation for their work done last year to:

Bill Mealy--program chairman

Wes and Glenn Cureton--field trip chairmen (accepted by their sister)

Noel Pettingill--who helped make the check-list possible

Noel said that he and Ben Feltnr were going to put out an annotated checklist of the upper Texas coast area, and will probably include the most wanted species and the best birding areas.

Chairman Gillette presented Harry with a small gift in appreciation of his service to the group for the past two years.

Old business having been attended to, our Chairman said that Margaret Jones has said that we ought to do a Henslow's Sparrow field census each spring, and he would like someone to spearhead this effort. Also, he said the coming year appears to be the

25th anniversary of the Ornithology Group (the Group was organized April 11, 1952--Ed.) which requires someone to look into and come up with something to do about it. The Open House of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary will be November 6th and 7th, and we should have some one to put an exhibit together for this. Volunteers are needed for all three.

Margaret Jones said we are now sending some of our better maps, a copy of Clearing House rules, and also a checklist to our new members, starting this month. She also has some extra copies of the maps of the Galveston areas which were published last fall. There are also exchange copies of newsletters from other ornithology groups displayed.

Dirk Hagemeyer said he had noticed a number of dead birds lately and wondered if others had found the same thing, if there might be an epidemic going on.

Bob Moulton, Program chairman, was asked to take over the rest of the meeting and introduce the speaker, Russ Clapper, manager of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Bob said that Russ has spent 31 years on national wildlife refuges and has been on all the Gulf coast refuges.

Mr. Clapper explained that the purpose of wildlife refuges was for public enjoyment both for now and in the future, and the managers attempt to enforce the Endangered Species Act and the Conservation Act. Everyone is helping who signs in with the purpose of his visitation (for showing the value to the Secretary of the Interior), and by writing congressmen how you feel about wildlife refuges. You will also be helping if you bring someone else because you will be interpreting to that person and then he will interest others. All refuges are about six years behind in development plans, and Mr. Clapper regrets the cut-down in personnel who could assist in instruction. In the question and answer period members gleaned some of the following bits of information: It's difficult to find a red wolf for breeding purposes who isn't a coyote hybrid; the reasons for roads at the refuge being blocked off may be due to mud, or the protection of the public when sometimes cannon-netting blinds (for banding) are being used; 9838 acres were originally bought for the refuge; the sign-in booth was temporarily gone because a new one was being erected; about 12,000 people visit the Anahuac Wildlife Refuge in a year; sometimes more bird species can be encouraged to come by varying the habitat (if funds to do so are available); Brazoria and San Bernard refuges are staffed but still aren't as much fun to go to since roads within have never been built; camping at Anahuac is allowed on the beach, limit 3 days, but "Mr. Mosquito is Public Enemy Number 1"! Mr. Clapper kept coming back to economy in government and thus restriction of refuge activities.

Dirk Hagemeyer said there was a National Wildlife Association Lobby to which anyone might contribute and he offered to find the address to which to write.

After Chairman Gillette thanked Mr. Clapper for his most interesting talk, he reminded everyone that Jerry Baker, Aluminum Chairman, would collect from anyone who had remembered to bring their cans.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Suzi Campbell, Secretary

AROUND AND ABOUT

** Birding Business: Two U.S. Forest Service employees have studied the economic impact of nongame birds and found that bird watching amounts to a half-billion-dollar-a-year business. Adding the millions of dollars spent on birdseed and binoculars, plus the millions spent for field guides, gift books about birds, bird houses and feeders totals a big business. --August, 1976 Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine

** About that Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine, if you don't already subscribe, you are missing a good bet. Frances Williams, in the August issue of "The Phalarope", newsletter of Midland Naturalists, says it is: "A magazine which contains beautiful, full-page color photographs of Gambel's Quail, Barn Owl, Laughing Gull, Whooping Crane, Long-billed Curlew, White-winged Dove, Snow Egret, Chachalaca, Roadrunner, Turkey. A magazine which prints articles on bird feet, the Mole Salamander, cattle rustling in 1778, attracting birds to your yard, scenic beauties of Trans-Pecos Texas, the eight kinds of Doves which live in Texas.....In 1975 there were more articles about fishing than any other topic, but birds were the second most common topic. Seven of the covers featured good photographs of birds. Other topics covered were State Parks, animals, wildflowers, safety in the outdoors, and even a couple of articles on little known incidents in Texas history. There were only two hunting articles. Of the fourteen about birds, five concerned game birds (Turkey, Pheasant, Dove) but

