



THE SPOONBILL

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

NEW NAMES FOR OLD BIRDS - Dr. Kent Rylander

This is reprinted from the SCISSORTAIL of the Lubbock Audubon Society:

Perhaps everyone does not appreciate how arbitrary ornithologists must be when they assign "official" names to birds. Yet few birders would question the necessity of having uniform names for birds; without some form of standardization, the birdwatching business would sink into utter chaos. For instance, the early settlers of our country gave more than a hundred local names to the flicker. Someone had to arbitrarily choose one of these names as the standard name to be used in bird books.

So late in the last century a group of prominent ornithologists appointed a committee to standardize North American bird names. Although the membership of the committee changes with deaths and reappointments, it has been meeting periodically for years to carefully consider necessary name changes for our birds. The committee is under the authority of the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.), and is so influential that virtually every North American bird book conforms to its names even though some ornithologists may not personally agree with the committee's decisions. Thus we can all understand each other when we talk about a particular bird.

The question naturally arises as to why the name of a bird should ever change after it was given its official name years ago. Most of the names do not change, and if you compare the names in a contemporary book with those in a book written in 1900, the majority will be identical. But for rather complex and technical biological reasons, a bird that previously was considered a separate species may now be considered merely a different form of another species. Determining just which species are "good" species and which are merely variations of the same species (called "subspecies") is no easy matter. Research is constantly in progress to answer these questions and as the results are analyzed, the A.O.U. committee carefully considers them and accordingly makes appropriate changes in the bird names.

In April, a number of such changes appeared in the official publication of the A.O.U., THE AUK. In the future bird books will incorporate these new names. Also, the official Christmas count names will conform to the new decisions.

This is not to say that we can't recognize the subspecies on field trips, for some of them are quite easily identified. It just means that as far as the official species names are concerned, we should use the current names. Gradually the new names will become familiar and future generations of birdwatchers will find the name "Upland Plover" (now the Upland Sandpiper) as strange-sounding as we find the name "Missouri Skylark" (now the Water Pipit) even today.

NEW AOU CHANGES - by Dan Hardy

The following changes are only the ones that will affect the Upper Texas Coast situation. Beginning with the September SPOONBILL birds submitted to the Clearing House should conform to these changes. For the first several months the "old" name will be included after the

"new" name. Example:

Great Egret(Common Egret): (4)9, Galveston, RMN.
Yellow-rumped Warbler(Myrtle Warbler): (7)2, Galv, RMN.

It may be useful to distinguish between some subspecies and if used will read as follows:

Northern Oriole(Baltimore Oriole): (1)1 Galv, RMN.
(Bullock's Oriole): (1)3, Galv, RMN.

I. Specific Changes(summarized from The Auk 90: 411-419, April, 1973)

A.lumped-this word is used to cover several cases, e.g.,
where two species are conspecific, where they are
color phases, etc.

B.underline-this is the official name

- (1) Great White Heron is lumped with Great Blue Heron.
- (2) Blue Goose is lumped with Snow Goose.
- (3) Common Teal is lumped with Green-winged Teal.
- (4) Harlan's Hawk is lumped with Red-tailed Hawk.
- (5) Yellow-shafted, Red-shafted, and Gilded Flickers are lumped and now called Common Flicker.
- (6) Traill's Flycatcher is split into Willow Flycatcher and Alder Flycatcher.
- (7) Myrtle and Audubon's Warblers are lumped and now called Yellow-rumped Warbler.
- (8) Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles are lumped and now called Northern Oriole.
- (9) Boat-tailed Grackle is split into Great-tailed Grackle and Boat-tailed Grackle.
- (10) Slate-colored and Oregon Juncos are lumped and now called Dark-eyed Junco.

II. Name Changes (in order to conform to world-wide system of nomenclature)

<u>Old Name</u>	<u>New Name</u>
Common Egret.....	Great Egret
Wood Ibis.....	Wood Stork
Widgeon.....	Wigeon (spelling change)
Shoveler.....	Northern Shoveler
Common Scoter.....	Black Scoter
Pigeon Hawk.....	Merlin
Sparrow Hawk.....	American Kestrel
Upland Plover.....	Upland Sandpiper
Knot.....	Red Knot
Catbird.....	Gray Catbird
Parula Warbler.....	Northern Parula Warbler
Olive-backed Warbler....	Tropical Parula Warbler
Yellowthroat.....	Common Yellowthroat

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, AUGUST 2, 1973

Marilyn Crane, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:45 P.M.

