

THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME VIII NO. 7
NOVEMBER 1959

*The mobbing of an owl by small birds raises *
*a puzzling question. Why do they do it so *
*seldom? The occurrence is well known. We *
*hear an excited chatter of small birds of *
*different species drawn by common interest *
*to one tree. When the annoyance becomes in- *
*tolerable, the owl flies from the tree pur- *
*sued by cries that express hatred and dis- *
*gust. Possibly the fuss begins by a bird *
*coming upon the owl unaware. Its note of a- *
*larm might draw the attention of others who *
*might assume that the owl had done something *
*menacing, contrary to its habit in the day- *
*time. This would be a breach of the custom *
*of the woods that enable owls and small birds *
*to exist together in peace during daytime. *
*Taken from Viscount Grey's The charm of birds *

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

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

- November 14 Outdoor Nature Club overnight field trip to the Canyon Country. To be led by Mr. Leonard McWhirter.
- November 19 Museum of Natural History film program: Dr. Ernest P. Edwards "Travels in Mexico and Panama." Two museum expeditions - natural history, ancient cultures, people.
- November 26- Texas Ornithological Society Thanksgiving Field Trip. Galveston, Texas.
29 Headquarters: Galvez Hotel. More, lots more, inside.
- December 3 Regular bi-monthly meeting of the ORNITHOLOGY GROUP to be held at the Houston Natural Gas Hospitality House on Alabama and Kirby at 8:00 p.m. The entire program of this meeting will be dedicated to plans for that big, big day - THE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT! Come prepared to voice your opinion - and expect to get beaten down to a nub if no one agrees with you. Remember, you are among friends (?)
- December 8 Regular monthly meeting of the Outdoor Nature Club. "Yellowstone" will be the subject discussed by Dr. Boyd E. Ashton.
- December 17 Audubon Screen Tour at Lamar High School - William Anderson on "Design for survival."
- December 20 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. More about that too in this issue and the next.

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP REPORTS

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP FIELD TRIP TO COVE, October 25, 1959 --- REPORTED BY DUDLEY DEAVER

At 8:30, the monthly Ornithology Group Caravan, under the proficient leadership of Bob and Mabel Deshayes; ensconced in their hummingbird Fiat; left the Baytown Tunnel, where the earlier arrivals had watched a group of water birds including avocets, dowitchers, ringed plovers, and both yellowlegs. A phoebe and several water pipits had also been located.

An attractive pine grove, with a thick undergrowth of yupon, constituted the first major stop. Here, the party constituents sallied forth into woods and car trunks to appease appetites both physical and ornithological. In the woods, we checked off several red-bellied woodpeckers, five or six blue-jays, a score of titmice and chickadees, a white-throat-

from all sides in good light. It was about the size of an olive-sided flycatcher, and as big headed, but more crested. Its bill was wide at the base, more so than any other flycatcher I know, and, like an olive-sided had coarse bristles about the mouth. The bill was dark above and conspicuously bright below. I thought it bright yellow, but since Easter thought it was somewhat red, it may have been reddish yellow. A pewee bill is so narrow that the yellow is inconspicuous. The wingbars were well defined but narrower than the pewee. There was no rufous color on the tail at all. The underparts were less olive than some olive-sides and suffused with yellow, as dark in the middle as on the sides. I told Easter "There aint no such bird" but on consulting his field guide, he said it had to be an olive-sided. Forgetting the yellow bill, I agreed. After consulting all the books I have, I am satisfied it was a COLE'S FLYCATCHER.

On October 15, Linda Snyder and I saw a flock of more than a thousand cowbirds fly across the road. There was a white bird among them. Assuming it to be an albino cowbird, we stopped to look. It circled about without the cowbirds. The shape and motion of its tail in flight caused me to suggest a scissortail, and Mrs. Snyder suggested a barn swallow, but neither of us could agree with ourselves, much less with each other. As it lit in a rice field, I noticed with it another of the same kind but even more surprisingly colored. In twenty-five years of birding, I doubt if I was ever more anxious, and certainly never more puzzled, for always before in such cases hope would cause guesses of this, that, or another bird flashing through my mind - but not this time. The birds flushed! Just two escaped love birds!

The big day was October 14. Counting a pinioned canvasback, I got 98 species after missing many common species such as all rails, black vulture, crow, blue jay, and even the town sparrow. After a late start, I crossed Old River Lake and into May's Marsh. All common dabblers except mallard and wood duck were flying about. An eagle flushed 5,000 or more including about 45 tree ducks. Here I also got the coot, white and white-faced ibis, snow and blue geese, seaside and first swamp sparrow, and first short-billed marsh wren. From there I moved down to the narrows of Old River. I parked the boat to walk across a flooded mud flat to the east slough and down it to Trinity, down its bank to the mouth of Old River, and back to my boat - about two and a half miles of hard and time consuming going.

