



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME VII No. 5

SEPTEMBER 1958

 * THE ROADRUNNER *
 * "Try and think of a long striped snake on two *
 * legs, a feather duster on his head and another *
 * trailing behind; or a tall, slim tramp in a *
 * swallow-tailed coat, a black and blue eye, and *
 * a head of hair standing straight on end! Of *
 * all the birds on our list the Roadrunner is *
 * doubtless the most unique." So wrote J. L. *
 * Sloanaker in 1913. Elliott Coues describes *
 * roadrunners as "Singular birds - cuckoos com- *
 * pounded of a chicken and a magpie" Among his *
 * many names are: churcha, correa del camino, *
 * chaparral cock, lizard bird, ground cuckoo. *
 * *****

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

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- October 2 Thursday - Bi-monthly meeting of the Ornithology Group to be held at the River Oaks Garden Center, 2503 Westheimer, at 8:00 p.m.
- October 12 Sunday - Ornithology Group field trip to the San Jacinto Battle Grounds, Baytown tunnel, and Baytown area. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Thornhill's Cafeteria off the Gulf Freeway (Exit 8 at Woodbridge) Just in case any Martians pop up and say "Take me to your leader" - it will be Josiephine Wilkin.
- October 14 Tuesday - Regular monthly meeting of the Outdoor Nature Club at the Garden Center (1500 Hermann Drive) at 8:00 p.m. Mr. A. J. Manson will give an illustrated lecture: "Over the Andes."
 THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE EXHIBIT.
- October 18 & 19 Outdoor Nature Club field trip to Port Aransas. The leader will be Mr. Louis Kornicker, instructor in Marine Science.

NOTICE:

Ronald Fowler has been appointed recorder for Texas Ornithological Society, Area 8, and would appreciate any observations sent in to him. For more information call him at HO 5-4223 or drop a note to his address: 11921 Knippwood Lane (24)

AND A PLEA FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Much important ornithological knowledge has come from the observations of bird-watchers such as YOU and me. We have the good fortune of being in one of the major migratory flyways, as well as having access to both land and water birds. For knowledge to have value, it must be recorded. We have in Ronald Fowler a willing and orderly intellect who will make valuable use of all material sent to him. What YOU see and YOUR observations recorded by Ronald have importance. And this doesn't mean just the oldtimers in the group; it means everybody. PLEASE DON'T FAIL US!

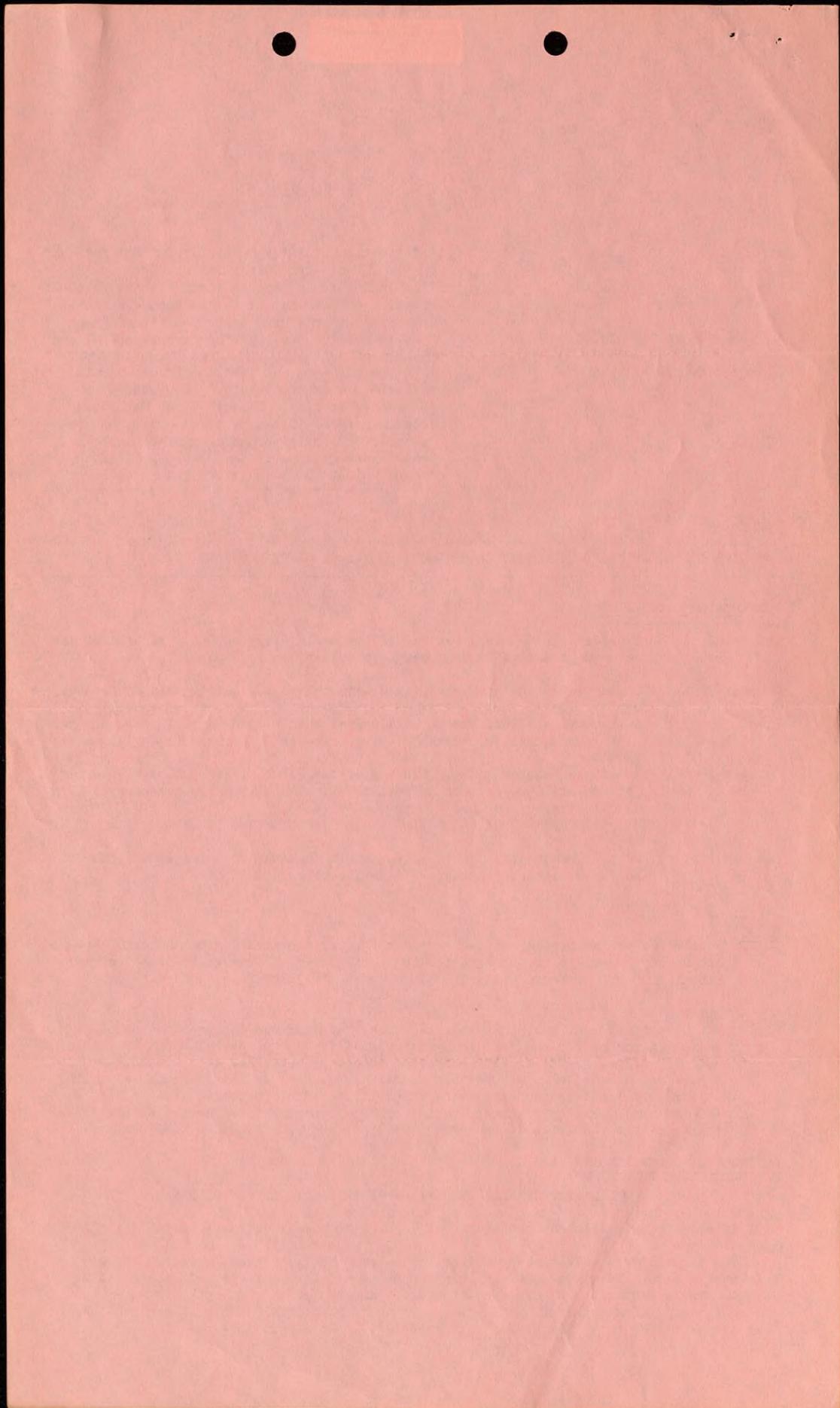
ORNITHOLOGY GROUP REPORTS

O. G. FIELD TRIP TO FREEPORT ----- REPORTED BY CLAYTON GILMAN

After meeting on Almeda at Cleburne at 7:30, five cars of birders headed for the Freeport area.

The first diversion was along Miller Road where, due to a heavy covering of duck weed on the lake, there were not many birds, but we did find a family of red-headed woodpeckers, a cormorant, egrets and a few spotted sandpipers.

