



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XI No. 6

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 * "The decline of hunting opportunity is *
 * causing more than one wildlife administrator to cast *
 * covetous eyes at modern shore bird numbers and *
 * suggest that they could again stand hunting. This *
 * must be opposed firmly because shore bird habits *
 * make them particularly vulnerable to hunting pressure.*
 * The small egg clutch, and the inability to renest in *
 * the north's short summer, result in an annual repro- *
 * ductive success of only 25% instead of the 50% which *
 * is usual with gallinaceous game birds. The shore bird*
 * migrations are so long and hazardous that they place *
 * special stress on the population; and the fact that *
 * these birds do not resort to cover, often fly in *
 * flocks, are easy to decoy, and concentrate on now much*
 * reduced feeding areas during migration, all combine to*
 * make it unthinkable that they should again be sub- *
 * jected to gunning pressure within our borders." *
 * Roland C. Clement *
 * Introduction to A GATHERING OF SHORE BIRDS *
 * Henry Marion Hall *
 * *****

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

C O M I N G E V E N T S

- November 6 (Tuesday) - Audubon Wildlife Film, VILLAGE BENEATH THE SEA by Harry Pederson, Prudential Auditorium, 1100 Holcombe Blvd., 8:00 P.M.
- November 18 (Sunday) - FIELD TRIP to Sheldon, Buckhorn Lake and Lake Houston to be led by Jimmy Murray. Meet at Baldwin's Market, east of Green's Bayou on Route 90 at 8:30 A.M. Bring lunch. We should see water fowl (Bufflehead and Wood Duck are some of the goodies of the area) and who knows what other goodies?
- December 6 (Thursday) - O. G. MEETING, 8:00 P.M., Downtown Recreation Center, Sabine at Memorial Freeway. Important business plus BALD EAGLE film.
- December 29 (Saturday) - CHRISTMAS COUNT. The area leaders for this year's count are presently being selected, and a list of these will appear in next month's SPOONBILL. Just as last year, your coordinator will make the area assignments. Most of you can plan to be in the same area as last year, but there will necessarily be some changes. New members and visitors who plan to participate please contact Harvey L. Patten at ID 3-1425.

NOTE OF SYMPATHY

The Ornithology Group wishes to extend to Mr. Arlie K. McKay their sympathy in the loss of his father, Robert Freeman McKay, on Sept. 12, after a long illness. The elder McKay was a retired farmer and a direct descendant of Joseph Lawrence, who was one of the first settlers in the Cove area.

FIELD TRIP TO BRAZORIA AND SARGENT'S BEACH
 Sept. 8, 1962

Reported by Margaret Anderson

Under the leadership of Leota Stilwell, 24 birders braved heavy rains to meet at Brazoria for our September field trip. Since fortune smiles on right-living people,

the rain stopped after we met and the rest of the trip was dry and hot. Our first stop was at San Barnard river, where numerous black vultures were seen circling. Another stop produced a white-eyed vireo singing his lovely song, and a red shouldered hawk. A pileated woodpecker was heard.

When we stopped again under the shade of a high bridge the cry was immediately heard "Let's eat!" So we enjoyed our lunch in the shade with a fine breeze blowing. Before leaving a caspian tern was sighted. A stop on a bridge over a marshy area revealed two green herons and a little farther on a field with 18 long billed curlews was spotted. Most of the curlews were taking their afternoon rest on the shade of a tree. A flycatcher was seen on the telephone wire. After long and careful study while the bird obligingly sat still, it was pronounced an olive sided flycatcher. When it flew the white tufts were distinctly seen. Two negro children on their front porch watched in open-mouthed wonder at a group of "grown-ups" looking so intently at a bird.

All day we had been looking for some of those "little birds with the yellow on them." Finally we were rewarded with one warbler, a northern waterthrush. The same marshy area had least, semipalmated, solitary and western sandpipers. When we reached the beach one brave soul, David Marrack, dared to tackle the rough waves. The rest of us were satisfied with seeing ruddy turnstones, laughing and ring billed gulls, and one seaside sparrow.

