



THE SPOONBILL

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FIELD TRIP TO BRAZORIA WILDLIFE REFUGE by Jerry Baker

The cars of Ornithology Group members and visitors almost filled the parking area in front of the Angleton Courthouse by 7:30 A.M. January 30. The leader, Dirk Hagemeyer, suggested some doubling up, so several cars were left behind. The still long procession wended its way out of town to the Brazoria Refuge southeast of Angleton.

This refuge has been in existence only a few years and is still inaccessible to the public, because the only access is over private ranch roads. The Interior Department is in the process of bargaining for more land to build it up to approximately 12,000 acres.

The terrain is mostly pasture land with many clumps of thorny deciduous bushes. Several small lakes and marshy ponds provide the habitat for many ducks and shorebirds. Snow, Blue and Canada Geese in large numbers were grazing in the fields. Some time was spent in searching for Ross' Geese which had been seen on the Refuge this winter, but none were found. A flock of approximately 35 adult Black-crowned Night Herons were flying around a grove of Salt Cedars.

Small groups began to scatter about to look for sparrows. At least three times a Le Conte's and Grasshopper Sparrow were seen sitting near each other in the same bush. But as more and more people joined in the search the Le Contes changed their tactics. They would fly to a bush and go into the thick grass at the base. The hunters (birders) would surround the bush and kick the grass, hoping to flush the sparrow. Several times one would be seen sneaking through the grass away from the bush, but usually they just disappeared. But when a big rattlesnake in a slightly somnolent state was found under a bush, the hunters quickly changed their tactics. Le Conte's Sparrow hunting can be very exciting.

Sixty-eight species of birds were found by 39 birders.

Our thanks to Dirk, who filled in ditches for the cars to cross, helped maneuver the many cars in and out of small turn-around places, and for the good birding spots he found.

CINCO RANCH FIELD TRIP By Jane Dodge

The star of the Saturday, February 28, Cinco Ranch trip was the Le Conte's Sparrow, who sat patiently while most of the 31 birders viewed him from distances of 5 or 6 feet. The buffy ocher eye-line, the white stripe through the crown and the pinkish brown collar on the nape were plainly visible marks which brought group consensus that he was indeed Le Conte's Sparrow. The Fox Sparrow and the Grasshopper Sparrows were others of the 11 sparrow species.

The hawk, red tail outstretched, circling in the sun, and two handsome male Cinnamon Teal swimming on the pond close to the houses were notable sights.

Some others of the 70 species seen were Widgeons, Blue-winged Teal, Grebes, Coots, Dowitchers, Yellowlegs, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Purple Finch, Myrtle and Orange-crowned Warblers and Sandhill Cranes.

Many plants were blooming including a hawthorn, a patch of tiny, dainty Texas baby blue-eyes (Nemophila), western paintbrushes, bull thistles, toad flax, squaw weed

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and bluets. The Pat Ridge family collected a large turtle shell, and a coon was sighted.

Marilyn Crane was leader for the trip on a day when the weather couldn't have been surpassed in any way.

LETTER FROM DAN AND MARIAN WASHBURN

Dear Friends of O. G.,

Greetings from New Mexico!

The enclosed clipping comes from our local paper and will be of interest to many, I'm sure.

It will also be of interest that our local representatives in the State Legislature introduced a bill for protection of hawks and owls. We are hoping it will fare better than the one did at the last session--which never reached the floor.

The N. M. O. S. is, of course, solidly behind it and probably will join the fight to have the mountain lion declared big game, so he can be protected.

Incidentally our first year of Audubon films has been a terrific success, with some 650 season tickets sold, next year in the bag, and if memory serves me right, a plan for matinees for school children. And a birder is head of it all.

Y'all come to New Mexico, If we can't take you birding, we'll try to send you to some good spots.