The outstanding sight of the day was a group of MISSISSIPPI KITES at Sandy Point that put on a real show with demonstrations of all their flight patterns.



We then took a back road to Rosharon where there were not too many birds, but a pretty drive, and should be a good area during the winter and early spring months.

A picnic lunch was enjoyed at Lake Jackson Park, after which we proceeded to the marshy area between Freeport and Bryan Mound. There were still large numbers of shore and wading birds, both adult and immature, although they were at a considerable distance from the road, and the Balscope was put to good use.

We completed the day on Bryan Beach where large concentrations of terns were seen. We had hoped to find young skimmers here, but recent high tides had washed away the eggs.

Several of the group went for a swim and finished up any left-overs from lunch.

We were very pleased to have Mr. Probst, the German consul with us, and he proved to be an ardent birder.

In the group were: Hazel Newton, Werner Probst, John O'Neill, Robert Simpson, Mary McCall, Ronald Fowler, Ralph Peterson, Carl Aiken, Marion Ladwig, Melanie Massie, Nancy Strickling, Josephine Wilkin, Walter Barbare, Clayton Gilman, Jimmy and Johnnye Murray, and Ella Wolfer.

SEASON NOTES: Sent in from the Little Thicket Sanctuary by Joe M. Heiser

Baltimore orioles nested again this year at Cold Springs, 9 miles east of the Little Thicket. The male responded readily to whistled imitations of his song.

In past years, the brown-headed nuthatch has bred regularly, the white-breasted occasionally in this area. This year, both species have been absent from their former haunts. I have no record of either since early spring. Wonder what the explanation is?

ARLIE MCKAY is back in the fold after a long absence, and that is the kind of thing that brightens an editor's life. You will enjoy his report as much as I did, so I am giving it in its entirety.

To the SPOONBILL:

I have not reported to the Spoonbill since early spring. I have some excuses which I am keeping; but please excuse me for sending so much old stuff with the August report. You may edit it as much as you wish. Also excuse me for using the A.O.U. check list order. I can not shift to another order and avoid being confused. More confused that is.

Eared grebe - 2 from April 24 to May 4, my third latest.

Pied-billed grebe - to April 27, 1 stayed through May and June; first fall record - July 19, earliest ever by 5 days.

White pelican - to May 4 (50 est.) 1 June 28

Brown pelican - 1 Nov. 23, no more until March 2 (1) none since. What has happened to them?

Mexican cormorant - 1 June 28, 4 August 9.

Reddish egret - 1 July 20, 2 on 31st, only 4 to date

Spoonbill - many and in large flocks

Wood ibis - first one June 15, 115 June 28, 86 June 29, 5 July 6 & 13, 1 Aug. 3
2 August 10.

White-fronted goose - Amos Tilton saw a flock flying north, April 16. S. L. Griffith flushed one in mid-July.

Canada goose - more scarce than ever before; none after Jan. 12, except 2 July 26

Tree duck - first 4/7 (200 est) a few stayed and were in flocks by 8/9 (58), 125 estimated 8/17, 12 on 8/24.

Mottled duck - Peak August 9 (234)

Mallard - summer birds: 1 5/17, 4 8/9 (3 in one flock) 1 8/24. All appeared to fly strong. No migrants (?)

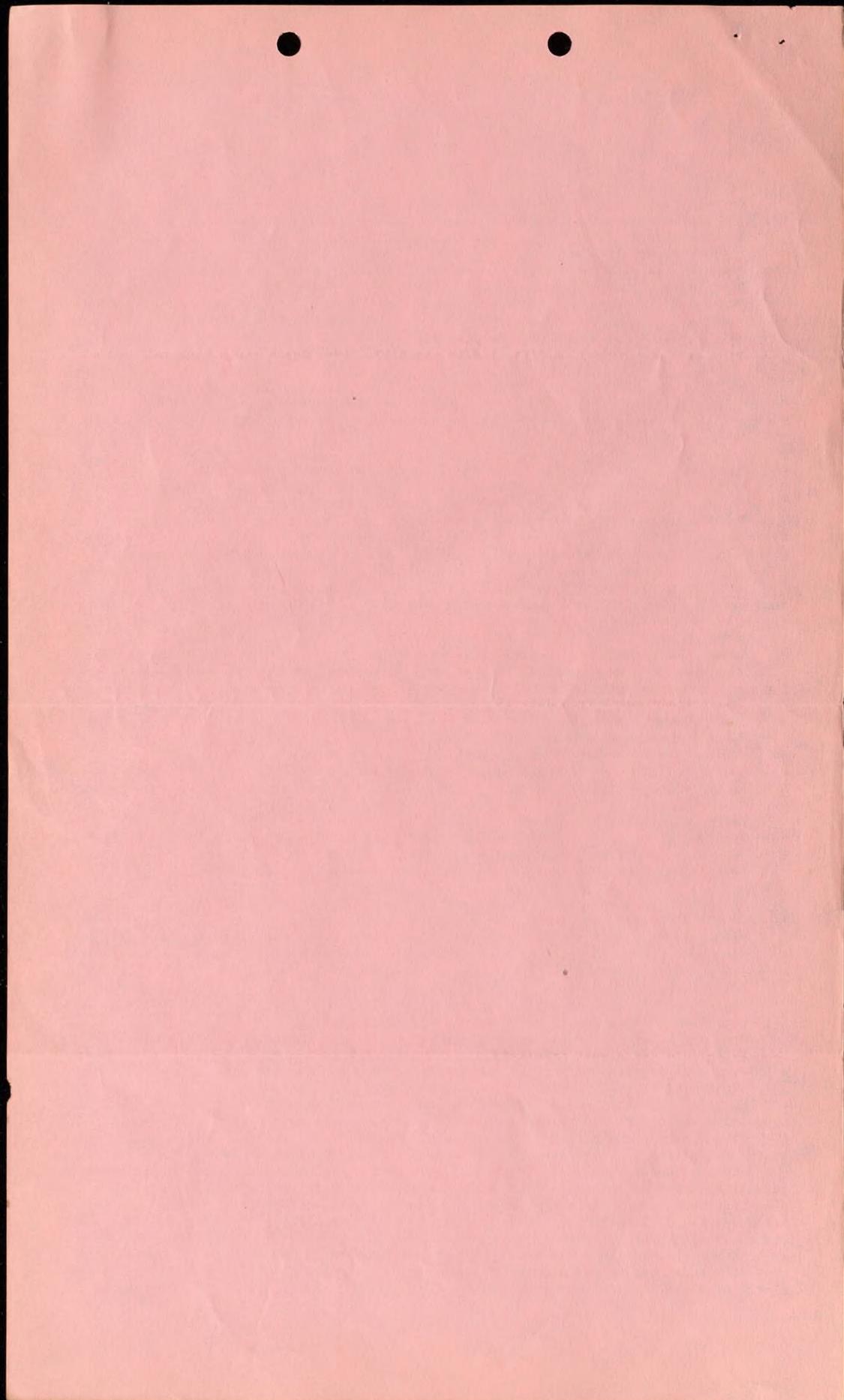
Baldpate - 1 from May 21 to June 1

Blue-winged teal - to May 8, peak (600 est) April 16; 2 5/28, 5 7/19, 52 8/9, 300 estimated August 24, etc.

