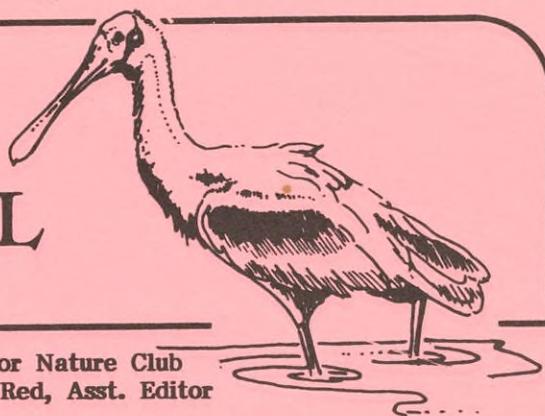


# The SPOONBILL



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Houston, Texas, Libby Price, Editor; Ellen Red, Asst. Editor

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## Coming Events

Wednesday Feb. 3: Deadline for Spoonbill material.  
Deadline for Clearing House reports: send these  
to Ted Eubanks, Jr. c/o NOVA, P.O. Box 1024  
Houston TX 77251-1024.

Thursday, Feb. 4: Ornithology Group meeting at  
Bayou Manor, 4141 S. Braeswood at 7:30 PM.  
The program will be presented by John O'Neill  
a local artist, well known for his bird paintings,  
and now a professor at LSU. In this program,  
"Tepuis, Andes and Birds," O'Neill will describe  
a trip to Cerro de la Neblina in Southern Ven-  
ezuela, and make some comparisons of that  
area with the Andes.

Saturday, Feb. 6: Ornithology Group field trip to  
West Harris and East Waller Counties, led by  
Ron and Marcia Braun. Meet at the play-  
ground area in Bear Creek Park at 7:15 AM.  
The playground area is reached from the west  
entrance off Clay Rd., next to the golf course.  
Bring lunch, and bug spray if the day is warm.  
The trip will cover the winter woodlands birds  
in the park, then sparrows, waterfowl and rap-  
tors in West Harris County, and some western  
birds as we move into Waller County.

Thursday, Feb. 11: Outdoor Nature Club meeting at  
the Houston Arboretum. The program, by Tim  
Koehl, of the Valley Area Sierra Club, will be  
"Matagorda Island."

## NOMINATION OF OFFICERS

The members of the Nominating Committee  
are: Carol Bookout, 448-8860; John Buckman, 359-  
4685; Jerry Caraviotis, 668-2344; Joe Kennedy, 977-  
7669; and Rob Thacker, 952-9464. Please call the  
above committee members with suggestions for  
people to serve in the four elective offices, which  
are: 1. Chairman; 2. Vice-Chairman; 3. Secretary;  
4. Treasurer. The committee needs to have nom-  
inees picked by February 15 to appear in the Febru-  
ary Spoonbill and the March Nature Notes.

## HOUSTON CBC - UNUSUAL YEAR by Richard Uzar

So who thinks that folks who otherwise act  
rationally will come out on a cloudy, rainy, windy  
day to look for and count birds? Thanks to all fifty-  
six of you who did exactly that. A good time was  
had by all in spite of the weather. Though our  
backs were dampened from occasional "hunkering  
down" in the rain, our spirits were undaunted  
throughout the day.

A lively countdown dinner was enjoyed at the  
Baytown Wyatt's Cafeteria Saturday evening, Decem-  
ber 19th. Then we were ready to check the day's  
results. The count fared well despite the loss of  
sightings from Area 11. That's our bay and water-  
ways spotters' area. Weather and water conditions  
prohibited the ships' leaving for the first time in  
many years, and their observations are certainly  
missed. Weather did not work against us all day,  
and those hearty 56 did turn up a total of 164  
species plus one additional race. The total number  
of individual birds, at 47,444, is lower than any  
Houston count report since 1956.

Most noticeably absent were geese. Only one  
area sighted any at all, and then only 80 Snows.  
So are there fewer birds? Are we underestimating  
numbers? Or were the birds somewhere else, keep-  
ing dryer than we did?

The most unusual bird, and a first for the  
Houston count, was a male Lark Bunting. Some  
birders aren't satisfied with simple observation and  
identification, and Dave Dauphin was in that category  
while capturing and banding this bird. He also  
does a worthy owl prowl each year. Thanks, Dave.

Other notables were a White-winged Dove,  
another first for the Houston count, a Black-necked  
Stilt in La Porte, Greater Scaup and an Empidonax  
Flycatcher.

Special thanks to Wanda and Charles Smith,  
Rene and Andrew Franks and Ed Rozenburg for  
accepting the responsibility for working up teams  
and leading groups in Areas 5, 7 and 8 this year.  
Thanks also to all those regulars who gave of their  
talents to make this a successful count.

## Noel's Niche Looking Back

by Noel Pettingell

.....10 YEARS AGO/FROM JAN. 1978 SPOONBILL

"PLACES TO GO \*\* Lapland Longspurs are being seen in West Harris County, some on Barker-Cypress Road near Clay, and some near Jack Road. Watch for them, some are reported to be in breeding plumage. For those of you not familiar with longspurs, here's a quote from the January SPOONBILL of 1977: '...look for a loose flock that will rise, fly, wheel, and when they turn will flash white bellies, then as they get close to the ground, will drop all at once. Shorebirds, and there are some out there, fly in tight flocks, and never very high as they wheel over a wet field, and blackbirds are much less disciplined in their flocks, and, of course, never flash the white.' Also, when observing the Laplands, watch closely for anything different. If we get Laplands regularly every winter, why couldn't a stranger show up in their midst? Do be particularly careful though, for winter longspurs can be difficult to tell apart unless sufficiently close at hand. Even then, some experts maintain only the voice is sure identification. But who knows, another Snow Bunting may be found. A first Texas record Snow Bunting was found at the north end of Lake Livingstone last month on a Christmas Count (it was later collected). That's got to be the best bird of any Texas Christmas Count in 1977."

.....20 YEARS AGO/FROM JAN. 1968 SPOONBILL

[Reprint from "Our Vanishing Tidelands" by Polly Redford, in a 1967 issue of Atlantic Monthly.]

"Along the Gulf Coast and most of our seaboard from Florida to Massachusetts, a long, soft cushion of sand and mud, held together by huge mats of tough, resilient rushes and grasses, lies between solid ground and open ocean. Endless amounts of water can be hurled upon this natural barrier; each grain of sand, each blade of grass acts as a tiny baffle catching and holding the water back. And twice a day, like a sponge, it slowly soaks up the flooding tide, impounding the water until it subsides.

"So much lives and grows and breeds in our tidelands that more than half of the saltwater fish and shellfish that we take are called 'estuarine dependent' which means that they either spawn or hatch here, or spend some vital stage of their lives here, or feed upon the life that flows from here out over our Continental Shelf, where 90% of our offshore seafoods are harvested. Thus, tidelands represent the livelihood of about 100,000 American fishermen, whose three-billion-pound catch paid them \$250 million in 1965.

"Still, we Americans go right on treating our tidelands as sewers and garbage dumps. We drain them, dredge them, fill them with rubble--and then enter these 'improvements' on our tax rolls. Or we build massive piers, seawalls and dikes to hold back the tides as a fortress repels an enemy. This may be fine for engineers and contractors, but not for taxpayers--or tidelands."

## FREEPORT CBC A SMASHING SUCCESS

by Jim Morgan

On Sunday, December 20, 152 participants recorded 214 species on the 31st annual Freeport Christmas Bird Count (CBC). If a probable adult male Allen's Hummingbird is mist-netted and confirmed, the species total will be 216. This year's count surpassed those of the last two years in both species totals and number of participants.

The count-down dinner at the Dow Chemical cafeteria is often very exciting and filled with anticipation. This year anxieties were at a peak, since observers had found five new species for our cumulative 31-year list! Who had the best bird? Was it the Harris' Hawk, or the American Oystercatcher, or the Whip-Poor-Will? All were new to the count, but the crowd was buzzing with anticipation over two Mexican species totally unexpected on the UTC. Such is the excitement of Freeport!

Can you imagine seeing a Blue Bunting on the count and not having the best bird? Would you be further shocked to find out that your sighting was not even an exclusive? Such was the case! The bird of the count was a White-collared Swift, independently observed by separate parties in two different areas as the bird moved up the coastline. Ted Eubanks, Jr. and I were one of the fortunate parties, first seeing the bird in Surfside, then following the bird for 45 minutes to the edge of the count circle and beyond to San Luis Pass so numerous photographs could be obtained. I am pleased to report that good photographs were obtained, thus documenting this species on film for the first time in the United States. Prior to this sighting two specimens were found washed up on Florida and Texas beaches, and two other sight records have been noted.

The Blue Buntings were fantastic finds as well, a female found by Mike Austin and James Beard, and a gorgeous male bird found by Tom Morris and Tom Collins. In driving rain the day after the count, I got very good looks at the male bird, after Tom Collins obtained permission for us to enter the private property where it was found. Wow!!

In addition to the five new species noted above other good finds included an adult Masked Booby, Northern Gannet (61), Brown Pelican (111), Fulvous Whistling-Duck (5), Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (2), Peregrine Falcon (3), Solitary Sandpiper (2), Burrowing Owl, Least Flycatcher, Say's Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher (2), Tree Swallow (3), Northern Parula, Ovenbird (2), Black-headed Grosbeak and Northern (Bullock's) Oriole. Good oral and written details were obtained on all of these species. The two Solitary Sandpipers were relocated and confirmed the day after the count, thus providing additional details for American Birds, which doubts the presence of this species in the U.S. during winter! Haven't they ever birded the Valley in winter?