On the mud flat † which then appeared to be a lake with mud exposed on one side) many ducks were seen flying across it as well as waders, shore birds (including spoonbills) shovellers, mallards, white pelican, white-fronted goose, long-billed dowitchers, and chimney swifts. The slow, hard walk down the slough to the Trinity was disappointing. Of course I continued to see birds in flight on on the flooded mud flats, but from the willows and high weeds from which I expected much, I flushed only four birds in addition to a very few cardinals, many redwings, and black-crowned night herons. Three of those four birds were exclusives for the day: a yellow-crowned night heron, a whip-poor-will and the latest common water thrush I ever saw, also a magnolia warbler. The best part of the whole area, the heavily wooded bank and swamp along the Trinity had nothing - not even a redwing.

The narrows of Old River, a great birding place, had nothing but cardinals, redwings and a catbird - until I was near the boat. Then I struck a group of migrants from which, before they evaded me, I got chickadees, gnatcatchers, magnolia warblers, a yellow-throated and two white-eyed vireos, wood thrush, Carolina wren, Tennessee, Nashville, yellow, black-and-white, and chestnut-sided warblers.

I then returned up Old River to Lawrence's Island, a very good migration trap. Here I added the mockingbird and vermilion flycatcher but even they were scarce until I flushed a troop of migrants close to my boat: about 30 gnatcatchers, 3 redstarts, a yellowthroat, a hooded and several magnolia warblers.

I took my outboard motor home, grabbed a wiener and wrapped it in a piece of bread, and with a full water bottle headed for Cedar Point. Here I made the mistake of going to Swan Marsh first instead of last. There I added the Caspian tern, skimmer, crippled canvasback, short-billed dowitcher, the first dunlin of the season, willet, black-bellied and semipalmated plover, and turnstone. Along the way I had gotten a Cooper's hawk, a WESTERN KINGBIRD, and three ANIS.

It was late, too late, when I got to what Carl and Vic dubbed the "catbird place". A hundred or more warblers quickly moved into dense woods where the light was too poor for effective birding. Two hundred or more indigo buntings with a few blue grosbeaks did likewise. This was the rear guard of a good blue grosbeak migration which had seemed to end on October 5. Other birds added here were catbirds, an empidonax flycatcher, two rose-breasted grosbeaks and Wilson warbler. Going home I saw five nighthawks.

Submitted by Arlie McKay

?? ARE YOU MAKING YOUR PLANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT??

ARLIE MCKAY'S REPORT FROM THE COVE FOR OCTOBER 1959 --- (He made it and we are glad, ed.)

In the last 25 years I have observed 278 species of birds here during the month of October; of these I got 196 this October, missing 17 that I got in October 1958. In this report when I refer to the earliest, latest, or first fall record I am referring to my observations in this area only, and not those of any others in this area or elsewhere.

Common loon: 1 on 10/25 with only one earlier record(10/18), 1 on 28th, 31st, 3 individuals -Pied billed grebe: 1 to 43 on 7 days from 10/28 -white pelican: 2 to 12,000(24th) on 16 days -anhinga: none, though numbers roost in the heronry just across the Trinity near the Highway 73 bridge -double-crested cormorant: 1 to 11 on 7 days from the 7th.

Cattle egret: about 55 on the 1st -American bittern: 1, the first, on 17th -white-faced ibis: 9 to 46 on 3 days -white ibis: 9 days, 150 est. on the 4th --spoonbill: 2 to 31(15th) on 4 days.

