

# The Spoonbill

Published by The Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston

## Calendar

### MAY

Monday, May 6: **OG Membership Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. St. Philips United Methodist Church, 5501 Beechnut at Renwick. Mario Cohn-Hoft, a doctoral student at Louisiana State University, will present a program entitled "Bio-geography of Little Green Amazonian Flycatchers That All Look and Sound Alike." Mario, born and raised in Massachusetts, received his bachelor's degree in biology from Dartmouth College and his master's from Tulane on dietary specialization in Amazonian birds. A naturalist since earliest memories and a birder since age 14, Mario first visited the Amazon after college graduation in 1987 for what was supposed to be a 6-month birdbanding internship. He stayed three years, became fluent in Portuguese, fell in love with the birds, the forest and the people of Brazil, and met the Brazilian scientist who became his wife. He lives in the United States long enough each year to meet requirements for school and owns a house in Manaus, Brazil. Mario occasionally leads tours for Field Guides. Mario wrote, "I'm interested in all aspects of bird biology, especially vocalizations, species limits, distribution patterns and behavior of Amazonian forest birds. And, I've been involved in the discovery of two new birds (species or sub-species) so far, but there are more out there!" This should be a fascinating program. Pre-meeting Learning Corner at 6:30 p.m.: Karen Beekman on bird vocalizations.

Saturday, May 4: **OG Field Trip to Atkinson Island.** This trip, limited to the first 14 who sign up, has been filled, however, if you are interested in participating, call Bill Eley. A second boat will be made available if

another 14 sign on for the trip, or a cancellation may enable you to go. Participants will be ferried to Atkinson Island, located at the north end of Galveston Bay just off the tip of LaPorte, for a half-day of birding with P.D. Hulce. Bring your lunch and appropriate footwear for wet and muddy walking. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Bayland Park in Baytown (on the Baytown side of LaPorte bridge). Expect to see breeding Least Terns and Black Skimmers, as well as rails and shorebirds. *Bill Eley, 662-0034.*

Friday-Sunday, May 10-12: **OG Field Trip to Kenedy Ranch.** The Kenedy Ranch, just south of Sarita, Texas off U.S. Hwy. 77, has a large population of nesting Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl and nesting Tropical Parula. The ranch managers have offered the OG a special rate of \$100 for two nights and a day and half of birding on this large, private south Texas ranch. They provide guide service and a large bunkhouse that sleeps 11. You must provide your own sleeping bag and food. If you do not mind sleeping in a bunkhouse with 10 others, this is your chance to see many of the Rio Grande specialities. This trip is limited to 11 participants. Register early. Call David Bradford between 9:00 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. to sign up and for trip information.

### JUNE

Saturday, June 1: **7th Annual OG Potluck Picnic and Field Trip.** Brazos Bend State Park. Details in next month's newsletter.

# Strictly for the Bird-ers

## OG Meeting Minutes

April 1, 1996: Vice Chairman Dan Coleman called the meeting to order and announced that the May meeting will be held at St. Philips United Methodist Church as renovations are still incomplete at Bayland Community Center. The June meeting will be the annual potluck picnic at Brazos Bend State Park on June 1.

David Bradford, Nominating Committee chairman, announced the names of those nominated to serve as next year's OG officers: Bob Luckner, Chairman; Dan Coleman, Vice Chairman; and Bob Ohmart, Treasurer. No names have been submitted for Secretary at the time of the meeting. There were no nominations from the floor. Voting will take place at the May OG meeting.

Bob Honig announced that there are three openings in the Houston Audubon Society Trinidad and Tobago trip, June 29-July 10, 1996. Interested parties are invited to call Bob or Maggie Honig at 665-6963.

Fred Collins, director of the Hanna and Arthur Ginzburg Nature Discovery Center in Russ Pitman Park, presented a fine program on bird migration and brought study skins of migrants. Peter Gottschling, using the study skins, discussed the finer points of warbler identification. *Karen Vargas, Secretary*

## California Pelagic Trip

September 20-23, 1996: The Houston Audubon Society is sponsoring a deepwater pelagic trip out of Monterey Bay to the Albacore Fishing Grounds, Sur Canyon and Guide Seamount. The price of approximately \$760 will cover round trip airfare from Houston to San Francisco, van transportation, boat fees, a \$100 donation to HAS and guide service provided by Mike Austin. David Bradford will serve as the second

leader if enough people attend warranting a second rental van. We depart Houston about 4:30 p.m. on Friday, bird the Carmel River valley Saturday morning looking for California Thrasher, California Towhee, Wrentit and Nuttall's Woodpecker. Saturday afternoon we'll look for Surf-bird, Wandering Tattler, Black Oystercatcher and much more on Monterey Peninsula. We'll enjoy the 12-hour pelagic trip Sunday and return to Houston on Monday. We expect to see Pink-footed, Buller's and Sooty Shearwaters, three species of jaegers, South Polar Skua, Sabine's Gull, Common Murre and Cassin's and Rhinoceros Auklets. A deposit is needed to hold your registration with full payment due in July. For more details call David Bradford at 855-2615.

## Election of 1996-97 Officers on May 6

The Nominating Committee chairman, David Bradford, announced the following slate of officers for 1996-97: Chairman, Bob Luckner; Vice-Chairman, Dan Coleman; Treasurer, Bob Ohmart; Secretary, Janet Rathjen. Election of officers will be held at the May 6, 1996 membership meeting.

## TPWD Nongame Posters and Stamps

Texas Parks and Wildlife has issued poster and stamp sets to mark the tenth anniversary of the Special Nongame & Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The fund is used to acquire wildlife habitat, conduct research and management, and provide education about nongame

and endangered species. To find out more about these sets and the nongame program, contact TPWD, Attn: Nongame & Urban Program, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 or call 1-800-792-1112.