This was a real solid count, only lacking the normal number of lingering migrants. David Dauphin and his jetty party got all the scoters plus a Black-legged Kittiwake in addition to the Masked Booby and most of the Brown Pelicans. Margaret Anderson, Faye Humphrey and their hummingbird team sighted numerous individuals of six species of hummingbirds, plus the probable Allen's. Sparrows were in above average numbers this year, with 18 species and "bold-faced numbers" for 11 of these species recorded.

(continued next page)

Once again we had a very successful Freeport CBC because of the efforts of so many people and organizations. All 152 participants are to be thanked for putting in a long, hard day and enduring some intermittent rain. Extra special thanks go out to the 10 area leaders, the jetty party and the "hummingbird team", whose efforts provide the impetus for a competitive and fun count. Out-of-town participants also receive my special thanks, as do the Houston Audubon Society for sponsoring the count, and Dow Chemical Company for hosting the count-down dinner and granting permission to bird watch on their properties within the count circle. The count compilers and area leaders are also grateful to the other property owners who so graciously allowed access to their land.

If you did not participate in this year's Freeport CBC, and you wish to participate next year, please contact one of the compilers or area leaders. Freeport CBC has become a great Texas birding tradition. Let's keep it that way!

## BIRDING AND NATURE COURSES

The Houston Arboretum has scheduled birding classes, starting March 29, with Doug Williams as instructor; a trip to Brazoria NWR led by Doug Williams and Bob Honig on March 19; and many other nature programs and courses. The Brown Bag Naturalist Series, held at noon Fridays, is free, but for the rest a fee is charged and registration is required. Call 681-8433 for information or to ask that a schedule be mailed to you.

The Vines Environmental Science Center also offers birding courses, given by Bill Mealy and Carl Aiken, which start in April. There is a fee and registration is required by February 19. Call 465-9628 to inquire about their Spring Science Seminars.

## THE SPOONBILL STAFF

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Labels	Peggy Milstead
Mailing	Connie Schimbor
Checklist Committee	Ted Eubanks, Jr.
	Noel Pettingell and Jim Morgan

## MINUTES OF OG MEETING JAN. 7, 1988

Chairman Robert Thacker brought the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. Program Chairman Bob Honig introduced the speaker, Mike Lange, biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Brazoria and San Bernard Refuges. Lange gave a recent history of efforts to encourage nesting of Texas' one Brown Pelican population in Corpus Christi Bay, culminating in enough birds to transfer 40 last year to San Bernard Refuge. He related, and illustrated with slides the plans and methods of raising these young birds; and his interesting account provoked a lively question period.

Bob Adamcik, Assistant Manager of Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge then passed out new maps containing the new rules now being enforced at the refuge. He gave the reasons for each change, primarily due to the large and ever-growing number of birders visiting the refuge. The regulations concerning hours and areas open to visitors will vary according to the birds' breeding season. Adamcik urged OG members to become familiar with and to obey the regulations, available at the visitors' kiosk and the office, so that the staff will not have to give out citations to offenders in order to protect the prairie chicken population. He welcomed phone inquiries during week days at the refuge, phone number: (409) 234-3021.

Rob Thacker then thanked Pat Wight, P. D. Hulce and Richard Uzar for serving as co-compilers of the Houston Christmas Bird Count. He named the members of the 1988 Nominating Committee who will report the nominees at the next meeting.

Ted Eubanks then reported his efforts to bring the Clearing House up to date and to simplify the process for future editors (see Clearing House). He asked for members' comments and suggestions about the changes. Eubanks also announced that the Checklist Committee has met, will not be enlarged as bigger committees are difficult to operate, and that amendments to the checklist will be published by May.

Jerry Patrick, Treasurer, reminded members to send in their 1988-89 dues, with any address, name and number changes noted for the roster. He announced a \$4000 C.D. and a balance in the OG checking account of \$1900. Andrew Franks, Field Trip Co-Chairman, announced changes in the January and February field trip locations and a possible Rio Grande Valley trip in March. Bob Honig, Program Chairman, announced upcoming programs.

Thacker reminded members interested in the February 12-15 ONC field trip to Lake Buchanan, with birding guided by Greg Lasley, to contact Virginia Anderson (932-8139).

Ted Eubanks discussed the female Blue Bunting to be seen on the UTC presently, and said the Houston Audubon Society will soon initiate an 800 number rare bird alert tape giving the statewide highlights. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Caroline Callery, Secretary

# Clearing House - OCTOBER, 1987

The Clearing House is a monthly listing of bird sightings made on the upper Texas coast (UTC). The UTC is comprised of Brazoria, Chambers, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Waller counties. How to read the CH - Species: location code (number) date, observer. For those species whose sightings are itemized each individual record is segregated by a semicolon (;). The sightings of common, widely distributed species are summarized as follows: Species: # reports (low count - high count) early date -late date. Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status as described on the UTC Checklist. Birds with very rare, vagrant, or accidental status on the Checklist at the date of the sighting require details. Sightings lacking required details will not be included in the CH. Details for observations affecting a species' status on the current UTC Checklist will be published, and the documentation referred to the UTC Checklist Committee for consideration. Such documentation is required for an observation to be considered by the Checklist Committee.

## 239 species reported this month

Grebe, Pied-billed: 21 reports (1-30)4-28  
 Grebe, Eared: WC(1)18,TE  
 Pelican, American White: 15 reports (8-175)3-31  
 Pelican, Brown: Bol(7)17,BS - status changing annually.  
 Should now be considered uncommon winter resident, rare summer breeder.  
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 14 reports (1-100)3-28  
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 9 reports(1-200)4-27  
 Anhinga: BBSP(1)7,WI;BBSP(4)15,WI;BBSP(15)17,HA;  
 BBSP(3)25,MA;EH(25)28,DM  
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: BF(1)10,BB;Bol(1)11,MM;  
 HI(1)17,BS - October status for this species should be upgraded from very rare to rare.  
 Bittern, American: 8 reports (1-3)4-25  
 Heron, Great Blue: 22 reports (1-30)3-27  
 Egret, Great: 23 reports (1-60)3-27  
 Egret, Snowy: 16 reports (1-120)3-27  
 Heron, Little Blue: 18 reports (1-40)4-28  
 Heron, Tricolored: 13 reports (1-20)3-27  
 Egret, Reddish: 13 reports (1-12)3-24  
 Egret, Cattle: 14 reports (13-5000)3-28  
 Heron, Green-backed: SBNW(1)4,Mo;BBSP(2)7,WI;  
 CC(1)10,MA;BBSP(1)15,WI;BBSP(2)17,HA;WGI(2)24,WI  
 Night-Heron, Black-crowned: 7 reports (1-50)4-18  
 Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned: 7 reports (1-25)4-30  
 Ibis, White: 21 reports (1-120)3-31  
 Ibis, White-faced: 13 reports (5-200)3-25  
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 13 reports (2-80)3-27  
 Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: CC(15)4,MA;WC(2)18,TE  
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: BBSP(6)17,HA;WC(75)18,TE  
 Winter status should be upgraded from very rare to uncommon, particularly in Waller County.  
 Goose, Greater White-fronted: 10 reports (8-18000)4-31;  
 CC(18000)31,MT  
 Goose, Snow: 7 reports (1-5000)4-31  
 Goose, Ross': WC(2)24,ME - notes submitted  
 Goose, Canada: ANWR(1)6,DM;WC(200)18,TE;WC(30)25,ME;  
 CC(4)31,MT  
 Duck, Wood: FBC(1)17,HT;EH(7)28,DM  
 Teal, Green-winged: 7 reports (1-500)4-31  
 Duck, Mottled: 14 reports (2-60)3-31  
 Mallard: ANWR(1)3,JB;ANWR(1)4,MA;ANWR(6)31,MT  
 Pintail, Northern: CC(100)4,MA;FBC(300)17,HT;  
 WC(100)18,TE;WGI(4)24,WI;WC(60)25,ME;CC(34)31,MT  
 Teal, Blue-winged: 13 reports (4-80)3-31  
 Teal, Cinnamon: ANWR(1)10,BB;SBNW(1)18,MB;SBNW(4)19,DM  
 Shoveler, Northern: 11 reports (1-450)4-31  
 Gadwall: 10 reports (2-2500)4-31;BNWR(2500)4,RU  
 Wigeon, American: 7 reports (6-50)4-31  
 Redhead: WC(2)18,TE  
 Merganser, Red-breasted: BF(1)20,DM - notes submitted  
 Duck, Ruddy: TCD(40)4,SW;WC(25)18,TE  
 Vulture, Black: 9 reports (1-40)4-28  
 Vulture, Turkey: 17 reports (1-60)3-28  
 Osprey: 9 reports (1-6)3-28; UTC(6)18,MB  
 Kite, Black-shouldered: 17 reports (1-13)3-31  
 Eagle, Bald: FBC(2)17,HT - notes submitted  
 Harrier, Northern: 18 reports (1-16)3-31  
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: ANWR(1)17,BS;SBNW(1)18,MB;  
 WGI(1)18,MB;Fr(1)27,MA;EH(1)28,DM  
 Hawk, Cooper's: CC(1)4,MA;ANWR(1)10,MA;BBSP(2)17,HA;  
 WC(2)18,TE;SBNW(1)19,DM;WGI(1)20,DM;ANWR(1)31,MT

