



# THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXIV, No. 10  
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PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS

### COMING EVENTS

Friday    ONC Outdoor Adventure film, 8:00 pm, Pershing Jr. High Auditorium, 7000  
Feb. 20   Braes Blvd. Leo and Dorothy Eckman present "Four Seasons in Wisconsin".

Feb. 21-29 OG Mexico trip - for further information, call Harry Brister - 681-6456 or  
Bill Mealy - 664-7862

Sat.        ONC Visitor's Day at Little Thicket Sanctuary, 10:00 am to 3 pm. Bring  
Feb. 21   lunch and drinking water. For directions and further information call Ed-  
ward Taylor - 665-8809. Last Visitor's Day, Jan. 24th, saw 25 people at  
the Sanctuary, of whom 13 were new members or guests.

Tuesday   Photography Group regular meeting, 7:30 pm, Bayou Manor Auditorium, 4141 So.  
March 2   Braeswood. Miss Marilyn Crane will present the program of her slides,  
"Birding in Alaska".

Thursday   OG Bird Identification Seminar, 7:30 pm, Fonde Recreation Center, Memorial L  
March 4   Drive at Sabine. This is the first of the educational meetings that will  
alternate several times a year with our regular meetings, as proposed by  
Harry Brister at our December meeting. Fred Collins will conduct the first  
seminar, "Identification of Spring Warblers", and will have slides, and,  
possibly, skins from the Texas A&M collection.

Saturday   Audubon field trip to Brazos Valley, Details are not known at this time,  
March 6   so, if you are interested, call Holly Hobart--523-5723--later.

Saturday   OG field trip to Jones State Forest. Meet at headquarters, 8:00 am. To  
Feb. 28   get there, take IH 45 north to FM 1488, turn left (west), go about a mile  
and a half, headquarters on right, park along shoulders of road.

Tuesday   ONC regular meeting, 8:00 pm, Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive.  
March 6   The program will be presented by the Photography Group.

Saturday   OG field trip to Brazoria Wildlife Refuge. Meet at 8:00 am, at the Angle-  
March 13   ton office of the refuge, on the east side of the highway entering town.

### PAST EVENTS by Mark Kulstad

On Saturday, January 10, Marilyn Crane led a group of birders on an OG field trip to Cinco Ranch, near Addicks. The highlight of the outing was a stunning view of a Le Conte's sparrow. Birders were searching a field for sparrows when someone spotted a Le Conte's perched in a bush at the field's edge. Members of the group converged on the spot, thinking perhaps that the sparrow would disappear before they could get a good look at it. Instead, the bird sat almost motionless, in good light, for several minutes. Birders settled in for close study of a sparrow they might never see as well again. Marilyn Crane took several pictures, some from very close range, as the bird posed prettily for all to see.

Some of the other birds seen on the outing (in all 82 species were identified) were the American Bittern, Cinnamon Teal, Cooper's Hawk, Caracara, Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock, Solitary Sandpiper, Purple Finch, Henslow's, Harris' and Fox Sparrows, and a large owl (perhaps more than one?) which was variously claimed to be "eared" or "earless".

FREEPORT CHRISTMAS COUNT BREAKS 215 by Victor Emanuel

For only the second time in its nineteen year history the Freeport count broke 215. The only previous count of that magnitude was in 1971 when 226 species were recorded. The 1971 count set the all-time U.S. record.

Unusual birds reported included: Least Bittern, Yellow-breasted Chat, Swainson's Thrush, Western Tanager, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, American Redstart, Golden Plover, Great Black-backed Gull, Tennessee Warbler, Philadelphia Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, White-tailed Hawk, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Nighthawk (sp.), and most amazing of all, four species of hummingbird: Ruby-throated, Anna's, Rufous, and Black-chinned! (Special thanks are due Tom and Sh Collins of Lake Jackson who located all the hummers before the count and to Margaret Anderson who was in charge of making sure they were seen and identified on the count day.

Unofficial totals for other counts: Cocoa, Florida - 189, San Diego - 185.

THE NUMBERS GAME

Very belatedly, it has been discovered that for the past year the volume numbers on THE SPOONBILL have been incorrect. For those of you who keep your SPOONBILLS, please correct the volume numbers on these issues: March and April, 1975, numbers 11 and 12, should be Volume XXIII instead of XXIV, and May, 1975 through January 1976 should be XXIV instead of XXV. (Our volume numbers run from May through April).

And about those pesky zip codes! We have attempted to correct our records and labels from the zip code directory put out by the Post Office, but should there have been a goof on your label, please notify Maxine Davis - 723-8559, or Margaret Jones - 665-4197.

And speaking of the Post Office, Maxine Davis, who mails the checklists, reminds that rates have gone up, and here is a new schedule for mailing those checklists. In addition to the cost of 10¢ per checklist, the postage will be:  
1-2 copies--13¢; 3-6 copies--24¢; 7-9 copies--34¢; 10-12 copies--45¢; 13-15 copies--56¢; 16-19 copies--66¢; 20-22 copies--77¢; 23-26 copies--88¢.

A SUCCESSFUL VALLEY TRIP

(Bessie Cornelius gave permission to quote from her recent letter to me. -Ed.)

"We went to the Valley on January 20th, and, at about 9 o'clock am on the 21st, saw a male and female Hook-billed Kite, right where they are supposed to be, on the dike road west of the Refuge. We had our scopes on them until we were tired of them and they of us, I suppose. But it was a beautiful sight. The female has the buffy collar all around the neck, it seems. We then went into the Refuge and found the Masked Ducks and a Beardless Flycatcher late in the afternoon. Couldn't locate the Becards or the Tropical Parula. Went down the east dike road to the second lake, but didn't locate the Grey Hawk. Neither could we find the Clay-colored Robin, altho it has been seen all around headquarters at different times.

"On the 22nd we went to Roma for the Jays and had no trouble finding and seeing them very well. Also found the Ringed and Little Green along the River right there so that saved a trip to Falcon. Went back to Brownsville to the Sidney Benn's residence and they have the Buff-bellied Hummer, as usual. Then their son Steve, casually asked if we had seen the Clay-colored Robin and if not would we like to. Well, we really brightened up on that one, and he took us to a place where he had located one. What a bonus bird that turned out to be even though it took two trips for everyone to get a satisfactory look. Merry Cox and I saw it well that afternoon but we went back the next morning so Babette Odom and Katy Munro could see it well. (All four of these birders are SPOONBILL subscribers. - Ed.) Also that morning was great for the Ravens and Mexican Crows at the City Dump. We chased what might or might not have been the Botteri's Sparrow at Sea Shell Inn spot for about an hour, but were never satisfied with the bird. The tape recorder didn't do much for the bird or us!

