



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXXI, No. 4
August, 1982

PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP OF THE OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB
HOUSTON, TEXAS Randy Pinkston, Editor

COMING EVENTS

- Thursday
September 2 OG Regular Meeting at Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 S. Braeswood Blvd., 7:30 PM. Program to be announced.
- Friday
September 3 Clearing House deadline for observations for August. Please send early to Wesley Cureton, 6623 Grovewood, Houston 77008.
- Saturday
September 11 OG Field Trip to Bolivar Peninsula to look at shorebirds.
- Tuesday
September 14 ONC Regular Meeting in the Garden Center, 1900 Hermann Drive, 7:30 PM. Mr. John Koros, Director of Mercer Arboretum, will present a program entitled "Plant Rescue: Saving Landscape-Worthy Native Plants for Houston".
- Wednesday
September 15 Photography Group Regular Meeting at Bayou Manor auditorium at 7:30 PM. Mike Noel will present a slide program on "Texas Herptiles". You will be able to observe and identify nature's crawling creatures in complete safety.
- Saturday
September 25 Deadline for THE SPOONBILL announcements, articles, etc.

Houston Community College and the Houston Arboretum will offer two birdwatching courses this fall. Beginning Birdwatching will be held from 7-9 PM on Tuesdays Sept. 21 & 28, Oct. 5, 12, and 19. This course, as its title implies, is aimed at those with little or no prior birding experience. The instructor will be Randy Pinkston, and the course fee is \$15. The second course, also taught by Mr. Pinkston, will be an 8 AM - 5 PM field trip to Bolivar Peninsula on October 2 to look at shorebirds and gulls. Call 681-8433 immediately for registration information on both courses.

This fall the Rice University Offices of Continuing Studies and Special Programs will be offering two bird watching short courses. The first will be of special interest to people new to bird watching.

Beginning Bird Watching Techniques. Elaine Robinson Adams will discuss the methods used in bird watching.

When: Sept. 21 & 28
Field Trip to Bear Creek - Oct. 2

Texas Bird Watching: Birds of the Texas Shores and Beaches. Elaine Robinson Adams, instructor.

When: Oct. 26 & Nov. 2
Field Trip to Bolivar and Galveston Nov. 6th.

For more information and a free brochure, call Rice University Offices of Continuing Studies and Special Programs, 527-4803 or 520-6022.

MEMORIAL

The OG expresses it's sympathy to the family of Bobby Sylvester. Through participation Bobby demonstrated true dedication to bird study, and his death represents a great loss to the group. We will remember him with fondness and respect for a long time.

BIRD SEED SALE

DO YOU FEED BIRDS IN YOUR BACKYARD?.....?????!!!

The Piney Woods Wildlife Society, sponsored by North Harris County College, is again offering high quality bird seed at budget-pleasing prices. And, they are able to offer you even lower prices than those of their February 1982 sale, due to better shipping costs. A variety of seed is available, as explained below.

Take a minute to look over all the kinds of seed for sale, study the prices, and then place your order. With adequate seed on hand, you should be able to attract many of the types of wintering birds to your feeders -- cardinals, titmice, goldfinches, chickadees, and many others.

All seed you order will be available for a one-day pickup at North Harris County College on Saturday, October 9 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The college is located at 2700 W. W. Thorne Drive, just south of FM 1960 between Hardy Rd. and Aldine-Westfield.

Orders must be received by SEPTEMBER 17. If time is short, you can phone your order in to 443-0447 or 442-3090.

The special prices will not be offered again before early 1983, so be sure to get your order in now.

Types of seed available for this sale

Sunflower seed is preferred by most seed-eating birds over all other types of seed. Black Oil sunflower seed is small enough to be eaten by finches and smaller seed eaters and is taken by many wild birds over twice as often as the regular striped variety. Blended sunflower seed is 50% black oil seed and 50% medium striped seed.

Special wild bird mix is 30% black oil sunflower seed, 43% white proso millet, 15% milo, 10% wheat, and 2% peanut hearts.

Regular wild bird mix is 7% black oil sunflower seed, 43% white proso millet, 20% cracked corn, 15% milo, 10% wheat, 5% red millet.

Economy wild bird mix is a quality feed store mix at a low price.

Thistle (Niger) seed is a tiny seed attractive particularly to goldfinches and related species.

Sunflower hearts are shelled kernels of sunflower seeds.

Safflower seed is eaten by finches and other small seed eaters.