Hawk, Red-shouldered: 15 reports (1-8)3-28  
 Hawk, Broad-winged: HI(1)3,JB;HA(70)3,WI;BBSP(1)17,HA;  
 BC(1)25,PM  
 Hawk, Swainson's: BC(1)4,Mo  
 Hawk, White-tailed: SBNW(1)18,MB;WC(1)25,ME - species  
 uncommon at SBNW, Bay Area Park, and Waller County.  
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 13 reports (1-15)3-31  
 (Hawk, Harlan's): WC(1)18,TE - notes submitted  
 Caracara, Crested: WC(4)18,TE  
 Kestrel, American: 28 reports (1-36)3-31  
 Merlin: ANWR(1)4,MA;GISP(1)4,Mo;BC(1)18,UP;GISP(1)18,MB  
 Falcon, Peregrine: ANWR(1)4,MA;SBNW(1)4,Mo;HI(1)6,DM;  
 ANWR(1)10,BB;CC(1)31,MT  
 Pheasant, Ring-necked: ANWR(1)4,MA  
 Bobwhite, Northern: BNWR(4)4,RU;ANWR(2)10,MA;  
 Algo(8)29,DW  
 Rail, Clapper: UTC(1)4,Mo;Bol(1)10,BB;Bol(2)17,BS;  
 BF(6)20,DM  
 Rail, King: ANWR(1)4,MA  
 Gallinule, Purple: 8 reports (1-5)3-24  
 Moorhen, Common: 16 reports (1-200)3-28  
 Coot, American: 21 reports (1-500)3-28  
 Crane, Sandhill: Algo(5)19,DW  
 Plover, Black-bellied: 14 reports (1-150)3-27  
 Plover, Snowy: UTC(6)4,Mo;Bol(3)10,MA;SLP(1)18,MB;  
 SLP(20)20,DM;BF(18)20,DM;BF(2)31,MT  
 Plover, Wilson's: Bol(4)10,MA;EG(1)17,JH;BF(2)20,DM;  
 SLP(5)20,DM;BF(2)31,MT  
 Plover, Semipalmated: 7 reports (3-60)4-20  
 Plover, Piping: UTC(25)4,Mo;Bol(20)10,MA;BF(2)10,BB;  
 EG(3)17,JH;SLP(2)18,MB;Bol(15)18,JH;BF(80)20,DM;  
 SLP(26)20,DM  
 Killdeer: 16 reports (2-400)3-27  
 Oystercatcher, American: BF(6)10,BB;Bol(1)18,JH;  
 BF(3)20,DM;BF(1)31,MT  
 Stilt, Black-necked: 9 reports (3-140)3-31  
 Avocet, American: 10 reports (1-350)3-20  
 Yellowlegs, Greater: 17 reports (1-75)3-27  
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 13 reports (1-300)3-25  
 Willet: 12 reports (2-75)3-27  
 Sandpiper, Spotted: Bol(1)3,JH;WGI(1)10,JH;BC(2)18,UP;  
 BC(1)25,PM  
 Whimbrel: ANWR(1)6,DM;RP(1)10,MA;RP(1)10,BB  
 Curlew, Long-billed: 15 reports (1-80)4-24  
 Godwit, Marbled: 10 reports (1-66)4-20  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: RP(3)10,BB;EG(1)17,BS;EG(3)17,JH;  
 SLP(1)18,MB;SLP(2)20,DM;GISP(1)24,WI  
 Knot, Red: Bol(2)4,SW;UTC(3)4,Mo;BF(1)10,BB;BF(4)20,DM  
 Sanderling: 7 reports (10-200)3-24  
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: GC(13)4,SW;HI(1)6,DM;  
 BF(2)20,DM  
 Sandpiper, Western: 11 reports (3-600)4-27  
 Sandpiper, Least: 9 reports (1-250)3-27  
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: ANWR(25)3,SW;CC(5)4,MA;  
 ANWR(3)6,DM;Bol(2)10,BB;ANWR(4)10,MA;WC(3)18,TE  
 Dunlin: 7 reports (2-160)18-31  
 peep, sp.: 2 reports (200-800)4-25  
 Sandpiper, Stilt: ANWR(5)3,JB;CC(3)3,JB;ANWR(150)3,SW;  
 HI(10)6,DM;WC(15)18,TE  
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: 7 reports (6-400)4-20  
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: 9 reports (20-1000)3-31  
 dowitcher, sp.: 10 reports (10-3000)3-27  
 Snipe, Common: 17 reports (1-400)3-28  
 Gull, Laughing: 10 reports (1-1000)3-27  
 Gull, Franklin's: BF(2)31,MT  
 Gull, Bonaparte's: UTC(6)4,Mo  
 Gull, Ring-billed: 10 reports (2-200)4-28  
 Gull, Herring: 8 reports (1-45)3-27  
 GULL, SABINE'S: Bol(1)25,EM - see notes  
 Tern, Gull-billed: 8 reports (1-8)3-18  
 Tern, Caspian: 13 reports (1-130)3-31  
 Tern, Royal: 9 reports (1-400)3-25  
 Tern, Sandwich: Bol(1)4,MA;GC(40)4,SW;Bol(3)10,BB;  
 Bol(5)17,BS;BF(6)31,MT  
 Tern, Common: RP(4)10,BB;EG(1)17,BS;BF(2)20,DM;  
 BF(12)31,MT  
 Tern, Forster's: 8 reports (2-60)4-27  
 Tern, Black: SJSP(6)7,DM;Bol(1)12,BH  
 Skimmer, Black: 7 reports (30-2500)3-31  
 Dove, Rock: 11 reports (1-50)1-31  
 Dove, White-winged: Galv(6)2,JH;Galv(7)9,JH;Bol(1)11,DM  
 Dove, Mourning: 20 reports (1-200)2-27  
 Dove, Inca: 11 reports (2-30)1-31  
 Ground-Dove, Common: SBNW(2)4,Mo;WGI(1)16,JH;  
 SBNW(7)18,MB;WGI(6)18,MB;WC(10)18,TE;SBNW(4)19,DM;  
 WC(1)25,ME

