



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXV, No. 1
May, 1975

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

HYBRID VISITORS

Some lucky birders saw, almost within a week of each other, both Brewster's and Lawrence's warblers at High Island. Details on both are in the Clearing House Notes. (A goodly number of observers saw the Lawrence's warbler, which obligingly stayed in the same locale for apparently about a week). Since both are such unusual birds for our area, the following information we hope will be of interest.

From Bird Life of Texas, Oberholser, Kincaid: "The Blue-winged Warbler and the very closely related Golden-winged Warbler breed in, and migrate through, virtually the same habitat, and their geographic distributions coincide closely (although the Blue-wing nests a bit farther south in a few localities). The stage is thus set for hybridization; in actual practice, interbreeding between the two species has produced what is probably the most famous set of hybrids known among wild birds. These hybrids are of two main forms: Brewster's Warbler (white throat, belly) and Lawrence's Warbler (black or gray throat, yellow under parts).

"Within Texas the "dominant" Brewster's has been sighted (up to 1972) along the coast in Galveston, Aransas, San Patricio, and Hidalgo counties; inland, in Travis County. The "recessive" Lawrence's has been seen in Travis, Chambers, Galveston, Aransas, and Nueces counties.

"Nesting, flight, and foraging behavior of the Blue-wing and of both hybrid forms is very similar to that of the Goldenwing. Analysis of stomach contents reveals a similar diet of beetles, bugs, flies, ants, and caterpillars, together with many other insects, their eggs and larvae, as well as some spiders."

From Audubon Land Bird Guide, Pough: "These birds are somewhat variable in appearance. Brewster hybrids may have the gray back more or less washed with olive-green, and the white under parts may show yellow, especially on the breast. The wing bars may be broadly yellow or white. The duller females usually have more green on the back and more yellow on the under parts than the average male. Lawrence hybrids run closer to type, but the wing bars may be broad and either yellow or white, or narrowly white. Females are like female blue-winged with dusky olive instead of black cheek and throat markings and occasionally a broad yellow wing bar. Some individuals have a song like the Golden-winged's, others like the Blue-winged's, or the song may be a mixture of the two, each bird having its own variation. Generally Brewster's sing more like Golden-winged, Lawrence's like Blue-winged.

"Hybrids in nature are rare, and when they occur it is usually between closely related species. Among North American birds the most notable hybrids are produced when Golden-winged and Blue-winged warblers interbreed. The bird that results from the initial cross is different from either parent.

"Every normal living cell has within it pairs of bodies known as chromosomes, each of which contains a series of individual inheritance units known as genes. Each pair of genes controls the development of color, form or other attributes of some part of the body of the individual. As one gene in each pair came from the male parent and the other from the female, the genes for a given character may or may not be alike in the two chromosomes of a given pair. When they are alike they jointly regulate the development of a given character; i.e., they pull together. But when a gene from one parent is entirely different from the corresponding gene from the other, one gene is commonly stronger and dominates. The stronger is called the "dominant" and the weaker the "recessive" gene.

The color gene of the blue-winged warbler which produces a plain throat is always dominant when paired with a golden-winged's black throat-color gene: therefore, the

hybrid's throat is plain. Similarly the golden-winged's under-part-color gene which produces white under parts is dominant over the yellow under-part-color gene of the blue-winged. The result, then, of this initial cross is always a plain-throated bird with largely white under parts; i.e., Brewster's warbler. Occasionally in second or subsequent generations an individual hybrid inherits from both parents the weak or recessive genes for throat and under-part-color, in which case it becomes a black-throated bird with yellow under parts; i.e., Lawrence's warbler. Most Lawrence's hybrids probably result from matings of Brewster's with impure blue-winged or golden-winged birds: in this way an occasional offspring could obtain both of the necessary pairs of recessive genes".

AND OUR EVER-PRESENT BLUE JAY

We are indebted to Marilyn Crane for this clipping from the Grand Rapids Press:

"Nothing Blue About Jay's New Notes -- If Jay-Jay could talk, he might ask for a session on a psychiatrist's couch. Jay-Jay, resident blue jay at the Public Museum's Blandford Nature Center, has an identity problem. He thinks he's a cardinal. He even sings like a cardinal.

The problem started with the company Jay-Jay kept. For a few winter months, he shared a cage with two injured cardinals. The two red birds were released in mid-March, but staff members at the center continued to hear a cardinal's song. Jay-Jay had become bilingual.

Without the cardinals' company, Jay-Jay may lose his touch for that second language. Even now, he alternates between his native, harsh jawing and the more melodic cardinal whistling."

Ad from Wesley and Glenn Cureton:

"Books tell us that crows and jays are nest robbers, but we have never read that the former corvid preys upon the latter. We were pleased to have a blue jay's nest in a pine tree in our back yard, but we never got to watch the adults care for the young. One afternoon the jays' cries of alarm attracted us to the window in time to see a crow flying from the pine carrying in his beak what seemed to be a newly hatched jay. The jays were not without sympathizers: house sparrows added their chirps to the melee, and a mockingbird chased the escaping crow. Since then the nest has been unattended. Despite our efforts to regard the incident scientifically, we cannot help feeling sorry for the frustrated parents."

COMING EVENTS

The only thing on our calendar right now is our picnic.

Saturday This picnic takes the place of our June meeting, and will be held at Terremar, on west Galveston beach. Bring lunch, chairs, swim suits if you want to take a dip, and plan to come early and stay late.