Motion was properly made, seconded and carried that the reading of the Minutes of the May meeting be dispensed with, the Minutes having been printed in the June issue of THE SPOONBILL.

The Treasurer's Report, May 31 to July 31, 1973, was accepted as read. Receipts were \$248.51, expenditures were \$230.04, and balance on hand was \$517.80.

Following an explanation by Melba Drake, it was properly moved, seconded and carried that the Ornithology Group purchase at a discounted rate 10 copies of "Birder's Life List and Diary Supplement," a new way of recording "lifers," to be sold at the regular price, with the profit going to our Treasury.

Welcomed back to Group Meetings were the Gillettes, recently returned from Belgium. Also extended a warm welcome were our two guests for the evening.

On behalf of the Group, our Chairman extended a vote of thanks to Maxine Davis, Laura Greenbaum and Margaret Jones, whose combined efforts produced our 1973-74 Roster two months ahead of schedule and at a very low price. The trio received a round of applause from those present, all of whom received their copies before the meeting.

Dr. Frank C. Shu, Slide Librarian, showed 10 slides of North American birds and 10 of other world birds, asking us to write down our identifications in a given length of time. Two viewers correctly identified 14 of the 20 birds, the highest scores attained. Dr. Hsu announced that he was cataloging our slides. They will be made available to members giving talks to our own people or to outsiders. All duplicate slides will be offered for sale in the near future. Photographers who have duplicate slides of their own and who are going to throw them away are requested to throw them our way.

Leota Stillwell reported that three additional books were donated to the Group. She is making up a list of the books in our library, which will be published in THE SPOONBILL. In addition, she will try to bring to our meetings several of the smaller books for our members to glance through.

Paul Nimmons announced that he and his wife had volunteered to teach a course on bird appreciation to a "Y" Group. Anyone having a course outline on the subject was invited to get in touch with him, as it would be of great help.

Those present were canvassed by Mr. Nimmons to find out how much interest there was in a week-long trip, possibly early in June 1974, to southeastern Arizona. Harry Brister has volunteered to lead the trip if plans can be worked out. The group would stay at the Research station at Portal, Arizona. Currently it is estimated that the trip would cost \$125 plus buying a few meals. Reservations would be taken on a first come, first serve basis when plans are finalized. The trip would be offered first to interested OG members, then to ONC members, then to Audubon, and last to friends.

Mr. Nimmons also reported on the status of the bird survey of Armand Bayou. He said OG would probably continue the study through the coming year and anyone interested in participating was asked to get in touch with him or Mrs. Nimmons.

Margaret Anderson pointed out that the "Hummers" are back, and the way to keep them here through the winter is to put out feeders now.

Following a discussion it was agreed that we would use the new names for birds, followed by the old name in parentheses, until the 6th Edition of the AOU Checklist comes out.

Mention was made of the notice of our August Meeting, which appeared in THE HOUSTON POST a week prior to the date of the Meeting - evidence that we are getting some publicity for our activities.

Miss Crane reported that Johanna Grabbe and Gladys Galbreath provided and supervised the OG exhibit at Fonde Recreation Center's Open House and Craft Show on May 24. A suggestion was made that at future exhibits it might be helpful to have on hand a few copies of THE SPOONBILL to pass along to people who evidence an interest in our display. Our appreciation for their work was extended to Miss Galbreath and Miss Grabbe.

Mr. Bill Mealy gave an encouraging report on the status of the Big Thicket. He had attended the hearings in Washington, D.C. He said

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that at long last it looks like we will get some kind of park. Meanwhile, he is preparing a complete bird list of the area, the first since 1936, and would like to have our records of that area from here to the Sabine and north of Beaumont, including the Little Thicket. He also mentioned that another Big Thicket Pilgrimage is planned.

Marilyn Crane reported that Dr. W. Rydzewski, Laboratory of Ornithology, Warsaw, Poland, had requested to be placed on the mailing list for THE SPOONBILL, and thanked us for the copy previously sent him. The Group was pleased to consent to the request.

A program on Bird Art was then presented by Mr. Bill Mealy. He first reminded us what we would be up against if we had no pictures or photographs of birds with which to compare our visual observations for identification purposes. He gave us a brief rundown on European and American artists, particularly Audubon, whose works have made our hobby so much easier. Examples of different printing processes were shown and explained, beginning with watercolors and including the most modern techniques. He invited us to examine the prints, photographs, and books which were on display and extended an invitation to go through his even more extensive collection at home.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 P.M. Respectfully submitted, Louise Rogers.

