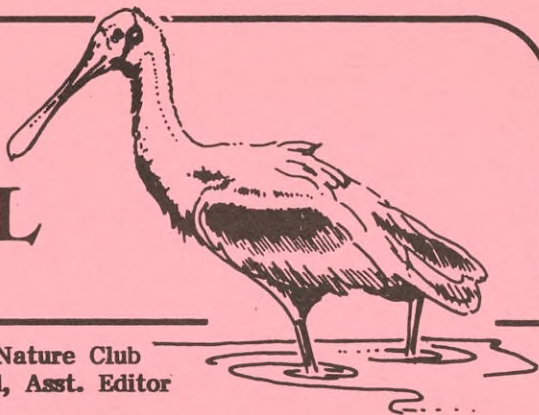


The SPOONBILL

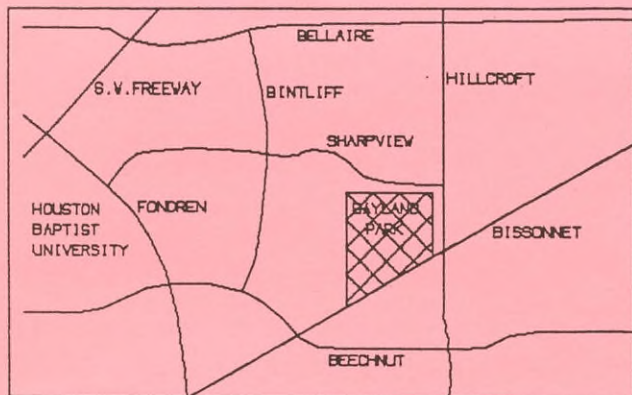


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April, 1989

Coming Events

TUESDAY, May 2: Ornithology Group meeting at 7:30 p.m. We are meeting on the first **TUESDAY, NOT THURSDAY, and at a NEW MEETING PLACE** in Bayland Park, off Bissonnet just west of Hillcroft as shown in the map. This program will be a slide show; members will have a chance to present up to five of their best bird slides. Photographers, here is your chance to show off your skill to the membership! Call Ed Rozenburg at 481-4695 to sign up.



Wednesday, May 3: Deadline for Spoonbill material and for Clearing House reports.

Friday - Sunday, May 12-14: Open weekend at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. There will be an Oldtimers Day at the sanctuary in place of the ONC meeting. Campers welcome.

Saturday, May 20: Ornithology Group field trip to High Island. Derek Muschalek will lead a half-day trip through the woods and at the shore in search of late migrants. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the picnic area/rest stop in High Island on Hwy 124. For more information call Don and Lee Richardson at 661-1365.

MINUTES OF OG MEETING, APRIL 6, 1989

Our April program was an enjoyable recreation of an OG field trip undertaken in August 1976, led by Paul Nimmons. Marilyn Crane proved an excellent tour guide, whisking us through California and Washington states on some exciting outings. Included were two pelagic trips, the results of which make me want to get over seasick fears! A listing of the birds reported on this extended field trip would have seemed unbelievable presented by anyone but an OG member. Marilyn is a nature photographer of high caliber, and had some outstanding slides to bring the trip to life for those of us who did not know birds in 1976. Thank you, Marilyn, not only for the program, but for waiting until we newer birders got here to share this experience with us.

In other business Jerry Patrick gave a treasurer's report (copies available upon request). Peggy Milstead has two ONC T-shirts, paid for but not picked up by Jim Donaldson, so if you're reading, Jim...Libby Price is looking for contributors to fill our newsletter; don't be shy with your stories or experiences. Rene Franks reported \$14.50 in aluminum collected in March. Ed Rozenburg informed us of a letter requesting our participation in a meeting sponsored by the Citizens Environmental Coalition, on May 12 to focus on planned development which will adversely affect Clear Creek and Cypress Creek. If you can plan to attend as an OG representative please speak with Ed at the May OG meeting. Ed also reported on the planting of two oak trees at High Island to honor the memory of our deceased friends Norma Oates and Paul Jones.

Ed also announced a change in the meeting **PLACE AND DATE** for the next OG meeting (see Coming Events). Applause was given for Marion Taylor as an expression of gratitude for her long, dedicated sponsorship of our meetings at Bayou Manor.

Election of officers was accomplished by a motion to accept the nominations as printed in The Spoonbill by acclamation. The motion was passed unanimously. Next year's officers will be: Richard Uzar, Chairman; John Buckman, Vice-Chairman; Jerry Patrick, Treasurer; and Ronnie Carrol, Secre-

(continued on page 9)

Noel's Niche Looking Back

.....10 YEARS AGO/FROM APRIL 1979 SPOONBILL

"CLEANINGS** (The Spring issue of Birding News Survey contained the following article reprinted from the New Jersey Audubon...)

"To add enjoyment and increase your ability in spring warbler identification, it is a great help to learn warbler songs. Birds high in the canopy or low in the thickets can then be recognized before they are seen. Most warbler songs have a fixed pattern (a certain number of syllables and phrases), a distinctive quality (sibilant, ringing, lazy, breezy, querulous, etc.), changes in pitch and other characteristics which will identify the species as certainly, if not more certainly, than visual field marks.

"The problem is to remember all those thirty-odd songs that are heard every spring. Probably there is no substitute for tracking down every unfamiliar song heard in the field over a three to five year period. At the end of that time, mastery is gained by rote and osmosis. But the learning process can be hastened with a few aids.

"One of those aids is a system of phonetic translation. Try to convert the sounds of the warbler into easily recalled words, phrases or syllables. Thus generations of birders have learned the song of the yellowthroat as "witchety-witchety-witch" or the black-and-white as "weesee, weesee, weesee, weesee, weesee, weesee." Easily available records or tapes will help the learning along, particularly in the separation of very similar songs, once those songs have been heard in the field.

"A good trick is to group the warblers' songs according to similarities in quality and listen to them sequentially in those groupings on a tape or record. For example, take the high sibilants (Cape May, bay-breast, black-and-white) and play them one after the other. The differences then become more apparent. Or take the buzzy warblers (parula vs. prairie, blue-wing vs. golden-wing) and play them back to back. Make a mental note of the number of syllables, number of phrases and the rises or drops in pitch. Then put the trilling warblers together (palm, pine, worm-eating, yellow-rump, orange-crown) and compare them to the junco and the chipping sparrow. Now listen to the two and three-parted songs (Nashville vs. Tennessee, the two waterthrushes), count the parts and note the endings.