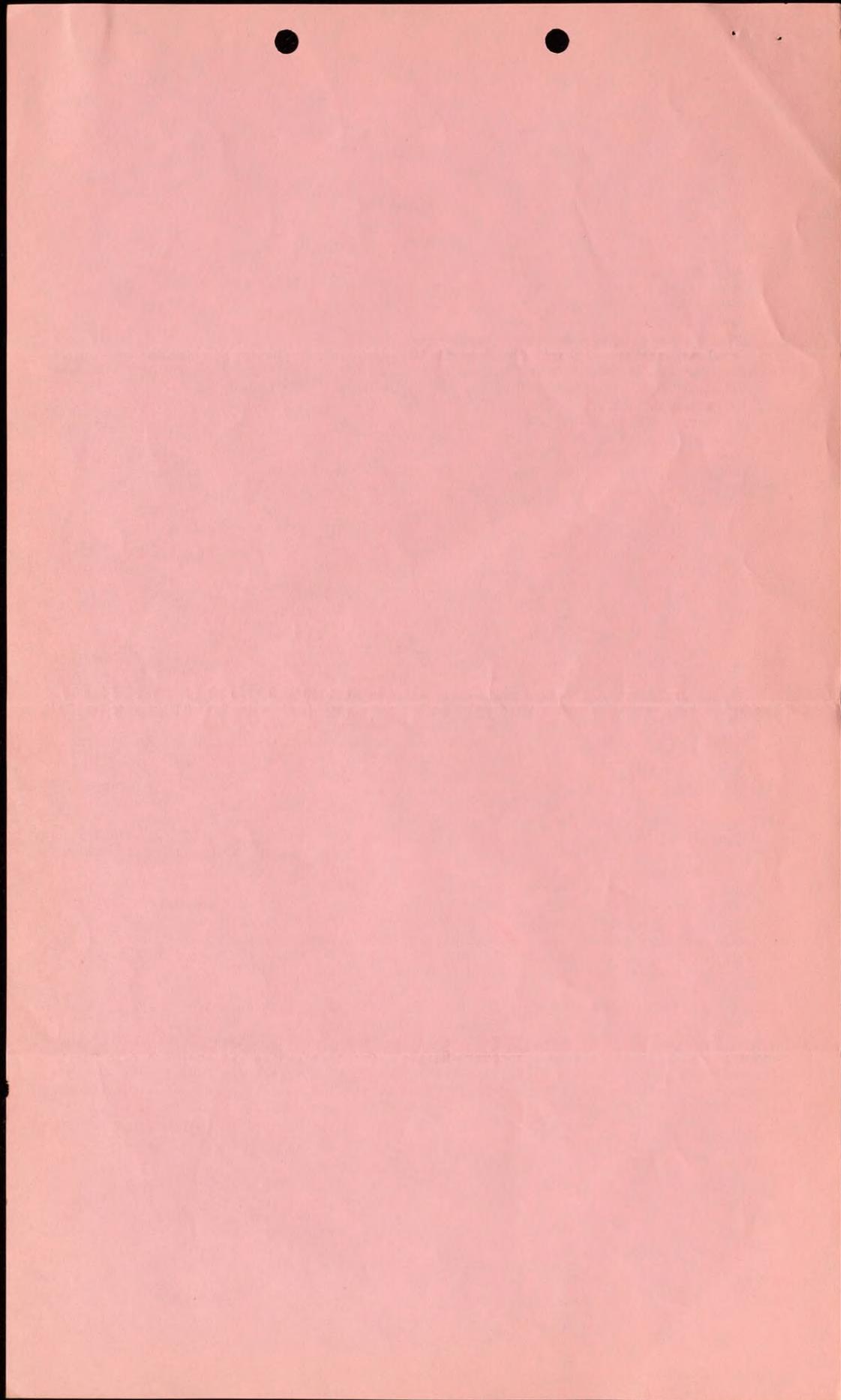
Green-winged teal - 1 with flock of blue-winged 8/26

Pintail - 2 flocks of 9 and 3 and one or two more of 7 each (same flock twice?) that appeared to be pintails on 6/28. The earliest ever before August 17.

[The spring migration ends in the first to second week of June, and the fall migration begins the second or third week in June; there appears to be some overlapping. That is my opinion based on my twenty-four years of observation. The bank swallows migration overlaps but not once has it appeared to do so in the same year. In general that is also true of the black tern except that some times some summer here. A few shore birds no doubt summer here, but the fall migration always begins the first week of July or earlier. This year there was an unusually cold cold-front to the north. It reached us June 28. There was an influx of birds that would not be expected until later. Small flocks of shore birds or 1 or 2 ducks can be passed-over as summer stayovers; but flocks of pintails and large flocks of shore birds surely suggest migration. What became of them? Did they return north?]