THE 73rd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT - 1972

The April, 1973 issue of "American Birds" has been distributed. It is a big thick book of statistics about the 73rd annual Christmas Bird Count. These statistics are important data for the use of students and ornithologists in making studies of avian populations and habits. They will be used also in the National Audubon Society's Early Winter Range Mapping Project. This publication is a monumental task for the editors. I'm sure that Editor Robert S. Arbib, Jr.; his Christmas Bird Count Editor, Lois Heilbrun; and the 24 Regional Editors are pleased to have it accomplished for another year. Dr. Keith Arnold of Texas A&M University served as regional editor for Texas. All are to be congratulated for their efforts and excellent publication. Now, they can look forward to another deluge of compilations next January from those of us who have the fun of going out and gathering the statistics.

For those of you who like statistics here are some summaries of the more prominent ones:

Total number of species reported in Canada and the U.S. - traditional area for the Christmas Bird Counts: 581 (2 less than the 1971 Count.) Mexico and Central America are now included in the counts and this year came up with 330 species.

Counts reporting greatest number of species: Freeport, Texas, and Cocoa, Florida, with 209. Forty-three counts reported more than 150 species. Of these California led with 16 counts, followed by Texas and Florida with 7 each. Leading Texas Counts were Freeport, 209; Corpus Christi, 184; Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, 175; Welder Wildlife Refuge, 171; Corpus Christi-Flour Bluff, 166; Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge, 166; and Houston, 158.

California had 60 counts to be leader in number of counts conducted, then Texas with 54 and New York with 52.

The total paid-in participation was 20,373, but due to the many observers participating in more than one count, the editors of "American Birds" estimate that about 15,000 persons were involved. The 54 Texas counts had 887 participants who paid their dollar, and our Houston count was done by 59 observers.

In the summary of the highest counts of individual birds for Canada and the U.S., Coot Bay, Florida, was high with 28, followed by Freeport, Texas, with 17. California led the states with 109 high individual counts, then came Florida with 107. Texas recorded 94. Our Houston count had the following high individual counts: Black-crowned Night Heron, 260; Eastern Wood Pewee, 1 (shared with La Sol Vieja); and Black-headed Grosbeak, 1 (shared with Welder Wildlife Refuge). Other interesting high individual counts: Common Grackle, 2,800,000 at Little Rock, Arkansas, and Brown-headed Cowbird, 602,842 at College Station, Texas!

After reading a lot of these statistics in "American Birds" it becomes apparent that it is much more exciting to be a Christmas Bird Count observer than to read about the observations.

The 74th annual Christmas Bird Count will be conducted during the period of Saturday, December 15, 1973, through Tuesday, January 1, 1974..

- T. Paul Jones, OG Chairman, Houston Christmas Bird Count, 1972.

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP LIBRARY

Leota Stilwell, Librarian, reports the following books in our library; if you are interested in borrowing any of them, contact her at 668-8671.

Audubon, John James. The Birds of America. 1965 New York. The Macmillan Company.

Bent, Arthur Cleveland. Life Histories of North American Wood Warblers. United States National Museum Bulletin 303.

Darling, Lois and Louis. Bird. Illustrated by the Authors. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Ford, Alice, Ed. Audubon, By Himself. 1969. Garden City, New York. The American Museum of Natural History.

Hamlyn, Paul. Birds Birds Birds. 1965 Westbrook House. London.

Hunter, Ralph E. and Dickinson, Kendall A. Map Showing Landforms and Sedimentary Deposits of the Padre Island Portion of the South Bird Island 7.5 - minute Quadrangle, Texas. 1970, Washington, D.C. Department of the Interior.

Jehl, Joseph R., Jr., and Smith, Blanche A. Birds of the Churchill Region, Manitoba. Special Publication Number 1, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature. Winnipeg, Manitoba. June 1970.

Kessel, B., Weaden, R.B., and West, G.C. Birdfinding in Interior and Southcentral Alaska. 1966. Alaska Conservation Society. Commercial Printing Co., Inc.

Murie, Adolph. Birds of Mount McKinley Alaska. 1963. San Francisco. Pisani Printing Company.

Pearson, T. Gilbert, Ed. Birds of America. 1936. Garden City Publishing Co., Inc. Garden City, New York. (two copies)

Peterson, Roger Tory. A Field Guide to the Birds - Giving Field Marks of All Species Found East of the Rockies, Second Revised and Enlarged Edition. 1964. Boston. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Peterson, Roger Tory. The Birds. 1963. New York. Time Incorporated.

Peterson, Roger Tory. Field Guide to Western Birds. 1941. Boston. Houghton Mifflin Company.

