



# The *Spoonbill*

October 2000  
Volume 49, No 10

## November Meeting Program

The November OG meeting will be at our regular meeting place at Bayland Park, on the first Monday which is 6 November 2000. Meeting time is 7:00 PM. "Learning Corner" begins at 6:30. Our program is entitled:

### "Bird and Mammal Studies in South America"

Dan Brooks, a native Houstonian, is Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Dan received his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University studying community ecology of Neotropical birds. His Master's degree from Texas Tech University focused on mammalian ecology and natural history in the Parguayan Chaco. Despite a major chunk of his work taking place in the Neotropics, Dan has also done some work in Texas. He is currently Chair of the IUCN/Birdlife Cracid Specialist Group, and serves on the Conservation Board for the World Galliformes Association, based in the U.K. Dan has co-authored or co-edited five books.

## Announcements

A Clearinghouse Editor is needed. We need a new editor as soon as possible for this very important position. Contact David Sarkozi.

The Aluminum Chairperson has provided revenue for improving the library, paid for top programs and helped the treasury in many other ways. We need this revenue and we need a chairperson to take on that job.

A Spoonbill Editor is much needed. Don Richardson is filling in as a temporary editor but other commitments will not allow him to continue, in that capacity, past the end of 2000. This job is both rewarding and prestigious. Please consider it.

David Sarkozi can be reached at (713) 520-5906 or dsarkozi@flash.net.

## The October OG Meeting

Minutes of October Meeting  
of the Ornithology Group Oct. 2, 2000

Chairman David Sarkozi conducted the meeting. The Learning Corner topic was "How to Plan a Bird Trip" conducted by David Bradford. We had 2 visitors and one became a member.

### Announcements:

- David Bradford has volunteered to take over the Learning Corner for the rest of the year.
- We are still in need of a Spoonbill Editor. Don Richardson is filling in temporarily until December.
- Mary Dodson didn't have a specific Conservation report but said there are a lot of things occurring which will have environmental impact and we all need to be vigilant, look for and attend the hearings.

### Bird Field Trips:

- Oct. 22, 7:15 a.m. at Brazos Bend State Park led by David Heineke, the park Interpretive Naturalist.
- Wed. Oct. 5, 8:00 a.m. at Anahuac NWR led by Bob Ohmart
- Wed. Oct. 18, 8:00 a.m. at Jones State Forest led by Bob Ohmart. Meet at Filling Station at FM 1488. Call Bob for details.

### Bird Sitings:

- Don Richardson reported on great groups of Hummingbirds in the Oak canopy at High Island Butterfly Garden.
- David Sarkozi reported on his Birdathon trip Oct. 1. Many early sitings of wintering birds and Fall migrants.

### Program:

"What Makes a Bird, a Bird?" presented by Don Richardson.

Pat Pease - Recording Secretary

## Field Trip's

Glenn Olsen (Field Trip Coordinator)

These are the field trips for the remainder of this year. We present them now to give everyone ample time to schedule. If there are questions, call me at (281) 345-4151, or E-mail me at - hgolsen8@hal-pc.org. Bring water, lunch, insect repellent, warm clothes and shoes for the outdoors.

**October 22, 2000** Sunday, 7:15 AM at Brazos Bend State Park, \$3.00 per person admission, meet at 7:15 AM in the parking lot of 40 acre lake. David Heincke, Park Interpretative Naturalist, will be our leader. In addition to the many birds to be seen, David will point out and discuss the other wildlife that lives in the Park and surrounding area. Dragonflies are of special interest to David.

**November 11, 2000** Saturday, 8:30 AM at Katy Prairie. Meet at the Maytena Bakery, 19410 K Clay Road. This is 1.4 miles west of Barker Cypress Rd. and 0.6 miles east of Fry Rd. in a small shopping center on the north side of Clay Rd. Phone 281-345-9467. Come early for breakfast. Bob Honig, board member of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, will lead our group to observe wintering birds. We may have access to restricted areas. Each participant will be required to sign a release of liability before access is permitted. We should see lots of birds and numerous species!

**December 09, 2000** Saturday, 8:30 AM at Sheldon Reservoir. Sheldon Lake State Park (Sheldon Reservoir) 281-456-2800. Meet at the Environmental Education Center. Directions from the intersection of Beltway 8 and Business Hwy 90, go east on Hwy 90 two (2) miles to Park Road 138, (look for a small brown sign on 90) turn north (left) to go over the railroad tracks; third building. If you are traveling east on Hwy 90 and miss Park Rd 138, the next "major" road is Sheldon Road. Turn around and go west on Hwy 90 for two (2) miles from Sheldon Rd. Look diligently for Park Rd 138, turn north (right) go to third building. Tom Olson with the Park will lead us to see wintering ducks, geese, shorebirds, and others. Tom will be with us until around noon. Anyone desiring to explore the park in the afternoon will be free to do so.

## Learning Corner

David Bradford (Coordinator)

Learning Corner for the months of November and December will be about identifying sparrows. Be sure to bring your field guide.

## About the Ornithology Group

The Ornithology Group (OG) is a member of the Outdoor Nature Club (ONC), a non-profit organization dedicated to providing greater knowledge about the environment and wildlife on the Upper Texas Coast.

The OG is a club of individuals interested in birding. Some members focus on bird identification and others keep lists of bird sightings. Many enter into competitive birding events

and others make a study of their behavior, biology, distribution and migration. Some just enjoy watching birds. The OG is organized to accommodate all of these diverse birding interests. Members also benefit from the synergism of getting together to share knowledge and interests during the club's activities. OG activities make learning about birds fun.

## Officers:

Chair	David Sarkozi	713-520-5906
Vice-Chair	Skip Almoney	713-524-4285
Secretary	Pat Pease	713-789-3306
Treasurer	Bob Simmons	713-776-2511
Clearinghouse	Open	
SB Editor	Open	281-997-0485 (Temporary)

## To Start or Renew a Membership:

Members receive both the Spoonbill and the ONC Nature Notes. Send us a note containing the following information along with \$22.00 annual dues:

Your Name  
Your Address: street, city, state, zip  
Your Telephone  
Your e-mail

Send this to: Outdoor Nature Club  
PO Box 270894  
Houston TX 77277-0894

You can also join through our web site.