Best wishes to you all,
Dan and Marian

Excerpts from the enclosed article published in the Albuquerque Journal: Prairie Chickens in eastern New Mexico will be wired for sound this summer in an effort to determine the mortality rate of the young. As part of a research project for his master's degree in zoology, Weldon Beard of Roy, a graduate student at Eastern New Mexico University, will be trying to track prairie chicken hens with telemetry. Beard will try to locate the elusive nesting areas for a scientific study of the death rate of the chicks.

"The Prairie Chicken was put on the list of endangered species back in 1949," Beard said, "but no one really knows for sure how they are doing now." Field work on the project will not begin until early June when the Prairie Chickens congregate at the booming grounds around Milnesand.

In the meantime Beard is building eight tiny transmitters to track the movements of the birds. The transmitters, about the size of a quarter, will be run by a small, hearing aid-type battery. The entire unit weighs less than four ounces and will be strapped to the back of hens.

Address of the Washburns: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel T. Washburn
504 Princeton Drive, SE, #3
Albuquerque, N. M. 87106

NESTING SURVEY OF BALD EAGLE AND OSPREY

We received the following letter from Eugene A Walker, director of wildlife services for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is conducting a survey to determine the extent to which the American Bald Eagle and American Osprey utilize this state for nesting. We would like to solicit your cooperation and aid in completion of this study. These data will allow the Department to establish population levels on Texas fish hawks and eagles. We also hope to determine the nesting success of these endangered species so that future problems that might arise with these birds can be carefully monitored.

Enclosed you will find a form on which we would like for you to share your knowledge with us of existing nest locations of these species. We are interested in nests that are occupied this spring and not unoccupied nests. We would, however, appreciate any comments that you would have to offer on older nest sites or population changes that

have occurred in your area.

The data that we desire consists of the exact location of active nests (county and how one would get to the area) and a brief description of the nesting site (species of tree, alive or dead, and whether the area is forested or open). Such descriptions will enable Parks and Wildlife Department personnel to locate these nests in future years.

Your cooperation in helping us to complete this project is appreciated.

Editors Note: If any reader knows of such sites we would be glad to compile the information and send it to the Parks & Wildlife Department or it can be sent directly to Station 14, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, John H. Reagan State Office Building, Austin, Texas 78701. They would like the following information:

Name, address and telephone number of the observer; Date observed; Specify Bald Eagle or Osprey and exact location of nest; Description of Nest site and any comments.

NEW MEMBER: Miss Bertha Louise Murph, 3747 Georgetown, Houston 77005

NEW SUBSCRIBER: Mrs. Robin J. Robinson, 10102 Holly Springs, Houston 77042

SANCTUARY VISITORS

Members of the Travis Audubon Society and San Antonio Audubon Society will be guests at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary March 26, 27 and 28. Many of them are interested in seeing the birds. Please go up and help the Sanctuary Committee show them a good time. Come enjoy the Sanctuary yourself and discover the beauties there in the spring of the year.

BRIEFS

A note from Russel W. Clapper, Anahuac Refuge Manager, asks that articles pertaining to environmental threats be sent to Mr. D. P. Shoup

Field Representative-Southwest Region-Field Comm.
Room 4030
517 Gold Avenue SW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101

A short article in the Houston Post February 27 reported that State Rep. Alex Sanders of South Carolina says more than 200 hunters and fishermen have told him of sightings of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers on state owned land in Sumter and Calhoun counties. Rep. Sanders has sponsored a bill to declare a one-year moratorium on timber cutting in that area.