"Endings are often the key to separating warbler songs. The final notes will help you separate yellow from chestnut-sided, Magnolia from hooded, or yellow-throated from Louisiana Waterthrush. Sometimes the single end-note will give away a song when the pattern is obscure, e.g., the final emphatic "wip" of the Canada or the high, wiry ending of the Blackburnian.

"The number of phrases in the song, and the number of syllables in each phrase, are the most important things to note. In most warblers, there is a little variation in pattern. Take again the Cape May vs. baybreast problem. Close listening tells you that the Cape May's song consists of four or more single-syllabled phrases, all on the same pitch (seet, seet, seet). But the bay-breasts equally high-

pitched phrases are two-syllabled and usually uttered in three's (tee-si, tee-si, tee-si).

"In addition to pattern, ending and quality, there are other aids, too, such as length of song, speed, and rises or drops in pitch. The Magnolia song (of which there are sundry varieties) is distinguished from the hooded and other similar species by its shortness. The redstart songs (of three main types) are markedly rapid compared to those of similar species. The cerulean's song is distinguished by an abrupt change upward in pitch, and the song of the mourning can be told from that of the Kentucky by its drop in pitch."

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT SPOONBILLS by Jerry Patrick

Too often we are satisfied to look at a bird just long enough for identification, but don't really see the bird. The Roseate Spoonbill is one of the most beautiful of our coastal Texas birds, and perhaps the one we look at least because of the ease of identification. After the first "Ooh" and "Ah" we quickly pass on to other birds.

At this time of year the adult Roseate Spoonbill is acquiring its full breeding plumage, and what a plumage it is! I have been interested in the spoonbills for some time, even to the extent of reading a lengthy paper (book?) by Robert Porter Allen, "Research Report No. 2," National Audubon Society. The report describes at length an age definition of the spoonbill based on the three-year progressive change in plumage from natal to adult. The nuances of various stages are often difficult to see because we mostly view spoonbills from great distances.

On a recent mid-March trip to pick up some early migrants on Bolivar Peninsula during the passage of a northern wet front, I spent some time waiting out a shower in the near proximity of seven feeding spoonbills. There were some first-winter birds that still had white-feathered heads, but the most striking were the adult birds in breeding attire.

Observing the adults at 150 feet I was particularly struck by the bright pink back and wings with the carmine shoulder "drip" shown and described in the field guides, but then I was even more struck by the orange tail, which I had never seen before. Allen's report describes it, of course, but none of the field guides I consulted described it except Peterson's Birds of Texas. Perhaps it is a Texas regional variation.

Also in these birds, besides the black skin line over the nape, a yellow-gold skin patch was very prominent below the eye to the base of the bill, contrasting markedly with the normal greenish, featherless head. This skin patch variation is mentioned only by Allen in relation to some, but not all of the birds he noted in the Second Chain of Islands in the Aransas Bay area of the lower Gulf Coast.

Although you might not be all that interested in spoonbills, I'd like to remind you that there can be more to birds and birding than identification and listing many species on a birding trip. Stop to look!

A MESSAGE FROM THE ONC PRESIDENT

by Ron Grimes

The February issue of The Spoonbill included a disturbing article by David Dauphin which, I believe, was meant to spur the ONC and the OG into taking a more active role in the establishment of birding sanctuaries along the Upper Texas Coast. In particular, the article sought financial help for Houston Audubon's purchase of part ownership in Smith Oaks Sanctuary.

The Spoonbill article bluntly demanded ONC pay \$10,000 to help Audubon make their payments. No attempt was made first to approach the ONC Board with a proposal to donate the money. Instead an article was written which included a number of harsh, short-sighted and misleading statements to which I feel obligated to respond. I feel this response should be made not only in The Spoonbill but in Nature Notes as well so that all our membership is aware of the situation. For those who did not read the original article, I have quoted from it.

First of all, to address the issue of a \$10,000 donation. David asked the OG to get together and "MAKE the ONC Board send a ten thousand dollar check to help pay for Smith Oaks Sanctuary, or you may not have an OG in 1999." This figure represents 40% of ONC's available cash assets. The sanctuary referred to is at High Island. Audubon paid over \$87,000 for a 40% undivided interest in approximately 20 acres. This equates to well over \$10,000 per acre.

The oak woods Audubon is seeking to preserve is vital habitat, especially for spring migrants, and should certainly be protected. I am not sure, however, that good business skills prevailed over emotion in Audubon's negotiations for that property. During a time of depressed real estate values in Texas, \$10,000+ an acre for rural property seems unreasonably high, and to demand that an organization of 680 people paying dues of \$5 a year donate such a large sum just does not make sense. (A future article in The Spoonbill and in Nature Notes will help clarify the ONC's finances.)

In the article's opening sentence about the ONC, the statement is made that "ONC has...done absolutely nothing to improve habitat along the UTC." Perhaps those oldtimers in our group who fought hard battles for passage of the Texas Open Beaches Act and establishment of Padre Island National Seashore might differ. Away from the coast, ONC members were active in establishment of the Big Thicket National Preserve. To drop a few names, surely one does not feel that Joe Heiser, Armand Yramategui and other equally dedicated members were lax in their conservation efforts.

Later in the article David questions whether OG should support the ONC's own Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. The LTNS has been a part of the ONC for almost 40 years. These last few years have been difficult at the sanctuary because of damage caused by the pine bark beetle infestation. A lot of hard work has gone into the sanctuary to protect the physical facilities, keep the roads open and the trails cleared of downed trees. Now the tide seems to have turned and we are once again able to spend Visitors Days enjoying the beauty and serenity of our sanctuary. Although the sanctuary

is certainly not a birding hot-spot, there are other facets to its beauty that make it a treasure for all the ONC.

In the last paragraph of the article David states that when he was OG chairman OG membership was almost twice what it is now. The OG has always been the largest group in the ONC, but I doubt that it was twice as large as it is now. According to our Membership Vice-President, there are about 350 OG members. I do not think the entire ONC membership has exceeded 700 in the last few years.

Certainly the protection of wildlife habitat along the UTC is important to all members of the Outdoor Nature Club, and we should, as individuals and as a group, follow the principles of our ONC Constitution and "work toward the establishment and maintenance of nature sanctuaries and natural preserves." This includes encouraging and supporting the acquisition of real estate for that purpose.

I agree with David that ONC and OG should take a more active stance in conservation issues. Though past conservation successes of our members are to be applauded, we must not forget that environmental protection is more than just a single battle. Continuing awareness and support for preservation issues are required. But as with all things, there is a right way and a wrong way to approach the task. To write an article such as the one in the February Spoonbill simply exposes the naivete of the writer, does little for the cause it was intended to support and alienates members who might otherwise have been more sympathetic to that cause.