Prices

25 lb black oil sunflower seed (37¢/lb)	\$9.25
25 lb med striped sunflower seed (40¢/lb)	10.00
25 lb blend sunflower seed (38¢/lb)	9.50
50 lb blend sunflower seed (37¢/lb)	18.50
20 lb special wild bird mix (35¢/lb)	7.00
40 lb special wild bird mix (33¢/lb)	13.25
25 lb regular wild bird mix (30¢/lb)	7.50
50 lb regular wild bird mix (29¢/lb)	14.75
25 lb economy wild bird mix (29¢/lb)	7.25
50 lb economy wild bird mix (28¢/lb)	14.00

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10 lb thistle (Niger) seed (\$1.50/lb)	\$15.00
10 lb safflower seed (65¢/lb)	6.50
10 lb sunflower hearts (65¢/lb)	6.50

Decide on the quantities of the seeds you want, compute the total price, and send your check (made payable to PINEY WOODS WILDLIFE SOCIETY) to:

Martha Branam
915 Woodfield Ln.
Houston, TX 77073

Be sure to include a list of the types of seeds you want and the quantities of each with your order. Also, include your name, address, and home phone.

The Piney Woods Wildlife Society is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study and conservation of the local ecology. Membership is open to all interested community members.

BIRDING IN EASTERN MEXICO

by Wesley Cureton

From July 11 to 23 I participated in a medical missionary effort at Cuesta Colorado, Hidalgo, about five hours by bus northeast of Mexico City. As might be guessed from the town's name, the soil is quite red. We were on the drier western slope, which is forested mostly by drooping junipers, pines, oaks, and a few madrones. There were few epiphytes, but the oaks had considerable mistletoe. The weather was delightfully cool because of the high elevation--over 7000 feet. The local citizens complained of drought, but light rain fell several times during our stay.

Dawn came about 6:00, so there was ample time for birdwatching before the clinic opened. The first morning I saw white-eared, Rivoli's, and red-billed azure-crown hummingbirds. Other than these, the birdwatching was a little disappointing at first, because most of the birds were those found in the southwestern United States--acorn woodpecker, Coe's flycatcher, barn swallow, Mexican jay, canyon and Bewick's wren, rufous-sided and brown towhee, black-headed grosbeak, lesser goldfinch, and chipping sparrow. Walking the nearby trails, however, I began to see some purely Mexican species, such as spotted wren, blue mockingbird, orange-billed nightingale thrush, golden-browed warbler, black-headed siskin, and yellow-faced grassquit. I finally ascended the slope high enough to reach a limited area of cloud forest. There were no conifers here but many more epiphytes, and the birdwatching was more lively. There were singing quail, a mountain trogon, olivaceous flycatcher, clay-colored robin, black-headed nightingale thrush, brown-backed solitaire, spot-breasted wren, gray silky flycatcher, warbling vireo, hooded grosbeak, and rufous-capped brush finch.

Having relatively little experience with Mexican birds, I received several surprises. On July 14 I saw a black-and-white warbler, which is earlier than I have ever seen a fall black-and-white in this country. Quite unexpected was an American Robin, which I later read nests in the Mexican highlands. Also surprising were the lowland species at this high elevation, such as Inca and white-fronted dove, buff-bellied hummingbird (well observed), long-billed thrasher, white-eyed vireo, black-headed oriole, blue grosbeak, olive sparrow, and an apparent family group of five rose-throated becards. Some of this was probably due to postbreeding dispersal. Were the vireo and blue grosbeaks local breeders or fall migrants?

The only breeding activity was a warbling vireo feeding a bronzed cowbird, and tufted flycatchers and crescent-chested warblers feeding fledglings.

I really enjoyed observing at length two green violetears feeding at and hovering face-to-face over a flowering sumac. The most memorable sighting was on the morning of July 19. I had just come down from the

(continued on outside flap)

CLEARING HOUSE July, 1982

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH; Species; Location--(how many) date, observers. Those common species which can be easily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by the number of reports, with the lowest and highest number of individuals seen in parenthesis, i.e. (1-40). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. All observations reported below must be accepted by the Checklist Committee (Ben Feltner, Jim Morgan, and Noel Pettingell) before they are considered valid and included in the next checklist.