- Lesser scaup - 16 5/25. Arnold McKay saw 5 June 3
 Red-breasted merganser - 3 April 16
 Sharp-shinned hawk - to May 6
 Cooper's hawk - to May 11, latest ever by 4 days
 Red-tailed hawk - to April 20
 Swainson's hawk - to May 10. One in dark phase
 Eagle - to May 4
 Peregrine falcon - to May 8
 Marsh hawk - 1 in Mid-June (Ben Dutton) The same or another 7.18. 1 August 29
 Fish hawk - to May 18
 Caracara - one to two frequently
 Sparrow hawk - to April 14; 1 August 28
 King rail - 3 June 7, 3 7/13, 1 8/13 and 8/17. (Mr. Gosch saw a king rail with 9
 black chicks and one white one crossing N. Main street in Baytown the fourth week in June)
 Clapper rail - 1 June 8 & 29, July 13. 3 to 6 immature 7/20, 1 7/31
 Common gallinule - one 7/7, 7/19, 8/24
 Coot - to May 4 (12), 5 July 19
 Piping or snowy plover - 1 July 31
 Semipalmated plover - to May 18, from July 31
 Thick-billed plover - 2 4/20, 2 5/25, earliest before: May 27
 Golden plover - 2 5/25 (five days better than ever before) 2 or 3 August 17
 Black-bellied plover - to June 8, 5. From June 28, 7
 Turnstone - to May 25, one 6/28, one 8/23
 Snipe - to April 20
 Long-billed curlew - 2 5/18, one 7/13 (earliest ever by one day) one August 9, 17
 Upland sandpiper - to April 24 (10), 1 8/3, 9 on 8/9
 Spotted sandpiper - to May 25 (latest ever by 3 days) from July 13
 Solitary sandpiper - to May 11, from July 18
 Willet - to June 8, from July 13
 Greater yellowlegs - to May 18 (within two days of my latest), from July 13 (7)
 Lesser yellowlegs - to May 18, from June 28 (75 est.), 5 July 8, etc.
 Pectoral sandpiper - to May 18 (one in a flock of 15 lesser yellowlegs 6/28), 6 7/27
 White-rumped sandpiper - May 8 to June 6
 Least sandpiper - from July 13
 Semipalmated sandpiper - from July 13
 Western sandpiper - August 10
 Sanderling - 4 on April 20
 Hudsonian godwit - 10 May 8, 2 May 10 & 18, one April 27, one July 19 (my first fall
 record)
 Dowitcher - from July 19. Both species since.
 Stilt sandpiper - 3 on April 27, 2 8/10, 6 8/17
 Buff-breasted sandpiper - from April 13 to May 8; 50 estimated, 5/10 (50 est), 5/11
 (150 est), 16 on August 8, 31 on 8/9, 3 on 8/10, 42 8/17. August 8 equals earliest ever.
 Wilson's phalarope - 25 plus May 8, 2 on 4/27, 3 on 8/10 (early)
 Bonaparte's gull - 1 May 4, latest ever by 8 days
 Sandwich tern - 1 June 8 (earliest ever before was June 24 and July 8) 3 on 7/3
 Black tern - April 20 to May 21 (earliest ever) April 18 from June 19
 Black-billed cuckoo - none in spring, one August 9 (earliest ever by 25 days) (9/3)
 Groove-billed ani - 1 August 23 (earliest before Sept. 11) the same - 31st.
 Owls - scarce. Barred and barn less than ever before
 Chuck-wills-widow - from August 10 (2)
 Hummingbird - from June 23
 Kingfisher - one August 24, 1 August 26, one August 28
 Flicker - Ben Dutton saw several several times near Pickett's bayou, south Liberty
 county in July and August (family?)
 Western kingbird - 1 May 31 (latest before May 10 and June 2)
 Yellow-bellied flycatcher - from August 9 at least
 Alder flycatcher - from August 17 at least
 Least flycatcher - from August 24 at least (2)
 Peewee - from August 6
 Olive-sided flycatcher - 2 May 18, 2 8/26, one on 8/28 and 8/31
 Vermillion flycatcher - to March 1, then one March 30 (latest ever by 13 days),
 one from August 27, another August 26 (earliest ever August 21) No other August records.
 Swallows left early and returned late. Barn June 7, August 6. Bank - May 25, Aug. 8
 unidentified July 20. Barn and bank swallow records earliest ever.
 Catbird - always before a common spring migrant, this year only one on April 30
 Brown thrasher - to May 4 (3), 1 5/21 (latest by 5 days)
 Robin - to April 4. Amos Tilton saw 2 on Pickett Bayou May 28 to 31



Hermit thrush - to April 16 (equal to latest)
 Ruby-crowned kinglet - to April 20
 Sprague's pipit - 1 April 20, (second latest - May 2)
 Cedar waxwing - 250 estimated May 18, 20 est. May 19
 Warbling vireo - 1 April 16, 1 May 11
 Black-and-white warbler - to May 4; from August 14
 Prothonotary warbler - 1 April 15
 Orange-crowned warbler - to April 14
 Nashville warbler - 1 April 16
 Yellow warbler - to May 18, from August 14
 Myrtle warbler - to April 18
 Black-throated green warbler - May 4 only
 Cerulean warbler - 1 April 14, 2 April 16
 Blackburnian warbler - May 4 to May 19 (25 est.)
 Yellow-throated warbler - to April 16, 1 August 23
 Bay-breasted warbler - May 4 only
 Blackpoll warbler - 1 April 15
 Pine warbler - below normal this summer
 Ovenbird - to May 18, one August 23
 Waterthrush, common - 2 August 23, one August 24
 Waterthrush, Louisiana - 1 April 15, another August 16
 Kentucky warbler - 3 August 23 (April 15 to 21st)
 Yellow-throat - last May 11, but not one this summer
 Chat - April 19 to 22, August 23 (6 est)
 Redstart - to May 17
 Yellow-headed blackbird - one male April 28 (S. L. Griffith)
 Baltimore oriole - May 23 (latest ever by 8 days) one August 23 (early)
 Rusty blackbird - this once common bird has been fading away for several years. The past season I recorded only one: November 28.
 Brewer's blackbird - this once rare bird is now common. The veteran ornithologist, Dr. A. R. Shearer of Mont Belvieu, once told me he had banded hundreds of rusties but not one Brewer's. Now it is the reverse. The last was April 20.
 Common grackle - not common any more. As late as 1938 I saw about 300,000 in one flock, and that was after they were relatively uncommon. Last seen Nov. 11 except for 2/21, then from June 22 (25 est) There are a few that nest at Baytown.
 Cowbird - on March 1, I saw a cowbird with upper bill twice as long as the lower. It curved downward and a little to one side, and was flattened toward the end.
 Spotted towhee - 1 April 16 (latest ever by 10 days)
 Field sparrow - to April 16 (second latest date)

ARLIE K. MCKAY

Keeping up with the Spoonbills! Carrie Holcomb sends us this report:
 Mrs. Joe McGuire of Dallas reported seeing a flock of nine roseate spoonbills on the east fork of the Trinity River during the latter part of July.

All of us are justly proud of our own intelligent (and well-mannered, and enthusiastic, and talented, and good-looking, and not stuffy) O. G. ttenagers; and so, were pleased but not surprised when Irby Davis chose two of them to assist him on his expedition into Baja California. Here is their own account of that expedition.