Parakeet, Monk: H(1)1,WI  
Cuckoo, Black-billed: HI(1)25,DM - notes submitted  
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 10 reports (1-20)4-25 - five reports from last two weeks of month.  
Ani, Groove-billed: WGI(28)4,Mo;SBNW(3)4,Mo; WGI(3)11,MA;WGI(15)18,MB;BC(2)18,UP;WGI(6)20,DM  
Owl, Great Horned: HI(1)6,DM  
Owl, Barred: 7 reports (1-3)4-29  
Nighthawk, Common: H(1)5,WI;Free(3)19,DM;Fr(1)21,MA; HI(5)25,DM  
Chuck-will's-widow: HI(2)6,DM;HI(1)10,MA;HI(2)11,MM; HI(1)18,MA;HI(1)25,DM  
Whip-poor-will: HI(1)10,MA;HI(1)18,MA  
Swift, Chimney: 7 reports (1-25)4-30; WC(25)18,TE  
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 14 reports (1-30)1-27 hummingbird, sp.: 2 reports (1)18  
Kingfisher, Belted: 22 reports (1-12)3-28  
Woodpecker, Red-headed: Galv(1)13,JH;EH(8)28,DM  
Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 17 reports (1-15)3-28  
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 13 reports (1-6)3-28  
Woodpecker, Downy: 15 reports (1-10)3-30  
Flicker, Northern: 28 reports (1-18)1-28  
Woodpecker, Pileated: 7 reports (1-6)3-28  
Wood-Pewee, Eastern: 14 reports (1-3)2-25  
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: HI(1)11,MM  
Flycatcher, "Traill's": SBNW(1)4,Mo  
Flycatcher, Least: SBNW(6)4,Mo  
empidonax, sp.: 5 reports (1-20)3-25  
Phoebe, Eastern: 18 reports (1-20)4-30  
Flycatcher, Vermilion: SBNW(1)4,Mo;BBSP(2)15,WI; BBSP(5)17,HA;SBNW(3)18,MB;BC(1)18,UP;WC(1)18,TE; SBNW(2)19,DM;BBSP(2)25,MA  
Flycatcher, Ash-throated: WC(1)18,TE;WC(1)25,ME - this species is uncommon and regular in the huisache/mesquite brush and riparian bottomlands of Waller County.  
Flycatcher, Great Crested: HI(1)3,JB;HI(2)4,MA; WGI(1)20,DM  
KINGBIRD, COUCH'S: SBNW(1)4,Mo - see notes  
Kingbird, Western: CC(1)4,MA;Bol(1)11,MM;WC(1)18,TE; WC(1)25,ME  
Kingbird, Eastern: HI(1)10,MA  
Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 22 reports (3-40)3-25; WC(40)18,TE  
Lark, Horned: BNWR(8)4,RU;Bol(3)10,BB;Bol(2)17,BS; BC(3)18,UP;SLP(2)20,DM;WC(1)25,ME  
Swallow, Tree: 7 reports (5-40)3-31  
Swallow, Northern Rough-winged: 8 reports (1-120)4-19; SBNW(120)19,DM  
Swallow, Bank: ANWR(3)10,MA;WC(50)18,TE  
Swallow, Barn: 12 reports (5-80)3-25  
swallow, sp.: 2 reports (50-70)15-18  
Jay, Blue: 13 reports (2-10)3-29  
Crow, American: 15 reports (2-10)3-28  
Chickadee, Carolina: 13 reports (2-75)1-31  
Titmouse, Tufted: 6 reports (2-50)3-28  
Creeper, Brown: 7 reports (1-3)6-28  
Wren, Carolina: 16 reports (1-15)3-31  
Wren, Bewick's: SBNW(2)18,MB;WC(2)18,TE;SBNW(1)19,DM; WC(27)25,ME - uncommon winter resident in Waller and south Brazoria counties.  
Wren, House: 16 reports (1-30)1-31  
Wren, Winter: HI(1)25,DM;EH(1)28,DM  
Wren, Sedge: ANWR(20)4,MA;ANWR(1)6,DM;ANWR(5)10,MA; ANWR(6)17,BS;ANWR(5)18,MA  
Wren, Marsh: ANWR(2)3,SW;ANWR(1)4,MA;ANWR(2)17,BS  
Kinglet, Golden-crowned: 8 reports (1-32)11-31; HI(1)11,MM;HI(3)18,MA - see notes  
Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: 22 reports (1-65)2-31  
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 25 reports (1-75)1-31  
Bluebird, Eastern: WC(3)25,ME;EH(2)28,DM  
Thrush, Swainson's: HI(2)4,MA;HI(1)6,DM;EG(1)22,JH  
Thrush, Hermit: 6 reports (1-6)24-31  
Thrush, Wood: 13 reports (1-4)3-31  
Robin, American: H(50)26,WI;H(10)28,WI;HI(1)31,BB  
Catbird, Gray: 26 reports (1-100)2-31  
Mockingbird, Northern: 18 reports (1-50)1-29  
Thrasher, Brown: 32 reports (1-200)1-31; HI(200)3,JB  
Pipit, Water: FBC(2)17,HT;WC(40)25,ME  
Waxwing, Cedar: H(10)23,DM - notes submitted  
Shrike, Loggerhead: 21 reports (1-50)3-27  
Starling, European: 10 reports (10-300)3-25  
Vireo, White-eyed: 12 reports (1-10)3-25  
VIREO, BELL'S: HI(1)4,SW - see notes  
Vireo, Solitary: 13 reports(1-4)4-31; ANWR(1)4,MA; HI(1)4,MA;SBNW(1)4,Mo;HI(1)6,DM  
Vireo, Yellow-throated: HI(1)25,DM  
Vireo, Warbling: HI(1)10,BB;HI(1)11,MM;HI(1)31,MT; HI(1)31,BB - notes submitted  
Vireo, Philadelphia: HI(1)4,MA;HI(1)11,MM;WGI(1)20,DM  
Vireo, Red-eyed: HI(4)3,JB;HI(1)4,MA;HI(1)6,DM; HI(1)25,DM  
Warbler, Tennessee: 12 reports (1-28)4-31  
Warbler, Orange-crowned: 10 reports (1-6)4-31  
Warbler, Nashville: 17 reports (1-20)3-31  
Parula, Northern: 13 reports (1-3)3-31  
Warbler, Chestnut-sided: HI(1)11,MM  
Warbler, Magnolia: 11 reports (1-11)3-31  
Warbler, Cape May: HI(1)31,BB - see notes  
Warbler, Black-throated Blue: HI(2)18,MA;Bol(1)20,DM; HI(3)25,DM  
Warbler, Yellow-rumped: 6 reports (1-20)10-31  
Warbler, Black-throated Green: 14 reports (1-24)4-31  
Warbler, Yellow-throated: HI(1)6,DM  
Warbler, Pine: WGI(1)18,MB;EH(42)28,DM;H(1)28,WI; CC(4)31,MT  
Warbler, Palm: SBNW(2)4,Mo;SBNW(2)18,MB;GISP(6)18,MB; SBNW(12)19,DM;WC(1)25,ME  
Warbler, Bay-breasted: HI(4)25,DM;HI(1)31,BB  
Warbler, Blackpoll: HI(1)31,BB - see notes  
Warbler, Black-and-white: 11 reports (1-8)3-31  
Redstart, American: 8 reports (1-20)3-25  
Warbler, Prothonotary: H(1)23,MM see notes  
Ovenbird: 8 reports (1-4)3-25  
Waterthrush, Northern: HI(1)3,JB;HI(1)4,MA;BC(2)4,Mo; HI(1)25,DM  
Warbler, Mourning: HI(2)11,MM  
Yellowthroat, Common: 16 reports (1-30)2-28  
Warbler, Hooded: HI(1)3,JB;HI(1)4,MA;HI(2)6,DM; HI(2)25,DM;HI(1)31,MT;HI(1)31,BB - notes submitted  
Warbler, Wilson's: 12 reports (1-6)1-31  
Warbler, Canada: HI(3)3,JB;HI(2)6,DM;HI(2)11,MM; GISP(1)18,MB;HI(1)18,MA - notes submitted  
Chat, Yellow-breasted: 7 reports (1-2)1-19  
Tanager, Summer: HI(1)4,MA;HI(1)11,MM;HI(1)12,BH; HI(1)18,MA;SBNW(1)19,DM  
Cardinal, Northern: 16 reports (1-100)1-28  
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: 7 reports (1-5)3-12  
Grosbeak, Blue: 7 reports (1-10)4-20  
Bunting, Indigo: 18 reports (1-50)3-31  
Bunting, Painted: BBSP(1)17,HA;HI(2)17,BS;SBNW(1)19,DM; WGI(1)24,WI;HI(1)25,DM  
Dickcissel: HI(1)4,SW;Fr(1)8,MA;SBNW(3)18,MB; SBNW(12)19,DM  
Sparrow, Chipping: Bol(6)20,DM;WC(3)25,ME;EH(6)28,DM  
Sparrow, Clay-colored: SBNW(2)19,DM - notes submitted. This species is a rare but regular coastal migrant in October.  
Sparrow, Vesper: Bol(1)11,MM - see notes  
BUNTING, LARK: SBNW(1)4,Mo - see notes  
Sparrow, Savannah: 13 reports (1-50)4-31  
Sparrow, Grasshopper: WOB(1)12,WC  
Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: Bol(12)10,MA;BF(8)17,BS  
Sparrow, Seaside: Bol(2)4,SW;ANWR(15)4,MA;Bol(1)17,BS; BF(4)20,DM  
Sparrow, Song: EH(2)28,DM  
Sparrow, Lincoln's: SBNW(2)4,Mo;WOB(1)11,WC; SBNW(12)18,MB;WC(1)18,TE;SBNW(10)19,DM;WC(30)25,ME  
Sparrow, Swamp: 9 reports (2-26)4-28  
Sparrow, White-throated: BBSP(1)17,HA;Algo(3)28,DW; EH(1)28,DM;Algo(3)30,DW - notes submitted  
Sparrow, White-crowned: SBNW(1)18,MB;SBNW(2)19,DM; WGI(1)20,DM;HI(1)25,DM;EH(2)28,DM  
Junco, Dark-eyed: HI(1)12,BH - see notes  
Blackbird, Red-winged: 14 reports (10-600)3-25  
Meadowlark, Eastern: 7 reports (3-125)4-25  
Blackbird, Yellow-headed: SBNW(5)4,Mo;SBNW(1)18,MB; SBNW(1)19,DM  
Grackle, Great-tailed: 10 reports (5-150)1-31  
Grackle, Boat-tailed: BNWR(7)4,RU;SBNW(25)4,Mo; ANWR(45)6,DM;UTC(60)18,MB;BC(15)18,UP;GC(30)24,WI  
Grackle, Common: 10 reports (2-250)3-28  
Cowbird, Bronzed: EG(26)17,BS - see notes  
Cowbird, Brown-headed: 11 reports (1-500)3-25  
blackbird, sp.: 3 reports (90-800)18-25  
Oriole, Northern: 8 reports (1-8)3-20  
(Oriole, Bullock's): HI(1)10,BB  
Goldfinch, American: H(1)26,MO - notes submitted  
Sparrow, House: 8 reports (3-31)1-31

## Location Codes

AB - Armand Bayou  
 ANWR - Anahuac NWR  
 Algo - Algoa  
 BBSP - Brazos Bend State Park  
 BC - Brazoria County  
 BF - Bolivar Flats  
 BNWR - Brazoria NWR  
 BP - Bay Area Park  
 Bayt - Baytown  
 Bol - Bolivar Peninsula  
 CC - Chamber's County  
 EG - East Galveston Island  
 EH - East Houston  
 FBC - Fort Bend County  
 Fr - Friendswood  
 Free - Freeport  
 GC - Galveston County  
 GISP - Galveston Island State Park  
 Galv - Galveston Island  
 H - Houston  
 HA - Houston Arboretum  
 HI - High Island  
 Kemp - Kempner Park, Galveston  
 LC - Lake Charlotte  
 NHC - North Harris County  
 Pasa - Pasadena  
 Pear - Pearland  
 RP - Rollover Pass  
 SBNW - San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge  
 SLP - San Luis Pass  
 SWH - Southwest Houston  
 SWHC - Southwest Harris County  
 Seab - Seabrook  
 TCD - Texas City Dike  
 UTC - Upper Texas Coast  
 WC - Waller County  
 WGI - West Galveston Island  
 WHC - West Harris County  
 WMP - White Memorial Park  
 WOB - White Oak Bayou