Grebe, Pied-billed: W.Harris Co.--(75)4,E; (15)31,P; Mercury Dr.--(1)11,PV; Anahuac NWR--(2)17,B.
 Pelican, White: Coast--(60)10,R
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 5 reports (2-20)
 Anhinga: Trinity R.--(1)27,WG; W.Harris Co.--(12)31,P
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: W.Galv.--(1)17,B; (5)4,RP; (3)10,R; (15)31,A
 Heron, Great Blue: Pelican Is.--(5 nests)5,RP; 7 other reports (1-38)
 Heron, Green: 9 reports (1-40)
 Heron, Little Blue: 7 reports (1-25)
 Egret, Cattle: 7 reports (1-300)
 Egret, Reddish: Mercury Dr.--(2)11,PV; 4 other reports (1-20)
 Egret, Great: Pelican Is.--(10 nests)5,RP; 5 other reports (8-70)
 Egret, Snowy: Pelican Is.--(25 nests)5,RP; 7 other reports (1-40)
 Heron, Louisiana: Pelican Is.--(100 nests)5,RP; 7 other reports (1-30)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: Pelican Is.--(25 nests)5,RP; Bellaire--(1 imm. on steps of swimming pool)24,DM; 3 other reports (1-3)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 6 reports (2-10)
 Bittern, Least: Anahuac NWR--(3)17,B; Bolivar--(1)17,B; Galv.--(1)10,R; (1)21,MAU
Bittern, American: Anahuac NWR--(1)17,B....needs notes.
 Stork, Wood: Oyster Cr.--(81 plus)21,PV; Galv.--(2)17,18,B,PV; Anahuac NWR--(24)17,B; Freeport--(25)25,MAU; Bellaire--(9)23,DM; NW Houston--(6)2,SW; Katy--(17)16,SW.
 Ibis, White-faced: Pelican Is.--(125 nests)5,RP; 5 other reports (1-100)
 Ibis, White: 5 reports (2-60)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 6 reports (12-75)
 Goose, White-fronted: Warren Lake--(3)5,TE; (2)31,P....submitted. Probably injured
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: W.Harris Co.--(15)5,E; (80 plus 2 broods of 5-8 young)31,P.
 Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: W.Harris Co.--(20)31,P.
 Duck, Mottled: 7 reports (1-10)
 Shoveler, Northern: Anahuac NWR--(1 m.)17,B.
 Duck, Ruddy: Mercury Dr.--(2)11,PV
 Vulture, Turkey: High Island--(3 over burned field)30,WG; 7 other reports (1-6)
 Vulture, Black: 2 reports (2)
 Kite, White-tailed: Galv.--(1)4,RP; NW Houston--(1)7,SW
 Kite, Mississippi: SW Houston--(3)29,Bob Behrstock
 Hawk, Red-tailed: Brazoria Co--(1)25,MAU; NW Houston--(2 at nest)22,SW
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: W.Harris Co--(1)17,R
 Hawk, Broad-winged: Bellaire--(1)28,DM....needs notes.
 Hawk, Swainson's: Houston--(1)2,WG; (1)18,MAU; Galena Park--(1)12,CB; NW Houston--(1)9,SW.
Hawk, White-tailed: near Ellington AFB--(1)16,NP; Bay Area Blvd--(1)15,MAU...notes submitted. Same bird?
 Hawk, Marsh: W.Galv.--(1)10,18,R,PV
 Bobwhite: 5 reports (1-20)
 Rail, King: 3 reports (1-3)
 Rail, Clapper: 3 reports (8-23)
 Gallinule, Common: 4 reports (7-36)
 Coot, American: W.Harris Co--(2)5,31,E,P; Coast--(20)10,R
 Oystercatcher, American: Galv.--3 reports (2-15); Bolivar--2 reports (1,2)
 Plover, Semipalmated: Galv.--(1)18,PV; Bolivar--(1)17,B; W.Harris Co--(10)31,P
 Plover, Piping: Bolivar--(10)17,B; (2)31,A; W.Harris Co--(1)31,P
 Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(4)31,A
 Plover, Wilson's: Bolivar--3 reports (1-8); Galv.--1 report (25)
 Killdeer: 8 reports (2-200)
 Plover, Black-bellied: 2 reports (1,30)
 Turnstone, Ruddy: Galv.--(16)18,PV