The return trip was highlighted by the beautiful sight of 160 cattle egret in one field. Many people were saying "This is the most I have ever seen at one time." While watching them a few members with sharp eyes also saw a pileated woodpecker. Other birds seen on the trip home were spoonbills, cormorants, anhingas, grebes, 1 ruddy duck, swainson's hawk and blue grosbeak. A total of 68 species were seen by Ralph Hunter, Thelma Smith, Jean and Bill Harwell, Eva and Clayton Gilman, Norma Oates, Margaret Anderson, Robert Anderson, Louise and Henry Hoffman, David Marrack, Ella Wolfer, Jimmy and Johnnye Murray, Pat and Jim Ellis, Jack Tomkins, Karen Morse, Mary Lois Kokesh, Mary Belle and Frank Kokesh, and Johanna Grabbe.

ZIG-ZAG BIRDING

by Linda Snyder

A few days after Labor Day Clint, Gene, and I took off on a much need short vacation. We headed toward Rockport to study the hummingbirds. Ruby-throateds and Rufous predominated in the Turks-cap there with some possible Broad-tails. On a later date, returning through Rockport, we did see an unusual hummingbird - a partial albino that was a pale gray or sand color - quite startling, but species unknown!

Then we zigged on over to Corpus to make good one of our main objectives, an overnight pelagic trip abroad a luxurious fishing boat. However, because of bad weather the trip was postponed until the next night, so we zagged on down to the Valley. Here, again, our luck was poor for we hit the White-winged Dove hunters who filled all the motels. Room was finally found in San Benito. We had the last laugh on the hunters who were complaining about the lack of doves, though, for at Santa Ana we found every bush and tree alive with White-wings that knew a refuge when they saw one. Our best bird and first lifer at Santa Ana was the Beardless Flycatcher. Other birds were typical of the Valley, but we did get a big thrill when we stirred up a flock of 15 Groove-billed Anis who called and posed for us nicely.

Car trouble prevented a desired trip to Bentsen so we zigged back to Corpus for another try at the boat. This time, despite the threatening weather, the trip was on and we waved goodbye to Gene. About 2:30 A.M. we waked up to find our boat ignominiously moored at Aransas Pass. After hitting the very rough Gulf, it had to turn back. We were unceremoniously returned to Corpus in the early morning sans pelagic experiences (i.e. birdwise).

By then we were ready for dry land so we zagged on over to Prade Ranch on the Frio River. Here we were able to forget about the recalcitrant sea and enjoy Edwards Plateau birding. The guest ranch is a working one comprising 10,000 acres of hills, valley and river canyon. Birdwise, it is famous for its Black Phoebes and Green Kingfishers. The Black Phoebes were handsome and easily noted along the fern-draped river canyons, but the Green Kingfisher eluded us, only showing himself to the fishermen, for three days and eight long trips up and down the river bottoms. Finally, he must have heard my exasperated sigh, "I give up", and thought it safe to present himself. What a

Saying goodbye to the delightful composite of charming host and hostess plus good birding in scenic surroundings, we zigged on back to Corpus for our third try at the pelagic trip. Under ideal weather conditions, we finally went to sea. But, let us say this - if you are thinking of a pelagic trip in September, forget it! We are convinced it is not a propitious time. Under ideal conditions and at deep blue water we saw nothing. We were envying the snapper fishermen aboard who were really having luck. Oh well, such are the vicissitudes of birding, so we zagged or sagged on home. For the ten days we had a trip list of 160 species. Some day we are going back to Corpus and board the Skipper K for another try at conquering the sea so we can fill in the vacant spots in this journal.

PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT

The fine feature article on the Black-capped Vireo by Fred S. Webster, Jr. in the August issue of AUDUBON FIELD NOTES!

[illegible]

Records are falling for many warblers not often seen in fall migration - namely, the Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Golden-winged and Bay-breasted. Also, there have been rare reports of Scarlet Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Whimbrel, plus earliest ever reports of Wilson's Phalarope, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, and White-fronted Goose.