**OG Website:** <http://texasbirding.simplenet.com/hog>

To add your name to our e-mail list:  
Send a message to [listserv@listserv.uh.edu](mailto:listserv@listserv.uh.edu). On the first line of the message put: "subscribe HOUSTON-OG first-name last-name". You will receive a confirmation within a few minutes.

## Clearinghouse List Submissions:

Temporarily, bird sightings for the Clearinghouse can be sent to:

David Sarkozi  
111 Welch Street, Apt B.  
Houston TX 77006  
E-mail: [dsarkozi@flash.net](mailto:dsarkozi@flash.net)

Clearinghouse submission forms are available at the meeting or for download from the OG web page at <http://texasbirding.simplenet.com/hog/>.

You can also send sighting information via e-mail using the following format: species, date, county, location, count,

observer. Notice that the commas separate the data elements, If you omit an element, there should be two commas at that point to indicate the omission. The omission of "location" might result in: [Common Loon, 01/09/2000, GA, , 16, DGR].

### Newsletter Submissions:

Newsletter submissions can (temporarily) be sent to:

Don Richardson  
2709 Robinhood Cir.  
Pearland, TX 77581-4812  
e-mail: cdplace@concentric.net

Via e-mail, please send a file in "RTF" format. The Spoonbill uses a 10 point Times New Roman font.

### Rare Bird Hotline:

Texas Rare Bird Alert: 713-369-9673.

## April 2000 Clearinghouse

### April 2000 Report

April is some month, a whopping 240 species are reported here. The total individual birds reported is 15,489. The most numerous bird reported was Laughing Gull 2,362 birds. Because of space I need to keep this short. Very rare birds are in bold, and those that would be new to the checklist for the month are underlined.

Key to Observers: Anthony Allan Floyd=AAF, Bert Frenz=BF, David Marrack and Cecelia Riley=DMCR, David Sarkozi=DS, Derek Muschalek Rob Thacker=DMRT, Jimmy McHaney=JM, John Buckman=JB, Ken Hartman=KH, Mark Magruder and John Buckman=MMJB, Mark T. Adams and Guy McCaskie=MAGM, Nicholas Block=NB, Rob Lewis=RL, Sheridan Coffey=SC, Terry Baldwin=TB, Tim Fennell=TF, Tom McLeod=TM

### Key to Counties:

BR = Brazoria, CH = Chambers, CO=Colorado, FB = Fort Bend, GA = Galveston, HA = Harris, JE = Jefferson County, LI=Liberty.

### Key to locations:

ANWR = Anahuac NWR, APNWR=Attwater NWR, ABNC=Armand Bayou Nature Center, BCP = Bear Creek Park, BF=Bolivar Flats Sanctuary, BPEN=Bolivar Peninsula, BNWR=Brazoria NWR, BBSP = Brazos Bend SP, TYR=Tyrrell Park, HI- High Island, EMS = Edith Moore Sanctuary, GI=Galveston Island, NF=Nelson Farms, QNBS = Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, SBNWR=San Bernard NWR, SW = Sabine Woods.

Common Loon 4/3 GA() 1 KH  
Pied-billed Grebe birds=15 reports=7  
Northern Gannet 4/25 GA() 4 NB

American White Pelican birds=130 reports=6  
Brown Pelican birds=230 reports=6  
Double-crested Cormorant birds=21 reports=6  
Neotropic Cormorant birds=48 reports=9  
Anhinga birds=4 reports=3  
American Bittern 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR  
Least Bittern 4/23 CH() 2 MMJB, 4/23 CH() 2 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 1 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
Great Blue Heron birds=18 reports=8  
Great Egret birds=89 reports=13  
Snowy Egret birds=90 reports=16  
Little Blue Heron birds=42 reports=13  
Tricolored Heron birds=93 reports=13  
Reddish Egret birds=18 reports=5  
Cattle Egret birds=239 reports=12  
Green Heron birds=33 reports=12  
Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=5 reports=3  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=12 reports=9  
White Ibis birds=157 reports=12  
White-faced Ibis birds=175 reports=7  
Roseate Spoonbill 4/3 GA() 2 KH, 4/8 CH() 50 KH, 4/8 GA() 25 KH, 4/8 JE() 2 KH, 4/19 GA() 3 JB, 4/21 GA(HI) 10 KH, 4/23 CH() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 5 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 15 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 2 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 20 KH  
Black Vulture birds=11 reports=6  
Turkey Vulture birds=29 reports=11  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 4/2 HA() 2 KH, 4/9 HA() 10 KH, 4/12 HA() 10 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 2 DMCR  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck 4/19 CH() 1 JB, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 7 DMCR  
Greater White-fronted Goose 4/1 CO(APNWR) 7 BF, 4/2 CO() 5 BF  
Snow Goose 4/2 CO() 1 BF  
Canada Goose 4/2 CO() 2 BF  
Wood Duck 4/17 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
American Wigeon birds=2 reports=1  
Mallard 4/2 HA() 1 KH  
Mottled Duck birds=34 reports=9  
Blue-winged Teal birds=178 reports=13  
Northern Shoveler birds=39 reports=3  
Green-winged Teal birds=11 reports=3  
Lesser Scaup 4/3 GA(BF) 500 KH, 4/30 GA(BF) 10 KH  
Surf Scoter 4/14 GA(BF) 8 SC  
Red-breasted Merganser 4/3 GA() 11 KH  
Ruddy Duck birds=11 reports=2  
Osprey 4/8 CH() 1 KH, 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR  
Swallow-tailed Kite 4/1 CO(APNWR) 1 RL, 4/15 LI() 3 DS, 4/30 BR() 2 DMCR, 4/30 LI() 4 DS  
White-tailed Kite birds=10 reports=9  
Mississippi Kite 4/13 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/15 HA() 1 KH, 4/30 BR() 7 DMCR  
Bald Eagle 4/1 CO(APNWR) 1 BF, 4/14 CH() 1 DS, 4/15 CH() 1 DS, 4/19 CH() 1 JB  
Northern Harrier 4/3 GA(BF) 2 KH, 4/3 GA() 1 KH, 4/8 CH() 2 KH, 4/19 CH() 1 JB, 4/23 CH() 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(BF) 1 KH  
Sharp-shinned Hawk birds=1 reports=1  
Cooper's Hawk birds=1 reports=1  
Red-shouldered Hawk birds=4 reports=3  
Broad-winged Hawk birds=2 reports=1  
Swainson's Hawk 4/8 JE() 1 KH, 4/12 HA() 1 KH, 4/22 HA() 3 KH  
White-tailed Hawk 4/3 GA() 2 KH, 4/16 HA() 1 KH  
Red-tailed Hawk 4/3 CH() 1 KH, 4/8 JE() 1 KH, 4/19 CH() 1 JB, 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR  
Crested Caracara 4/2 HA() 1 KH, 4/16 HA() 1 KH, 4/30 GA(GI) 1 NB  
American Kestrel 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR  
Merlin 4/8 JE() 1 KH  
Apomado Falcon 4/28 JE() 1 AAF  
Peregrine Falcon 4/1 CO(APNWR) 1 RL  
Greater Prairie-Chicken 4/1 CO(APNWR) 5 BF, 4/3 GA() 8 KH  
Northern Bobwhite birds=8 reports=5  
Yellow Rail birds=10 reports=5  
Black Rail 4/15 CH(ANWR) 2 JM, 4/30 CH() 1 KH  
Clapper Rail birds=5 reports=4  
Virginia Rail birds=1 reports=1  
Sora birds=6 reports=4  
Purple Gallinule 4/23 CH() 1 MMJB, 4/23 CH() 4 KH, 4/30 CH() 6 KH  
Common Moorhen birds=40 reports=8  
American Coot birds=58 reports=5  
Black-bellied Plover birds=52 reports=9  
American Golden-Plover birds=88 reports=3  
Snowy Plover 4/3 GA(BF) 6 KH, 4/19 GA() 4 JB, 4/29 GA(BF) 2 DS, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 4 DMCR, 4/30 GA(BF) 1 KH  
Wilson's Plover birds=18 reports=4