## CONTRIBUTORS - OCTOBER, 1987

## Observers

BB - Bob Behrstock  
 BH - Bob Honig  
 DM - Derek Muschalek  
 DW - Diane Wise  
 EM - Elric McHenry  
 JB - John Buckman  
 JM - Jim Morgan  
 MA - Mike Austin, with James Beard on 10/04, with  
 Armand Bayou field trip on 10/10.  
 MM - Mark Magruder  
 NP - Noel Pettingell  
 PM - Peggy Milstead  
 RU - Richard Uzar  
 SW - Steve Williams  
 TE - Ted Eubanks  
 WC - Wesley Cureton

## Parties

BH - BB, H&M Haley  
 BS - BB, Carol Sloan  
 HA - Houston Audubon Society fieldtrip.  
 HT - Bob Honig, Robert Thacker  
 JH - John and Jane Hamilton  
 MB - JM, Ron and Marcia Braun  
 ME - JM, TE  
 MO - Bob and Mary Ann Moore  
 MT - DM, Robert Thacker  
 Mo - JM, BB, TE  
 UP - RU, Jean Palmquest  
 Wi - Dennis and Diane Wiesenborn

## CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - OCT., 1987

GULL, SABINE'S

10/25/87

Gull observed for 2-3 minutes at distances ranging from 50 feet to 200 yards near the boat cut off of the Bolivar Jetty. Approximately Laughing Gull size, black outer primaries and dark wing coverts and mantle. Trailing one third of the upper wing was pure white with the white wedging somewhat deeper into the blackish wing near the wrist. White tail, and darkish head from rear view.

Elric McHenry

KINGBIRD, COUCH'S

10/04/87

Time of day: 0945. Length of sighting: 5 minutes. Weather: bright, clear and cool (following a cold front). Light condition: excellent. Distance: 10-50 meters. Optical equipment: 10X40 binocs. Habitat: scrub trees with a few reaching 6-12 meters in height. Voice: not heard. Size: approximately 9" in length. Behavior: Flycatching from perches on snags and highest points on highest trees in the area. Description: Gray head with blackish mask; bright medium lime green back; bright yellow underparts extending up to throat; throat whitish; chin whitish; all black bill; dark brownish-black wings; brown tail, somewhat rounded and appeared to be in molt as no notch visible; absolutely no white in tail, neither on outer tail feathers nor on tip. Lack of black tail and no white in tail, as well as extent of yellow on upper breast eliminates Western Kingbird. Lack of chin/throat contrast as well as tail color and pattern eliminates Cassin's. Believed to be Couch's as no accepted Tropical Kingbird records for Texas.

Bob Behrstock, Ted Eubanks, Jim Morgan

Kinglet, Golden-crowned

10/11/87

Heard calling in live oak at Smith Oaks Sanctuary in High Island. A very high pitched call similar to the call of a Brown Creeper. Located and noticed white eyebrow, golden-yellow crown bordered by black, two white wingbars, whitish underparts. Used 8X40 binocs for 4 minutes.

Mark Magruder

VIREO, BELL'S

10/04/87

Seen in excellent light for about 30 seconds from about 40 feet away with 8X40 binoculars. The bird was in cow brush near the western edge of the Audubon Sanctuary at High Island, and sat in the open briefly. The head was grayish with a slight spectacle mark. The eye was dark. The eye ring and spectacle mark were indistinct and whitish with no trace of yellow or of bright, clear white. The back was brownish gray. The underparts were white on the belly and at the center of the breast and a buffy yellowish color toward the sides. The color was much the same buffy yellow as a Worm-eating Warbler's underparts, instead of being a more intense yellow. The tail was dark brown to blackish with no markings. The wings had basically a single wing bar each with only the barest hint of a second wing bar just above the main one. The bill was slightly larger in proportion to the bird than a warbler's bill. The obscure eye ring and spectacle mark, the buffy rather than clear yellow below, the grayish head being a different shade than the back instead of concolor with it, and the single wing bar effect eliminates White-eyed Vireo. The wing bar eliminates Philadelphia and Warbling vireos. Tennessee, Orange-crowned, and immature Yellow are eliminated by general coloration, vireo bill, and wing bar. The female American Redstart is eliminated by the lack of yellow spots in the tail, and by the bill. The bird did not call. Betty Cornelius also got a quick look at the bird.

Steve Williams

Warbler, Cape May

10/31/87

This bird was about as dull as Cape Mays can get. Unmarked face, back, wings, tail gray with slightest trace of olive. No wing bars but slight contrast at edge of coverts. Below dirty white, undertail coverts clear white, unstreaked. The chest was boldly streaked with blackish, fairly broad lines. The bill was black and very slender. Head profile was slender and flat like a Tennessee or a Black-throated Blue, not round and puffy. Since two of the four observers were unfamiliar with the species, we diagnosed it by eliminating tail movers or teeterers with streaked breasts (Palm, waterthrushes); also birds like Yellow-rumped Warbler with lighter streaks, yellow at the sides of the chest, flycatching or outer-limital foraging habits, etc. This bird foraged slowly and deliberately in leaf clusters about 12-15 feet above the ground, on the back edge of Smith Woods, adjacent to the pasture. Another observer saw the yellowish upper rump. Barely visible were the pale yellow malar stripes setting off the slightly darker cheeks, but just barely visible. Observation lasted about eight minutes; we walked away from this very tame bird.

Bob Behrstock

Warbler, Blackpoll

10/31/87

This bird was seen by the sewage ditch at the back of Smith's Woods. It was foraging nervously about 25 feet up and moving quickly. I noted a lightly streaked breast, blackish streaks on white background, two white wing bars, and bold black streaking on the mantle. The crown and mantle were olive-gray, about like the mantle color of the Bay-breast I also saw. There was no yellow below. The bird was foraging mid to open canopy in fairly dense leafy habitat.

Bob Behrstock

Warbler, Prothonotary

10/23/87

Mark Magruder found this male near his house in Houston (Willow Meadow) around 11:15. He immediately phoned me and I observed the bird around 1:00 p.m. Field marks noted: brilliant golden-yellow head, breast, and sides; olive back; blue-gray wings; dark gray tail with large white patches; white undertail coverts. This bird's dark eyes really stood out as he foraged in a live oak. Overall the bird appeared very plump and very long billed. Used 10X50 binocs for 25 minutes. Magruder used 8X40 binocs for one hour. This is the latest fall record ever for the UTC. (The CH editor, also compiler for the Cypress Creek Christmas Count, notes the January 1, 1985, record of Prothonotary Warbler seen by David Dauphin. If one considers the 1985 individual to be a lingerer, as I do, then the 1985 record would constitute the latest fall record ever.)

Derek Muschalek

Sparrow, Vesper

10/11/87

Large sparrow with white eye ring perching in rattle bean on Bolivar Peninsula. Dark ear patch and dark whisker stripe; light streaking across whitish breast; pale pink bill; no yellow eyebrow as in Savannah Sparrow. Shortly, the bird flew showing white outer tail feathers. Used 8X40 binocs for two minutes in good light. This is a new early arrival date for October.

Mark Magruder

BUNTING, LARK

10/04/87

Male bird in partial molt. Breast with black splotches; back mainly dark. Very white wing patches visible at rest and in flight. Conical, finch-like, heavy, bluish-gray bill. Dark, notched tail. Seen very well by all three observers who are very familiar with this species from west Texas and Mexico. Good photographs obtained.

Bob Behrstock, Ted Eubanks, Jim Morgan

Junco, Dark-eyed

10/12/87

One adult seen on ground and on fence wire by turnstyle near "honor box" at Smith's Oaks. A small alert-looking, round-headed finch. Sooty black head, chest, mantle, wings, and tail. Outer rectrices white. Lower belly white. Bill pale, conical. Seen from 40 feet for about 45 seconds, bright mid-day light. Both (BB,HH) very familiar with this species.

Bob Behrstock

Special Note - Bronzed Cowbird

10/17/87

Twenty-six at seawall just east of ferry turnoff; i.e., corner of Corps of Engineers "lake" on edge of pavement. Uniform black plumage, red eyes, forecrown profile continued into curve of upper mandible, no rounded forehead like on Brown-headed. Perhaps these birds were pale brown juveniles. A portion of the flock photographed from about 30 feet at 3:30 p.m. The birds were associating with several Great-tailed Grackles. They were eating on the ground, picking a few flower heads, and taking seeds or grit from the road edge. They allowed close approach.

Bob Behrstock

**CH EDITOR'S NOTES - OCT., 1987**

As I am sure you have noticed, the CH has undergone a few months of trials and tribulations. Art MacKinnon found it necessary to resign as CH editor, and through the "luck of the draw" I have assumed the responsibilities. I thank each of you for your patience and support during this period, and I look forward to the day very soon when the CH will be back on track.

My plan at this time is to publish the October CH in the January issue (the one you are reading now), both November and December in the February issue, and January and February in the March issue which will catch us up. I am now processing the data in dbase III+, and the development of the master files and entry screens initially slowed my progress. Now that all of that is behind me, I'm sure to be able to quickly get the CH back on schedule.