CLEARING HOUSE February, 1971

Loon, Common: (1)26, Texas City Dike, D&DL.
Grebe, Eared: (1)26, Cove, AKM.
Pied-billed: (2)13, (1)27, Cove, AKM.
Pelican, White: (2-3)12, 13, 26, 27, Cove, AKM.
Cormorant, Double-crested: (20)12, (28+)26, Cove, AKM.
Olivaceous: (10+)26, (3)27, Cove AKM; (5+)28, Anahuac Refuge, Party A.
Heron, Green: (1)28, High Island, DHH.
Little Blue: (1)1, 26, (2)3, Cove, AKM; (1)26, Galveston, D&DL.
Nightheron, Black-crowned: (150+)12, (30+)26, Cove, AKM.
Ibis, White-faced: (1)26, Galveston, D&DL.
White: (50+)11 (by the Pettings) Cove, AKM.
Spoonbill, Roseate: (9)13, Cove, AKM.
Goose, Canada: (7)28, (NC)11 days, (6000)27, Cove, AKM.
White-fronted: (10-31)15, 16, 23, 26, Cove, AKM.
ROSS': (2)28, Anahuac Refuge, Party A. (See Clearing House Notes)
Duck, Mallard: (1-10)1, 3, 8, 26, Cove, AKM; (2000+)26 (by the Pettings) Cove, AKM.
Mottled: (1-6)3 days, (20+)13, Cove, AKM.
Gadwall: (1-25)5 days, Cove, AKM.
Pintail: (50+)1, 8, 13, 26, Cove, AKM.
Teal, Green-winged: (140)13, (75 or less)4 days, Cove, AKM.
Teal, Blue-winged: (3-14)3, 8, 13, 26, Cove, AKM.
Teal, Cinnamon: (1 or a pair)26, Cove, AKM; (1)20, Katy-Hockley Road, DHH;
(5+)28, Anahuac Refuge, Party A.
Widgeon, American: (258)1, 3, (125)8, (50+) 13, 26, Cove, AKM.

