



Volume 44, No. 12
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The Spoonbill

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Membership Meeting

"A Kenyan Birding Safari"

David Wolf

Date: January 8, 1996

Location: St. Philip's Methodist Church, 5501 Beechnut at Renwick

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Pre-meeting Learning Corner at 6:30 p.m. Don Richardson will conclude our series on identification of ducks and geese.

David Wolf is a senior member of the Victor Emanuel Nature Tours (VENT) staff and is one of their most experienced tour leaders in North America and the Neotropics. His interest in mammals of Africa led him to Kenya in 1975, where he spent over a year studying the birds and other wildlife of the African continent. He has wide-ranging interest in all aspects of natural history.

Kenya is one of David's favorite destinations. No where else can such a broad slice of the best of Africa be found in a small, accessible area, including an avifauna of more than 1100 species. Start the new year off right with a beautiful visit to Africa with David.

David lives on a small farm near Nacogdoches with his wife, artist Mimi Hoppe Wolf, their children, and assorted horses, dogs and cats.

JANUARY

Sunday, January 7: **"Beginners" OG Field Trip to West Harris County.** Meet at 7:30 a.m. in Bear Creek Park at the jogging trail parking lot. (From Houston take I-10 west to Hwy. 6. Turn north, then turn right or east on Clay Road. Continue past the golf course to the jogging trail parking lot.) Bring lunch. Leaders, Dave Bradford and P.D. Hulce, will help the beginning birder identify and find sparrows, waterfowl and raptors. *Bill Eley, 662-0034.*

Saturday, January 6: **High Island Work Day.** Meet at Boy Scout Woods anytime after 8:00 a.m. The big project will be cleaning up the trash around the cypress pond behind the motel. Bring gloves and wear old clothes. We'll plant some trees as well. Lunch is provided. *Winnie Burkett, 992-5640.*

Wednesday, January 10: **OG Weekday Field Trip to Barker Reservoir.** 9:00 a.m. Half-day trip with Winnie Burkett. Meet in parking lot near Diamond Shamrock gas station/ convenience store on the west side of Hwy. 6 at Briar Forest, south of I-10 west. Be prepared for wet and muddy walking. Over 10 species of sparrows are possible. *Tom Lewis, 497-2550.*

Thursday, January 11: **ONC Meeting.** Allen Fulenwider and Joseph Munguia will speak on Lake Houston State Park, its habitat and master plan. 7:00 p.m. Bayou Manor, 4141 S. Braeswood. *Bobbie Duryea 471-6309*

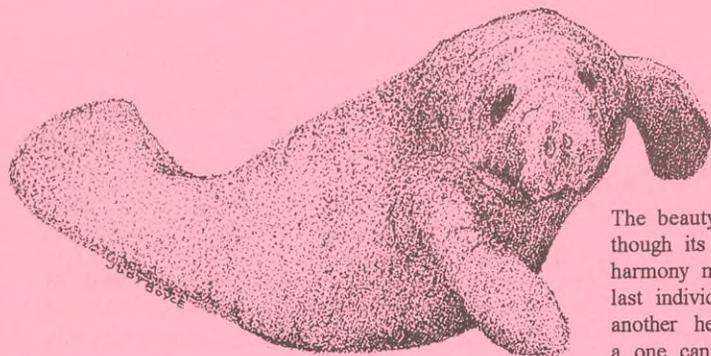
Saturday, January 27: **ONC Field Trip to Lake Houston State Park.** Leaders Marilyn Crane and park rangers. *Marilyn Crane, 360-2711.*

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 3: **OG "Youth" Field Trip to West Harris County.** Call to confirm details about the trip. *David Veselka, 692-1384.*

Monday, February 5: **OG Membership Meeting.** 7:00 p.m. St. Philip's United Methodist Church, 5501 Beechnut at Renwick. Program will be announced.

Saturday, February 10: **OG Field Trip to Attwater NWR.** Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the sign-in kiosk inside the refuge. Join David Veselka and Bill Eley to look for sparrows, waterfowl and raptors. Directions in next newsletter. *Bill Eley, 662-0034.*



One Man---One Manatee

The beauty and genius of a work of art may be reconceived, though its first material expression be destroyed; a vanished harmony may yet again inspire the composer; but when the last individual of a race of living beings breathes no more, another heaven and another earth must pass before such a one can be again. *From THE BIRD: ITS FORM AND FUNCTION, by C. William Beebe*

by Judy Boyce

Last night he called a radio talk show about the manatee recently removed from Buffalo Bayou. Tight-lipped, through audibly clenched teeth, he wondered why the manatee had to be hauled from the bayou. "WHO authorized this?" he asked. "Why do we have to pay for this? Why couldn't *they* just leave it there? *They're* using taxpayer's money to put it in a truck, to feed and haul it to San Antonio. *They*, the US Fish and Game [sic] are spending my money," he snarled. Dumbfounded, I wondered if he had seen the manatee. Did he know anything about this vulnerable creature? And if he knew all this, would he care? I suspect that the gulf between us is too wide for any reasonable discussion.

Two times I visited the sewage treatment plant and each time, as I leaned over the railing peering at this unique creature, I could not believe what I was seeing. In my travels I've made special efforts (what we birders call "chasing") to find manatees, without success. It's just unbelievable that one would show up

in Buffalo Bayou, my own backyard. At the bayou, my thoughts turned to John J. Audubon.

When Audubon rowed up Buffalo Bayou in 1837 toward the newly-hatched town of Houston, the bayou was clean, edged with pristine forest. He saw and shot several Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. On a rainy April 24, 1837, Audubon reported huge flocks of Cerulean and Yellow Warblers, many falling into the water. A fallout, we now know. I wondered, too, if manatees visited Galveston Bay or the bayou in Audubon's time. Davis and Schmidly's *THE MAMMALS OF TEXAS* states "Manatees are extremely rare in Texas although near the turn of the century they apparently were not uncommon in the Laguna Madre. Texas records also include specimens from Cow Bayou, near Sabine Lake, Copano Bay, the Bolivar Peninsula, and the mouth of the Rio Grande."

As I am writing this, biologists are conducting blood tests on Sweet Pea to determine her family

affiliation and thus, her probable home. A pregnancy test is planned as well. She appears happy at Sea World in San Antonio, eating well and even rolling over to have her belly scratched. To the caller to the radio talk show, Ron Jones of USFW Division of Ecological Services, who helped with the capture, informed me that private funds have helped cover the expense of capturing and feeding Sweet Pea. Of course, we have to thank our best known mattress salesman for trucking the manatee to San Antonio, free of charge. If you want to know more about manatees and help the people fighting to keep the manatee from passing into extinction, contact Save the Manatee, 500 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL 32751.