Semipalmated Plover birds=66 reports=5  
 Piping Plover birds=8 reports=3  
 Killdeer birds=50 reports=14  
 American Oystercatcher 4/2 GA(BPEN) 1 TB, 4/3 GA() 1 KH, 4/19 GA() 2 JB  
 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/30 GA() 4 KH  
 Black-necked Stilt birds=82 reports=12  
 American Avocet birds=1,410 reports=5  
 Greater Yellowlegs birds=37 reports=10  
 Lesser Yellowlegs birds=56 reports=14  
 Solitary Sandpiper birds=5 reports=4  
 Willet birds=166 reports=9  
 Spotted Sandpiper birds=6 reports=4  
 Upland Sandpiper 4/1 CO(APNWR) 60 BF, 4/1 CO(APNWR) 60 BF, 4/2 HA() 23 KH, 4/16 HA() 5 KH  
 Whimbrel 4/19 CH() 1 JB, 4/23 CH() 1 MMJB, 4/30 GA() 1 KH  
 Long-billed Curlew birds=17 reports=5  
 Hudsonian Godwit 4/30 CH() 1 KH  
 Marbled Godwit birds=17 reports=5  
 Ruddy Turnstone birds=29 reports=6  
 Sanderling birds=75 reports=6  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper 4/2 HA() 1 KH, 4/3 GA(BF) 1 KH, 4/19 GA() 4 JB, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 7 DMCR, 4/30 GA(BF) 1 KH  
 Western Sandpiper birds=54 reports=6  
 Least Sandpiper birds=48 reports=9  
 White-rumped Sandpiper 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 4 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 2 KH  
 Baird's Sandpiper 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 2 DMCR  
 Pectoral Sandpiper birds=14 reports=5  
 Dunlin birds=709 reports=12  
 Stilt Sandpiper 4/3 GA(BF) 20 KH, 4/3 GA() 5 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 9 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 7 KH  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper 4/2 HA() 5 KH, 4/16 HA() 16 KH, 4/20 CO(APNWR) 400 TF, 4/22 JE(ANWR) 40 TF, 4/23 CH() 2 MMJB, 4/30 CH() 1 KH  
 Short-billed Dowitcher 4/19 GA() 30 JB, 4/23 CH() 40 MMJB, 4/23 GA() 400 MMJB  
 Long-billed Dowitcher birds=259 reports=8  
 Wilson's Phalarope 4/19 GA() 1 JB, 4/23 GA() 9 MMJB, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 11 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 8 KH  
**Pomarine Jaeger** 4/25 GA() 3 NB  
 Laughing Gull birds=2,362 reports=9  
 Franklin's Gull 4/20 CO() 200 TF, 4/22 CO(ANWR) 200 TF  
 Bonaparte's Gull 4/19 GA() 1 JB  
 Ring-billed Gull birds=59 reports=5  
 Herring Gull birds=18 reports=6  
**Thayer's Gull** 4/17 GA(BPEN) 1 MAGM  
 Gull-billed Tern 4/3 GA(BF) 1 KH  
 Caspian Tern birds=13 reports=7  
 Royal Tern birds=906 reports=5  
 Sandwich Tern birds=13 reports=5  
 Common Tern 4/3 GA() 1 KH, 4/19 GA() 3 JB, 4/23 GA() 8 MMJB, 4/30 GA(BF) 1 KH, 4/30 GA() 1 KH  
 Forster's Tern birds=66 reports=9  
 Least Tern birds=16 reports=4  
 Black Tern 4/19 GA() 3 JB, 4/30 GA() 12 KH  
 Black Skimmer 4/3 GA() 200 KH, 4/19 GA() 100 JB, 4/23 GA() 3 MMJB, 4/30 GA() 30 KH  
 Rock Dove birds=13 reports=3  
**Eurasian Collared-Dove** 4/3 GA() 2 KH, 4/14 CH() 1 DS  
 White-winged Dove birds=8 reports=5  
 Mourning Dove birds=147 reports=17  
 Inca Dove birds=9 reports=5  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 1 DMCR  
**Burrowing Owl** 4/1 CO(APNWR) 1 BF  
 Short-eared Owl 4/1 CO(APNWR) 1 BF  
 Common Nighthawk 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Chuck-will's-widow birds=4 reports=4  
 Chimney Swift birds=67 reports=14  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds=32 reports=18  
 Belted Kingfisher birds=12 reports=9  
 Red-headed Woodpecker 4/21 JE(SW) 1 TF, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 2 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 1 KH  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=15 reports=11  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker birds=3 reports=3  
 Downy Woodpecker birds=16 reports=13  
 Northern Flicker 4/15 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/17 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Pileated Woodpecker birds=3 reports=3  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee 4/8 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/19 GA() 1 JB, 4/23 CH() 2 MMJB, 4/23 CH() 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 3 MMJB, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Eastern Phoebe 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR, 4/30 BR() 2 DMCR  
 Great Crested Flycatcher birds=5 reports=4  
 Western Kingbird 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 1 DMCR, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 2 DMCR  
 Eastern Kingbird birds=116 reports=15  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher birds=46 reports=13  
 Loggerhead Shrike birds=77 reports=14  
 White-eyed Vireo birds=17 reports=9  
 Blue-headed Vireo 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/8 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/8 JE() 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR  
 Yellow-throated Vireo birds=5 reports=5  
 Warbling Vireo 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB  
 Philadelphia Vireo 4/21 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/25 GA(HI) 2 NB  
 Red-eyed Vireo birds=18 reports=10  
 Blue Jay birds=34 reports=18  
 American Crow birds=49 reports=16  
 Horned Lark birds=9 reports=4  
 Purple Martin birds=119 reports=17  
 Tree Swallow birds=182 reports=13  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow birds=17 reports=5  
 Bank Swallow 4/30 BR(QNBS) 8 DMCR  
 Cliff Swallow 4/8 JE() 100 KH, 4/23 CH() 10 MMJB, 4/30 CH() 1 KH  
 Cave Swallow 4/30 BR() 3 DMCR  
 Barn Swallow birds=107 reports=17  
 Carolina Chickadee birds=18 reports=6  
 Tufted Titmouse birds=7 reports=5  
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 4/14 CH() 1 DS, 4/15 CH() 1 DS, 4/24 GA(HI) 2 DMRT, 4/25 GA(HI) 1 NB  
 Carolina Wren birds=41 reports=13  
 House Wren 4/7 HA() 1 KH, 4/19 HA() 1 KH  
 Marsh Wren birds=10 reports=4  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4/8 JE() 3 KH, 4/13 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/8 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/13 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Veery 4/22 BR(QNBS) 1 NB, 4/23 GA(HI) 4 KH, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 TB, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Gray-cheeked Thrush 4/23 GA(HI) 3 KH, 4/25 GA(HI) 1 NB, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Swainson's Thrush 4/20 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/22 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 2 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 2 KH  
 Hermit Thrush 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB  
 Wood Thrush birds=14 reports=8  
 American Robin birds=1 reports=1  
 Gray Catbird 4/19 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 20 KH, 4/22 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 50 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 20 KH, 4/23 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 BR() 1 DMCR, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 1 DMCR, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 2 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Northern Mockingbird birds=137 reports=21  
 Brown Thrasher birds=16 reports=7  
 European Starling birds=72 reports=16  
 Blue-winged Warbler 4/3 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/8 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/8 JE() 1 KH, 4/13 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/14 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/16 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/22 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Golden-winged Warbler 4/17 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 1 TB, 4/23 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/25 GA(HI) 1 NB, 4/25 GA(HI) 1 NB, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Tennessee Warbler 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/8 JE() 1 KH, 4/13 HA(EMS) 6 KH, 4/14 HA(EMS) 5 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/23 GA() 2 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 4 KH, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Orange-crowned Warbler 4/2 HA() 1 KH, 4/8 JE() 1 KH, 4/25 GA(HI) 2 NB, 4/25 GA(HI) 1 NB  
 Nashville Warbler birds=18 reports=9  
 Northern Parula birds=8 reports=5  
 Yellow Warbler 4/19 GA() 1 JB, 4/22 GA(GI) 25 NB, 4/23 CH() 1 MMJB, 4/23 CH() 2 KH, 4/23 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 4 KH  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler 4/15 HA(EMS) 2 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/22 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/23 CH() 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 5 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 20 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 2 KH  
 Magnolia Warbler 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/22 GA(GI) 3 NB, 4/23 GA() 2 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 4 KH, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH,