Tree duck:- about 45 on 14th; white-fronted goose: my first flock on 12th, migrating 11 to 14th; 25 on 16th, 1 on 25th, 28th, others saw some in September. -Snow and blue geese: 6 snows on 7th, 24 snows and 2 blues on 11th, 1 flock on 12th, about 1200 on 14th, even more on the 15th and most days since, some had been reported as early as September 26; -Canada goose: many reports indefinite as to dates and numbers. My first one on 28th, a lesser Canada (it was the smallest of four, including a large adult, and two small immature blues). Some would mistake such as a Richardson's goose, but they are much smaller than blue geese. I saw another lesser 10/31; -mallard: 2 on 11th, 3 on 14th, 1 on 15th, but from 1 to 4 had been seen from time to time before, a flock of 8 on 17th were perhaps the first migrants, then about 10 on 25th, about 20 on 28th, 3 on 31st; -mottled duck: 1 to 100(14th) on 17 days; -gadwall: 2 on 2nd, 3 on 4th, 50+ on 5th, etc. about 1000 on 28th; -baldpate: 1 to 3000(25th) on 10 days; -pintail: frequent, about 3000 on 14th and 5000 on 25th; -green-winged teal: frequent, about 1000 on 14th and 25th; -blue-winged teal: frequent to 17th, 2000 on 14th, only one identified on 25th; -shoveler: 2 to 30(14th) on 4 days; -canvas-back: about 20 on 27th, 1 on 31st; -lesser scaup: Waller Greene saw 4 or 5 flocks migrating on 25th. With a telescope I saw a few thousand duck about 3 miles out in the bay and was told that there were many thousands six or more miles out, but I could record only 3 on 27th, but since the great rafts on the bay would fly low over the water when flushed that would indicate diving ducks of which lesser scaup would be dominant. This mid-bay rafting made observation of a great migration of diving ducks from October 25 to November 3 unrewarding; -ruddy duck: 1 on 28th.

Sharp-shinned hawk: 1 to 2 on 8 days; -Cooper's hawk: 1 on 14th, 18th and 31st; -red-tailed hawk: 1 to 7 on 6 days, first 3 on 18th, 7 with one in dark phase on 27th; -red-shouldered hawk: 1 to 4(30th) on 17 days; -broad-winged hawk: 25 on 21st; -Swainson's hawk: 1 on 15th and 27th; -eagle: 1 on 3rd, 1 or 2 on 14th; -marsh hawk: on 21 days building up, 2 on 5th, 3 on 9th, 5 on 15th, 13 on 25th, 28 on 27th; -osprey: only 1 (?) on 9th, 12th and 24th; -caracara: 2 on 27th; -peregrine falcon: 1 on 2nd and 4th; PIGEON HAWK: 1 on 7th and 17th; -sparrow hawk: building up, 7 on 1st and 4th, 13 on 5th, 14 on 6th, 17 on 13th, 18 on 14th, 26 on 15th, 34 on 27th.

King rail: 1 on 5th and 20th; -clapper rail: 4 on 9th, 1 on 13th, 2 on 18th, 1 on 24th; -sora rail: 1 on 2nd; -coot: 6 days, 6 on 14th, 200 on 25th, 4000 on the 28th.

Plovers - semipalmated plover: 1 on 9th, 2 on 14th and 18th; -golden plover: 2 to 4 on 31st; -black-bellied plover: 1 to 40 (28th) on 11 days; -turnstone: 2 on 14th, 18th and 27th.

Snipe: 1 to 5 on 12 days; -long-billed curlew: 1 to 3 (25th) on 4 days; -upland plover: 1 on 7th, first for October, latest ever before was September 27; -spotted sandpiper: 1 to 3 (11th) on 9 days; -willet: 1 to 22(15th) on 11 days; -greater yellowlegs: 1 to 6 (5th) on 11 days; -lesser yellowlegs: 1 to 15(7th, 31st) on 11 days; -pectoral sandpiper: 4 on 4th, 1 on 5th; -dunlin: from the 14th; -dowitcher: 2 to 61 (11th) on 11 days; -stilt sandpiper: 1 on 7th; -sanderling: 1 on 6th, 3 on 27th; -avocet: 12 on 17th, 1 on 25th.

Ring-billed gull: first 5 on 9th, about 200 by 31st; -Franklin's gull: 1 on 9th, about 40 on 24th, 2500 on 25th, etc. Terns excepting Forster's scarce. Gull-billed tern 1 on 7th, 2 on 15th, 1 on 25th; -royal tern 1 on 18th then on 27th and 28th; -Caspian tern: only 5 days, 50 plus on the 14th; -black tern: 4 on 2nd, 6 on 3rd, 30 on 5th, 1 on 28th; -skimmer: 1 on the 14th.

GROUND DOVE: 1 on 15th, 2 on 26th; -yellow-billed cuckoo: 1 on 6th, 2 on 15th; -black-billed cuckoo: 1 on 11th; -ANI: 2 on 5th, 1 on 9th and 10th, 3 on 14th.

Owls: barn owl: 1 on 9th, another at LaPorte on 18th; -screech owl: 1 to 2 on 15 days; -horned owl: 1 to 2 on 7 days; BURROWING OWL: 1 on 27th, the fifth one in 25 years; -barred owl: 2 on 1st, 1 on 7 other days.