- Curlew, Long-billed: Galv.--(20)17,B,PV; Bolivar--(2)17,B; (1)31,A; Pelican Is.--(1)5,RP; W.Harris Co--(1)31,P.
 Sandpiper, Upland: W.Harris Co--(6)5,E...see notes; (1)31,P
 Sandpiper, Spotted: W.Galv.--(1)31,A; W.Harris Co--(1)31,P
 Sandpiper, Solitary: W.Galv.--(1)31,A.
 Willet: 3 reports (30-40)
 Yellowlegs, Greater: W.Harris Co--(5)5,E...see notes; (1)31,P; Mercury Dr--(10)8, WC.
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: Mercury Dr--(40)8,WC; W.Harris Co--(10)31,P
Knot: Bolivar--(12)17,B...needs notes; (1)31,A...see notes.
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: W.Harris Co--(1)5,E...see notes; (200)31,P; W.Galv--(1)31,A.
 Sandpiper, Least: W.Harris Co--(2)5,E...see notes; (50)31,P; Galv--(30)18,PV; Bolivar--(20)17,B; Virginia Pt.--(15)31,A
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(20)17,B
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: Mercury Dr--(12)11,PV; Anahuac NWR--(2)17,B; W.Harris Co.--(80)31,P.
 Dowitcher species: Mercury Dr.--(2)8,WC
 Sandpiper, Stilt: Mercury Dr.--(36)8,11,WC,PV; W.Harris Co--(25)31,P
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Virginia Pt--(2)31,A; W.Harris Co--(10)31,P
 Sandpiper, Western: Coast--(12)10,R; Bolivar--(100)17,B; W.Harris Co--(20)31,P
 Peep species: Mercury Dr--(150)8,WC; W.Harris Co--(250)31,P
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: W.Harris Co--(100)31,P...see notes.
Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar--(2)17,B...needs notes.
 Sanderling: Bolivar--(6)17,B; Coast--(5)10,R
 Avocet, American: Mercury Dr.--(21)8,11,WC,PV
 Stilt, Black-necked: 6 reports (2-100)
Phalarope, Wilson's: Mercury Dr--(2)8,WC...see notes
 Gull, Ring-billed: Bolivar--(15)17,B; Coast--(6)10,R
 Gull, Laughing: 4 reports (35-1,000)
 Tern, Gull-billed: Galv. Is. St. Pk.--(5 nests)4,RP; 3 other reports (1-7)
 Tern, Forster's: Galv. Is. St. Pk.--(5 nests)4,RP; 3 other reports (3-40)
 Tern, Least: Bolivar--(200)17,B; 4 other reports (1-60)
 Tern, Royal: 4 reports (30-1500)
 Tern, Sandwich: Bolivar--(1)17,B; Galv--(1)4,RP
 Tern, Caspian: 4 reports (2-5)
 Tern, Black: Mercury Dr--(10)8,WC; (6)11,PV; Galv--(25)18,PV; (12)29,NP; Pelican Is.--(1)5,RP; Bolivar--(4)31,A; W.Harris Co--(3)31,P; Anahuac NWR--(3)30,WC
 Skimmer, Black: Mercury Dr--(1)11,PV; Galv. Is. St. Pk.--(27 nests)4,RP; 4 other reports (6-55)
 Dove, Rock: 6 reports (2-20)
 Dove, White-winged: Galv.--(8)10,R
 Dove, Mourning: 10 reports (3-400)
 Dove, Inca: 5 reports (1-3)
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 6 reports (1-10)
 Owl, Barn: N.Loop--(1)2,WC; Brazoria Co--(1)25,MAU
 Owl, Screech: Alcoa--(1)3,17,DW; Bellaire--(7)26,DM
 Owl, Great Horned: W.Harris Co--(1)31,P
 Owl, Barred: Brazoria Co--(5)25,MAU
 Nighthawk, Common: 10 reports (1-60)
 Swift, Chimney: Bellaire--(5 imms. leaving nest)4,DM; 7 other reports (2-30)
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: Alcoa--(1 prob.)1,9,DW; W.Harris Co--(1)17,R; (1)31,P
 Kingfisher, Belted: Galv--(1)18,PV
 Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Houston--(1)2,WC; (2)22,Ron Braun
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 2 reports (1,2)
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 5 reports (1-5)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: near Anahuac NWR--(1 imm)17,B; Sheldon--(1)12,CB; NW Houston--(2)all month,(5)19,SW
 Woodpecker, Hairy: Bellaire--(family group of 5)all month, DM
 Woodpecker, Downy: 4 reports (1)
 Kingbird, Eastern: 6 reports (2-30)
Kingbird, Western: Hockley--(1)2,SW...needs notes. Also seen at Hempstead and Brenham.
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 10 reports (1-75)
 Flycatcher, Great Crested: White Oak Bayou--(3)7,WC
 Swallow, Tree: Chambers Co--(20)30,WC
 Swallow, Barn: W.Galv--(2)17,B; (10)31,NP...probably nesting in culverts; W.Harris Co--(5)31,P; Chambers Co--(12)30,WC
 Swallow, Cliff: Hockley--(4)2,SW...seemed to be nesting under bridge. Notes no longer needed in summer.

