



THE SPOONBILL

2

VOLUME IX No. 8
DECEMBER 1960

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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

CLEARING HOUSE: Compiled by T. Ben Feltner with the greatly appreciated assistance of D. A. Deaver.

- *Common Loon: (2) 9/11 Cove AKM; (1) 11/13, 18, 20; (4) 11/17; (2) 11/25 Texas City LS.
* 1. Horned Grebe: (10) 12/3,4 Nav. Dist. TBF, DAD.
Eared Grebe: (7) 11/17, (2) 11/18, (8) 11/25, LaPorte LS; (3) 11/20 Sheldon "B";
(8) 12/3 Galv. SGW; (1) 12/4 Sheldon DAD, TBF.
Pied-billed Grebe: (5-25) (11/1-11/30 Nav. Dist. TBF; (4) 11/3, (28) 11/4, (3) 11/6,
(8) 11/9, (3) 11/10 Cove AKM; (1) 11/6, (5) 11/25 Galv. LS; (6) 12/3 Nav. Dist. DAD.
White Pelican: (2000) 11/1, 4, 21; (500) 11/12; (200) 11/25 LaPorte LS; (100) 11/1,
(1000) 11/2, 6, 10; (6000) 11/3, (2000) 11/19, (2) 11/22 Cove AKM.
Brown Pelican: (2) 11/6 Texas City, (8) 11/25 Galv LS; (71) 11/12 Galv. TBF;
(40) 12/3 Galv SGW.
Double-crested Cormorant; (1) 11/1, 6, 26; (9) 11/3, 4, (2) 11/4, 11, 22, (4) 11/19
Cove AKM; (600) 11/26 Sheldon "A".
Anhinga: (1) 11/20 Sheldon "B"; (2) 11/26 Sheldon "A"; (4) 12/4 Sheldon TBF.
Reddish Egret: (1) 11/10 Cove AKM; (3) 11/12 Galv TBF; (1) 11/15, 16, 25, LaPorte LS;
(1) 11/26 Galv "A"; (2) 12/3 Galv SGW.
Wood Ibis: (1) 11/20 Sheldon N.S.
White-faced Ibis: (20) 11/1, (30) 11/6, (100) 11/21 Cove AKM.
White Ibis: (25) 11/1, 2; (60) 11/3, 4; (70) 11/5, (600) 11/6, (100) 11/9 Cove AKM;
(50) 11/20 Sheldon "B"; (7) 11/26 Sheldon "A"; (60) 12/4 Sheldon DAD, TBF.
Roseate Spoonbill: (115) 11/4, (26) 11/6, (6) 11/5, (5) 11/9, (7) 11/10, (1) 11/11
Cove AKM.
Canada Goose: (50) 10/1, (1) 10/6 Cove AKM.
White-fronted Goose: (30) 11/3, (3) 11/4 LaPorte LS; (5) 11/8, (110) 11/11, (20) 11/28
Cove AKM; (300) 11/13 W. Harris Co. DAD, TBF; (75) 12/4 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH.
Snow & Blue Geese: (Great Many) Cove AKM; (300) 11/1, (60) 11/4, (300) 11/15, (50) 11/9,
(75) 11/21, (200) 11/28, LaPorte LS; (20,000) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD;
(5,000) 12/4 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH.
Mallard: (30) 11/1, 4, 6; (50) 11/3; (40) 11/6; (20) 11/9, 11; (60) 11/10, 17; (24) 11/13,
(3) 11/19 Cove AKM; (200) 11/13 Loganbaugh TBF, DAD; (24) 11/26 Sheldon "A";
(100) 12/4 Sheldon TBF, DAD.
Mottled Duck: (20) 11/1; (14) 11/6; (6) 11/8, 9; (3) 11/10; (2) 11/11, 17, 25;
(5) 11/21 Cove AKM.
Gadwall: (20) 11/4, (1) 11/6, (30) 11/9, (200) 11/10 Cove AKM; (800) 11/13, Loganbaugh
DAD, TBF; (1) 11/20 Sheldon "B"; (20) 11/25, 27 LaPorte LS, CS; (2) 11/26 Shel. "A".
Pintail: (300) 11/1, (1000) 11/2, (30) 11/4, (50) 11/6, 9; (100) 11/10, 12 Cove AKM;
(12,000) 11/13 Loganbaugh DAD, TBF; (75) 11/25 LaPorte LS, CS; (200) 11/26 Shel "A";
(92) 12/4 Shel DAD, TBF.