Directions: 61st street to Seawall, right to FM 3005. Continue on that highway past Jamaica Beach and Sea Isle. One mile past Sea Isle Sales Office (large Mitchell Realty Co. sign displayed by office), at house with brilliant orange roof, turn left toward beach and immediately turn right, continuing on shell road paralleling highway, past three houses. OG sign will be displayed at picnic site.

AROUND AND ABOUT

From the newsletter of the Brazos Ornithological Society: male and female Bronzed Cowbirds trapped and banded April 30th.

From THE SCISSORTAIL, Lubbock Audubon Society newsletter: HEPATIC TANAGER: LUBBOCK CO. RECORD! Discovered 4-18-75 at Lubbock Cemetery. Studied closely, it had the typical dark bill for this species, as well as the dark cheek patches. Color appeared more cardinal-like (orange-red) than would a Summer Tanager. Call note also heard, and was that of the Hepatic Tanager, "chuck." The date represents a possible early date (by one day) for Texas, and it has never before been recorded this far north in Texas. He was feeding in elms on the evening of the 18th, in typical tanager manner, and was found in pine and juniper trees the following morning. His presence was verified 4-19 but has not been seen since that date.

*From the Rio Grande Valley Audubon Society newsletter: Santa Ana NWR is going through one of its worst dry spells for many years. Many of the trees and shrubs have not produced foliage. The only places where flowering plants can be found are around the periphery of lakes. The water levels at all lakes continue to drop. There are now two pairs of Elf Owls staked out. We have always suspected that Elf Owls were here in the summer but this is the first time that we have been able to locate a nesting site.....Wayne Shifflett

*Dr. Mary M. Tremaine was a guest last month in Bentsen State Park. The front and back covers of the April 1975 issue of the Audubon magazine featured her photographs which complimented her article on the inside entitled "Life at an Avocet Nest"..... John Mason, Park Supt., Bentsen State Park

*And while on Valley news, THE SPOONBILL editor has been told there is now \$1.00 per car charge at Santa Margarita when looking for the Brown Jays. Ask at the last house, which is pink.

*And for those of you who would like to see the Jacanas at Maner Lake, the only ways are from the area around the bridge on Brazoria Co. road #25 (a maybe), which runs alongside the lake, and from a boat on the lake (much more sure). If you wish to make a reservation for a guide and a boat (\$10.00, and now, during heron and egret nesting season is a fine time), contact Mr. George Rayburn's office at Brown and Root, 676-4204, and Miss Pat Kirkland will help you.

*Entering private property without express permission, whether through a gate or over a fence, is the quickest way to give birding a ba-a-a-d name. If it is fenced and/or has No Trespassing signs, find the owner and ask permission before entering. If it isn't fenced and there are no signs, feel free....as a bird!

*It has come to our attention that there is no person in the Houston area known to the Audubon Society or the OG who will take baby birds or injured birds to care for. Any such person must, of course, have a permit to do so. If you know of any one in this area please let your editor have the name.

**Please remember that dues and subscription renewals are now due!!!!

**Remember the picnic!!!! All members, subscribers, and their guests are welcome.

APRIL AND MAY FIELD TRIPS

The April 4th field trip to Galveston was ably led by Elaine Robinson and Barbara Kendrick. Localities visited included Kempner Park, the Jetties and the "rail road" (Sportsman's Road). Migration was light by Gulf Coast standards, but in spite of the scarcity of birds the group managed to sight 115 species. This included six species of warblers. Twenty-eight people attended the trip. -- Holly Hobart

Optimism and persistence, in spite of no rain squalls or passing fronts the previous day, resulted in good birding for the May 3 OG field trip. Twenty-five birders met leader Paul Nimmons at Kempner Park, Galveston, and four more joined the trip on the Bolivar Peninsula. Of these, the persistent ten disbanded in the twilight at the Anahuac NWR after recording a total of 156 species. Between the end points we tallied birds on the east jetty of Galveston Island, in the brush and on the beach of the Bolivar Peninsula, and in the woods and marshes at High Island.

Marshes provided the field trip highlights. First, 4 Bobolinks were sighted in the marshes behind the seawall at the east jetty. Later, in the High Island marshes we watched Ms. Clapper Rail as she slipped in and out of the roadside grass and fed her disorganized following of three black chicks. Still later, our leader flushed the promised Least Bittern from the same High Island marsh. Then, as if by request, second and third Least Bitterns rose from the marsh and displayed their striking greenish black, white, brown, and tan plumage from their perch on the limbs of a dead bush. The other 153 species included the usual migrants, except for the low count of 19 species of warblers. -- Chuck and Suzi Campbell

CLEARING HOUSE, APRIL 1975

Loon, Common: (7)29, Galv., BK, MA, ER, TBF.

" , ARCTIC: (1)29, Galv., BK, MA, ER, TBF.

Pelican, White: (200)12, Bolivar, TBF.

Cormorant, Double-crested: (20)12, Bolivar, TBF; (5)6, A

Anhinga: (1)6, Trinity River, A; (2)22, Eisenhower Park, B; (4)4, Brazoria Co., (1)11, Chamber's Co., P&M

Frigatebird, Magnificent: (2)22, Rollover Pass, HN&TSM.