Being an ONC member is not just a spectator sport. A cooperative spirit and participation by the whole of the membership is necessary to our club's continuing success. If you would like to become more active in ONC, let me make a few suggestions:

- 1) Propose an ONC project.
- 2) Chair a committee.
- 3) Help the Education Committee give programs.
- 4) Visit the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.
- 5) Attend the ONC board meetings (Last Monday of the month, Bayou Manor, 7:30 p.m.)
- 6) Attend meetings and field trips sponsored by a group outside your main interest.
- 7) Attend the ONC planning meeting in May.
- 8) Call me and discuss your ideas.

Let's all make an effort to be more attentive to the feelings, needs and wishes of our fellow club members. Each of our groups and our members deserve the full support of the entire club. Anything less and we all lose.

THE SPOONBILL STAFF

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Typing	Libby Price
Labels	Peggy Milstead
Mailing	Connie Schimbor
Checklist Committee:	Noel Pettingell, David Dauphin and Ed Rozenberg

UPPER TEXAS COAST SUPPLEMENT AND UPDATE (THROUGH DECEMBER, 1986)

This is the seventh in a series of updates to the Upper Texas Coast Checklist since publication of the Sixth Edition in January, 1980. The last update appeared in the March, 1988 (Vol. XXXVII, No. 3) issue of The Spoonbill. The UTC Checklist Committee that prepared this update was composed of Ted L. Eubanks, Jr., Jim Morgan and Noel Pettingell. The committee reviewed sighting reports which met the following criteria:

- 1) The sighting occurred during calendar year 1986 in the seven-county UTC area (now includes Waller Co.)
- 2) Has been documented by notes, photograph or specimen.
- 3) Could potentially modify the current checklist and the latter's six updates.

A unanimous vote of the committee was required for acceptance. The following sightings were accepted as valid UTC records.

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS	SIGNIFICANCE	SPOONBILL NOTES
Sooty Shearwater	4/27/86	Bolivar	Lynn Forster, Allan Mueller	3rd UTC record photos - AM	May, 1986
Masked Booby	12/21/86	Freeport(Surfside)	Jim Morgan	10th UTC record	Jan, 1987
Brant	12/13/86	High Island	Don Alexander, Derek Muschalek	3rd UTC record	Jan, 1987
Common Merganser	11/17/86	NW Harris Co.	Gary Clark	7th UTC record	Dec, 1986
Ferruginous Hawk	4/6/86	W. Harris Co.	Mike Austin	Exceptional Date	May, 1986
Whooping Crane	1/16/86 3/31/86	Brazoria Co.	Mike Lange, et al.	2nd & 3rd UTC	None - USFWS Doc.
Lesser Golden Plover	11/28/86	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Late Fall Departure	None-Notes Reviewed by committee
Mountain Plover	1/5/86 - 1/26/86	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.; m. ob.	1st UTC record	None-Notes rev./comm.
Mountain Plover	11/26/86 - 1/18/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.; m. ob.	2nd UTC record	None-Notes rev./comm.
Hudsonian Godwit	10/26/86	Chambers Co.	Derek Muschalek	Exceptional Date	Nov, 1986
Baird's Sandpiper	10/5/86	Galveston Is.	John Buckman, Mark Magruder	Exceptional Date	Nov., 1986
Pectoral Sandpiper	11/11/85	Galveston Is.	George Wallace, Beverly Collier	Latest Fall Departure	Apr, 1986
Wilson's Phalarope	3/4/86	Texas City	Bob Behrstock and Caroline Callery	Earliest Spring Arrival	Apr, 1986
Wilson's Phalarope	11/15/86	Galveston Is.	Bob Behrstock, Gloria Saylor	Exceptional Date	Dec, 1986
Red-necked Phalarope	9/20/86	San Luis Pass	Ted & Virginia Eubanks	6th UTC record	Photos/TLE
Red-necked Phalarope	10/5/86- 10/7/86	High Island	John Buckman, Mark Magruder, Mike Austin	7th UTC record (4 individuals)	Nov., 1986
Pomarine Jaeger	5/31/86- 8/2/86	San Luis Pass	Ted Eubanks, Jr.; m. ob.	Summer record	Aug, 1986 Photos/TLE
Little Gull	2/9/86	San Luis Pass	David Dauphin, Debra Richards	3rd UTC record	Mar, 1986
Thayer's Gull	11/8/86 11/9/86	San Luis Pass	Ted Eubanks, Jr., Greg Lasley, Jim Morgan (Photos from all)	5th UTC record	Dec, 1986 Photos
Great Black-backed Gull	4/27/86	Jefferson Co.	Louis Bevier, Curtis Marantz, Doug Willick	8th UTC record	None-Notes rev./comm.
Groove-bill. Ani	5/4/86	White Oak Bayou	Wesley Cureton	Latest Spring Departure	Jun-Jul 1986
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	9/17/86- 9/26/86	Houston	Jan & Will Risser	Earliest Fall Arrival	Oct, 1986
Traill's Flycatcher	10/15/86	Galveston & Brazoria Cos.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Latest Fall Departure	Nov., 1986
Least Flycatcher	1/1/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr., Jim Morgan	Winter Record	None- Photos/JGM
Couch's Kingbird	9/28/86- 2/8/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr., Jim Morgan	10th UTC record	None-Notes Rev./comm.
Couch's Kingbird	10/6/86	Brazoria Co.	Ted & Virginia Eubanks	11th UTC record	Nov, 1986

(continued on page 7)

Clearing House - MARCH, 1989

March Editor: Wally Gardner

Apologies to you birders who mailed in March Clearing House data late in the month only to have it returned to you by the postoffice. It seems that the OG forgot to pay it's PO box rent. The situation has been rectified. If you want to resubmit your data it will be entered into the database for reference. Your notes if any will be published in next months Spoonbill.

At present there is a debate about whether to include Waller County data in the Clearing House since it is not included in the present checklist and won't be included in the new checklist.

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the upper Texas coast. HOW TO READ THIS REPORT:

SPECIES DATES TOTAL BRAZ CHAM EBEND GAILY HARR JEFF WALL
 Bird Name early/late reports/individuals or county-location listed by county
 Noteworthy sightings will be underlined (very rare on date), CAPITALIZED (no previous sightings on date), or underlined and CAPITALIZED (NO PREVIOUS SIGHTINGS ON THE UTC). Birds with very rare, vagrant, accidental or no status on the checklist at the date of the sighting require notes. However, due to space considerations, only the notes on sightings which affect the checklist will consistently be published. Notes on very rare at date of sighting may be published at the editor's discretion if space allows.