- Duck, Shoveler: (125-150+)5 days, Cove, AKM.
 Wood: (2)6, Sugarland levee, DHH; (4)7, Buckhorn Lake, NB.
 Redhead: (1)8, Lake Anahuac, Cove, AKM; (17)26, Galveston, D&DL.
 Goldeneye, Common: (NC)12, Cove, AKM.
 Merganser, Red-breasted: (1-2)12, 26, 27, Cove, AKM; (9)6, Baytown Tunnel, NB; (1)26, Texas City Dike, D&DL.
 Vulture, Turkey: (1-10)1, 3, 16, 26, Cove, AKM.
 Black: (25)3, Cove, AKM.
 KITE, WHITE-TAILED: (1)9 (by the Pettings) Cove, AKM.
 Hawk, Red-tailed: (1-10)9 days, (11-20)8 days, (31)26, (22)27, Cove, AKM.
 Krider's Red-tailed: (1)1, Cove, AKM; (1)20, Katy-Hockley Road, DHH; (1)28, Anahuac Refuge, Party A. (See Clearing House Notes)
 Eagle, Bald: (1 immature)8, Wallisville, AKM; (3-1 adult, 2 immature)28, Warren Ranch Lake, NW Harris County, NP.
 Hawk, Marsh: (1-10)15 days, (11)27, Cove, AKM.
 Sparrow: (1-10)16 days, (13)1, (11)12, (16)26, Cove, AKM.
 Crane, Sandhill: (280+)20, Clay Road, DHH; (100+)26, West Galveston Island, D&DL; (64)24, West Galveston Island, DL&NB.
 Rail, Sora: (1)11, (2)24 (by the Pettings) Cove, AKM.
 Gallinule, Common: (1)25 (by the Pettings) Cove, AKM.
 Coot, American: (2-3+)8, 13, (22)26, Cove, AKM.
 OYSTERCATCHER, AMERICAN: (2)24, Galveston Jetty, DL&NB; (2026, Galveston Jetty, D&DL.
 Plover, Piping: (1)24, Galveston east beach, DL&NB; (1)26, Galveston west beach, D&DL.
 Snowy: (1)24, Galveston east beach, DL&NB.
 American Golden: (3)27, Cove, (1)27, Baytown Tunnel, AKM.
 Black-bellied: (2)12, (4)26, Cove, AKM.
 Turnstone, Ruddy: (6)12, Cove, AKM; (1)26, Galveston Jetty, D&DL.
 Snipe, Common: (1-6)5 days, Cove, AKM.
 Curlew, Long-billed: (25)1, (100+)3, Cove, AKM.
 Willet: (3)12, (33+)26, Cove, AKM.
 Yellowlegs, Greater: (2)12, (4)26, Cove, AKM.
 Lesser: (1)1, 8, (2)12, (12)26, Cove, AKM.
 SANDPIPER, PECTORAL: (2)26, Cove, (1)27, Baytown, AKM.
 Dunlin: (NC)12, Cove, AKM.
 Dowitcher Sp.: (10-25+)1, 8, 12, 26, Cove, AKM.
 Sanderling: (1)26, Cove, AKM.
 Avocet, American: (5)12, Cove, AKM.
 Gull, Bonaparte's: (1+)26, Cove, AKM.
 Owl, Barn: (1)18, Baytown, D&DL.
 Screech: (1)7, Cove, AKM.
 Short-eared: (1)13, Cove, AKM.
Hummingbird, Rufous: (1 immature male)26 days, (1 almost mature male)13 days, (1 fully adult male)3, 106 Milner, Baytown, NB; (1-2, male and/or female) most days through 25, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.
ALLEN'S: (1)every day, 106 Milner, Baytown, NB; (1)28, 106 Milner, Baytown, Party A. (See Clearing House Notes)
 Kingfisher, Belted: (1)5 days, (4)26, Cove, AKM.
 Flicker, Yellow-shafted: (1-2)4 days, (4)2, (5)26, Cove, AKM.
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: (1)26, Cove, AKM.
 Red-headed: (1)4, 7, 9, 10, 13, (2)8, 28, Baytown, NB.
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: (1)22, (4)26, Cove, AKM.
 Woodpecker, Downy: (1)10 days, Baytown, NB.
 Phoebe, Eastern: (1)1, 16, (4)26, Cove, AKM.
 Lark, Horned: (1)26, Galveston Jetty, D&DL.
 SWALLOW, TREE: (100+)26 (by the Pettings) Cove, AKM; (38+)28, High Island, Party A.
 Martin, Purple: (5)7, Sheldon Reservoir, NB; (1)22, Cove, AKM; also (1)9, (3)11 or 12, Cove, by the Pettings; (1)24, Baytown, D&DL.
 Chickadee, Carolina: (2)12, 26, Cove, AKM.
 Wren, House: (1)20, Cove, AKM.
 Robin: (300-400)1, 2, 12, (200)16 days, Cove, AKM.
 Thrush, Hermit: (1)19, Cove, AKM; (1)6, 19, 24, 28, 106 Milner, Baytown, NB.
 Bluebird, Eastern: (1)1, 26, Cove, AKM.
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: (2)26, Cove, AKM.
 Pipit, Water: (2-8)3, 8, 12, ((60+)20, Cove, AKM.
 Waxwing, Cedar: (15)1, (50)9, (30)26, Cove, AKM.
 Warbler, Black-and-white: (1)26, 10215 Chatterton, DHH.
 Orange-crowned: (1)26, Cove, AKM.
 Parula: (1)26, Cove, AKM (his 3rd February record); (1)28, High Island, DHH.
 Myrtle: (2-10+)2, 22, 25, (50)26, (1)27, Cove, AKM.
 Yellowthroat: (5)11, (by the Pettings), Cove, AKM.

Goldfinch, American: (2)1, (5)26, Cove, AKM.
Towhee, Rufous-sided: (1)28, High Island, DHH.
Sparrow, LeConte's: (2)13, Cove, AKM.
 Chipping: (25+)8, Wallisville, AKM.
 Field: (15)26, Cove, AKM.
White-crowned: (20)2, (15)26, Cove, AKM.
Lincoln's: (2)26, Cove, AKM.

Addenda:

Martin, Purple: (2-male & female)12, (4)15, (11)16, (25)28, Blalock-McCall Lumber Co., 1006 Evergreen Dr., SE Houston, RIM.