I don't know about you, but I will never look at the bayou in quite the same way again.

[Acknowledgements: Ellen Red for information about Audubon on the bayou and John Tveten for guiding me to the book THE MAMMALS OF TEXAS.]

OG Meeting Minutes

December 4, 1995: Chairman Bob Luckner announced that we will continue to meet at St. Philip's United Methodist Church in January, February and March, as renovations at Bayland are not complete. Bob Luckner and P.D. Hulce encouraged everyone to do a Christmas Count, preferably the OG's Houston count on December 16. The budget was reviewed and approved unanimously. Treasurer Bob Ohmart reminded everyone to PAY YOUR DUES!

David Marrack informed everyone that he has red buckeye seeds and seedlings and Turk's Cap. Don Richardson announced openings available in his beginning birding classes (661-1365). Learning Corner coordinator, Sonny Fischer, asked for topic and speaker suggestions for future Learning Corners.

John Tveten's program on what he has learned about the birds in his backyard from years of banding and observation was wonderful. We look forward to learning, at some future date, how many of the 660 goldfinches banded in their backyard last year return this winter! Thank you, John, for this delightful evening. *Kate Fine, Secretary*

Rivers of Swallows • Swarms of Hawks

Smith Point Hawk Watch 1995

by Winnie Burkett

As usual, Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area on Smith Point was an exciting place to be this fall. Migration was well under way on September 9, when the Hawk Watch officially began. That day, Broad-winged Hawks and Mississippi Kites appeared in good numbers, but more impressive were the 14,000 swallows, 104 Eastern Kingbirds, 145 Dickcissels and 154 Northern Orioles. The watch progressed in normal fashion, but there were a few more slow days than usual, as winds were fluky and may have blown more of the hawks inland. There were reports of large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks around Intercontinental Airport, not a usual spot for them.

Our "Big Day," was September 23, when the first strong cold front of the season brought over 17,000 Broad-winged Hawks down Smith Point. It took some time for the thermals to build high enough to enable the hawks to gain the altitude they wanted to cross the bay. Hawk watchers were treated to several hours of a sky full of hawks. There were 13,000 Broad-winged Hawks visible in groups so large they could hardly be called a kettle. They look more like swarms of bees. Quite a spectacular sight.

I enjoyed September 23, but I was equally impressed with the previous day, September 22--for different reasons. The 22nd was a nasty day, cold and rainy with strong north winds. The rain was light early in the day so I went to Smith Point to see what might happen. At first light, thousands of swallows started to stream by. They stayed very low and headed out across the bay just above the surface of the water. So many flew past, it was impossible to

identify them. Also, using the miserable weather for migrating were hummingbirds. In four hours, I counted 150. On a normal hawk watch day, you might see 5-10 hummingbirds. In miserable weather, 150 was remarkable. I only saw 36 hawks, but the show put on by the seven Merlins was impressive. One caught breakfast right in front of me. I watched it sit and "swallow" a non-longer-migrating morsel.

During the last two and half weeks of the hawk watch period, visibility was aided by the partial completion of the new observation tower. On this wonderful tower, hawk watchers are up out of the mosquitoes and can see far enough to get a good view of what distant hawks are doing. Texas Parks and Wildlife, with the help of the OG and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, will soon complete the new hawk watch tower.

The number of hawks, other than Broad-winged Hawks, was low this year. This is probably due to the fact that we have no data from

six days during the count period. In addition, many accipiters moved after the count period. Next year we could have much better coverage as we may have the help of a professional hawk watcher. While in Cape May this fall, I *think* I talked one of their hawk watchers into coming down next year to help us. Having a professional hawk watcher at Smith Point **all day, every day**, we'll have a better understanding of what's happening.

This year's official hawk watchers spent 142 hours counting 30,466 hawks and 72,471 other birds. A special thanks to this year's official hawk watchers: Bob Behrstock, John Bregar, Dawn and Ross Carrie, Marilyn Crane, David Dauphin, Gerald Duhon, Francis Duty, Steve Gast, Delton Goodin, Peter Gottschling, Dwight Peake, Bill Tarbox and John Whittle.

Remember, not every day at Smith Point is spectacular, but it is a wonderful place to watch the migration go by.

	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
dates	9/20-10/10	9/12-10/19	9/16-10/17	9/9-10/12	9/9-10/15
Black Vul	8	36	109	51	65
Turkey Vul	173	299	300	218	251
Osprey	22	26	21	30	19
Swa-tl kite	2	5	5	7	3
White-tl Kite	1	10	5	6	4
Miss Kite	383	1488	889	884	402
Bald Eagle		1			1
No Harrier	63	54	57	162	62
Sh-shn hawk	840	1076	1445	1632	889
Coop Hawk	531	641	419	346	292
Harris Hawk				2	0
Rd-sh Hawk	9	46	39	18	13
Brd-wng Hawk	10885	33745	10980	57134	28113
Swans hawk	1	38	21	12	4
Wh-t Hawk				1	
Rd-tl Hawk	20	29	15	27	14
Ferr Hawk		1			
Caracara	2				
Am Kestrel	501	352	302	399	273
Merlin	24	19	34	19	28
Per Falcon	4	16	20	38	16
accip?	169	100	85	13	12
buteo?	10	197	129	1	2
falcon?	3	3	1	7	1
raptor?		59	35	15	2
total	13651	38241	14911	61022	30466
Obs Hrs	81	156.3	136	144.1	141.9

Clearing House

NOVEMBER 1995

EDITORS: PHYLLIS AND TONY FRANK

Several enthusiastic observers provided lots of documentation again this month. Although not all the reports are published in their entirety, everyone's documentation is appreciated. All documented birds are noted at the end of the CH. A total of 18 species of warblers, including 9 species with a very rare status for November were documented. The very mild fall may have encouraged these lingering warblers. Sixteen species of our winter visitors, the sparrows, were reported. The monthly tally consisted of 217 species. Happy New Year to all. Hope to see you in the field in 1996.