## Have you seen.....?

A substantial number of juvenile and adult White-faced Ibises have been color-tagged in the northwest Great Basin as part of a long-term breeding ecology study. Each tag is red with a different-colored terminal margin and a three-number code. If you see a tagged bird, report date and location, tag colors and number (if possible) to Eric P. Kelchlin, USFWS, Stillwater NWR, Fallon NV 89406-1236, or call 702/423-5128.



FOR BIRDERS ONLY  
TEXAS

## DEEP WATER PELAGIC TRIPS

from South Padre Island

• Saturday, June 1

and Port O'Connor

• Saturday, June 29

• Saturday, July 27

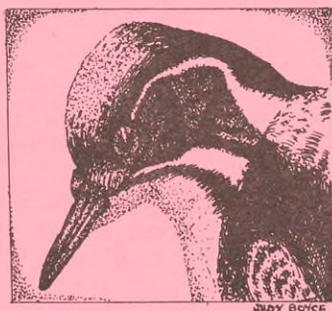
• Saturday, Aug. 24

• Saturday, Sept. 21

Expected species include Band-rumped and Leach's Storm-Petrels, Bridled and Sooty Terns, Masked Booby, and Cory's and Audubon's Shearwaters; with a variety of fish, dolphins, and even whales likely. Trips to date have resulted in fourteen species of pelagic birds, including Greater and Sooty Shearwater.

To make a reservation, write  
Dwight Peake  
30 LeBrun Court  
Galveston TX 77551-1566  
or call (409) 740-4621 (eve)

To get on our mailing list,  
write  
Mark Elwonger  
405 W Brazos  
Victoria TX 77901  
or call (512) 573-5666 (eve)



Jim Day

---

## P E R S O N A L H I G H

---

For a day's birding to be memorable, it helps if you've done a certain amount of suffering. Until this day I suffered many years in a futile search for two birds. Three years ago in Colorado, I spent hours looking for the Three-toed and Black-backed Woodpeckers. OG members who went on the June 1993 trip to Colorado can attest to that. On my annual trips to Washington state and on forays into British Columbia, I searched burn areas for these birds--without luck.

Countless times someone encountered in my search told me, "There's a Three-toed just ahead working over a stump, you can't miss him." *You can't miss him.* The kiss of death. I have learned that when someone says that to me, I might as well pack up and go home.

In August 1995 I set out to visit family, classmates and friends in my hometown in northwest Washington. A highlight was to be a reunion of the Hugo Helmer Marching Accordion Band. I was never a member, but a friend of mine was. I couldn't miss this unique experience. And there was to be a reception for my newly married nephew and his Mexican bride. Someplace, too, in the back of my head, was a voice saying, "Maybe this year."

On a field trip with Skagit Audubon, I met Gary, a young school teacher from upriver in Concrete. Gary proved to be a skilled birder with a curious mind, willing to share his experiences with strangers. With what I thought was well-disguised anxiety,

I asked him if he knew where to find Three-toed Woodpecker. "A friend of mine wants to see one," I lied.

Gary told me in minute detail how to find the Hardy Burn, site of a forest fire some years earlier. It was well up the North Cascades Highway (Milepost 153), up a steep trail and 200 meters to the left of a stream. The nest tree was eight meters below some sand-colored boulders. He didn't say it, but the implication was clear. *You can't miss it.*

I bundled my old mother into the car and headed up the Skagit to the Hardy Burn. Just as described, there was the burn area and the nest tree. There were even some woodpeckers around--lots of them. Hairy and Downy, but no Three-toed, and no Black-backed. Logic told me they had to be around, but where?

Days passed. The end of my visit neared. Should I give it another try? Could I take another failed search? I rationalized the situation. I don't *want* to find these birds. If I did, I would no longer have all this anticipation to enjoy. In a perverse way, I was enjoying the search and the anticipation.

On September 5, the eve of my birthday, I returned to Hardy Burn, up the trail and clambered about the mountainside again. There's a Hairy. There's a Downy. There's another Hairy, but no, it has a solid black back and a thick, white mustachial mark. Could it be? Yesssss! A Black-backed Woodpecker. No yellow on the head. A female.

More scrabbling on the mountainside turned up Audubon's Warbler and Warbling Vireo, but no Three-toed. One shouldn't be greedy. After all, I had just seen a bird I had searched for high and low for years. Be happy and go home. "But," I thought, "Rainy Pass was just a mile or so farther up the highway." I decided to play tourist and have a look. It was at Rainy Pass that years earlier, a birder had "just seen" a Three-toed down the path. As I pulled into the parking area, two woodpeckers fluttered and landed on a tree right above my car. I got out and looked. One was a Hairy. The other had a laddered back with white stripes above and below the cheek. And--three toes!

For the next hour I watched the two birds interacting through my scope, though they were no more than 30 feet away. They always remained within two or three feet of each other. If one flew up, the other followed. I wondered if the Hairy's drilling made it easier for the Three-toed to scrape off bark or, was it the other way around? I never did decide.

One final question: If, as the proverbial lightning strike in a forest, a "lifer dance" is performed deep in the woods and nobody sees it, did it really happen?

*[Jim Day, an OG member, lives in Arlington, Virginia. He has joined the Peace Corps and will be leaving for Central Europe after a visit to Texas for spring migration.]*

# Clearing House

MARCH 1996

EDITORS: PHYLLIS AND TONY FRANK

A total of 218 species were reported for the month. This number is greater than the average number of species (208) reported for the past 6 years in March (high 241 and low 176). The first record of Red-naped Sapsucker from the UTC was documented at Smith Oaks in High Island. The Kelp Gull, first identified by R. Behrstock and Jon Dunn on Feb 4, 1996, continued to be present through the month, although only one written report was submitted. Other rare gulls were also reported. Masked Ducks continue to be present at Brazos Bend State Park. Has anyone seen evidence of breeding? Glossy Ibis, which appears to actually occur with regularity on the UTC, was reported.