even these presented many facts about the birds and emphasized proper management techniques which make certain that hunting will not diminish the population of these species.....In the writer's opinion, the best article of the year was an extremely well written article on Woodpeckers, illustrated by color photographs of eight species which occur in Texas." Frances says the magazine is only \$3.15 a year, or \$5.25 for two years. Address: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, John H. Reagan Bldg., Austin, Texas 78701. (Your editor has been a subscriber for years, and heartily agrees with Frances' praise of this beautiful little magazine.

** A Bird Finding and Naturalist's Guide for the Austin, Texas, Area, by Edward Kutac and S. Christopher Caran, is a new, ambitious and very rewarding book to add to your collection of books on where to find the birds. Half of the book is devoted to bird finding with 15 sketch maps and accompanying narratives, and an annotated list of the birds observed in the area with bar chart indicating relative seasonal abundance. According to David Riskind, reviewing it for the TP&W Magazine: "The text is intended for the layman with a casual interest in the area's natural history as well as for the more involved birder and naturalist. In addition, the book represents an important and useful compilation of the Austin area's natural history and is a work that can easily be used in conjunction with numerous statewide field guides (birds, mammals reptiles and amphibians, fish, etc.)". It is distributed by Publishing Services, Inc. 2021 Guadalupe, Suite 31, Austin, Texas 78705, cost is \$4.00, tax and postage unknown. Kitty Orr, in Bellaire, has a few copies for \$4.20, including tax. Call her at 664-4924.

** Jerry Baker reminds us to bring our aluminum to her at the regular meetings of the OG. Some of our new members may not know that we have been turning in aluminum for several years, with the proceeds being added to the OG bank account.

CLEARING HOUSE, July, 1976

- Grebe, Eared: (3)5, 12, (2)25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD (good details, have been seen regularly by these observers)
- Cormorant, Olivaceous: (25+)5, (50+)12, (200+)25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (20)12, Galveston, (10)13, Bolivar, F&R; (2)23, HL&P Cooling Ponds, (50+) Baytown Tunnel, PJ.
- Frigatebird, Magnificent: (1-19) daily, W. Galveston, J&GC; (16)12, (4)28, Galveston, F&R; (3)25, San Luis Pass, H&AB; (1a, 5 imm)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ.
- Nightheron, Black-crowned: (10)12, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD.
- " , Yellow-crowned: (1)17, Brazoria Co., J&CH; (1)25, Bayou Vista, P&MJ.
- Bittern, Least: (1a, 1 imm.)5, Maner Lake, (1)25, Bayou Vista, P&MJ; (2)13, Maner Lake, BC&J.
- Bittern, American: (1)22, W. Harris Co., PJ -- Notes: While watching the harvest of a grain field on Katy-Hockley Road, this large, brown, "pointed-head" bird with brown and white stripes on underside flew up in front of the threshing machine. Wings were thick and dark brown.
- Stork, Wood: (4)12, 30, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (56+) Trinity River at IH 10, (18)23, Baytown Tunnel, PJ; (17)25, W. Harris Co., C&SC.
- Ibis, White-faced: (3)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ
- " , White: (50+)14, W. Galveston, (100+)14, 24, W. Chambers Co., D&JD; (100+)23, Trinity River at IH 10, PJ.
- Spoonbill, Roseate: (10+)5, 12, 25, (25+)30, Baytown Tunnel, (100+)14, W. Galveston, D&JD; (75)12, Galveston, F&R; (15)18, Bolivar, E&W; (33)23, Baytown Tunnel, PJ; (27)25, Bolivar, P&MJ; (5)31, Synott Road, DeK.
- Treeduck, Black-bellied: (1)31, Synott Road, DeK. -- Notes: Observed in a pond behind the rice mill at Westheimer and Synott Road. The bird flew from the pond, circled it several times, whistling all the while, then returned to the pond. (Excellent descriptive details also submitted. --C-H ed.)
- Mallard: (2)12, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD. (Good details. Have been seen regularly by these observers at this spot for several months).
- Teal, Blue-winged: (3)12, Galveston, F&R; (5)22, W. Harris Co., PJ.
- Scaup, Lesser: (1)5, (2)12, 25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (2)23, Baytown Tunnel, PJ.
- Duck, Ruddy: (1)5, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD.
- Godwit, Marbled: (8)13, Bolivar Flats, -- Notes: Size a little smaller than Long-billed Curlews. Buffy underparts, long up-turned bill, pink with terminal half black. --F&R; (4)14, W. Galveston, D&JD (good details); (8)18, Bolivar, E&W (no details); (6)25, (8) Aug., W. Galveston, J&GC (good details); (25+)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ (details recorded)
- Sanderling: (10)13, Bolivar, F&R.
- Avocet, American: (2)12, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (2)31, Synott Road, DeK.
- Stilt, Black-necked: (50+)12, 25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (15+)23, Baytown Tunnel, PJ; (30+)25, Bayou Vista, P&MJ; (10)31, Synott Road, DeK.
- Gull, Ring-billed: (1-2) daily, W. Galveston, J&GC.
- Tern, Gull-billed: (2)12, Galveston, F&R; (50+)14, Galveston, D&JD.

