

December 27 FREEPORT CHRISTMAS COUNT. Please contact Jerry Strickling if you wish to participate. You'll be glad if you do. This area has excellent possibilities which can be more fully realized with more extensive participation.

January 2 (Saturday) HOUSTON CHRISTMAS COUNT. If extracted from Dr. Marrack in time, further information will appear in this issue of the "Spoonbill."

????????? GALVESTON CHRISTMAS COUNT. Steve Williams is now living in Victoria, so no plans have been made for a count in Galveston. If you think we should have one and would like to participate please contact Henry Hoffman at HO 5-5852.

FREEPORT FIELD TRIP Betty Williams

TIME PLACE:

Sunday, September 20 at 9:00 a. m. a caravan of fourteen cars parked at the Courthouse in Angleton for specifics on the birding in the Freeport beach area - Louise and Henry Hoffman were our leaders. Before leaving we were introduced to three special visitors - Carl S. Hacker, Robert G. McLean and Dr. David E. Davis - investigators in the encephalitis epidemic. They were enlisting our services in a bird count in the area.

OFF!

Enroute to the beach, the sunny sultry weather was soon forgotten as the birds soared overhead. An osprey was identified flying high and four wood ibis were silhouetted against the sky.

AFTER SACK LUNCHES -

On the beach, under the expert tutelage of Harvey Patten, we settled down to the serious business of identifying the terns. They - including common, Forster's, Royal, Caspian, black, least and Sandwich (or Cabot's) were most cooperative and circled over enabling us to see the yellow tip on the bill of the Sandwich tern or the lighter wing primaries on the Forster's - field marks which help differentiate these terns. This type of group learning is "looking" at its best and leaves its mark on our accuracy and growth as bird watchers. Let's repeat it!!

FINAL COUP! OR?

Passing the golf course on our way home we cited 98 long billed curlews - yes Jim Ellis counted them - and a very sober group of 18 buff-breasted sandpipers - uncommon Fall migrant!

Our total collective list of birds reached 82 and included in addition to the above mentioned - several Swainson's hawks - lifer for me - all four egrets and one of the first sparrow hawks of the Fall season.

Peoplewise we had 36 which included Dan and Marian Washburn from Galveston. Marian and Woodrow Erwin, Jim and Pat Ellis, Harvey Patten, Bill Goloby, Iris and Jim O'Neill, Bud Andersen, Nancy and Jerry Strickling (welcome home) Violet and Lloyd Nelson, Eva and Clayton Gilman, Hardin Craig, Johanna Grabbe, Edna Miner, Luta Buchanan, Richard Miller, Bill Ladwig, Katrina Thompson, Noel Pettingell, Joe Farrell, Janet Kepner (a visitor) Helen Via, Charlotte Johnson, Thelma Smith, and Austin Evans of Freeport.

Sincerely submitted,
BETTY WILLIAMS
(The quiet woman)

HEY THERE! Your help is needed on the various Christmas Counts. Even if you aren't such an adorable birder, you can be of tremendous help as a recorder thus releasing the guys with the know how for active duty. What you really need is lots of moxie and warm underwear.

GUADALUPE MOUNTAIN TRIP - AT THE TOP OF TEXAS Linda Snyder

August 2 - 7, 1964.

That rugged hunk of limestone called El Capitan had stood as a sentinel for our destination since my husband and I had left Van Horn. We finally passed beside its massiveness and first viewed the steep slopes of the Guadalupe mountains. We passed the little Pine Spring Camp, Texas' highest post office and our last outpost of civilization. A little further on we turned our car into a rocky rough road leading toward Frijole. Thus began our big adventure with the Sierra Club on a high mountain hiking and camping trip.

Proceeding with caution because the roads threatened to tear the bottom out of the car, we made it almost to Smith Spring before we had to give up. The little red Fury wasn't mad enough to climb the last 100 yards of steep, rocky incline and required us to carry up our gear on foot. The lovely little glade of manzanita (Texas madrone), Chinquapin oak and big-toothed maple overhanging a little mountain stream bubbling thru the rocks was well worth the effort. Here gathered together the fourteen members of our party for the first camp. We were quite a crew ranging in age from 11 to 77, in experience - from the hard core Sierrites to the complete novice, in interest - from exuberant hiking to painting and bird-watching, in vocation - from student to housewife, chemical engineer, theologian, and archeologist, in locale - from Baytown, Texas to Taos, New Mexico. Our leader was Mr. Larry Harrington, experienced Sierrite and now of the Rio Grande Chapter. Another member was Mr. Harold Blutworth (with his family) of sailing and water safari fame. An interesting visitor that evening was Mr. Noel Kincaid, the competent manager of the Guadalupe Mt. Ranch and a real purveyor to our plans.