All reports are due May 3rd. Readers are reminded that all decisions regarding checklist status are made by the checklist committee. Publication of a rarity does not imply acceptance of the record by the editors or the committee. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

- Loon, Common 2-2 1/3 JE-(3)2,JW  
Grebe, Least 10-15 2/2 JE-TP(1)10,JW; JE-TP(1)15,JW  
Grebe, Pied-bill 1-31 19/254 FB-1/20 GA-10/167 JE-8/67  
Pelican, Amer Wht 2-31 10/1432 GA-5/930 JE-5/502  
Pelican, Brown 14-31 4/116 GA-4/116  
Corm, Dbl-crested 2-31 11/97 FB-1/3 GA-6/56 JE-4/38  
Corm, Neotropic 1-31 16/965 GA-6/486 JE-10/479  
Anhinga 1-30 9/164 GA-4/8 HA-1/150 JE-4/6  
Bittern, American 24-24 1/4 CH-AW(4)24,DS  
Bittern, Least 24-31 4/4 CH-AW(1)24,DS; CH-AW(1)31,GAA;  
CH-AW(1)31,JWR; GA-HI(1)30,JW  
Heron, Great Blue 1-31 14/63 FB-1/1 GA-5/40 JE-8/22  
Egret, Great 1-31 18/584 CH-3/4 FB-1/2 GA-4/389 JE-10/189  
Egret, Snowy 1-31 14/319 CH-1/1 GA-5/167 JE-8/151  
Heron, Little Blu 2-31 11/68 GA-4/19 JE-7/49  
Heron, Tricolored 9-31 7/62 FB-1/1 GA-5/19 JE-1/42  
Egret, Reddish 14-31 3/6 GA-3/6  
Egret, Cattle 1-31 10/154 GA-4/85 JE-6/69  
Heron, Green 14-31 5/18 CH-SP(3)30,DV; GA-BF(1)14,JW;  
JE-SW(8)24,EKS; JE-(1)31,JW; JE-(5)31,JW  
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 16-16 1/1 JE-(1)16,GTA  
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 16-31 4/21 GA-HI(3)30,JW; JE-(3)16,GTA;  
JE-SR(13)24,EKS; JE-SW(2)31,JW  
Ibis, White 1-31 12/397 FB-1/20 GA-5/136 JE-6/241  
**Ibis, Glossy** 1-29 3/3 GA-(1)29,JD; JE-(1)1,JW; JE-(1)2,JW  
Ibis, White-faced 1-31 12/597 CH-1/75 FB-1/2 GA-2/18 JE-8/502  
Spoonbill, Roseat 2-31 10/330 GA-4/300 JE-6/30  
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs 9-31 9/382 FB-1/1 GA-4/233 JE-4/148  
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd 2-27 4/480 FB-1/350 JE-3/130  
Goose, Gr Wht-frn 2-2 1/200 JE-(200)2,JW  
Goose, Snow 2-16 4/1088 CH-1/8 JE-3/1080  
Teal, Green-wing 1-31 15/817 FB-1/4 GA-5/76 JE-9/737  
Duck, Mottled 1-31 13/199 FB-1/6 GA-4/19 JE-8/174  
Mallard 2-24 2/4 JE-(2)2,JW; JE-(2)24,EKS  
Pintail, Northern 2-30 3/37 GA-1/10 JE-2/27  
Teal, Blue-winged 1-31 18/674 CH-2/4 FB-1/2 GA-5/156 JE-10/512  
Teal, Cinnamon 9-9 1/1 FB-BB(1)9,HMW  
Shoveler, Northrn 1-31 14/1415 FB-1/4 GA-4/329 JE-9/1082  
Gadwall 1-31 13/732 FB-1/1 GA-5/268 JE-7/463  
Wigeon, American 2-31 10/99 FB-1/2 GA-5/48 JE-4/49  
Canvasback 2-16 3/38 GA-1/1 JE-2/37  
Redhead 31-31 1/1 JE-PI(1)31,HKS  
Duck, Ring-necked 9-31 5/76 FB-1/40 GA-3/31 JE-1/5  
Scaup, Greater 1-31 7/11 CH-AW(4)31,JWR; GA-(1)14,JW;  
GA-HI(1)16,GTA; GA-HI(1)30,JW;  
GA-(1)31,JWR; JE-(2)1,JW; JE-(1)14,JW  
Scaup, Lesser 1-31 16/954 CH-1/1 GA-5/437 JE-10/516  
Scoter, Surf 27-27 1/2 JE-SR(2)27,DKS  
Bufflehead 2-3 2/30 JE-(20)2,JW; JE-(10)3,JW  
Merganser, Red-br 14-30 3/10 GA-3/10  
Duck, Ruddy 2-31 8/1365 GA-4/15 JE-4/1350  
Duck, Masked 9-17 2/13 FB-BB(4)9,HMW; FB-BB(9)17,JWR  
Vulture, Black 9-9 1/7 FB-BB(7)9,HMW  
Vulture, Turkey 2-31 11/102 CH-1/10 FB-1/20 GA-6/59 JE-3/13  
Osprey 20-30 2/2 GA-HI(1)20,DV; GA-HI(1)30,JW  
Kite, White-taild 2-31 9/23 CH-1/2 GA-6/16 JE-2/5  
Harrier, Northern 2-31 13/34 CH-1/1 GA-5/15 JE-7/18  
Hawk, Sharp-shin 2-20 5/5 GA-HI(1)2,DV; GA-HI(1)16,GTA;  
GA-HI(1)20,DV; JE-(1)3,JW; JE-(1)16,GTA  
Hawk, Cooper's 2-16 2/2 CH-SP(1)16,DV; GA-HI(1)2,DV  
Hawk, Red-shouldr 10-10 1/1 JE-(1)10,JW  
Hawk, Broad-wingd 16-31 6/144 BR-(1)16,DM; GA-HI(1)20,DV;  
HA-(40)30,PTF; JE-SW(1)27,DKS;  
JE-SW(100)31,HKS; JE-(1)31,JW  
Hawk, Swainson's 31-31 1/1 JE-(1)31,JW  
Hawk, White-taild 31-31 1/1 GA-(1)31,DM  
Hawk, Red-taild 1-31 14/69 CH-2/10 FB-1/15 GA-3/9 JE-8/35  
(Hawk, Harlan's) 31-31 1/1 HA-(1)31,JWR  
(Hawk, Krider's) 2-2 1/2 CH-SP(2)2,DV  
Caracara, Crested 31-31 1/1 GA-GBP(1)31,AAH  
Kestrel, American 1-31 18/137 CH-3/7 FB-1/10 GA-5/66 JE-9/54  
Merlin 2-31 3/3 CH-AW(1)2,DV; JE-SW(1)31,HKS;  
JE-SW(1)31,JW  
Falcon, Peregrine 16-31 3/4 GA-BF(1)16,GTA; GA-BF(1)30,JW;  
GA-(2)31,JWR  
Prairie Chick, Gr 31-31 1/2 GA-GBP(2)31,AAH  
Bobwhite, Northrn 20-20 1/1 CH-SP(1)20,DV  
Rail, Black 24-24 1/1 JE-SR(1)24,EKS  
Rail, Clapper 30-30 1/1 GA-(1)30,JW  
Rail, King 15-31 4/6 CH-2/3 GA-1/1 JE-1/2  
Sora 15-24 2/2 CH-AW(1)24,DS; JE-TP(1)15,JW  
Gallinule, Purple 31-31 1/1 CH-AW(1)31,GAA  
Moorhen, Common 1-31 14/243 CH-2/7 FB-1/40 GA-4/32 JE-7/164  
Coot, American 1-31 16/4012 CH-2/20 FB-1/400  
GA-5/207 JE-8/3385  
Plover, Blk-belli 14-31 6/1171 GA-5/1161 JE-1/10