Tern, Common: (40)12, Galveston, F&R (no details)

Tern, Least: (200)12, Galveston, F&R; (20--some with eggs)18, Bolivar Flats, E&W; (1000+)25, Bolivar Flats, P&MJ

" , Sandwich: (150)12, Galveston, F&R; (50+)14, Galveston, D&JD; (75)18, Bolivar, E&W.

" , Black: (100+)daily, W. Galveston, J&GC; (4)4, Surfside, (2000 est.)25, Bolivar, P&MJ; (50+)5, 12, 25, Baytown Tunnel, (1000+)14, Galveston, D&JD; (1050)12, Galveston, F&R; (175 est.)18, Bolivar, E&W; (100+)23, Baytown Tunnel, PJ

DOVE, RINGED-TURTLE: (4-7)all month, Bellaire. These are part of the "colony" that are being observed carefully since some were released 3 years ago. They continue to nest successfully. A fledgling was seen near a nest on July 31.--P&MJ

Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: (10+)14, Boy Scout Woods, D&JD; (1)23, W. Galveston, J&GC.

NIGHTHAWK, LESSER: (1)17 --Notes: Seen flying very low over open field as observers were traveling along FM 523 in Brazoria Co. Noted bird was somewhat smaller than Common nighthawk. White band on wings was very near end of wing tip, unable to hear its call. J&CH.

Nighthawk, Common: (4)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ.

Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: (2)23, N. Post Oak Lane, DeK.

Kingfisher, Belted: (1 female)19, Anahuac NWR, WC; (1)23, 31, 1 Aug., West Galveson, J&GC.

Woodpecker, Red-headed: (2)15, 21, Memorial Dr., DeK.

Kingbird, Eastern: (n/c)5, Brazoria Co., P&MJ; (10)23, E. Chambers Co., PJ; (4)31, Synott, DeK

Flycatcher, Great-crested: (1)14, W. Galveston, D&JD.

Lark, Horned: (10+)14, Bolivar, D&JD.

Swallow, Tree: (1)19, Anahuac NWR, WC (good details); (25+)6, Hwy 59 at Oyster Creek, D&JD, (good details).

Kite, White-tailed: (2a, 3 imm)5, Rabb's Prairie Road, P&MJ; (4)13, Rabb's Prairie Road BC&J.

Kite, Mississippi: (2)28, observed about midday soaring and "kiting" over Bunker Hill-Memorial Drive area, DeK. (Excellent descriptive details submitted).

Swallow, Cliff: (3)12, seen flying over a field on W. Galveston close to highway mile marker #23. Inspection under nearest culvert divulged one Cliff Swallow nest and 3 Barn Swallow nests. Observers think this is first time Cliff Swallows have nested on Galveston Island. F&R (no other details submitted)

Hawk, Red-tailed: (1)5, Rabb's Prairie Road, P&MJ.