"But our really, really bonus bird was an accident, as usual. We were wheeling down Highways 77-83 between San Benito and Brownsville, just about where the Highway makes a bend to head south for Brownsville, and in between green Highway markers 21 and 22, along the railroad tracks, in a very brushy spot, with a few fairly good sized trees interspersed, when a strange looking hawk flew into one of the trees and sat close to the trunk. We backed up, as all birders will do, and after keeping our eyes glued to the bird for quite a few long silent moments, Babette and I both said in one breath "Goshawk!". It was an immature with the very distinct white lines over the eyes, the white cheeks and fluffy underparts--a picture-book replica of the bird. It was a

great sight! We just couldn't believe it would be there, but it was. Then I remembered that Bill Shepherd from Little Rock, Ark., and I saw one last January 8th between Victoria and Matamoros, Mexico. And also I looked up the Gomez-Farias Christmas Count for 1974 and found Ralph and Richard Clearman found one in the Count area. The trip was a huge success!"

Hope the Crow directions OK. (Look in Places to Go this issue). We really enjoyed those Dry Tortugas slides and Harry's narration. The club is still talking about them." (The Bristers and the Gillettes presented the January program of the East Texas Nature Club in Beaumont)

#### AROUND AND ABOUT

\*\*The Wichita Falls visitor, the Northern Shrike, mentioned in recent SPOONBILLS, was unfortunately shot about the first week of the year. Nancy Moore said she found the bird dead when she went out to check on him. Shot, possibly by a youngster with a pellet gun, he had fallen in a Y-shaped branch of the salt Cedar where he often perched, so his fate was apparent. Such a shame a living, breathing, small bird is more appealing to the target shooters than the myriads of beer cans lying around everywhere in the great outdoors!

\*\*Appropos of the Northern Shrike, here is a delightful anecdote about one from the February PHALAROPE, published by the Midland Naturalists, Inc.

"We did it! A once-in-a-lifetime happening for us! In bird descriptions, how many times do you see "slightly larger than" or "slightly smaller than", but the two birds are never together to compare? The day before Christmas we sat at the back living room window, drinking coffee while we watched a Loggerhead Shrike survey the yard from the top of one of the pecan trees. We began to discuss how one can tell the difference between a Northern and Loggerhead Shrike. Having never seen a Northern, we read the description--"slightly larger than", etc. Something flew past the window, back again, and over to the dead apple tree. The bird remained long enough for us to get a good look before he went down to the water dish for a bath. A Northern Shrike! We had the two birds there in the yard to compare.

"When the Northern finished his bath, he flew back to the apple tree, and we set up the camera. He was a nice Christmas present for several birders in Midland, for he remained in the general area about a week. We always knew when he was within a block of the house--every living thing left the yard if it could. The Chukkars hid, and the Raven fussed; only cats had upset the Raven before this. We were very happy to see the Shrike, but we were even happier to see him leave the area. It took a week for our other wintering birds to return; some never did." --Midge & Woody Erskine

\*\*Texas Parks & Wildlife biologists have completed the first of two aerial surveys covering nesting sites of the Bald Eagle, southern subspecies. Texas has the nation's third largest population of this subspecies, between 30 and 50 individuals. Five known pairs of the southern bald eagle produced seven young in Texas during 1975, by far the most successful season the birds in Texas have enjoyed in the five years that production records have been kept.

This first survey, which was conducted along the Gulf Coast, where the southern bald eagle primarily nests, will tell us which nests are active, and the second survey, to be in late February, will help in determining how successful the active nests were in terms of numbers of birds hatched.

During the 1974-75 wintering season, 646 eagles were sighted in Texas and biologists estimate between 250 and 350 northern bald eagles winter in Texas and migrate north to nest. Because both subspecies are basically the same size, it is impossible to tell the birds apart in the field. So, observation of nesting activity is the main determinant used in distinguishing the subspecies.

You are urged to report any bald eagle (and nests, or nesting activity, if any) sightings to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, John H. Reagan Building, Austin, Texas 78701, or to your local P&WD office. And, of course, to the Clearing House.

(Norma Oates and Johanna Grabbe saw 18 bald eagles, all at one time, at Warren Lake in January. The eagles we see at the lake are assumed to be the northern subspecies; does anyone have any information to the contrary?)

\*\*John Tveten's Bird Identification course (U. of H. Department of Continuing Education) will begin Thursday, March 4, continue for 8 weeks, both morning (9:30-11:30) or evening (7:30-9:30) classes, and will be held at the Museum of Natural History. Cost is \$30.00 (over 65 free). Call Mr. Sherman Pease--749-1232--about signing up, or sign up at the door the first day.

PLACES TO GO

\*\*To see Fish Crows at the Beaumont city dump, go east from Houston on IH 10 through the city of Beaumont until you cross the Neches River. After crossing river, get off at first exit and continue on surface road east a short distance until you can cross under freeway. A sign, "G & W Marine, Inc." is at the underpass. Get back onto freeway going west. As soon as you recross the river turn off freeway on Pine St. Continue on Pine St. past City Water Works and the City Maintenance Barns to sign, "Sanitary Land Fill". Take this road east about three blocks and enter into dump area. Stop at office and hold up binoculars, the attendant will smile and wave you on. Follow the road the dump trucks are taking, as the birds will be free-loading while they are unloading. The Fish Crows are here along with hundreds of gulls--Ringbills and Herrings. The Crows will be in the garbage and perching in the cypress trees in the swamp along the road. After seeing and hearing the Crows, drive around some of the roads to the east of the office where it is swampy and bushy as there are good places for Prothonotary Warblers and other birds. None of the roads are closed to traffic in this area, and you can drive any place where the roads are good. --Bessie G. Cornelius

(Pough says, in Audubon Land Bird Guide, "The fish crow is much slimmer, has more pointed wings, and is smaller than a common crow. Its note is its best field character. The longer, more squawk-like call of a young common crow should not be confused with the short, abrupt call of this species. Habitat, gregariousness, soaring, and hovering help identification. The call is a short, hoarse *koek*, closer to a black-crowned night heron's *quawk* than to a common crow's *caw*. A 2-note *oh-oh* is frequent." Peterson says, in Field Guide To The Birds of Texas, "...listen for this small crow. Go by voice, not size (sizes overlap). Voice: A short, nasal *car* or *ca*. Sometimes a 2-syllabled *ca-ha*. Common Crows utter an honest-to-goodness *caw*. --Ed.)