- Green-winged Teal: (1500) 11/1, (20) 11/4, (1000) 11/6, (7) 11/10, (1) 11/12 Cove AKM; (1000) 11/13 Loganbaugh DAD, TBF; (4) 11/25, (2) 11/27 LaPorte LS, CS.
- Blue-winged Teal; (1) 11/1, (2) 11/3 Cove AKM; (20) 11/3, (200) 11/18, (6) 11/19, (4) 11/25 LaPorte LS, CS.
- American Wigeon: (30) 11/1, (3000) 11/3, 4; (1) 11/6, (6000) 11/9, 10 Cove AKM; (1000) 11/13 Loganbaugh TBF, DAD; (2) 11/25, 27 LaPorte CS, LS.
- Shoveler: (150) 11/1, (200) 11/6, (14) 11/10, (5) 11/11, (1) 11/12 Cove AKM; (4) 11/3, (8) 11/25, (15) 11/27 LaPorte LS, CS; (200) 11/13 Loganbaugh; (15) 12/3, (12) 12/4 Nav. Dist. TBF, DAD.
- Wood Duck: (5) 11/20 Sheldon "B"; (2) 11/26 Sheldon "A".
- Redhead: (3) 11/10, 11 Cove AKM.
- *Ring-necked Duck: (1) 11/6, 10 Cove AKM; (6) 11/20 Sheldon "B"; (12) 11/26 Shel. "A".
- *Canvasback: (5) 11/3, (14) 11/5, (30) 11/6, (10) 11/8, 9; (20) 11/10, (35) 11/18, (90) 11/22 Cove AKM; (2) 11/20 Shel "B"; (75) 11/25 LaPorte LS, CS; (2) 12/4 Shel DAD, TBF.
- Lesser Scaup: (1) 11/11; (1000) 11/18, 19; (10-50) daily LaPorte LS; (3000) 11/18, (10,000) 11/19, (3000) 11/25 Cove AKM; (1) 12/3 Galv SGW; (51) 12/3; (130) 12/4 Nav Dist. DAD, TBF.
- * Common Goldeneye: (1) 11/27 Cove (Kendon Clark) fide AKM.
- * Bufflehead: (1) 11/6 Cove AKM; (3) 11/12 Galv TBF; (3) 11/20 Shel "B"; (1) 11/25 Galv LS, CS; (1) 11/26 Shel "A".
- Ruddy Duck: (4) 11/4 Cove AKM; (13) 11/12 Galv TBF; (65) 11/25 LaPorte LS; (16) 12/3 Galv SGW; (15) 12/4 Sheldon TBF, DAD.
- *Hooded Merganser: (8) 11/10 Cove AKM; (3) 11/19 WLB; (10) 11/20 "B"; (8) 11/26 "A", (6) 11/27 CHA, VLE; (2) 12/4 DAD, TBF all at Sheldon.
- *Red-breasted Merganser: (4) 11/6 T. C. Dike; (1) 11/25 Galv LS, CS; (4) Galv (4) T. C. Dike 11/12 TBF; (3) 11/19 Cove AKM; (1) 12/3 Galv. SGW.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1) 11/4, 9, 10, 11, 12 Cove AKM.
- Cooper's Hawk: (1) 11/3, 5, 6, 10 Cove AKM;
- Red-tailed Hawk: (1) 11/2, 4; (12) 11/3; (3) 11/5, 7, 13; (16) 11/6; (2) 11/8, 9, 16; (23) 11/10; (14) 11/11; (15) 11/12, 22; (5) 11/17, 23, 24; (10) 11/19; (11) 11/25; (12) 11/28 Cove AKM; (8) 11/6, (10) 11/12; (1) 11/18; (6) 11/25; (2) 11/27; (2) 11/29; (1) 11/30 LaPorte LS; (9) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD; (5) 12/3 Nav Dist DAD, TBF.
- Red-shouldered Hawk: (1) 11/2, 3, 5, 10, 19, 23; (4) 11/11, (3) 11/21 Cove AKM; (1) 11/3, 29, 30; (3) 11/6, 25, 27; (2) 11/12, 20; LaPorte LS; (1) 12/4 Sheldon DAD.
- Broad-winged Hawk: (1) 11/12 (Freshly shot) Galv. TBF.
- White-tailed Hawk: (1) 11/12, 28 Sugarland (1) 11/26 Galv RD, HSH, LBH.
2. Rough-legged Hawk: (1) 11/25, 27 LaPorte LS, CS.
- Marsh Hawk: (Harrier) (6) 11/1, 9; (10) 11/2, (5) 11/4, 8, 21, 23, 24; (22) 11/6; (23) 11/18; (7) 11/11, 16, 22; (13) 11/12; (3) 11/13, 23; (1) 11/14, 19; (4) 11/17, 18, 25; (11) 11/28 Cove AKM; (1) 11/3, 10, 17, 18, 23, 29; (12) 11/6, 12; (2) 11/16 LaPorte LS; (23) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD; (1) 12/4 Pasadena. DAD.
- Osprey: (1) 11/10, 16; LaPorte LS.
- Caracaras: (1) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD.
- Peregrine Falcon: (1) 11/12 Galv. TBF; (1) 11/20 Sheldon WLB.
- Sparrow Hawk (Kestrel): (22) 11/10, (9) 11/11, 12; (2) 11/16; (7) 11/17, 21; (10) 11/18, (11) 11/19, (12) 11/22, (5) 11/24, (3) 11/5, (11) 11/28 Cove AKM; (17) 11/13 W. Harris Co. DAD.
- *Sandhill Crane: (8) 11/19 Cinco NCO; (5) 12/4 Cinco HSH, LBH.
- King Rail: (1) 11/9 Cove AKM.
- Clapper Rail: (1) 11/10 Cove AKM; (1) 11/25 LaPorte LS; (1) 11/26 Galv. "A".
- Common Gallinule: (1) 11/25 Buckhorn "A"; (4-6) 11/27 Cove AKM.
- American Coot: (5000) 11/3, 4; (1) 11/6; (4000) 11/9, 10; (1) 11/12 Cove AKM; (200) 11/12 Galv TBF; (50) 11/25 LaPorte LS, CS.
- Semipalmated Plover: (8) 11/3, (5) 11/6, (1) 11/10, 22; (12) 11/11 Cove AKM; (1) 11/25 Galv. LS, CS; (3) 11/26 Galv. "A".
- Piping Plover: (1) 11/3 Cove AKM; (1) 11/25 Galv. LS, CS.
- Black-bellied Plover: (15) 11/1, (10) 11/3, (1) 11/9, (3) 11/10 (9) 11/11, (7) 11/22 Cove AKM; (1-2) daily LaPorte LS; (10) 11/26 Galv HSH, LBH.
- Ruddy Turnstone: (8) 11/10 Cove AKM; (25) 12/3 Galv SGW.
- Common Snipe: (5) 11/3, (1) 11/6, (2) 11/9 Cove AKM; (4) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD; (30) 11/6, (12) 11/28 W. Harris HSH, LBH.
- Long-billed Curlew: (3) 11/1 Cove AKM; (253) 11/12 Galv TBF; (6) 11/25 LaPorte LS.
- Spotted Sandpiper: (1) 11/10, 11, 19, 22 Cove AKM; (1-2) daily LaPorte LS; (1) 11/26 Tunnel "A".
- Willet: (1-4) daily, (16) 11/4 LaPorte LS; (25) 11/6, (2) 11/9, (15) 10, 11; (7) 11/19, (12) 11/22 Cove AKM.
- Greater Yellowlegs: (4) 11/1, (2) 11/3, 10; (3) 11/6, (8) 11/11, (9) 11/19, (10) 11/22, (4) 11/23 Cove AKM; (2) 11/4 LaPorte LS; (1) 12/3, 4 Nav. Dist DAD.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: (3) 11/1, (7) 11/3, 9; (125) 11/6, (4) 11/19, 23 Cove AKM; (2) 11/4, (4) 11/25 LaPorte LS.