" , Red-shouldered: (1)13, Rabb's Prairie Road, BC&J.

" , BROAD-WINGED: (1)24, Rice Farm Road, Chambers Co. Observed in excellent light while perched and as it took flight and circled overhead. Noted short tail, banded black and white; stubby wings were light beneath; rusty breast; light patch at throat. Brown on back and sides. --D&JD.

" , Swainson's: (1)7, (5)27, Baytown, D&JD (good details); (1)19, observed soaring over homestead Road about 7:30 p.m., W.C. (good descriptive details submitted)

" , Marsh: (1)13, Bolivar, F&R.

Caracara: (1)2, 16, Wilcrest Road, DeK.

Bobwhite: (1a, 4 tiny chicks)5, Brazoria Co., P&MJ; (15)13, E. Chambers Co., PJ.

Rail, King: (2)5, Surfside, (1)5, Maner Lake, (2)25, Bayou Vista, P&MJ; (1)14, W. Galveston D&JD; (1)25, Surfside, H&AB.

Gallinule, Purple: (1a, 1 imm)5, Maner Lake, P&MJ; (4a, 1 chick, 3 imm)13, Maner Lake, BC&J; (1)19, Anahuac NWR, WC; (3a, 3 chicks)29, Maner Lake, PJ

" , Common: (10+)5, 12, 25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (6)23, Baytown Tunnel, (1)29, Maner Lake, PJ; (5a, 3 chicks)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ

Jacana: (3a, 1 imm)5, Maner Lake, P&MJ; (3)13, Maner Lake, BC&J; (2)29, Maner Lake, PJ.

Oystercatcher, American: (2)13, Bolivar, F&R; (4)18, Bolivar, E&W; (2)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ.

Plover, Semipalmated: (1-5)daily, W. Galveston, J&GC; (2)13, Bolivar, F&R; (1)18, Bolivar, E&W; (3)25, W. Galveston, (10-12)25, Bolivar, P&MJ.

" , Piping: (1-4)daily, W. Galveston, J&GC; (4)13, Bolivar, F&R; (25)18, Bolivar, E&W; (10+)25, Bolivar, P&MJ.

" , Snowy: (1)12, (2)13, Bolivar, F&R; (1)18, Bolivar, E&W.

" , Wilson's: (1-4)daily, W. Galveston, J&GC; (2a, 2 chicks)5, Surfside, (1)25, W. Galveston, P&MJ; (10)12, (10)13, Bolivar, F&R; (10)18, Bolivar, E&W.

" , Black-bellied: (1)12, (6)13, Bolivar, F&R; (30)18, Bolivar, E&W.

Turnstone, Ruddy: (6)5, Surfside, P&MJ; (4)13, Bolivar, F&R.

Curlew, Long-billed: (1-2)daily, W. Galveston, J&GC; (3)12, Galveston, F&R; (1)14, Bolivar, D&JD.

Whimbrel: (1)25, observed at Bolivar Flats feeding just behind ebbing tide. Noted striped head, grayish brown back and sides; lighter belly, white stripe over eye and brown median stripe over head. Decurved bill shorter than bill of Long-billed Curlew. Overall size of bird was smaller than curlew. P&MJ

Sandpiper, Spotted: (1)19, Anahuac NWR, WC; (3 in breeding plumage)25, Bayou Vista, P&MJ; (1)25, (4)1 Aug., W. Galveston, J&GC (good details); (1)31, Synott Road, DeK.

Yellowlegs, Greater: (2)13, Bolivar, F&R; (1)14, Galveston, D&JD; (3)31, Synott Road, DeK.

Knot, Red: (2)8, (4)1 Aug., W. Galveston, J&GC (good details).

Sandpiper, Least: (2)12, Galveston, (20)13, Bolivar, F&R.