- Egret, Reddish: (12)11, Bolivar Flats, TBF & ED; (15-one white phase)12, Bolivar, TBF.
 Nightheron, Yellow-crowned: (1)16, H.I., A; (2)3, Hermann Park, B; (1)6, 12, 19, H.I., RK&BL.
 Bittern, Least: (1)4, Galv. TBF, ER, BK; (1)13, H.I., TBF; (1)13, 30, near IH 45 & FM2553,
 (2)13, T.C. Dike, RK; (1)16, Galv. P&MJ.
 " , American: (1)13, H.I., (1)23, Sabine, (3)24, Anahuac, TBF et.al.; (2)16, Galv. P&MJ.
 Ibis, White-faced: (7)6, Bolivar, A.
 " , White: (100p)6, Anahuac R., RK, BL.
 Spoonbill, Roseate: (123)11, H.I. & Bolivar Flats, TBF&ED; (15)6, Bolivar, A.
 Goose, Snow: (1)30, over Smith's Woods, TBF&ER.
 Treeduck, Fulvous: (4)11, H.I. & Bolivar, (150)15, Anahuac area, (10)30, Anahuac rice-
 fields, TBF et.al.
 Duck, Mottled: (8)6, Anahuac, A.
 Teal, Cinnamon: (2)13, Galv., J&LH.
 Duck, Wood: (2)9, H.I., (2)23, Beaumont City Dump, TBF, ER; (2)7, Memorial Park, WC.
 Canvasback: (5)11, Chambers Co., P&MJ
 Bufflehead: (1)13, T.C. Dike, RK.
 SCOTER, WHITE-WINGED: (2)22-23, Bolivar Beach, HN&TSM--see notes.
 " , SURF: (24)22-23, Bolivar Beach, HN&TSM--see notes.
 Kite, Swallow-tailed: (2)5, Allen-Genoa Rd. & Laporte Hwy, Gwen Smith; (1)13, corner
 South & West Blvds., Houston, Charlotte Johnson & Madeliene Vogt--see notes.
 Hawk, Broad-winged: (300)3, Compton's Woods, TBF&ER; (8)March 27, Hermann Park, DS; (30)
 March 28, Heights, LS; (1)2, Hermann Park, DS, (2)6, H.T., A.
 " , Swainson's (2)15, Sheldon, TBF; (1)March 27, Hermann, DS.
 " , Marsh: (3)6, Anahuac area, A.
 Kestrel, American: (6)6, Anahuac area, A.
 Rail, King: (2)24, Anahuac, TBF et.al.; (1)16, Bolivar, (8-9)17, Anahuac R., P&MJ.
 " , Virginia: (2)24, Anahuac, TBF et.al.; (8p)17, Anahuac R., P&MJ.
 Sora: (7)17, Anahuac R., (1)16, Galv. P&MJ.
 Rail, Yellow: (2)24, Anahuac R., TBF et.al.; (10p)17, Anahuac R., P&MJ.
 " , Black: (1)24, Anahuac R., TBF et.al.
 Gallinule, Purple: (8)27, Anahuac R., RK, BL.
 Oystercatcher, American: (2)11, H.I. & Bolivar Flats, TBF&ED
 Plover, Piping: (2)5, Galv., (12)12, Bolivar, TBF.
 " , Snowy: (2)12, Bolivar, TBF.
 " , Wilson's: (6)11, (4)12, Bolivar, TBF.
 Whimbrel: (1)6, Bolivar, A; (4)16, Galv. P&MJ; (1)13, (4)27, T.C. Dike, RK, BL.
 Sandpiper, Upland: (12)13, T.C. Dike, RK, BL.; (2)4, (3)11, H.I., P&MJ.
 Knot, Red: (25)12, Bolivar, TBF.
 Sandpiper, White-rumped: (4)30, Anahuac ricefields; (8-10)22-23, H.I., HN&TSM.
 " , Baird's: (2)23, Anahuac, TBF&ER; (4)13, Galv., J&LH--see notes
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: (10)17, Galv., TBF.
 " , Long-billed: (1000p)30, Anahuac ricefields, TBF&ER; (4)6, Bolivar, A.
 Sandpiper, Stilt: (25)10, (300p)30, Anahuac ricefields, TBF et.al.; (3)27, near Anahuac
 R., RK, BL.
 " , Western: (50)9, (52)12, H.I. & Bolivar, TBF et.al.
 Godwit, Marbled: (3)4, Galv., TBF, ER, BK.
 " , Hudsonian: (2)23, (25)30, Anahuac area, ER, TBF.
 Avocet, American: (6000)11, Bolivar, TBF&ED.
 Phalarope, Wilson's: (5)30, Anahuac ricefields, TBF, ER.
 GULL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED: (1)4, Galv., TBF, ER, BK ("Details last month"-TBF)[Details
 should be provided in this case since this Gull is not necessarily the same in-
 dividual as that in March--CH Ed.]
 " , Bonaparte's: (45)6, Shorty's Longest Pier, H.I., A.
 Tern, Gull-billed: (7)6, Anahuac/H.I. area, A.
 " , Common: (7)6, Shorty's Longest Pier, H.I., A.
 " , Least: (14)6, flock on beach near H.I., A.
 " , Black: (2)17, Galv., TBF.
 Dove, White-winged: (1)16, Galv., P&MJ; (1)26, Kempner Park, GC; (12)5, Galveston Co. Court-
 house, NP--see notes.
 " , Ground: (3)8, IH 45 at FM2553, RK.
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: (1)9, H.I., TBF;
 " , Black-billed: (1)10, H.I., (1)25, near Sabine woods, ER&TBF; (1)6, Smith Woods, A;
 (1)10, Heights, (yard), DS, LS; (1)12, H.I., RK, BL; (1)16, Galv., P&MJ; (1)26, Holland
 Ave., GS.
 Ani, Groove-billed: (1)11, Bolivar, (7)25, just east of Anahuac, TBF et.al.
 Owl, Barn: (1)9, H.I., TBF; (1)6, H.I., RK, BL; (1)14, NASA Rd. 1 near Hwy 3, (1)14, NASA-
 Johnson Space Center, RK; (1)20, yard, GS; (3 imm.)March 2, 5, 8, 18, Cove, Arlie McKay.
 " , Screech: (1)4, Brazoria Co., (1)11, High Island (Boy Scout Woods), P&MJ
 Chuck-Will's-Widow: (5)11, H.I., TBF&ED; (7)16, Hermann Park, DS; (1)19, H.I., RK, BL; (2)11,
 H.I., P&MJ; (1)4, White Oak Bayou, GC; (1)16, yard, S.E. Houston, NP.
 Whip-Poor-Will: (1)6, Smith Woods, DS.