We made our first camp to the descending trills of the canon wren and the plaintive calls of the western wood pewee. During the night there were many odd noises - snorts and bush-cracklings - but no rare owl sounds. In the morning we had a near calamity. The salami roll that was to be the main-stay of our lunch for 5 days had disappeared! A big search discovered it down by the stream. The heavy plastic wrappings had been torn away on one end and that portion had been thoroughly tasted. Some little raccoon had had himself a meal but our lunch wasn't completely lost.

Our real trip began when we de-camped and drove back to Frijole to have our personal gear and food commissary packed onto the mules' sturdy backs. Each dunnage bag was carefully weighed to be certain it didn't exceed the 30 pound personal allotment. Well - I was safe at 23 pounds. This included sleeping bag, air mattress, ground covers, flashlight, jackets, change of clothes and shoes, toilet articles, etc. That only left cameras, binoculars, field books, ponchos, canteens, lunches and other miscellany to tote on the trail. Another car-crunching "road" led us to the base of Bear Canyon. Here we left the cars amid the boulder field and started our hiking trek. At first it wasn't bad at all - one got breathless in a hurry but the energy level was still high. Along about mid-day, mid-way and mid 90 degrees temperature the going got rough. The narrow, rocky trail became both gruelling and awesome. Someone counted 75 switchbacks - many of which were 50% grades. The view back down the canyon, when one could bear to look, was breath-taking (what little we had left as we would stop to rest under madrone and alligator juniper trees). After 5½ hours of climbing some 2500 feet in 3 miles of trail we finally reached the ridge of the range. We were truly at the top of Texas - some 8200 feet above sea level and a long way from my 17 feet above Galveston Bay! Almost 3000 feet below us was the Van Horn - Carlsbad highway and beyond were the vast, undulating, purple -shadowed plains of the Trans-Pecos bordered some 100 miles east by another mountain range.

Turning our backs on the tremendous view east from the ridge we looked to the north and west and were faced with Colorado! True, New Mexico was just a few miles away, but not Colorado, for this was still Texas. It just looked like Colorado with the towering Douglas Firs, the Ponderosa and limber pines, the oaks, junipers and alpine plants. One breathed in the rarified conifer-scented air and stood speechless. The squeaking of a jay interrupted reveries but confirmed that feeling of Rocky Mountains for the bird was the midnight blue Stellar's jay.

Our base camp was made at 8000 feet in the Bowl slightly below the ridge. The only-water in the area was pumped up from below and piped into a stock tank. It fell to the men and boys to go back up the hill to the tank, fill and carry buckets downhill for every drop of water used in camp. The stock tank was contaminated by dead birds floating on its open surface so the bucket-fillers had to climb up the tank side and load fresh from the pipe's mouth.

The food prepared over campfire was varied, amply fortified, and surprisingly good. The new freezer-dried foods helped greatly allowing us salads, vegetables, fruits and meats with a fresh flavor. The evenings around campfire were delightful with special talks, camaraderie such as singing along with Lynn Rothfield's accompanying folk-banjo, and stargazing. The weather was a clear 50 degrees at night and the stars were brilliant. The two Echoes and a stunning meteorite with a comet-like tail gave us quite a show. Late the first night I heard the soft to-who-who of the flammulated owl - one of the specialties of the area and my first lifer up there.

While others explored and conquered some of the mountain tops like Pine and Bush mountains, I wandered the Bowl and ridge searching out the birds. These were mostly typical of the high mountains of New Mexico and Colorado - the white-breasted and pygmy nuthatches, white-throated swift, mountain chickadee, broad-tailed hummingbird, western wood pewee, western and Hammond's flycatchers, Cassin's kingbird, western and mountain bluebirds, hermit thrush, solitary and gray vireos, Audubon's and yellow warblers, lesser goldfinch, western tanager, chipping sparrow, gray-headed junco and red-shafted flicker. Somehow I missed the acorn and Lewis' woodpecker and the wild turkey but I have evidence of the latter in the feather in my cap. My favorite spot was the earthen dam and pond fed by water piped from the tank. Here was the only water-hole for wildlife. I named this place the "Elk Pond" for obvious reasons, but the elk or wapiti weren't the only visitors for there were also black-tailed deer and many birds. Here I got my Texas view of the band-tailed pigeon and solved the riddle of the dead birds in the stock tank.