4/29 HA() 1 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 3 KH  
 Black-throated Blue Warbler 4/21 GA(HI) 1 TB, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 4/1 HA() 1 KH, 4/2 HA() 1 KH, 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/7 HA() 1 KH, 4/8 JE() 2 KH, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH  
**Townsend's Warbler** 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/24 GA(HI) 1 DMRT, 4/25 GA(HI) 1 NB  
 Black-throated Green Warbler birds=26 reports=12  
 Blackburnian Warbler 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 4 KH, 4/23 GA() 2 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 3 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Yellow-throated Warbler 4/3 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/8 JE() 1 KH  
 Pine Warbler birds=1 reports=1  
 Prairie Warbler 4/24 GA(HI) 1 DMRT  
 Bay-breasted Warbler 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 4 KH, 4/25 GA(HI) 6 NB, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 3 KH  
 Blackpoll Warbler 4/22 GA(GI) NB, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 TB, 4/30 GA(HI) 3 KH  
 Cerulean Warbler 4/21 GA(HI) 1 TB, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 2 KH  
 Black-and-white Warbler birds=35 reports=12  
 American Redstart 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/20 HA(EMS) 1 TB, 4/20 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/22 GA(GI) 2 NB, 4/23 GA() 3 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 4 KH  
 Prothonotary Warbler birds=6 reports=6  
 Worm-eating Warbler 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/8 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/14 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 3 KH  
 Ovenbird 4/3 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 2 KH, 4/21 JE() 1 TM, 4/23 GA() 3 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 7 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 2 KH  
 Northern Waterthrush 4/17 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/22 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Louisiana Waterthrush 4/3 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Kentucky Warbler birds=23 reports=14  
 Common Yellowthroat birds=59 reports=19  
 Hooded Warbler birds=45 reports=14  
 Wilson's Warbler 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Canada Warbler 4/16 HA(EMS) 2 TB, 4/16 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Yellow-breasted Chat 4/8 JE() 6 KH, 4/12 HA() 1 KH, 4/13 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 2 KH, 4/16 HA() 1 KH, 4/16 HA(EMS) 1 TB, 4/17 HA() 1 KH, 4/17 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/19 HA(EMS) 3 KH, 4/20 HA() 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/22 HA() 1 KH, 4/22 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/25 HA(EMS) 1 KH  
 Summer Tanager birds=12 reports=8  
 Scarlet Tanager 4/23 CH() 2 KH, 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 3 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 2 KH  
 Western Tanager 4/21 GA(HI) 1 TB  
 Savannah Sparrow birds=25 reports=8  
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow birds=4 reports=2  
 Seaside Sparrow birds=11 reports=3  
 Lincoln's Sparrow birds=3 reports=3  
 White-throated Sparrow birds=23 reports=4  
 Northern Cardinal birds=97 reports=22  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak 4/21 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/23 CH() 3 KH, 4/23 GA() 5 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/28 HA(EMS) 4 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR  
 Blue Grosbeak 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 GA(HI) 2 KH  
**Lazuli Bunting** 4/24 GA(HI) 1 DMRT  
 Indigo Bunting 4/2 GA(HI) 1 TB, 4/3 GA(HI) 12 KH, 4/8 GA(HI) 2 KH, 4/8 JE() 2 KH, 4/13 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/15 HA(EMS) 1 KH, 4/21 GA(HI) 3 KH, 4/23 CH() 3 MMJB, 4/23 CH() 10 KH, 4/23 GA() 3 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 4 KH, 4/30 BR(QNBS) 3 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 1 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 4 KH  
 Painted Bunting 4/23 GA() 1 MMJB, 4/23 GA(HI) 1 KH, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 1 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 1 KH, 4/30 GA(HI) 1 KH  
 Dickcissel 4/22 GA(GI) 6 NB, 4/23 CH() 1 MMJB, 4/30 BR(SBNWR) 2 DMCR, 4/30 CH() 1 KH  
 Red-winged Blackbird birds=677 reports=15  
 Eastern Meadowlark birds=40 reports=9  
 Yellow-headed Blackbird 4/25 CH() 2 NB  
 Common Grackle birds=123 reports=13  
 Boat-tailed Grackle birds=110 reports=6  
 Great-tailed Grackle birds=150 reports=10  
 Bronzed Cowbird 4/25 HA() 3 NB  
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds=245 reports=9  
 Orchard Oriole birds=64 reports=14  
 Baltimore Oriole birds=18 reports=7  
 House Sparrow birds=28 reports=7