Reilly, Edgar M., Jr. The Audubon Illustrated Handbook of American Birds. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Editor. 1968. McGraw-Hill Book Company. New York.

WELCOME TO NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Mrs. John H. Yochem, 354 Williamson, Corpus Christi, Texas 78411
Mrs. Carl Strand, 13119 Hermitage, Houston, Texas 77024
Rev. Edward Triem, 9325 Bertwood, Houston, Texas 77016

CLEARING HOUSE, JULY, 1973

Robin - (1)16, 3700 block of Darcus, Laura & Irv Greenbaum
THRUSH, SWAINSON'S - (1)June 30, yard - Mike Braun - "This bird was in a well-wooded residential section of SE Houston. It had a gray back

and tail, buffy cheeks, and spotted breast. The eye ring was inconspicuous. It moved back and forth on an exposed limb giving exposure to all marks for about one minute at 100 feet.
7X35 binoculars."

Yellowthroat - (2 pair)20, (NC)24,25,29,31-SE Houston-Noel Pettingell

Purple Martins gather for the night at Morningside and University beginning about 7 P.M. There have been reports of 1,000 to 5,000.

DON'T TELL THE (BALTIMORE) ORIOLES - by Lee Flor - from THE SUNDAY STAR and DAILY NEWS, Washington, D.C., June 17, 1973

The Baltimore Oriole, long cherished as Maryland's state bird and more recently as the symbol of Baltimore's baseball team, apparently is about to vanish, from a semantic point of view. The threat comes not from pesticides or misguided hunters, but from a proposed stroke of a pen which may eliminate the time-honored link between Baltimore and oriole. Instead, the species name would be replaced with, of all things, the Northern Oriole. This may be the unkindest cut of all, since Maryland lies south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Could a bird known as the Northern Oriole actually replace the Baltimore Oriole in the heart of Marylanders? A minor mistake when the birds first were classified may actually have misled Marylanders all these years into considering the bird their very own. The Baltimore Oriole first was classified as a separate species by the Swedish taxonomist Carolus Linnaeus in the 1700's. Later, the Baltimore Oriole was chosen to be Maryland's official bird because its brilliant orange and black markings were the colors of Lord Baltimore, the founder of Maryland.

The Maryland General Assembly in 1882 passed laws giving the Baltimore Oriole special protection, and in 1947 the legislators officially named the Oriole the state bird. But alert birdwatchers and scientists in the last few years have uncovered data which indicates the Baltimore Oriole really isn't, in a genetic sense, a separate species. Linnaeus in his classification identified another Oriole with orange and black coloring as the Bullock's Oriole. Roughly speaking, the Bullock Oriole lives west of the 100th meridian, the Baltimore east.

While the males of the two species had quite different markings, the females were almost identical. Birdwatchers found that the males of each kind would mate with the females of the other kind, which simply isn't done among birds of different species. Dr. Richard C. Banks, a Smithsonian Institution official, said that where both kinds of Oriole were found, the males and females interbred, and the mixed offspring carried different markings. Sometimes there were as many as 10 variations.

The American Ornithologists Union publishes an official check list of birds and has a committee which works on classification. This committee has announced that the Bullock's Oriole and the Baltimore Oriole scientifically are not entitled to separate designations. Dr. Banks, who is also secretary of the AOU, explained "It wouldn't be fair, when combining two species, to give the new species one of the names of the two old species. That is why the committee selected a completely new name." The Oriole spends its winters in Central or South America and in the summer nests from Georgia to Canada. Because the bird is the northernmost Oriole, the committee chose the new designation of the Northern Oriole.

HEAVY RAINS HELP, HURT COASTAL WILDLIFE

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife News the heavy rains and consequent flooding of nesting sites on the Coastal Plain has caused a reduction in the numbers of Bobwhite and Mourning Dove. Both these species have a tendency to renest if disturbed while laying eggs, say Texas Parks and Wildlife biologists. In late July Bobwhite were reported nesting and a good hatch is expected. Evidence indicates Mourning Doves have renested and conditions are favorable for a good hatch for this species.

Wildfowl biologist C. D. Stutzenbaker of Port Arthur reported that Mottled Ducks had overcome the problem of flooded nests. He said, "They renest like Quail. One Mottled Duck hen laid 56 eggs in five clutches before hatching nine ducklings."

Unfortunately, Attwater's Prairie Chicken have suffered greatly from the flooding. The breeding season of these birds is limited to a 60 day period in April and May, and they have not been able to recover from the losses due to heavy rainfall during that period this year, according to biologist Bill Brownlee of Victoria. He says that a census of nine coastal counties showed a 1973 season hatch of less than one young per adult. This is probably not enough to offset normal adult mortality.