- Nighthawk, Common: (1)17, near Ellington AFB ("first seen this year")RK; (1)23, Ella Blvd., WC; (1)17, GS.
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: (75)9, H.I., TBF; (18)March 31, Smith Woods, DS; (5)6, Smith Woods, A; (20)3, (15)5, (10)12, (4)19, (1)27, H.I., RK.
- Woodpecker, Red-headed: (6)30, north of Anahuac, ER, TBF.
- Kingbird, Eastern: (1)3, (3)5, 12, (70p)19, (20)27, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Western: (1)19, (3)27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)16, H.I., TBF.
- Flycatcher, Great Crested: (12)11, H.I., TBF&ED.
- " , ASH-THROATED: (1)26, H.I., W&GC--see notes.
- Phoebe, Eastern: (1)6, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- Flycatcher, Acadian: (4)11, H.I. & Bolivar, TBF&ED.
- Pewee, Eastern Wood: (4)11, H.I., TBF&ED; (1)6, (3)12, (6)19, (4)27, H.I., RK&BL
- Swallow, Cliff: (2)30, Bolivar, TBF, ER.
- Crow, Fish: (40)23, Beaumont City Dump, TBF, ER.
- Nuthatch, Red-breasted: (1)3, Compton's Woods, TBF, ER; (1)9, Houston, MJ, MA, RA.
- Catbird, Gray: (27)11, H.I., TBF, ED; (1)5, (6)12, (12)19, (75p)27, H.I., RK, BL; (500)20, H.I., ER.
- THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: (1)16, Galv., Nottingham Ranch Rd., P&MJ (same bird seen here last year by BILL and Jean Harwell, and on April 10, this year by Norma Oates)
- Robin, American: (1)27, H.I., RK, BL.
- Thrush, Wood: (26)9, (31)11, (50)12, H.I., TBF et.al.; (6)6, Smith Woods, A; (3)7, City Hall, DS; (2)3, (4)5, (30)12, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Hermit: (1)12, Kempner Park, RK.
- " , Swainson's: (3)12, H.I., TBF; (1)16, Hermann Park, DS; (3)12, (1)19, 27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)28, White Oak Bayou, W&GC.
- " , Gray-cheeked: (1)19, 27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)12, H.I., TBF.
- Veery: (1)30, H.I., TBF&ER; (1)16, Hermann Park, DS; (1)13, Kempner Park, (1)19, 27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)16, Galv., P&MJ; (1)26, Smith Woods, W&GC; (1)19, yard, GS.
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: (30)3, 5, (20)12, H.I., RK, BL; (20)11, H.I., TBF&ED.
- Kinglet, Golden-crowned: (1)6, H.I., A.
- " , Ruby-crowned: (4)11, H.I., TBF&ED.
- Pipit, Water: (25)27, Nassau Bay, (6)27, TC Dike, RK; (1)16, Galv., P&MJ.
- Waxwing, Cedar: (1)27, H.I., RK, BL.
- Vireo, White-eyed: (30)11, H.I., TBF&ED; (23)6, Smith Woods, A.
- " , Yellow-throated: (3)11, (2)30, H.I., TBF, ED, ER; (1)1, Heights, DS, LS; (2)6, Smith Woods, A; (3)22, Eisenhower Park, B; (1-2)4 days, Harris, & Galv. Co., P&MJ.
- " , Solitary: (4)11, H.I., TBF&ED; (2)March 31, Smith Woods, DS; (1)6, 12, H.I., RK, BL; (1)11, 16, H.I., (3)12, Houston, P&MJ.
- " , Red-eyed: (7)30, H.I., TBF, ER; (36)6, Smith Woods, A; (5)11, Hermann Park, DS; (8)6, (10)12, H.I., RK, BL; (4)22, White Oak Bayou, GC; (1)6, yard, GS.
- " , Philadelphia: (6)30, H.I., TBF, ER; (1)19, H.I., HN et.al.
- " , Warbling: (3)11, H.I., TBF, ED; (1)30, H.I., TBF&ER.
- Warbler, Black-and-White: (15)9, (25)11, (16)30, H.I., TBF et.al.
- " , Prothonotary: (1)3, Compton's Woods, (5)9, (3)10, (10)11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (7)6, Smith Woods, A; (1)22, Eisenhower Park, B; (1)7, City Hall, DS; (1)5, (3)6, 12, (1)19, 27, H.I., RK, BL; (3)11, 16, H.I., (2)12, P&MJ; (1)7, Memorial Park, (1)8, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- " , Swainson's: (2)5, (3)9, 10, (6)11, (4)12, H.I., Galv., TBF et.al.; (3)22, Eisenhower Park, B; (1)6, (3)12, H.I., (1)13, Kempner Park, RK, BL; (1)11, H.I., (1)16, Galv., P&MJ
- " , Worm-eating: (1)3, (12)9, (4)10, (2)11, Compton's Woods, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)7, City Hall, (2)9, (1)11, 16, 17, Hermann Park, DS; (1)3, (2)5, (1)19, H.I., RK, BL; (2)8, Galv., MJ, MA, NO; (7p)9, Houston, MJ, MA, RA; (7)11, H.I., (1)13, 14, Bellaire, P&MJ; (1)20, Central Library, W&GC; (1)17, yard, SE Houston, NP.
- " , Golden-winged: (2)9, (1)10, (3)11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)2, Herman Park, DS; (8)11, H.I., P&MJ.
- " , Blue-winged: (36)9, (25)10, (27)11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)March 31, Smith Woods, (1)8, 11, Hermann Park, DS; (1)11, Heights, DS, LS; (2)3, (6)12, (2)19, H.I., RK, BL; (9p)9, Houston, MJ, MA, RA; (15)11, H.I., P&MJ; (2)11, (3)14, (1)22, White Oak Bayou, W&GC.
- " , LAWRENCE'S: (1)19-22, H.I., HN (discoverer), TSM, John Tveten, RK, BL, MJ, NO, EW, ER, et.al.--see notes.
- " , Brewster's: (1)11, H.I., P&MJ, TBF et.al.--see notes.
- " , Tennessee: (25)9, (20)10, (25)11, (5)30, H.I., TBF et.al.; (12)6, Smith Woods, A; (8)7, in one Hickory tree, Heights, (3)14, Hermann Park, DS; (6)19, (1)27, H.I., RK, BL; (1), (2)11, 14, White Oak Bayou, GC.
- " , Orange-crowned: (1)9, 11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)6, Smith Woods ("Orange on the crown! Lifer!")A.
- " , Nashville: (1)9, H.I., TBF; (2)March 27, Hermann Park, ("early")DS; (1)5, 12, 19, H.I., RK, BL; (1)6, Bellaire, P&MJ; (2)23, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- " , Northern Parula: (5)3, (2)5, 12, (4)19, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Yellow: (1)9, (13)30, H.I., TBF et.al.
- " , Magnolia: (6)30, H.I., TBF, ER; (2)27, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Cape May: (1)30, H.I., TBF, ER.
- " , Black-throated Blue: (1 male)25, Sabine Woods, ER&TBF; (1)20, H.I., MJ, ER, Tommy Newkirk, et.al.--see notes