All reports are due January 3rd. Readers are reminded that all decisions regarding checklist status are made by the checklist committee. Publication of a rarity does not imply acceptance of the record by the editors or the committee. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

- Loon, Common 18-24 2/2 BR-(1)18,WP; JE-(1)24,WWL
Grebe, Least 7-24 1/4 JE-TP(1)7,JW; JE-TP(1)19,JJW;
JE-TP(2)24,WWL
Grebe, Pied-bill 5-30 16/193 U-2/13 BR-2/14 CH-2/34
GA-1/23 JE-9/109
Grebe, Horned 24-24 1/1 JE-(1)24,WWL
Pelican, Amer Wht 5-24 7/353 BR-2/18 CH-1/4 GA-1/300 JE-3/31
Pelican, Brown 5-12 3/69 GA-1/55 JE-2/14
Corm, Dbl-crested 5-24 9/167 U-1/40 BR-1/3 CH-1/6
GA-1/51 JE-5/67
Corm, Neotropic 5-24 10/212 CH-1/1 GA-1/13 JE-8/198
Anhinga 5-24 4/11 BR-1/6 FB-1/3 JE-2/2
Bittern, American 5-18 2/3 CH-AW(1)18,GTAS; JE-SR(2)5,SW
Heron, Great Blue 5-30 15/95 U-2/21 BR-2/5 CH-3/17
GA-1/14 JE-7/38
Egret, Great 5-30 16/110 U-2/15 BR-1/7 CH-3/9
GA-1/7 JE-9/72
Egret, Snowy 5-30 12/81 U-2/12 BR-2/7 CH-2/20
GA-1/14 JE-5/28
Heron, Little Blu 5-24 7/26 U-1/8 BR-2/4 CH-2/11
GA-1/1 JE-1/2
Heron, Tricolored 5-24 7/12 U-1/2 CH-2/4 JE-4/6
Egret, Reddish 5-5 2/4 U-(2)5,MBH; BR-(2)5,MBH
Egret, Cattle 5-30 8/150 U-1/25 BR-1/10 CH-1/30
FB-1/12 JE-4/73
Heron, Green 5-18 2/2 CH-AW(1)5,DV; CH-AW(1)18,GTAS
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 12-18 2/28 CH-AW(24)18,GTAS; GA-(4)12,SW
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 5-18 2/4 BR-(1)5,MBH; CH-AW(3)18,GTAS
Ibis, White 5-30 10/425 U-2/32 BR-2/28 CH-2/210
GA-1/26 JE-3/129
Ibis, White-faced 5-30 9/3038 U-2/250 BR-1/40 CH-3/244
GA-1/1 JE-2/2503
Spoonbill, Roseat 5-23 5/44 BR-2/18 CH-2/5 GA-1/21
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs 18-18 1/3 CH-AW(3)18,GTAS
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd 5-5 1/100 FB-BB(100)5,MBH
Goose, Gr Wht-frn 5-30 8/2125 U-1/150 BR-2/700
CH-3/1200 JE-2/75
Goose, Snow 5-30 14/10888 U-1/20 BR-2/4032
CH-4/4405 FB-1/800 GA-1/21 JE-5/1610
Goose, Ross' 5-23 5/6 CH-(1)18,JW; CH-(2)23,WL;
FB-BB(1)5,MBH; JE-(1)5,SW; JE-(1)23,WL
- Goose, Canada 5-18 2/120 BR-(100)5,MBH; CH-AW(20)18,GTAS
Duck, Wood 5-18 2/46 BR-(15)18,WP; FB-BB(31)5,MBH
Teal, Green-wing 5-24 9/6160 BR-2/5000 CH-3/580 JE-4/580
Duck, Mottled 5-30 13/179 U-2/58 BR-1/20 CH-3/67 JE-7/34
Mallard 5-23 6/38 BR-2/15 CH-3/21 GA-1/2
Pintail, Northern 5-18 5/881 BR-2/600 CH-2/280 JE-1/1
Teal, Blue-winged 5-23 9/122 U-1/25 BR-1/10 CH-3/30 JE-4/57
Teal, Cinnamon 5-5 1/2 BR-(2)5,MBH
Shoveler, Northrn 5-24 13/1170 BR-2/480 CH-3/152
GA-1/6 JE-7/532
Gadwall 5-24 9/452 BR-2/84 CH-3/47 GA-1/20 JE-3/301
Wigeon, American 5-23 4/352 BR-2/350 CH-2/2
Canvasback 18-24 2/1015 CH-(15)18,JW; JE-(1000)24,WWL
Redhead 5-12 3/51 BR-(6)5,MBH; BR-BW(15)11,OGT;
GA-(30)12,SW
Duck, Ring-necked 10-24 5/17 BR-1/3 CH-1/10 GA-1/1 JE-2/3
Scaup, Greater 18-23 2/8 CH-AW(6)18,GTAS; CH-AW(2)23,WL
Scaup, Lesser 5-24 9/170 BR-1/15 CH-2/45 GA-1/1
JE-5/109
Scoter, Wht-wingd 24-24 1/1 JE-(1)24,WWL
Bufflehead 5-24 3/32 BR-1/1 GA-1/6 JE-1/25
Merganser, Hooded 11-24 2/7 BR-BW(3)11,OGT; JE-(4)24,WWL
Merganser, Red-br 12-24 2/20 GA-(10)12,SW; JE-(10)24,WWL
Duck, Ruddy 5-24 7/384 BR-1/50 CH-2/9 JE-4/325
Vulture, Black 5-30 5/51 U-2/42 BR-2/5 CH-1/4
Vulture, Turkey 5-30 9/241 U-2/160 BR-1/25 CH-3/52 JE-3/4
Osprey 4-18 3/4 BR-(1)18,WP; GA-HI(1)4,DV;
JE-(2)5,SW
Kite, White-tailed 4-24 11/45 BR-2/11 CH-3/9 GA-1/12 JE-5/13
Eagle, Bald 18-30 2/6 CH-(2)18,JW; WA-(4)30,PS
Harrier, Northern 4-30 17/157 U-2/40 BR-1/30 CH-4/34
GA-1/21 JE-9/32
Hawk, Sharp-shin 4-30 8/10 U-1/2 CH-2/2 JE-5/6
Hawk, Cooper's 4-30 4/6 U-1/1 CH-2/4 JE-1/1
Hawk, Harris' 30-30 1/1 WA-(1)30,PS
Hawk, Red-shouldr 5-30 6/10 U-1/1 BR-2/5 JE-3/4
Hawk, Broad-wingd 4-23 3/3 CH-SP(1)4,DV; CH-AW(1)23,WL;
JE-TP(1)7,JW
Hawk, Swainson's 4-4 1/10 CH-SP(10)4,DV
Hawk, Red-tailed 4-30 20/264 U-1/60 BR-3/33 CH-5/94
GA-1/20 JE-10/57

1994-1995 TEXAS CBC SUMMARY

by Brent Ortego

The 95th running of the Christmas Bird Count was very productive for Texas. Texas held 82 counts, seventeen of which reported at least 150 species. Corpus Christi led the nation with 217 species. Seemingly far behind was the relatively new Mad Island Marsh CBC, which placed second with 205 species. Freeport tied Mosslanding, California, for third in the nation with 204 species. This is the first time Texas had THREE 200-species counts in one year! As best as I can remember, this is the first time Texas placed first, second and third in the nation.