Martin, Purple: Meyerland--(1500)16,PM; (4000)31,WC...roosting in trees in Knob Hill Apts.; 6 other reports (20-150)
 Jay, Blue: 7 reports (1-6)
 Crow, Common: 6 reports (2-30)
 Chickadee, Carolina: 2 reports (2)
 Titmouse, Tufted: 2 reports (1,3)
 Wren, Carolina: 2 reports (1,10)
 Mockingbird, Northern: 10 reports (2-15)
 Robin, American: Pasadena--(1)13,22,RP; Houston--(4)all month, Glenn Cureton
 Thrush, Wood: White Oak Bayou--(1)7,WC
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 7 reports (1-20)
 Starling: 8 reports (3-500)
 Vireo, White-eyed: W.Harris Co--(3)17,R; White Mem. Pk--(1)30,WC
 Vireo, Red-eyed: W.Harris Co--(2)17,R
 Warbler, Black-and-white: High Island--(2)30,WC
 Warbler, Pine: W.Harris Co--(1)31,P
 Yellowthroat, Common: 4 reports (1-10)
 Sparrow, House: 7 reports (1-100)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 6 reports (4-30)
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 5 reports (8-1000)
 Oriole, Orchard: 7 reports (1-8)...must be one of the earliest fall migrants, as there are always considerably more sightings in July than in June.
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 2 reports (40,50)
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 7 reports (5-150)
 Grackle, Common: 6 reports (1-50)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 4 reports (1-25)
 Cowbird, Bronzed: Houston--(1)?,?...from recording
 Cardinal: 6 reports (2-15)
 Bunting, Painted: Galv.--(3)4,RP; Mercury Dr.--(4)8,WC
 Dickcissel: Anahuac NWR--(6)17,B; (1)30,WC; Galv.--(1)4,RP; W.Harris Co--(30)31,P
 Sparrow, Grasshopper: Sportsman's Rd.--(1)18,PV...see notes
 Sparrow, Seaside: W.Galv--(7)18,PV

Clearing House Contributors - July 1982: A--Gary & Randy Clark, Mike Austin; B--Bob Behrstock, Linda Graetz; CB--Charles Browning; DM--David Marrack; DW--Diane Wise; E--Ted & Cory Eubanks; MAU--Mike Austin; NP--Noel Pettingell; P--Randy Pinkston, Paul McKneely; PM--Peggy Milstead; PV--Peter Vennema; R--Don & Lee Richardson, Gil & Linda Douglas; RP--Randy Pinkston; SW--Steve Williams; WC--Wesley Cureton.

Field Notes - July 1982:

Upland Sandpiper: large, willet-sized shorebirds with characteristic "pinhead" shape. Feeding in plowed field along Clay Rd. near Porter Rd. Earliest I have ever seen them in fall migration on UTC.
 --Ted Eubanks

Greater Yellowlegs: willet-sized shorebirds with yellow legs and clear, whistled "tu tu" call. Feeding at Blackie Tyler's.
 --Ted Eubanks

Red Knot: chunky shorebird with shorter legs and smaller overall size than willets which accompanied it. Small head; short, straight bill. Washed with faint brick-red beneath (moulting). Observed with zoom telescopes from 25 yds. for about two minutes.
 --Mike Austin

Pectoral Sandpiper: medium-sized shorebird with distinctive pectoral breast markings. Feeding on mud flat at Blackie Tyler's.
 --Ted Eubanks

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: approx. 75 feeding in fresh green grass bordering Warren Lake. Starling-sized. Underparts a very warm dove color (almost orange in some individuals), gradually paling toward the crissum. Back darker brown with strong scaling pattern. Bill slightly shorter than length of skull, or perhaps as long. Face with eye-ringed appearance. Legs yellow. Another 25 birds located in a muddy field along Katy-Hockley Rd. Observed in both locations from 100 meters with 30X scope in excellent light.
 --Randy Pinkston, Paul McKneely

Wilson's Phalarope: male and female feeding in shallow water. About the size of lesser yellowlegs, but with shorter legs. Almost white on underparts. Back pale gray. Female had rich russet streak in neck. Thin, straight black beaks. Fed with side-to-side motion of head. Earliest I have ever seen in fall. Another year one was at Mercury Drive on July 20.