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	EBEND	GAILY	HARR	JEFF	WALL
Loon, Common	5-11	2/52							
Grebe, Pied-bill	4-25	7/104	G-(50) 5,HST; G-(2) 11,CJ						
Grebe, Eared	4-25	4/33	1/6						
Gannet, Northern	4-25	3/61	B-(1) 4,AGR; G-SLP(40) 4,AGR; G-HI(20) 25,DM						
Pelican, Amer. Wht	4-25	8/314	1/4						
Felican, Brown	4-25	4/45	1/20						
Corm, Dbl-crested	4-25	11/469	3/90						
Corm, Olivaceous	5-11	2/6	B-(3) 5,HST; G-(3) 11,CJ						
Anhinga	18-18	1/2	F-(2) 18,GL						
Bittern, American	5-11	2/2							
Heron, Great Blue	4-26	13/133	3/41						
Egret, Great	4-25	12/153	3/60						
Egret, Snowy	4-25	12/114	3/47						
Heron, Little Blu	4-25	8/244	2/12						
Heron, Tricolored	4-25	7/315	2/5						
Egret, Reddish	4-11	5/14	2/6						
Egret, Cattle	5-26	5/94	2/26						
Heron, Grn-backed	25-25	1/2	G-HI(2) 25,DM						
Nt-Heron, Blk-ern	4-23	6/382	3/60						
Nt-Heron, Yel-ern	5-31	6/19	1/6						
Ibis, White-faced	4-25	8/457	3/323						
Ibis, White-faced	4-26	6/351	3/270						
Spoonbill, Roseat	4-25	6/48	3/14						
Whtl-Duck, Blk-bd	14-26	3/68	F-(20) 18,GL; H-(35) 14,RU; W-(13) 26,UB						
Goose, Gr Wht-irn	4-23	6/640	2/140						
Goose, Snow	4-26	9/3415	1/585						
Goose, Canada	5-14	4/588	2/490						
Duck, Wood	5-18	2/7	B-(5) 5,HST; F-(2) 18,GL						
Teal, Green-wing	4-26	10/1370	3/790						
Duck, Mottled	8/92	3/47	1/25						
Mallard	5-14	2/7	B-(4) 5,HST; H-(3) 14,RU						
Pintail, Northern	4-26	9/456	2/270						
Teal, Blue-winged	4-26	10/1106	2/80						
Teal, Cinnamon	5-18	3/5	B-BR(2) 11,HW; F-(1) 16,GL; G-(2) 5,HST						

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	EBEND	GAILY	HARR	JEFF	WALL
Shoveler, Northern	4-26	12/1891	3/455						
Gadwall	4-26	11/586	3/140						
Widgeon, American	4-25	8/467	2/205						
Redhead	5-5	1/1	B-(1) 5,HST						
Duck, Ring-necked	11-23	3/26	F-(8) 18,GL; F-BB(9) 23,GL; G-(10) 11,CJ						
Scaup, Lesser	5-25	2/750	G-(150) 75,HST; G-HI(600) 25,DM						
Bufflehead	23-23	1/8	F-BB(8) 23,GL						
Merganser, Red-br	4-11	4/64	1/2						
Duck, Ruddy	4-25	9/332	2/3						
Vulture, Black	4-26	8/137	2/5						
Vulture, Turkey	5-31	13/258	2/28						
Osprey	4-24	3/6	B-(1) 4,AGR; B-(1) 11,HW; H-AB(4) 24,DM						
Kite, Blk-shouldr	4-25	6/24	3/11						
Harrier, Northern	4-26	13/81	3/19						
Hawk, Sharp-shin	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1) 25,DM						
Hawk, Red-shouldr	4-26	8/19	3/3						
Hawk, Broad-wing	24-31	2/11	F-(1) 31,PM; H-AB(10) 24,DM						
Hawk, Swainson's	26-26	1/1	K-(1) 26,UB						
Hawk, White-tailed	12-12	1/1	H-(1) 12,RU						
Hawk, Red-tailed	4-26	14/128	3/55						
Caracara, Crested	4-18	5/5	3/3						
Kestrel, American	4-26	16/92	3/29						
Merrin	11-12	2/2	B-BW(1) 11,HW; H-(1) 12,RU						
Rail, Yellow	4-4	1/1	B-BW(2) 4,AGR						
Rail, Clapper	4-4	1/1	B-BW(1) 4,AGR						
Moorhen, Common	4-25	8/2043	3/80						
Coot, American	4-25	8/2043	3/750						
Limpkin	4-4	1/60	B-BW(60) 4,AGR						
Crane, Sandhill	5-23	8/207	2/165						
Plover, Blk-bell'd	5-25	5/41	2/12						
Golden-Plover, Ls	5-28	5/481	1/1						
Plover, Snowy	4-4	1/1	G-SLP(1) 4,AGR						
Plover, Wilson's	4-4	1/1	B-(1) 4,AGR						
Plover, Semipalm	11-25	2/13	B-(12) 11,HW; C-(1) 25,DM						
Plover, Piping	4-4	1/8	B-(8) 4,AGR						
Killdeer	4-26	14/413	2/120						
Oystercatcher, Am	5-5	1/2	G-TOD(2) 5,HST						
Skill, Black-neck	4-26	7/46	2/7						
Avocet, American	4-26	2/218	B-SLP(200) 4,AGR; W-(18) 26,UB						
Yellowlegs, Great	4-26	10/129	2/12						
Yellowlegs, Less	4-26	11/430	3/14						
Sandprr, Solitary	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1) 25,DM						
Willet	4-25	6/73	2/20						
Sandprr, Spotted	25-25	1/2	G-HI(2) 25,DM						
Sandprr, Upland	25-26	2/56	C-(54) 25,DM; W-(2) 26,UB						
Curlew, Long-bill	4-26	6/58	3/5						
Godwit, Marbled	4-4	1/40	G-SLP(40) 4,AGR						
Knot, Red	4-11	2/15	G-SLP(11) 4,AGR; G-(4) 11,CJ						
Sanderling	4-25	6/231	2/85						
Sandprr, Semipalm	25-25	1/8	G-HI(8) 25,DM						
Sandprr, Western	4-25	2/105	G-SLP(15) 4,AGR; G-HI(90) 25,DM						
Sandprr, Least	5-25	8/610	1/400						
Sandprr, Pectoral	25-25	1/40	C-(40) 25,DM						
Dunlin	4-25	4/116	--						
Sandprr, Stilt	25-25	1/18	G-HI(18) 25,DM						
Dowitcher, S-bill	11-11	1/12	G-(12) 11,CJ						
Dowitcher, L-bill	4-25	5/770	2/540						
Dowitcher, sp.	11-11	1/50	B-(50) 11,HW						