Chuck-wills-widow: 1 on 5th, 1 or 2 on 9th; -whip-poor-will: 1 on 9th, 1 on 14th, -nighthawk: 1 on 9th, 5 on 14th; -swift: 2 on 5th, 2 flocks of 12 and 8 on the 14th, 2 on the 17th; -hummingbird: to the 18th, 1 to 5 (4th) on 15 days; -RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD: 1 on the first of October; -kingfisher: 1 to 3 (25th) on 13 days.

date, with group of western sandpipers, 20 roseate spoonbill, plus usual at Tunnel.

October 8: Call of pauraque again! October 9: brown thrasher singing, Traill's flycatcher (identified by call), 50 white-fronted geese. October 10: Wilson's warbler, last eastern kingbird, wood ibis, 2 black tern.

October 11: Still have chimney swifts, 24 scissor-tailed flycatchers, and black-necked stilt, but last nighthawk (2), 2000 white pelican. October 12: long-billed curlew at La Porte Tunnel interchange! 2 catbird, broad-winged hawk. October 13: 10 indigo bunting, 2 catbird, least flycatcher, (identified by call), 100 avocet, 100 dowitcher, 2 pectoral sandpiper.

October 14: Spent the morning trying to rescue a laughing gull hung up on a high wire near the Tunnel. The driving storm of early morning plus the wire took a toll of 5 laughing gulls and 1 black tern. The gull was rescued but died from a splintered wing and shock. Also, 6 magnolia warblers, parula warblers, white-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, catbird, 6 indigo bunting, osprey, and 3 Canada geese.

October 15: First yellow-shafted flicker and yellow-bellied sapsucker. Birding with A. K. K. at Cedar Bayou-Cove area brought 2 palm, black-and-white, black-throated green, 3 chestnut-sided, magnolia, Nashville, yellowthroat, yellow and Tennessee warblers, redstart, olive-backed thrush, cowbird, catbird, red-eyed, white-eyed, solitary and yellow-throated vireos, house wren, kinglet, indigo bunting, white-throated and Lincoln's sparrows, 3 phoebe, empidonax, 35 scissor-tailed flycatchers, 29 sparrow hawks, great horned owl, snipe, ducks, and roseate spoonbill.

October 16: First Cooper's hawk, 25 double-crested cormorant. October 17: woodcock back. October 18: First water pipits, orange-crowned and myrtle warblers, magnolia, black-and-white, chestnut-sided and Wilson's warblers, ovenbird, catbird, ruby-crowned kinglet (6), house wren, yellow-throated and white-eyed vireos, barn and tree swallows, 2 sapsucker; at Tunnel were king rail, black-necked stilt, avocet, dowitchers, etc.

October 19: Blackburnian, magnolia, Wilson's and orange-crowned warblers, redstart, golden-crowned kinglet, yellow-throated vireo, wood pewee, catbird, indigo bunting, 2 reddish egret and clapper rail, plus the usual at Tunnel. October 20: Last chimney swifts (3), first dunlin in numbers (5), snow and blue geese. October 21: First red-tailed hawk (2), Blackburnian, black-throated green, magnolia, Nashville warblers, white-eyed and yellow-throated vireos.

October 22: Barn owl trying to roost in tree in yard. Chased away by blue-jays! October 24: Scissor-tailed flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo, wood pewee, 8 phoebe, 2 palm, magnolia and orange-crowned warblers; white-crowned, white-throated and Lincoln's sparrows; indigo bunting, roseate spoonbill, 7 scaup, 4 shovellers, 200 avocet, 6 dunlin, 50 dowitchers, 15 lesser yellowlegs, 2 greater yellowlegs, spotted and least sandpipers, barn owl, 4 marsh hawks.

October 25: First saw a "booby-like bird" flying over bay, but could not identify it because of morning sun. Pine warbler, myrtle, 6 orange-crowned warblers, yellow-throated warbler, 2 phoebe, solitary vireo, ruby-throated hummingbird, 200 ring-billed gull, 12 double crested cormorant, black-necked stilt, reddish egret, dunlin, plus usual at Tunnel.

October 26: eared grebe, 2 ruddy duck, 6 Franklin's gull, 130 snow and blue geese.

October 27: Common loon on bay. October 28: Black-and-white, black-throated green and parula warblers, redstart, hummingbird, little blue heron. October 29: 2 GANNET - one subadult with black patches on wings and one mottled brown immature. Seen from 100-300 yards out on bay and identified by size (like a small pelican), shape (pointed bill and tail) and flying actions. Eared grebe, 4 ruddy duck, 4 scaup, 20 shoveler, 300 dowitcher, 300 avocet, greater yellowlegs (6), 15 lesser yellowlegs, 6 semipalmated plover, 2 spotted sandpiper, 1000 peeps, 2 kingfisher, 75 snow and blue geese, 2000 white pelican, little blue heron. October 31: osprey, 100 Franklin's gulls, eared grebe, ruddy duck, scaup, shoveler.