You can help in this endeavor. Soon I will distribute a CH submittal form, and will require CH data to be submitted via this form. In the meantime, please try to write legibly, and in ink (pencil is next to impossible to read). Also, if you are not aware of recent name changes in some species try to bring yourself up to date (most new field guides, such as the National Geographic guide, reflect the most recent nomenclature.)

As to format, please avoid summary data, such as "1-21 individuals observed all month". Such an entry plays havoc with the computer. Single date sightings are in proper format for a database system, so why not send in a CH form for each field day, instead of attempting to summarize a month's worth of sightings?

Finally, please note the updated list of location codes. By using these codes data entry is greatly facilitated, and the margin for error is reduced substantially. Note that the UTC Checklist Committee has included Waller County within the UTC, and therefore the CH is now accepting Waller County sightings.

Ted Eubanks

- NOVEMBER, 1987

The Clearing House is a monthly listing of bird sightings made on the upper Texas coast (UTC). The UTC is comprised of Brazoria, Chambers, Ft. Bend, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Waller counties. How to read the CH - Species: location code (number) date, observer. For those species whose sightings are itemized each individual record is segregated by a semicolon (;). The sightings of common, widely distributed species are summarized as follows: Species: # reports (low count - high count) early date -late date. Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status as described on the UTC Checklist. Birds with very rare, vagrant, or accidental status on the Checklist at the date of the sighting require details. Sightings lacking required details will not be included in the CH. Details for observations affecting a species' status on the current UTC Checklist will be published, and the documentation referred to the UTC Checklist Committee for consideration. Such documentation is required for an observation to be considered by the Checklist Committee.

200 species reported this month

Loon, Common: BC(2)9,TT;Galv(2)22,JB  
 Grebe, Pied-billed: 12 reports (1-100)1-28;  
 FBC(100)1,HO  
 Grebe, Eared: WHC(1)1, JM;BNWR(2)8, RU  
 Gannet, Northern: BC(4)29, MA  
 Pelican, American White: 9 reports (3-340)1-28;  
 significant movement through inland counties the first two weeks of the month.  
 Pelican, Brown: SLP(9)1, TE;BC(37)8, TT;SLP(60)8, TE;  
 GC(250)26, ML  
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 15 reports (1-400)1-28  
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: CUTC(1)1, TE;Galv(9)1, RU;  
 CUTC(10)8, TE  
 Anhinga: BBSP(2)1, HO;FBC(1)1, HO  
 Bittern, American: FBC(1)1, HO;CUTC(1)8, TE;BC(1)9, TT  
 Bittern, Least: WGI(1)7, JH - notes submitted  
 Heron, Great Blue: 18 reports (2-75)1-28  
 Egret, Great: 19 reports (2-200)1-28  
 Egret, Snowy: 16 reports (1-125)1-28  
 Heron, Little Blue: 11 reports (1-3)1-28  
 Heron, Tricolored: 10 reports (1-8)1-28  
 Egret, Reddish: 8 reports (1-15)1-18  
 Egret, Cattle: 10 reports (1-200)1-22  
 Night-Heron, Black-crowned: 6 reports (1-50)1-21  
 Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned: 8 reports (1-2)1-30  
 Ibis, White: 13 reports (4-150)1-22  
 Ibis, White-faced: 11 reports (1-600)1-28  
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 6 reports (4-53)1-18  
 Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: WC(2)17, EB - notes submitted  
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: WC(190)1, JM;  
 WHC(140)1, JM;WC(60)17, EB;WC(20)21, MO  
 Goose, Greater White-fronted: 11 reports (25-4500)1-28  
 Goose, Snow: 12 reports (15-50000)1-28  
 Goose, Ross': WC(3)17, EB;WC(25)21, MO  
 Goose, Canada: WHC(150)1, JM;WC(200)17, EB;WC(200)21, MO;  
 WHC(10)28, JB  
 Duck, Wood: WC(1)17, EB  
 Teal, Green-winged: 8 reports (6-4000)1-28  
 Duck, Mottled: 12 reports (1-20)1-22  
 Mallard: 6 reports (2-40)1-28  
 Pintail, Northern: 9 reports (3-140)1-28  
 Teal, Blue-winged: 8 reports (2-150)1-28  
 Teal, Cinnamon: SBNW(2)8, TE;ANWR(2)14, WI;ANWR(2)28, RU  
 Teal, Blue-winged X Cinnamon: BBSP(1)21, Fr - see notes  
 Shoveler, Northern: 12 reports (1-250)1-28  
 Gadwall: 11 reports (1-190)1-28  
 Wigeon, American: 7 reports (4-60)1-28  
 Canvasback: WC(2)17, EB  
 Redhead: FBC(1)1, HO;WHC(4)1, JM  
 Duck, Ring-necked: FBC(50)1, HO;WHC(6)1, JM;BNWR(7)8, RU;  
 WHC(8)28, JB  
 Scaup, Lesser: 6 reports (1-20)8-28 - scaup appear to be continuing their steady, decade-long decline on the UTC.  
 Bufflehead: BC(4)9, TT  
 Merganser, Hooded: SJSP(1)2, DM, MB;SJSP(88)19, DM  
 Duck, Ruddy: 6 reports (2-75)1-21  
 Vulture, Black: 7 reports (2-30)1-28  
 Vulture, Turkey: 12 reports (5-120)1-28  
 Osprey: WGI(1)1, TE;WGI(1)7, JH;CUTC(2)8, TE;SJSP(1)14, WI  
 Kite, Black-shouldered: 13 reports (1-6)1-28  
 Eagle, Bald: FBC(1)1, HO - early fall sightings of Bald Eagles, particularly in Ft. Bend and Brazoria counties, are more than likely of southern race birds which nest in the region.  
 Harrier, Northern: 16 reports (1-60)1-28  
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: WHC(1)1, JM;WGI(1)7, JH;WC(2)17, EB;  
 HA(1)28, WI;WHC(1)28, JB  
 Hawk, Cooper's: H(1)23, ML  
 accipiter, sp.: 3 reports (1)1-8  
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 8 reports (1-15)1-21  
 Hawk, Broad-winged: BC(1)22, MA - notes submitted  
 Hawk, White-tailed: WC(1)17, EB;WC(1)21, MO  
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 12 reports (1-40)1-28  
 buteo, sp.: WHC(5)1, JM  
 Caracara, Crested: WC(5)1, JM;WHC(2)1, JM;WC(1)17, EB;  
 WC(8)21, MO  
 Kestrel, American: 21 reports (1-115)1-28  
 Merlin: ANWR(1)28, RU  
 Rail, Clapper: Galv(1)1, RU;WGI(2)18, JH  
 Moorhen, Common: 7 reports (1-25)1-28  
 Coot, American: 16 reports (4-750)1-28  
 Crane, Sandhill: FBC(6)1, HO;WGI(5)1, TE;BNWR(3)8, RU;  
 CUTC(15)8, TE;WC(12)21, MO  
 Plover, Black-bellied: 9 reports (2-100)1-28  
 Plover, Snowy: SLP(40)1, TE;SLP(4)7, JH;SLP(40)8, TE  
 Plover, Wilson's: SLP(1)1, TE;SLP(3)8, TE  
 Plover, Semipalmated: 6 reports (1-60)1-28  
 Plover, Piping: Galv(3)1, RU;SLP(30)1, TE;SLP(26,7)JH;  
 SLP(65)8, TE;EG(2)19, JH;Bol(2)28, RU  
 Killdeer: 16 reports (4-800)1-28  
 Oystercatcher, American: Galv(2)1, RU;WGI(17)8, TE  
 Stilt, Black-necked: WHC(3)1, JM;ANWR(30)14, WI  
 Avocet, American: 8 reports (1-60)1-28  
 Yellowlegs, Greater: 15 reports (1-20)1-28  
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 10 reports (1-50)1-22  
 yellowlegs, sp.: ANWR(10)14, WI  
 Willet: 9 reports (3-200)1-28  
 Sandpiper, Spotted: WGI(1)19, JH;Galv(1)22, JB  
 Curlew, Long-billed: 11 reports (2-60)1-28  
 Godwin, Marbled: 6 reports (2-75)1-28  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: Galv(2)1, RU;SLP(5)1, TE;SLP(2)7, JH;  
 CUTC(20)8, TE  
 Knot, Red: CUTC(10)8, TE  
 Sanderling: CUTC(75)1, TE;Galv(8)1, RU;SLP(50)7, JH;  
 CUTC(400)8, TE;Bol(10)28, RU  
 Sandpiper, Western: 7 reports (18-400)1-28  
 Sandpiper, Least: 8 reports (1-150)1-28  
 peep, sp.: WHC(200)1, JM  
 Dunlin: 8 reports (1-250)1-28  
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: CUTC(300)1, TE;SLP(750)8, TE;  
 Bol(12)28, RU  
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: WHC(2000)1, JM;CUTC(50)8, TE;  
 WC(800)17, EB;WGI(2)18, JH;WC(400)21, MO  
 dowitcher, sp.: 5 reports (2-50)1-22  
 Snipe, Common: 9 reports (1-400)1-26; WC(400)17, EB  
 Gull, Laughing: 10 reports (9-2400)1-28  
 Gull, Franklin's: WHC(1)1, JM;SLP(24)8, TE  
 Gull, Bonaparte's: WC(1)21, MO  
 Gull, Ring-billed: 9 reports (4-300)1-28  
 Gull, Herring: 6 reports (1-75)1-28  
 Tern, Gull-billed: CUTC(1)8, TE  
 Tern, Caspian: 9 reports (1-125)1-28  
 Tern, Royal: 7 reports (2-1200)1-28  
 Tern, Sandwich: Galv(3)1, RU;SLP(4)7, JH;CUTC(50)8, TE;  
 Bol(3)28, RU  
 Tern, Common: CUTC(2)8, TE  
 Tern, Forster's: 10 reports (1-200)1-28  
 Skimmer, Black: 6 reports (50-500)1-28  
 Dove, Rock: 10 reports (1-150)1-30  
 Dove, White-winged: 10 reports (1-5)1-30 - see note  
 Dove, Mourning: 18 reports (2-300)1-28  
 Dove, Inca: 8 reports (2-30)1-30  
 Ground-Dove, Common: WHC(2)1, JM;WC(16)17, EB;WC(3)21, MO  
 Parakeet, Monk: RU(1)27, WI  
 Barn-Owl, Common: CUTC(1)1, TE;CUTC(1)8, TE;WC(1)21, MO  
 Owl, Great Horned: WC(1)1, JM;WOB(1)19, WC;WOB(1)20, WC  
 Owl, Barred: WC(1)21, MO  
 Hummingbird, Buff-bellied: H(1)5, BM;H(1)6, BM - changing status, should be upgraded from very rare to rare winter resident.  
 Hummingbird, Rufous: WH(1)22, Br;WH(1)23, Br  
 hummingbird, sp.: WOB(1)20, WC;WGI(1)22, JB  
 Kingfisher, Belted: 11 reports (1-3)1-28  
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: WC(1)17, EB;WC(2)21, MO  
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 8 reports (1-10)1-28  
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 7 reports (1-20)1-22