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

AKM Arlie K. McKay
DHH Dan H. Hardy
Party A Julia and Ewell Bradley, Dan H. Hardy
NB Nettie Busby
NP Noel Pettingell
RIM Robert L. Mills
D&DL Dorothy and David Lefkovits
DL&NB Dorothy Lefkovits and Nettie Busby

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD by Nettie Busby: On November 26, 1970, a hummingbird that I assumed to be an immature male Rufous came to the feeder in my yard, and it has appeared every day since that time. The head and back were green, rump and tail rufous, with some white in the tail, rufous on the sides, and one small spot of orange color on the left side of the gorget. After several days of observation, it struck me that it didn't look like other immature Rufous hummers I had seen. There was a clear, sharp dividing line between the green of the back and rufous of the rump.

Illustrations in "Birds of North America" and Peterson's "Birds of Texas" of Allen's Hummingbird show the exact pattern of color on back, head and tail as this bird had. Inquiries of more experienced birders brought information that the only way the immature and female Allen's and Rufous can be separated is by the sharpness of the outer (according to one informant) or third-from-the-outside (according to another) tail feathers in the Allen's, as compared to more rounded tail feathers of the Rufous. As I was unable really to see this, due to the rapidity of motion when the tail was spread, it was necessary to wait until the bird matured.

Early in February the white in the tail disappeared, and soon afterward there was a string of small spots across the bottom of the gorget. On February 26 the gorget had become complete, and the color pattern on head, back and tail had still not changed, over the three month period, except for the loss of white in the tail.

Finally, on March 3, the bird spread his tail while preening and held the position long enough for a good look at the tail feathers. All of them looked extremely sharp to me. There is no doubt in my mind that it is an Allen's Hummingbird.

Ed. note: Approximately 30 birders from the area viewed this bird at close quarters, and all of the observers felt sure that the identification as an Allen's is correct. Since that time Fred Webster has viewed some slides and agreed with the others.

BIRD NOTES by Dan Hardy: On February 28, 1971, Julia and Ewell Bradley and I found two Ross' Geese about 500 feet south of the entrance to Anahuac Refuge in a field on the west side of the road. We had them under observation for approximately ten minutes through 20x Balmscopes at a range not over 60-75 feet. We were very cautious and took many notes. The Snow Geese in the immediate vicinity were all rust-stained about the head, and I first noticed these birds as two very white and clean geese among them. It was then that we really began to study the subtle features that distinguished these two Ross' from the Snows side-by-side. I found the following marks significant:

- 1) Lack of massive black "lips" (these lips were conspicuous on the Snows and Blues)
- 2) Much smaller, stubbier bill. The Ross' bill was a short, bluntish bill in comparison to the sloped, longer bill of the Snow Geese.
- 3) The overall head shape was rounder and more compact than the Snow Geese. I estimated the length from the back of the head to the tip of the bill on the

Ross' to be $2/3$ the same measurement of a Snow Goose. A Snow Goose's head is sloped from its bill to the top of its head, whereas the Ross' Goose has a rounded shape from the bill. This gave a compact look to the Ross' head.

Other mark noted was the immaculate, whiter color to the head of the Ross' in comparison with the Snows. A plane cut short our observation at this time, but it proved our luck when in the flights of geese I found the remaining four species (Snow, Blue, Canada, White-fronted). We had seen five species of geese from that vantage point.

During February I saw two identically plumaged Red-tailed Hawks of the Kriderii race. One was in West Harris County and another near the entrance of Anahuac Refuge. In all aspects except the tail they were identical to the light phase of the Harlan's Hawk pictured in Birds of North America (Robbins, et al, page 73) with the light colored head, white underwings, black wing tips and belly band. However the tail, although it showed absolutely no red on the upper or lower surfaces, lacked the terminal band. Wheeling over me the tail appeared light gray, but perched with its back towards me, the upper surface of the tail showed symmetrical barrings (not mottling and without the terminal band, as in Harlan's). These "Krider's" are very distinctive. One has been appearing along Katy-Hockley Road for the past three winters, and this year there was melanistic Red-tail there, too.

COMING EVENTS

- March 26, 27, 28
Fri., Sat., Sun. Visit of Travis and San Antonio Audubon Societies to Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.