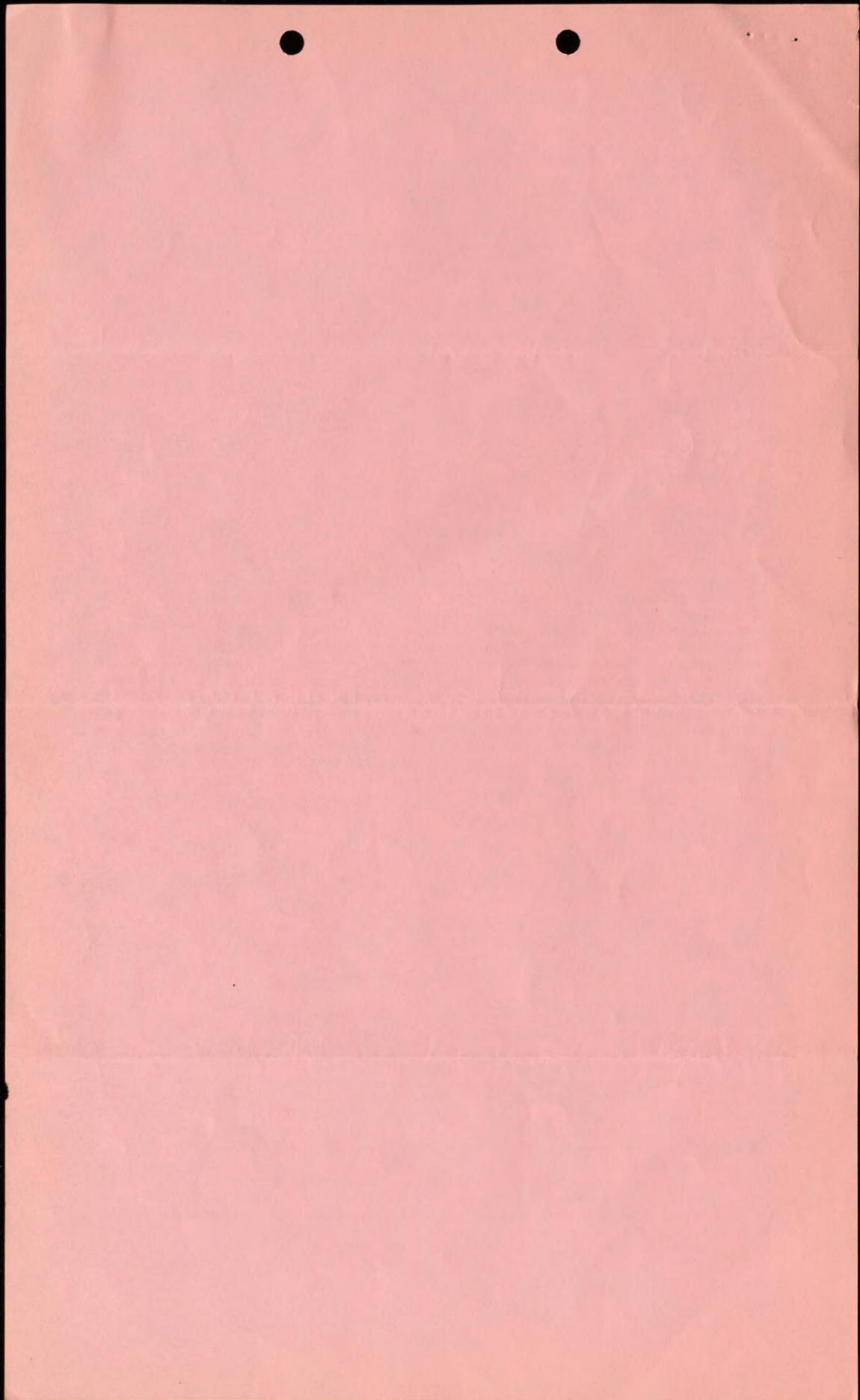
BIRDING IN MEXICO, THE FAR WEST, AND CANADA - - - BY CARL AIKEN AND VICTOR EMANUEL

On June 3rd, Carl Aiken and I left Harlingen, Texas with Mr. Irby Davis, heading in a southwestern direction across northern Mexico. Our destination was southern Baja California. The purpose of the expedition was to record bird voices for Cornell University's Library of Natural Sounds. For Mr. Davis this was the second part of his annual recording expedition and his first trip to southern Baja California (during the spring, he and Mrs. Davis had traveled to Costa Rica) For Carl and I it was a wonderful opportunity to see new places and birds. We traveled in a forward control Willys truck with a custom built rear compartment for supplies and bedding.

Since space and time do not permit a detailed account of the expedition, I will list the main places we visited and the approximate dates we were there. After this, two lists of birds with short notes about each will follow. One list of U. S. birds, the other of birds seen during the Mexican part of the trip.

June 3 - 5: Crossed arid central basin of northern Mexico.

June 6 - 7: Birded in pines of western Durango (about 8,000 foot elevation) and western slope of the Sierra Madre occidental.



June 8 - 9: Birded in hot lowland brush of Sinaloa - many tropical birds, especially near Mazatlan, Mexico.

June 10-13: Traveled up the coast through Guayamas and around the Gulf of California to Mexicali, Baja California - mostly desert country.

June 14 - July 4th: South down the peninsula to La Paz, Baja California del Sur and back to the U. S. border, crossing at Tijuana. We stayed in southern Baja California several days where we made a breeding bird census near La Paz. The roads were very poor (sometimes our average speed was 15 mph or less! Most of the country is desert. We saw three species of birds found on the peninsula: (Xanthus or black-fronted hummingbird, Belding's yellowthroat, and gray thrasher. We recorded the song of the latter but failed to find the San Lucas robin, because it is found in roadless mountains and we were not prepared for a pack trip.

July 5-10: Drove north along the Pacific coast of the U.S. through San Diego, Los Angeles, Carmel, San Francisco and Eureka, California. We traveled along the rocky coast (where we saw sea otters near Carmel) and through the towering redwoods. Also drove through Oregon and Washington, passing through the lush coastal forests. We camped one night at the Hoh River Rain Forest in Olympia National Park

July 11-12: Crossed by ferry from Port Angeles, Washington to Victoria, British Columbia, where we camped one night just north of Victoria, then returned to the U.S.

July 13-16: We drove south through central Washington, Oregon and California (where we camped near magnificent Mount Shasta) to Santa Clara, California.

July 16-18: We visited Mr. Davis' daughter and his son-in-law in Santa Clara. [On July 17, I had to return to Houston by bus to take care of personal matters]

July 18-August 2: Carl and Mr. Davis returned to Harlingen via Arizona and New Mexico going through Los Angeles, Phoenix, Tucson, Santa Fe and El Paso.