#### **Apomado Falcon, Anthony Allan Floyd**

(Note this report is edited because of space limitations) The bird was dark brown (chocolate) above, strongly contrasting with a beige-orange throat/breast and a darker orange belly/undertail coverts. The throat was lighter than the breast, approaching white towards the base of the bill. The breast was lightly streaked with chocolate coloration and was separated from the belly by a thin, bold band of the same chocolate coloration. There was a single chocolate line descending from the eye and separating the light throat from the whitish-orange face patch. The tail was consistent with other falcons in length and relative proportions and was dark brown below with numerous thin, white bands almost lending a mottled appearance to the undertail - the top of the tail was not visible. The legs were thickly covered with orange feathering - the same coloration as the undertail and belly. In overall size the bird seemed closest to the Red-shouldered Hawk in length but was much too slim and long-tailed. The flanks were a uniform dark chocolate color narrowing to the aforementioned thin dark band across the chest.

#### **Snowy Plover, John Buckman**

Four Snowy Plovers seen at Bolivar Flats had pronounced buffy orange crowns, shown by the western nivosus race, per National Geographic Guide, 3rd edition. The orangish color was actually more pronounced than shown in the book.

#### **Lawrence's Warbler, Bill Saulmon**

Good views of bird foraging in trees around Perky's Pond & seen by large crowd in grandstand area. Once recognized, ID was not difficult. Bird clearly resembled Golden-Winged Warbler with black mask extending behind & below eyes and black throat, but had yellow face & underparts and white wing bars. Golden-Winged Warbler has white underparts and yellow wing patch. Blue-Winged Warbler does not have extensive black mask behind & below eyes or black throat.

#### **Townsend's Warbler, Nick Block**

Typical Dendroica warbler size and shape; yellow face, throat, and upper flanks; very prominent blackish face mask bordered by broad yellow supercilium and malar stripe; thin black malar stripe separated yellow of face and throat; breast and flanks marked by thin streaking, including a thin necklace of streaks. Other species do not have combination of dark face mask and yellow face; also does not have any dark throat or breast patch, only slight streaking.

#### **Lazuli Bunting, Bob and Lynn Forster**

Male lazuli bunting in breeding plumage bathed at the drip for 20 minutes. Appearing in the sunlight and shadow of the late afternoon, this bird delighted 15-20 observers. Bright soft blue head and throat, with rust color across the chest and down the sides, white tum below the rust and with white wing-bars.

## **September 2000 Clearinghouse**

September was a really great month for birding this year. One hundred ninety-eight species were reported, and 23,329 individual birds were counted.

There were some exceptional birds reported this month, Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*), Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*), and Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). Several birds made early appearances: Cinnamon Teal, Dunlin, Eastern Phoebe, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Chipping Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

Lots of birds are under reported in the Clearinghouse. I would like to make a special request of those who submit to the Clearinghouse to make an effort to count those large flocks of Gulls, Blackbirds, Starlings, etc. There is a trick you can use that will get you a very good estimate. Count a patch of about 100 birds, then count how many patches there are that size in the flock. Multiply the number of patches by 100 and you have an estimate good to 2 significant figures. If the flock is smaller, then use a patch of 10 or 25 birds.

What you have to watch for using this method is the significant figures you used in your estimate. If you estimate a flock accurate to 100 birds as 2500 birds then later count 35 more of the same species, you cannot add them together to get 2535 birds because 35 birds implies a better accuracy than your method provides. If you count 135 more birds, add 100 to the estimate. If you count 175 more birds, add 200.

This month, we use a format for birds that are considered common or abundant for the entire month that shows the number of birds reported and the number of reports. All other species are in the format: species, month/day, county, (location), and count observer. Birds listed in bold are either listed as very rare for the month or have not yet been documented for that month/week. Notes are required for those birds for the checklist committee. Birds that would be new for the month are underlined.

#### Key to locations:

ANWR = Anahuac NWR, ABNC=Armand Bayou Nature Center, BCP = Bear Creek Park, BF=Bolivar Flats Sanctuary, BPEN=Bolivar Peninsula, BNWR=Brazoria NWR, BBSP = Brazos Bend SP, TYR=Tyrrell Park, HI-High Island, EMS = Edith Moore Sanctuary, NF=Nelson Farms, QNBS = Quintana Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, SW = Sabine Woods.