California had the most high counts of individual species (National Highs) with 118 species. Texas placed second with 108 and Florida followed with 82. Freeport led Texas with 13 National Highs and was followed by Mad Island Marsh with 11, and Corpus Christi and Santa Ana with six.

Special recognition is given to Lake Tawakoni which produced the first Sabine's Gull for a CBC. Choke Canyon wins the award for the greatest improvement of any count this year. Choke Canyon participants reported 46 more species than last year (from 121 to 167 species) and tallied five National Highs along the way.

A general summary of how CBCs in each Texas Ornithological Society region is listed below.

TOS Region	Total Species	TX High Count	Texas Exclusive	Top Count
Panhandle	155	14	3	Lubbock County = 105 sp.
N.-Cent. Texas	162	9	0	Fort Worth = 123 sp.
East Texas	173	34	9	Longview = 123 sp.
Trans-Pecos	180	45	12	Balmorhea = 111 sp.
Ed. Plateau	208	17	2	San Antonio = 153 sp.
Cent. Prairie	154	6	1	Waco = 110 sp.
Rio Grande				
Brushlands	281	100	28	Corpus Christi = 217 sp.
Coast. Prairie	249	123	23	Mad Island Marsh = 205 sp.

Personally, I like to track high-counts of individuals because too much emphasis is placed on the total of different species in a count. This focus on numbers of individuals makes Christmas counts more valuable as a tool for monitoring the status of species. Too frequently, at the end of the day, I have seen birders record the total number of individuals observed without once having tallied individuals during the day. This lack of focus weakens the value of the data for which we spend many hours and dollars in pursuit. I make a habit of tallying at every stop.

For those of you that like to look at CBC numbers, new high counts for Region 8 CBCs are in Table 2 and the national highs produced by Texas are in Table 3.

Table 2. All-time CBC high counts of individuals for the Coastal Prairies & Marshes Region.

Species	Number	CBC
Com. Loon	137	Galveston
Ross' Goose	1270	Mad Island
Greater Scaup	816	Mad Island
Com. Goldeneye	951	Mad Island
Laughing Gull	106,101	Houston
Caspian Tern	361	Mad Island
Monk Parakeet	195	Armand Bayou
Barn-Owl	75	Mad Island
Short-eared Owl	33	Mad Island
LeConte's Sparrow	344	Freeport

Great-tailed Grackle	75,000	Mad Island
Boat-tailed Grackle	27,844	Mad Island
Com. Grackle	121,223	Attwater

Table 3. National High counts for the 95th CBC from Texas.

Species #	CBC	
Least Grebe	33	Santa Ana
Eared Grebe	3002	LaSal Vieja
Blue-footed Booby	1	Bastrop-Buescher
D-c Cormorant	25904	Texarkana
Reddish Egret	443	Coastal Tip
Y-c Night-Heron	252	Freeport
B-b Whistling-Duck	1006	Rockport
Muscovy	3	Falcon Dam

Mottled Duck	429	Freeport	Marsh Wren	565	San Bernard
Mexican Duck	120	Balmorhea	E. Bluebird	928	Bastrop-Buescher
Redhead	131167	Laguna Atascosa	N. Mockingbird	511	Freeport
Masked Duck	3	Brazos Bend	Brown Thrasher	189	Freeport
Black Vulture	1173	Palmetto	Long-billed Thrasher	53	Choke Canyon
Hook-billed Kite	5	Anzalduas-Bentsen	Sprague's Pipit	22	Houston, Kingsville
Gray Hawk	1	Anzalduas-Bentsen	Cedar Waxwing	2831	McKinney
Red-shouldered Hawk	105	Freeport	Eur. Starling	501065	Mad Island
White-tailed Hawk	28	Mad Island	Solitary Vireo (eastern)	95	Freeport
Zone-tailed Hawk	3	Falcon Dam	Yellow-green Vireo	1	Welder Wildlife
Red-tailed Hawk	405	Freeport	Tennessee Warbler	2	Anzalduas-Bentsen
Crested Caracara	79	Palmetto	Orange-crowned Warbler	518	Freeport
Am. Kestrel	296	Freeport	Yellow Warbler	2	Falcon Dam
Plain Chachalaca	247	Santa Ana	Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	Lubbock Co.
Montezuma Quail	38	Davis Mountains	MacGillivray's Warbler	1	LaSal Vieja
Yellow Rail	18	San Bernard	Oporornis, sp.	1	Mad Island
King Rail	48	Mad Island	Wilson's Warbler	27	Freeport
Whooping Crane	37	Aransas	Pyrrhuloxia	279	Chaparral
Solitary Sandpiper	2	Dallas Co., San Angelo	Blue Bunting	1	Anzalduas-Bentsen
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8	San Antonio	Olive Sparrow	72	Choke Canyon
Stilt Sandpiper	342	Laguna Atascosa	Cassin's Sparrow	26	Corpus Christi
Am. Woodcock	40	Tenaha-Timpson	Clay-colored Sparrow	28	LaSal Vieja
Franklin's Gull	15	Waco	Field Sparrow	400	Balcones
Laughing Gull	106101	Houston	Henslow's Sparrow	5	Cooper Lake
Sabine's Gull	1	L. Tawakoni	Le Conte's Sparrow	344	Freeport
Caspian Tern	361	Mad Island	Lincoln's Sparrow	347	Austin
Sandwich Tern	151	Port Aransas	McCown's Longspur	106	Trinity River
Com. Tern	15	Galveston	Chestnut-collared Longspur	575	Davis Mountains
Forster's Tern	2780	Galveston	E. Meadowlark	1582	Crawford
Least Tern	17	Coastal Tip	Yellow-headed Blackbird	4827	El Paso
Red-billed Pigeon	16	Santa Ana	Great-tailed Grackle	75000	Mad Island
White-winged Dove	1403	El Paso	Boat-tailed Grackle	27844	Mad Island
Inca Dove	880	San Angelo	Bronzed Cowbird	6021	Corpus Christi
Com. Ground Dove	143	LaSal Vieja	Brown-headed Cowbird	300000	Mad Island
White-tipped Dove	32	Anzalduas-Bentsen	Altamira Oriole	22	Anzalduas-Bentsen
Green Parakeet	83	Santa Ana	Audubon's Oriole	20	Falcon Dam
Red-crowned Parrot	55	Santa Ana			
Barn Owl	75	Mad Island			
Great Horned Owl	30	L. Tawakoni			
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl	1	Falcon Dam			
Short-eared Owl	33	Mad Island			
Com. Nighthawk	1	Aransas, Mad Island, Victoria			
Pauraque	47	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
White-throated Swift	337	Big Bend			
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	6	Corpus Christi			
Black-chinned Hummingbird	2	Corpus Christi			
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	4	Corpus Christi			
Ringed Kingfisher	26	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
Green Kingfisher	14	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
Golden-fronted Wdpecker	135	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
Cordilleran Flycatcher	1	Chisos Mountain			
E. Pheobe	534	Freeport			
Vermilion Flycatcher	53	Choke Canyon			
Great Kiskadee	155	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
Couch's Kingbird	10	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
E. Kingbird	1	Beech Creek			
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	7	Santa Ana			
Purple Martin	12	Corpus Christi			
Bank Swallow	1	Laguna Atascosa			
Cliff Swallow	1	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
Cave Swallow	230	Choke Canyon			
Barn Swallow	6	Del Rio			
Green Jay	124	Anzalduas-Bentsen			
Brown Jay	12	Falcon Dam			
Chihuahuan Raven	192	El Paso			
Black-crested Titmouse	256	Boerne			
Canyon Wren	31	Comstock			
Sedge Wren	633	Freeport			