- Knot: (10) 11/26 Galv NCO.
- Dunlin: (50) 11/1, (200) 11/3, (100) 11/4, (1) 11/6, 8, 12, 15, 19, 25; (3) 11/14 LaPorte LS; (20) 12/3 Galv. SGW.
- Dowitcher: (Sp.) (300) 11/1, (1500) 11/6, (1) 11/10, (20) 11/19, 21; (100) 11/22 Cove AKM; (1) 11/1, (300) 11/3, (200) 11/18, (1) 11/25, 27 LaPorte LS.
- Peeps: (Sp.) (2000) 11/1, 25; (5000) 11/3; (300) 11/6, (1000) 11/18 LaPorte LS.
- Western Sandpiper: (15) 11/21 LaPorte LS.
3. Stilt Sandpiper: (15) 11/1, (50) 11/3, (10) 11/4, (1) 11/8, 9, 27; (25) 11/12, (30) 11/13, (2) 11/15, (3) 11/25; LaPorte LS; (2) 11/6 Cove AKM.
- Marbled Godwit: (3) 11/12 Galv TBF; (3) 11/26 Galv "A"; (3) 12/3 Galv SGW.
- Sanderling: (5) 11/6, (1) 11/7, 10, 11, 15, 22; (15) 11/12; (6) 11/14, 23, 27; (2) 11/24, (100) 11/25, (3) 11/29 LaPorte LS; (3) 11/6, (2) 11/10, (1) 11/22 Cove AKM.
- American Avocet: (2) 11/1 Cove AKM; (200) 11/1, 29; (300) 11/3, 12, 13, 18, 25, 27; (150) 11/6, (350) 11/8, (400) 11/10, 15, 16; (100) 11/19, 23; (35) 11/21 Tunnel LS, CS; (5) 11/12, (4) 11/16, (10) 11/17, (22) 11/23, Nav. Dist. (first in 9 years) TBF.
- Herring Gull: (1) 11/10 Cove AKM; (43) 11/12 Galv TBF.
- Franklin's Gull: (30) 11/1, (100) 11/3, 4; (1) 11/10 LaPorte LS; (2) 11/1, 11; (7) 11/10; (3) 11/19, (1) 11/22 Cove AKM.
- *Bonaparte's Gull: (1) 11/9 Cove AKM; (3) 11/10, (1) 11/29 LaPorte LS.
- Sandwich Tern: (15) 11/25 Galv LS, CS; (2) 11/26 Galv "A"; (3) 12/3 Galv SGW.
4. Black Tern: (1) 11/12 Galv TBF.
- Black Skimmer: (1) 11/1 Cove AKM; (200) 11/12 Galv TBF; (1) 11/25 Galv CS, LS.
- Barn Owl: (1) 11/1 Cove AKM.
- Screech Owl: (1-2) 11/2, 19, 26; Cove AKM.
- GreatHorned Owl: (1-3) on 15 days Cove (1) 11/11 Cove AKM.
- *Short-eared Owl: (1) 11/10 (dead on Highway 73) Cove AKM.
5. Common Nighthawk: (2) 12/1 Houston SGW.
6. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1) 11/21 Cove AKM.
- Belted Kingfisher: (2) 11/1, 6, 9, 25; (4) 11/3, (1) 11/8, 22; (3) 11/19 Cove AKM; (1) 11/1, 8, 12, 21, 22, 23, 25; LaPorte LS; (5) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD; (1) 12/3 Nav. Dist. TBF.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1-2) daily LaPorte LS; (1) 11/2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 13, 26, 27, 28; (2) 11/8, 11, 20, 24; (5) 11/9; (3) 11/12 Cove AKM; (1) 11/11 Houston HSH, LBH; (2) 12/3 Horseshoe Bend TBF, DAD.
- * Red-shafted Flicker: (1) 11/25 Galv CS.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker: (1-2) daily Cove AKM.
- Pileated Woodpecker: (3) 11/11 Houston, (3) 11/11 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH; (1) 11/12 LaPorte LS, CS.
- Red-headed Woodpecker: (1) 11/26 Buckhorn "A".
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1) 11/5, 16, 21 Cove AKM; (1-2) daily LaPorte LS; (1) 11/11, 27 Houston HSH, LBH; (4) 12/2 Houston GSW.
- Downy Woodpecker: (1) 11/1, 24, 25; LaPorte LS.
7. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: (1) 11/1 LaPorte LS; (2) 11/3, (2) 11/4 Cove AKM.
- EasternPhoebe: (1) 11/1, 7, 12, 21, 22, 25, 27; (6) 11/3, (2) 11/5, 8; (3) 11/6, 19; (5) 11/10, (4) 11/11 Cove AKM; (1-2) daily LaPorte LS, CS; (1 daily) Houston HSH, LBH.
- Vermillion Flycatcher: (1) 11/1, 19; (2) 11/6 Cove AKM; (1) 11/20 Shel "B"; (1) 11/24 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH; (3) 12/4 Shel TBF, DAD.
- Tree Swallow: (50) 11/2, 12; (3) 11/16 LaPorte LS; (400) 11/12 Texas City TBF. (10) 11/20 Sheldon "B".
- Rough-winged Swallow: (no count) 11/1 Cove AKM; (31) 11/12 Galv TBF; (1) 11/26 LaPorte LS, CS.
- Barn Swallow: (1) 11/1, (1) 11/6, Cove AKM; (10) 11/2, (50) 11/12 LaPorte LS.
8. Common Crow: (1) 11/25 Galv LS, CS.
- Brown-headed Nuthatch: (5) 11/11, (2) 12/4 Houston HSH, LBH.
- Brown Creeper: (1) 11/3, 11 Houston HSH, LBH; (1) 11/13 LaPorte LS, CS.
- House Wren: (3-6) daily LaPorte LS; (3) 11/3, (1) 11/5, 10 Cove AKM; (1) 11/5 (seen regularly since) Houston HSH, LBH.
- Winter Wren: (1) 11/5, 12 Cove AKM.
- Long-billed Marsh Wren: (2) 11/6, (1) 11/27 Cove AKM.
- *Short-billed Marsh Wren: (1) 11/1 Cove AKM; (2) 12/3 Galena Park, TBF, DAD.
- Catbird: (1) 11/12 Galv. TBF; (1) 11/14, 16, 28 LaPorte LS.
- Brown Thrasher: (2-3) daily LaPorte LS, CS; (1) 11/6 Sugarland HSH, LBH; (2) 11/13 Cinco DAD.
- Robin: (1) 11/3 Cove AKM; (1) 11/6 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH; (1) 11/26 LaPorte "A"; (1) 11/29 LaPorte LS, CS.
- *Hermit Thrush: (4) 11/2, (1) 11/5, 6, 7, 16, 22, 24; (3) 11/25 LaPorte LS.
- Eastern Bluebird: (8) 11/6 W. Harris Co., (1) 12/1, (8) 12/4 Houston HSH, LBH; (15) 11/20 Buckhorn "B"; (1) 11/26 Buckhorn "A"; (15) 12/2 Lake Houston Park WLB.
9. Mountain Bluebird: (1) 11/3, 4 Cove AKM.
- Golden-crowned Kinglet: (3-4) most days LaPorte LS; (1) 11/6 W. Harris Co., (5) 11/11 Houston HSH, LBH; (1) 11/20 Sheldon "B".
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (1-5) 11/1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 14 Cove AKM; (4-8) daily LaPorte LS; (1) 11/3, (15) 11/11, (10) 11/25, Houston HSH, LBH; (5) 11/13 W. Harris Co. DAD, TBF; (60) 11/26 Buckhorn "A".