- Warbler, Yellow-rumped: (2)9, (4)11, H.I., TBF&ER;
 (Audubon's): (1)March 31, H.I., DS.
- " , Black-throated Green: (13)30, H.I., TBF&ER; (1)March 24, Heights, DS, LS; (6)19, (1)27, H.I., RK, BL; (5)11, H.I., P&MJ; (1)7, Memorial Park, (1)8, 22, White Oak Bayou, WC
- " , Cerulean: (3)9, 11, (1)12, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)12, 19, H.I., RK, BL; (1)9, Houston, (1)10, Bellaire, (12p)11, H.I., P&MJ.
- " , Blackburnian: (10)30, H.I., TBF, ER; (1)6, Smith Woods, A; (1)6, 19, H.I., RK, BL; (2)12, Houston, P&MJ.
- " Yellow-throated: (2)9, 11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (2)2, Hermann Park, DS; (2)6, Smith Woods, A; (1)3, 19, (2)6, H.I., RK, BL; (1)8, 9, 10, 11, Houston, Bellaire, H.I., P&MJ; (3)22, White Oak Bayou, GC.
- " , Chestnut-sided: (1)11, (25)30, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)27, H.I., RK, BL; (3)21, H.I., MJ, NO, EW.; (1)26, H.I., WC.
- " , Bay-breasted: (27)30, H.I., TBF&ER; (1)27, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Blackpoll: (1)25, Sabine woods area, (4)30, H.I., TBF, ER; (1)27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)26, H.I., W&GC.
- " , Prairie: (1)10, H.I., TBF, ER--see notes.
- Ovenbird: (1)0, (3)11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)7, 21, City Hall, DS; (1)12, 19, H.I., (1)12, 13, Kempner Park, RK, BL; (1)16, 21, H.I., P&MJ; (1)20, Central Library, W&GC; (1)23, yard, GS.
- Waterthrush, Northern: (2)9, (4)10, (3)11, 30, H.I., TBF et.al.; (2)3, 5, (1)12, (3)19, (1)27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)11, 16, 21, H.I., P&MJ; (1)8, 11, 14, (2)22, (1)23, White Oak Bayou, W&GC.
- " , Louisiana: (1)10, (3)11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)March 31, Smith Woods, DS; (1)16, Hermann Park, (specimen), Carl Aiken; (2)5, 12, H.I., RK, BL; (1)11, H.I., P&MJ; (1)11, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- Warbler, Kentucky: (30)9, (25)10, (120)11, (32)12, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)March 31, Smith Woods, DS; (6)6, H.I., A; (2)7, City Hall, (3)9, Hermann Park, DS; (4)3, (5)5, 6, 12, H.I., RK, BL; (3)20, Central Library, W&GC; (1)20, yard, GS.
- " , Mourning: (1 female)12, Kempner Park, W&GC--see notes.
- Yellowthroat, Common: (35)9, (30)10, (150)11, (2)30, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)6, H.I., A; (1)15, Heights, DS; (1)10, yard, GS.
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: (1)10, 11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (1)16, Hermann Park, (1)21, City Hall, DS; (8)19, H.I., RK, BL; (2)11, H.I., (4)16, Galv., P&MJ; (1)23, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- Warbler, Hooded: (32)9, (25)10, (200)11, (30)12, (1)30, H.I., TBF et.al.; (9)6, Smith Woods, A; (5)9, Hermann Park, DS; (8)3, (16)5, (3)6, (10)12, (4)19, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Wilson's: (1)14, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- " , Canada: (1)30, H.I., TBF&ER; (1)19, H.I., RK, BL.
- Redstart, American: (7)9, (1)10, (4)11, (12)30, H.I., TBF et.al.; (8)12, (6)19, (4)27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)13, 27, Houston, W&GC.
- Bobolink: (2 males)23, Jefferson Co. near Sabine, TBF, ER.
- Blackbird, Yellow-headed: (10-12)22, Bolivar, HN&TSM.
- Oriole, Orchard: (2000)9, (350)11, H.I., TBF et.al.; (15)6, H.I., A; (2)3, (10)5, 12, (6)19, (2)27, H.I., RK, BL; (1)16, yard, GS.
- Tanager, Scarlet: (2)6, (5)12, (8)19, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Summer: (13)9, H.I., TBF; (1)3, (7)5, (3)6, (12)12, (6)19, H.I., RK, BL.
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: (12)10, H.I., TBF; (1)12, (4)19, (6)27, H.I., RK, BL.
- " , Black-headed: (1)19, H.I., HN, TSM.
- " , Blue: (8)9, H.I., TBF; (1)6, H.I., A; (3)12, (4)19, H.I., RK; (1)23, White Oak Bayou, WC.
- Bunting, Indigo: (54)9, H.I., TBF; (6)5, 12, (15)19, H.I., RK.
- " , Painted: (1)5, (6)12, (4)19, H.I., RK; (1)8, Galv., MJ, MA, NO; (2)16, Galv., P&MJ.
- Dickcissel: (5)27, H.I., (20)28, "Henslow's Sparrow Field", RK.
- Goldfinch, American: (NC)7, 20, yard, P&MJ.
- Towhee, Rufous-sided: (1)10, H.I., TBF, ER; (1)6, H.I., A.
- Sparrow, Henslow's: (13)26, SW of Hobby Airport, SE Houston, NP--see notes.
- " , White-throated: (6-8)every day until 24th, yard, P&MJ.
- " , Lincoln's: (1)16, Hermann Park, DS.