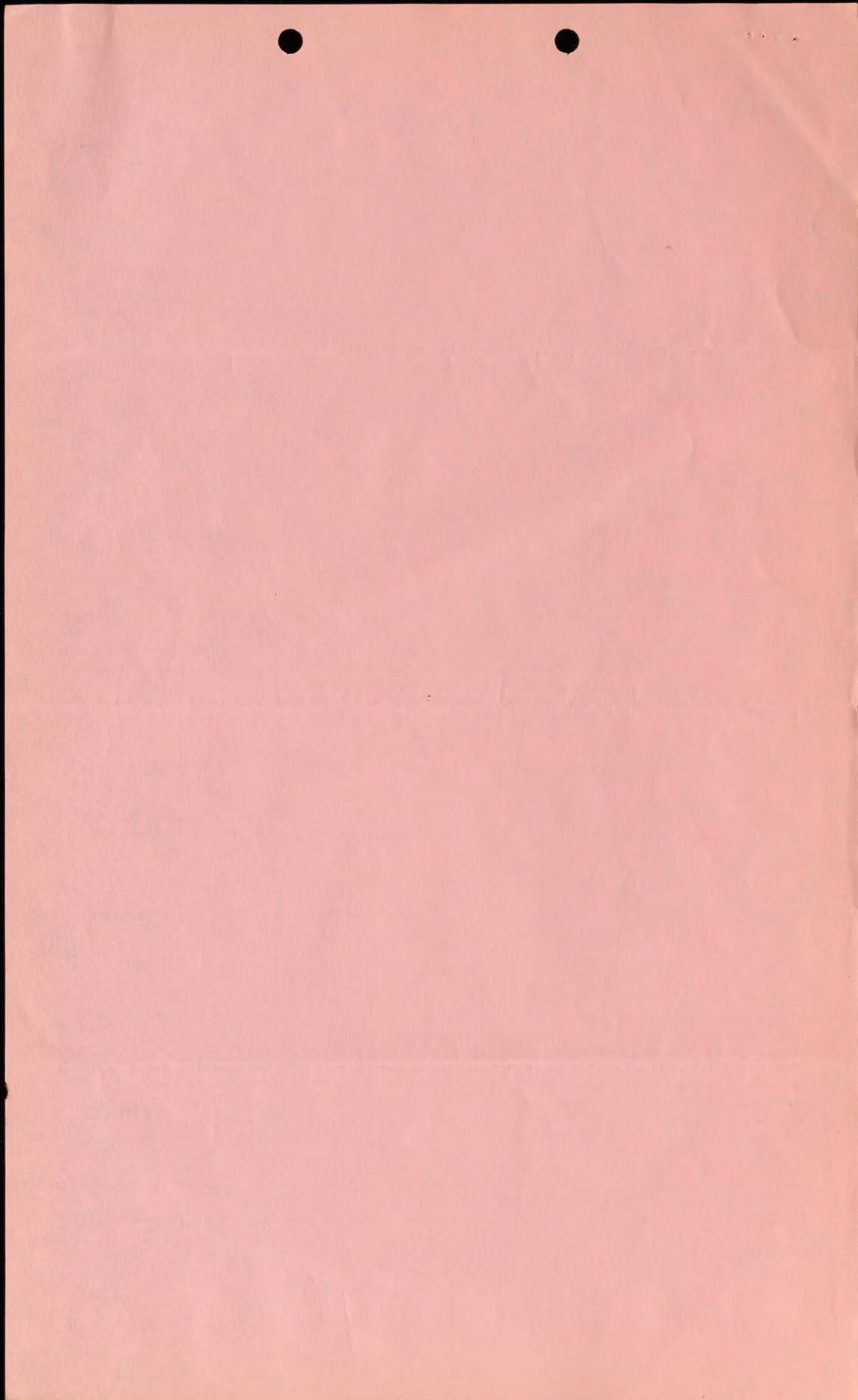
A few statistics: Approximate mileage - 10,000 miles. Number of lifers: About 90 for Carl and I. About 3 for Mr. Davis (the Baja California endemics)

SOME BIRDS SEEN DURING THE U. S. PART OF THE EXPEDITION ----- BY CARL AIKEN

- California quail - Seen along the entire Pacific Coast, from Cape San Lucas in Baja California to Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.
- Wrentit - First observed near Ensenada, Baja California, and seen as far north as Coos Bay, Oregon. The latter record was of three birds, all of which had dark eyes.
- Brown Towhee - One of the most common birds on the trip. It was noted from the deserts of Coahuila and Baja California to southern Oregon, and Arizona.
- Common bushtit - First observed near Anaheim, California. Seen often along the southwestern coast of the U.S. and in Arizona.
- Black-headed grosbeak - Several records of it over the entire trip. It was seen often in Arizona and New Mexico.
- Arizona woodpecker - A pair seen on June 6, in the mountains of Durango, and one seen on July 23, at Pepper Sauce Canyon, Arizona.
- Horned lark - Very common in northern Baja California.
- Lazuli bunting - Two or three immature males near Ensenada, Baja California, on July 3 and 4. One beautiful, singing male near Yrka, California on July 15.
- Costa's hummingbird - First noted near San Antonio, Baja California. Seen as far north as southern California.
- Western gull - Fairly common along the Pacific Coast from Cape San Lucas, Baja California, to Port Angeles, Washington.
- Western kingbird - Very common in the central valley of California.
- Red-shafted flicker - Noted at higher altitudes throughout the trip.
- Sparrow hawk - A few in Baja California and California, but very common in western N.M.
- Yellow-breasted chat - Near Anaheim, California, and Elk, New Mexico.
- Lesser goldfinch - Seen most commonly in southern and central California. All individuals observed were of the hesperophilus race.
- White-tailed kite - Two seen near Anaheim, California on July 4.
- Anna's hummingbird - A few records for southern and central California
- Great horned owl - Two near Anaheim, California, and one on Laguna Atascosa Wildlife refuge near Harlingen, Texas
- Spotted dove - One in Santa Ana, California on July 5 and six in Corona, California July 20
- White-throated swift - Noted in proper habitat throughout the trip
- Acorn woodpecker - A fairly common bird in Durango, Mexico, and in southern and central California.
- Ash-throated flycatcher - Seen in nearly all parts of Mexico, California and Arizona.
- House wren - Only one or two records on the trip.
- California thrasher - Two seen on July 6, at Paradise Camp County Park in California, and two seen on July 19, near Buena Vista Lake in California.