\*\*A Black-chinned Hummingbird can be seen at the home of Mr. J.H. Tabony, a former president of the ONC (1946-51), 3713 Gulf, in Park Place, 645-3247. This is a full-plumaged male, and, according to the Tabonys, not a bit shy. A bonus is a guided tour of Mrs. Tabony's greenhouse, which contains an amazing display of plants, including several different kinds of blooming orchids, ferns, begonias, etc., etc. Your editor hopes this bird stays awhile, unlike the Anna's reported last month, which left the day after the SPOONBILL was mailed!

\*\*If you are traveling up to northeast Texas, there is a flock of Smith's Longspurs at Terrell you may want to see. Margaret Anderson, Norma Oates, and Virginia Courtney made a one-day run up there January 28, and were delighted to add another "lifer". These birds were reported by Mrs. Karen Elrod, who discovered and identified them, and she can get you onto the private property where they can be seen. For directions, contact her at Area Code 214, 563-9743. As of Saturday, February 7th, they were still there.

\*\*This should be a good month to bird Brazoria, upper Ft. Bend, and western Harris counties, and the Texas City Dike.

CLEARING HOUSE, January, 1976

(How to read the C-H: Name of bird: (how many) date, location, observers)

- Loon, Common: (20-25)7, Texas City Dike, P&MJ; (1)22, Surfside Jetty, TC; (8)24, Texas City Dike, D&JD; (18)21, Texas City Dike, TBF&ER  
 " , Red-throated: (1)14, Texas City Dike, MA&MJ; (1)21, Texas City Dike, TBF&ER --see notes
- Grebe, Horned: (4)27, Freeport Marsh, L&MB  
 " , Eared: (4)26, Quintana Beach, (6)30, Freeport Marsh, L&MB; (35)21, Texas City Dike, TBF&ER  
 " , Pied-billed: (3)25, Freeport Marsh, L&MB
- Pelican, White: (500+)1, 17, 21, (750+)31, Houston Light & Power Cooling Ponds (Hereafter referred to as HL&P), (200+)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh (W. Chambers Co.), (35)24 Texas City Dike, (8)24, Bolivar Flats, (100+)24, Rollover Pass, D&JD; (4)25, Sheldon, BH.
- Cormorant, Double-crested: (500+ floating in water with 100+ White Pelicans)14, Texas City Dike, MA&MJ; (4)24, Maner Lake, L&MB  
 " , Olivaceous: (1)1, HL&P, D&JD
- Anhinga: (2)25, Flag Lake, S&TC; (1)11, Flag Lake, (1)24, Maner Lake, L&MB; (1)30, Buckhorn Lake, BH; (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG
- Heron, Great Blue: (1)17, Clay Road, T&JB  
 " , Green: (1)17, Maner Lake, L&MB; (1)22, Maner Lake, P&MJ, MA  
 " , Little Blue: (3)23, Maner Lake, L&MB; (1)25, (2)30, Sheldon, BH
- Egret, Reddish: (1)19, Bayou Vista, P&MJ; (1)23, Maner Lake, L&MB
- Nightheron, Black-crowned: (2)11, Baytown Tunnel, (20)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh, D&JD