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	EBEND	GALY	HARR	JEFF	MALL
Saibe, Common	4-25	7/88	3/5	--	--	1/2	3/81	--	--
Phalarope, Wilson	11-25	2/9	B-BW(3)11,HW;	G-HI(6)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Gull, Laughing	4-24	6/3439	2/900	--	G-HI(3)25,DM	--	1/14	--	--
Gull, Bonaparte's	4-25	3/17	G-SLP(2)4,AGR;	G-(15)5,HST;	G-HI(300)25,DM	--	--	--	--
Gull, Ring-billed	4-11	5/715	2/240	--	3/475	--	--	--	--
Gull, Herring	4-11	5/123	2/8	--	3/115	--	--	--	--
Gull, Glaucous	4-11	1/1	G-SLP(1)4,AGR	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tern, Gull-billed	5-11	3/3	B-(1)5,HST;	B-(1)11,HW;	G-(1)5,HST	--	--	--	--
Tern, Caspian	5-23	7/22	2/9	--	2/3	3/10	--	--	--
Tern, Royal	4-25	5/97	1/25	--	3/72	--	--	--	--
Tern, Sandwich	4-4	1/2	G-SLP(2)4,AGR	--	--	--	--	--	--
Tern, Common	11-11	2/7	B-(6)11,HW;	G-(1)11,CJ	--	--	--	--	--
Tern, Forster's	4-25	6/348	2/25	--	4/323	--	--	--	--
Skimmer, Black	4-11	2/402	B-(2)11,HW;	G-SLP(400)4,AGR	--	--	--	--	--
Dove, Rock	4-28	7/186	1/6	--	3/124	1/20	--	1/10	--
Dove, Mourning	4-28	12/256	2/82	--	2/12	2/8	4/84	--	1/30
Dove, Inca	5-28	6/17	H-(7)17,FM	--	--	1/4	4/11	--	1/2
Parakeet, Monk	17-17	1/7	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Barn-Owl, Common	25-25	1/1	1/1	--	--	--	--	--	--
Owl, Great Horned	12-26	4/5	1/1	--	2/5	--	2/3	--	1/1
Owl, Barred	4-24	4/7	1/1	--	2/5	--	1/1	--	--
Swift, Chimney	24-24	1/10	H-AB(10)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hummer, Ruby-thrt	24-25	2/2	G-HI(1)25,DM;	H-AB(1)24,DM	--	--	2/2	--	--
Kingfisher, Belted	4-26	9/20	3/12	1/3	1/1	2/2	--	--	--
Wedge, Red-bell	4-31	8/28	2/4	1/4	3/13	--	1/6	--	1/1
Sapsucker, Yel-bell	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wapsucker, Downy	5-25	6/10	2/3	--	2/5	1/1	1/1	--	--
Wicksucker, Northern	4-26	8/14	3/7	--	1/1	1/1	2/3	--	1/2
Wicksucker, Pileated	4-25	5/7	2/4	1/1	--	--	1/1	--	--
Floebird, Eastern	4-25	9/24	3/13	--	2/5	3/4	1/2	--	--
Flycatcher, Vermilion	11-11	1/1	B-BW(1)11,HW	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flycatcher, Gr Crest	24-24	1/1	H-AB(1)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Kingbird, Eastern	25-25	1/10	G-HI(10)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
FLYBIRD, WESTERN	30-30	1/1	H-(1)30,JP	--	--	--	--	--	--
Flycatcher, Ss-tail	23-23	3/3	F-BB(1)23,GL;	F-(1)26,PM;	W-(1)26,UB	--	--	--	--
Lark, Horned	4-4	1/7	G-SLP(7)4,AGR	--	--	--	--	--	--
Martin, Purple	4-27	12/93	2/38	--	3/11	3/23	4/21	--	--
Swallow, Tree	4-26	9/761	3/331	1/300	1/26	2/83	1/6	--	1/15
Swallow, N R-wing	24-24	1/7	H-(6)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Swallow, Bank	23-23	1/20	F-BB(20)23,GL	--	--	--	--	--	--
Swallow, Cliff	23-23	1/4	F-BB(4)23,GL	--	--	--	--	--	--
Swallow, Barn	5-26	4/8	1/1	1/2	3/11	--	--	--	--
Jay, Blue	1-31	12/68	2/8	1/10	--	--	5/33	--	1/3
Crow, American	4-31	13/185	3/17	--	4/49	--	5/29	--	1/10
Chickadee, Carol	4-31	10/75	3/22	--	4/37	--	2/13	--	1/3
Titmouse, Tufted	4-31	8/68	2/6	--	4/52	--	1/6	--	1/4
Creeper, Brown	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wren, Carolina	4-31	7/33	2/7	--	4/21	--	1/5	--	--
Wren, Bewick's	12-12	1/1	H-(1)12,RU	--	--	--	--	--	--
Wren, House	5-25	4/4	2/2	--	--	1/1	--	--	--
Wren, Sedge	4-11	2/3	B-(2)4,AGR;	B-BW(1)11,HW	--	--	--	--	--
Wren, Marsh	4-11	3/11	B-(6)4,AGR;	B-(1)5,HST;	B-BW(4)11,HW	--	--	--	--
Kinglet, Gold-ern	5-25	2/4	B-(2)5,HST;	G-HI(2)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Kinglet, Ruby-ern	4-26	8/96	3/12	--	2/17	1/45	1/20	--	1/2
Gnatcatcher, Blu-gra	11-25	4/47	1/1	--	1/1	1/32	1/13	--	--
Gnatcatcher, Eastern	18-19	2/3	F-(1)18,GL;	F-(2)19,PM	--	--	--	--	--
Bluebird, Eastern	23-24	2/4	F-BB(1)23,GL;	H-AB(3)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Thrush, Hermit	4-12	3/82	F-(1)4,AGR;	B-BW(1)11,HW;	H-(60)12,RU	--	--	--	--
Catbird, Gray	5-25	2/2	F-(1)5,HST;	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Robin, American	5-25	15/93	2/21	--	4/11	1/10	5/26	--	1/25
Mockingbird, N	4-31	12/44	3/8	--	3/11	1/12	5/15	--	--
Thrasher, Brown	4-23	3/30	B-(12)4,AGR;	B-BW(12)11,HW;	F-BB(6)23,GL	--	--	--	--
Flypit, Water	24-24	1/25	H-(25)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Waxwing, Cedar	4-26	12/55	4/18	--	2/5	3/11	2/9	--	1/12
Shrike, Loggerhed	4-26	12/55	2/2	--	3/14	1/250	4/56	--	1/50
Starling, Euro	1-31	11/422	--	--	2/4	1/6	1/5	--	--
Vireo, White-eyed	18-25	4/15	G-HI(6)25,DM;	H-AB(3)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Vireo, Solitary	24-25	2/9	G-HI(5)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Vireo, Yell-thrtd	25-25	1/5	G-HI(5)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--