November 2: Scissor-tailed flycatcher, black-necked stilt, Franklin's gull, 5 black skimmer, reddish egret, little blue heron, 4 ruddy duck, 8 lesser scaup, eared grebe, plus usual. November 3: First hermit thrush (2) November 5: 6 redhead duck on bay; and at Tunnel: 6 ruddy duck, eared grebe, 2 black-necked stilt, plus usual.

Submitted by Linda Snyder

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COMMENTS ON SEPTEMBER OBSERVATIONS OF BIRDS *** by Victor Emanuel

Two of the outstanding birds reported in September were fall migrants which strayed and two were vagrants. These outstanding birds were reported in the October Spoonbill and were: *NORTHERN PHALAROPE* seen by Clinton and Linda Snyder at the Baytown tunnel on October 4, *BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER* (female) seen by Linda Snyder at La Porte on September 29, 2 *WHITE TAILED KITES* seen by Nancy and Jerry Strickling near Richmond on September 13, and *HARRIS' HAWKS* (2) seen by Clinton Snyder and me off South Main at the southwestern edge of Houston on September 23.

First I will consider the two vagrants, the kites and hawks. This record for the white tailed kite constitutes the 6th record for our checklist area and the first fall record,

Previous records were: March 22, 1938 at Cove
February 7, 1943 at Cove
April 12, 1949 at Cove
April 10, 1955 at Seabrook
April 17, 1955 at Highland Bayou

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This record for the Harris' hawk also is the 6th record for the previous area. Previous ones being: October 28, 1940 at Clear Lake; November 3, 1943 at Cove; October 16, 1946 at Cove; March 15, 1948 at Cove; May 4, 1952 at Seabrook. All previous records for both of these south Texas birds in our area have been in either the Cove area or the Seabrook-Highland Bayou area. This fact is possibly due to the proximity of these two areas to the bay, since strays tend to stop at the waters edge; but a contributing factor to the number of reports from these two areas is certainly that they are covered more intensively than most other parts of our region, and this has been the case for many years. Both of the recent records were in the Sugarland area which is not covered very well (for example no one had every to my knowledge birded the road on which the Stricklings found the kites prior to that day). Both the white-tailed kite and Harris Hawk have been observed once in Louisiana. In fact, the first specimen of the Harris hawk known to science is the one taken by Audubon in Louisiana. Observers who went to the "kite area" on the next day were unsuccessful in their attempt to locate the kites. Neither the kites nor hawks have been seen since the initial observations.

The theory on the appearance of valley birds north of the valley in the spring is that they were migrating north from Mexico and "overshot" the valley (Derby flycatchers have reached Rockport and even Louisiana due to this occurrence). There are many spring records to attest to this occurrence. In the case of fall records the explanation is that of wandering which occurs following the breeding season. Egrets are especially noted for this tendency.

The northern phalarope was a new record for our area. This species has been recorded in April at Rockport so it's straying from its west Texas flyway into this area is not too fantastic especially since shorebirds tend to stray more than some other groups. Nevertheless this constitutes one of the eastern-most records for this species (Louisiana has no record for this species).

The recent record for the black-throated blue warbler constitutes the 4th record for our area. Previous ones being: October 23, 1950, Houston -- October 25, 1952, Cove -- April 27, 1958, Galveston. This species migrates east of our area mainly through Florida. In the case of all four species discussed it is important to realize that more of them probably stray in our area than we find.

In the case of the Merrill's pauraque and yellow-green vireo, both of them constitute such identification problems, that it is this writers opinion that they should be placed on the hypothetical list until seen by two or more observers. The pauraque was not seen; only heard. There is also a possible sight record of the pauraque from Galveston but no details are available on that report.

Other records of interest: The vermilion flycatcher seen by Carl Aiken and Mr. Gilman at Galveston on September 16 was only four days later than the earliest fall record of September 12, 1953. Also it was a female with yellow underparts rather than the more common pinkish ochre underparts.

Pigeon hawk listed as 6WV (rare winter visitant) on checklist was reported on four dates in the October Spoonbill: Sept. 19 - 1 near Texas City by Dudley Deaver and Trevor Feltner. September 13 - 1 at La Porte by Linda and Clinton Snyder. October 4 - 1 in downtown Houston by John O'Neill. Also Joe Heiser saw one in downtown Houston around Sept. 19 and one near Willis on the way up to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary about the same time. A lot of reports for a 6 WV.