- Allen's hummingbird - A few individuals, thought to be this species, were seen on the trip
- Yellow-billed magpie - Several noted in the Central valley of California
- Western bluebird - First observed in the mountains of Durango. Seen also in California, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- Cooper's hawk - One adult noted in California. In Arizona, we found groups of four immatures in several places.
- Surf scoter - Two found near Morro Bay, California, on July 6.
- Heermann's gull - A few along the Pacific coast of Mexico (near Mazatlan and Guayamas) A flock of over 100 was noted on July 6, north of Morro Bay, California.
- Pelagic cormorant - A few found along the Pacific coast of the U.S.
- Band-tailed pigeon - One in the mountains of Durango, Mexico. Seen frequently in California Oregon and Washington. A flock of 150+ near Elk, New Mexico.
- Stellar's jay - noted in proper habitat throughout the trip.
- Wilson's warbler - Nesting from central California, north to Vancouver Island, B.C.
- American robin - Found in northern California, Oregon, and Washington. Also noted at proper altitude in Mexico, Arizona and New Mexico.
- Fygmy nuthatch - First seen near Carmel, California. Also seen near Mt. Lemmon, Arizona.
- Chestnut-backed chickadee - First seen near Carmel, California. Not too hard to find from there north.
- Ruby-crowned kinglet - Near Carmel, California.
- Oregon junco - Found in northern California, Oregon, and Washington.
- Common yellowthroat - One at Carmel, California, and one at Fern Ridge Dam, California.
- Red-breasted merganser - Eight at Point Santa Rosalia, Baja California, on June 17 and three females at Carmel, California on July 7.
- Baird's Sandpiper - One at Carmel on July 7.
- Snowy plover - One at Carmel on July 7.
- Black oystercatcher - Two at Carmel on June 7; two near Sea Lion's cave, California, July 9
- Plain titmouse - Noted at two different locations in central California.
- Black-throated gray warbler - First seen near Berking, Oregon. Seen several times in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. A large flock noted near Mt. Lemmon, Arizona.
- Vaux's swift - The only positive identification of this species was made near Miranda, California, on July 8.
- Cedar waxwing - Nesting in Oregon and Washington.
- Redhead - One on July 8, near Crescent City, California.
- White-winged scoter - Thousands near Crescent City, California on July 8. They were far out in the Pacific Ocean and hard to see.
- Western tanager - Several noted in the U. S.
- Olive-backed thrush - The beautiful song of this species was with us throughout the north-western U.S. Several individuals were seen in the mountains of Arizona and New Mexico but here they weren't singing.
- Black-capped chickadee - Several noted in Washington and Oregon.
- White-crowned sparrow - One near Port Orford, Oregon on July 9.
- Hermit warbler - Two noted on July 9, near Tillamook, Oregon.
- Brown creeper - Several in the mountains of Durango, Mexico. Also noted in Washington and Oregon.
- Golden-crowned kinglet - Several near Tillamook, Oregon, on July 9.
- Winter wren - Three near Tillamook, Oregon, on July 10.
- American goldfinch - Northern California, Oregon, and Washington.
- Gray jay - Three noted at Olympic National Park on July 10 and 11.
- Glaucous-winged gull - First seen at Port Angeles, Washington. Hundreds in and around Victoria, British Columbia.
- Common murre - 35 seen on July 11, and 5 seen on July 12. They were found both times in the Juan de Fuca Strait.
- Red-breasted nuthatch - Two north of Victoria, British Columbia.
- Orange-crowned warbler - Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia.
- Western wood peewee - Very common at Pepper Sauce Canyon, Arizona.
- Solitary vireo - Several recorded all the way from San Antonio, Baja California, to Vancouver Island, British Columbia.
- Mallard - One female in British Columbia, and 10 plus females in western New Mexico.
- Macgillivray's warbler - One female near Victoria, British Columbia, on July 12, and three near Fern Ridge Dam, California on July 14.
- Violet-green swallow - Common in Durango and Baja California. A few seen in the north-western U.S. Very common near Tererro, New Mexico.
- Red-breasted sapsucker - One male seen on July 13, near Olympia, Washington.
- Ring-necked pheasant - Several females were seen, but only one male.



- White-breasted nuthatch - Several seen in California, Arizona, and New Mexico.
- Mountain quail - An adult and about nine chicks noted on July 14, near Roseburg, Oregon.
- Mountain chickadee - First found near Yrka, California. Very common at higher altitudes in Arizona and New Mexico.
- Rufous hummingbird - Three or four observed on July 15 near Yrka, California.
- Nuttall's woodpecker - The only positive identification of this species was made on July 18, near Los Banos, California.
- Burrowing owl - Several in Baja California and central California.
- Tricolored blackbird - Several near Buena Vista Lake, California.
- Ruddy duck - Buena Vista Lake
- Western grebe - 75 plus in Buena Vista Lake, California.
- Gambel's quail - Several around Caborca, Sonora, Mexico. Also common in Arizona and western New Mexico.
- White-winged dove - Very common in southern Baja California. A few in Arizona and New Mexico, and a few near Harlingen, Texas.
- Abert's towhee - Two near Wickenburg, Arizona, and one near Tallson, Arizona. Both birds were seen on July 21.
- Cactus wren - Very common in the deserts and semi-deserts of Mexico. Also common in Arizona and New Mexico.
- Summer tanager - Several in Arizona.
- Rufous-crowned sparrow - One at Pepper Sauce Canyon, Arizona, on July 22.
- Hutton's vireo - Several in the mountains of Durango, Mexico. Two at Pepper Sauce Canyon on July 22.
- Cañon wren - Two noted in Baja California, and three or four in Arizona.
- Bridled titmouse - 10 plus at Pepper Sauce Canyon.
- Poor-will - Several heard and seen in Mexico. Two or three were calling near Pepper Sauce Canyon, Arizona.
- Gila woodpecker - Common through Baja California and Arizona.
- Cone's flycatcher - Several near El Salto, Durango, Mexico. One near Mr. Lemmon, Arizona.
- Mexican junco - Common in the mountains of Durango and Arizona. Very tame near Mt. Lemmon
- Rivoli's hummingbird - Several females noted near Mt. Lemmon on July 23.
- Broad-tailed hummingbird - A male and female near Mt. Lemmon, Arizona and a male and female near Ruidoso, New Mexico.
- Mexican jay - A large flock near Mt. Lemmon.
- Virginia's warbler - Several studied near Mt. Lemmon on July 24.
- Painted redstart - One in the mountains of Durango, Mexico, and one near Mt. Lemmon.
- Hepatic tanager - One in Arizona and one in New Mexico.
- Curve-billed thrasher - Very common in the desert of Arizona.
- Gilded flicker - Several seen in Baja California, and several near Tucson, Arizona.
- Purple martin - Nesting in the Cardon in Baja California, and in the Giant Saguaro in Arizona.
- Ferruginous owl - Three or four near Tucson, Arizona.
- Black-tailed gnatcatcher - Common the western coast of Mexico and in Baja California. One found near Tucson.
- Elf owl - Three immatures seen on July 26, near Tucson.
- Crissal thrasher - Fairly common in Baja California. Two seen in Tonto National Forest, Arizona.
- Red-naped sapsucker - A male and female observed near Cowles, New Mexico, on July 29.
- Dipper - Two immatures seen near Cowles, New Mexico, on July 29.
- Audubon's warbler - Several near Cowles.
- Gray-headed junco - Common near Cowles, Cloudcroft, and Ruidoso, New Mexico.
- Townsend's solitaire - One on July 30, near Cowles, New Mexico.
- Fine siskin - Several between Pecos and Cowles, New Mexico.
- Red crossbill - A male, female, and immature noted on July 30, between Pecos and Cowles, N.M.
- Evening grosbeak - Two males and a female noted on July 30, between Pecos and Cowles.
- Lark bunting - A few in New Mexico and Texas. They all seemed to be migrating south.
- Turkey - Two near Kingsville, Texas, and five near Cloudcroft, New Mexico.
- Scaled quail - Two west of Monterrey, Mexico. Common in southwestern Texas.
- Wood ibis - One near Eagle Pass, Texas on August 2.
- Botteri's sparrow - One noted at Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge on August 3.
- White tailed hawk - One at Laguna Atascosa on August 3.
- White-collared seedeater - Several near San Benito, Texas.
- Groove-billed ani - Two near Olmito, Texas, and about a dozen near Mazatlan, Mexico.
- Texas sparrow - One was seen feeding two large red-eyed cowbirds near Olmito, Texas.