--Wesley Cureton

Grasshopper Sparrow: seen in spartina marsh with scattered shrubs. Viewed over 15 minutes as close as 8 ft. from several angles, as it responded to squeaking. Same general size as 7 seaside sparrows in same area. Each time I approached it, it flew only 20-30 ft. just above grass. General appearance was clean and crisp, as compared to dingy, sooty-looking seaside. No streaks on breast, belly, or sides. Tail sharp and appeared ragged when spread or when flying. Bill sharp and largish, but not as large as seaside's. White throat and belly. Breast and sides pale yellow or buff, depending on sun. Buff-colored eyebrow line. Lower mandible yellow; upper mandible dark. 10x40 binoculars.

--Peter Vennema

THAYER'S GULL AT GALVESTON, TEXAS

by David M. Mark (Dept. of Geography, State University of New York
 at Buffalo, Amherst, NY 14260)

Time & Date: about 10 a.m., Sat., 16 January 1982

Exact location: Bolivar ferry slip in Galveston. I was on the ferry,
 but it had not yet pulled out.

Weather: cool, sunny. Bird was well-lit (light from behind observer).

Optics: 7 X 35 binoculars

Distances: bird flew by, closest point was about 60 yards.

Description: While I was watching various gulls and terns, a large adult gull flew by, west to east. There was a very restricted amount of black in the wing-tips. On the upper wing surface, the black appeared to be restricted to the outer 3 or so primaries, and was extensive only on the first. I did not observe the pattern of white "mirrors". The lower surface of the wing had almost no black. There appeared to be a small area of black on the undersurface of the first primary only.

In addition to this distribution of black, which to the best of my knowledge is a reliable fieldmark, the bird appeared short-billed, but mantle-color was not noticeably different from Herring Gull. Eye color was not observed. The bird flew out of sight to the east, and was not observed again.

Conclusion: Having lived and birded in Vancouver B.C. from 1973 to 1978, I am very familiar with Thayer's Gull. I have found that the most reliable fieldmark for flying adult Thayer's Gull is the lack of black on the undersurface of the primaries. While my Galveston bird appeared to have a very small area of black in this area, the black was still much more extensive on the upper surface. This is not, in my experience, true of Herring Gull. There was nothing about the bird which was inconsistent with adult Thayer's Gull.

 Correction to the Special 30th Anniversary issue of THE SPOONBILL,
 July 1982:

On page 6, under All-Time Highest UTC Single-Party Big Days By Month,
JUNE should read Harris, Chambers, and Galveston counties.

Birding Eastern Mexico continued.....

cloud forest when movement in a 15-foot round-topped oak with mistletoe caught my eye. I quickly realized that more than one bird was present, and during the next ten minutes, nine species passed through the oak: a spot-crowned woodcreeper, two tufted flycatchers, a beardless flycatcher, a bridled titmouse, two black-and-white warblers, a golden-cheeked warbler, a crescent-chested and rufous-capped warbler, and a slate-throated redstart. While I was observing this pleasant gathering, a rose-throated becard made weird squeaks nearby and bumblebee hummingbirds buzzed and darted from one sumac to another.

I identified a total of 51 species, four of which were lifers. The most common or frequently seen birds were white-eared hummingbird, Coues' and beardless flycatcher, Mexican jay, orange-billed nightingale thrush, rufous-capped warbler, black-headed grosbeak, rufous-sided towhee, and olive sparrow.

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12-82

TEXAS COAST RARE BIRD ALERT
(Piney Woods Wildlife Society)

(713) 821-2846

Chairman of the Ornithology Group:

Ted Eubanks, Jr., 5409 Braeburn, Bellaire 77401

666-7639

Send dues, subscriptions and changes of address to:

Linda Walsh, 702 Marshall, Houston 77006

528-0139

Annual Membership dues: \$7.00 (ONC-\$5.00, OG-\$2.00)

Annual Subscriptions: \$4.00

Send material for THE SPOONBILL by 25th of month to:

Randy Pinkston, 5447 Kuldell, Houston 77096

667-1334

Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to:

Wesley Cureton, 6623 Grovewood, Houston 77008

862-5255

Send requests for OG information, checklists, maps to:

Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston 77096

723-8559