



THE SPOONBILL

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COMING EVENTS

June & July There will be no OG meetings or field trips.

June 25 Deadline for SPOONBILL articles, notices, etc. (We are looking forward to some accounts of birding experiences from you early vacationers).

July 3 Deadline for Clearing House (Earlier if possible).

July 1-14 HAS tour to Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. This would be a great vacation: beautiful scenery, bird specialties of the area, three experienced naturalists to lead you--a cool escape from the heat and humidity of our upper Texas coast summer. P.O.Box 19687, Houston, 77024.

SPRING MIGRATION ON THE UTC by Jim Morgan

In early April Margaret Jones asked me to do an analysis of the 1978 spring migration on the UTC. Margaret's request was stimulated by many people asking her "where are the birds?" She remembered that in early April, 1977, the same question was being repeatedly asked, and, therefore, she felt it might be worthwhile to put this year's migration in perspective.

When we think of migration we often describe bird movements and associated events with the terms "fallout", "push", and "wave". In general a "fallout" is a rapid increase in the number of birds in a local area (generally a migrant trap) usually caused by turbulent weather or a rainy cold front. In just one or two hours a small patch of woods starting with 100 or less migrants can be deluged with birds until 1,000 or more birds are swarming in the trees and underbrush. The migrants literally "fallout" (seek cover) from the effects of the adverse weather. A "push" of a migrant species is a build up of 20-30 individuals (for most species; more or less for more common or scarce species) of this particular species, the numbers being less than what a fallout brings. A "wave" of migrants usually is any noticeable increase of migrants in a given area. The period of the wave can vary as can the number of birds in any "wave". A wave generally has less birds per species than a push but the variety of species is often quite good. The above terms just defined are obviously variable, relative, and very subjective unless one is careful to count birds accurately and record the results.

A good migration (for the birder) is one that can be defined by saying that a lot of birders saw lots of birds, or more precisely, birders observed a few fallouts and numerous good pushes and waves during the migration. Fred Webster, commenting in *American Birds* about the 1977 spring migration, stated that "a poor migration may be defined as one in which birders are more conspicuous than birds."

A quick review of the 1977 spring migration on the UTC is in order. Generally, the shorebird migration was rated good, but the passerine migration poor--at least most of the time. Two good fallouts, two or three strong pushes and a few more waves of passerines were all that were observed in Spring, 1977. Most observers felt the migration was one to two weeks late and there was good data to support this observation.

Now, on to Spring, 1978. March started off normal enough with a sprinkling of migrants found on the coast during the first two weeks. The first strong cold front came through the night of March 23 and a cold northwest wind was blowing early the following morning. This day, March 24, was the best shorebird day this observer ever witnessed. A count of 25,000 shorebirds was made that day at High Island, Bolivar Flats, and on Galveston Island. Included were 300 Piping Plovers, 1,500 Dunlins, 1,500 Long-billed Dowitchers, 500 Least Sandpipers and 5,000 Sandpiper species. Passerines were conspicuously absent that day, but on the following day,

a good push of early migrants was observed by Ted Eubanks, Sr. at High Island. The remainder of March was uneventful, most likely due to the lack of fronts and rain. Rainfall was below normal for the month.

The shorebird migration continued to be very good in early April, highlighted by 1,500 Lesser Yellowlegs found on the coastal counties on April 9-10. However, the passerine migration was a repeat of early April, 1977--no birds! A strong cold front passed through the UTC on the evening of April 10 and northwest winds blew on April 11 and 12, with light rain on the latter date. Reports from Freeport and Galveston stated that April 12 and 13 were "good" days. After another front, though dry, the date of April 20 brought a good wave of migrants to Galveston. On April 22, a heavy evening thunderstorm brought an inch of rain to Freeport and Galveston but High Island came up dry. No fallout occurred (timing poor?) but a good push of Tennessee and Bay-breasted Warblers plus a fair variety of migrants was found by this observer on a run from Freeport to High Island. For the month, rainfall was a disappointing 0.57 inches in Houston and only an inch or so more at Galveston and Freeport. Normal rainfall is about 3.5 inches.

The pattern set in April continued into May. Shorebirds remained very good, highlighted by the 700 Wilson's Phalaropes found at Mercury Drive on May 4 by Wes Cureton. The lack of turbulent weather, providing good flying conditions for passerines, left birders frustrated as the migration time ticked away. No fallouts occurred and pushes and waves were either very light or non-existent. By the end of the third week of May, official rainfall in Houston was a dismal 0.61 inches.

It is my opinion that one must not be misled by the high total of 288 species reported to the Clearing House for April. This is due to the fact that 72 observers reported their sightings (a welcome happening I might add). Numbers of individuals of migrant species seen this spring compared to numbers from the previous four years leads one to draw the following conclusions. The shorebird migration in the Spring of 1978 on the UTC was very, very good. It was steady, consistent, and produced some excellent counts of individuals. The best sighting was the Reeve found by Ann Booth and the Harwells on Galveston Island on April 24. On the other hand, the passerine migration this spring was very poor--the worst in at least five years. By my definition of terms, there were no fallouts, only a few pushes and waves, and this left birders wandering around migrant traps on warm, dry days being refreshed only by brisk southeasterly winds which migrants presumably rode far inland before alighting from their trans-Gulf flight. There was one brief moment of excitement however. A vagrant Hooded Oriole was attracted to Jonelle Buckels' hummingbird feeder and it was seen by several observers on April 23. This is a new bird species for the UTC and it has to be the bird of the season.

Where were the birds? If you mean passerines, then the answer is--not on the UTC this spring! Sure, a persistent observer could find almost all the migrant species on the UTC checklist but the numbers just were not there. We can only hope that the majority of migrants safely flew over (or around) us and on to their breeding grounds to reproduce. If so, then maybe we will have a good fall migration as we did in 1977. But you better start doing your rain dance in early August!