By the time you read this article, the 96th CBC season will essentially be finished. I hope you joined the many CBC enthusiasts in Texas in trying to showcase some of your favorite birding areas in the state. Texas has much to offer birders and Christmas Bird Counts are one of the better ways to publicize quality avifaunas for local sites. The Audubon Field Notes CBC issue is read by 10s of thousands of birders & biologists. I hope you subscribe to this fine journal and appreciate the effort that it takes to produce it each year. *Brent Ortego*



Hawk, Ferruginous 30-30 1/2 U-(2)30,PS
 Caracara, Crested 11-30 2/11 U-(6)30,PS; BR-BW(5)11,OGT
 Kestrel, American 4-30 20/195 U-2/36 BR-2/24 CH-5/68
 GA-1/10 JE-10/57
 Merlin 5-30 7/7 CH-1/1 HA-1/1 JE-5/5
 Falcon, Peregrine 18-18 1/1 CH-(1)18,JW
 Rail, Clapper 12-12 1/2 GA-(2)12,SW
 Rail, Clapr/King 11-11 2/2 BR-(1)5,MBH; BR-BW(1)11,OGT
 Gallinule, Purple 18-18 1/1 CH-AW(1)18,GTAS
 Moorhen, Common 5-24 13/532 U-1/250 BR-2/12 CH-2/81
 JE-8/189
 Coot, American 5-24 13/7351 U-1/150 BR-1/30
 CH-2/450 GA-1/225 JE-8/6496
 Crane, Sandhill 5-11 2/900 U-(150)5,MBH; BR-BW(750)11,OGT
 Plover, Blk-belli 5-18 7/394 BR-2/12 CH-1/26 GA-1/304 JE-3/52
 Plover, Snowy 5-12 4/46 GA-1/5 JE-3/41
 Plover, Wilson's 12-12 1/4 GA-BF(4)12,SW
 Plover, Semipalm 9-12 3/12 GA-1/5 JE-2/7
 Plover, Piping 5-12 4/117 GA-1/100 JE-3/17
 Killdeer 5-30 17/251 U-1/80 BR-3/37 CH-4/22
 GA-1/26 JE-8/86
 Oystercatcher, Am 12-12 1/4 GA-(4)12,SW
 Stilt, Black-neck 5-23 5/50 BR-2/18 GA-1/25 JE-2/7
 Avocet, American 5-30 5/676 BR-2/50 GA-1/550 JE-1/70 WA-1/6
 Yellowlegs, Great 5-30 6/85 U-2/70 BR-1/4 CH-2/4 GA-1/7
 Yellowlegs, Less 12-30 4/50 U-1/20 CH-2/21 GA-1/9
 Willet 5-18 6/247 BR-1/10 CH-1/1 GA-1/108 JE-3/128
 Sandprr, Spotted 12-24 2/4 GA-(3)12,SW; JE-(1)24,WWL
 Curlew, Long-bill 5-23 7/267 BR-2/3 CH-3/224 GA-1/20 JE-1/20
 Godwit, Marbled 5-12 2/153 BR-(3)5,MBH; GA-(150)12,SW
 Turnstone, Ruddy 12-12 1/10 GA-BF(10)12,SW
 Knot, Red 12-12 1/15 GA-BF(15)12,SW
 Sanderling 5-12 5/490 BR-1/20 GA-1/250 JE-3/220
 Sandprr, Western 5-12 3/509 BR-1/6 GA-1/500 JE-1/3
 Sandprr, Least 5-24 6/184 BR-2/30 CH-1/3 JE-3/151
 Dunlin 5-30 5/643 U-1/75 BR-1/300 CH-1/20
 GA-1/150 JE-1/98
 Dowitcher, S-bill 12-12 1/51 GA-(51)12,SW
 Dowitcher, L-bill 18-30 2/165 U-(150)30,PS; CH-AW(15)18,GTAS
 dowitcher, sp. 5-11 2/65 BR-(15)5,MBH; BR-BW(50)11,OGT
 Snipe, Common 5-30 5/15 U-1/1 BR-1/1 CH-2/12 JE-1/1
 Gull, Laughing 5-24 11/7588 BR-3/4606 GA-1/600
 JE-7/2382
 Gull, Bonaparte's 24-24 1/1 JE-(1)24,WWL
 Gull, Ring-billed 5-18 10/816 BR-1/10 CH-2/6 GA-1/45 JE-6/755
 Gull, Herring 5-12 5/25 BR-1/1 GA-1/2 JE-3/22
 Tern, Gull-billed 11-11 1/2 BR-BW(2)11,OGT
 Tern, Caspian 5-12 6/71 BR-2/21 GA-1/11 JE-3/39
 Tern, Royal 5-12 4/229 GA-1/100 JE-3/129
 Tern, Sandwich 12-12 1/5 GA-BF(5)12,SW
 Tern, Common 12-12 1/1 GA-BF(1)12,SW
 Tern, Forster's 5-24 7/99 BR-2/6 GA-1/30 JE-4/63
 Skimmer, Black 11-12 2/250 GA-(200)12,SW; JE-SR(50)11,JW
 Dove, Rock 5-30 7/165 U-1/100 BR-1/12 JE-5/53
 Dove, White-winged 9-12 2/16 GA-HI(15)12,SW; JE-SW(1)9,JW
 Dove, Mourning 5-30 16/356 U-1/60 BR-3/12 CH-3/99
 GA-1/21 JE-8/164
 Dove, Inca 12-30 3/15 U-1/6 BR-1/8 JE-1/1
 Cuckoo, Yel-billd 5-5 1/1 JE-SW(1)5,SW
 Owl, Barn 5-30 3/7 HA-(2)30,PS; JE-(3)5,SW;