Woodpecker, Ladder-backed: WC(1)21,Mo - status uncertain in Waller. Based on past two years of observations, appears to be a rare but regular winter resident in west Waller County.

Woodpecker, Downy: 11 reports (1-20)1-28  
 Flicker, Northern: 14 reports (1-30)1-28  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: BBSP(3)1,Mo  
 Wood-Pewee, Eastern: CUTC(1)8,TE;WGI(1)18,JH  
 Flycatcher, Least: SBNW(1)8,TE - notes submitted  
 Phoebe, Eastern: 15 reports (1-60)1-28  
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: BBSP(3)1,Mo;SBNW(1)1,TE; GISP(1)7,JH;BNWR(1)8,RU;SBNW(1)8,TE;BC(1)9,TT  
 Flycatcher, Ash-throated: WC(4)17,EB;WC(2)21,Mo  
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: SWHC(7)1,PM;WHC(2)1,JM  
 Lark, Horned: BNWR(7)8,RU;BC(22)9,TT;WC(2)17,EB  
 Swallow, Tree: BNWR(50)8,RU;CC(20)14,Wi;WGI(1)22,JB; ANWR(16)28,RU  
 Swallow, Northern Rough-winged: BC(12)9,TT  
 Swallow, Barn: CUTC(750)1,TE;Galv(1)1,RU;BNWR(2)8,RU; CUTC(5)8,TE  
 Jay, Blue: 7 reports (1-50)1-28  
 Crow, American: 8 reports (3-450)1-28  
 Chickadee, Carolina: 10 reports (1-30)1-28  
 Titmouse, Tufted: 5 reports (2-6)4-28  
 Creeper, Brown: WC(2)17,EB;HP(1)18,Wi;WC(5)21,Mo; HA(1)28,Wi  
 Wren, Carolina: WHC(5)1,JM;WC(4)17,EB;WC(4)21,Mo; HA(1)28,Wi  
 Wren, Bewick's: WHC(8)1,JM;WGI(1)8,TE - unusual location;WC(12)17,EB;WC(20)21,Mo;WHC(1)28,JB  
 Wren, House: 8 reports (1-20)1-28  
 Wren, Winter: WOB(1)19,WC  
 Wren, Sedge: WHC(15)1,JM;CUTC(2)8,TE;WC(1)21,Mo; WGI(1)22,JB  
 Wren, Marsh: BNWR(3)8,RU;BC(1)9,TT  
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: 6 reports (2-6)8-28  
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: 15 reports (1-200)1-28  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 13 reports (1-100)1-28  
 Bluebird, Eastern: 6 reports (1-200)1-28; WC(200)21,Mo  
 Thrush, Hermit: WHC(5)1,JM;HA(5)17,Wi;WC(5)17,EB; WC(8)21,Mo;HA(1)28,Wi  
 Robin, American: 9 reports (1-500)3-28  
 Catbird, Gray: 6 reports (1-2)1-20  
 Mockingbird, Northern: 16 reports (2-40)1-28  
 Thrasher, Brown: 11 reports (1-15)1-28  
 Pipit, Water: FBC(6)1,Mo;WHC(2)1,JM;BC(2)9,TT; WC(60)17,EB;WC(150)21,Mo  
 Pipit, Sprague's: SBNW(2)8,TE  
 Waxwing, Cedar: WC(45)21,Mo  
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 14 reports (1-45)1-28  
 Starling, European: 13 reports (12-1000)1-28  
 Vireo, White-eyed: WHC(1)1,JM  
 Vireo, Solitary: 6 reports (1-2)4-28  
 Warbler, Orange-crowned: 10 reports (1-16)1-28  
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped: 14 reports (1-80)1-28  
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: HP(1)20,Wi  
 Warbler, Pine: 7 reports (1-20)1-28  
 Warbler, Prairie: WGI(1)8,TE  
 Warbler, Palm: SBNW(4)1,TE;WHC(1)1,JM;SBNW(6)8,TE; WC(4)17,EB;WC(5)21,Mo  
 Yellowthroat, Common: 9 reports (1-15)1-28  
 Warbler, Wilson's: CUTC(4)8,TE  
 Tanager, Scarlet: SBNW(1)2,DM,MB - new late fall departure date - notes submitted?  
 Cardinal, Northern: 12 reports (1-100)1-28  
 Bunting, Indigo: WHC(1)1,JM  
 Towhee, Green-tailed: WGI(1)8,TE - notes submitted.  
 I recorded this individual at Old House, the same location where I observed this species on 11/13/82 - CH Editor.  
 Towhee, Rufous-sided: WOB(3)19,WC;WOB(3)20,WC; WC(1)21,Mo;HA(1)28,Wi  
 (Towhee, Spotted): WC(2)17,EB;WC(2)21,Mo  
 Sparrow, Chipping: WGI(10)8,TE;WC(2)17,EB;WOB(6)19,WC; WC(125)21,Mo  
 Sparrow, Clay-colored: WGI(1)8,TE - notes submitted  
 Sparrow, Field: WC(60)17,EB;WOB(2)19,WC;WOB(2)20,WC; WC(40)21,Mo  
 Sparrow, Vesper: WHC(1)1,JM;WC(100)17,EB;WC(4)21,Mo; WHC(2)28,JB  
 BUNTING, LARK: WHC(15)28,JB - see notes  
 Sparrow, Savannah: 12 reports (2-1200)1-28  
 Sparrow, Grasshopper: BNWR(2)8,RU;WOB(1)20,WC  
 Sparrow, Le Conte's: WC(6)17,EB;WOB(1)20,WC;WC(8)21,Mo  
 Sparrow, Fox: WC(8)17,EB;WOB(1)20,WC;WC(3)21,Mo; WHC(1)28,JB  
 Sparrow, Song: CUTC(2)1,TE;WHC(4)1,JM;WC(5)17,EB; WC(15)21,Mo  
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: 7 reports (1-50)1-22  
 Sparrow, Swamp: 9 reports (1-35)1-22

Sparrow, White-throated: 12 reports (1-400)1-28; WC(400)21,Mo  
 Sparrow, White-crowned: WC(40)17,EB;WC(1)21,Mo; WHC(1)28,JB  
 Sparrow, Harris': WC(2)21,Mo;WHC(1)28,JB  
 Junco, Dark-eyed: WC(40)17,EB;WOB(10)20,WC; WC(60)21,Mo;WHC(2)28,JB  
 longspur, sp.: WC(2)21,Mo - longspurs (primarily Lapland) begin arriving in Waller County around Thanksgiving, and are common through February. The checklist will be revised to reflect this change in status.  
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 13 reports (15-5000)1-28  
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 15 reports (1-250)1-28  
 Meadowlark, Western: WC(1)17,EB;WC(1)21,Mo  
 Blackbird, Yellow-headed: FBC(1)1,Mo - see notes  
 Blackbird, Brewer's: WC(10)17,EB;WC(25)21,Mo  
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 12 reports (6-750)1-28  
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: Galv(18)1,RU;SBNW(100)1,TE; SBNW(25)8,TE  
 Grackle, Common: 7 reports (2-800)1-26  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 11 reports (18-6200)1-28  
 blackbird, sp.: 3 reports (800-10250)1  
 Finch, Purple: WOB(2)20,WC;WC(4)21,Mo  
 Siskin, Pine: WC(5)17,EB;WOB(3)19,WC;WOB(3)20,WC; WC(65)21,Mo  
 Goldfinch, American: WH(3)14,Br;WC(40)17,EB; WC(200)21,Mo;ANWR(5)28,RU;WHC(10)28,JB  
 Sparrow, House: 7 reports (1-75)1-30

Note: documentation on a Connecticut Warbler, reported on 11/09 by TT, has been referred to the Checklist Committee.