As my husband and I were sitting on the grassy meadow eating our lunch of nuts, dried fruits, hard tack, that salami, coon cheese and candies we were constantly buzzed by white-throated swifts. There must have been a hundred flying about or swooping low over the pond to catch insects. That they actually touched the water was evidenced by the ripples they left on its surface. I had never seen them at waist height before but I was really shocked when I saw them on the ground! It was a poor bedraggled creature belly-flopping along the bank. Evidently it had gone too deep after an insect and was trying to dry out. Seeming to get dryer and stronger with each flap of wing the swift finally cleared ground and laboriously flew out over the pond. He didn't make it, dropping back into the water about two thirds across. Then I thought we had a drowned bird for certain - but, with painful wing-sweeps, used like a swimmer's butterfly stroke, the bird finally "swam" ashore to begin the slow recovery all over again. Any swift or swallow which dipped too deep at the stock tank or hit its sides was doomed for there was no bank as at the Elk Pond.

I hated to leave the Bowl campsite and my sleeping quarters under a spreading Douglas Fir. It was shady, soft with ancient mulch and had a nice log"bench"! It had one major drawback, however, because nothing was level. Every night we had a big battle with the bed-rolls to keep them from sliding down the hill! But break camp we must - erasing all evidences of human contamination, repacking our gear and starting back down the trail. The descent was almost as difficult as the ascent but the problem this time was to keep from rolling down the canyon with the rocks.

Safely down, we began the winding car-boiling drive into McKittrick Canyon. Here we were back to some civilization for we were to camp on the Hunter lodge grounds and were allowed the use of its facilities including the patio. The patio was lighted, had stone tables, benches and barbecue pit, plus a naturally air-conditioned cave in its cliff wall. Again we were hunting a good spot for our bed-rolls and chose a site across Madrone Creek from the patio. The ground here was almost level but it was criss-crossed with deer and ? animal trails. Only in a little triangle next to some boulders could we place the sleeping bags and lose some of our fear that the animals would walk right over us on their way down to the creek.

Our after-supper treat that evening was a visit and talk by Mr. Pete Sanchez head naturalist from Carlsbad. Ranger Sanchez had been stationed at the part of McKittrick Canyon already in the National Park System and gave us a very illuminating story of the area. His talks are usually figured at 45 minutes but he had a very attentive and enthralled audience for almost 3 hours. Even the little animals, raccoons and skunks, interrupted him with the question - "Where's the food?" They were constantly invading the patio and garbage cans to our hysterics. When one raccoon braved the 4 foot table and jumped down with a big bag of haemo-chocolate that was too much! The chocolate devotees gave chase and recovered the same. Well, we couldn't have that raccoon turning the clear little mountain stream into a rich brown by wasting the whole bag of food either!

That McKittrick Canyon is, without doubt, the most beautiful spot in Texas and, perhaps, the Southwest we discovered the next day as we followed the trail into the heart of the Canyon. Majestic canyon walls enclose the narrow base with its clear mountain stream awinding thru lush (almost tropical appearing) vegetation. One of the peculiarities of the region is that very diversity of plant and animal life. The Texas madrone spreads its red limbs next to Big-toothed maple and the chinquapin oak vies with the alligator juniper or Ponderosa Pine. Up the canyon are sotol, Faxon yucca, reeds and columbine. In the creek flash the multi-hued rainbow trout - the only ones in the state. Cascading down from the cathedral spires are the trills of the canon wren. I really believe this wren must have originated in this inspiring place and spread out from there - for there must have been dozens either singing from or darting along the canyon walls. Other birds of the canyon area were the ever present western wood pewee, gray and dusky flycatchers, western and olive-sided flycatchers, common bushtit, blue-gray gnatcatcher, green-tailed, rufous-sided (spotted) and brown towhees, solitary and gray vireos, hepatic and western tanagers, black phoebe, black-headed grosbeak, pine siskin, lesser goldfinch, lark bunting, black-throated sparrow, band-tailed pigeon and golden eagle. I missed the Scott's oriole that had nested there.