September, 1962

Pied-billed Grebe - (3)8 "c"; (14-25)17, 21, 28, (I) 30 Cove AKM
 White Pelican - (10-100) most days Bayshore LS; (200) 21, (30-40) 28 Cove AKM;
 Olivaceous Cormorant - (NC) 8 "c"
 Anhinga - (NC) 8 "c"; (3) 17, 21 Cove AKM
 Cattle Egret - (160) 8 "c"; (22) 29 Galv. "B"; (15 - 200) most days Cove AKM
 Ibis, Wood - (11) 9 Freeman Rd. LH, HH; (25) 29 Lynchburg, Baytown Tunnel "B";
 (5) 25 Bayshore LS.
 White-faced - (250) Freeman Rd. LH, HH; (200) 23 Texas City "A";
 (20 - 150) most days Cove AKM
 White - (NC) 8 "c"; (20- 200) most days Cove AKM
 Roseate Spoonbill - (14) 2 Sheldon MEW, SGW; (NC) 8 "c"; (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (100+)
 Bayshore LS, CS; (1), (125) 21, (10) 28 Cove AKM
 White-fronted Goose - (7 earliest ever by 6 days) 21 Cove AKM

Duck, Mallard - (1) 1, 7, (2) 28 Cove AKM
Mottled - (30 - 300) most days Cove AKM
Pintail - (1) 1, 21, (7) 2, (5) 28 Cove AKM
Green-winged Teal - (2 - 5) 17, 21, 28 Cove AKM
Blue-winged Teal - (25) 2 Sheldon MEW, SGW; (200) 29 Sheldon & Galv. "B";
(200 - 600) 1, 7, 17, 21, 27 (1200) 28 Cove AKM
Am. Widgeon - (4) 28 Cove AKM
Shoveler - (8) 28 Cove AKM
Wood - (50) 1, (11) 2, (5) 17, (4) 20, (3) 21, (20) 28 Cove AKM
Ruddy - (1) 8 "C"
Black Vulture (30+) 6 Hwy 35 LS, CS; (NC) 8 "C"; (1 - 3) 21, 22, 28 Cove AKM
Hawk, Sharp-shinned - (1) 28, 29 Bayshore LS; (1) 30 Houston SGW
Cooper's - (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
Red-tailed - (1) 8 "C"; (1) 9 Freeman Rd LH, HH; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
Broad-winged - (1) 3 Fondren Rd. MA, RA; (2000 north of Baytown) 18 AKM
(100+) 21 over yard LH, HH; (100+) 24 Spring Valley JH
Swainson's - (1) 8 "C"
White-tailed - (3) 23 Ellington "A"
Marsh Hawk - (1) 18 Bayshore LS; (2) 23 Texas City & Galv. "A";
(1) 2, 3, 28, 30, (2) 21 Cove AKM
Osprey - (1) 21, 27, 30 Cove AKM; (1) 24 Wolf's Reservoir JB; (1) 25 Bayshore LS;
(1) 29 Sheldon "B"
Pigeon Hawk - (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (2) 29 Galv. "B"
Peregrine Falcon - (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
Sparrow Hawk - (1) 3 Fondren Rd. MA, RA; (1 - 7) daily since 4 Cove AKM; (1) 18 Houston
BH, 30 Spring Valley JH; (1) 20, (3) 24 Bayshore LS; (2) 23 Texas City
& Galv. "A"
King Rail - (1) 1, 25, (3) 27 Cove AKM