- Nightheron, Yellow-crowned: (1)25, Flag Lake, S&TC; (1)11, Flag Lake, L&MB  
 Bittern, American: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG  
 Ibis, White-faced: (4)17, Maner Lake, L&MB  
 " , White: (3-2a, 1)17, Maner Lake, L&MB  
 Spoonbill, Roseate: (267)18, on a two acre island in Cotton Bayou Marsh, D&JD; (1)25, Sheldon, BH; (2)1, Anahuac Refuge, (13)17, Water Reservoir Park, Hwy 146 just north of Dickenson Bayou, Texas City, RK; (9)31, Anahuac Refuge, W&GC  
 Goose, Canada: (100+)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (20+)10, Warren Lake, (50+)18, Cotton Bayou, D&JD; (100)4, Katy-Hockley Cut-off Road, J&BH; (100+)17, W. Harris Co. T&JB; (430)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 " , White-fronted: (30+)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (20+)10, Warren Lake, (50+)18, Cotton Bayou, (20+)24, Anahuac Refuge, D&JD; (400)4, Katy-Hockley Cut-off Road, J&BH; (50+)17, Katy-Hockley Cut-off Road, T&JB  
 " , Snow: (20,000+) all month, E. Harris-W. Chambers Cos., D&JD; (5,000+)4, Clay Road, J&BH; (300+)17, W. Harris Co., T&JB  
 " , species: (250,000+)10, in flight over Clay Road near Barker-Cypress Road, HH  
 " , Ross: (3)19, Katy-Hockley Cut-off, VE --see notes  
 Treeduck, Fulvous: (3)22, FM 762, Fort Bend County, P&MJ, MA --see notes  
 Mallard: (10)17, Warren Lake, T&JB  
 Duck, Black: (1)29, Freeport Marsh, L&MB --see notes  
 Gadwall: (500+)17, Water Reservoir Park, RK  
 Pintail: (6)28, Freeport Marsh, L&MB; (50+)1, (14)21, (2)25, HL&P, (50+)10, Cinco Ranch, OG, (50+)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh, (200+)24, East Galveston Jetty, (200+)24, Anahuac Refuge, D&JD; (300)25, Sheldon, BH; (8)17, Water Reservoir Park, RK; (20+)17, W. Harris Co., T&JB; (5000)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 Teal, Green-winged: (1000+) all month, E. Harris-W. Chambers Cos., D&JD; (500+)17, Water Reservoir Park, RK; (1000+)4, Warren Lake, J&BH; (15)17, Warren Lake, T&JB; (200)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 " , Blue-winged: (4)23, Maner Lake, L&MB; (2)10, Warren Lake, D&JD; (20+)17, W. Harris Co., T&JB  
 " , Cinnamon: (1)22, Maner Lake, P&MJ, MA; (3)4, Warren Lake, J&BH  
 Wigeon, American: (500+)1, HL&P, D&JD; (5)17, Water Reservoir Park, RK  
 Shoveler, Northern: (40)17, Water Reservoir Park, RK  
 Redhead: (2)30, Freeport Marsh, LB  
 Duck, Ring-necked: (10+)10, Warren Lake, D&JD; (6)25, Buckhorn Lake, BH; (8)17, Warren Lake, T&JB  
 Canvasback: (1)14, HL&P, MA&MJ; (2)29, (1)30, Freeport Marsh, S&TC, L&MB; (30+)10, Warren Lake, D&JD; (23)17, Water Reservoir Park, RK  
 Scaup, Greater: (1)30, Freeport Marsh, S&TC; (7)27, Freeport Marsh, L&MB --see notes  
 " , Lesser: (15)23, Maner Lake, (10)27, (6)29, Freeport Marsh, L&MB; (2000+) all month E. Harris-W. Chambers Cos., D&JD  
 Goldeneye, Common: (5)23, Maner Lake, L&MB; (50+)1, HL&P, D&JD; (3)21, Texas City Dike, TBF&ER  
 Bufflehead: (3)21, Texas City Dike, TBF&ER; (50+)1, (30+)17, (2)25, HL&P, (12)11, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (5)7, Texas City Dike, P&MJ; (8-11)14, HL&P, MA&MJ  
 Duck, Ruddy: (2000+) all month, E. Harris-W. Chambers Co., D&JD; (100+)30, Baytown Tunnel, BH  
 Merganser, Hooded: (2)25, Sheldon, BH; (4-6)5, Hwy 7 & 90A, P&MJ, MA  
 " , Red-breasted: (1)14, Texas City Dike, MA&MJ  
 Vulture, Turkey: (4)17, W. Harris Co., T&JB  
 " , Black: (4)10, Cinco Ranch, OG  
 Kite, White-tailed: (1)21, Clodine, J&BH; (2) Dec. 31, Jan. 30, Bay Area Blvd. near Space Center Bldg., (2)1, Dickinson, RK; (2)15, 21, (1)20, 27, U.S. 59 between Richmond and Sugarland, HH; (2)1, Space Center & Bay Area Blvd., Gwen Smith  
 Hawk, Cooper's: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 " , Red-tailed: (2)17, Katy-Hockley Cut-off Road, T&JB  
 " , White-tailed: (1)20, Hoskins Mound Rd., Brazoria Co., VE --see notes  
 Eagle, Bald: (1a, 31)6, Warren Lake, P&MJ; (1a)30, Lake Jackson, S&TC; (3)10, Warren Lake, (1)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh, (2)21, HL&P, D&JD; (9)11, Warren Lake, (2)11, House and Hahl Road, (1)11, Barker-Cypress Road, RK; (4a, 141) Norma Oates and Johanna Grabbe; (2i)17, Warren Lake, T&JB; (3a, 81) Warren, Lake, HH  
 Hawk, Marsh: (50+) all month, E. Harris-W. Chambers Co., D&JD; (2)17, Katy-Hockley Cut-off Road, T&JB  
 Caracara: (1)2, Wilcrest Road, south of Westheimer, P&MJ (this is the third year a Caracara has been reported in this area according to Margaret Anderson)  
 (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)10, Westheimer and Wilcrest, MK  
 Kestrel, American: (200+) all month, E. Harris-W. Chambers Cos., D&JD; (1)17, Clay Road, T&JB  
 Prairie-chicken, Greater: (8)18, Spaceland Airport (booming), VE  
 Crane, Sandhill: (102)17, intersection of FM 1960 & 529, VE; (3)11, Katy-Hockley Road, RK; (13)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (100+)22, FM 762, (20+)22, Brazoria Co. Road #25, north of Maner Lake, P&MJ, MA  
 Rail, King: (1)30, Freeport Marsh, S&TC; (1)24, E. Galveston Jetty, (1)24, Anahuac R., D&JD