- Golden-Plover, Am 10-31 10/517 GA-(21)14,JW; GA-(101)16,GTAS;  
GA-(100)30,JW; GA-GBP(100)31,AAH;  
GA-(2)31,DM; GA-(149)31,JW; JE-(12)10,JW;  
JE-(24)11,JW; JE-(5)14,JW; JE-(3)31,JW
- Plover, Snowy 14-31 6/35 GA-BF(5)14,JW; GA-BF(10)16,GTAS;  
GA-BF(3)30,JW; GA-BF(4)31,JW;  
GA-BF(6)31,JW; JE-SR(7)31,JW
- Plover, Wilson's 14-31 4/37 GA-BF(5)14,JW; GA-BF(4)16,GTAS;  
GA-BF(20)30,JW; GA-BF(8)31,JW
- Plover, Semipalm 14-30 3/170 GA-3/170
- Plover, Piping 14-31 5/135 GA-4/132 JE-1/3
- Killdeer 1-31 17/440 CH-1/4 FB-1/3 GA-5/130 JE-10/303
- Plover, Mountain** 24-24 1/10 CH-(10)24,DS
- Oystercatcher, Am 16-16 1/1 GA-YBR(1)16,GTAS
- Stilt, Black-neck 1-31 9/118 GA-3/36 JE-6/82
- Avocet, American 14-31 4/4115 GA-4/4115
- Yellowlegs, Great 1-31 12/40 CH-1/1 FB-1/1 GA-5/21 JE-5/17
- Yellowlegs, Less 1-31 14/212 CH-1/1 GA-5/98 JE-8/113
- Willet 14-31 7/524 GA-5/516 JE-2/8
- Sandprr, Upland 31-31 2/7 GA-GBP(3)31,AAH; GA-(4)31,JW
- Whimbrel 16-31 4/14 GA-YBR(2)16,GTAS; GA-(3)30,JW;  
GA-YBR(1)31,JW; JE-SR(8)31,JW
- Curlew, Long-bill 14-31 5/36 GA-5/36
- Godwit, Marbled 14-31 4/376 GA-4/376
- Turnstone, Ruddy 14-16 2/5 GA-(3)14,JW; GA-BF(2)16,GTAS
- Knot, Red 14-16 2/37 GA-BF(25)14,JW; GA-BF(12)16,GTAS
- Sanderling 14-31 5/1150 GA-4/1000 JE-1/150
- Sandprr, Semipalm 14-30 3/55 GA-BF(10)14,JW; GA-BF(25)16,GTAS;  
GA-BF(20)30,JW
- Sandprr, Western 3-31 6/2150 GA-4/2125 JE-2/25
- Sandprr, Least 10-30 5/116 GA-3/82 JE-2/34
- Sandprr, Wht-rump** 30-30 1/1 GA-BF(1)30,GAR
- Sandprr, Baird's 31-31 1/4 CH-AW(4)31,JWR
- Sandprr, Pectoral 10-31 7/146 GA-(1)30,JW; GA-GBP(1)31,AAH;  
GA-(2)31,JW; JE-(4)10,JW; JE-(135)11,JW;  
JE-(2)14,JW; JE-(1)31,HKS
- Dunlin 16-31 4/1743 GA-3/1733 JE-1/10
- Dowitcher, S-bill 10-31 5/190 GA-4/160 JE-1/30
- Dowitcher, L-bill 1-16 5/108 GA-1/8 JE-4/100
- Snipe, Common 1-31 12/363 GA-3/20 JE-9/343
- Gull, Laughing 1-31 12/4898 CH-1/1 GA-5/4225 JE-6/672
- Gull, Bonaparte's 14-31 5/95 GA-4/90 JE-1/5
- Gull, Ring-billed 1-31 14/2113 CH-1/1 GA-5/867 HA-1/1  
JE-7/1244
- Gull, Herring 3-31 7/28 GA-4/17 JE-3/11
- Gull, Grt Blk-bck 16-16 1/1 BR-(1)16,DM
- Gull, Kelp** 30-30 1/1 GA-RP(1)30,JW
- Tern, Gull-billed 14-30 3/7 GA-3/7
- Tern, Caspian 2-31 7/23 GA-4/20 JE-3/3
- Tern, Royal 3-31 6/810 GA-3/600 JE-3/210
- Tern, Sandwich 14-31 4/15 GA-BF(1)14,JW; GA-BF(5)16,GTAS;  
GA-BF(5)30,JW; GA-BF(4)31,JW
- Tern, Common 14-31 4/30 GA-BF(3)14,JW; GA-(21)16,GTAS;  
GA-(5)30,JW; JE-SR(1)31,JW
- Tern, Forster's 3-31 8/1187 GA-5/976 JE-3/211
- Tern, Least 30-30 1/50 GA-BF(50)30,JW
- Tern, Black 16-31 3/4 **GA-(1)16,GTAS**; GA-YBR(1)30,JW;  
GA-(2)31,JW
- Skimmer, Black 14-31 3/370 GA-3/370
- Dove, Rock 1-31 7/115 GA-1/10 JE-6/105
- Dove, Mourning 1-31 19/122 CH-2/9 FB-1/10 GA-5/24 JE-11/79
- Dove, Inca 16-31 3/9 GA-3/9
- Owl, Barn 31-31 1/1 GA-GBP(1)31,AAH
- Screech-Owl, East 1-1 1/2 HA-(2)1,JWR
- Owl, Barred 9-9 1/1 FB-BB(1)9,HMW
- Chuck-wills-widow 24-24 1/1 JE-SW(1)24,EKS
- Swift, Chimney 16-31 5/217 CH-SP(1)16,DV; GA-GBP(15)31,AAH;  
JE-(100)27,DKS; JE-(100)31,HKS; JE-SR(1)31,JW
- Hummer, Ruby-thrt 30-31 3/4 GA-HI(2)30,DV; JE-SW(1)31,HKS;  
JE-SR(1)31,JW
- Hummer, Rufous 1-31 2/6 HA-(1)1-18,JWR; HA(1)1-21,JWR;  
A-(1)1-24,JWR; HA(1)1-27,JWR; HA-(1)1-31,JWR;  
HA-(1)1-31,PTF
- Kingfisher, Belted 1-31 13/30 CH-2/4 FB-1/1 GA-6/11 JE-4/14
- Wdpeckr, Red-bell 9-30 7/14 CH-4/4 FB-1/8 JE-2/2
- Sapsuck, Yel-bell 16-30 5/7 CH-1/1 GA-3/5 JE-1/1
- SAPSUCK, RED-NAPE** 15-16 3/3 GA-HI(1)15,DS; GA-HI(1)16,RJ;  
GA-HI(1)16,GTAS
- Wdpeckr, Downy 2-31 7/8 FB-1/2 GA-2/2 JE-4/4
- empidonax, sp. 31-31 1/1 JE-SW(1)31,HKS
- Phoebe, Eastern 2-31 15/37 CH-5/10 FB-1/2 GA-7/21 JE-3/4
- Kingbird, Eastern 24-31 7/19 CH-AW(2)30,DV; GA-HI(3)30,DV;  
GA-(4)30,JW; GA-GBP(2)31,AAH;  
GA-(1)31,DM; JE-(3)24,EKS; JE-(4)31,JW
- Flycatch, Ss-tail 30-31 4/11 CH-SP(2)30,DV; GA-(3)30,JW;  
GA-GBP(4)31,AAH; GA-(2)31,DM
- Lark, Horned 14-31 3/11 GA-3/11
- Martin, Purple 3-31 16/125 CH-3/45 FB-1/6 GA-7/56 JE-5/18
- Swallow, Tree 1-31 26/4586 CH-7/125 FB-1/1 GA-8/4113  
JE-10/347
- Swallow, N R-wing 9-31 6/235 FB-BB(20)9,HMW; GA-HI(2)9,DV;  
GA-HI(5)20,DV; GA-GBP(200)31,AAH;  
JE-SW(4)31,HKS; JE-SW(4)31,JW
- Swallow, Bank 31-31 1/8 JE-SR(8)31,HKS
- Swallow, Cliff 31-31 3/14 GA-GBP(2)31,AAH; JE-SR(2)31,HKS;  
JE-SR(10)31,JW
- Swallow, Cave** 31-31 1/2 JE-SR(2)31,JW
- Swallow, Barn 3-31 16/300 CH-5/33 FB-1/6 GA-6/238 JE-4/23
- swallow, sp. 9-9 1/60 FB-1/60
- Jay, Blue 1-31 13/39 CH-1/1 FB-1/1 GA-3/13 JE-8/24
- Crow, American 9-16 3/23 FB-1/12 JE-2/11
- Crow, Fish 2-31 7/59 JE-7/59
- Chickadee, Carol 2-9 2/10 FB-BB(8)9,HMW; JE-(2)2,JW
- Titmouse, Tufted 9-9 1/1 FB-BB(1)9,HMW
- Nuthatch, Red-brs 16-24 2/2 GA-HI(1)16,GTAS; GA-HI(1)24,DS
- Creeper, Brown 9-20 3/4 GA-HI(2)9,DV; GA-HI(1)16,DV;  
GA-HI(1)20,DV
- Wren, Carolina 2-30 8/15 FB-1/4 GA-5/5 JE-2/6
- Wren, House 2-30 10/14 CH-4/5 FB-1/2 GA-5/7
- Wren, Sedge 2-31 5/8 CH-1/1 GA-4/7
- Wren, Marsh 9-31 2/3 FB-BB(1)9,HMW; GA-GBP(2)31,AAH
- Kinglet, Gold-crn 2-20 4/11 GA-4/11
- Kinglet, Ruby-crn 2-31 17/99 CH-5/13 FB-1/3 GA-9/77 JE-2/6
- Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 9-31 12/98 CH-3/6 FB-1/2 GA-5/39 JE-3/51
- Bluebird, Eastern 20-20 1/1 GA-HI(1)20,DV
- Thrush, Swainsons 30-30 1/1 GA-HI(1)30,JW
- Thrush, Hermit 2-30 9/18 CH-4/7 GA-5/11
- Thrush, Wood 30-30 1/2 GA-HI(2)30,JW
- Robin, American 1-31 15/351 CH-4/31 GA-1/15 JE-10/305
- Catbird, Gray 2-30 11/20 CH-AW(1)2,DV; CH-AW(1)9,DV;