Clapper Rail - (1) 20 in our marsh LS.
Virginia Rail - (1) 23 Galv. "A".
Common Snipe - (1) 7, (4) 20, (2) 28 Cove AKM; (3) 9 Freeman Rd. LH, HH.
Long-billed Curlew - (18) 8 "C".
Upland Plover - (2) 1, (4) 2, (6) 7 Cove AKM; (1) 8 Anahuac SGW; (1) 29 LaMarque "B".
Spotted Sandpiper - (1 - 2) daily Bayshore LS; (1 - 3) daily Cove AKM.
Solitary Sandpiper - (1) 1, 11, 27, (2) 21 Cove AKM; (NC) 8 "C"; (1) 9 Freeman Rd.
LH, HH; (5) 23 Galv. "A"; (2) 29 Sheldon & Galv. "B".
Greater Yellowlegs - (5) 1, (1) 8, 9, (2) 21 Cove AKM.
Lesser Yellowlegs - (1 - 50) most days Cove AKM; (NC) 8 "C"; (1) 9 Freeman Rd. LH, HH.
Knot - (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (20) 29 Galv. "B".
Pectoral Sandpiper - (50) 1, (2) 7, (1) 21 Cove AKM.
Least Sandpiper - (NC) 1, 7, 17, 20, 21, 28 Cove AKM; (2) 8 "C"; (25) 23 Galv. "A";
(1) 29 Galv. "B".
Dowitcher species - (200) 1, (50) 7, (40) 20, (2 - 15) 17, 21, 28, 30 Cove AKM;
(50+) 27 Bayshore LS.
Stilt Sandpiper - (10) 1, (3) 17, (1) 21, (10) 30 Cove AKM.
Semipalmated Sandpiper - (NC) 8 "C"; (4) 29 San Jacinto & Galv. "B".
Western Sandpiper - (NC) 21 Cove AKM; (300) 29 Sheldon "B".
Buff-breasted Sandpiper - (25) 1, (40) 2, (25) 7, (3) 27 Cove AKM; (8) 29 Galv. "B".
Marbled Godwit - (1) 23, 29 Galv. "A", "B".
Sanderling - (NC) 8 "C".
American Avocet - (4) 2 San Jacinto MEW, SGW; (1) 29 Galv. "B"; (300) 27 Bayshore LS.
Tern, Common - (20) 23 Galv. "A"; (15) 29 Galv. "B".
Sandwich - (15) 23 Galv. "A".
Inca Dove - (1) 7, 9, 10, 14, 15, 22 Spring Valley JH; (1) 29 Galv. "B"
Yellow-billed Cuckoo - (1) 2 Sheldon MEW, SGW; (1) 6, 7 Spring Valley JH; (1) 25 Houston EWM
Barn Owl - (1) 30 Fondren Rd. LH, HH
Great Horned Owl - (1) 7 days Cove AKM
Barred Owl - (1) 3 Fondren Rd. MA, RA; (1) 29 Galv. "B"
Chuck-will's-widow - (1 - 8) most days Cove AKM
Whip-poor-will - (1) 21, 27 Cove AKM
Hummingbird, Ruby-thr.- (2-8) daily Bayshore LS; (1-6) daily Cove AKM; (2) daily
Houston LH, HH; (25) 3 Fondren Rd. MA, RA; (11) 8 Houston SGW;
(NC) 8 "C"; (1) 25 Houston EWM
Rufous - (1) 30 Bayshore LS
Belted Kingfisher - (1) most days Cove AKM; (1) 5 Houston SGW; (NC) 8 "C";
(1) 24, 27, 29, 30 Bayshore LS
Yellow-shafted Flicker - (1) 26, 30 Houston LH, HH; (1) 28 thence daily Bayshore LS;
(1) 28, 29 Spring Valley JH; (1) 28, 29 Cove AKM; (1) 30 Old River JB