- March 28
Sunday OG field trip to the Big Thicket. Object: Bachman's Sparrow. Meet at Pine Motel in Silsbee at 7:30 A. M. Bring a lunch. Leader, Marilyn Crane. A scouting trip March 14 was successful in getting a good look at Bachman's Sparrow.

- April 1
Thursday Regular OG meeting at 7:30 P. M. at Fonde Recreation Center. The program will be presented by R. E. Dooley, assistant manager of Houston Zoological Gardens. He will show a movie, "In Pursuit of the Pauxi-Pauxi" (horned iguana) on a trip to Venezuela and will also show slides on tropical bird identification and discuss long range conservation plans of the zoo.

- April 14
Wednesday A special show to raise funds for the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary will be presented at the Home Builders Auditorium, 2710 West Alabama. Two movies will be shown--a Walt Disney color-sound production, "The Legend of Lobo" and a Walter Berlet short film, "Butterfly and Moth Field Studies." "The Legend of Lobo" is an exciting true story, set in the 1890's, that presents the wolf in a different light. Lobo leads his family and the wolf pack from the dangerous territory into lands uninvaded by man. The movie shows him as a devoted mate and father. The short on butterflies and moths was made by one of the Audubon lecturers who has been in Houston. Both shows have excellent photography.

- April 25
Sunday OG field trip to High Island with Linda Snyder as leader. We will meet at 8:00 A.M. at the entrance to Ed Witte Memorial Park on Highway 61, just south of Interstate 10. This is the Hankamer exit. Bring lunch. This should be a good time for warblers and other migratory birds.

- May 1
Saturday OG "Big Day" spring count. Rules will be the same as last year's. Area 1 will be the Little Thicket Sanctuary. List birds seen anywhere within the boundary of the 652 acres in San Jacinto County but not outside the boundary line. Area 2 will be the same as the Upper Texas Coast check list area. List all birds seen in Harris, Chambers, Galveston, Fort Bend and Brazoria counties. This is a count of species only, not numbers of birds. Marilyn Crane is chairman of this event, but send reports to Mr. and Mrs. David Lefkovits, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown 77520, for compilation. Include route covered, hours spent in the field, car miles, foot miles, boat miles and names of those in the party. Compiling the reports is much easier if they are sent on Field Check Lists. The turnout last year was very poor, with only 17 observers in 7 parties taking part.

May 1
Saturday

The distress call for our Gulf Coast wildlife will be sounded with an Endangered Wildlife Forum to be held at the Museum of Natural Science in Hermann Park. Dr. Clarence Cottam, Director of the Wellder Wildlife Foundation, will deliver the keynote address. The morning session will start at 9:00 A.M. and will consist of 20 minute talks concerning different birds, animals, reptiles and marine life considered to be endangered. Speakers will tell how each situation came about, the present status and will make recommendations on what needs to be done to assure survival.

Other speakers expected to be on the program are Dr. Keith A. Arnold, Texas A & M; Dr. Frank Fisher, Rice U.; Dr. Henry Hildebrand, Corpus Christi U.; Dr. Frederick F. Knowlton, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife; Mr. V.W. Lehmann, King Ranch, Inc.; Mr. Charles L. Ward; Mr. Dennis Russell, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Mr. John Werler, City of Houston Zoo. Some of the topics to be discussed are Whooping Crane, Attwater Prairie Chicken, Brown Pelican, Red Wolf, Alligator, Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Ridley Turtle and others.

The afternoon session will be informal discussions in groups, with questions, and, hopefully, answers! The Forum is open to the public. There will be no admission charge. It is being jointly sponsored by the Houston Audubon Society and the Sierra Club, Houston Group.

YELLOW RAIL TRIPS Bulletin received from Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

Yellow Rails are now present in good numbers on the wet, salty prairie at Anahuac Refuge. Tractor-drawn wagon rides with capacity of 16 people each trip are scheduled for each weekend through April 26.