- Water Pipit: (Daily) LaPorte LS; (1-8) 11/1, 6, 10, 11, 19, 20, 22; (60) 11/28 Cove AKM; (30) 11/6 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH; (17) 11/16, (65) 12/3 Nav. Dist. TBF.
- *Sprague's Pipit: (1) 11/10 Cove AKM; (1) 11/30 (on beach at bay, seen well, good details submitted) Unusual habitat - Ed.) LaPorte LS.
- Starling: (100-200) daily since 11/15 Nav. Dist. TBF; (500) 11/6 Texas City, LS, CS; (1000) 11/24, 28 Cove AKM.
- White-eyed Vireo: (1) 11/27 Cedar Bay BCP.
10. Yellow-throated Vireo: (1) 11/6 W. Harris Co. LBH, HSH.
- Solitary Vireo: (1) 11/1, 28, 30 LaPorte LS; (1) 11/26 Houston SGW; (1) 12/4 Houston HSH, LBH.
- Orange-crowned Warbler: (3-6) daily LaPorte LS; (1) 11/10 Cove AKM; (2) 11/11, (1) 11/25, (1) 12/4 Houston LBH, HSH.
- Nashville Warbler: (1) 11/1 LaPorte LS; (2) 11/3 Cove AKM.
- Myrtle Warbler: (10) 11/6, (1-2) most days, LaPorte LS; (15) 11/6 W. Harris Co., (6) 12/4 Houston HSH, LBH; (2) 11/27 Shel CHA, VLE.
- Black-throated Green Warbler: (1) 11/5 LaPorte LS, CS.
11. Sycamore Warbler: (1) 11/11 Houston HSH, LBH; (1) 12/3 Galv (dead less than one week) SGW.
12. Chestnut-sided Warbler: (1) 11/25 Kempner Park LS, CS.
- Pine Warbler: (1) 11/2, 6, 11. 25; (10) 12/4 Houaron HSH, LBH; (7) 11/19 Lake Houston WLB; (4) 11/23, (2) 11/24, 27, 30 LaPorte LS.
- Palm Warbler: (1) 11/3 Cove AKM; (2) 11/27 Shel CHA, VLE.
- Yellowthroat: (1) 11/1, 11, 25, 27; Cove AKM.
- Wilson's Warbler: (1) 11/1 Cove AKM.
- *Brewer's Blackbird: (7) 11/26 Cedar Bayou "A".
- Common Grackle: (60) 11/3 Houston HSH, LBH; (2) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD.
- Brown-headed Cowbird; (flocks up to 100) (3000) 11/12 LaPorte LS; (6000) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD.
- Summer Tanager: (1) 11/11, 16 Houston HSH, LBH; (1) 11/11, 12, 16 Houston SGW; (different birds - Ed.)
- Indigo Bunting: (10) 11/3, (2) 11/10 Cove AKM.
- *Pine Siskin: (1) 12/2 Lake Houston Park WLB.
- American Goldfinch: (2) 11/6, (1) 11/7, 15, 26 LaPorte LS, CS; (20) 12/2 Lake Houston Park WLB.
- Savannah Sparrow: (1) 11/6 W. Harris Co., LBH, HSH; (12) 11/13 W. Harris Co. DAD; (1) 11/25 LaPorte LS, CS.
- *Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (1) 11/6 Cove AKM; (3) 11/26 Galv "A".
- Seaside Sparrow: (2) 11/6, 22; (4) 11/10 Cove AKM; (1) 11/25 LaPorte LS.
- Vesper Sparrow: (1) 11/3, 11; (2) 11/13 Cove AKM; (1) 11/6 W. Harris Co. HSH, LBH; (2) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD.
- *Slate-colored Junco: (1) 11/11, (2) 11/30, 12/4; Houston HSH, LBH; (1) 12/2 Lake Houston WLB.
- Chipping Sparrow: (1) 11/5, (10) 11/21, (12) 12/4 Houston HSH, LBH.
- *Field Sparrow: (1) 11/10 LaPorte LS.
- White-crowned Sparrow: (2) 11/1, (10) 11/3, (20) 11/11 Cove AKM. (1) 11/7 Houston HSH, LBH; (25) 11/26 Cedar Bayou TBF.
- White-throated Sparrow: (daily) LaPorte LS; (1) 11/6, 7 W. Harris Co., (357) 11/13 W. Harris Co. TBF, DAD; (100) 11/26 Buckhorn "A".
- Lincoln's Sparrow: (no count) 11/3, 6, 10, 11, 19, 23; Cove AKM; (1) 11/25 LaPorte LS; (6) 11/26 Cedar Bayou "A".
- Swamp Sparrow: (2) 11/11, (1) 11/27 Cove AKM.