Flickers were later coming in this year than last year, not being reported until Oct. 6 (JON) The earliest fall record for this species is September 20, 1938 and the average date at which they have arrived is October 3rd.

Analyzation submitted by Vic L. Emanuel

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Note and apology from the editor. As you can see this is a real full-house Spoonbill. Your interesting articles so kindly sent in, will have to wait for another issue. Also, the "clearing house" lists are deleted of all but unusual birds, although full lists are turned over to Vic Emanuel for his comments. And may I take this opportunity to publicly take off my hat and bow low to Vic for the above interpretation, an informative and important report!

CLEARING HOUSE:

September 19 At 9:00 a.m. in Memorial area, a migration of broad-winged hawks spotted overhead by John Craig. In an hour, he and his father, Hardin Craig, counted at least 300.
September 21 300+ broad-winged hawks and a few Swainson's seen by Vic Emanuel at home.
October 3 Observed by Leota Stillwell and Norma Oates at San Jacinto and Baytown tunnel: 2 empidonax flycatchers, 1 magnolia warbler, 1 Wilson's warbler, 2 blue

- gray gnatcatchers, 2 WHITE-TAILED HAWKS. All on Miller cut off road.
- October 4 Same observers in Galveston with the day cloudy but no rain. Tide high and waves high and rough. The usual plus 4 cormorants, 1 INCA DOVE, 2 lesser scaup, 6 fulvous, 50 cattle egret in one flock on 7 mile road, 2 marbled godwit on golf course, 1 marsh and 6 sparrow hawks, 1 immature black-crowned night heron, 2 white ibis, 2 black-bellied plover, 2 semipalmated plover, clapper rail, 6 black-necked stilt, 1 Caspian tern, 6 gull-billed tern, 1 lesser yellowlegs.
- C. H. Kiefner saw a pileated woodpecker on Memorial Drive just west of Gaywood. Observed by Ben Feltner and Dudley Deaver in Travis County near Austin: house finch, 2 flickers, crested flycatcher, vermilion flycatcher (female) 2 red-tailed hawks, 2 sharp-shinned hawks, 19 kestrel (17 in one field) 1 male Baltimore oriole, 3 phoebe, 1 Say's phoebe, 3 redstart, 1 roadrunner, lots of lark sparrows, 1 summer tanager, many black-crested titmice, 1 wild turkey, 1 solitary vireo, 1 black-and-white warbler, 27 Nashville, 13 Wilson 1 Mexican woodpecker, 3 Bewick's wrens.
- October 7 Carl Aiken noted one catbird on College Station campus. Chimney swifts and scissortails are still common.
- October 8 The Barnettes observed a brown thrasher in their yard. John O'Neill has had 2 hairy woodpeckers in his yard since October 1. Hoffmans in yard: immature red-headed woodpecker, nuthatches, flicker, 2 solitary vireos, pine warbler, white-eyed vireo (with black eyes but right song)
- October 10 Carl Aiken observed 6 common nighthawks at Montgomery, Texas. Observed by Ruth Moorman and Norma Oates at Sheldon Reservoir, San Jacinto Battle Ground, and Baytown tunnel: the usual plus - 1 anhinga at Sheldon, 15 avocets at Tunnel, 7 wood duck at Sheldon, 10 pied-billed grebe at Sheldon, 1 marsh hawk, 2 kingfisher 6 little blue heron, 4 Louisiana, 1 yellowthroat warbler.
- October 11 The Stricklings and JON on Clay Road to Brookshire: 2 catbirds, 1 ruby-crown 4 phoebe, 1 Savannah sparrow, 2 horned owls, red-headed woodpecker. Ben Feltner and Dudley Deaver in Galveston, Brazoria and Fort Bend counties: 113 avocets at Tunnel, 2 reddish egrets, 3 marsh hawks, 1 Swainson's, 1 immature white ibis, 2 horned larks, 1 water pipit, sanderling, 5 snipe, black-necked stilt (last date) 11 blue-winged teal, 73 green-winged teal at Freeport, 5 Caspian tern.
- October 13 John O'Neill at home: 5 or 600 common grackle, 1 indigo bunting, 30 Canada geese, 4 white-fronted geese, 10 swifts.
- October 14 JON at home: 4 swifts, 50 blue jays in a flock eating acorns, 1 hummer. Vic Emanuel: 15 chimney swifts flying high over Rice Institute.
- October 15 Vic Emanuel at home: one nighthawk Nancy Morian and Louise Hoffman in Memorial area: lark sparrow, vesper sparrow, house wren, 6 redheads, 6 sapsuckers, flicker, 4 phoebe, 3 r-c kinglet.
- October 18 The Henry Aldrichs saw a kingfisher near a ditch full of water on Katy Road. Vic Emanuel, Dudley Deaver and Ben Feltner in Harris County, Logenbaugh and Cinco Ranches, afternoon to Baytown tunnel: 67 avocets, bittern, 1500 redwinged blackbirds, bobwhite, caracara, 2 catbirds, 15 mallard, 5000 pintails, 25 redhead ducks, 50 shovelers, 3 flickers, 30 scissortails, 2100 blue, 20 lesser Canada, 3850 snow, 1050 wht-frtd geese, 8 Franklin's gulls, 29 female and 3 male marsh hawks, 6 red-tailed hawks, 35 kestrel, 3 WHITE-TAILED HAWKS, winter wren, 2 ruby-thrtd humminbirds, wood ibis, 2 snipe, 20 starling, Savannah sparrow, 155 barn, 12 rough-wings, 300 green-wgd teal, brown thrasher, lark sparrow, 4 phoebe, American bittern, caracara, coot, 130 dowitchers, 150 white pelican.
- Josiephine Wilkin, Leota Stillwell, and Norma Oates birding at Baytown tunnel and Galveston saw the usual plus: 10 indigo bunting in Mulberry Grove, 30 coot, 100+ 1-b curlew, large flocks of mourning doves, 30 widgeon, 125+ cattle egret on 7 mile road, 50 scissortails, 35 marbled godwit, 8 pied-bld grebe, herring, laughing, ring-bld gulls, 10 tricolor, 4 white and 30 white-faced ibis, 1 brown pelican, 15 blk-bellied plover, 2 sapsucker, 6 turnstone, 3 short-bld marsh wren.
- October 19 Ben Feltner at home: 1 white-crowned sparrow.
- October 24 Josiephine Wilkin saw some ring-billed gulls flying over their house. Fred Webster and Vic Emanuel at Austin observed: 35 to 48 sandhill cranes, 4 desert sparrows, 15 chipping sparrows, 3 white-thrtd, 1 white-crowned sparrow, 20 lark, 1 rufous and 2 vesper sparrows, verdin, hermit thrush, 1000 ducks (unid.) 30 scissortails, 2 Carolina wren, 10 Arkansas goldfinch, 30 house finch, 4 blk-crstd titmice, golden-frtd woodpecker, 8 Franklin's gulls, 40 ring-billed gulls, ruby-thrtd hummingbird. At Katy: 1 caracara and 1 Swainson's hawk.
- October 25 Carl Aiken saw 174 Franklin's gulls migrating south over College Station. Vic Emanuel - 2 Franklin's gulls at home. Jerry Baker saw 150 Franklin's gulls flying southeast over her home in p.m. Thelma Smith, Katrina Thompson and John O'Neill birded on Bryan, Quintana & Surfside beaches shortly after sun-up - they won't say how shortly after: WESTERN KINGBIRD Savannah & Lincoln's sparrows, brown pelican, oliv. cormorant, peregrine falcon, PIGEON HAWK, 2 caracara, male & female cowbirds, royal tern, 14 Canada geese, phoebe, pied-billed grebe, American bittern, horned lark, water pipit, 7 knot, 2 turnstone, osprey, gallinule.