JE-(2)9,JW
 Owl, Great Horned 4-24 3/5 CH-SP(2)4,DV; GA-HI(1)4,DV;
 JE-(2)24,WWL
 Owl, Barred 19-19 1/1 JE-TP(1)19,JW
 Owl, Short-eared 12-12 1/1 GA-BF(1)12,SW
 Nighthawk, Common 24-24 1/2 JE-TP(2)24,WWL
 Chuck-wills-widow 5-5 2/2 HA-HI(1)5,DV; JE-SW(1)5,SW
 Whip-poor-will 4-4 1/1 CH-SP(1)4,DV
 Hummer, Ruby-thrt 4-18 5/5 BR-(1)18,WP; GA-HI(1)4,DV;
 GA-HI(1)12,SW; JE-(1)7,JW; JE-(1)16,JW
 Hummer, Rufous 1-30 5/8 HA-(1)1-30,PTF; HA-HI(3)5,DV;
 HA-(1)30,PS; JE-(1)5,SW; JE-(2)17,JW
 selasphorous, sp. 12-12 1/2 GA-HI(2)12,SW
 Kingfisher, Belted 5-30 15/55 U-1/1 BR-2/4 CH-3/14
 GA-1/5 JE-8/31
 Wdpeckr, Red-bell 4-30 4/6 U-1/1 BR-1/2 CH-1/1 FB-1/2
 Sapsuck, Yel-bell 4-30 4/6 U-(3)30,PS; GA-HI(1)4,DV;
 JE-SW(1)5,SW; JE-SW(1)9,JW
 Wdpeckr, Downy 5-30 4/7 U-1/1 BR-1/1 JE-2/5
 Flicker, Northern 5-9 2/2 JE-SW(1)5,SW; JE-SW(1)9,JW
 Wdpeckr, Pileated 18-24 3/9 BR-1/4 JE-2/5
 Wood-Pewee, East 5-9 2/3 CH-AW(1)5,DV; JE-SW(2)9,JW
 Flycatch, Least 5-5 1/1 JE-SW(1)5,SW
 empidonax, sp. 5-9 2/2 HA-HI(1)5,DV; JE-SW(1)9,JW
 Phoebe, Eastern 5-30 16/91 U-2/43 BR-2/2 CH-4/28
 GA-1/2 JE-7/16
 Flycatch, Vermiln 5-30 4/10 CH-(4)18,JW; CH-(4)23,WL;
 FB-BB(1)5,MBH; WA-(1)30,PS
 Kingbird, Western 12-12 1/1 GA-(1)12,SW
 Flycatch, Ss-tail 5-5 1/25 BR-(25)5,MBH
 Lark, Horned 12-12 1/16 GA-BF(16)12,SW
 Swallow, Tree 4-23 13/4128 BR-1/3 CH-4/3440
 GA-1/200 JE-7/485
 Swallow, N R-wing 5-18 5/28 CH-1/3 FB-1/20 JE-3/5
 Swallow, Cliff 17-19 2/2 JE-TP(1)17,JW; JE-TP(1)19,JW
 Swallow, Barn 10-19 5/10 CH-1/2 JE-4/8
 Jay, Blue 5-30 8/65 U-1/8 BR-1/1 CH-1/1 JE-5/55
 Crow, American 5-30 6/595 U-2/550 BR-2/31 CH-2/14
 Crow, Fish 7-24 3/235 JE-3/235
 Chickadee, Carol 5-30 6/31 U-1/14 BR-1/10 FB-1/2 JE-3/5
 Titmouse, Tufted 18-30 3/26 U-1/2 BR-1/23 JE-1/1
 Nuthatch, Red-brs 4-18 6/6 BR-(1)14,WP; BR-(1)18,WP;
 CH-AW(1)4,DV; CH-AW(1)5,DV; GA-HI(1)4,DV
 nuthatch sp. 5-5 1/1 FB-BB(1)5,MBH;
 Creeper, Brown 4-4 1/1 GA-HI(1)4,DV
 Wren, Carolina 5-30 6/15 U-1/4 BR-1/7 FB-1/1 JE-3/3
 Wren, Bewick's 30-30 1/6 U-(6)30,PS
 Wren, House 4-30 10/23 U-1/5 CH-3/7 GA-1/3 JE-5/8
 Wren, Winter 4-5 3/6 CH-SP(2)4,DV; GA-HI(1)4,DV;
 GA-HI(3)5,DV
 Wren, Sedge 5-23 5/76 U-1/40 BR-1/25 CH-2/4 GA-1/7
 Wren, Marsh 5-24 8/13 BR-2/2 CH-1/1 GA-1/1 JE-4/9
 Kinglet, Gold-crn 4-30 6/74 CH-SP(4)4,DV; GA-HI(4)4,DV;
 GA-HI(15)5,DV; JE-(25)5,SW; JE-SW(25)9,JW;
 WA-(1)30,PS
 Kinglet, Ruby-crn 4-30 15/277 U-1/50 BR-1/32 CH-5/23
 GA-3/81 JE-5/91
 Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 4-30 12/111 U-1/5 BR-1/2 CH-1/3
 FB-1/1 GA-2/11 JE-6/89
 Bluebird, Eastern 18-30 3/59 U-1/45 BR-1/2 CH-1/12