CREDITS:

"A" - VLE, PC, TBF.

"B" - Walter Barbare, Jerry Strickling, Nancy Strickling, Henry Hoffman, Louise Hoffman, Norma C. Oates, Peggy Smith, Clayton Gillman, Eva Gillman, Ella Wolfer, Helen Wolfer, The Bartletts & some scouts.

AKM - Arlie K. McKay

BCP - Billy C. Pettit

CHA - Carl H. Aiken III

CS - Clinton Snyder

DAD - Dudley A. Deaver

HSH - Henry S. Hoffman

LBH - Louise B. Hoffman

LS - Linda Snyder

NS - Nancy Strickling

SGW - Steve G. Williams

TBF - T. Ben Feltner

VLE - Vic L. Emanuel

WLB - Walter L. Barbare

PC - Paul Corneil

* First for the season

1. Horned Grebe: A very unusual habitat for this mostly coastal bird.
2. Rough-legged Hawk: Status - rare winter resident.
3. Stilt Sandpiper: All the dates for this bird broke the old late Fall date of October 29, 1958. Mrs. Snyder's (1) 11/27 sets a new mark.
4. Black Tern: Two days later than previous latest ever.
5. Common Nighthawk: Rare winter resident. Has wintered in Houston (1950-51) and (1956-57).
6. Ruby-throated Hummingbird: Rare winter resident.
7. Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: Rare winter resident.
8. Common Crow: Highly unusual on Galveston Island.
9. Mountain Bluebird: 3rd record for the area. "A female; I closely observed color, posture, and eye-ring." AKM.
10. Yellow-throated Vireo: Either a late migrant or a winter resident. A good bird either way.
11. Sycamore Warbler: Late migrants or winter residents?
12. Chestnut-sided Warbler: Latest ever by 26 days. (Seen well and all appropriate field marks noted.

COVE:

Arlie K. McKay

I have recorded only 133 species this month. The 10th with 81 was the high day, birding has been poor. Migration slow coming, and departure early: thrashers, chickadees, gnatcatchers, Boat-tailed Grackle, Cardinal, Savannah Sparrow & Meadowlarks are all unusually scarce. Orange-crowned Warblers, White-throated, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows the least ever. Myrtle Warbler none till the 28th, titmouse none, Field Sparrow none unprecedented.

The poorest November I ever saw. In the first half I recorded 127 species, compared with 149 last year.

LA PORTE (November)

Linda Snyder

There is still a scarcity of winter residents and the current norther did little to improve the situation.

POINTS OF NOTE:

After the prediction I made last month concerning the abundance of birds in November, I feel somewhat disheartened by the actual outcome of events. As Mr. McKay points out, this is the worst November ever. This seems to be true of the whole area. It is unbelievable that throughout the area only one Field Sparrow has been seen for the whole month of November; nevertheless it is true. All sparrows seem below par, perhaps this can be attributed to the abnormal weather which we experienced during August. The record rainfall at that season, when weed seeds were ripening, caused them to take root, producing young plants which were destroyed or stunted by the first pangs of cold weather, leaving us without a seed crop, with which to welcome incoming fringillids. This might also explain the scarcity of some of our resident birds such as Cardinals, Meadowlarks, etc.

If the present situation persists, Christmas counting is going to call for some super-sleuthing and much more footwork than usual in order that we maintain our status as national leaders. Good Birding -- TBF

DESPERATION MEASURES?

By Mabel Deshayes

On June 17, 1960, Bob and I went to San Luis Pass, Galveston, to check on the Black Skimmer colony. As we traversed over the sand from the Gulf side to the Bay side of the pass, we noticed that some of the Black Skimmers had their chicks with them on the water's edge. The tide was low and a few shallow tidal pools had formed. The Skimmers were squawking as usual, and we stopped occasionally to take a look at the birds through our binoculars. When we had gotten within fairly close range, one of the parent birds swooped down and struck her chick sending him somersaulting in the sand. She did this 3 or 4 times, and on the last try she got him with her bill around the neck and lifted him 4 feet off the ground. She then lost her hold and dropped him. My immediate thought was that she would hurt the little one, and I made a mad dash to the rescue. The chick was so frightened that he didn't know whether to take to the water or let me get him. He made a couple of quick circles and took to the water and was soon waterlogged. I snatched him out, dried him off, and we took a picture of the little hero. He was soon scampering along the sand with his mama.

When I related the above encounter to the Editor of the Spoonbill, Mr. Ben Feltner, I also told him about the following experience which I had had as a small child. Two other children and I had gone to the Illinois - Mississippi Canal in Illinois. As we were walking along the bank, a female mallard swam out from under the grassy edge and behind her was her brood. We decided that if two children stayed on one bank of the canal and one child concealed himself on the opposite bank, we could force her to come ashore and thus get to hold the little ducks. She and her family were in the middle of the canal. We had our stations and had started our barrage of pebble throwing and yelling, and then the poor duck, with her bill, struck two of her brood, killing them.

A Conclusion: Both the above incidents reveal radical behavior by parent birds under pressure. Perhaps the adult skimmer was so fraught with anxiety for her offspring that she attempted to carry it to safety in her bill. It is hard to say conclusively what her aims were, but that she almost pulled it off is evidenced by the observers account.

The Mallard when in a similar situation was undoubtedly trying to make her ducklings dive. In her frenzied effort to accomplish this escape she inadvertently bludgeoned two of her brood to death. One wonders if she would not have slaughtered them all had not the children, upon realization of the consequences, stopped harrying them.