CLEARING HOUSE CODES

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	EBEND	GALY	HARR	JEFF	MALL
Vireo, Red-eyed	25-25	1/2	G-HI(2)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Warb, Orange-crn	5-25	4/32	1/4	--	1/3	1/13	1/12	--	--
Parula, Northern	5-25	5/13	1/1	--	2/3	1/3	1/6	--	--
WARB, YELLOW	11-11	1/1	B-BW(1)11,HW	--	--	--	--	--	--
Warb, Yellow-rump	4-26	11/335	3/55	--	2/70	2/71	3/138	--	1/1
Warb, Blk-thr Crn	24-25	2/2	G-HI(1)25,DM;	H-(1)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Warb, Yel-throat	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Warb, Pine	5-25	2/13	G-(12)25,DM;	H-(1) 5,HST	--	--	2/2	--	--
Warb, Blk-and-wht	8-25	4/8	--	--	1/1	1/5	--	--	--
Ovenbird	24-24	1/1	H-AB(1)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Waterthrush, N	5-5	1/1	B-BW(1)5,HST	--	--	--	--	--	--
Waterthrush, Lou	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Yellowthroat, Com	4-25	3/13	B-BW(8)4,AGR;	B-BW(4)11,HW;	C-(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--
Warb, Hooded	25-25	1/7	G-HI(7)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Warb, Wilson's	5-25	2/4	B-(2)5,HST;	G-HI(2)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Cardinal, Northern	1-31	15/187	3/49	--	3/77	2/4	6/42	--	1/15
Grosbeak, Ros-brs	23-25	2/9	F-BB(8)23,GL;	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--
Bunting, Indigo	25-25	1/1	G-HI(1)25,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Towhee, Rufus-side	5-5	1/1	B-(1)5,HST	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sparrow, Chipping	24-24	1/5	H-(5)24,DM	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sparrow, Field	5-11	3/66	B-BW(1)11,HW;	H-WHC(5)5,JB	--	--	--	--	--
Sparrow, Vesper	5-12	2/6	B-BW(20)11,HW;	H-(6)12,RU;	H-WHC(30)5,JB	--	--	--	1/18
Sparrow, Savannah	4-26	11/270	2/125	1/40	1/3	2/20	4/64	--	--
Sparrow, Le Conte	4-12	2/8	B-(5)4,AGR;	H-(3)12,RU	--	--	--	--	--
Sparrow, Song	12-12	1/1	H-(1)12,RU	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sparrow, Lincoln	5-25	5/14	2/9	1/3	1/1	--	1/1	--	--
Sparrow, Swamp	4-25	6/51	3/36	1/4	1/1	--	1/10	--	--
Sparrow, Whit-thrt	5-26	6/50	1/4	1/2	1/14	--	2/16	--	1/4
Sparrow, Whit-crn	5-26	4/25	--	1/10	--	--	2/6	--	1/9
Sparrow, Harris	5-14	2/5	H-(2)14,RU;	H-WHC(3)5,JB	--	--	--	--	--
Blackbird, Red-wg	4-26	11/623	2/380	--	2/98	2/25	4/260	--	1/60
Meadowlark, East	4-26	13/426	3/176	1/50	3/18	2/29	3/118	--	1/35
Meadowlark, West	26-26	1/2	W-(2)26,UB	--	--	--	--	--	--
Blackbird, Brewer	5-12	4/136	1/120	--	--	--	3/16	--	--
Grackle, Gr-tail	4-26	11/593	2/225	--	4/278	3/155	1/10	--	1/25
Grackle, Bl-tail	4-11	3/105	B-BW(15)4,AGR;	B-(50)5,HST;	B-BW(40)11,HW	--	--	--	--
Grackle, Common	1-31	10/424	2/45	--	1/36	--	6/193	--	1/150
Cowbird, Bronzed	23-23	1/100	F-BB(100)23,GL	--	--	--	--	--	--
Cowbird, Brn-head	5-26	8/1200	2/550	--	1/50	2/200	3/100	--	1/300
Finch, Purple	5-5	1/1	H-WHC(1)5,JB	--	--	--	--	--	--
Goldfinch, Amer	4-25	4/159	1/1	1/112	1/1	--	1/45	--	--
Sparrow, House	1-24	10/162	1/25	--	4/24	2/60	3/53	--	--

Observations:
 AGR = Lynn Aldrich, Peter Gottschling, Bob Righter
 CJ = Charles Jones
 DL = Derek Muschalek
 GL = Geneva Lavern
 HW = Houston Arboretum field tripled by Bob Honig and Doug Williams
 HST = P.D. Hulce, Mark Scheurman, Kent Taylor
 JB = John Buckman
 JP = Jerry Patrick
 PM = Peggy Milstead
 RU = Richard Uzar
 UB = Richard Uzar, Christine Bourgeois

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS	SIGNIFICANCE	SPOONBILL NOTES
Western Kingbird	4/20/86	Houston	Mark Kulstad, Maureen Crowell	Earliest Spring Arrival	May, 1986
Bell's Vireo	10/10/86	High Island	Derek Muschalek	6th UTC record	Nov, 1986
Phila. Vireo	5/20/86	Armand Bayou	Derek Muschalek	Exceptional Date	Jun-Jul '86
Tenn. Warbler	3/20/86	Brazos Bend SP	Derek Muschalek, Tommy Michael	Earliest Spring Arrival	Apr, 1986
Nashville Warbler	5/19/86	White Oak Bayou	Wesley Cureton	Ties latest Spring Departure	Jun-Jul '86
Cape May Warbler	9/6/86	Galveston Is.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Earliest Fall Arr.	Oct, 1986
Cape May Warbler	10/18/86- 10/19/86	Galveston Is.	Bob Honig, et al. Mike Austin	Exceptional Date	Nov, 1986
Blackpoll Warbler	11/16/86	Galveston Is.	Derek Muschalek	Exceptional Date	Dec, 1986
Swainson's Warbler	10/7/86	Galveston Is.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Latest Fall Departure	Nov, 1986 Banded & photos
MacGillivray's Warbler	4/20/86	High Island	Jim Morgan, Derek Muschalek	6th UTC record	May, 1986 Banded later
Wilson's Warbler	8/12/86	unknown	Steve Williams	Earliest Fall Arrival	Dec, 1986 p. 11
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2/12/86	W. NASA Park	Derek Muschalek	Exceptional Date	Mar, 1986
Bobolink	9/13/86	Galveston Is.	John Buckman, Roger Muskat	Earliest Fall Arrival	Oct, 1986
Yellow-headed Blackbird	11/22/86	Ft. Bend Co.	Bob Honig, et al.	Exceptional Date	Dec, 1986