Thrush, Swainsons 9-9 1/1 JE-SW(1)9JW
 Thrush, Hermit 4-30 7/44 U-1/3 CH-2/6 GA-2/28 JE-2/7
 Thrush, Wood 5-9 2/2 JE-SW(1)5,SW; JE-SW(1)9JW
 Robin, American 4-30 4/1006 U-1/1000 GA-1/1 JE-2/5
 Catbird, Gray 4-18 5/15 CH-2/2 GA-1/3 JE-2/10
 Mockingbird, N 5-30 16/91 U-2/50 BR-2/6 CH-3/5
 GA-1/5 JE-8/25
 Thrasher, Brown 4-18 8/16 CH-2/3 FB-1/1 GA-2/4 JE-3/8
 Pipit, American 11-24 4/111 CH-1/100 JE-3/11
 Pipit, Sprague's 18-18 1/1 CH-AW(1)18,GTAS
 Shrike, Loggerhed 5-30 18/184 U-1/12 BR-3/37 CH-4/41
 GA-1/12 JE-9/82
 Starling, Euro 5-30 14/10748 U-2/10040 CH-3/57
 GA-1/305 JE-8/346
 Vireo, White-eyed 4-11 3/4 GA-2/3 JE-1/1
 Vireo, Solitary 4-30 5/15 GA-2/3 HA-1/1 JE-2/11
 Warb, Tennessee 4-4 1/2 CH-AW(2)4,DV
 Warb, Orange-crn 4-30 11/72 U-1/6 BR-1/1 CH-1/2
 GA-3/9 JE-5/54
 Warb, Nashville 5-5 1/1 GA-HI(1)5,DV
Parula, Northern 4-9 3/3 CH-AW(1)4,DV; GA-HI(1)5,DV;
 JE-SW(1)9JW
 Warb, Magnolia 5-11 3/7 JE-SW(2)5,SW; JE-SW(3)9JW;
 JE-SW(2)11JW
Warb, Blk-thr Blu 4-30 6/6 GA-HI(1)4,DV; GA-HI(1)5,DV;
 HA-(1)24-30JWR; HA-(1)30,BB; JE-SW(1)5,SW;
 JE-SW(2)9JW
 Warb, Yellow-rump 4-30 12/195 U-1/120 CH-2/8 GA-3/12 JE-6/55
 Warb, Blk-thr Grn 4-9 3/11 GA-HI(3)4,DV; GA-HI(4)5,DV;
 JE-SW(4)9JW
Warb, Blackburn 4-4 1/1 GA-HI(1)4,DV
 Warb, Pine 18-30 3/13 U-(10)30,PS; BR-(1)18,WP;
 CH-(2)23,WL
 Warb, Blk-and-wht 5-5 1/1 JE-SW(1)5,SW
Redstart, Amer 4-9 5/6 CH-AW(1)5,DV; GA-HI(1)4,DV;
 GA-HI(2)5,DV; JE-SW(1)5,SW; JE-SW(1)9JW
Warb, Prothonotry 9-9 1/1 JE-SW(1)9JW
Ovenbird 4-9 2/2 GA-HI(1)4,DV; JE-SW(1)9JW
Waterthrush, N 5-5 1/1 CH-AW(1)5,DV
 Yellowthroat, Com 4-30 13/24 U-1/2 BR-2/3 CH-3/8
 GA-2/2 JE-5/9
Warb, Hooded 5-5 1/1 GA-HI(1)5,DV
 Warb, Wilson's 4-5 2/7 GA-HI(3)4,DV; GA-HI(4)5,DV
 Cardinal, Northrn 5-30 10/75 U-2/41 BR-2/9 CH-1/6
 GA-1/2 JE-4/17
 Grosbeak, Ros-brs 11-11 1/2 JE-SW(2)11JW
 Grosbeak, Blue 9-9 1/3 JE-SW(3)9JW
 Bunting, Indigo 5-12 4/33 GA-1/1 JE-3/32
 Bunting, Painted 5-5 1/1 JE-SW(1)5,SW
 Sparrow, Chipping 5-30 2/110 U-(100)30,PS; BR-(10)5,MBH
 Sparrow, Field 5-30 3/13 U-(10)30,PS; CH-AW(2)18,GTAS;
 JE-SR(1)5,SW
 Sparrow, Vesper 12-30 3/10 U-(8)30,PS; GA-(1)12,SW;
 JE-TP(1)19JW
 Sparrow, Lark 30-30 1/2 WA-(2)30,PS
 Sparrow, Savannah 4-30 11/458 U-1/250 BR-2/90 CH-3/99
 GA-1/3 JE-4/16
 Sparrow, Grasshop 30-30 1/2 HA-(2)30,PS
 Sparrow, Le Conte 5-23 3/3 CH-(1)23,WL; GA-BF(1)12,SW;
 JE-SR(1)5,SW

Sparrow, Shp-tail 12-12 1/30 GA-BF(30)12,SW
 Sparrow, Seaside 12-12 1/1 GA-BF(1)12,SW
 Sparrow, Fox 30-30 1/1 WA-(1)30,PS
 Sparrow, Song 4-30 6/13 U-(6)30,PS; CH-SP(2)4,DV;
 CH-(1)23,WL; JE-SR(1)5,SW; JE-TP(1)19JW;
 JE-(2)24,WWL
 Sparrow, Lincolns 5-30 2/5 U-(4)30,PS; JE-SR(1)5,SW
 Sparrow, Swamp 5-30 11/30 U-1/5 BR-2/7 CH-3/8
 GA-1/1 JE-4/9
 Sparrow, Wht-thrt 4-30 9/60 U-1/35 CH-1/5 FB-1/5
 GA-1/3 JE-5/12
 Sparrow, Wht-crn 4-30 4/16 U-(10)30,PS; CH-SP(2)4,DV;
 JE-TP(2)19JW; JE-TP(2)24,WWL
 Sparrow, Harris' 30-30 1/1 U-(1)30,PS
 Blackbird, Red-wg 5-30 14/36371 U-2/30400 BR-2/25
 CH-2/3000 GA-1/50 JE-7/2896
 Meadowlark, East 5-30 13/152 U-1/25 BR-3/68 CH-2/13
 GA-1/19 JE-6/27
 Blackbird, Yel-hd 5-5 1/1 FB-BB(1)5,MBH
 Grackle, Gr-tail 5-30 11/8370 U-2/8040 BR-2/18
 GA-1/20 JE-6/292
 Grackle, Bt-tail 5-19 7/157 CH-2/110 GA-1/3 JE-4/44
 Grackle, Common 5-30 3/2150 U-2/2100 JE-1/50
 Cowbird, Brn-head 5-30 7/20931 U-2/20020 CH-2/750
 GA-1/5 JE-2/156
 Oriole, Northern 5-5 1/1 GA-HI(1)5,DV
 (Oriole, Bullock) 11-11 1/1 JE-SW(1)11JW
 Goldfinch, Amer 17-30 4/48 U-1/40 CH-2/7 JE-1/1
 Sparrow, House 12-30 6/52 U-1/20 BR-1/16 CH-1/2
 GA-1/10 JE-2/4

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 141093

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Bob Behrstock (BB); Don Verser (DV); Golden Triangle Audubon Society Fried Trip (GTAS); John & Jan Whittle (JJW); John Whittle (JW); Jan & Will Risser (JWR); Maggie & Bob Honig (MBH); OG Field Trip/Maggie & Bob Honig (OGT); P. D. Hulce, Steve Schultz (PS); Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); Ken Sztraky, John Whittle (SW); John & Jana Whittle, Jeannie & Rick Lanclous (WL); Warren Pruess (WP); John & Jana Whittle, Jeannie Lanclous (WWL)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); Brazoria NWR (BW); High Island (HI); Smith Point (SP); Sea Rim St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW); Tyrrell Park (TP)

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria (BR); Chambers (CH); Fort Bend (FB); Galveston (GA); Harris (HA); Jefferson (JE); Upper Texas Coast (U); Waller (WA)

Least Grebe - J. Whittle November 7, 1995

Seen in Tyrrell Park, Beaumont. Small grebe, significantly smaller and darker than Pied-billed Grebes nearby. The head and back were a dark blackish-brown. The tail was essentially non-existent, but the vent area showed much more extensive white than Pied-billed Grebe.