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

MA - Margaret Anderson; RA - Robert Anderson; GC - Glenn Cureton; WC - Wesley Cureton, ED - Earl Dore; TBF - T. Ben Feltner; J&LH - Jim & Linda Hargrove; P&MJ - Paul & Margaret Jones; BK - Barbara Kendricks; RK - Randy Korotev; BL - Betty Lobos; HN - Hazel Nichols; TSM - T.S. McDonald; NO - Norma Oates; NP - Noel Pettingell; ER - Elaine Robinson; DS - Dennis Shepler; LS - Lauri Shepler; GS - Gwen Smith; EW - Ella Wolfner. A - Lauri Shepler, Dennis Shepler, John Barber; B - Dennis Shepler, Jim Kee

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

ARCTIC LOON: Bird observed with three Common Loons in Offatt's Bayou. Watched with 50X Balscope for about 30 minutes; distances about 120 yards; light excellent; size appeared only 1/2 bulk of Common Loon; compared side by side with Common Loon frequently; dark above, except for back of head and hind neck, noticeably darker; bill very small; more like Western Grebes; Very striking contrast in all size comparisons.

--T. Ben Feltner

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER: (2 separate birds), Bolivar Beach, April 22-23. One, then another farther down, flew up as we drove along the beach from the "pea-green water tower" toward Bolivar Flats; close enough for good looks at the heavy scoter head, body shape and fast flight--the white square wing patches the only mark in the dark of body. We saw 2 again next/
day but thought they may be same two. --Hazel Nichols

SURF SCOTER: (A modest estimate of 24), April 22-23) Alerted by the White-winged Scoters, we watched the water just beyond where waves broke along the shore. As we drove along the beach we counted many adult eared grebes, red-breasted mergansers, and several small rafts of scaup. Close in I got a good look at an adult scoter. I am familiar with winter plumages of all 3 scoters, but wasn't sure which this would be: Red tip on bill, white forehead and nape, and a fine white tracing near the bill. It fanned its wings - no white! We studied this, and a plain dark phase, endlessly, following up the beach. The dark scoter showed no light patches in the face (like winter Eared Grebe has), even though we saw it in every tiny detail. However, it stayed with the other fully plumaged one which proved to be a Surf Scoter. Happy for this study we began to see small groups of 3-5-6 as we drove along, checking, scoping for details (I have B&L 15-60 power Zoom, Mr. McD. has a 40 power Bushnell). The white patches and red bills were very outstanding, and those counted were fully plumaged adults. Since we spotted these as they bobbed into sight in the surf, and also flying just above the water, we agreed that perhaps for every group we actually saw and waited out there must have been many others we missed. We drove back up the beach next day (23rd afternoon), and again observed many surf scoters as the day before. --Hazel Nichols

Swallow-tailed Kite: Seen at noon while watching a few Broad-winged Hawks flying low over trees going from west to east. It circled low over the only open yard at this corner where we were standing. It opened and closed its tail many times. --Charlotte Johnson.