A late afternoon thunderstorm in the mountains reminded us that it was time to pack up and leave this wonderful "island in time" which we did with reluctance. It is my hope that the full Guadalupe Mountain and McKittrick Canyon region be preserved by the National Park System as a wilderness area of limited use. There should be limited access, too, with no scenic high road cutting across the narrow ridge with its unusual plant and animal life endangered by too much traffic.

The Permian marine limestone mountains and canyons contain the most extensive and significant fossil reefs in the world. It is "an island in time" and draws geologists from all over the world to study the stories written on its limestone walls. Historically the area is of interest since the Butterfield Trail maintained a station at Pine Spring. Now it is important to protect and preserve this magnificent area of high mountains and shadowed canyons for the future without commercial exploitation of such unique grandeur. It is a constant challenge to man to keep his footsteps from changing the wonderful ecology of plant and animal life in the natural world.

Submitted by:
LINDA SNYDER

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CLEARING HOUSE ----- September, 1964

Pied-billed grebe: 8 days (46) 3, (20-30) 9, 18, 24, 30 Cove AKM
 White pelican: 8 days (200) 13, 28 Cove AKM; 25-100 most days, (1000) 28
 Bayshore L.S.; (100) 30 Smithers Lake HH
 Olivaceous cormorant: (2) 3, 21 Cove AKM
 Anhinga: (2-7) 3-30 Wolf Reservoir AKM; (2) 15 Foster area HH
 Magnificent frigate bird: (4) 7 Galveston N.P.; 1 male, 1 female, 2 immatures, in flight and perched on pilings in West Bay between Jamaica Beach and Shell I.
 Green heron: (1) 1 Freeport "A"; (1) 5 Foster area, (1) 9 Clay Road, (1) 30 Sugarland HH; (1) 1 Cove AKM
 Little blue heron: (1) 18, 24 Anahuac Refuge L.S.
 Cattle egret: 12 days (200) 6; (300) 28, 30 Cove AKM; (300) 18, (425) 24 Anahuac Refuge (200) 18 Anahuac area LS; (100) 30 Dewalt, (100)