UPPER TEXAS COAST SUPPLEMENT AND UPDATE (THROUGH DECEMBER, 1987)

This is the eighth in a series of updates to the Upper Texas Coast Checklist since publication of the Sixth Edition in January, 1980. The last update also appears in this edition of *The Spoonbill*. The UTC Checklist Committee that prepared this update was composed of Ted L. Eubanks, Jr., Jim Morgan and Noel Pettingell. The committee reviewed sighting reports which met the following criteria:

- 1) The sighting occurred during calendar year 1987 in the seven-county UTC area (now includes Waller Co.).
- 2) Has been documented by notes, photograph or specimen.
- 3) Could potentially modify the current checklist and the latter's seven updates.

A unanimous vote of the Committee was required for acceptance. The following sightings were accepted as valid UTC records.

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS	SIGNIFICANCE	SPOONBILL NOTES
Pacific Loon	6/21/87	Offat's Bayou	Will Risser	Spring Departure Date	Jun-Jul '87
Red-necked Grebe	3/07/87	Smith's Point	Steve Williams	8th UTC record	April, 1987
Glossy Ibis	4/21/87	Port Bolivar	John Rowlett, et al.	1st UTC record (Photographed)	Accepted by State
Red-breasted Merganser	9/24/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Fall Arrival Date	Dec., 1987
Prairie Falcon	1/01/87	West Harris Co.	Ted & Virginia Eubanks	4th UTC record	Cypress Creek CBC
Wild Turkey	1/01/87	W. Harris Co.	David Dauphin, Debra Richards	Modern record	"
Sora	7/25/87	Algoa.	Diane Wise	Fall arrival date	Aug., 1987
Purple Gallinule	12/05/87	Anahuac NWR	Bob Behrstock	Fall departure date	Feb., 1988 (photos)
Lesser Golden Plover	5/28/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Spring departure date	
Mountain Plover	1/1-18/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr., m.ob.	2nd UTC record	
Solitary Sand-piper	3/01/87	Galveston Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	Spring Arrival date	

(continued next page)

SPECIES	DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVERS	SIGNIFICANCE	SPOONBILL NOTES
Spotted Sandpiper	6/28/87	Barker Reservoir	Bob Honig	Summer record	Jun-Jul '87
Hudsonian Godwit	9/27/86 Note date	Anahuac NWR	Mike Austin et al.	September record	Oct., 1986
Baird's Sandpiper	7/15/87	Galveston Co.	Steve Williams	Fall arrival date	Aug., 1987
Stilt Sandpiper	6/22/87	Anahuac NWR	Derek Muschalek	Summer record	Jun-Jul '87
Mangrove Cuckoo	5/04/87	White Oak Bayou	Wesley Cureton	3rd UTC record	Jun-Jul '87
White-collared Swift	12/19/87	Freeport	Ted Eubanks, Jim Morgan et al.	1st UTC record (Photographed)	Feb., 1988
Ladder-backed Woodpecker	11/21/87	Waller Co.	Bob Behrstock, Ted Eubanks Jim Morgan	Fall arrival date	
Least Flycatcher	1/1-3/87	Waller Co.	Ted Eubanks, Jim Morgan et al.	Winter Record	Photographed
Couch's Kingbird	10/04/87	San Bernard NWR	Bob Behrstock, Ted Eubanks, Jr. Jim Morgan	Now considered regular	Jan., 1988
Bank Swallow	7/26/87	Ft. Bend Co.	Bob Honig	Possibly nesting	Aug., 1987
Barn Swallow	2/01/87	Warren Lake	Derek Muschalek	Winter record	Mar., 1987
Sedge Wren	6/21/87	Armand Bayou	Mike Austin	1st Summer record	Jun-Jul '87
Swainson's Thrush	9/16/87	Galveston	Derek Muschalek	September record	Dec., 1987
Bell's Vireo	4/15-16/87	Houston	Will and Jan Risser	7th UTC record	May, 1987
Bell's Vireo	10/04/87	High Island	Steve Williams	8th UTC record	Jan., 1988
Warbling Vireo	10/31/87	High Island	Bob Behrstock	Fall departure date	Jan., 1988
Black-whiskered Vireo	4/4-5/87	High Island	Robert Thacker, Derek Muschalek, m. ob.	3rd UTC record	May, 1987
Tenn. Warbler	8/30/87	High Island	David Dauphin, Debra Richards	Fall arrival date	Sept., 1987
Magnolia Warbler	2/23/87	Brazos Bend SP	Derek Muschalek	Winter record	Mar., 1987
Cape May Warbler	10/31/87	High Island	Bob Behrstock	Fall Depart. date	Jan., 1988
Grace's Warbler	9/16/87	High Island	Derek Muschalek	1st UTC record	Dec., 1987
Am. Redstart	3/5-28/87	White Oak Bayou	Wesley Cureton	Spring arr. date	Apr., 1987
Prothonotary Warbler	10/23/87	Houston	Derek Muschalek, Mark	Fall depart. date	Jan., 1988
Ovenbird	6/01/87	Houston	Bob Schwartz	Ties spring depart. date	Jun-Jul '87
Louisiana Waterthrush	5/07/87	Sabine Woods	Ted Eubanks, Jr., Jim Morgan	Spring departure date	Jun-Jul '87
Scarlet Tanager	11/02/87	San Bernard NWR	Mark Brown, Derek Muschalek	Fall Depart. date	Jan., 1988
Blue Bunting	12/19-24/87	Freeport CBC (Lake Jackson)	Tom Morris, Tom Collins m. ob.	1st UTC record (Photographed)	Feb., 1988
Blue Bunting	12/19/87-2/12/88	Freeport CBC (Lake Barbara)	Mike Austin, James Beard, m. ob.	2nd UTC record	Feb., 1988
Lark Bunting	10/4/87	San Bernard NWR	Bob Behrstock, Ted Eubanks, Jr. Jim Morgan	10th UTC record (Photographed)	Jan., 1988
Dark-eyed Junco	10/12/87	High Island	Bob Behrstock, Harold Haley	Ties fall arr. date	Jan., 1988

WRITE IT DOWN

by Richard Uzar

It's spring migration time and the best birding of the year on the Upper Texas Coast. When you are birding this spring will you keep comprehensive records so that you can refer to them later?