HENSLOW'S SPARROWS - by Mike Braun

On the upper Texas Coast, Henslow's Sparrow is often a difficult bird to add to a life list. I was understandably elated, therefore, to find one near my home, perching on a dry reed in full view and singing! It had an olive green head, reddish brown back and a short tail. It was streaked on the upper breast and sides. Considering the lateness of the date (April 8) and the fact that the bird was singing, the idea soon came up that the birds might be breeding. Armed with an earful of recordings of the song, Dan Hardy and I returned on April 22 to check it out. Indeed, the birds proved to be present in good numbers. So the stage was set for a long spring and summer of wading through six inches of water when it had rained recently and three to six feet of grass when it had not.

Except for periods between June 16 and June 30 and July 7 and July 20 the birds were observed at least once weekly during the summer. They have sung all summer and were singing at the time of this writing (Aug. 12). They sing at all hours of the day and at least as late as 9:30 at night. Although most books describe the song as two-noted, I find it easier to describe as "si-chi-lick", three-noted, with the last two notes coming together. It is repeated 11-15 times a minute from the tops of grass stalks, sedges, bushes, and rarely, from the ground. The head is thrown back during each call. Also there is a high-pitched tip, used frequently as an alarm or warning note at the approach of observers.

Elusive at other times of the year, Henslow's Sparrow is not so during the breeding season. The singing birds sit boldly on bush tops and return to the same perch persistently after being flushed. The birds can frequently be spotted moving in the grass tops apparently in search of food. When flushed from the ground, they fly erratically with a swiveling motion of the tail.

In May, I tried to establish the size of the territories by tying colored ribbons in the grass near singing perches. The idea, of course, was to find the boundaries by finding the extreme perches that one bird used. After tying ribbons behind what I thought was the same bird for about one hour, I was somewhat frustrated to note another bird singing from a perch I had marked earlier. I was somewhat more frustrated when a third bird began singing from a third perch I had already marked. On this and later occasions, the birds seemed to neither respect nor defend any territories whatsoever. They seemed rather to form a loosely knit colony throughout the field.

The field is located in SE Harris County within Houston city limits. It is a natural prairie and has never been fenced or grazed by cattle in recent years. After rainy spells, it is 3 to 6 inches deep in water. Ditches have been put in recently to speed drainage. It is easily as large as a square mile and is cut roughly into thirds by two railroad spurs. The northern third is mowed for hay each year and apparently supports no Henslow's. The birds are most dense in the southern third in areas of grass interspersed with wax myrtle. Interesting also is a recent burn area in the southern area which the birds do inhabit. There are at least three hundred acres in which the birds have been heard singing. There are many more acres of marginal habitat which are not so heavily used by the Henslow's. A fairly thorough check of surrounding pastures has revealed no more sparrows.

An immature bird was finally seen on July 31 by Noel Pettingell. On August 9 I found three immatures. When I followed two adult birds to a spot in the grass, the immatures flushed with the adults. One adult

and the immatures flew to a stand of bushes where they allowed me to approach them. I was able to get good comparisons of plumages for about fifteen minutes while the adult nervously herded the immatures about this brush patch. The young birds had a buffy throat and upper breast. The face had the same dark markings as the adults, but the ground color was yellow instead of green. There was a hint of olive green on the hindneck and the back was reddish brown as in the adult.

On August 12, Dan Hardy, Noel Pettingell, Vic Emanuel, Ben Feltner, and I counted the birds in an area of about 180 acres from 7 to 11 AM. This 180 acres is a little more than half the area the colony covered. The totals follow:

1 Am. Bittern	3 Purple Martins
1 Marsh Hawk	5 Barn Swallows
1 Bobwhite	3 Mockingbirds
1 King Rail	2 Common Yellowthroats
2 Killdeer	18 Meadowlarks
1 Spotted Sandpiper	2 Redwinged Blackbirds
5 Solitary Sandpipers	17 Dickcissels
5 Mourning Doves	71 Henslow's Sparrows
3 Eastern Kingbirds	(9 immatures 62 Adults)
1 Scissortailed Flycatcher	Also of interest was a Coyote/Red Wolf

As may be seen, Henslow's Sparrows are at least three times as common as any other bird species in the area censured. However, the total counted may not be very near the actual total of the species in the 180 acres. Of the 62 adults seen between 45 and 50 were singing. If all the singing birds are males, that leaves room for a large number of females. This late in the summer it is not likely that all the males are still singing. Also young birds reared earlier in the summer may have left the area. It is therefore possible that the 71 birds seen represent a number little more than half the real total of birds within the 180 acres. There were two Marsh Hawk nests in the field earlier in the summer. One was destroyed by animals, the other raised four fledglings. The young Marsh Hawks left the field between June 30 and July 7.