- Reddish egret: (1) 13, 11, 28, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 28 Bayshore LS; (6) 1 Freeport "A"
 Black crowned night heron: (1-30) 5 days Cove AKM
 Yellow crowned night heron: (3) 3, 9; (1) 21 Cove AKM
 Wood ibis: (1-10) 10, 14, 18, 21, 29; (25) 30 Cove AKM; (75) 9, (50) 16, (56) 28, (12) 29 Bayshore LS; (9) 27 Clay Road, (3) 30 Smithers Lake HH
 White faced ibis: (6) 6, (15) 25, (100) 26, (75) Cove AKM; (N.C.) 24 Anahuac Refuge LS; (1) Freeport "A", (30) 12 Freeport HH, (2) 28 Sheldon "A"
 White Ibis: (3) 2, (14) 27 Cove AKM; (10) 12 Freeport HH; (30) 28 Sheldon "A"; (15) 30 Smithers Lake HH
 Roseate Spoonbill: 10 days (30-60) 11, 21, 25 Cove AKM; (12) 24, (35) 28 Bayshore LS; (2) 1 Freeport "A", (2) 12 Freeport HH; (20) 28 Sheldon "A", (10) 30 Smithers Lake HH
 White fronted goose: (10) 24 Anahuac Refuge LS
 Snow goose: (200) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Blue goose: (100) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Fulvous tree duck: (50) 9 Mason Rd. HH
 Mallard: (2) 19 Cove AKM
 Mottled duck: 20 days (25-200) 3, 11, 14, 18, 19, 22, 26, 27, 28 Cove AKM (100) 18, 24 Anahuac Refuge LS; (2) 1 Freeport "A" (10) 9 Mason HH
 Gadwall: (4) 30, lacking 5 days of being the earliest ever, Cove AKM
 Pintail: (30-80) 11, 19, 25, 27 Cove AKM; (6) 28 Sheldon "A"; (100) 18, 24 Anahuac Refuge LS
 Green winged teal: (1500) 14 and 6 days after that, Cove AKM
 Blue winged teal: 14 days (75) 3, (1000) 14, (175) 27 Cove AKM; (100) 18, 24 Anahuac Refuge LS; (75) 28 Sheldon "A" (10) 30 Smithers HH
 American widgeon: (3) 19, 21 (8) 24 (21) 27 (15) 28 Cove AKM; (4) 28 Sheldon Reservoir "A"
 Shoveler: 8 days (40) 14 (20) 27 Cove AKM; (100) 16 Bayshore LS; (90) 28 Sheldon "A" (4) 30 Smithers Lake HH
 Wood duck: (6) 3, (1) 9, (9) 18 Cove AKM
 Canvasback: (1) 18-30, did not see it fly, Cove AKM
 Lesser scaup: (4) 18, 30, not the same 4, Cove AKM
 Ruddy duck: (2) 9, (4) 24 Cove AKM
 Black vulture: (1) 21, (2) 24, (5) 27, (8) 28, (30) 30 Cove AKM
 SWALLOW TAILED KITE: (1) 12 Hwy 1093 "B"
 Red shouldered hawk: (1-2) 7 days, Cove AKM; (1) 1 Freeport "A"; (1) 18 Foster area HH; (3) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Broad winged hawk: (1) 3, (5) 25, (54) 28, (8) 30 Cove AKM; (100) 16, (5) 28 Bayshore LS; (500) 12 Memorial area, (90) 13 Fondren Rd, (1) 14 yard HH; (150) 28 Sheldon "A"; (5000) 23 yard MA
 Swainson's hawk: (1) 3, 21 Cove AKM; (30) 28 Bayshore LS; (2) 8 Fondren, (3) 12 Katy-Hockley HH; (1) 15 Foster area "B"; (4) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Marsh hawk: Frequent from 12th, (9) 28 Cove AKM; (4) 18, (6) 24 Anahuac Refuge LS; (1) 9 Clay Road HH
 Osprey: (1) 18 Cove AKM; (1) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Caracara: (1) 9 Katy Hockley HH
 Prairie Falcon: (1) 15 Foster area "B"
 Peregrine falcon: (1) 18, 25, 28 Cove AKM
 Sparrow hawk: (1) 2, (14) 25, (15) 28 Cove AKM; (2-6) 18, 24 Anahuac LS
 Sandhill Crane: (30) 13 Fondren Road HH
 King Rail: (1) 14, 22 Cove AKM
 Clapper rail: (2) 3 Cove AKM; (1-3) 18, 24 Anahuac Refuge LS; (4) 1 Fpt "A"
 Sora: (1) 14 Cove AKM
 Common gallinule: (5-7) 9, 30 (20) 18, (10) 24 AKM Cove; (8) 1 Freeport "A" (1) 30 Smithers lake HH
 American coot: (10) 3, (15) 9, (30) 18, (56) 24, (160) 30 Cove AKM; (4) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Semipalmated plover: (1) 3 Cove AKM
 Wilson's plover: (1) 11 Cove AKM
 Golden plover: (1) 11 Cove AKM
 Black bellied plover: (1-5) 3, 6, 11, 28, 30 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Bayshore LS
 Common snipe: (2) 14, (14) 30 Cove AKM
 Long billed curlew: 8 days (17-35) 6, 7, 11, 12 (13) 30 Cove AKM; (4) 24 Anahuac Refuge LS; (20) 1 Brazoria area "A"
 Upland plover: (5) 2, (43) 3, (6) 6, (17) 7, (1) 11, 14, 17 Cove AKM; (8) 1 Brazoria area "A"
 Spotted sandpiper: (2) 2, 11 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Bayshore LS; (1) 1 Freeport "A"