Baird's Sandpiper: Seen on mudflats near fresh water pond; quite a bit smaller than Pectoral Sandpiper in vicinity; back had very scaly appearance; the rump was not white; in flight the wings were all dark, not showing a wing stripe. The wings were slimmer and comparatively longer than nearby Pectoral Sandpipers; the breast was finely streaked with buffy color. The margin between the buff and white was vague, not as sharp as in Pectoral; a white eye line and eye ring were visible on the face. The color of the back and wings matched wet mud. Distance: about 10m. 7x50 binoculars. High overcast giving good light. --Jim Hargrove

White-winged Dove: 9 occupied nests were counted in two trees on Moody Ave. (21st St.) side of Courthouse Square. --Noel Pettingill

ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: Probable specimen perched in rattlebox bushes in marsh just north of Smith Woods. Seemingly smaller than Great Crested. Pale yellowish belly; beak all dark; throat not seen clearly but seemed to be lighter in color than breast. Two Austin observers who said they are familiar with both species said they had seen one in the same area a few minutes earlier; very vociferous in marsh; later, on edge of woods, I heard the Great Crested's wheep and a 2-note Myiarchus call, given in alternation as if answering each other. 30 ft. 7x50. --Wesley and Glenn Cureton

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER: (Hazel Nichols discovered this bird at Boy Scout Woods, but she supplied no description of the bird's field marks. The following were supplied by Randy Korotev). This rare hybrid was first spotted and identified by Hazel Nichols around 5:00 pm in the foliage near the iris-filled pond/puddle at the Lamar U. Bird Sanctuary (Boy Scout Woods). During the next 45 minutes it disappeared and re-appeared into and from the foliage four or five times allowing over a dozen observers to view it well in the bright sunlight at about 30 feet. The bird generally stayed close to the ground, not over about 10 feet, and was once observed bathing in the small puddle. It looked exactly like its pictures in the field guides: bright yellow breast and belly, gray-brown back, black eye-line and chin, and two white wingbars on blue-gray wings. No voice was heard. --Randy Korotev

Brewster's Warbler: After seeing several Golden-winged Warblers at Smith's woods, one observer, (Lois Setzer) saw what at first appeared to be another one. Closer observation revealed that the sighted bird had the yellow forehead, large golden wingbar, and gray back; but no black at the throat and a clear white breast and belly. Other observers gathered and T. Ben Feltner determined that it was the Brewster's Warbler. Observers who saw the bird at about 11:30am, were Lois Setzer, Ben Feltner, Bill, Irene and Sam Godfrey and T. Paul and Margaret Jones. --T. Paul Jones

Black-throated Blue Warbler: 1 male; slate blue above, black throat and sides; immaculate white from upper chest to crissum; about the same size as accompanying female Blackpoll Warbler; under observation on and off for 10 minutes; 8x binoculars; range down to eight feet; both observers; bird in salt cedar clump about 5 miles west of Sabine Woods. --T. Ben Feltner.

Prairie Warbler: Immature; Smith Woods; plumage green above; pale greenish wingbars; green stripes along sides; yellow spectacles broken by green line running through eye; nodding tail; 6 ft. without glasses; 8 feet with 8x glasses; light subdued but adequate; about 40 second observation time; 2 observers. --T. Ben Feltner

Mourning Warbler: female about 12 ft. up in tree; pale gray head and throat, pale yellow breast and belly; pink legs, no eye ring, no wingbars; studied for several minutes; 7x50, 10x50. --Wesley and Glenn Cureton

Henslow's Sparrow: all birds were heard singing in same area as in 1973 and 1974.
--Noel Pettingell

OBSERVER'S PERSONAL REPORT by Joe M. Heiser, Jr.

At age 78, it is difficult, sometimes impossible, to participate in group activities expressing common interests and purposes. It is hoped that this report, and others that may follow, may help to establish a degree of communication and sharing with others whom I esteem as kindred spirits.

Friday, April 18, 1975: Mississippi Kites and Broad-winged Hawks--more than twenty each, in scattered flocks--maneuvering low in stiff north wind in area along FM1514 between Coldspring and Lake Livingston. Indigo Bunting in full song on King's Hill, Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. No nesting evidence in hollow of "Old Timer" Magnolia, used by Black Vultures in 1972 and 1973. Two Black Vultures seen circling overhead may be a pair using another nesting site in the vicinity.