PAST EVENTS

OG field trip: When 27 OG members ventured to Meridian State Park on the weekend of May 6, 7, it appeared as though the group had brought their own birds with them. Although Hill Country specialities such as Bewick's Wren, Rufous-crowned Sparrow and Golden-cheeked Warbler (15 individuals, including parent birds feeding young) were found in excellent numbers, the majority of the noteworthy species seen were the types of migrant birds that typically dominate spring birding on the UTC. Franklin's Gull, White-rumped Sandpiper, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Northern Oriole (including one "Bullock's") were among the migrant species which chose Meridian as a rest stop during the weekend. Most phenomenal were the 15 species of warblers that were observed, including four which had never before been recorded in Meridian (according to their checklist). Several winter species were also found lingering, including nuptial-plumaged American Goldfinch, Cedar Waxwing and the ever-present (for this year, at least) Pine Siskin. Certainly the best bird (if such a thing is possible) of the weekend was the Black Phoebe seen on the 6th by Oscar Hieber. Altogether over 90 species of birds were seen by the group, an impressive count for such a land-locked park. As has been my experience during the whole of my tenure as field trip chairman, the birding was great, the weather bearable and the companionship delightful. --Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

A May 20 "follow-up" pelagic trip out of Galveston was definitely not worthwhile other than gaining information about when not to go! Margaret Anderson says that 7 birders went out on the New Buccaneer fishing boat and found it was too late in

the spring to be productive--there were no pelagics to be seen. However, Margaret says they plan to try again at the end of August. By the end of a year, enough trips will have been made to enable us to know a lot more about the "whens" of pelagic birding out of Galveston.

Minutes, Regular Meeting, Ornithology Group, 13 May, 1978: Chairman David Dauphin called the annual OG picnic and meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The picnic was held this year at the Hale Ranch State Park site. Chairman Dauphin remarked that through the efforts of several OG members in support of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's wetland acquisition program, the name of the group was spread statewide. Dauphin thanked those who had helped make the year a success, and presented certificates of appreciation to the following: Kitty Orr--Conservation; Sarah Gordon--Welcome Caller; Paul and Margaret Jones--Hale Ranch Survey; Noel Pettingell and Ben Feltner--6th Edition Compilers; Alfred Chandler--Little Thicket Checklist Compiler; Wesley Cureton--Houston Arboretum Checklist Compiler; Paul Nimmons--Houston Christmas Count Compiler; Jerry Baker--Aluminum Chairman; Maxine Davis--Mailing Chairman; Avis Brister--Librarian; Paul Jones--Clearing House Editor; Margaret Jones--SPOONBILL Editor; Ted Eubanks--Field trip Chairman; Marilyn Crane--Seminar Chairman; Janet Eubanks--Secretary. Chairman Dauphin then gave a list of the rare birds which are being found in the UTC presently, and mentioned what could be seen in the Hale Ranch area. Dauphin then thanked the group for a great year, and turned the meeting over to the new OG chairman--Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

Chairman Eubanks thanked the out-going chairman for all of the work done by him during the last year on behalf of the OG, and presented him with a certificate of appreciation. Eubanks then gave a book to the library, Karankaway Country by Roy Bedichek, to be placed there in his name. Eubanks presented the slate of new officers to the club next, all of whom will be the same as last year with the following exceptions: Vice-Chairman, Wesley Cureton; Seminar Chairman, Jack Gillette; Resource Chairman (a newly-created position which combines responsibility for the spotting scope, slide collection and library into one position), Avis Brister; Field trip Chairman, Jim Morgan. Eubanks mentioned that the club would concentrate on building up the slide collection and library during the coming year. The Chairman also said that the group would concentrate on those conservation issues that concern birds and birders on the UTC. The meeting was then adjourned, and the group split up into sections to bird the Hale Ranch site.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Eubanks

OG LIBRARY PLANS EXPANSION

With the presentation of Roy Bedichek's book, KARANKAWAY COUNTRY, in honor of David Dauphin, OG Chairman for 1977-78, the Eubanks family of Ted Jr., Janet and Cory, has touched off a campaign to expand the library of the Ornithology Group. The majority of the books in our OG library came to us from the estate of Mrs. Edna Miner Fielding and while there are many excellent books in this group, we are badly in need of some up-to-date material about our favorite subject: birds. Have you ever read a book about birds and then said to yourself, "Gee, that was a great book! I sure wish all my OG friends could read it." These are the kind of books we want for our library. There will be a concerted effort to fill in some gaps--such as books on behavior, flight, migration, bird song, and on special groups of birds. A niche in this last category was filled in April when Jim Beatty gave the library a copy of THE SHOREBIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA with text by Peter Matthiessen and paintings by Robert Verity Clem. This is an informative book with the addition of many delightful paintings.

The 1978-79 Roster will contain a list of the books now in the library. With that as a nucleus we are aiming at a first class ornithological library. If you have any questions or would like to discuss a possible donation, I'll be happy to confer with you. Books about birds are a valuable tool in the pursuit of our hobby - let's build up our OG library and then use it. --Avis Brister, Resources Chairman

A BOOK REVIEW by T. Ben Feltner

Cramp, Stanley and E.E.L. Simmons (eds.): HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. The Birds of the Western Palearctic Vol. 1 Ostrich to Ducks. 1977. 722pps, 108 color plates, drawings, diagrams, maps. Oxford.

As a child in England, I often used to fantasize the perfect bird book. My ideal encompassed a work of infinite detail, laden with plates of each bird, their eggs, range maps and detailed descriptions. That fantasy bird book is now a reality. It is the new HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA, which will eventually consist of seven volumes. This mighty work replaces the old classic, Witherby's Handbook of British Birds, which itself was superbly done. As the

title suggests the new series has expanded its range to cover the whole of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Volume I contains 108 full page color plates of excellent quality. Each species is depicted in all its plumages including downy young. For instance, plate #28 pictures 19 assorted plumages and angles of the two European pelicans. Our own Handbook of North American Birds by Palmer, on the other hand, reveals only two poses of the Brown Pelican and none at all for the White Pelican. The North American Least Bittern, which has occurred solely as an accidental in the Azores and Iceland, nevertheless, is allocated a half page color plate of eight individual plumages. That is actually more figures: 8, than records: 5. Both these examples, the pelicans and the bittern, were picked at random and are not extraordinary in their coverage. In addition to the colored plates, there are numerous text drawings primarily depicting various courtship rituals. Where available, sonograms have been included. Virtually every species has a range map of outstanding clarity and detail. Circular calendar charts plot moults, migration and breeding seasons. The graphic representations are superb.

Drawing from the knowledge of many of Europe's top ornithologists and birders, Chief Editor, Stanley Cramp has amassed a compendium of knowledge superseding all other works. It is written in a style that suits layman and expert alike: scientific and English vernacular names introduce each species. Dutch, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Swedish and, where applicable, North American common names are also presented.