The eye was orange. The bill was much thinner than the bills of the Pied-billed Grebes, but still relatively short.

Broad-winged Hawk - J. Whittle November 23, 1995

Seen at Anahuac NWR. A small, stocky Buteo with short thin legs, and wings were 2 to 3 inches short of tail of perched bird. A medium brown above, with brownish rufous edgings to the greater wing coverts. The face showed a pale buff superciliary line above the pale yellowish eye, and a dark brown malar stripe. The underside was a pale cream color with bold medium brown streaks on throat, breast, and belly forward of the legs. The belly behind the legs lacked any streaks, and the leg feathers were also clear. The bill was medium gray with a small yellow cere. The legs were thin, short and bright yellow. When the bird flew, the flights were too short and the angle of view to determine wing proportion. The underwing was clear and pale, with sharply contrasting wing tips. The patagial area was clear. The trailing edge of the wing did not sharply contrast with the rest of the underwing. The upper surface of the wing was dark brown, with a gray rectangular window at the base of the primaries. The under tail had thin, medium brown bars on a paler background. The upper tail had five medium width light buff bars alternating with darker brow. No white on the rump.

Purple Gallinule - J. Whittle November 18, 1995

Seen on the west side of Shoveler Pond in Anahuac NWR. Gallinule, very similar in size and shape to nearby Common Moorhens, but with longer legs. Unusual charcoal gray color above, with hint of brown; undersides were a slightly lighter shade of charcoal. There was no white along the sides, but there was conspicuous white in the tail. The bill was brown, but the frontal shield appeared white or light gray.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo - J. Whittle November 5, 1995

Seen in Sea Rim SP. Typical cuckoo. Brown above with reddish primaries. White underneath. Brown sides of face. Underside of tail had prominent white spots. Bill somewhat curved, with yellow lower mandible.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird - J. Whittle November 16, 1995

Seen at a residence in Beaumont. Medium-sized hummingbird, larger than the Rufous also present. The back and upper tail were dark green. The undersides were white, with no visible marks. White marks were on the tips of the outer tail feathers. The bill was of a length typical of Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Selasphorus hummingbirds - J. Whittle November 12, 1995

Seen at hummingbird garden at Boy Scout Woods, High Island. Hummingbirds, giving the impression of being somewhat smaller than the probable female Ruby-throated. Hummingbird #1. Top of head dark brownish; back green, but non-vividly so; small white spot behind eye; throat streaks with some pale red iridescence from a concentration of streaks in the center of the throat. Buff wash-very pale- on sides just below wing. Rest of underparts a dingy gray, except for brighter white neck collar. Prominent, quite large white spot on both sides between the thigh and the rear wing-body join, readily visible on perched or flying bird. The tail was not large, not fanned often. The three outer tail feathers were sparingly tipped with white. No rufous could be detected on the tail, the underside of which appeared otherwise black. The bill was normally proportioned, not particularly short or stout. Somewhat curved. Hummingbird #2. Top of head dark brownish; back green, but non-vividly so; small white spot behind eye; throat streaks formed small spots on the sides of the throat. Very pale buff wash on sides just below wing. Rest of underparts a dingy gray, except for brighter white neck collar. The tail was not large, not fanned often. The outer tail feathers were tipped with white, but underside could not be studied in detail. The bill was normally proportioned, not particularly short or stout. Somewhat curved.

Least Flycatcher - J. Whittle November 5, 1995

Seen in Sabine Woods. Smallish Empid. flycatcher, with short bill and short primary extension. Frequently flicked wing and tail. Grayish above, pale below with yellowish wash on belly. Very prominent white eye-ring. Two prominent wing bars.

Empidonax Flycatcher - D. Verser November 5, 1995

No vocalization. Thin white eye ring. Olive back. White underside without vest. Slightly yellowish undertail. Long primary extension. Bold off-white to olive wing bars. Wide pale edges to primary feathers. Large orange lower mandible. Wide tail. No tail flicking. (Acadian ?) in understory at Smith Oaks.

Empidonax Flycatcher - J. Whittle November 9, 1995

Seen in Sabine Woods. Medium-sized Empid. with gray green back and head. Pale grayish underparts, with a greenish wash on sides of breast and flanks, giving a "vested" appearance and only a relatively thin unmarked "line" down the center of the breast. Had even narrow, eye-ring. The lower of the two wing bars was bright white and sharply contrasted.

Cliff Swallow - J. Whittle November 17 & 19, 1995

Seen in Tyrrell Park, Beaumont. Swallow, approximately same size as the nearby Tree Swallows. Squared tail. The bird was dark brownish black above, with a very pale buff rump. The forehead was a bright highly contrasting white. The throat area was a reddish chestnut color, confined to the immediate throat, and not extending to the upper breast at all. The underparts of the body were a dingy white.

Red-breasted Nuthatch - W. Pruess November 18, 1995

In pine trees at residence. Stout elongated small bird sitting on pine branch facing observer. Rusty red lower breast and belly. White upper breast and throat. Dark sharply pointed, straight bill. Dark stripes from base of bill through eye. Broad white stripe over eye. Dark crown. Gray wings.

Black-throated Blue Warbler - J. & W. Risser November 24, 25, 26, 1995. Backyard, West U. area. Dark blue on crown, back, wing coverts, wings and tail. Face, chin and throat black. Line of black trailing posteriorly along sides of breast and sides. Underparts otherwise white. White spots in spread tail. Large white wing spot at base of primaries. Foraged low & high. Deliberate feeder.

This bird was documented by B. Behrstock on November 29,30, 1995. Photographed.

Prothonotary Warbler - J. Whittle November 9, 1995

Seen in Sabine Woods. Large-ish warbler, bright yellow overall except for plain gray wings and upper tail. Tail when spread showed white patches on edges.

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTED BIRDS

P.D. Hulce submitted notes for Harris Hawk in Waller county, and "Cassin's" Vireo in West Harris county.

D. Verser submitted documentation for a Chuck-wills-widow, a Whippoorwill, two Parula, two Black-throated Blue Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, Blackburnian, Ovenbird, Hooded Warbler.

J. Whittle submitted documentation for Chuck-will's-widow, White-winged Dove, Swainson's Thrush, Western Kingbird, Northern Parula (Sabine Woods), two reports totaling three birds Black-throated Blue (Sabine Woods), two reports American Redstart (Sabine Woods), two reports five birds total Magnolia Warbler (Sabine Woods), Ovenbird (Sabine Woods), Blue Grosbeak (Sabine Woods), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (Sabine Woods) and Northern Oriole (Sabine Woods). All documentation is retained for the checklist committee. Thank you to everyone for your diligence in this area.

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