All scheduled trips are mornings, when conditions have averaged the best for seeing rails. Times of departure are 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., or trips "A" and "B". In case of an overflow crowd, a special trip will be made at 1:00 p.m., but 1:00 p.m. trips will not be regularly scheduled, since an important objective is to minimize the number of trips to protect both birds and habitat. If morning trips are rained out and the afternoon is fair, morning trips will be rescheduled for 1:00 and 2:30 p.m.

All advance reservations must be made and confirmed through the office in Anahuac and not at the field. Reservations may be made by telephone (A/C 713 267-3337), in person or by mail. Office hours are 12:30 to 4:30 Mondays and 7:30 to 4:30 Tuesdays through Fridays. Cancellations are not required. Reservations will be honored only if groups are on time. Failure to appear on time will be considered the same as a cancellation, and the reservation will be forfeited. Late arrivals will be given the opportunity to ride on space available basis, but may not "bump" riders who have reservations for the next trip. Space-available seating priority will be from a sign-in record maintained at point of assembly and departure. Applicants for advance reservations will be assigned a number, which designates the trip and seating space, A-1 through A-16 and B-1 through B-16. Wagon capacity and circumstances may require splitting birding parties between the first and second trip. Persons with 11:00 reservations may arrive early and sign up for space-available seating on the 9:00 trip, thus providing an opportunity for persons who have 9:00 trip reservations, but arrive late, to find space-available seating on the 11:00 trip.

The following policy will be followed for loading and departure:

Persons with reservations, if present and on time, will be seated first and others standing by, next, until the wagon is loaded. Departure will be promptly at 9:00, if fully loaded by then. If not fully loaded, the driver will delay departure until 9:15 and then proceed with the trip. The same procedure will be followed for the 11:00 trip or any rescheduled trips. The trips will last for 1-1½ hours as a rule. The objective will be to get a good look at a Yellow Rail. If success comes early in the trip, the driver will return to point of loading. This action will be taken to avoid trampling more habitat than necessary.

Lengthy search trips in the slim hope of flushing other species, such as the elusive Black Rail will not be made.

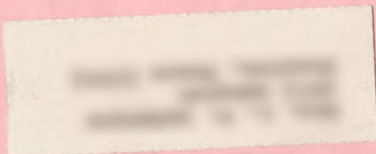
It is hoped that Yellow Rail trips can be perpetuated from year to year for the

enjoyment of many birders. Minimum disturbance to the birds and habitat is desirable. Mottled Ducks are also nesting at this time and limiting trips to known productive habitat for Yellow Rails reduces the area of disturbance to nesting ducks.

Remember--all trips are subject to cancellation for severe weather or unavoidable equipment breakdown. We do not promise the Yellow Rail, but we try to please. Our shoe-string budget has been stretched to the limit, and standby equipment is not within our reach at this time.

OFFICERS

Chairman:	Miss Sarah Gordon, 1746 Wroxton Court, Houston 77005
Vice-chairman:	Mrs. Harry L (Avis) Brister, 2314 Saxon, Houston 77018
Secretary:	Miss Gladys Galbreath, 2107 North Boulevard, Houston 77006
Treasurer:	Miss Melba Drake, 1746 Wroxton Court, Houston 77005
Co-editors of The Spoonbill:	Mr. and Mrs. David (Dorothy) Lefkovits, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, 77520
Program Chairman:	Mrs. Marilyn Krog, 225 Mayerling, Houston 77024
Field Trip Chairman:	Miss Marilyn Crane, 3601 Allen Parkway, #214, Houston 77019
Mailing:	Miss Nell Ray, 1750 Wroxton Court, Houston 77005
Rare Bird Alert:	Mrs. Margaret Anderson, 2913 Amherst, Houston 77005, Ph.668-6405
Publicity:	Miss Johanna Grabbe, 2031 Buffalo Terrace, Houston 77019
Librarian:	Dr. Pat Sullivan, 5353 Institute Lane #23, Houston 77005



Outdoor Nature Club
(Ornithology Group)
1746 Wroxton Court
Houston, Texas 77005
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