The Canvasback On A Prairie Marsh by H. Albert Hochbaum

A Review by D. A. Deaver

Delta Marsh, 19 miles long, east and west, and 5 miles wide at its widest point, embracing 36,000 acres, is located at the southern end of Lake Manitoba in Canada. Here is to be found the Delta Duck Station, a research organization jointly financed by Mr. James Ford Bell and the Wildlife Management Institute. The Station is dedicated to the advancement of man's scientific knowledge of ducks. "The Canvasback On A Prairie Marsh" is a report of the research done at the Station from its conception in 1938 up until the book was published in 1944. The work includes an addendum designed to bring the reader up to date. To quote from the introduction, "This report attempts to describe, in chronological sequence, what the Delta Station has learned since 1938 about the principle events of the duck summer: Arrival, courtship, nesting, brood-season, flightless period, 'vacation period', shooting season and departure. In each of these successive periods, the Canvasback is used as a 'base-datum' and the other nine ducks which breed at Delta are compared with it."

The first chapter deals admirably with the ecology of the region. It is written, not in a strict scientific manner, but rather as a romantic topographer would describe a region to one who cares not the least for ecology as such, but is merely interested in the "lay of the land". When the reader has finished the chapter, however, he finds that he has learned a myriad of facts and details concerning the local ecology.

The following chapters outline in minute and exhaustive detail the mating, nesting and rearing activities of wild ducks in relation to one another as individuals and to ducks in general, in direct, concise statements that clear away many uncertainties. The reader never becomes lost in a maze of scientific jargon, but finds instead an interesting and easy to read journal. This clearness of style and simplicity of presentation by no means detracts from the serious purpose of reporting the results of the research program.

While this book has little practical value for the local birdwatcher in the field, other than a greater knowledge of ducks in general, it will definitely find a place on anyone's library shelf marked "reading for interest and pleasure". The book is written in the narrative style with an abundance of well used descriptive superlatives. For instance, "On calm, quiet mornings in May the prairie marsh floats lightly in a world of sky. Horizons are lost in a veil of haze, and the thin line of reeds seems to drift by the canoe like a golden carpet on the soft spring air. Only the flawless reflections of gulls and wheeling White Pelicans mark the shallow waters of the bay. The scene is delicately simple: a wavy, irregular line of tules against the taller beds of Phragmites, accented only by soft shadows, and occasional clumps of maple and willow, purple in the hazy distance. The line of bulrushes dominates the scene, everywhere marking the border between open water and cane. Here and there the beds point broad arms far into the bays, and islands of tules spread over the water like giant lily pads. Here, in the bulrushes near broad waters, one most certainly will encounter nesting Canvasbacks."

The work is primarily concerned with the results of field research, but reports of experiments with captive birds are given to augment the field study.

There are thirteen black and white plates in the appendix that are the results of excellent photography. They serve to emphasize points made in the text. The frontispiece is a color plate of a painting by the author and fulfills its duty of being worth a thousand words. The text is replete with some very fine pen and ink drawings, also by

the author.

In conclusion, I find this book very interesting reading but of little practical value to the local birder otherwise. It is, however, an invaluable and necessary book for anyone studying Waterfowl Management.

"The Canvasback On A Prairie Marsh", containing 207 pages and bound in buckram, was first published in 1944 by the Stackpole Company in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute. The second edition, which was reviewed, was published in 1959. The volume, priced at \$4.50, is not currently available in Houston, but any of the major book stores will special order it with delivery in ten to thirty days.

"Prairie Ducks", by Lyle K. SOWLS, published by the Stackpole Company in conjunction with the Wildlife Management Institute, received the Literary Award of the Wildlife Society as being the best book on Wildlife Management published in 1955. It is a continuation of the research reported in "The Canvasback On A Prairie Marsh". It contains 193 pages, a color frontispiece by Peter Scott, 46 plates, 30 line drawings and is priced at \$4.75. It is just as valuable as the book reviewed this month with the exception, in this reporter's opinion, that it is not written quite as well.

SUMMARY OF THE SUMMER SEASON

Continued from Volume IX, No. 5. By Paul Corneil

- Blue-winged Teal - 6 adults and 2 young at Galveston June 18 (PC, SGW), proved this species again nested in the area; missed on July 24 O.G. Field Trip (Virginia Parker, et al) and on July 30 day run, but present in small numbers the remainder of the season.
- Canvasback - One at Baytown Tunnel July 30 (SGW, PC CHA); Sheldon, August 27.
- Mississippi Kite - Pair nested for the first time at Brookshire (John O'Neill, et al).
- Red-tailed Hawk - Adult near U. S. Gypsum Dock on Buffalo Bayou July 23, immatures later TBF.
- Marsh Hawk - Reported at Cove July 4; Nesting at Morgan's Point June 1 (JAS).
- Caracara - Hard to find, scarce wanderer over area all summer (?).
- Sora - One lingered at Galveston until June 18 (SGW, PC).
- Purple Gallinule - While not recorded on any day runs, common in the marshes at Sheldon in the first part of the summer, when Carl Aiken reported them outnumbering Common Gallinules on one day of observations.
- American Coot - Like Lesser Scaup but in slightly larger numbers.
- Whimbrel - A very early record at Galveston July 9 (CS, JAS, PC).
- American Avocet - First record in 4½ months, the second in 8 months, on August 20 (JAS), and several days after (see Clearing House, etc.); peak of 200 on August 22 (JAS, CS).
- Sandwich Tern - 5 to 25 at Galveston jetties all summer (PC et al).
- Inca Dove - Easily found in Menard House area, Galveston, all summer; female sitting on nest as late as August 27 (PC).
- Chuck-will's-widow - Lingerers (?) in woods near Sheldon early in the summer; two recorded on June 18 (SGW); 2 August 10 at Cove (Arlie K. McKay).
- Belted Kingfisher - Moved in from breeding grounds just north of the area on July 9, and present in increasing numbers near Sheldon afterward.
- Red-headed Woodpecker - Bred in good numbers at Hermann Park and the University of Houston campus.
- Wood Thrush - Singing in three areas this summer: Morgan's Point (JAS, CS), woods near Sheldon (JAS, SGW, CS, CHA, PC), and Steve Williams' grandmother's house near Bellaire (SGW), a new location; probably nesting at all three although there is no concrete evidence to that effect except at Morgan's Point (JAS). Mrs. Snyder saw an immature on August 19 and thinks there were two or three broods; she believes continued singing at one location is a good sign of nesting there in which case the Bellaire location would be the second most southern breeding record in North America. Morgan's Point is first.
- Starling - Probably two broods at Cove on May 6 and 18 (Arlie K. McKay); probably two or more broods at Buckhorn Lake, seen June 18, July 9, and July 30 (PC et al) in an old woodpecker hole.
- Prothonotary Warbler - A record at Morgan's Point June 10 (JAS, CS) but with no evidence of nesting; species not seen again until July 16 (Snyders on vacation during part of this time, however).
- Blue Grosbeak - Fairly regular at Sheldon Reservoir but not common.
- Bachman's Sparrow - One of the surprises of the summer, a regular singer early in the morning in the woods adjacent to Sheldon High School west of the reservoir; discovered first on July 9 day run, and identified that day by sight; one to three (on August 27) every day run afterward (PC, JAS, CS, SGW, CHA).