Catbird, Gray continued... CH-SP(2)9, DV; CH-SP(3)16, DV; CH-AW(1)20, DV;  
 CH-SP(1)30, DV; GA-HI(2)9, DV; GA-HI(1)16, DV;  
 GA-HI(1)20, DV; GA-HI(4)30, JW; JE-(3)24, EKS  
 Mockingbird, N 1-31 17/71 CH-2/3 FB-1/3 GA-4/16 JE-10/49  
 Thrasher, Brown 2-31 15/47 CH-6/16 GA-7/29 JE-2/2  
 Pipit, American 1-16 6/18 GA-1/5 JE-5/13  
 Waxwing, Cedar 1-31 4/70 GA-1/10 JE-3/60  
 Shrike, Loggerhed 1-31 17/110 CH-2/6 FB-1/10 GA-5/36 JE-9/58  
 Starling, Euro 1-31 15/389 FB-1/20 GA-5/176 JE-9/193  
 Vireo, White-eyed 16-31 11/58 CH-SP(10)30, DV; GA-HI(1)16, DV;  
 GA-HI(2)20, DV; GA-HI(10)30, DV;  
 GA-HI(10)30, JW; GA-HI(2)31, JW;  
 JE-SR(1)24, EKS; JE-(1)24, EKS;  
 JE-SW(10)27, DKS; JE-SW(6)31, HKS;  
 JE-SW(5)31, JW  
 Vireo, Solitary 2-31 13/40 CH-SP(1)30, DV; GA-HI(4)2, DV;  
 GA-HI(5)9, DV; GA-HI(2)15, DS; GA-HI(1)16, DV;  
 GA-HI(1)16, GTAS; GA-HI(1)20, DV;  
 GA-HI(2)24, DS; GA-HI(5)30, DV;  
 GA-HI(2)30, JW; GA-HI(2)31, JW;  
 JE-SW(10)27, DKS; JE-SW(4)31, HKS  
 Vireo, Yell-thrt 15-31 7/18 GA-HI(1)15, DS; GA-HI(1)20, DV;  
 GA-HI(2)30, DV; GA-HI(1)30, JW;  
 JE-SW(10)27, DKS; JE-SW(2)31, HKS;  
 JE-SW(1)31, JW  
 Vireo, Red-eyed 27-31 4/40 GA-HI(6)30, DV; GA-HI(4)30, JW;  
 JE-SW(20)27, DKS; JE-SW(10)31, HKS  
 Warb, Blue-winged 27-30 3/10 GA-HI(2)30, DV; GA-HI(2)30, JW;  
 JE-SW(6)27, DKS  
 Warb, Orange-crn 2-31 17/74 CH-7/17 FB-1/1 GA-7/46 JE-2/10  
 Parula, Northern 9-31 11/30 CH-SP(1)9, DV; CH-SP(1)20, DV;  
 CH-SP(2)30, DV; GA-HI(1)15, DS;  
 GA-HI(1)24, DS; GA-HI(12)30, DV;  
 GA-HI(3)30, JW; GA-HI(1)31, JW;  
 JE-SR(1)24, EKS; JE-SW(1)27, DKS;  
 JE-SW(6)31, JW  
 Warb, Yellow-rump 1-31 30/663 CH-10/121 FB-1/50  
 GA-10/398 JE-9/94  
 (Warb, Audubon's) 17-17 1/1 HA-(1)17, JWR  
 Warb, Yel-throat 15-31 7/12 CH-SP(1)30, DV; GA-HI(1)15, DS;  
 GA-HI(2)30, DV; GA-HI(1)30, JW; JE-(4)27, DKS;  
 JE-SW(2)31, HKS; JE-SW(1)31, JW  
 Warb, Pine 2-2 1/1 GA-HI(1)2, DV  
 Warb, Palm 15-15 1/1 CH-AW(1)15, DS  
 Warb, Blk-and-wht 2-31 9/44 CH-SP(5)30, DV; GA-HI(1)2, DV;  
 GA-HI(1)16, GTAS; GA-HI(10)30, DV;  
 GA-HI(10)30, JW; GA-HI(2)31, JW;  
 JE-SW(6)27, DKS; JE-SW(8)31, HKS;  
 JE-SW(1)31, JW  
 Warb, Prothonotry 27-31 8/165 CH-SP(9)30, DV; GA-HI(75)28, JD;  
 GA-HI(9)30, DV; GA-HI(6)30, JW; GA-HI(1)31, JW;  
 JE-(40)27, DKS; JE-SW(15)31, HKS; JE-SW(10)31, JW  
 Warb, Worm-eating 30-30 3/7 CH-SP(1)30, DV; GA-HI(3)30, DV;  
 GA-HI(3)30, JW  
 Waterthrush, Lou 16-31 8/16 CH-SP(1)16, DV; GA-HI(2)30, DV;  
 GA-HI(4)30, JW; GA-HI(1)31, JW; JE(2)24, EKS;  
 JE-(3)27, DKS; JE-SW(2)31, HKS; JE-SW(1)31, JW  
 Warb, Kentucky 31-31 1/1 JE-SW(1)31, HKS  
 Yellowthroat, Com 2-31 14/43 CH-6/11 FB-1/10 GA-3/7 JE-4/15  
 Warb, Hooded 20-31 7/22 CH-SP(2)30, DV; GA-HI(1)20, DV;