- Rail, Clapper: (2)24, Anahuac Refuge, (1)25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD  
 Gallinule, Common: (6a, 1)23, Maner Lake, L&MB; (1)1, Anahuac Refuge, RK  
 Jacana: (6a, 1 sub-adult)22, Maner Lake (from bridge)P&MJ, MA; (4a, 1)24, Maner Lake, L&MB: (2)20, bridge at Maner Lake, VE  
 Oystercatcher, American: (2)7, Texas City Dike, P&MJ  
 Plover, Semipalmated: (25)24, Sportsman Road, D&JD  
 " , Piping: (50+)24, Sportsman Road, (200+)24, Bolivar Flats, D&JD; (2)19, Galveston Jetty, P&MJ; (3)1, Bolivar Flats, RK  
 " , Snowy: (6)1, Bolivar Flats, RK  
 " , Black-bellied: (10+)24, Sportsman Road, D&JD  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: (13)24, Sportsman Road, D&JD  
 Woodcock, American: (2-3)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)21, Rice Farm Road (between FM 1405 and FM 2354, W. Chambers Co.), D&JD; (1)30, Eisenhower Park, BH  
 Snipe, Common: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)10, Katy, (2)10, Clay Road, (50+)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh, (1)25, Baytown Tunnel, D&JD; (2)4, W. Harris Co., (1)25, Sheldon, BH; (5)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 Curlew, Long-billed: (2-25)6-31, Richmond State School, HH  
 Knot, Red: (1)19, Galveston East Jetties, P&MJ; (1)20, Surfside Beach, VE  
 Sandpiper, Least: (25+)1, (20)11, HL&P, (200+)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh, (500+)24, Bolivar Flats, D&JD  
 Godwit, Marbled: (43)24, Sportsman Road, D&JD  
 Avocet, American: (1)11, HL&P, (50+)17, Cedar Point, (1000+)24, Bolivar, D&JD  
 Gull, Glaucous: (1)7, Texas City Dike, P&MJ --see notes  
 " , GREAT BLACK-BACKED: (2)4, Quintana Jetty, L&MB --see notes  
 " , Ring-billed: (7)20, parking lot of Rice Stadium, MK  
 " , Bonaparte's: (7)11, Quintana Jetty, L&MB; (3)22, Surfside Jetty, (30+)24, Dow Chemical, (20+)30, Brazos River, S&TC; (25+)1, HL&P, (50+)24, Rollover Pass, D&JD  
 KITTIWAKE, BLACK-LEGGED: (3)13, Quintana Jetty, L&MB --see notes  
 Tern, Common: (1)24, Intra-coastal Canal, Bryan Beach, LB; (4)19, Galveston East Jetty, P&MJ  
 " , Caspian: (1)20, parking lot of Rice Stadium, MK  
 Skimmer, Black: (500+)24, South Jetty, (4)24, Bolivar Flats, (500+)24, Rollover Pass, D&JD  
 Dove, White-winged: (1)19, Galveston County Courthouse, P&MJ  
 " , Ground: (5)30, Clay Road, J&BH; (1)18, Clay Road at S. Mayde Creek, RK  
 " , Inca: (5)11, Clay Road at S. Mayde Creek, RK; (4-6) daily, yard, J&BH  
 Roadrunner: (1)10, Needville, Linda Tielke (reported by HH--a regular bird in this area)  
 Ani, Groove-billed: (2)17, south of Maner Lake at intersection of Brazoria County roads #25 and #27, P&MJ; (1)17, Cinco Ranch, C&SC  
 Owl, Barn: (1)5, Johnson Space Center, RK  
 " , Great Horned: (1)10, Clay Road at S. Mayde Creek (heard), D&JD; (1)10, Cinco R., OG  
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: (1)2, W.E. Tompkin's feeder, Baytown, D&JD--see notes.  
 : , ANNA'S: (1)5, Mrs. Byrd's feeder, P&MJ, MA; (1) all month, Lake Jackson, S&TC  
 --see notes  
 " , Rufous: (1)25, Lake Jackson, S&TC; (2)2, Margaret Anderson's feeders; (1)22, our yard feeder, P&MJ  
 " , ALLEN'S: (1)11, 17, 18, Pettingell yard, SE Houston, Noel Pettingell, Ethel Pettingell, Bob & Mary Ann Moore --see notes  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: (1)24, Clute, LB; (2)25, Eisenhower Park, BH  
 " , Red-headed: (1)25, Buckhorn Lake, BH; (2)12, Clute, MB  
 " , Hairy: (1)22, Brazoria Co. Road #25, north of Maner Lake, P&MJ, MA  
 Flycatcher, Empidonax species: (1)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER --see notes  
 " , Vermilion: (1)5, Hwy 59, north of Oyster Creek bridge (this slough, on east side between Oyster Creek and Sugar Creek subdivision entrance, nearly always seems to offer something: Wood Ducks, Angingas, nesting herons, etc. have been seen here in the past)P&MJ, MA; (1)17, Maner Lake, L&MB; (1)17, Cinco Ranch, C&SC  
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted: (1)25, Eisenhower Park, BH; (2)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 " , Brown-headed: (2)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 Wren, Winter: (1)22, Lake Jackson, TC; (1)17, Lake Jackson, SC  
 " , Long-billed Marsh: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG  
 Catbird, Gray: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)18, Clay Road, (1)30, Eisenhower Park, BH  
 Robin, American: (5000+)11, E. Harris-W. Chambers Co. (first day of this migration)D&JD  
 Thrush, Hermit: (1) daily, yard, J&BH; (1) daily, yard, P&MJ  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: (10+)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (2)10, Clay Road, (5)13, Baytown Civic Center Park, D&JD  
 Pipit, Water: (20+)1, 11, 25, 31, Baytown Tunnel, (50+)10, Cinco Ranch, OG, D&JD; (6)29, Freeport Marsh, L&MB  
 " , Sprague's: (3)18, Texas City Dike, VE; (1)18, Texas City Dike, David Deifik  
 Shrike, Loggerhead: (1)17, W. Harris Co., T&JB  
 Vireo, White-eyed: (1)22, Maner Lake area, P&MJ, MA  
 " , Solitary, (1)17, Clay Road, T&JB  
 Warbler, Black-and-white: (1)3, Cove, P&MJ, Dorothy Lefkovits  
 " , Orange-crowned: (1)4, yard, J&BH  
 " , Yellow-rumped (Audubon's): (1)3, Cove, PJ, Dorothy Lefkovits

- Warbler, Pine: (1)25, Eisenhower Park, BH  
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: (1)3, Cove, P&MJ, Dorothy Lefkovits --see notes  
 Warbler, Wilson's: (1)10, Lake Jackson, TC  
 BLACKBIRD, YELLOW-HEADED: (1)16, Rice University campus, MK --see notes  
 " , Rusty: (8-12)5, Bear Creek Park, P&MJ, MA; (35)10, near Sheldon Reservoir, VE;  
 (11)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 9(12)17, W. Harris Co., T&JB; (10)18, Cotton Bayou Marsh, (11)24,  
 Sportsman Road, D&JD  
 Grosbeak, Black-headed: (2)2, M.E. Tompkin's feeder, Baytown, D&JD --see notes  
 Finch, Purple: (1)17, Lake Jackson, SC; (1)2, M.E. Tompkin's feeder, Baytown, D&JD; (4)10,  
 Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)21, St. Thomas University, MK  
 Towhee, Rufous-sided (Eastern): (1)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER;  
 " , Spotted: (1 male, 1 female)22, Brazoria Co. Road #25, north of Maner Lake, P&MJ  
 MA  
 Sparrow, Le Conte's: (10)10, Cinco Ranch, OG  
 " , Seaside: (1)24, Sportsman Road, (20+)24, Anahuac Refuge, D&JD  
 " , Vesper: (1)24, Lake Jackson, TC  
 " , Harris': (10)17, Clay Road, T&JB; (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (3)28, W. Harris Co.,  
 TBF&ER  
 " , White-crowned: (10)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (16)28, W. Harris, Co., TBF&ER; (5-6)  
 daily, yard, P&MJ  
 " , Fox: (1)5, Bear Creek Park, P&MJ, MA; (2)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)31, Lake Jackson,  
 SC; (1)24, Maner Lake, L&MB; (1)11, House and Hahl' Road at Cypress Creek, RK;  
 (1)17, Clay Road, T&JB; (1)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER  
 " , Swamp: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (1)10, Clay Road at S. Mayde Creek, D&JD  
 " , Song: (4)24, Lake Jackson, TC; (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG; (20)17, Clay Road, T&JB;  
 (1)28, W. Harris Co., TBF&ER

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

MA - Margaret Anderson; LB - Larry Ballard; MB- Martha Ballard; T&JB - Tommy & James Barnes; C&S - Chuck & Suzi Campbell; SC - Sherry Collins; TC - Tom Collins; W&GC - Glenn Cureton; D&JD - David & Jan Dauphin; VE - Victor Emanuel; TBF - T. Ben Feltner; J&BH - Jean & Bill Harwell; HH - Holly Hobart; P&MJ - Paul & Margaret Jones; RK - Randy Korotev; MK - Mark Kulstad; ER - Elaine Robinson; OG - Ornithology Groub field trip.