- Solitary sandpiper: (4) 11, (2) 13, (1) 21 Cove AKM; (1) 18 Anahuac
Refuge LS
- Willet: (2-20) 6 days Cove AKM
- Greater yellowlegs: 11 days (20) 14, (30) 27 Cove AKM; (N C) 18, 24
Anahuac Refuge LS
- Lesser yellowlegs: 11 days (100) 14, (200) 27 Cove AKM; (N C) 18, 24
Anahuac Refuge LS
- Pectoral sandpiper: 7 days (30) 11, (15) 27 Cove AKM
- Baird's sandpiper: (3) 16 Bayshore LS
- Least sandpiper: 9 days Cove AKM; (8) 28 Sheldon "A"
- Dunlin: (6) 28 Sheldon "A"
- Peeps: (300) 9, 16 Bayshore LS
- Dowitcher (species): (3) 18 Anahuac LS; 7 days (500) 14 Cove AKM
- Stilt sandpiper: (1) 26, (5) 27, (8) 30 Cove AKM; (5) 9 Bayshore, (3)
18, 24 Anahuac LS; (22) 28 Sheldon "A"
- Semipalmated sandpiper: 3 days Cove AKM; (90) 28 Sheldon "A"
- Western sandpiper: 6 days Cove AKM; (50) 28 Sheldon "A"
- Buff breasted sandpiper: (15) 11 Cove AKM
- American avocet: (5) 9, (400) 16 Bayshore LS; (2) 1 Freeport "A" (50)
12 Freeport HH; (10) 28 Sheldon "A"; (1) 21 Cove AKM
- Black necked stilt: Last seen 14 Cove AKM
- Wilson's phalarope: (5) 3, (1) 14 Cove AKM
- Ring billed gull: (2) 28, (1) 30 Cove AKM
- Franklin's gull: (2) 28, 30 Cove AKM
- Gull billed tern: (1) 30 Smithers Lake HH
- Common tern: (2) 25, (15) 28, 30 Cove AKM
- ROSEATE TERN: (2) 23 Bayshore LS. Tail white and 2 inches longer
than wings.
- Least tern: last 11 Cove AKM
- Royal tern: 4 days Cove AKM
- Sandwich tern: (10) 6, 11, 28, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 20 Bayshore LS (newest
yard bird).
- Caspian tern: 10 days Cove AKM
- Black tern: 15 days (175) 2, (100) 28 Cove AKM; (10-50) most days
Bayshore and Anahuac Refuge LS
- Black skimmer: (1-10) 6 days Cove AKM
- Ground dove: (1) 10 Cove AKM
- Black billed cuckoo: (1) 11 Fondren Road MA
- Screech owl: 5 days Cove AKM
- Great horned owl: (1) 25, 30 Cove AKM
- Barred owl: (1) 30 Cove AKM; (1) 26 yard HH
- Chuck-will's-widow: (1) 2, 30, (8) 3, (2) 6, 25 (4) 11, (3) 13 Cove AKM
- Whip-poor-will: (2) 11 Cove AKM; (1) 13 Bayshore LS
- Common nighthawk: (1) 25 Cove AKM; (1) 18, 24 Anahuac LS
- Ruby throated hummingbird: 17 days (14) 11, (9) 30 Cove AKM; (1-4) most
days, (10) 28 Bayshore LS
- Belted kingfisher: (2) 3, (1) 5 days Cove AKM; (1) 30 Bayshore LS; (7)
28 Sheldon "A"; (1) 30 Smithers Lake HH
- Yellow shafted flicker: (1) 3, 28, (2) 29 Cove AKM; (1) 28 Deusen Pk. "A"
- Pileated woodpecker: (1) 3, (2) 30 Cove AKM; (8) 28 Deusen Park "A"
- Red headed woodpecker: 6 days (6) 3, (5) 30 Cove AKM; (20) 28 Deusen "A"
- Downy woodpecker: (2) 3, 28, (1) 11, 22, (4) 30 AKM
- Eastern kingbird: 17 days (10) 6, (60) 11 Cove AKM; (1) 18 Anahuac LS
- Great crested flycatcher: 8 days (18) 3, (2) 6, 14, 21, 30 Cove AKM
(1) 23 yard MA
- Empidonax flycatchers: 13 days (66) 3, (26) 11 Cove AKM; (5) 13 Fondren
Road; (1) 14, 19 yard HH
- Yellow bellied flycatcher: (1) 25, 28, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 28 High Island LS
- TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER: (20) 3, (NC) 11 Cove AKM; (1) 14, 7146 Ilex N P.
- Eastern wood pewee: 11 days (3) 9, 25, (4) 28, (8) 30 Cove AKM; (1) 18
Anahuac LS; (1) 23 yard MA; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
- Olive sided flycatcher: (1) 1, 11, 28 (2) 3, 4, 6 (3) 10 Cove AKM; (1)
18 Anahuac LS; (1) 28 Deusen Park "A"
- Vermillion flycatcher: (1) 25, 26 Cove AKM; (1) 28 Sheldon "A"
- Horned lark: (2-10) 18, 24 Anahuac LS
- Tree swallow: (N C) 18, 24 Anahuac LS
- Barn swallow: (50) 18, 24 Anahuac LS
- Brown headed nuthatch: (6) 28 Deusen Park "A"; (1-3) most days yard HH
- House wren: (1) 13 earliest ever by 9 days (1) 28 Cove AKM; (1) 14 earl-
iest ever, (1) 15-17, 30 Bayshore LS