The first major heading is Field Characters which includes both general and very detailed descriptions of both sexes and all plumages of each species. Second is a beautifully described Habitat, which includes seasonal changes. This particular heading, which is often far too sparse or even ignored altogether in many books, is of extreme importance to anyone doing field work or playing the identification game. Distribution, the third heading, concerns range by political boundaries. Population and survival, quoting actual physical numbers where known, is followed by Movements, the fifth heading, which is a storehouse of migratory patterns and movements. Heading number six: Food is often identified as to genus and species of the organism taken, and frequently includes basic percentages. Social Pattern and Behavior includes an enormous amount of information of tremendous interest. The eighth and ninth headings are Breeding and Plumages respectively. The latter is a composite of practically everything needed to identify any bird in the hand, and contains subheadings of Bare Parts, Moults, Measurements, Weights, and Structure. These sections present the bird in such minute detail that nothing, properly noted, in the field could go unidentified (except possibly immature gulls).

It is a shame that this undertaking is not duplicated here in the New World where we are still struggling along with the Bent series and Palmer's Handbook of North American Birds. Both of these are anemically illustrated and the Palmer's Handbook may never be finished, if one extrapolates the enormous amount of time (fourteen years) between publication of Volume I and Volume II.

The new Cramp Handbook is, in my mind, the finest work of its kind ever published. Its use to birders here in the U.S. is priceless. Our great field problems stem, usually, from suspected rarities, most often of European origin. Numerous accidents: ducks, gulls and sandpipers are subjects of annual controversies in the U.S. and Texas. This Handbook can give all the detailed and known information to the puzzled observer at once, facilitating identification. The HANDBOOK OF THE BIRDS OF EUROPE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA is unequivocally the best buy in bird books for any serious observer or professional ornithologist. Its price, \$55.00, is high, but not prohibitive. Its value in comparison to books costing twice as much is tenfold.

I can find no fault with it, except that it does not cover the A.O.U. area. I have never reviewed a more worthy book.

AROUND AND ABOUT

** Barry Hinderstein is directing a National Science Foundation project this summer on the role of House Sparrows in the transmission of St. Louis Encephalitis virus. It is a continuation of a project he started last summer. One goal of the project is determining House Sparrow population size, and density. Also, we are censusing birds in many areas of the county, especially urban Houston. While we have just started the censusing I think I am recording a significant decrease in House Sparrows. In some areas I am finding a decrease in Great-tailed Grackles. And there seems to be a significant increase in Starlings. Are my fellow readers of THE SPOONBILL making similar observations?

"While doing a census near the intersection of Holcombe and Alameda, I came across a female cardinal and a juvenile cowbird. I was pointing out the cowbird to my

students when the female cardinal alighted next to the cowbird and fed it. The cowbird took something which I was unable to see from the cardinal. Which reminds me, are there fewer cardinals this year too?

(THE SPOONBILL would like to hear from anyone who has noted decreases or increases in the birds mentioned by Barry. Call the editor, 665-4197, and give your observations o them),

** There is an organization, Whooping Crane Conservation Ass'n. Inc., which is devoted to exactly what the name says--the Whooping Crane, and the continuing effort to help increase the specie's scanty numbers. The organization is planning their 1979 convention-annual meeting to be held in Rockport January 11, 12 and 13. The convention headquarters will be Sea Gun Inn. Mr. J. J. Pratt, Secretary-Treasurer, is asking interested people to contact him with comments on what they think the convention should offer, and what they could do to help. Send your comments to him, 3000 Meadowlark Drive, Sierra Vista, Arizona 85635.

TRANS-PECOS IN EARLY MAY by Jim Morgan

After much planning and anticipation, I departed for West Texas on April 27. A short side trip to Friedrich Park in San Antonio on April 28 resulted in finding both the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. By late morning on the 28th I was motoring west on Hwy 90 looking for Cave Swallows which were found west of Uvalde after several stops. Upon arrival in Alpine that night I set up some days to bird with my friend Tony Gallucci. The next day I was in Big Bend early and birded Dugout Wells, Hot Springs and Rio Grande Village. Besides finding the first of many MacGillivray's Warblers the day produced sightings of three species considered rare in the Park: Black-necked Stilt, Sprague's Pipit and Worm-eating Warbler. A stroll around the Chisos Basin that evening provided my first view of a Zone-tailed Hawk and Hepatic Tanager. Later that evening I ran into Ben Feltner who showed me a Poor-will from as close as 6 feet!

I met Tony Gallucci the next morning and we headed out towards Boot Springs. Having gone no more than 1/4 mile we encountered a Lazuli Bunting, a species considered rare in the Park, particularly in the highlands. Further up the trail we had a most fantastic view of another Zone-tailed Hawk, whose tail bands were completely visible without binoculars. About a mile from the top on the "short" trail we were studying a Hutton's Vireo when our first 2 Colima Warblers of the day popped into view. At Boot Springs, five more Colimas plus 6 Painted Redstarts and one Hermit Warbler were seen along with some of the canyon specialties. The return trip through Laguna Meadow was pleasant but not productive.

The following day a trip down the Window Trail produced numerous birds, including a pair of Lucifer Hummingbirds. On my fourth day in the park I returned to Dugout Wells to find my first Virginia's Warbler and a rare eastern warbler, a Hooded. My last day in the park I went to Old Ranch where I observed another Virginia's Warbler and the Varied Bunting. Late morning that day I found two Gray Vireos near Blue Creek Canyon and my third Virginia's Warbler on the dry creekbed leading to Cattail Falls. Final count for the Park showed 121 species, including 16 species of warblers, all the buntings and 12 species of sparrows.

On Thursday, May 4, Tony joined me again to bird the Alpine and Davis Mountains areas. An attempt to find the Black Hawk early in the morning produced only a glimpse of a large, dark bird but the birding in general was good. Near the McDonald Observatory later in the morning another Zone-tail was sighted and Western and Eastern Bluebirds were seen within a mile of each other. A side trip to Lake Balmorhea produced 4 Western Grebes. Later in the day we returned to the Davis Mountains and were near some large trees with large nests in them. The conversation then went like this...."This nest is in better shape than the other one!"..."Yea, Tony, you're right...say, I see a large yellow spot above the edge of the nest. Look, I think I see a beak in front of it and black behind it."..."Hey, I think you're right!"..."Hey, there is a bird getting out of the nest!"..."Now! Look how black it is!"..."And, look at that large, white band across the tail!"..."Its taking off"...flap, flap, glide..."The wings are being held horizontal!"..."And, the tail, look at the tail!"..."Its the Black Hawk!"..."That's got to be your bird of the trip!"..."You bet!"...Needless to say, I was happy with finding this bird and indebted to Tony's guidance. This is truly a rare U.S. bird.

On Friday, Tony took me to his transect study area in Presidio County where Gambel's Quail were to be found and enjoyed. But, the hoped-for bird, the Lucy's Warbler, was not seen. (Since that time Tony has found territories of about 10 Lucy's in the area). Saturday found me returning to Houston, with a quick stop at Langtry to see 4 Yellow-headed Blackbirds lined up on a telephone wire.