Warb. Hooded continued... GA-HI(3)30, DV; GA-HI(5)30, JW;  
 JE-SW(8)27, DKS; JE-SW(1)31, HKS; JE-(2)31, JW  
 Warb, Wilson's 9-30 3/3 GA-HI(1)9, DV; GA-HI(1)16, DV;  
 GA-HI(1)30, JW  
 Tanager, Summer 27-31 4/9 GA-HI(3)30, DV; GA-HI(4)30, JW;  
 GA-HI(1)31, JW; JE-SW(1)27, DKS  
 Tanager, Western 2-30 4/1 GA-HI(1)2, DV; GA-HI(1)9, DV;  
 GA-HI(1)28, JD; GA-HI(1)30, JW  
 Cardinal, Northrn 3-31 9/47 FB-1/12 GA-4/23 JE-4/12  
 Towhee, Rufus-side 2-16 2/3 CH-SP(1)2, DV; CH-SP(2)16, DV  
 Sparrow, Field 16-16 1/3 CH-SP(3)16, DV  
 Sparrow, Vesper 16-16 1/1 GA-(1)16, GTAS  
 Sparrow, Savannah 2-31 13/149 CH-2/3 GA-5/123 JE-6/23  
 Sparrow, Henslows 2-30 3/3 CH-SP(1)2, DV; CH-SP(1)9, DV;  
 CH-SP(1)30, DV  
 Sparrow, Le Conte 2-30 3/3 CH-SP(1)2, DV; GA-BF(1)16, GTAS;  
 GA-BF(1)30, JW  
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 14-16 2/35 GA-BF(10)14, JW; GA-BF(25)16, GTAS  
 Sparrow, Seaside 16-16 1/10 GA-BF(10)16, GTAS  
 Sparrow, Song 2-30 6/13 CH-3/4 GA-1/1 JE-2/8  
 Sparrow, Lincolns 16-31 2/2 CH-AW(1)16, DV; GA-GBP(1)31, AAH  
 Sparrow, Swamp 1-31 9/25 CH-4/14 FB-1/5 GA-2/4 JE-2/2  
 Sparrow, Whit-thrt 2-31 12/39 CH-3/6 GA-6/25 JE-3/8  
 Sparrow, Whit-crn 2-20 3/12 CH-3/12  
 Blackbird, Red-wg 1-31 17/3615 CH-2/205 FB-1/1500  
 GA-4/1230 JE-10/680  
 Meadowlark, East 1-31 13/160 FB-1/25 GA-5/104 JE-7/31  
 Meadowlark, West 31-31 1/1 GA-(1)31, JWR  
 Grackle, Gr-tail 1-31 18/975 CH-2/63 FB-1/20 GA-5/523  
 JE-10/369  
 Grackle, Bt-tail 1-31 5/43 CH-2/9 JE-3/34  
 Grackle, Common 1-31 9/240 JE-9/240  
 Cowbird, Bronzed 1-31 1/6 HA-(6)1-31, JWR  
 Cowbird, Brn-head 11-31 6/38 CH-1/2 GA-3/27 JE-2/9  
 blackbird, sp. 9-9 1/75 FB-1/75  
 Finch, Purple 28-28 1/1 GA-HI(1)JD  
**Finch, House** 1-1 1/1 HA-(1)1, JWR  
 Goldfinch, Amer 1-31 5/16 FB-1/6 GA-2/4 HA-1/5 JE-1/1  
 Sparrow, House 2-30 7/42 CH-2/12 GA-2/24 JE-3/6