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

Red-throated Loon: With Common Loons at Texas City Dike; distance down to 50 yards; 30x Balscope; size approximately 3/4 length and 1/2 bulk of Common Loon. Back plumage slightly lighter than Common Loons; beak very fine with lower mandible curved sharply up, giving the bird an upturned bill aspect; watched for 10 minutes or so. Observed by both observers several times on Pacific Coast. Previously reported by Margaret Anderson and Margaret Jones and others. --T. Ben Feltner

Ross' Goose: All three birds were seen singly with different flock of Snow Geese. Small size, stubby all pink bill, short thick necks, rounded forehead; distance: 50-100 yards; 20x scope. Observed for 30 sec. to 1 minute at a time as they fed among the Snow Geese. --Victor Emanuel

Fulvous Treeduck: One was seen standing in field with Sandhill Cranes. Light brownish head, treeduck stance. Flew, and was joined by two more, so distinctive tail - black with white rump - was well seen. 7x35, 7x50 binoculars. Clear sunny day. --Paul & Margaret Jones, Margaret Anderson

Black Duck: 4:05-4:10 pm; sighted one Black Duck. Range about 50-60 ft. in very bright sunlight near northwest end of the marsh. He had a very dark back, gray face (very striking contrast), clear yellow bill, violet wing patches, red feet. The patch looked a dark wine red in the strong light; when he flew toward the Brazos River, he showed a very dark belly and white wings. Observed carefully with 7x35 and 8x50 binoculars. --Larry and Martha Ballard

White-tailed Hawk: gray upper surface of wings, rufous shoulders, dark head, white body below, wings below were dark on rear part and light on forepart, tail and rump were completely snow white except for a narrow, sharply defined black terminal band. Observed for 5 minutes as close as 50 yards. --Victor Emanuel

Glaucous Gull: All white, larger than Herring, large head, stout bill. Observed 10-12 minutes while bird was flying with flock of gulls behind shrimp boat (which gave excellent view of contrast in size), also at rest on water. Cloudy but hazy-bright. 7x35, 7x50 binoculars, 20x Balscope. (Gull was subsequently seen by the Stricklings, who pronounced it a first-year bird). --Paul & Margaret Jones

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL: Observed for 20 minutes, 5:05-5:25, January 4, 1976, in and around Quintana side of Freeport Jetties. They had dirty white head and very dark grayish-black back; dark bill, light at base. First observed in water; the very large size was immediately noticed. They took to the air and began to harass the near-by Ring-billed Gulls. They were twice their length and noticeably larger than a first-year Herring Gull that flew by. They then landed on the jetties. They appeared to be twice as high and had at least four times the bulk of the Ring-billed Gulls that were nearby. Seen in bright overcast. White edge on tail, darker then lighter toward base. Wings looked mottled brown on forewing and black or very dark brown on trailing edge (top of wings). Observed with 7x35 and 8x50 binoculars--ranges varied from 30 to 180 feet. --Larry and Martha Ballard

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE: Observed for 15 minutes, 4:45-5:00 pm, January 4, 1976, on Quintana side of Freeport Jetties. Half ring on back of neck, squared not rounded tail, black legs, tail black band and white edge. Wing pattern identical to that shown in Birds of North America. Tails at times appeared to be slightly V-ed; were observed again at about 5:30. Initially seen in bright sunlight. Observed with 7x35 and 8x50 binoculars. --Larry and Martha Ballard

Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Male seen at feeder with 10x50 binocs at 15 feet. Bird had red throat, whitish-gray breast, green crown and back. --David & Jan Dauphin

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: This is the bird first seen Nov. 12, subsequently identified by Margaret Anderson, and seen by many people, and photographed by several during its two-month stay. By the time it left January 14, it had developed into a full-plumaged male (brilliant rose-red on head and throat), and singing almost constantly while perched. --Margaret Jones

ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: Seen all month long at the Oelfke's house at 110 Begonia, Lake Jackson. Male Anna's beginning to get full color. Had red spots showing on throat, red going back behind the ear and red on the forehead. Al Learned has taken photographs of it. --Sherry and Tom Collins

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD: The following immature male plumage description was obtained (i.e., derived from sketch made while bird actually being observed) on Jan. 17 from 3:20 to 3:55 pm by NP using 7x35 binoculars in bright sunlight (behind observer) with bird perched 25 feet away and on Jan. 18 from 1:43 to 2:30 and 3:40 to 4:00 pm by Bob and Mary Ann Moore, NP, Jim Beaty, David Deifik, Debbie Dekeyzer, Holly Hobart, and Aileen & Bob Moulton, using both binoculars and 20-45x Bushnell Spacemaster II telescope in bright sunlight (behind observers) with bird perched on feeder (65 ft. away) or in its vicinity (70 ft. away) at 210 E. Edgebrook Drive:

Crown, back of head, upper back and wings bright green. Rump and under tail-coverts rufous, with green of back ending at rump along a clearly-defined line. Tip of tail and upper tail-coverts appeared dark green in closed position (upper surface of tail while spread was not seen with binoculars or scope) and wing tips were blackish. A rufous eye-stripe extended from above the dark lores, surrounded a white spot just behind each eye, and faded into the green of the head behind each eye. A cluster of red spots were concentrated at the center of the white throat with red flecks scattered along sides of throat. Sides of body from throat to under tail-coverts appeared to be a browner rufous in comparison with cinnamon rufous of rump. Center of breast and belly were white, as was area between edge of wing and rufous of side. The bird was not seen again until Feb. 1 when it was observed at the feeder between 11:54 am and 12:21 pm by NP and between 2:29 and 2:48 pm by NP and Margaret Jones. Several color slides were obtained by TPJ from 2:41 to 2:48 pm by means of a Minolta SRT-101 with 250 mm. lens, which, hopefully, will result in portraits of sufficient clarity to reveal both diagnostic coloration and narrow, pointed outer tail feathers.