The final tally for the trip showed 185 species seen, including 19 warblers and 13 sparrow species. Ben told me in our earlier conversation that bird numbers were down in the area, but being there around May 1 was catching the area at its peak (this was planned!). Boy, I can hardly wait to return during a good year!

PLACES TO GO

The upper Texas coast has entered its annual period of "the blahs" for many of our birders. We have no place in particular to offer, just some generalities: Flooded rice fields; any woods (early in the morning is best, for many birds quit singing mid-morning); the beaches, according to our checklist, are pretty bare in June, but there is always a chance of a late or an early bird; and for a specific suggestion, check with David Dauphin when you plan an outing, he may have something on the unusual bird list. Don't forget--if you see something you think interesting, let David know.

THE LEARNING CORNER

While we waited and hoped for a fallout, push or wave, the birds were overhead, hastening to their breeding areas, often regions where they were born or territories they occupied before. We are all more or less familiar with the breeding cycle: setting up a territory, courtship, nesting, etc. In reading "Watching Birds, An Introduction to Ornithology" by Roger F. Pasqueler, we find that food supply, environmental pressure, or weather can sometimes dictate the beginning of the breeding cycle.

For instance, breeding cycles of birds are timed to take place at the season when the maximum amount of suitable food is available for the young or when the most food is available to the female for forming eggs inside her, or a compromise between the two. For most birds in the Northern Hemisphere these food demands are most often met in the spring. However, crossbills will nest any time between January and August that they find an adequate cone crop, and the American Goldfinch breeds in late summer, when thistle seeds are available to feed the young. Breeding is sometimes tied to the weather, such as wet and dry seasons in tropical parts of the world, or in the Australian desert where rains are completely irregular and some birds begin breeding as soon as a rain falls, whatever time of year.

During spring migration we often note males passing through a week or more before females. Most of the species in which the males arrive at the breeding area first are the ones that defend a territory where mating and nesting take place. By the time the food supply is available for the female to form eggs and she arrives, the male has set up a territory and is free, after his singing and displaying has attracted a mate, to devote his attention to her.

Sometimes environmental conditions make the simultaneous arrival of males and females a more efficient system: ducks and geese that nest in the Arctic, where the breeding season is very short, arrive together already paired and lose none of the little time available in preliminaries like courtship. Ducks from many areas winter together, but pairs always return to the area of the female's birth, perhaps because it is more important for the female to be familiar with the area in which she will nest and singlehandedly raise the young.

Environmental pressures sometimes seem to dictate when birds first begin breeding. Most smaller birds first breed in the spring following the year of their birth, when they are about ten months old, but in some passerines like the Red-winged Blackbird and Starling, females begin breeding in their first year, but males not until their second, perhaps because older males are better able to control all the suitable nest sites.

Feeding techniques requiring skill and practice dictate breeding age--Common Terns do not nest until the third year after their birth, Herring Gulls not until the fourth, Bald and Golden Eagles three to five years, and Wandering Albatrosses never until they are nine years old, sometimes eleven.

At the other extreme are birds whose environment makes the ability to nest when very young more valuable. In Australian deserts where more than a year may go by without the rain necessary to create breeding conditions, the bird populations must reproduce as quickly as possible during the few months when conditions are favorable--some of the small finches can breed when only two months old.

[Editor's request: We need items for The Learning Corner. Please share your knowledge, or your research. The subject matter should be timely, apropos to the birds of the season current to publication of the article. Judging from your comments, this section has quickly become one of the most popular parts of the SPOONBILL, let's keep it going. Send your article to the editor by the 25th of the month].

CLEARING HOUSE May, 1978

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

Loon, Common: W.Galveston--(2)19,JBo; Offats Bayou--(2-3)all month,M.
 Grebe, Eared: Galveston--(9)5,J&BH, (1)20,TE,JMo; Houston--(2)12,WC (Mercury Dr.)
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 5 reports (1-8)
 Pelican, Brown: Galveston--(1-2)all month,M (Sea Arama area)
 Cormorant, Double-crested: High I.--(1)7,P&PN; W.Galveston--(3)16,M
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: Galveston--(3)5,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE; Bolivar--(25)20,TE,JMo
 Anhinga: Ft. Bend Co.--(15)13,OG, (20)20,MC,DP, (15)27,(6)29,TE,JMo; Lake Charlotte--(1)20,TE,JMo
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: High I.--(1)6,RG,RH
 Heron, Great Blue: 10 reports (3-40)
 Heron, Green: 10 reports (1-8)
 Heron, Little Blue: 12 reports (1-20)
 Egret, Cattle: 11 reports (1-100)
 Egret, Reddish: Galveston--(2)3,(3)16,M, (11)15,J&BH, (2)19,JBo, (5)20,TE,JMo, (1)21,B&EW; Bolivar--(5)4,TE, (10)20,TE,JMo; High I.--(11)7,J&BH, (5)20,TE,JMo.
 Egret, Great: 12 reports (1-98)
 Egret, Snowy: 11 reports (2-20)
 Heron, Louisiana: 12 reports (1-15)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 2 reports (4-5)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 10 reports (1-50, many of them young)
 Bittern, Least: W.Galveston--(1)4,M, (1)4,TE; Chambers Co.--(2)7,P&PN; Ft.Bend Co.--(2)27,TE,JMo
 Ibis, White-faced: 9 reports (2-40)
 Ibis, White: 14 reports (2-175, many of them young)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 12 reports (2-27)
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Ft.Bend Co.--(8)13,OG, (10)20,MC,DP, (9)27,(5)29,TE,JMo
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: W.Harris Co.--(17)518,TE; Winnie--(7)20,TE,JMo; Katy--(2)28,P&PN
Mallard: Houston--(2)12,(1)16,WC (Mercury Dr.-see notes); W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE (see notes)
 Duck, Mottled: High I.--(20, some with chicks)7,J&BH; 10 additional reports (1-15)
 Duck, Gadwall: W.Harris Co.--(2)18,TE
 Pintail: W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE
 Teal, Green-winged: W.Harris Co.--(2)18,TE (see notes)
 Teal, Blue-winged: 8 reports (1-10)
 Wigeon, American: Galveston--(1)20,TE,JMo (see notes)
 Shoveler, Northern: Bolivar--(20)74,TE; Anahuac NWR--(1)7,P&PN; High I.--(1)7,J&BH, (1)20,TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE
 Duck, Wood: Lake Charlotte--(3)20,TE,JMo; Ft.Bend Co.--(9)20,MC,DP, (30, 8 chicks)27,TE,JMo
 Canvasback: W.Galveston--(1)3,M
 Scaup, Lesser: Houston--(1-3)all month,WC (Mercury Dr.); Galveston--(1)3,M, (2)20,TE,JMo
 Vulture, Turkey: 8 reports (2-25)
 Vulture, Black: 7 reports (1-25)
 Kite, White-tailed: W.Galveston--(1)4,M, (1)21,B&EW; Ft.Bend Co.--(1)13,OG
 Kite, Mississippi: Ft.Bend Co.--(2)13,OG, (2)27,TE,JMo; Houston--(1)14,P&PN (yard)
 Hawk, Red-tailed: Ft.Bend Co.--(2)13,OG, (2)20,MC,DP (see notes), (1)27,29,TE,JMo
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: Ft.Bend Co.--(5)13,OG, (5)20,MC,DP, (15 + nest w/fledgling)27, (10)29,TE,JMo; White Memorial Park--(1)20,TE,JMo
 Hawk, Marsh: Galveston--(2)3,4,M, (2)4,TE, (1)5,J&BH, (3)20,TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.--(1)25,JBo
 Osprey: Galveston--(1)3,M
 Bobwhite: 7 reports (1-5)
 Rail, King: Bolivar--(2)4,TE, (2 ad., 8 chicks)6,J&BH; Anahuac NWR--(1)7,P&PN; High I.--(3)7,J&BH; Ft.Bend Co.--(1)13,OG; Galveston--(2, 1 with 5 black chicks)21,B&EW
 Rail, Clapper: 4 reports (2-10)
 Rail, Virginia: W.Galveston--(2)3,M, (1)19,JBo
 Sora: Galveston--(1)4,M,TE, (4)5,J&BH; Chambers Co.--(2)7,P&PN; High I.--(6)7,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(1)8,G