Several good photographs of the adult Henslow's Sparrows have been taken by Greg Browning. We are still working on photographing the immatures.

The July and August sightings of immature birds combined with the intense singing all summer seem to indicate that Henslow's Sparrow has bred in substantial numbers on the upper Texas Coast. It is possible that this is a recent and perhaps temporary range extension. However, the birds have been recorded here once before in summer (Deer Park, May 27-July 27, 1952, Audubon Field Notes, Oct. 1952, P. 291.) Also, the type of field in which the colony lives is not unusual in the upper coast. Similar prairie lines IH 45 from Ellington A. F. Base southward. Coverage of these areas and other natural grasslands on the upper coast may prove to be an interesting project for next spring and summer.

NAMES FOR REFERENCE:

Chairman:	Miss Marilyn Crane, 3601 Allen Pky., #214, Houston 77019 522-6393
Treasurer:	Miss Melba Drake, 1746 Wroxtton Court, Houston 77005 522-8285
Spoonbill:	Mrs. Irving (Laura) Greenbaum, 5615 Portal Dr., Houston 77035 721-1310
Clearing-House:	Mr. Dan H. Hardy, 10215 Chatterton, Houston 77043 468-2748
Rare Bird Alert:	Mrs. L. W. (Margaret) Anderson, 2913 Amherst, Houston 77005 668-6405

COMING EVENTS

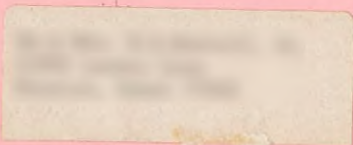
- Tuesday
September 4 Regular Photography Group Meeting - 7:30 P.M., Bayou Manor Auditorium. Mr. Fuad T. Saadeh will present a slide show entitled "A Close Look at Nature Through the Eye of the Macro Lens." Mr. Saadeh is a photographer of considerable ability, and this promises to be an excellent program.
- Saturday
September 15 ONC Field Trip. Meet at 10 A.M. at the east end of the Seawall in Galveston for a "Study of Coastal Plants" led by Mrs. Sue Hillard of Beaumont. Bring lunch, notebook, pencil, binoculars, camera, and suitable shoes for wet or dry weather.
- Saturday
September 15 Audubon Field Trip. Meet at 8:15 at "The Raven," the District Office of Sam Houston National Forest. The District Ranger will lead the trip: he will tell how the national forests are managed under the multi-use concept; he will also lead us to the habitat of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Bring lunch. To get there take IH 45 for 55 miles to the New Waverly exit, go west on FM 1375 for 2½ miles.
- Saturday
September 29 OG Field Trip. Steve Williams will lead a trip to East Galveston, Bolivar Flats, and High Island. Meet at the east end of the Galveston Seawall at 8 A. M. Bring lunch and insect repellent.
- Tuesday
October 2 Regular Photography Group meeting - 7:30 P. M., Bayou Manor Auditorium. Miss Dorothy Sorrells will present a slide show based on her recent tour of Russia. Remembering the quality of her previous shows is assurance enough that we have a good program in store.
- Thursday
October 4 Regular OG Meeting - 7:30 P.M., Downtown Recreation Center. Dr. Frank Hsu and Dr. Pat Sullivan will present a program on "African Birds", showing slides of birds of East Africa.
- Sunday
October 7 OG Field Trip. Ben Feltner will lead a field trip to an as yet unannounced locality. Details in the next SPOONBILL.
- Wednesday
October 3 ONC Nature and Wildlife film - 8 P.M. at the auditorium of Great Southern Insurance's Building on Buffalo Speedway. Mr. John N. Booth will narrate "Golden Kingdoms of the Orient", an extensive travelogue including Java, Borneo, Bali, and Sumatra.
- Sat. & Sun.,
Oct. 20 and 21 ONC Field Trip. Mrs. L. A. M. Barnette will lead the trip, "Beauties and Wildlife of the Colorado River," at Gorman Falls, San Saba County. (Near Bend, 15 mi. west of Lampasas.) The time and meeting place will be announced later. The Barnettes recommend this charming spot on the Colorado River. Beautiful scenery, interesting and unusual animals and birds, shells in the river bed, fossils in the rocks - there is something of special interest to members of all ONC Groups.