Previous reports of Allen's Hummingbird in Upper TexasCoast Area:

- Jan. 25-27, 1958: Houston (Mrs. J.H. Tabony)-Audubon Field Notes, June 1958, p.293  
Aug. 15-16, 1968: Houston (Margaret Anderson)-Spoonbill, Sept. 1968 (p.1) and AFN, Feb. 1969, (p.80)  
 About Nov. 12, 1968-April 16, 1969: La Porte (Linda Snyder, et.al.)-Spoonbill, Feb. 1969 (p.7) and May 1969 (p.7) and American Birds, June 1971, (p.602)  
Oct. 10-11, 1969: La Porte (LS)-Spoonbill, Dec. 1969 (p.3) and AB, June 1971, (p.602)  
Nov. 26, 1970-March 7, 1971: Baytown (Nettie Busby, et.al.)-Spoonbill, March 1971 (pp.4 & 5) and April 1971 (p.8) and AB, June 1971, (p.602)

Empidonax species Flycatcher: Small, pewee-sized or smaller; greenish gray back; prominent eye-ring; two strong white wing-bars; back and tail uniform; upper mandible dark; lower at least 2/3rd terminally yellowish; tail twitched back before moving forward, wings also flicked with this motion; no yellowish or grayish wash on breast or sides. From (illegible word-C-H Ed.) thinking on field identification of empidonax I feel this bird was an Alder Flycatcher. It was observed at leisure for 2-3 minutes at distances down to 16 feet with 8x binoculars. --T. Ben Feltner

Yellow-breasted Chat: Seen at distance of 12-15 feet, for same amount of seconds. Large size (much larger than Yellowthroats inhabiting same area), brilliant yellow breast, heavy bill and white spectacles clearly seen. 7x35, 7x50 binoculars. (This was one of two chats reported on the Old River Christmas Count taken that day).

--Margaret Jones

YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD: A very dark bird with a yellow (tinged with orange) head and breast. Noticeably larger than the brown-headed cowbirds flocking around it. The neck was quite thick and there was black near the eye. The yellow color did not extend onto the nape of the neck. In flight the bird did not seem to flap its wings as quickly as the cowbirds with it. I looked for a distinct white patch on the wing and did not see one. Observation conditions: the bird was on the ground, 30 to 40 yards away from me, in the middle of a large flock of cowbirds. The sun was low in the sky and off to the right. I used 7x35 binoculars and watched the bird for 5-10 minutes before the flock flew off. Later I caught a brief glimpse of what I assume was the same bird, this time in a tree. --Mark Kulstad

Black-headed Grosbeak: These birds have been seen at this location for several years in the winter. Mrs. M.E. Tompkins has observed as many as 7 birds in December. Jan and I observed two males at a feeder eating sunflower seeds with Goldfiches and a male Purple finch. They had black heads, tails, and wings with white spots on wings. Breast and rumps were bright rusty orange, backs were streaked with black.

--David & Jan Dauphin

No details: Henslow's sparrow: (1)10, Cinco Ranch, OG

Oldsquaw: (1)December 13, 1975)HL&P cooling ponds. This bird was discovered as it swam from the rip-rap along the road near the outfall of the impoundment. The initial sighting was made at a distance of about 20-25 feet. The bird remained within binocular range for the entire OG field trippers to view. This bird had a generally white head with a darker "stripe" from bill along middle of crown. The back of the neck was white. On the side of the head behind and lower than the eye there was a dark patch the center of which was darker than the edges. The bill of the bird was dark and the body was generally dark although it was very light at the rear along the waterline. The bird was seen to be smaller than the American coots and larger than Eared grebes which were present. Lighting was excellent, 7x10 binoculars and scopes were used by the many observers. Because of the markings and the lack of a long spike tail I believe this bird corresponds to the females as pictures in Birds of North America and Peterson's Birds of Texas. --Holly Hobart

#### MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, February 5, 1976

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Harry Brister, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the Minutes of the December 1975 Meeting, motion was properly made, seconded and carried that those minutes be accepted as published.

Exhibiting several copies of the OG Roster, Margaret Jones announced that they were available to new members who had failed to get a copy.

Accepted as read was the Treasurer's Report for the four-month period October 1, 1975 -January 31, 1976. Receipts were \$220.95, disbursements were \$217.71, and balance on hand was \$651.83.

It was announced that Jim Lane's Guide to the Rio Grande Valley and to Southern California have been revised and will be available this spring.

The Chairman reported that entrance to the Fonde parking lot at the April Meeting would be limited to Memorial Dr., as it was for this meeting, in order to eliminate those who are attending a rock concert being held nearby. If we are questioned by the parking attendants, we need only tell them that we are attending a meeting at the Recreation Center.

Following Margaret Jones' report on the status of THE SPOONBILL, the Group gave her a round of applause for the excellent job she has done for the past four years as editor. (Correction: I have been operating the mimeograph for four years, but have been editor for only 1 1/2 years---MJ) Margaret added that everyone was slowing down on sending in material for publication and that she needed help from us if the paper was going to continue to be a good one. Harry Brister commented that he considered THE SPOONBILL to be the best birding newsletter published and encouraged us to support

Margaret in her efforts to maintain a high quality. She also reported that Maxine Davis is now forwarding an information packet about our organization to those who show an interest in us, including the 11 people who responded to the information in WATCHEM that ONC published a checklist of this area. This practice, she says, has really produced encouraging results.

Margaret Anderson reported that an Allen's Hummingbird can be seen at Noel Pettingill's home on Edgebrook, and a full-plumaged male Black-chinned at the Tabony's on Gulf St. She said that everyone who had hummingbird feeders up is getting them, the Rufous being most common. In addition, Margaret mentioned that the Purple Martins are back. A further discussion about hummingbird feeders revealed that the hummers will come to feeders on the second floor level.

Several members reported having seen an announcement in THE POST about OG. Gladys Galbreath, Publicity Chairman, had sent out 17 notices.

According to Bill Mealy, John O'Neill, who it is hoped will be our speaker at our next regular meeting, has accepted a position of curator of the museum at LSU.