- Woodpecker, Piliated - (2) 8 "C"; (1) 8,30 Cove AKM; (1) 28-30 in yard LH, HH
 Red-headed - (1) 8 "C"; (1) 21 Cove AKM
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - (1) 28 in yard LH, HH; (1) 29 Sheldon "B" (1) 28 Spring Valley BH 28 earliest ever
 Kingbird, Eastern - (50) 1, (3-11) 2, 17, 20, 21 (20) 28 Cove AKM; (NC) 8 "C"; (2) 20 Jones Rd. BH; (2) 23 Galv. "A"; (3) 27 Bayshore LS
 Western - (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (1) 27 Cove AKM; (1) 29 Galv. "B"
 Grt. Cr. Flycatcher - (1) daily Houston LH, HH; (1-2) 2, 10, 20, 21 Cove AKM; (3) 7 (1) 20 Houston BH; (3) 22 Houston SGW; (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (2) 26 Bayshore LS
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bell. - (1) 7 Cove AKM
 Empidonax - (1-9) most days Cove AKM; (1) 7,15 Spring Valley BH; (1) 8 "C"; (1) 27 Houston EWM
 Olive-sid. - (1-2) 6,7-9 Spring Valley JH, BH; (1) 8 "C"; (1-2) 11,12,21,27 Cove AKM
 Wood Peewee - (1-13) most days Cove AKM; (1-2) 3,6,9,30 Spring Valley JH,BH; (1) 20 in yard LH,HH; (2) 23 Galv. "A"; (3) 27 Bayshore LS; (1) 27 Houston EWM; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Horned Lark - (12) 29 Galv. "B"
 Swallow, Tree - (NC) 8 "C"
 Barn - (NC) most days Bayshore LS; (NC) 8 "C"
 Cliff - (NC) 9 days Cove AKM
 Purple Martin - (300) 8 Houston moving before cool front in 10 min. period, (1) 22 Houston SGW
 Fish Crow - (8) in a flock 11-13 south of Dayton AKM
 Brown-head. Nuthatch - (1-4) daily in yard LH,HH; (1) 9 Houston SGW; (1) 20 Jones Rd. BH; (1) 21 Cove AKM
 House Wren - (1) 29 Galv. "B"
 Catbird - (1) 20,27-29 Bayshore LS; (1-5) 21,28,30,(20) 27 Cove AKM; (1) 29 Galv. "B"; (11) 30 Houston LH,HH
 Brown Thrasher - (1) 20,(4) 24,(12) 27,(8) 28-30 Bayshore LS; (1) 20,(6) 30 Houston LH,HH; (1-2) 20,29,30 Spring Valley JH,BH; (16) 21, (2) 24, (50+) 27-30 Cove AKM; (50) 29 Sheldon to Galv. "B"
 E. Bluebird - (8) 30 Memorial Pk. LH, HH
 Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher - (2-5) daily Bayshore LS; (100) 3 Fondren Rd. MA, RA; (1-4) 3,6,15,20,(20) 29 Spring Valley JH,BH; (NC) 8 "C"
 Starling - (7) 1, (15) 2 (30) 21 Cove AKM
 Vireo, White-eyed - (1) 8 "C"; (1) 20 Jones Rd. BH; (1) 27,28 Bayshore LS; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"; (1) 30 Memorial Pk. LH,HH
 Bell's - (1) 21 Cove AKM
 Yellow-thr. - (1) 9 Old River JB
 Red-eyed - (1) 3,5,20 Old River JB; (2) 27 Bayshore LS; (3) 27 Cove AKM; (1) 29 Galv. "B"
 Warbling - (1) 21, (2) 27 Cove AKM; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Warbler, Blk. and Wh. - (1) 14 in yard LH, HH; (5) 21, (10) 27 Cove AKM; (3) 27 Bayshore LS; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Prothonotary - (1) 1 Cove AKM
 Worm-eating - (1) 3 Fondren Rd MA, RA; (1) 27 Cove AKM
 Golden-wing. - (1) 27 Cove AKM
 Blue-wing. - (1) 22 in yard LH,HH; (1) 27 Cove AKM
 Nashville - (1) 12 in yard LH,HH; (1) 20 Bayshore LS; (10) 27 Cove AKM
 Warbler, Parula - (2) 21,27 Cove AKM; (1) 27 Bayshore LS; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Yellow - (1-3) 1,2,6,21,(6) 7 Cove AKM; (8) 3 Fondren Rd. MA, RA; (1) 17 Bayshore LS; (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (2) 29 Galv. "B"
 Magnolia - (1) 21, (2) 27 Cove AKM
 Blk.-thr. Green- (5) 27 Cove AKM
 Blackburnian - (1) 23 Galv. "A"
 Yellow-thr'd - (1) 1 Bayshore LS; (1) 15 Spring Valley JH,BH; (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (1) 28 in yard LH,HH; (1) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Chestnut-sided - (1) 27 Cove AKM
 Pine - (3) not migrants 21 Cove AKM; (1) 27 in yard LH,HH
 Prairie - (1) 6 Cove AKM; (1) 16 Bayshore LS
 Ovenbird - (1) 27 Cove AKM
 N. Waterthrush - (1) 8 "C"; (1) 21 Cove AKM
 Kentucky - (1) 5 Old River JB; (1) 21 Cove AKM; (1) 27 Houston EWM
 Mourning - (2) 7, (1) 21 Cove AKM
 Yellowthroat - (1) 21,28, (2) 27 Cove AKM
 Yellow-br.Chat.- (1) 2,6,11 (7) 21, (4) 27 Cove AKM; (1) 2,9 Spring Valley JH,BH; (1) 3 Fondren Rd. MA,RA; (1) 9,12 in yard LH,HH; (1) 17 Bayshore LS