#### Key to Observers:

BT=Barbara Tilton, DS=David Sarkozi, DR=Don Richardson, KR=Kathy Reiser, JB=John Black, KH=Ken Hartman, KeR=Kenneth Russell, MMJB=Mark Magruder and John Buckman, MA=Mike Austin, NB=Nicholas Block, TB=Terry Baldwin, TF=Tim Fennel

#### Key to Counties:

BR = Brazoria, CH = Chambers, FB = Fort Bend, GA = Galveston, HA = Harris, JE = Jefferson County.

**Least Grebe** 9/17 JE(TYR) 1 NB  
 Pied-billed Grebe birds=21 reports=4  
 American White Pelican birds=39 reports=3  
 Brown Pelican birds=144 reports=4  
 Neotropic Cormorant birds=104 reports=7  
 Magnificent Frigatebird 9/17 GA( ) 1 MMJB  
 Least Bittern 9/26 JE(TYR) 1 MA  
 Great Blue Heron birds=41 reports=9  
 Great Egret birds=89 reports=10  
 Snowy Egret birds=48 reports=9  
 Little Blue Heron birds=10 reports=6  
 Tricolored Heron birds=24 reports=6  
 Reddish Egret birds=13 reports=4  
 Cattle Egret birds=850 reports=8  
 Green Heron birds=18 reports=6  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=20 reports=2  
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=11 reports=5  
 White Ibis birds=81 reports=8  
 White-faced Ibis birds=55 reports=4  
 Roseate Spoonbill 9/9 GA(BPEN) 10 MA 9/15 CH() 1 DR 9/15 GA() 3 DR  
 9/23 GA(BF) 3 DS 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS  
 Wood Stork 9/26 CH() 40 MA 9/26 CH() 40 MA 9/26 JE(TYR) 20 MA  
 Black Vulture birds=11 reports=6  
 Turkey Vulture birds=70 reports=12  
 Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 9/17 FB(BBSP) 2 KR

Wood Duck 9/26 JE(TYR) 2 MA  
 Mottled Duck birds=43 reports=8  
 Blue-winged Teal birds=320 reports=8  
 Cinnamon Teal 9/17 GA( ) 5 MMJB  
 Northern Shoveler 9/4 BR() 2 KH 9/17 GA( ) 2 MMJB  
 Swallow-tailed Kite 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA  
 White-tailed Kite birds=10 reports=6  
 Mississippi Kite 9/4 BR(BNWR) 1 MA  
 Bald Eagle 9/30 CH() 2 BT  
 Northern Harrier 9/4 BR(BNWR) 1 MA 9/15 GA() 1 DR 9/16 GA() 1 DR  
 9/17 CH( ) 2 MMJB 9/23 GA(BF) 1 DS 9/26 JE(TYR) 1 MA  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 9/15 GA() 3 DR  
 Cooper's Hawk 9/17 JE(TYR) 1 NB  
 Red-shouldered Hawk birds=10 reports=6  
 Broad-winged Hawk 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA 9/4 BR(BNWR) 1 MA 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA  
 9/15 GA() 6 DR 9/17 FB(BBSP) 1 KR 9/29 HA(BCP) 100 KH  
 Swainson's Hawk birds=4 reports=3  
 Red-tailed Hawk 9/1 HA() 2 KH 9/4 BR() 3 KH 9/15 CH() 1 DR 9/15 GA() 2 DR  
 9/17 FB(BBSP) 2 KR 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
 Crested Caracara 9/1 HA() 3 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 2 MA  
 American Kestrel birds=8 reports=5  
 Peregrine Falcon 9/17 GA( ) 1 MMJB  
 Clapper Rail birds=4 reports=3  
 Purple Gallinule 9/17 FB(BBSP) 2 KR  
 Common Moorhen birds=37 reports=4  
 Black-bellied Plover birds=205 reports=5  
 Snowy Plover 9/9 GA(BPEN) 2 MA, 9/17 GA( ) 4 MMJB, 9/23 GA(BF) 3 DS  
 Wilson's Plover birds=23 reports=3  
 Semipalmated Plover birds=38 reports=5  
 Piping Plover birds=48 reports=4  
 Killdeer birds=47 reports=7  
 American Oystercatcher 9/9 GA(BPEN) 13 MA, 9/15 GA() 8 DR, 9/17 GA( ) 9 MMJB, 9/23 GA(BF) 18 DS  
 Black-necked Stilt birds=137 reports=8  
 American Avocet birds=23 reports=3  
 Greater Yellowlegs birds=6 reports=5  
 Lesser Yellowlegs birds=29 reports=4  
 Willet birds=38 reports=4  
 Spotted Sandpiper birds=5 reports=3  
 Upland Sandpiper 9/2 HA() 1 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 4 MA  
 Whimbrel 9/9 GA(BPEN) 1 MA  
 Long-billed Curlew birds=8 reports=5  
 Marbled Godwit 9/4 BR() 1 KH, 9/15 GA() 20 DR, 9/16 GA() 1 DR, 9/17 GA( ) 7 MMJB  
 Ruddy Turnstone birds=190 reports=5  
 Red Knot 9/9 GA(BPEN) 1 MA, 9/17 GA(BF) 5 NB  
 Sanderling birds=310 reports=3  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper 9/4 BR() 3 KH, 9/23 GA(BF) 30 DS  
 Western Sandpiper birds=129 reports=5  
 Least Sandpiper birds=67 reports=7  
 Baird's Sandpiper 9/2 JE(TYR) 1 MA  
 Pectoral Sandpiper birds=5 reports=2  
**Dunlin** 9/4 BR() 3 KH, 9/17 GA(BF) 1 NB  
 Stilt Sandpiper 9/4 BR() 1 KH, 9/9 GA(BPEN) 1 MA, 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB  
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper 9/4 BR() 2 KH  
 Short-billed Dowitcher birds=4 reports=2  
 Dowitcher Species 9/15 CH() 110 DR, 9/15 GA() 16 DR  
 Long-billed Dowitcher birds=7 reports=1  
 Wilson's Phalarope 9/1 HA() 60 KH, 9/4 BR() 1 KH  
**Red-necked Phalarope** 9/23 GA(BF) 1 MA  
 Laughing Gull birds=2,617 reports=6  
**Bonaparte's Gull** 9/15 GA() 20 DR  
 Ring-billed Gull 9/4 BR() 1 KH, 9/9 GA(BPEN) 2 MA, 9/15 GA() 6 DR,  
 9/17 GA( ) 5 MMJB, 9/23 GA(BF) 2 DS  
 Herring Gull 9/23 GA(BF) 1 DS  
 Gull-billed Tern 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB  
 Caspian Tern birds=60 reports=5  
 Royal Tern birds=10,701 reports=4  
 Sandwich Tern birds=77 reports=5  
 Common Tern 9/9 GA(BPEN) 8 MA, 9/17 GA( ) 25 MMJB  
 Forster's Tern birds=184 reports=3  
 Least Tern birds=124 reports=2  
 Black Tern birds=83 reports=5  
 Black Skimmer birds=161 reports=4  
 Rock Dove birds=54 reports=3  
 Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=7 reports=2  
 White-winged Dove birds=49 reports=5  
 Mourning Dove birds=273 reports=9