Friday, April 25, 1975: Good News: Baltimore Orioles, known to local residents for more than 50 years, are back in their traditional nesting area in Coldspring, San Jacinto County. Today the male was singing in the tall trees about Sue's Cafe, on the public square. He responded repeatedly to my imitation of his fluted song. Choir Notes: Among voices heard today in the area of Prospect Corner, two miles west of Coldspring: Blue Grosbeak; yellow-throated, Red-eyed, and White-eyed Vireos; Road-runner (you might mistake it for the crowing of a drowsy rooster or the muffled cooing of a dove); Indigo and Painted Buntings (seldom heard together because of difference in typical habitat areas); Black-and-White, Pine, Parula, Kentucky, Hooded and Swainson's Warblers (similarity in some versions of their songs makes desirable actual sighting of Swainson's).

I SAW IT FIRST, OR CAN YOU TOP THIS DEPARTMENT

At approximately 8:45 am on 26 April 1975, I was walking in my yard before having my morning coffee when a bird flew from a nearby Pecan tree and disappeared several yards down. All I glimpsed was a white terminal band and therefore assumed it was an Eastern Kingbird, since it was about the right size. As that was a new species for my yard I decided to get my binoculars and go after it. About 10 minutes later it reappeared in a Pine tree about 20 yards away. When I glassed it the following details were carefully noted: Sooty black Blue Jay-like crest, sooty-brown upper-breast shading to dirty white and finally terminating in a very wide bright vermilion crissum. The bird was singing a cheery, cheery repetition, and spreading its tail and crissum in some sort of display. The white terminal band was evident.

Fortunately I have a fairly extensive library of bird books, so I was familiar with the bird from D.M. Henry's A Guide to the Birds of Ceylon. I don't know where it came from but my visitor was a Red-vented Bulbul. It remained in the yard area for several hours and fed frequently in a neighboring Mulberry with orioles and grosbeaks. I had not had any alcoholic beverage for the previous 24 hours and I am positive of my diagnosis. The accountability of the bird must of course be put to escapee.....but, mind you, we have had some strong east winds lately. --Ben Feltner

(Well, Ben, I can't top that, but I can join you in this department...Ed.)

If you make a visit to San Luis Pass area, look carefully at the grackles near the trailers and bait camp at the foot of the bridge on the Galveston side. Recently, we were stunned to see a vividly colored parrakeet, about 14" long, including about a 5" tall, hob-nobbing with the grackles. This is a large parrakeet, not a budgerigar size at all, more of a size with his companion. Vivid green back with some bluish cast to it shading up from bluish tail; head is either black or very dark blue, black bill; Black of head runs from under lower mandible, up across cheek just under the eye to upper back of head; throat, breast, belly and crissum are chartreuse; thighs, brilliant crimson, and feet yellow; underside of wings, when bird fluttered, were part dark, part green, but when bird flew, some yellow on wings was seen.

A conversation with the bait house owner disclosed that the bird appeared there about

three years ago, and the man has been putting out feed for him ever since. Mr. Jarvis Beverley, a visitor from Michigan, who saw the bird at the same time, consulted later with Bessie Cornelius' books, and believed it to be a Black-hooded Parrakeet from down Peru, Argentine, Paraguay way. (Incidentally, the bait camp owner calls the red-thighed bird "Hot Pants"). --Margaret and Paul Jones

WHAT CAN WE DO NOW?

Migration is about over, leaving a good many of us with cases of eye-strain and let-down. And the hot, humid weather coming up keeps us pretty well chained to the air-conditioning. But if you want to go birding in June, don't forget the birds at Bolivar Flats, Galveston Jetties, Anahuac Refuge, Jones Forest and areas up there for the Red-cockaded woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch, nesting Henslow Sparrows in their field in SE Houston, etc. Just avoid too much sun, or you might be seeing Bulbuls and Black-hooded Parrakeets too!

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING:

New members:

Mr. & Mrs. David Dauphin, 2300 Taft #165, Baytown, Texas 77528	422-7536
Miss Mary Bourgeois, 2215 Shakespeare, Houston, Texas 77025	668-9559
Miss Jackie May, Box 217, Fresno, Texas 77545	431-2117

New Exchange:

Fort Worth Audubon Society, Inc.,
Mrs. M.B. Olmstead, Editor, 2315 Westbrook Ave., Ft. Worth, Texas 76111

Change of address:

Mrs. Mildred Myers, 2647 Garrett Way, Rancho Cordova, Cal. 95670
Mrs. Joy A. Lewis, 1954 Round Spring Dr., Humble, Texas 77338 358-2076

GARDENING FOR THE BIRDS

May Del Flagg, Post Garden Editor, had an excellent article in the Houston Post, May 9th, and following are some excerpts from that article:

"As you know, we can plant at any season of the year since nurseries offer stocks in containers, or balled and burlapped for immediate planting. All you must do to have it grow right off in hot weather, or at any time, is to prepare the spot to receive it by making the soil friable and rich, then planting it carefully, watering copiously when the weather is hot and dry.

"Of the berry-bearing varieties consider the pyracantha, holly, nandina, yaupon, mahonia, dogwood, viburnum, barberry, to name a few. Chinaberry and mulberry trees, messy at some seasons, are popular with birds. Elderberries, peppers, beauty berries are other plants grown easily in this area and birds will enjoy.

"Many vines with their berries are attractive for food and for nesting. The honeysuckle, when in bloom, will lure hummingbirds. Honeysuckle also has berries for winter food. If you will allow some of the annuals and perennials to go to seed you will have another source of food for your garden.

"Remember, birds have four basic needs: Food, water, a safe place from natural enemies and severe weather and a safe place to nest."

Handwritten signature
SL

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