- October 26 Clinton Snyder, Paul Corneil and Vic Emanuel spotted 100⁺ Franklin's gulls over Rice Institute plus 2 yellow-bellied sapsuckers.
- October 27 Vic Emanuel on West Blvd: 4 blue-gray gnatcatchers, 5 r-c kinglets. Ella and Helen Wolfer and Edna Miner birding in Galveston: observed a large flock of cormorants flying over causeway, 5 knots were seen on the beach between 9 & 11 mile road. Also the usual plus: bittern, caracara, coot, mottled, pintail, widgeon ducks, flickers, gallinule, kingfisher, brown pelican, sapsucker, snipe, blue-wgd teal, Caspian & Royal tern, turnstone, sanderling.
- October 28 Mrs. Charles A. Bahr, Sr. saw a large group of common grackle. In Honolulu she saw many mynah birds which were smaller and grayer than the caged birds we have here. Also hundreds of doves in Honolulu.
- October 29 The Charles Hamiltons while in Florida added to their life list the great white heron, Everglades and swallow-tailed kites, and limpkin. In the southern Everglades they saw hundreds of palm warblers.
- October 30 Mrs. E. J. Goodwin noted a sapsucker at her home on Leisure Lane. Carl Aiken reported 1 scissor-tailed flycatcher at College Station.
- November 1 The Barnettes reported a flicker in their yard - sounding off like a pileated! Dr. Charles K. Bruhl birding below Freeport on the Intercoastal Canal noted snow, white-fronted, and blue geese; great blue heron, little blue heron, American egret, herring gulls, and ducks too far away to identify. Norma Oates, Ruth Moorman, Leota Stillwell birding in Galveston to 13 mile rd. noted the usual plus: bobwhite, indigo bunting, 30 coot, cowbirds, fulvous tree duck, 8 widgeon, 50 cattle egret, 3 marbled godwit, 10 white ibis, nighthawk, osprey (perched on a flagpole at the institution next to Country Club) phoebe, dunlin and pectoral sandpipers, sapsucker, 10 starlings, very large migration of swallows (tree & rough wgd, probably) barn swallow, Forster's tern, 8 turnstone, 4 orange-crowned and 2 black-throated green warblers.
- November 3 Mrs. E. J. Goodwin at her home on Leisure Lane - 2 brown thrashers. House wren back at Hoffmans. 1958 first record was November 9.
- November 4 Ben Feltner birding at Sheldon Reservoir: 26 fulvous tree ducks, vermilion flycatcher, 5 mallards, rough-wgd swallows, 2 anhingas, 2 kingfishers, 15 immature white ibis, 5 lesser scaup, 30 blue-wgd teal, 27 d-c cormorants.
- November 6 First chipping sparrow for Hoffmans. 1958 first on November 14.