Inca Dove birds=17 reports=7  
Common Ground-Dove 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo birds=4 reports=3  
Groove-billed Ani 9/30 HA(ABNC) 2 KeR  
Barred Owl birds=1 reports=1  
Common Nighthawk birds=1 reports=1  
Chuck-will's-widow birds=8 reports=6  
Chimney Swift birds=111 reports=6  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds=355 reports=21  
Belted Kingfisher 9/9 GA(BPEN) 1 MA, 9/16 GA( ) 1 DR, 9/17 GA( ) 2 MMJB  
Red-headed Woodpecker 9/1 HA(BCP) 4 KH, 9/29 HA(BCP) 5 KH  
Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=18 reports=7  
Downy Woodpecker birds=19 reports=11  
Pileated Woodpecker birds=6 reports=5  
Olive-sided Flycatcher birds=1 reports=1  
Eastern Wood-Pewee birds=25 reports=10  
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher birds=6 reports=5  
Acadian Flycatcher 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA, 9/17 FB(BBSP) 1 KR  
Willow Flycatcher 9/4 BR(BNWR) 1 MA, 9/15 GA( ) 5 DR, 9/16 GA( ) 2 DR  
Least Flycatcher birds=37 reports=6  
**Eastern Phoebe** 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS  
Vermilion Flycatcher 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS  
Great Crested Flycatcher birds=17 reports=9  
Western Kingbird 9/9 CH(BPEN) 1 TF  
Eastern Kingbird birds=123 reports=9  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher birds=23 reports=6  
Loggerhead Shrike birds=82 reports=9  
White-eyed Vireo birds=19 reports=5  
Yellow-throated Vireo birds=2 reports=2  
Warbling Vireo 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Philadelphia Vireo 9/26 GA(HI) 2 MA  
Red-eyed Vireo birds=11 reports=5  
Blue Jay birds=56 reports=9  
American Crow birds=72 reports=6  
Fish Crow 9/2 JE(TYR) 20 MA  
Horned Lark birds=18 reports=2  
Purple Martin 9/2 JE(TYR) 1 MA, 9/9 GA(BPEN) 1 MA  
Tree Swallow birds=22 reports=3  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow birds=25 reports=2  
Bank Swallow birds=33 reports=3  
Cliff Swallow 9/1 HA(BCP) 5 KH, 9/2 JE(TYR) 1 MA, 9/4 BR( ) 190 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 6 MA, 9/17 CH( ) 2 MMJB, 9/26 JE(TYR) 1 MA  
**Cave Swallow** 9/4 BR(QNBS) 10 MA  
Barn Swallow birds=290 reports=6  
Carolina Chickadee birds=18 reports=8  
Tufted Titmouse birds=11 reports=4  
Carolina Wren 9/1 HA(BCP) 2 KH  
House Wren 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** 9/17 GA( ) 1 MMJB  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=119 reports=13  
Eastern Bluebird 9/1 HA(BCP) 3 KH  
Swainson's Thrush 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
American Robin 9/1 HA( ) 1 KH  
Gray Catbird 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA, 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Northern Mockingbird birds=78 reports=8  
Brown Thrasher 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA, 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB, 9/26 GA(HI) 6 MA, 9/29 HA(BCP) 2 KH  
European Starling birds=280 reports=6  
Blue-winged Warbler 9/2 JE(SW) 2 MA, 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA, 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS  
**Golden-winged Warbler** 9/17 GA( ) 1 MMJB, 9/17 GA(HI) 1 NB  
Tennessee Warbler 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB, 9/17 GA( ) 1 MMJB, 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS  
Nashville Warbler 9/4 BR(QNBS) 1 MA, 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA, 9/15 GA( ) 3 DR, 9/16 GA( ) 1 DR, 9/17 GA( ) 20 MMJB, 9/17 GA(HI) 3 NB, 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS, 9/26 GA(HI) 7 MA  
Northern Parula birds=8 reports=4  
Yellow Warbler birds=92 reports=11  
Chestnut-sided Warbler 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB, 9/17 GA(HI) 1 NB, 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Magnolia Warbler 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB, 9/17 GA( ) 10 MMJB, 9/17 GA(HI) 6 NB, 9/23 GA(HI) 2 DS, 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
**Black-throated Blue Warbler** 9/17 GA( ) 1 MMJB  
Black-throated Green Warbler 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA 9/15 GA( ) 1 DR, 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB  
Blackburnian Warbler 9/17 GA( ) 2 MMJB  
Yellow-throated Warbler 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA, 9/15 GA( ) 2 DR