FROM THE WASHBURNS

Dan and Marian Washburn from Albuquerque, New Mexico, wrote the following to their many Houston friends: "Please give our best regards to all the folks we knew in OG and ONC. We speak of you-all often, and think of you oftener. 'Our nature group in Houston' has been the inspiration of several activities here, so you see--the little candle has cast its gleam a good many miles."

Aug 73

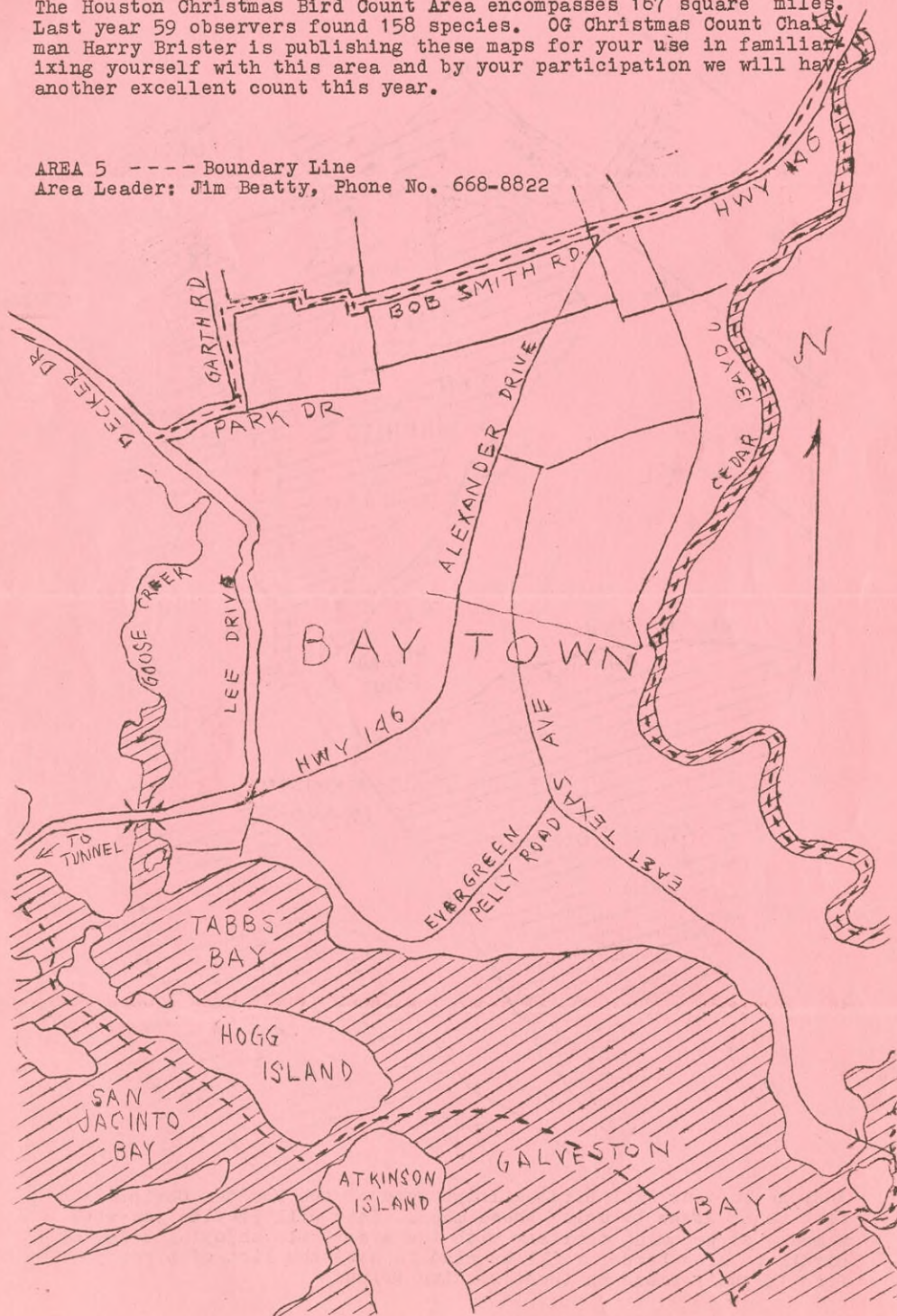
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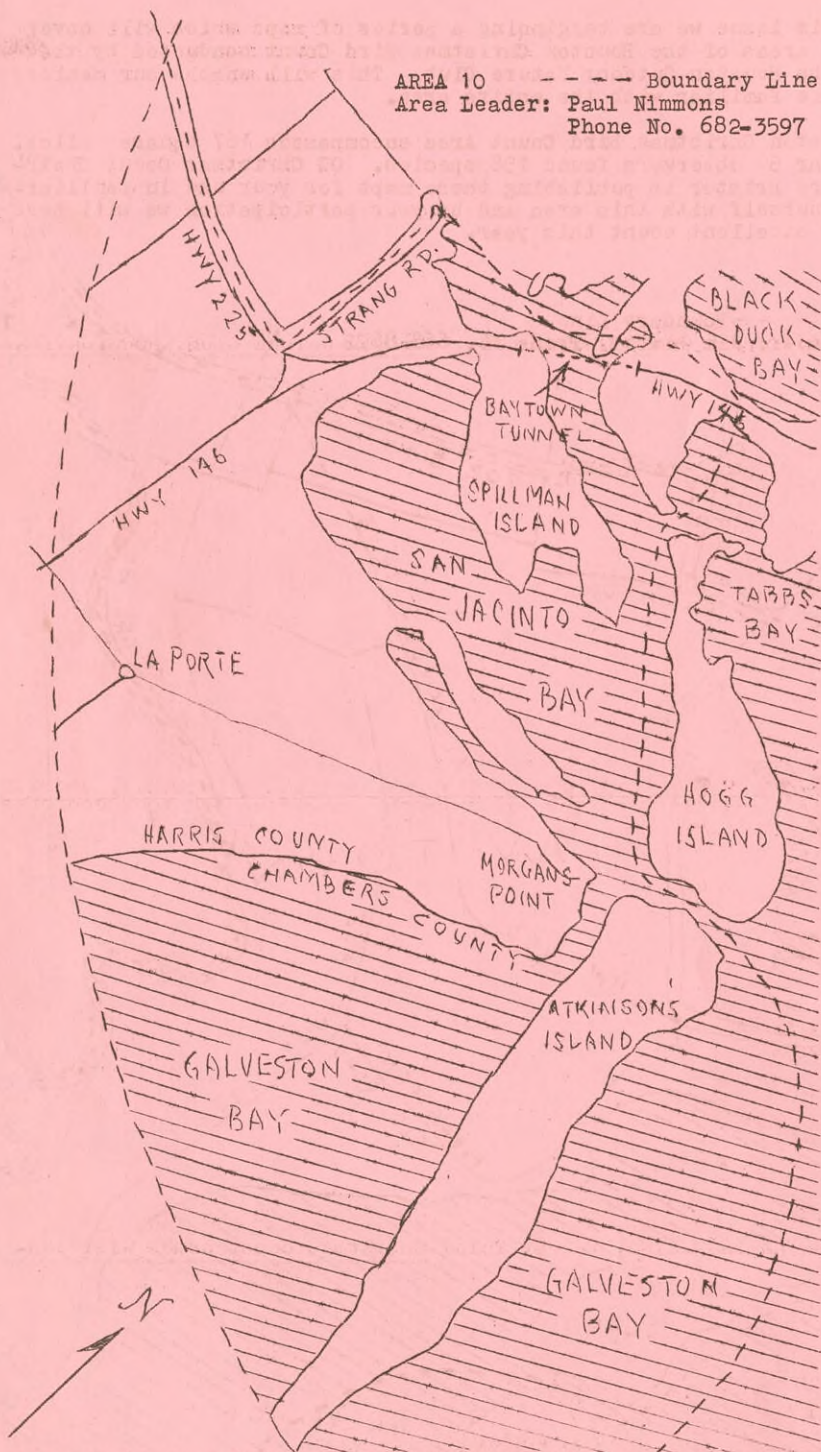
With this issue we are beginning a series of maps which will cover the ten areas of the Houston Christmas Bird Count conducted by the OG of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. This will enable our members to become familiar with the entire area.

The Houston Christmas Bird Count Area encompasses 167 square miles. Last year 59 observers found 158 species. OG Christmas Count Chairman Harry Brister is publishing these maps for your use in familiarizing yourself with this area and by your participation we will have another excellent count this year.

AREA 5 ---- Boundary Line
Area Leader: Jim Beatty, Phone No. 668-8822



AREA 10 - - - - Boundary Line
 Area Leader: Paul Nimmons
 Phone No. 682-3597



Include in your Fall Birding Trips some of the Houston Christmas Bird Count Areas by using these maps. This will provide you with a means of becoming familiar with the area while enjoying a day of birding. Area Leaders will be glad to have the list of birds you find in their areas on these birding trips.