Good records are more than just dates and bird names. You should keep records of weather, observers, optical equipment and anything else you can think of. A good set of birding records is not just a convenience, it can be a valuable scientific document. Most of us have at least heard of the birding journals of Arlie McKay, who birded the Cove area near Baytown for nearly 40 years. His journals are the core of the OG's UTC Checklist.

You should get into the habit of writing in your journal the evening after your day's birding. Years from now you will be able to look back at your shelves of records and recall new lifers, new friendships made, the first bird seen through your new binocs, and, who knows, someone may need your records for the next edition of the Birder's Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS RARE BIRD ALERT

Mrs. Jack K. Crabtree, a former OG member and present subscriber informs us that the Audubon Society of Central Arkansas is sponsoring a 24-hour Rare Bird Alert. By dialing (501) 753-5853, one will hear a recorded message telling what is being seen and where, and a phone number or instructions to find the bird. After the beep you can leave your number if you would like an answer by a collect call to you.

(continued from page 1)

tary. A motion was made to field and sponsor a team in this year's Audubon Birdathon. Noel Pettin-gell said the same group as last year would be going out. The membership voted to pledge \$1.00 per species as it did last year.

Don Richardson expressed some concern for the manner in which we have been conducting financial business of late, and suggested we develop some procedure to prevent moneys being disbursed too quickly. The Checklist Committee reports that all the data is completed, is being checked and will be ready for the printer probably in May. David Dauphin chastised all of us who write notes for the Clearing House which would not, on their own, identify the bird being reported.

Richard Uzar, Secretary

PROJECTED BUDGET FOR 1989

Estimated revenues 1989:

Membership dues (340 x \$10)	\$3400
Spoonbill subscriptions (20 x \$13)	260
Interest CD (\$4000 @ 6.5%)	260
Sales check lists, maps	125
Aluminum Sales	100
	4145

Projected Expenses:

Spoonbill printing, 11 issues @ \$220	2420
Bulk mailing, 11 issues @ \$40	440
Donation Bayou Manor	150
P.O. Box rental	30
Contribution to Birding Atlas	150
Miscellaneous - stamps, stationery, etc.	50
New books for library	150
Program expense	300
Printing Clearing House forms	100
Sponsor "Birdathon" team	130
	3920

Projected carry forward 225

Jerry Patrick, Treasurer

FOR OG information, checklists, maps, contact Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston 77096, 723-8559.

SEND bird sightings for Clearing House to: Clearing House (OG), P.O. Box 271374, Houston TX 77277.

UTC RARE Bird Alert Tape, sponsored by Piney Woods Wildlife Society: 821-2846.

FOR LOCAL nature societies' meetings and field trips call the Audubon Society's "Voice of the Naturalist" tape: 932-1392.

LONE STAR Rare Bird Tape, sponsored by Audubon Society. In 713 area call 747-8826. Out of town call 1-800-TBT-BIRD. When in town do NOT call the 800 number, please - it costs!

SEND material for Spoonbill to Editor, Libby Price, 3715 Sunset, Houston 77005, 665-1159.

SEND dues, subscriptions and address changes to Jerry Patrick, 814 St. Francis, Houston 77079. Members' annual dues: \$15 (ONC \$5, OG \$10). Spoonbill subscriptions for non-members: \$13.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - MARCH, 1989

Glaucous Gull Gottschling, Aldrich & Righter March 4, 1989

*Very rare on sighting date
 Location: San Luis Pass
 Date: March 4, observed for 1/2 hour
 Visibility: Hazy, cloudy, light rain
 Optics: 20x Spacemaster, 25x Kowa, 10x40 binocs
 Distance: 50 yards
 Habitat: Flooded sandbar on flooded mudflat
 Behavior: Resting, preening, some short flights, with hundreds of other gulls pelicans and terns.
 Discription: Large whitish cream colored gull. Very pale. 15-20 percent larger and much lighter than the adjacent pale first year Herring Gulls. Head and bill heavier than Herring. Large bill, black on distal third, flesh pink to gray on rest of bill. Crown area white, face and neck a little dusker. The back very very pale gray. The eye looked dark but the light was quite poor. Legs were flesh colored. The primaries were whiter than the wings. The tail was white. There was no dark on tail as it flew in for landing. While sitting, the birds tail was same length as primaries. The bird gave impression of being very massive and flat looking. There was no brownish-gray smudging anywhere as a young bird would have.
 Similar Species: Herring Gull was eliminated because primaries were grayer than the wings. Thayers would not be 15 to 20 percent bigger than Herring.
 - Peter Gottschling

WESTERN KINGBIRD Jerry Patrick March 30

*No previous sightings on date
 Seen in my back yard near Edith Moore Sanctuary. Perched on an open branch half way up an oak tree. Seen for 10 seconds at 50 feet. Bird had typical flycatcher head shape. Gray head and upper back, lighter gray breast. Yellow belly. Thin white edging to sides of dark tail.

YELLOW WARBLER Bob Honig March 11, 1989

*No previous sighting on date
 In salt cedars at Brazoria NWR, 11 March 1989. Bright unmarked yellow below; upperparts yellowish-olive; eye dark; tail dusky above, yellow from base to tip below. Seen by Honig, Williams & most of field trip attendees at approx. 25 feet, good light angle.

Wilson's Phalarope Bob Honig March 11, 1989

*Very Rare on sighting date
 Three birds seen on Olney Pond, Brazoria NWR. Seen swimming on far side of pond with excellent light angle; long, thin dark bill; dark stripe up side of neck (in 2 of the 3 individuals bordered anteriorly with rich dusky red), arcing forward onto face and through eye; white line above eye; dark cap and upperparts, light below; during flight, tail white with dusky tip, wings dark with no light stripes.

Northern Waterthrush Hulce, Scheurman, Taylor March 5, 1989

*Very rare on sighting date
 Seen at Brazoria NWR, at the salt cedar stand at the end of the trail loop. The bird was seen walking and bobbing around the wet areas and roots under the salt cedars. Bird was uniform brown above, with an off-white supercilium. Underparts were white, streaked with brown, including fine streaks on throat. Bird appeared to have a modest sized bill. The bird gave a rather dry "chip" note. Seen as close as 20 feet for about 10 minutes. Louisiana Waterthrush is eliminated due to streaked throat and modest bill size. I believe there are no records for Northern Waterthrush for the first week of March. Curiously, this is the exact spot where a Northern Waterthrush was found on the Freeport Xmas count, 2 1/2 months ago. I would assume the bird we saw on March 5 to be a very early migrant, as it is hard for me to imagine a small migrant bird surviving the severe cold spells the UTC has experianced in the past two months It does make you wonder, however. - P. D. Hulce

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