Pine Warbler birds=7 reports=1  
Prairie Warbler 9/4 BR( ) 1 KH, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 30 MA, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 2 MA, 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Black-and-White Warbler birds=28 reports=8  
American Redstart 9/9 GA(HI) 2 MA, 9/17 GA( ) 2 MMJB, 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS, 9/26 GA(HI) 3 MA  
Prothonotary Warbler 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA, 9/9 GA(HI) 2 MA  
Ovenbird 9/2 JE(SW) 2 MA, 9/17 GA(HI) 1 NB, 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Northern Waterthrush birds=2 reports=2  
Louisiana Waterthrush 9/17 GA(HI) 1 NB  
Kentucky Warbler birds=2 reports=2  
Mourning Warbler 9/2 JE(SW) 2 MA, 9/4 BR( ) 2 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 8 MA, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 30 MA, 9/9 BR(QNBS) 1 TB, 9/9 GA(HI) 2 MA, 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Common Yellowthroat birds=3 reports=2  
Hooded Warbler birds=10 reports=7  
Wilson's Warbler 9/4 BR( ) 1 KH, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 30 MA, 9/9 BR(QNBS) 1 TB, 9/9 GA(HI) 2 MA, 9/15 GA( ) 1 DR, 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB, 9/17 GA( ) 20 MMJB, 9/23 GA(HI) 2 DS, 9/26 GA(HI) 3 MA  
Canada Warbler 9/1 HA(BCP) 1 KH, 9/2 JE(SW) 3 MA, 9/4 BR( ) 3 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 1 MA, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 30 MA, 9/15 GA( ) 3 DR, 9/16 GA( ) 2 DR, 9/17 CH( ) 1 MMJB, 9/17 GA( ) 15 MMJB, 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
Yellow-breasted Chat birds=22 reports=9  
Summer Tanager birds=4 reports=4  
**Chipping Sparrow** 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA  
**Clay-colored Sparrow** 9/26 GA(HI) 1 MA  
**Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** 9/17 GA(BPEN) 1 NB  
Northern Cardinal birds=124 reports=10  
Blue Grosbeak 9/26 JE(TYR) 1 MA  
Indigo Bunting 9/17 GA(HI) 1 NB, 9/26 GA(HI) 4 MA, 9/26 JE(TYR) 6 MA  
Painted Bunting birds=3 reports=3  
Dickcissel birds=10 reports=2  
Red-winged Blackbird birds=837 reports=8  
Eastern Meadowlark birds=8 reports=5  
Common Grackle birds=249 reports=4  
Boat-tailed Grackle birds=223 reports=5  
Great-tailed Grackle birds=226 reports=8  
Brown-headed Cowbird 9/15 CH( ) 200 DR  
Orchard Oriole 9/2 JE(SW) 5 MA, 9/4 BR( ) 1 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 10 MA, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 20 MA, 9/23 GA(HI) 1 DS  
Baltimore Oriole 9/1 HA(BCP) 4 KH, 9/2 JE(SW) 1 MA, 9/3 HA(BCP) 1 KH, 9/4 BR( ) 12 KH, 9/4 BR(BNWR) 25 MA, 9/4 BR(QNBS) 15 MA, 9/9 GA(HI) 1 MA, 9/15 GA( ) 11 DR, 9/16 GA( ) 5 DR, 9/17 GA( ) 10 MMJB, 9/23 GA(HI) 2 DS, 9/29 HA(BCP) 1 KH  
Bullock's Oriole 9/3 HA( ) 1 JB  
House Sparrow birds=25 reports=4

#### **Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)**

About the size of a Sanderling (feeding with 3 Sanderlings, 1 Snow Plover, 1 Western Sandpiper) Head: Face white with prominent black mask like Forster's Tern. Crown & nape charcoal. Bill fine, needle-like, straight, black. Back: Charcoal feather centers with wide white fringes. Wings: Tips did not quite meet end of tail. Dark centers to coverts and flight feathers with broad white fringes. Underparts: Unmarked white. Legs black. Behavior: Picking tiny insects off surface of pool in typical spinning fashion or making short sorties along edge of pond with peculiar posture with body leaned forward

#### **Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*)**

Both birds were black with large parrot like bills (no grooves discernible) and long tails. At least one bird had gray flecking on nape and upper back. Tail on one bird held at very awkward angle. Both birds were moving through scrub and trees very slowly and were observed while perching approximately 4 feet off the ground in a small scrubby tree.

#### **Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*)**

Sitting on wire flycatching. The bird was a flycatcher with no eye-ring visible, dark head, weak wingbars and a dark grayish back. The breast had dark smudges on the sides. Flicked its tail often.

#### **Ruby-crowned Kinglet (*Regulus calendula*)**

One bird seen at the grandstand at Boy Scout Woods. The bird was very small with a rather big-headed appearance, brown above, whitish with yellow wash below, blackish wings, two bold white wing bars, and a bold white eye ring. The bird displayed the typical quivering or restless behavior when perched.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler (*Dendroica caerulescens*)**

One male in excellent plumage was seen in Boy Scout Woods. The bird was warbler-sized and was viewed at leisure at point blank range. It displayed deep blue upper parts with a black chin, throat, upper breast and auriculars, with the black extending onto the flanks. The under parts were pure white. There was a white chip about 6/16" square at the base of the primaries in the folded wing. In addition, there was another smaller white spot in the median coverts on the folded wing, a feature not seen before on this species. The eye was dark and blended into the plumage almost completely. The bill appeared sharp, rather thick at the base and was slightly down-curved, reminiscent of a miniature Red-winged Blackbird bill.

Please keep those reports coming either by mail, e-mail or the OG web page. If you send reports by e-mail I prefer to receive them in this format:

species, date, county, location, count, observer

You can turn in several reports at once, even for more than one observer.

You can enter reports (and notes on new and very rare birds also) on the OG web page, <http://texasbirding.simplenet.com/hog> click on "Add records to the Clearinghouse" or "Report a Rare Bird" if the bird requires notes.

### Chairman's Message

By David Sarkozi

Politics is not the usual fare of this column but I think this is just too important NOT to comment. Soon we will vote for President. Governor George W. Bush is running and recently said something that made me believe voting AGAINST him is the most important thing I will do this year.

He said (I paraphrase) "My opponent thinks we should not drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). I believe we can and leave nothing but footprints."

I spend time on a National Wildlife Refuge where there are producing wells and wells taken out of production. I can tell you the footprint of the oil industry is bigger than Paul Bunyan's! Oil and gas production is not benign by any means. There are roads, drilling waste, collection and storage. A successful well will be in production for years and these facilities will have to remain.

Even well removal leaves a huge scar that will remain at least on our time scale. You can't just scoop up the road and the pad. Before drilling, a seismic survey drills a grid of smaller bores, perhaps every 200 yards for miles. They should be filled and not leave much of a blemish, but having hit them in airboats, I will vouch for the size of the pimple they leave.

Al Gore would leave the ANWR as one of the last pristine places in North America. Ralph Nader advocates policies to move away from oil and gas. Both of these ideas are steps in the right direction. Bush would open a gold rush for the oil. I think it's up to us to stop him. Let's leave something in this world the way it was and still working on its own.

### Editor's Note

We are sorry that we had to omit some of the regular features you are used to seeing. The Clearinghouse from April is always large and it is an important document to many people. Keeping the Spoonbill at eight pages keeps its production affordable. Those missing features will return in the November issue of the Spoonbill.

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