Warbler, Hooded - (1) 11 Cove AKM; (1) 23 Galv. "A"
 Wilson's - (10) 27 Cove AKM; (1) 29 Galv. "B"; (1) 29 Spring Valley BH
 Canada - (16) 3 Fondren Rd. MA,RA; (2) 4 Old River JB; (2) 7, (1) 11,27 Cove AKM;
 (1) 27 Bayshore LS; (1) 29 Galv. "B"
 Amer. Redstart - (3) 3 Fondren Rd. MA,RA; (2) 3,(1) 30 Old River JB; (1) 21,27
 Cove AKM; (1) 22 Houston MEW,SGW; (2) 27 Bayshore LS; (1) 30 Memorial PK.
 LH,HH
 Orchard Oriole - (10) 1, (50) 2,(1) 8 Cove AKM
 Baltimore Oriole - (3) 2 Lynchburg MEW,SGW; (2) 3 Old River JB; (1-4) most days Cove AKM;
 (1) 19,30 Houston LH,HH; (1) 23 Galv. "A"; (3) 27 Houston EWM
 Summer Tanager - (1) 8 "C"; (1-4) 14,15,19,22,27 in yard LH,HH; (2) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Rose-br. Grosbeak - (1) 3 Fondren Rd. MA,RA
 Blue Grosbeak - (1) 8 "C"; (1) 17, (5) 21, (4) 22 Cove AKM; (3) 19 Old River JB;
 (1) 30 Fondren Rd. LH,HH
 Indigo Bunting - (1) 21, (5) 27 Cove AKM; (1-2) 27,29 Bayshore LS; (10) 29 Sheldon "B"
 Painted Bunting - (last) 2 Cove AKM
 Dickcissel - (100) 9 Freeman Rd., (1) 12,14 in yard LH,HH; (18) 18, (9) 21 Cove AKM
 Seaside Sparrow - (1) 8 "C"; (1) 21 Cove AKM; (6) 23 Highland Bayou "A"
 Lark Sparrow - (1) 18, (3) 27 Cove AKM

CREDITS

Party "A"- Bob and Mabel Deshayes
 Jim and Pat Ellis
 Vic Emanuel
 Jerry and Nancy Strickling
 Noel Pettingell
 Henry and Louise Hoffman
 Steve and Mary Ellen Williams

"B"- Jim Ellis, Noel Pettingell
 Steve Williams

"C"- OG Field Trip



MA - Margaret Anderson
 RA - Robert Anderson
 JB - Jonell Buckels
 BH - Bill Harwell
 JH - Jean Harwell
 LH - Louise Hoffman
 HH - Henry Hoffman
 AKM - Arlie K. McKay
 EWM - Edna W. Miner
 LS - Linda Snyder
 CS - Clint Snyder
 MEW - Mary Ellen Williams
 SGW - Steve G. Williams

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