100-100

CLEARING HOUSE:

- July 19 Clinton and Linda Snyder observed a marbled godwit, a barn swallow and a common tern in the Baytown and Galveston bay area.
- July 26 The Snyders observed a solitary sandpiper in the same area. Other records on July 28 and August 2, 9 and 14.
- August 3 Jerry and Nancy Strickling saw a spotted sandpiper and sora rail at the San Jacinto Battlegrounds. At the Baytown tunnel they observed 40 roseate spoonbills.
The Snyders noted a ruddy turnstone in the Baytown and Galveston bay area.
- August 9 The Snyders saw a Wilson's phalarope in the above area. Other records on August 16.
- August 10 John O'Neill observed blue gray gnatcatchers in western Harris county. Other records on the 13, 30th and Sept. 1.
- August 13 The Snyders saw a northern waterthrush in the Baytown area. Other record on 8/19.
- August 14 JON in western Harris county: brown-headed nuthatch. Other records on August 17, 19 and September 1.
- August 15 The Snyders observed Baird's sandpiper in their area (other records on 8/13, 8/23, 8/24. Also a rough-winged swallow recorded on that date and 8/18
- August 16 John O'Neill in western Harris county: ruby-throated hummingbird (other record on 8/19, 8/30, 8/31, 9/1, 9/2.
- August 18 The Snyders in the Baytown and Galveston Bay area observed upland plover (other record on 8/25) also cliff swallow, wood peewee, Swainson's hawk.
JON saw a yellow-billed cuckoo in western Harris county (other record 9/1
- August 19 Clinton and Linda Snyder observed the following in the Galveston Bay and Baytown area: Broad winged hawk, yellow-bellied and least flycatcher, (200) red-eyed vireo, black-and-white warbler, black-throated green warbler, Kentucky warbler, parula warbler, American redstart, crested flycatcher (also 8/26)
John O'Neill in western Harris county and DeWalt observed crested flycatcher, summer tanager, eastern bluebird, brown-headed nuthatch.
- August 20 John O'Neill in above location: 300 plus fulvous tree ducks
- August 24 Ronald Fowler and Ralph Peterson observed the following in western Harris county north of Katy highway number 90 at Groeshke road: Anhinga (1), snowy egret (40), little blue heron (25), immature white ibis (2), MISSISSIPPI KITE (seen well by both observers - black tail and whitish head noted. Seen perched and in flight) orchard oriole (15), roadrunner (1) apparently drinking water from ditch. It jumped over the fence and ran off into the low brush near the road where it was then seen at a distance of not more than 15 feet by both observers. Bank swallow (25), barn swallow (75), cliff swallow (10), and yellowthroat (1).
- August 25 The Snyders in their area observed upland sandpiper (22) and black-and-white warbler, Baird's sandpiper and ruddy turnstone.
- August 26 The Snyders observed avocet (5) on 8/23, 30 avocet on 8/25 and 125 on 8/26
chuck-wills-widow observed on August 25 and 26. crested flycatcher (1)
summer tanager (1), olive-backed thrush (1)
- August 29 Carl Aiken and Steve Williams noted the following: one red-tailed hawk at the Battleground, 14 avocet at the Battleground and 35 at the Baytown tunnel. One wood ibis at the tunnel. In Kemah: one Canada warbler and one yellow-breasted chat. Common egrets were abundant at the San Jacinto Battlegrounds, and it seems that they have had a very successful nesting season.
John O'Neill in western Harris county: Flicker, brown thrasher, Steve Williams and Carl Aiken: yellow-bellied flycatcher at Galveston county park, 100 avocet at tunnel, Harlan's hawk at San Jacinto, 200 each of snowy and common egret at the Tunnel, 250 black skimmers at Hog Island, two each of marbled godwit and wood ibis at the tunnel, 3 spotted sandpipers.
- August 30 Joe M. Heiser at the Little Thicket area: Blue-gray gnatcatchers abundant - evidently a fall migration wave. Warbling vireo song briefly. Whip-poor-will seen near camp.
Ronald Fowler and John O'Neill in western Harris county and the Barker Dam area: Caracara (1) common egret (5), snowy egret (7) Swainson's hawk (3), upland plover, bank swallow (35), barn swallow (100), cliff swallow (25), tree swallow (75), black tern (150), least tern (one immature) and lesser yellowlegs.
- August 31 Joe Heiser from the Little Thicket area: Hooded warbler singing repeatedly near pond.

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