- Catbird: (4) 28, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Bayshore, (2) 28 High Island LS;
 (2) 15 Fondren Road "B"; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Brown thrasher: (1) 14, (10) 25 Cove AKM; (2-5) from 26 Bayshore LS;
 (1) 19 yard, (2) 30 Sugarland HH; (6) 28 Deussen Park "A"
 Wood thrush: (1) 28 Cove AKM
 Swainson's thrush: (1) 28 Cove AKM
 VEERY; (1) 30 Cove AKM
 Eastern bluebird: (70) 28 Deussen Park area "A"; (2) 30 Smithers Lake HH
 Blue gray gnatcatcher: (1-5) most days Bayshore, (5) 18 Anahuac LS
 Ruby crowned kinglet: (2) 30 Bayshore LS
 Water pipit: (N C) 21 Bayshore LS
 Starling: 9 days (1) 3, (75) 11, (120) 30 Cove AKM
 White eyed vireo: (2) 25, (7) 28, 30 Cove AKM; (1-2) 28 High Island, (1-2)
 30 Bayshore LS; (2) 28 Deussen Park "A"; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Bell's vireo: (1) 11 Cove AKM
 Yellow throated vireo: (1) 11 Fondren Road M A
 Solitary vireo: (1) 11 Fondren Road M A
 Red eyed vireo: (1) 25, (2) 28, (5) 30 Cove AKM; (2) 28 High Island LS
 Warbling vireo: (1) 3 earliest ever by 4 days, (1) 25 Cove AKM
 Black and white warbler: 6 days (8) 3, (20) 28 Cove AKM; (1-2) 15, 30
 Bayshore, (1-2) 18 Anahuac, (1-2) High Island LS; (1) 15 Fondren
 "B"; (1) 11 Fondren Road MA
 Worm-eating warbler; (1) 28 Cove AKM; (1) 17 yard HH
 Blue winged warbler: (1) 30 Cove AKM
 Orange crowned warbler: (2) 30 Sugarland HH
 Nashville warbler: (7) 11, (10) 25, (2) 28, (1) 30 Cove AKM; (1) 30
 Sugarland HH
 Parula warbler: (2) 25, 28 Cove AKM; (1-2) 28, 30 Bayshore LS
 Yellow warbler: (1) 3 Cove AKM; (1) 18 Anahuac Refuge LS; (2) 1 Freeport
 (1) 28 Sheldon "A"; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Magnolia warbler: (5) 25, (10) 28, (1) 30 Cove AKM; (2-4) 28, 30 Bayshore
 LS; (6) 28 High Island LS; (1) 28 Sheldon "A"
 Myrtle warbler: (1) 28 Sheldon "A"
 AUDUBON WARBLER; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Blackburnian warbler: (2) 28, (1) 30 Cove AKM
 Yellow throated warbler: (1) 30 Cove AKM; (1) 15 Foster area HH
 Chestnut sided warbler: (1) 25, (7) 28 Cove AKM; (1) 28 Bayshore LS
 Pine warbler: (2) 3 Cove AKM; (2) 26 yard HH; (30) 28 Deussen Park "A"
 Prairie warbler: (1) 19 Cove AKM
 Palm warbler: (1) 18 Cove AKM
 Ovenbird: (1) 28, (2) 30 Cove AKM
 Northern waterthrush: (1) 18 Anahuac, (2) 28 High Island LS; (1) 1
 Freeport "A"
 Louisiana waterthrush: (1) 28 High Island LS
 Kentucky warbler: (1) 3 Cove AKM
 Mourning warbler: (3) 3, 6, (1) 11 Cove AKM; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Yellowthroat: (5) 25, (1) 28 Cove AKM; (1) 18 Anahuac LS; (2) 28 Sheldon
 "A"; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Yellow breasted chat: (7) 3, (4) 11, 25, (1) 13, 19, 28, 30 Cove AKM;
 11(1) Fondren Road MA; (1) 13 Fondren Road HH
 Hooded warbler: (7) 28, (3) 30 Cove AKM
 Wilson's warbler: (2) 3, 28, (5) 11, (10) 25 Cove AKM; (1) 14 Bayshore LS;
 (2) 11 Fondren MA; (1) 28 Sheldon "A"; (1) 8 Foster, (4) 13 Fon-
 dren Road, (6) 30 Sugarland HH
 Canada warbler: (2) 3, 25, (1) 11, 13, (5) 28 Cove AKM; (1) 11 Fondren MA
 American redstart: (5) 25, (15) 28, (1) 30 Cove AKM; (1) 13 Fondren HH
 Orchard oriole: (6) 3, (1) 6, (2) 11 Cove AKM
 Baltimore oriole: 12 days (7) 3, (40) 11, (7) 25 Cove AKM; (1) 23 Bayshore
 LS; (6) 11 Fondren MA; (3) 1 Freeport, (1) 28 Deussen "A"; (1) 8
 (5) 10 yard HH
 Common grackle: (1) 3 Cove AKM
 Summer tanager: (1) 3, 30, (2) 9 Cove AKM; (1) 30 Bayshore LS; (1) 17
 yard HH; (2) 28 Deussen Park "A"
 Blue grosbeak: (1-10) 3, 9, 11, 18, 26, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Bayshore LS;
 (2) 11 Fondren Road MA
 Indigo bunting: (5) 28 High Island LS; (1) 30 Sugarland HH
 Painted bunting: (1) 6 Cove AKM
 Dickcissel: (N C) 18, (1) 24 Cove AKM; (8) 1 Freeport "A"; (30) 12 Fpt HH
 Savannah sparrow: (1) 18 earliest ever by 2 days, (1) 30 Cove AKM
 Seaside sparrow: (15) 3, (2) 6, (11) 11, (1) 14, 21, 28 Cove AKM; (2-4)
 18, 24 Anahuac Refuge LS