A number of interesting books from our library were on display and briefly reviewed by Avis Brister. Emphasis was on those which would be of interest to those who plan birding trips to Mexico. Bill Mealy has checked our library and estimates its value at 700. Several volumes are out of print and have acquired considerable value. Sarah Gordon donated the book given her by Exxon's Baytown Refinery (a publication on the Gulf of Mexico) which she said was well done and quite interesting. She said the refinery personnel had been very cooperative with her group who bird there as part of their area on the Christmas Count. She mentioned that reporters and cameramen from Exxon accompanied them on this year's count at the refinery and that she got to see the in-house TV news item which resulted. Louise Rogers added that Sarah was interviewed for this newscast, giving a fine performance and some publicity to the Club and to the Christmas Count. Also displayed were a number of pictures taken on the OG field trip to the HL&P cooling ponds and a copy of the Houston Sportsman's Club publication.

Expressing disappointment that Paul Nimmons was unable to be present to comment on the Christmas Count, our Chairman emphasized that an increase in participants in the '75 Count resulted, he felt, in the increased number of species identified. He said he hoped Paul could come up next year with at least one more observer to make a total of 100 birders taking part. He invited all our new members to join with us in the '76 Count and asked for a show of hands of the leaders and other participants present at the meeting who helped on the last Count. Margaret Jones advised that the writeup in THE SPOONBILL on the next Count will not have our figures broken down by areas, but will include the results of other Counts in our checklist area, which she thinks may be of greater interest.

Under the direction of Marilyn Crane, a Bird Identification Seminar will be held at Fonde at 7:30 on March 4, concentrating on spring warblers. Fred Collins will bring some skins and run some slides. Mr. Brister encouraged as many as possible to be present and to give him some feedback after they have attended this meeting, which will be an innovation for the Group.

Announcements were made concerning other interesting things to attend this spring, including John Tveten's bird identification class to be given both morning and evening on Thursdays at the Museum of Natural History. This series will again be sponsored by OG. Two of our members, Gladys Galbreath and Mary Gillette, volunteered to be roll call takers at the morning classes, which entitles them to attend free of charge. Volunteers are also needed for the evening classes. Also coming up in April are TOS meetings in Galveston and ABA meetings in Beaumont.

At the conclusion of announcements, Program Chairman Bill Mealy took over. He explained that the other members of the panel scheduled to appear on the program were all unable to attend for reasons of illness, etc. However, he ably presented the material which would be helpful to those going on birding trips to Mexico. He gave a brief history of birding in Mexico, which really began, he said, with Fuertes at the beginning of the century and brought it up to date. A number of publications on Mexican birding were displayed and explained, as well as the ABA checklist. Bill pointed out that there are approximately 1000 species in Mexico, 500 of which are unfamiliar to North American birders, and that birding did not become popular in Mexico until the advent of guidebooks in color - say during the last decade. Unfortunately, their agricultural practice of slash and burn on the steep hillsides is destroying a lot of habitat. He concluded his presentation with a number of color slides of the terrain, vegetation, and birds in the locales frequently birded, some of which are on the itinerary for the trip he will lead to Mexico later this month, to the envy of those of us who will not be able to go along.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Louise Rogers

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING:New Members:

Mrs. David Blair, Ft. Clark Springs, PO Box 345, Brackettville, Texas 78832	
Dr. & Mrs. George W. Clayton, 2115 Polsover, Houston, Texas 77005	528-0146
Mr. & Mrs. Morton Hawkins, 4954 Yarwell, Houston, Texas 77096	723-9043
Mrs. Burdette Keeland, 2025 Banks, Houston, Texas 77006	524-4838
Mrs. Grant Perry, 5423 Candletree, Houston, Texas 77091	682-7818
Mr. Theodore Scheid, 4407 Phil, Bellaire, Texas 77401	668-8181
Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Willman, Route 2, Box 520, Pearland, Texas 77581	485-1795

New Non-member Subscribers:

Mrs. Larry F. Wright, 57 Nasturtium Court, Lake Jackson, Texas 77566  
 Mrs. Glenn R. Davis, 7541-B Alameda-Genoa Road, Houston, Texas 77075

New Complimentary Copy:

Sterling Municipal Library, Public Library Avenue, Baytown, Texas 77520

New Exchanges:

THE ALTA MIRA, Mary A. Goering, Editor, 311 S. Indiana, Westlaco, Texas 78596  
 THE TULSA SCISSORTAIL, Pam Howell, Editor, 2543 E. 24th St., Tulsa, Okla., 74114

Changes of Address:

Noel C. Ellis, 5534 Allendale Road, Houston, Texas 77017	944-0069
Miss Jean Coberly, 608 Pacific, Houston, Texas 77006	
Mrs. E.P. Gill, 1902 Westwood St., Georgetown, Texas 78626	

EDITOR'S COMMENT:

For some time we have been actively promoting our message that the Ornithology Group and THE SPOONBILL are "strictly for the birds", and it would seem from the number of members and subscribers we have welcomed in the last few months, that the message is getting across. Does this show an increased interest in birding or an increased awareness of the Outdoor Nature Club and its various study groups, including the Ornithology Group? In other words, were the birders there, and are they just now finding us, or are we helping some to develop a new interest in birding? Regardless, we welcome you all, and feel that you can add as much enjoyment to our birding as we can add to yours. If you are a new birder, feel free to call any member of OG with your questions, if you don't get an answer that is satisfactory, at least you'll enjoy the discussion, and will be directed to someone who can answer you. Come to our meetings, join our field trips, and let's enjoy the company of the birds and each other.

"BIRDY PHRASES"

Julia Bradley has been scratching around like a hen in a barnyard and has come up with the following list:

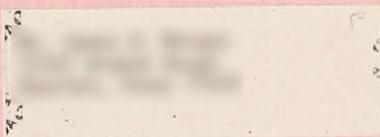
"For years man has compared himself and his actions to certain birds. The following are a few:

Plump as a partridge	An old coot
Naked as a jay bird	Bald as an eagle
Graceful as a swan	Crazy as a cuckoo.
Crazy as a loon	Wise as an owl
Sings like a canary	As quick as a duck on a June bug
Talking cold turkey	Easy as duck soup
Peaceful as a dove	He's chicken (a coward).
Proud as a peacock.	Mad as a wet hen.
Waddles like a duck	Know any more???"

Julia, how about "eagle-eyed" or "that's for the birds"!

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Spoonbill:	Mrs. T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Tex.77401	665-4197
Clearing House:	Mr. Dan Hardy, 10215 Chatterton, Houston, Tex.77043	468-2748
Rare Bird Alert:	Mrs. L.W. Anderson, 2913 Amherst, Houston, Tex.77005	668-6405
Change of Address:	Mrs. Richard Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston, Tex.77096	723-8559