- Gallinule, Purple: Galveston--(2)4,TE, (3)5,J&BH; Anahuac NWR--(2)7,P&PN; Ft.Bend Co.--(1)13,OG, J&MBo, (3)20,MC,DP, (3)27,TE,JMo; Houston--(1)10-20,WC (White Oak Bayou); Brazoria Co.--(3)23,M (Flagg Lake)
- Gallinule, Common: 15 reports (1-15)
- Coot, American: 6 reports (1-30)
- Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(1)6,J&BH, (3)20,TE,JMo
- Plover, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(1)4,TE; Galveston--(1)3,M, (1)5,J&BH; High I.--(12)7,J&BH
- Plover, Piping: Bolivar--(1)4,TE, (1)6,J&BH; W.Galveston--(1)5,J&BH
- Plover, Wilson's: Bolivar--(10)4,TE, (4)6,J&BH, (10)20,TE,JMo; W.Galveston--(4)15,J&BH
- Killdeer: 10 reports (1-105, many of them young)
- Plover, Golden American: W.Galveston--(3)1,(2)3,(4)4,M; Bolivar--(10)4,TE; W.Harris Co.--(6)8,G, (1)18,TE
- Plover, Black-bellied: 5 reports (2-25)
- Turnstone, Ruddy: 8 reports (1-300)
- Curling, Long-billed: Galveston--(1)4,TE, (6)4,(1)16,M, (3)5,J&BH, (2)20,TE,JMo, (1)21,B&EW; High I.--(1)7,J&BH
- Whimbrel: Galveston--(3)1,(4)3,(2)16,M, (2)4,TE, (12)5,J&BH, (2)20,TE,JMo; Bolivar--(6)6,J&BH
- Sandpiper, Upland: Galveston I. St. Park--(1)20,TE,JMo (see notes)
- Sandpiper, Spotted: Galveston--(1)4,M, (2)5,J&BH, (1)20,TE,JMo; High I.--(3)7,J&BH
- Willet: 4 reports (15-40)
- Yellowlegs, Greater: W.Galveston--(4)1,4,(5)3,M; Bolivar--(1)4,TE; W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE
- Yellowlegs, Lesser: 6 reports (1-40)
- Knot, Red: Bolivar--(3)4,TE, (4)20,TE,JMo; Galveston--(65)5,J&BH
- Sandpiper, Pectoral: Bolivar--(2)4,TE; Galveston--(6)5,J&BH, (6)20,TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.--(4)8,G, (5)18,TE
- Sandpiper, White-rumped: Bolivar--(1)4,(100)20,TE; Anahuac NWR--(2)7,P&PN; High I.--(8)7,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(150)18,TE
- Sandpiper, Baird's: Galveston--(8)4,TE, (8)5,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE
- Sandpiper, Least: Galveston--(10)4,TE, (3)5,J&BH; High I.--(6)7,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(50)18,TE
- Dunlin: Galveston--(2)3,16,M, (6)21,B&EW; Bolivar--(75)4,TE, (200+)6,J&BH, (500)20,TE,JMo; Houston--(2)16,WC (Mercury Dr.)
- Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(5)4,TE, (1)20,TE,JMo (see notes)
- Dowitcher, Long-billed: W.Galveston--(4)3,M; Bolivar--(100)4,TE; High I.--(40)20,TE,JMo
- Sandpiper, Stilt: Bolivar--(25)4,TE; High I.--(200)7,P&PN, (43)7,J&BH; Houston--(40)12,(20)16,WC (Mercury Dr.)
- Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(10)4,TE, (10)20,TE,JMo; High I.--(1)7,P&PN
- Sandpiper, Western: Bolivar--(10)4,TE, (2,500)20,TE,JMo
- Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Bolivar--(10)4,TE; Galveston--(6)5,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(8)8,G, (50)18,TE
- Godwit, Marbled: W.Galveston--(3)3,M; Bolivar--(1)20,TE,JMo (see notes)
- Godwit, Hudsonian: Bolivar--(12)4,TE, (2)20,TE,JMo; Chambers Co.--(4)7,J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(1)18,TE; W.Galveston--(1)19,JBo
- Sanderling: 3 reports (500-750)
- Avocet, American: 4 reports (1-12)
- Stilt, Black-necked: High I.--(75-nesting)20,TE,JMo; 5 additional reports (8-10)
- Phalarope, Wilson's: Galveston--(2)3,M, (10)5,J&BH; Houston--(700)4,(500)12,WC (Mercury Dr.); Bolivar--(25)4,TE; Anahuac NWR--(10)7,P&PN; High I.--(21)7,J&BH
- Gull, Herring: 2 reports (10)
- Gull, Ring-billed: 3 reports (10-20)
- Gull, Laughing: 3 reports (100-1,000)
- Gull, Franklin's: Warren Lake--(1)18,TE
- Gull, Bonaparte's: High I.--(1)7,J&BH
- Tern, Gull-billed: Galveston--(1)4,M, (2)5,J&BH, (6)20,TE,JMo; High I.--(1)7,P&PN
- Tern, Forster's: 5 reports (2-50)
- Tern, Common: 3 reports (4-15)
- Tern, Least: 5 reports (1-50)
- Tern, Royal: 5 reports (10-300)
- Tern, Sandwich: 2 reports (15-20)
- Tern, Caspian: 2 reports (8-10)
- Tern, Black: 7 reports (1-63)
- Skimmer, Black: Ft.Bend Co.--(2)20,MC,DP; 4 additional reports (2-100)
- Dove, Rock: 3 reports (6025)
- Dove, White-winged: Galveston--(2)20,TE,JMo, (2-3)all month,J&JHa (yard)
- Dove, Mourning: 12 reports (1-30)
- DOVE, RINGED TURTLE: Bellaire--(1-3)all month,P&MJ (prior reports); Houston--(1)22,TE (yard-see notes)
- Dove, Inca: 6 reports (2-10)

Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 14 reports (1-20) (reported nesting at Hale Ranch State Park Site on 27th, TE, JMo)
 Cuckoo, Black-billed: Bellaire--(1)1, MJ (yard); Galveston--(1)5, J&BH; High I.--(1)7, J&BH
 Owl, Screech: Houston--(1)4, 14, 19, J&BH (yard)
 Owl, Barred: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)13, OG, (4)20, MC, DP, (10+nest)27, (5)29, TE, JMo
 Nighthawk, Common: 10 reports (1-40)
 Swift, Chimney: 9 reports (1-25)
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: Galveston--(1)4, TE, (3)16, M, (1)20, TE, JMo; High I.--(3)7, J&BH; Ft. Bend Co.--(2)13, OG, (2)20, MC, DP; Bellaire--(1)19-21, P&MJ (yard)
 Kingfisher, Belted: Bolivar--(1)4, TE; W. Galveston--(1)5, J&BH, (1)7, RG, RH; High I.--(1)7, P&PN; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)13, OG, (2)20, MC, DP, (1)27, TE, JMo
 Flicker, Common: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)20, MC, DP; Houston--(1)27, PJ (Hermann Park)
 Woodpecker, Pileated: Ft. Bend Co.--(8)13, OG, (3)27, (8)29, TE, JMo; White Memorial Park--(6)20, TE, JMo
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 7 reports (1-15) (nesting activity noted)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: Houston--(1)29, P&MJ (Hermann Park) (1) all month, J&BH (yard)
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: W. Galveston--(1)1, M
 Woodpecker, Downy: 7 reports (1-10) (nesting activity noted)
 Kingbird, Eastern: 11 reports (2-100) (nesting activity noted)
 Kingbird, Western: Galveston--(6)3, M, (2)5, J&BH; Bolivar--(1)6, J&BH; W. Harris Co.--(1)8, G
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 9 reports (1-40)
 Flycatcher, Great Crested: Houston--(2)6, P&PN (yard-one carrying nesting material into hole in tree); 10 additional reports (1-15) (other nesting activity noted)
 Phoebe, Eastern: W. Galveston--(1)3, M (no field notes)
 Flycatcher, Acadian: 7 reports (1-15) (nesting reported at Hale Ranch, 27th, TE, JMo)
 Flycatcher, Empidonax: 5 reports (1)
 Peewee, Eastern: 9 reports (1-5)
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Bolivar--(2)4, TE; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)13, OG
 Lark, Horned: W. Harris Co.--(2)18, TE (see notes); 4 additional reports (1-6)
 Swallow, Bank: Galveston--(2)3, M, (2)20, TE, JMo; Chambers Co.--(1)7, P&PN; W. Harris Co.--(1)18, TE
 Swallow, Rough-winged: High I.--(15)20, TE, JMo; Ft. Bend Co.--(2)20, MC, DP
 Swallow, Barn: 9 reports (1-75)
 Swallow, Cliff: Houston--(1)4, WC (Mercury Dr.); Ft. Bend Co.--(6)27, TE, JMo (Hwy 59&6)
 Martin, Purple: 7 reports (5-50)
 Jay, Blue: 8 reports (2-10, some of them young)
 Crow, Common: 8 reports (2-40)
 Crow, Fish: Jefferson Co.--(2)20, TE, JMo (see notes)
 Chickadee, Carolina: 7 reports (2-50, many of them young)
 Titmouse, Tufted: 7 reports (2-75, many of them young)
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Houston--(1)17, JMo (yard)
 Wren, Carolina: 7 reports (1-25, many of them young)
 Wren, Sedge (Short-billed Marsh): Houston--(1)4, 5, WC (White Oak Bayou)
 Mockingbird: 10 reports (3-30)
 Catbird, Gray: Galveston--(4)3, M, (1)5, J&BH; High I.--(1)4, TE, (5)7, J&BH; Ft. Bend Co.--(2)13, OG
 Thrasher, Brown: High I.--(1)4, TE; Houston--(1)10-14, WC (White Oak Bayou)
 THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: W. Galveston--(1)3, 4, 16, M, (1)5, J&BH, (1)21, B&EW (prior report)
 Robin, American: Galveston--(1)20, TE, JMo
 Thrush, Wood: 6 reports (1-2)
 Thrush, Swainson's: Houston--(1)3, 4, J&BH (yard), (2)14, P&PN (yard); High I.--(1)4, TE, (5)7, J&BH, (1)20, TE, JMo; Galveston--(2)5, J&BH, (1)16, M; Ft. Bend Co.--(2)13, OG; Bellaire--(5)14, P&MJ (yard)
 Thrush, Gray-checked: Bellaire--(1)1, 4, 8, P&MJ (yard); Houston--(1)3, TE (City Hall); High I.--(5)4, TE
 Veery: W. Galveston--(2)3, M; Bellaire--(1)8, P&MJ (yard)
 Bluebird, Eastern: Ft. Bend Co.--(3)27, (4)29, TE, JMo
 Waxwing, Cedar: W. Galveston--(2)3, (15)16, M, (5)4, TE; Houston--(1)5, P&PN (yard), (15)14, TE (yard)
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 7 reports (4-20, many of them young)
 Starling: 6 reports (2-100)
 Vireo, White-eyed: Ft. Bend Co.--(50)13, OG, (60, many young)27, TE, JMo; 6 additional reports (2-40)
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)3, OG, (1)20, MC, DP, (2)29, TE, JMo
 Vireo, Solitary: High I.--(1)4, TE; Galveston--(1)5, J&BH
 Vireo, Red-eyed: 12 reports (1-15) (nesting activity noted)
 Vireo, Philadelphia: High I.--(6)4, TE; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)13, OG
 Vireo, Warbling: High I.--(1)4, TE, (1)7, J&BH; Galveston--(n/c)5, J&BH, (1)6, M
 Warbler, Black-and-white: 6 reports (1-5)
 Warbler, Prothonotary: Ft. Bend Co.--(10)13, OG, (6)20, MC, DP, (25, 20 singing males)27, (10)29, TE, JMo; Lake Charlotte--(2)20, TE, JMo; Bolivar--(1)20, TE, JMo