Lark sparrow: (1) 17, 21 (7-11) 6, 11, 25, 30 Cove AKM; (1) Freeport "A"
 Chipping sparrow: (2) 28 Deussen Park "A"

AKM	Arlie K McKay	HH	Henry Hoffman and Jayne Mansfield
LS	Linda Snyder	"A"	Nancy Strickling and Hoffmans
MA	Margaret Anderson	"B"	Margaret Anderson and Hoffmans
NP	Noel Pettingell		

NOTES FROM CLEARING HOUSE REPORT:

I counted 160 Species in September, 130 in first half. 132 in 1954; 146 in last half, 166 in 1961. Counted 102 September 3, 91 September 28, 92 September 30. Boat tailed grackles and redwings were both among the first twenty on any day for over 20 years. They were the 80th and 79th respectfully on September 25.

I saw 8 species of warblers September 3, ten species on the 25th, 14 on the 28th and 10 on the 30th.

Arlie K. McKay

I wish to report for August 25: pigeon hawk at Bayshore, 2 marsh hawks at Anahuac Refuge, and 3 golden plover at Anahuac.

Linda Snyder

NOTICE:

Birders are warned that the combination lock at the Anahuac Refuge is no longer in use and that a key must be used. Linda Snyder has one you can get or you must contact Russ Clapper at his office or home.

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS COUNT:

Sorry, but I have been unable to get any further information. So, there is still time to contact Dr. David Marrack and tell him where you would like to bird on January 2, 1965. PLEASE PLAN TO PARTICIPATE so that we can beat our own glorious record for the past year.

*c*c*c*c*

APOLOGIES FROM THE TYPIST:

Because of Pat Ellis' illness, Louise Hoffman typed this SPOONBILL and she grew up in a poor family and isn't used to an electric typewriter. My heartfelt thanks to my kind and patient husband who prepared the draft of the "Clearing House" for me.

It is nice to know that Steve Williams is psychiatrist at the Devereaux School for mentally disturbed children at Victoria, Texas. His wife Mary Ellen is teaching there.

OFFICERS:

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