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 57008

**LIST OF OBSERVER CODES:** Lynne Aldrich, Mike Austin, Bob Honig (AAH); Leah Denning, Ken Sztraky (DKS); David Marrack (DM); David Sarkozi (DS); Don Verser (DV); Eric & Ken Sztraky (EKS); Peter Gottshling, Lynne Aldrich, Mike Austin, (GAA); Peter Gottshling, Lynne Aldrich, Janet Rathjen (GAR); Golden Triangle Audubon Field Trip/John Whittle (GTAS); John Haynes, Ken Sztraky (HKS); Bob Honig, Marcella Modisett, Sam & Sarah Wilson (HMW); John Dunn, Larry Rosche, John Vanderpoll (JD); John Whittle (JW); Jan & Will Risser (JWR); Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); Janet Rathjen (RJ)

**LIST OF LOCATION CODES:** Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); Galveston Bay Prairie Preserve (GBP); High Island (HI); Pleasure Island (PI); Rollover Pass (RP); Smith Point (SP); Sea Rim

LOCATION CODES continued: St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW); Tyrrell Park (TP); Yacht Basin Road (YBR)

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria (BR); Chambers (CH); Fort Bend (FB); Galveston (GA); Harris (HA); Jefferson (JE)

Glossy Ibis - J. Whittle March 1, 1996

Typical *Plegadis ibis*. The bird was a deep chestnut with greenish gloss. The head still showed a few white flecks from the basic plumage. The eye was brown, with pale blue-gray bare skin from the top of the eye to the base of the upper mandible. A much thinner line ran from the bottom of the eye to the base of the lower mandible. The legs were basically gray, with reddish tinge, much darker at the knee.

Black Rail - K. Sztraky March 24, 1996

A small dark sparrow-like bird jumped out of a wet, boggy area near Sea Rim. From 20 feet away this all black bird had no visible markings or other colors. As the bird quickly dropped back to the ground no other markings were seen. The bird in flight had a small sora-like or rail like bill. Also in flight the birds legs were seen hanging down from the body.

Purple Gallinule - P. Gottschling March 31, 1996

Gallinule with brilliant purple chest, neck, and head. All white undertail coverts. Blue shield. No lateral bar on the wings.