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PLANS FOR THE 1959 CHRISTMAS BIRD CENSUS ARE UNDERWAY. YOU ARE INCLUDED IN THOSE PLANS. REMEMBER YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A HIGH-PRICED BIRDER TO PARTICIPATE AND BE OF VALUE. THIS IS A CENSUS SO WE NEED PEOPLE TO TALLY AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY SPECIES. WITH YOUR APPROVAL YOU WILL BE ASSIGNED SO THAT THERE WILL BE EVEN DISTRIBUTION OF PERSONNEL AS TO THE SIZE AND BIRD DENSITY OF AREA. BE THINKING OF THE AREA TO WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE ASSIGNED. WITH GOOD PLANNING AND THE COOPERATION OF ALL BIRDERS IN THE AREA, COCOA, FLORIDA HAD BETTER LOOK OUT!

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MORE ABOUT THE TOS THANKSGIVING MEETING:

First off, everyone is invited to participate. You don't have to be a member. Just pay the usual 50¢ registration fee.

Here are the chairmen if you should wish to contact any of them: Chairman: Leota Stillwell. Banquet: Thelma Smith, Katrina Thompson, John O'Neill. Entertainment: Luta E. Buchanan, Norma Oates. Registration: Edna Miner, Ruth Moorman. Trips: Jerry Strickling.

Though the meeting begins officially on November 27, for those who can arrive on Thanksgiving Day, November 26, the Ornithology Group of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston will be hosts at an "Early Bird Coffee" from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Palm Room of the Hotel Galvez. The OG's hope that many of you will be able to make this pre-meeting affair.

Quote from Thelma Smith: "For those addicted to motels but who would like to stay at the meeting's headquarters, we should like to point out that the Hotel Galvez is located on the beach, has very ample parking space, and a "come as you are" policy so that even we birders in our sometimes "unique" outfits will not look out of place. In addition the delightful, large lobby is a perfect place to visit and chat with your friends between trips."

In addition to the field trips, there will be a get together in the Palm Room of the Hotel Galvez at 7:30 p.m. November 27 at which colored slides taken by members will be shown. The banquet will be held at 7:00 p.m. on November 28. Dr. Ernest P. Edwards will speak on "The Great Lakes and North Woods" illustrated with colored movies. Mr. Charles W. Hamilton will be toastmaster for the banquet.

On the reverse of this sheet is a reservation form to be filled out and sent to Miss Thelma Smith, 2148 Harold, Apt. 12, Houston, Texas.

SEE YOU IN GALVESTON!

DINNERS: _____ at \$2.75 each
no. of persons

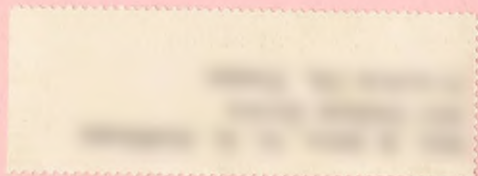
FIELD TRIPS:

November 27 _____ Trip #1 at \$3.00 each
_____ Trips #2, #3, #4

November 28 _____ Trip #5 at \$3.00 each
_____ Trips #6, #7, #8

Registration Fee _____ at 50¢ each
no. of persons

Name _____
Address _____



Outdoor Nature Club
(Ornithology Group)
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