#### Location Codes

AB - Armand Bayou  
 ANWR - Anahuac NWR  
 Algo - Algoa  
 BBSP - Brazos Bend State Park  
 BC - Brazoria County  
 BF - Bolivar Flats  
 BNWR - Brazoria NWR  
 BP - Bay Area Park  
 Bayt - Baytown  
 Bol - Bolivar Peninsula  
 CC - Chamber's County  
 CUTC - Coastal Upper Texas Coast  
 EG - East Galveston Island  
 EH - East Houston  
 FBC - Fort Bend County  
 Fr - Friendswood  
 Free - Freeport  
 GC - Galveston County  
 GISP - Galveston Island State Park  
 Galv - Galveston Island  
 H - Houston  
 HA - Houston Arboretum  
 HI - High Island  
 HP - Hermann Park  
 Kemp - Kempner Park, Galveston  
 LC - Lake Charlotte  
 NHC - North Harris County  
 Pasa - Pasadena  
 Pear - Pearland  
 RP - Rollover Pass  
 RU - Rice University  
 SBNW - San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge  
 SLP - San Luis Pass  
 SWH - Southwest Houston  
 SWHC - Southwest Harris County  
 Seab - Seabrook  
 TCD - Texas City Dike  
 UTC - Upper Texas Coast  
 WC - Waller County  
 WGI - West Galveston Island  
 WH - West Houston  
 WHC - West Harris County  
 WMP - White Memorial Park  
 WOB - White Oak Bayou

## CONTRIBUTORS - NOVEMBER, 1987

### Observers

BB - Bob Behrstock  
BH - Bob Honig  
CC - Caroline Callery  
CG - Carole Gaynes  
DM - Derek Muschalek  
DW - Doug Williams  
JB - John Buckman  
JM - Jim Morgan  
MA - Mike Austin  
MB - Mark Brown  
MF - Margaret Fischer  
ML - Mark Lockwood  
MY - Mary Ann Young  
PM - Peggy Milstead  
RO - Richard Orr  
RU - Richard Uzar  
TE - Ted Eubanks  
TM - Tom Morris  
Ta - Tom Taroni  
WC - Wesley Cureton  
WS - Wanda Smith

### Parties

BM - Bob and Mary Ann Moore  
Br - Ron and Marcia Braun  
EB - TE, BB  
Fr - Rene and Andrew Franks  
Ho - DW, CG, My, CC, RO, MF, BH  
JH - John and Jane Hamilton, Allen Mueller  
JZ - John and Linda Zemple  
LB - Larry and Martha Ballard  
Mo - JM, TE, BB  
TT - Ta, LB, JZ, TM  
Wi - Diane and Dennis Wiesenborn

## CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - NOVEMBER, 1987

### Teal, Blue-winged X Cinnamon

11/21/87

A male bird was seen at Brazos Bend State Park, feeding with about 10 Blue-winged Teal in a small pond on the side of Elm Lake. The bird appeared at first glance to be a Cinnamon Teal, but closer observation revealed several discrepancies. The cinnamon color was lighter and less rich than would be expected. The sides of the bird were dotted with small spots exactly resembling those of a Blue-winged Teal. Also, the bird had whitish areas in two places where Blue-wings would have white, but Cinnamon would not. The bird had a black rump separated from its cinnamon body by a blurry white band. On the face, a very faint light area could be seen where a Blue-wing would have a half-moon. This mixture of patterns indicates a hybrid. Other observations include a red eye with a darker area above it, some scalloping replacing the dots at the wing coverts, and orange legs. The stripes on the closed wings were buffier than those of the surrounding Blue-winged Teal, and the closed wings made a greater contrast with the sides. The bird was observed for about 30 minutes. Later, several of the OG field trip saw many of the same field marks. The only other suggestion for the bird's identity was a Cinnamon Teal in eclipse, but this would not explain the white rump band and face patch, and an eclipse male would be expected to have scalloping on its sides, not perfectly round dots.

Rene and Andrew Franks

## BUNTING, LARK

11/28/87

Saw 7-15 birds of this species (depending on how many were repeats) on Jack Road & Warren Lake Road. Bird was reported previously on rare bird tape by others. Bird was a male in winter plumage; chunky bird about longspur size or larger; upperparts streaked brownish-gray, with gray being the dominant color; large, elongated white patch at bottom of folded wing, resembling that of a White-winged Dove; underparts whitish with brown streaks on flanks only; tail dark with narrow but distinct whitish tip; bill bluish-gray in color; grayish eye ring; black chin & upper throat. Seen for 1-2 minutes in excellent light with 7X50 binocs and 20X scope. Note: the wing patches on some of the Lark Buntings were visible in flight.

John Buckman

### Blackbird, Yellow-headed

11/01/87

Male perched in clear view on top of building for several minutes at 200 feet approx.; viewed leisurely with binoculars and scopes by all members of party; dark body, bright yellow head.

Bob Honig

### Special Note - White-wing Dove

Charlie and Wanda Smith, who live in Houston just south of the intersection of Buffalo Speedway and S. Braeswood (near Bayou Manor), have White-winged Doves coming to their yard. The birds drink from the bird bath and eat tallow berries. Wanda observed between one and three individuals, beginning November 5 through November 23. Although common in the city of Galveston, White-winged Doves are quite rare anywhere else on the upper Texas coast. As Wanda notes, perhaps White-wings will colonize Houston as the Inca Dove did in the 1950's.

## CH EDITOR'S NOTES - NOVEMBER, 1987

Oops! Ignore what I said in my October notes about November not making this issue. The data base program is working better than I projected, and November is complete and delivered. Therefore the new schedule will be for December and January to be in the next (February) issue, and then we are caught up.

The November CH has some obvious omissions among contributors (Derek Muschalek, Mike Austin, etc.), and I suspect that their submittals did not reach me. I retrieved the CH materials from Art MacKinnon the day after the December OG meeting, and any materials that reached him after that date have not been forwarded to me. Therefore, if you have a copy of a November submittal that you sent Art but do not see published please mail it to me. I will see that it is entered into the data base, and any field notes are forwarded to the UTC Checklist Committee.

## 1988 DUES ARE NOW DUE

Send \$15 for single membership, \$30 for double, \$13 for non-member  
Spoonbill subscription to: Jerry Patrick, 814 St. Francis, Houston TX 77079  
Don't forget address (including Apt. No.) and Phone No. for the roster.

## SNOW GEESE GET A DYE JOB

You are not seeing things if you note yellow or pink Snow Geese among the flocks. A joint effort is being made by the Texas A&M Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to learn about the movements of Snow Geese that winter on our coastal marshes and rice fields. Geese have been trapped and dyed for easy spotting. Those dyed on Brazoria NWR are yellow, and those dyed on San Bernard are pink. Whenever you see any dyed geese, please report the **date and location** as well as the color and number by calling (409)849-6062 or (409)964-3639.

## MARCH 3 - DOWN UNDER AND OUTBACK

Bob Honig, Program Chairman, has reported that our speaker at the meeting on March 3 will be Simon Neville, owner of Falcon Tours in Australia. He will discuss birding habitats in seldom-visited areas of the "Outback" and show some outstanding slides. We are grateful to Steve Gast, who knew Neville in Perth, for helping to set up this program.

FOR OG information, checklists, maps, contact Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston 77096, 723-8559.

SEND bird sightings for Clearing House to: Ted L. Eubanks, Jr. c/o NOVA, P.O. Box 1024, Houston TX 77251-1024.

RARE Bird Alert Tape, sponsored by Piney Woods Wildlife Society: 821-2846.

SEND material for Spoonbill to Editor, Libby Price, 3715 Sunset, Houston 77005, 665-1159.

SEND dues, subscriptions and address changes to Jerry Patrick, 814 St. Francis, Houston 77079. Members' annual dues: \$15 (ONC \$5, OG \$10). Spoonbill subscriptions for non-members: \$13.

## MAKE MINE MAGNOLIA

by Wesley Cureton



Some years ago the grounds-keeper at Varner-Hogg Plantation in Brazoria County told me that few magnolia seeds sprout because most get eaten by squirrels and birds. No doubt true to an extent, I thought, but he is probably exaggerating.

Recently, however, I have found that at least one bird does eat a lot of them. During two recent falls I have watched a Pileated Woodpecker fly into the 30-foot magnolia in my grandmother's yard in Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana. The bird would start fairly low and climb up, visiting each seed head and gobbling down the seeds with great relish. It would finally get so high that the branches would hardly support its weight.

During the more recent visit, I saw one or two birds in the tree four times during a 24-hour period. Assuming that this behavior is typical, I imagine that magnolia seeds, where available, might make up a considerable portion of the Pileated Woodpecker's diet in the fall.

[According to the Audubon Encyclopedia of American Birds, Pileated Woodpeckers have a varied diet, about 75% animal and 25% vegetable. They are fond of feeding on carpenter ant colonies, which they reach by chiseling into the hearts of trees. They also eat beetles, grubs, moths, mosquitoes, flies, acorns, beechnuts, wild grapes and cherries, seeds of sumac, and fruits of virginia creeper, sourgum, poison oak and ivy and dogwoods.

This is no doubt a Yankee diet list. Our Southern Pileateds enjoy a regional gourmet item..Ed.]

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