- Warbler, Swainson's: Bear Creek Park--(3)18,TE; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)20,MC,DP, (1 singing and territorial)27, (2 singing)29,TE,JMo
- Warbler, Tennessee: Bellaire--(1)1,P&MJ (yard); Galveston--(3)3,(2)4,16,M; Houston--(5)3,(City Hall), (1)4,TE (yard); High I.--(5)4,TE, (2)7,J&BH, (1)20,TE,JMo; W. Harris Co.--(1)18,TE
- Warbler, Nashville: W. Galveston--(1)3,M; High I.--(2)4,TE
- Warbler, Northern Parula: Ft. Bend Co.--(20-1 feeding a fledgling)13,OG, (40-several young)27,(25, 6 young)29,TE,JMo; 6 additional reports (1-6)
- Warbler, Yellow: High I.--(1)4,TE, (1)7,J&BH; Galveston--(1)4,M
- Warbler, Magnolia: Galveston--(2)3,(1)15,M, (1)5,J&BH; Houston--(1)3,J&BH (yard), (1)3,TE (City Hall), (1)14,P&PN (yard), (5)14,TE,yard; High I.--(15)4,TE, (4)7,J&BH, (1)7,P&PN; Bellaire--(1)5,14,(2)9,P&MJ (yard)
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue: E. Galveston--(2)15,M, Dr. & Mrs. C.E. Hall (see notes)
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: Galveston--(4)1,(2)3,4,M, (2)5,J&BH; Houston--(1)3,TE (City Hall), (3)14,TE (yard); High I.--(20)4,TE, (1)7,J&BH
- Warbler, Cerulean: Houston--(1)3,WC (White Oak Bayou); High I.--(1)4,TE
- Warbler, Blackburnian: Galveston--(2)1,(6)3,(4)4,M; Houston--(1)3,J&BH (yard), (1)14,P&PN (yard), (1)14,TE (yard); High I.--(10)4,TE, (1)7,J&BH,P&PN
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: Kempner Park--(2)4,M; Lake Charlotte--(1)20,TE,JMo
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Galveston--(6)3,(1)4,M, (1)5,J&BH; Houston--(1)3,J&BH (yard); High I.--(15)4,TE, (2)7,J&BH; Bellaire--(1)14,P&MJ (yard)
- Warbler, Bay-breasted: Galveston--(10)3,(8)4,(1)15,M, (4)5,J&BH; Houston--(1)3,TE (City Hall); High I.--(25)4,TE, (10)7,J&BH
- Warbler, Blackpoll: W. Galveston--(1)3,M
- Warbler, Pine: White Memorial Park--(1)7,P&PN, (1)20,TE,JMo
- Ovenbird: (1)2,J&BH (yard), (2)3,TE (City Hall), (1)7,P&PN (yard), (2)8,14,(1)19,WC (City Hall), (1)14,WC (White Oak Bayou); High Island--(2)4,TE; Galveston--(4)5,J&BH
- Waterthrush, Northern: High I.--(4)4,TE, (2)7,J&BH, (1)7,P&PN
- Warbler, Kentucky: Houston--(1)3,TE (City Hall); Galveston--(1)4,M, (1)5,J&BH; High I.--(1)4,TE; Bellaire--(1)14,P&MJ (yard)
- Warbler, Mourning: High Island--(1)7,J&BH; Ft. Bend Co.--(1)13,OG
- Yellowthroat, Common: 6 reports (1-4)
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: Houston--(1)3,J&BH (yard)
- Warbler, Hooded: High I.--(1)4,TE; Bear Creek Park--(1)18,TE; White Memorial Park--(1)20,TE,JMo
- Warbler, Wilson's: Galveston--(1)4,M; Houston--(1)13,14,WC (White Oak Bayou); Bellaire--(1)14,P&MJ (yard)
- Warbler, Canada: High I.--(2)4,TE; Houston--(1)4,J&BH (yard), (1)14,TE (yard); Ft. Bend Co.--(4)13,OG; Bellaire--(1)9,(4)14,P&MJ (yard); E. Galveston--(1)15,M
- Redstart, American: Galveston--(2)1,(6)3,(2)4,(1)15,M; Houston--(3)3,TE (City Hall), (1)3,J&BH (yard), (1)14,TE (yard), (1)14,P&PN (yard), (1)16,18,WC (White Oak Bayou); High I.--(10)4,TE, (3)7,J&BH, (1)7,P&PN, (2)20,TE,JMo; Ft. Bend Co.--(4)13,OG, (2)27,(3)29,TE,JMo (see notes); Bellaire--(1)14,P&MJ (yard)
- House Sparrow: 6 reports (2-100)
- Bobolink: Galveston I. State Park--(2)7,RG,RH; Anahuac NWR--(1)7,P&PN
- Meadowlark, Eastern: 10 reports (1-75)
- Blackbird, Yellow-headed: Galveston--(1)4,TE, (4-1 m, 3f.)4,M, (2)5,J&BH
- Blackbird, Red-winged: 12 reports (10-1,000) (nesting activity noted)
- Oriole, Orchard: Galveston--(4)3,M, (5)4,TE, (8)20,TE,JMo; Anahuac NWR--(1)7,P&PN, W. Harris Co.--(1)8,G
- Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): Bellaire--(1)1,8,14,P&MJ (yard); Galveston--(6)1,(10)3,M, (1)5,J&BH; High Island--(25)4,TE, (1)7,P&PN; Houston--(1)14,TE (yard)
- Grackle, Boat-tailed: W. Galveston--(4)3,M; Bolivar--(10)4,TE, (10)20,TE,JMo; Anahuac NWR--(50+)7,P&PN
- Grackle, Great-tailed: 7 reports (2-50) (nesting activity noted)
- Grackle, Common: 5 reports (6-75, many of them young)
- Cowbird, Brown-headed: 8 reports (2-150) (Alas, nest parasitizing of Cardinals noted)
- Tanager, Scarlet: Galveston--(4)1,3IM, (1)5,J&BH; High I.--(5)4,TE, (2)7,P&PN; Houston--(1)14,P&PN (yard)
- Tanager, Summer: W. Galveston--(3)1,(2)3,M; High I.--(3)4,TE; Ft. Bend Co.--(5)13,OG, (5)27,(2)29,TE,JMo
- Cardinal: 10 reports (2-75, many of them young)
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: W. Galveston--(4)3,(2)4,M; High I.--(15)4,TE, (3)7,J&BH; Bellaire--(2)14,P&MJ (yard)
- Grosbeak, Blue: Galveston--(6)3,(2)4,M, (4)5,J&BH; High I.--(1)7,J&BH
- Bunting, Indigo: 7 reports (2-20)
- Bunting, Painted: 8 reports (1-40) (nesting activity noted)
- Dickcissel: 8 reports (1-30)
- GROSBEAK, EVENING: Houston--(1 f.)4 thru 12, Avis Brister (yard) (See notes)
- Siskin, Pine: Bellaire--(20)1,2,(6)4,5,(2)8-11,(3)14,P&MJ (yard); Houston--(1)3,WC (White Oak Bayou)