In general there has been a drop in the numbers of skimmers, pelicans, and Black-crowned Night Herons over the past two years. Mrs. Snyder wonders if it might be due to the destruction on their breeding grounds of two hurricanes in the three summers preceding this

one, Ibis and spoonbill numbers are somewhat above the last two years' however. Cattle egret numbers on Galveston proper were low, but many may have been nesting on the islands in West Bay and thus gone unnoticed. However, August 27, 1959, produced 57 individuals, whereas August 27, 1960, found only about two in the same territory. Orchard Orioles were very common, probably above last year's numbers; Dickcissels on the other hand, were much below last year's population.

Starling records on Galveston Island were at best confusing. A group of 13 were seen between Eight- and Nine-mile roads on July 30 and about 25 were found just west of Nine-mile Road on August 25 and 27. The difference in size of the two groups and the apparent absence of the species between these dates makes one wonder if these were breeding or non-breeding summer residents. It seems a little unlikely, however, especially on the first date, that the birds were early migrants. One explanation is that they were non-nesting individuals which were simply missed on other days and to which were added about 12 more later in the season. And yet these 12 may have been added by nesting!

An interesting part of the bird scene here in the summer is the variety of non-breeding residents which hang around to swell field trip lists. The Wood Ibis, Black-bellied Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Lesser Scaup, Sanderling (probably), and Ruddy Duck (probably this year). In addition, during July for several weeks (TBF) a flock of 13 White-rumped Sandpipers was present in the Navigation District on the east edge of Houston; these were probably also non-breeders since they lingered too long for a group of migrants. They also were halfway between the usual spring and fall migration times for this species.

Several species were so irregular in their occurrence that I will summarize the dates they were seen in a table. The number under the dates is the number of individuals seen that day; approximate numbers are underlined.

	<u>6/18</u>	<u>7/3</u>	<u>7/9</u>	<u>7/16</u>	<u>7/30</u>	<u>8/13</u>	<u>8/15</u>	<u>8/25</u>	<u>8/27</u>	<u>Other</u>
Mag. Frigate-bird	-	6	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4/30, 5/26
Bl.-winged Teal	8	*	6	*	-	2	1	-	4	8/19
Wood Duck	4	*	-	*	2	-	*	2	-	-
Canvasback	-	*	-	*	1	-	*	-	1	-
Turkey Vulture	1	*	1	*	-	1	-	2	1	-
Black Vulture	1	*	-	*	-	1	-	1	-	-
Swainson's Hawk	1	*	-	*	-	1	?	2	1	-
Caracara	1	*	-	*	-	2	-	-	-	-
King Rail	-	*	1	*	-	1	-	-	-	-
Com. Gallinule	4	*	4	*	-	-	-	-	1	Until mid-July (CHA)
Piping Plover	-	1	1	3	-	1	3	1	2	-
Snowy Plover	-	1	-	-	1	15	-	-	3	-
Horned Lark	-	2	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
Brown Thrasher	1	*	2+	*	2	-	*	-	-	Until end July (PC)

Key to Dates: 6/18, PC and SGW day run; 7/3, TBF on Galveston West Beach; 7/9, PC, JAS, and CS day run; 7/16, TBF on Galveston West Beach; 8/30, PC, SGW, and CHA day run; 8/13, PC, SGW, and JAS day run; 8/15, JAS and CS La Porte to Galveston; 8/25, SGW and VLE day run; 8/27, PC, JAS, and CS day run; 4/30, TBF Galveston; 5/26, CS Morgan's Point; 8/19, JAS and CS Bayshore area (?).

Symbols: - means no record and * means the species is not to be expected on such a count.

Migrants

While the main task of summarizing migration records belongs to a later writer, I would like to gather those spring migration observations which were made after the end of May with the fall migration records which were seen before the end of the nominal breeding season (August 15 for Audubon Field Notes).

One of the points which the day runs emphasized is that spring migration does not end before fall migrants begin to filter back through our area. For at least three weeks, from June 18 to July 9, both types were probably in Galveston at least. On July 18 Steve Williams and I saw five probable spring migrants or lingerers: Swainson's Hawk, Sora, Knot, Pectoral Sandpiper, and White-rumped Sandpiper, the latest dates ever. But we also saw what was probably the first fall migrants coming back -- a group of dowitchers (sp., probably Short-billed); we called these fall migrants because there was a period in late May and early June when determined efforts in Galveston could produce no dowitchers at all. On July 9 the Snyders and I identified 6 fall migrants -- Whimbrel, Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-billed Dowitcher, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, and Marbled Godwit -- the last being the earliest ever (SGW). The previous earliest ever, July 19, 1958, Galveston (VLE). The Knots were still at San Luis Pass that day but were gone for Feltner July 16 and for the day-runners July 30; thus they were probably the very last spring migrants of 1960.

On July 16, the Snyders recorded a small group of birds which they believe to have been the first southward-migrating land birds: one Prothonotary Warbler and a group of Orchard Orioles "which weren't there before". Two days later another small flock of fall migrants including White-eyed Vireo and Black and White Warbler passed near their home Morgan's Point. From this day forward, birdlife became more and more transitory. The signs at this time indicate an early migration with an extra-cold winter a good possibility.