Least Bittern - P. Gottschling March 31, 1996

Heron half the size of Green Heron. Brown and tan wings in flight and tan body.

Swainson's Hawk - J. Whittle March 31, 1996

Largish hawk with long narrow wings. The flight feathers were black of the underside, while the wing linings were pale.

Mountain Plover - D Sarkozi March 24, 1996

Approximately 10 Mountain Plovers in short grass field at the intersection of FM 1985 and SH 124. Plover about the same size as nearby Killdeer. Gray above, belly and undertail coverts white. Bold white line above the eye. Crown the same color as back. Eye line curved down neck some. Dark ear patch not sharply outlined. Light gray coloration on the breast ended in distinct border. Underwings darker than the belly, some gray in "wing pits". Trailing edge of the wings darker gray than leading edge. A little white noted on the wings. The tail was gray and wedge shaped.

White-rumped Sandpiper - P. Gottschling March 30, 1996  
Bolivar Flats. A peep with black feet and bill. The wings were longer than the tail. The bird was longer and slightly larger than the numerous Western Sandpipers near it. It was preening and left its wings drooping and exposed the white rump for almost five minutes.

Baird's Sandpiper - J. & W. Risser March 31, 1996

Four at Anahuac. Bigger than nearby Least Sandpiper. Brown birds with narrow paler feather edgings. Buffy streaked breasts. Dark legs and bill. Wing tips extended beyond tail tip.

Kelp Gull - J. Whittle March 30, 1996

Rollover Pass (during the oil spill cleanup at Galveston/Bolivar). Large gull, slightly larger than 3 nearby Herring Gulls. The mantle and wings were dark gray, almost black, darker than any other gull around. The rest of the feathers were white. There was white at the tips of the wings. Bill medium yellow with pale red gonys spot on lower mandible. Legs pale yellow.

Great Black-backed Gull - D. Marrack March 16, 1996

Approx. 2 mi. from San Luis Pass bridge. Stocky heavy gull (bigger than juv. Herring Gull on the beach). Pale near white unmarked head. Black bill, paler at the base. Wing tips black. No mirrors. Mantle mottled effect, feathers darker at center and lighter edges. Tail narrow, dark tip then white at base and up onto the back. Legs grayish pink.

Black Tern - J. Whittle March 16, 1996

Bob's Road Crystal Beach on the Intercoastal. Small tern, smaller than the Forster's Terns. Uniform medium gray upper wings. Body was white, with a black spot behind the eye and somewhat diffuse black bar down the side just at the "shoulder".

J. Whittle submitted similar descriptions of this species at Rollover Pass on March 30 and 31, 1996.

Red-naped Sapsucker - D. Sarkozi March 15 and 16, 1996

One adult male at Smith Oaks in High Island. Red crown and throat patch. Much more pronounced than Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Light red spot on nape. Black malar stripe and black below the red throat patch, not continuous. Belly light, scaled pattern. Back very dark, two distinct parallel stripes on the back.

Also reported by J. Whittle on March 16 and J. Rathjen on March 16.

Cave (2) and Cliff (10) Swallows - J. Whittle March 31, 1996

Boathouse at Sea Rim SP. Typical swallows with squared off tails. The birds had brown wings, buff rumps, and pale undersides. The Cave Swallows had dark cinnamon forehead, and very pale buffy throats. The Cliff Swallows had bright white forehead and dark reddish throats.

Swainson's Thrush - J. Whittle March 30, 1996

Smith Oaks, High Island. Medium brown back and wings, without any trace of red. The tail was clearly visible. The underside has distinct dark brown spots on a pale background. There was a thin buffy eyering and buffy marks on the face.

Western Tanager - D. Verser March 2, 1996

Same bird as described February 17. General size and shape and large stout bill seem right for Tanager and two thin wing bars suggest female Western Tanager.

This bird also described March 9, 1996.

Henslow's Sparrow - D. Verser March 2, 1996

Flushed from edge of path west of large oak motte at Candy Abshier WMA. After flushing two more times it sat up in clear view in a bush at less than 20 ft. for a few moments before moving out of sight. Broad bright green eyebrow connecting to a broad green nape containing dark streaks. Larger overall than LeConte's with very large bill. Two whisker marks and necklace of streaks across breast.

Henslow's Sparrow - D. Verser March 30, 1996

Flushed from tall grass between oak mottes at Smith Point. Sat in clear view for a few moments. Pale olive central crown stripe. Distinctive olive face and nape. Dark auricular markings restricted to triangle directly behind eye. Double whisker lines. Small white eye ring. Streaks across breast. Very shy.

#### ADDENDUM TO FEBRUARY CLEARING HOUSE

Black-legged Kittiwake - R. & B. Breedlove, Feb. 10, 1996

Galveston Island (near the ferry landing). Obvious gull, roughly equal to Laughing Gull in size. Entirely white below. Bill and legs dark. Tail slightly notched and white, save for a black band across tip (somewhat chevron-shaped because of the slight fork). Mantle light gray. Upper wings had large white triangles on trailing edges, extending from distal tips of inner primaries to the mid-primaries. Leading edge of primaries were black. At a distance, leading edge of secondaries also appeared black, at closer approach, leading edge of outer secondaries was also black. The apparent black leading edge of proximal secondaries seen at distance was actually a black band extending from the carpals to a point at mid-wing. The black on both wings formed a wide "m" shape, broken by the birds gray mantle. At point of nearest observation, a narrow black collar on the nape was visible, as was a small smudge behind the eye.

---

Houston Outdoor Nature Club  
ORNITHOLOGY GROUP  
P.O. Box 270894  
Houston, Texas 77277-0894

SOLICITED MAIL

TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL

DO NOT DELAY

Nonprofit Org U.S. Postage PAID Houston, Texas Permit No. 1063
--