Sparrow, Savannah: Bolivar--(1)4,TE; Galveston--(4)5,J&BH; High I.--(2)7,J&BH; W. Harris Co.--(2)8,G
 Sparrow, Seaside: High I.--(2)7,P&PN, (2)20,TE,JMo
 Sparrow, Chipping: Bellaire--(1)5,P&MJ (yard)
 Sparrow, White-throated: Houston--(1)13,14,WC (City Hall)
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: Bolivar--(1)4,TE; Houston--(1)12,WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)14, WC (City Hall)

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS May 1978

J&MBo--Janice & Mary Bourgeoise; MC--Marilyn Crane; WC--Wesley Cureton; TE--Ted L. Eubanks Jr.; RG--Rick Goldfarb; RH--Richard Harris--J&JH--John & Jane Hamilton; J&BH--Jean & Bill Harwell; P&MJ--T. Paul & Margaret Jones; PM--Peggy Milstead; JMo--Jim Morgan; P&PN--Paul & Phyllis Nimmons; DP--Dick Pratt; B&EW--Bob & Edith Willman; G--party of Gladys Galbraith, Sarah Gordon, P&MJ; M--party of John & Jane Hamilton, Martha Micks; OG--OG field trip to Hale Ranch State Park Site, fide JMo

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES May 1978

Mallard: Two drakes. Green head with white ring on neck. Purplish breast, gray belly. Dark back. 30x telescope. --Wesley M. Cureton

Single mallard drake observed in pond at corner of FM 529 and Katy-Hockley Cut-off Road. Green head, reddish breast, white undersides, black rump and tail. Observed in excellent light with 20x scope from 75 yards for 5 minutes. --Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

Green-winged Teal: Two (drake and assumed duck) observed in reservoir near Cypress Creek and Katy-Hockley Cutoff Road. Drake had reddish head, buffy breast, yellowish undertail and white crescent on flanks behind breast. Observed in excellent light with 20x scope for 5 minutes from 150 yards. --Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

American Wigeon: Drake; white crown, green ear patch; white wing patch; black rump bordered by white; brown sides. Seen at 200 yards with scope. --Jim Morgan

Red-tailed Hawk: Pair appear to be resident (Hale Ranch State Park Site); may be nesting. Seen in SE corner of ranch near river. --Marilyn Crane

Upland Sandpiper: Small head on thin neck; short bill; long tail. Seen at rest and in flight by both observers as close as 15 feet with binocs and naked eye. --Jim Morgan

Baird's Sandpiper: Eight Baird's sandpipers observed on new Galveston Municipal Golf Course; sandpiper larger than nearby Least Sandpiper, smaller than associated Pectorals; black legs, solid buffy breasts, wing tips extending beyond tail, scaly backs (particularly area bordering wings), birds fed in a horizontal position, picking rather than probing. Excellent light, 20x scope; 40 yards for 15 min. --Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

Short-billed Dowitcher: Feeding at Bolivar Flats. When flushed bird emitted the familiar *tu-tu-tu* call. --Jim Morgan

Marbled Godwit: Large shorebird with upturned bill. Buff brown color and cinnamon wing linings noted in flight. Seen by both observers as close as 25 yards at rest and in flight with binocs. --Jim Morgan

DOVE, RINGED-TURTLE: Single dove observed on Drake Street near my home; large whitish dove with black band on nape; I had observed what I had believed to be a pair of these doves at my fountain earlier in the week; more than likely these birds represent an expansion of the Bellaire colony which has been observed for last 5 years. --Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

Horned Lark: Although the Horned Lark is a fairly common winter resident in W. Harris County, it is quite unusual to be seeing them there this late in the spring. The two individuals that I saw on the 18th were drinking at a small pool in the corner of a rice field off of Clay Road. What was even more interesting about these particular birds was that they were of a race distinctly different from the Texas Horned Lark which so commonly inhabits our coast. These birds were of a much grayer ground color than our brownish coastal birds. Even more interesting was the fact that the yellow on these larks' heads was restricted to the throat, instead of suffusing into the rest of the face. For example, the superciliary line on these birds was immaculately white, instead of being washed with yellow as on the coastal birds. Oberholser calls this race of Horned Lark the Prairie Horned Lark, and it is more than likely that these two birds were of that race. --Ted L. Eubanks Jr.

Fish Crow: Pair seen carrying nesting material across Hwy 87 west of Sabine Pass. Small crows; heard calling. Seen for 2 minutes by both observers. --Jim Morgan

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 2 males feeding outside glass doors of private home. Close as 6 feet, not at all afraid; back, crown and forehead were blue grey; throat and sides were black, breast and belly white, a small white wing spot was visible. --Jane Hamilton

American Redstart: Two birds singing in same area as found last year and found singing on May 13, 1978 also. One definitely an immature male with orange shoulder patches and tail spots. Some black on throat. Other bird also immature or female. Seen and heard by both observers for 20 minutes at 15-50 feet with binocs. A third individual was located on May 29th in this same area and it, too, was singing. --Jim Morgan

EVENING GROSBEAK: Gray bird with black and white wing pattern, large yellow beak, typical of Grosbeak species. --Avis Brister

SPECIAL REPORT TO THE CLEARING HOUSE

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: 1 adult, May 17, Sea Isle, Dr. Clayton's home. Seen at 20 yards, 20x telescope. Heavy set kingbird with yellow underbelly, clear white throat, olive gray wash on back, dark black tail with no white outer tail coverts. Bird observed perched and in flight. --Rick Goldfarb

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