Dunlin: (4)18, Bolivar, VE says these are earliest he has ever seen here in breeding plumage, E&W (no other details submitted)

Dowitcher, sp.: (6)31, Synott Road, DeK.
 " , Short-billed: (2)12, Galveston, (20)13, Bolivar, identified by call, F&R;
 (2)25, (2)1 Aug., W. Galveston, J&GC.
 " , Long-billed: (50+)14, W. Galveston, D&JD.
 Sandpiper, Western: (10)13, Bolivar, F&R; (200 est.)18, Bolivar, D&W.
 Crow, Fish: (1)19, while driving on Calder Ave. in Beaumont this crow was heard making
 its peculiar calls, and was seen as it flew across this busy street, WC.
THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: (1)12, it's still there on Nottingham Ranch Road on W. Galveston,
 F&R. (This thrasher has been observed here many times since first sighted
 on April 25, 1974).
 Robin, American: (1)19, Beaumont, WC.
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: (1)23, W. Galveston, J&GC.
 Warbler, Black-and-white: (2)14, Boy Scout Woods, D&JD.
 " , Swainson's: (8)14, Boy Scout Woods, D&JD.
 Oriole, Orchard: (1)23, N. Post Oak Lane, DeK; (1)27, yard, MJ; (3)28, Galveston, F&R.
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: (25+)14, W. Galveston, D&JD.
 Bunting, Painted: (1)all month, Wilcrest Road, DeK; (1)5, Maner Lake, P&MJ; (1)17, Brazoria
 Co., J&CH.
 Dickcissel: (15-20, mostly immature)5, Rabb's Prairie Road, P&MJ; (5+)6, Ft. Bend Co.,
 D&JD; (3)13, Rabb's Prairie Road, BC&J.

The following species which occur abundantly throughout the year in the UTC area were reported by many observers during July, but not in unusual numbers or habitat:

Anhinga, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Reddish Egret, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Mottled Duck, Clapper Rail, Willett, Laughing Gull, Forster's Tern, Royal Tern, Caspian Tern, Black Skimmer, Inca Dove, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker and Cardinal.

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

H&AB - Harry & Avis Brister; C&SC - Chuck & Suzi Campbell; (J&GC - Jane & George Clayton; WC - Wesley Cureton; (D&JD - David & Jan Dauphin; DeK - Debbie DeKeyser; E&W - Victor Emanuel & Suzanne Winkler; F&R - T. Ben Feltner & Elaine Robinson; J&CH - James & Charles Hargrove; P&MJ - Paul & Margaret Jones; BC&J - Avis Brister, Virginia Courtney and Margaret Jones.

SPECIAL REPORTS TO THE CLEARING HOUSE

David Dauphin reports that in July the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher was seen by Glenn Cureton, Jan and himself about 1 1/2 miles down river from the Brown Jay site at Santa Margarite on the Rio Grande.

Victor Emanuel reports that Andrew Stewart saw from the Port Aransas jetties a Sooty Shearwater among the Laughing Gulls following a shrimp boat on July 4th; and, from the vessel "Scat Cat", 2 Wilson's Storm Petrels, about 60 miles off Port Aransas on July 18th.

PLACES TO GO

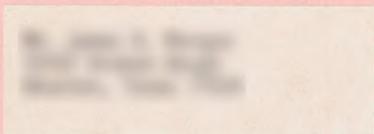
** From reading the Clearing House, you can see that Bolivar and the rice fields (in any direction) are the places to go this month. Russ Clapper said, the other night at the meeting, that he had seen the largest concentration (5000+) of Fulvous Tree Ducks in a field just north of IH 10.

** Also, Debbie DeKeyser, who seems to cover the western part of the city like a blanket, has shown us, by her reported sightings, that this pond in back of Uncle Ben's Rice Mill, is definitely good for a quick stop. Turn south on the western edge of the rice mill, there is no street sign, but there is a billboard advertising Synott Park subdivision.

Editor's comment: The Synott Road pond is the type of birding spot I've been asking you readers for. Places in the metropolitan area, easy to get to, that will give you a bit of birding without driving miles, or spending hours. It stands to reason there are many more of these, please share them with the SPOONBILL. Call me at 665-4197, and give me the directions, we'll all be grateful.

OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB
(Ornithology Group)
c/o Mrs. Richard Davis
10602 Cedarhurst
Houston, Texas 77096
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SPOONBILL:	Mrs. T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Clearing House:	Mr. T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Rare Bird Alert	Mr. David Dauphin, 2300 Taft #165, Baytown, Texas 77520	422-7536
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