Observations of early fall migrants known to me are summarized below:

- Canada Goose - Probably this species which was identified at the end of the August 13 day run; large, dark, long-necked birds with a rapid wingbeat, and did not appear to be "flying uphill"; a very early record, although the species has been recorded in the summer (SGW).
- Pintail - First at Cove August 7 (AKM).
- Whimbrel - Very early on July 9 (see above); Mrs. Snyder thinks it may have been a non-breeding resident, but it was not found any other day (CS, JAS, PC).
- Upland Plover - 5 on August 1 at Cedar Bayou (JAS, CS) was first.
- Knot - First of fall on August 13 (PC, SGW, JAS) at Galveston.
- Baird's Sandpiper - One individual at Galveston July 30 (SGW, PC, CHA).
- Short-billed Dowitcher - The only species we could find July 9 at Galveston (by call: CS, PC, JAS); probably this species on June 18.
- Long-billed Dowitcher - Identified by call August 13 (PC).
- Semipalmated and Western Sandpipers - First of each July 9 (CS, JAS, PC).
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper - First record to my knowledge August 27 in Galveston (Norma Oates et al; JAS PC). Also September 4 (15) and 5 (5) at Freeport (VLE et al)
- Eastern Phoebe - Early birds (2) at Menard House, Galveston, on August 25 (SGW).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - August 13 same place (PC, SGW, CHA; August 11 at Cove.
- Traill's Flycatcher - Identified by voice by Snyders August 11.
- Least Flycatcher - ditto August 12.
- Olive-sided Flycatcher - ditto August 11; 20 on August 25 day run (SGW, VLE). A very good count, it is surprising to learn via Lowery (Louisiana Birds, p. 366 that the Olive-sided Flycatcher is a rare bird in Louisiana. There are only two spring records for Louisiana and less than two dozen fall records. In our area the checklist lists it as a 4M (Uncommon migrant) but it should be listed as a 6SM (rare spring migrant) and 3FM (fairly common fall migrant). The main migration period in our area is the last two weeks of August (VLE).
- Tree Swallow - Many flying over fields on July 30 day run and after.

Two August Day Runs

During migration it was decided to make day runs every two weeks until school beckoned. Thus on August 13 Steve Williams and I again set out for Sheldon, where the Bachman's Sparrow still sang and where many swallows were flying south. A number of sandpipers were feeding and far out in the water 60 Pied-billed Grebes were milling around. The Blue Grosbeak, Caracara, and all swallow species were nice to find before we arrived at Morgan's Point, where we picked up Mrs. Snyder. The three of us found many landbird migrants at the woods north of Seabrook and at Nottingham Ranch in Galveston. Most of the day's finds are reported above, however, and need not be repeated. A newcomer to our lists for the summer was Screech Owl, which we had missed previously in Hermann Park.

Two weeks later, Clinton Snyder and I retraced the route, finding little difference except for less landbird traffic. Stilt Sandpiper at Sheldon, Pintail ditto, Yellow-throated warbler singing at Buckhorn (CS only), and a Gallinule at Highlands were early finds. The Great Horned Owl and several landbird migrants near Cedar Bayou brightened our count slightly less than a parakeet (species and home unknown) which we found, as you might suspect, in the woods near the Snyder's home. Here I dropped Clinton, who had to sail in the afternoon races, and gained Mrs. Snyder. Our schedule was irretrievably late and it was dark by the time we left Galveston, where about the only thing different was Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Thus we did not attempt a run back to Houston.

The two counts ended with 127 and 117 species, respectively; the first was a record for August. These two and the one done by Steve Williams and Vic Emanuel were different from the first three this summer because they were made by going through the east Cedar Bayou area. This loop, suggested to me by Clinton Snyder, means heading east from Highlands Reservoir instead of going south toward Lynchburg. The two routes meet again at La Porte. It is our feeling that summer and fall runs especially are made more satisfactory by going this way because the variety of possible birds is increased nicely.

FLUFF "N" FEATHERS

On December 4 the Hoffman's observed a rather interesting and amusing phenomenon, while watching a small flock of Sandhill Cranes flying over Cinco Ranch. They saw a solitary White-fronted Goose approach the flight from the rear, and bisect their V formation. The goose, assuming squadron leadership, then proceeded on its way with the cranes tagging along in formation for a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile or more.

Armand Yramategui tells us of the T.O.S. Thanksgiving Trip. It was very good. He was particularly pleased with a Harlan's Hawk found two miles north of Garner on November 14 and a Least Grebe and a Peregrine Falcon November 16 at Padre Island.

Notice

Our good friend Walt Barbare (and crumpled hat) has received a promotion with the Telephone Company and has been transferred to San Antonio. I am sure we will all miss Walt and that everyone joins me in wishing him good luck in his new area both in vocation and avocation.

Peggy Smith has consented to take over as Field Trip Chairman for the remainder of the year.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December 26 - Freeport Count, Monday December 26, 1960. Vic Emanuel, Leader and Compiler. For information contact Vic by mail at 234A Simkins Hall, Austin 18, Texas or call T. Ben Feltner at OR 2 - 0887.

December 31 - Houston's 26th Annual Christmas Count. Y'ALL COME!!!!

Areas:

1A - Ben Feltner	4 - Arlie McKay
1B - The H. S. Hoffmans	5 - Steve G. Williams
2 - The Gillmans	6 - Jerry Strickling
3A - Armand Yramategui	7 - Linda Snyder
3B - Katrina Thompson	

GOODY, GOODY - Again we are indebted to the Snyder's who are carrying on what seems to have become a tradition. We are all invited to their home after the count to partake of the spread. Please bring a covered dish and a clean pair of shoes. (The shoes are to be worn, not eaten). To all who are hep, Be like crazy cats and make the swinging scene at the Snyder Pad. Play it cool with shod shank's pony sans mud. Dig Dad?

Thursday, February 2 - The O. G. will hold the scheduled meeting at Hospitality House, 3005 Kirby Drive, Time 8:00 p.m.

Officers: Please pardon me for leaving you off this time but I am trying to end this half-way down the page. Sorry! /kt (probably)



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