



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XIV, No. 2

June, 1965

* I. *
* Thy tuwhits are lull'd, I wot. *
* Thy tuwhoos of yesternight, *
* Which upon the dark afloat, *
* So took echo with delight, *
* So took echo with delight, *
* That her voice untuneful grown, *
* Wears all day a fainter tone. *
* II. *
* I would mock thy chant anew; *
* But I cannot mimic it; *
* Not a whit of thy tuwhoo, *
* Thee to woo to thy tuwhit, *
* Thee to woo to thy tuwhit, *
* With a lengthen'd loud halloo, *
* Tuwhoo, tuwhit, tuwhit, tuwhoo-o-o. *
* "Second Song -- The Owl" by Tennyson *

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

COMING EVENTS

July 17 (Saturday) OG Field Trip to Galveston Island, led by Dr. George Clayton, a guest leader. Meet at the real estate office at the entrance to Sea Isle subdivision at 8:30 A.M. Sea Isle is near the western end of the island. If you have a small boat which can be easily placed in the water, please bring it so we can explore the shore of Deer Island by boat. We expect to see Spoonbills and Magnificent Frigate Birds.

August 26 (Thursday) OG meeting. John O'Neill who has spent much time birding in Peru will be the speaker. We are sure that anyone who heard John's preview at the Annual Picnic Meeting will want to miss this August Meeting. Watch for details about the time and place in the next issue.

APRIL BIRDING IN CENTRAL TEXAS by Janet Kepner

Easter weekend I spent on a ranch near Kerrville and, having splendid weather, I thoroughly enjoyed the birding. Outside the cabin in a rock wall were a pair of Rock Wrens who were terrifically busy feeding seven youngsters who were almost grown and constantly venturing about.

In canyons there were many Summer Tanagers, Red-eyed Vireos and Cardinals. Black-chinned Hummingbirds were feeding on buckeye blossoms. There were at least six Canyon Wrens nesting or feeding in a limestone cliff. In tall sycamores and on rocks were American Goldfinches and in a low rocky, brushy area were a pair of little Rufous-crowned Sparrows tending their nest. The male beat his tail frantically and chanted in a tiny voice when one approached too close to the nest.

An Osprey sat on treetops near the lake each day. Nearby were a few Blue Grosbeaks, Black-crested Titmice, Ash-throated Flycatchers, Purple Finches, House Finches, Lesser Goldfinches, Chickadees, Eastern Phoebe, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers.

In meadows were wild Turkeys, Inca Doves, a large flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds, many Chipping Sparrows, Lark Sparrows, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, and Mourning Doves. I saw one Smith's Longspur in the upland meadows and several Vermilion Flycatchers.

Since this ranch once belonged to Howard Lacey, a birder who I understand was an expert on Golden-cheeked Warblers, I was disappointed in not being able to find one.

I also saw a large jay-sized bird, completely brown with a silky texture sort of like a Cedar Waxwing's coat. Very strong, large jay-like beak (think gray) and a distinct black eye. No crest. Tail ended in three scallops. It flitted about a stream in a canyon, then took a bath. Does anyone know what this bird could be?

BIRDER, YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Submitted by Jim Ellis
(Letter from Telford H. Work, M. D., Chief, Virology Section; Communicable Disease Center; Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, USA; Atlanta, Georgia.)

Last year the initial step in the investigation of migratory birds as potential disseminators of arboviruses was undertaken in March and April by a field and laboratory team from the Arbovirus Unit of the USPHS Communicable Disease Center in Atlanta, Georgia. A team set up operations in the Stann Creek Valley of British Honduras to net, band, bleed, feather mark, and release migrants.

This year the project was continued and amplified by the same team. Stann Creek Valley was revisited as was also the Delta National Wildlife Refuge, but birds were also marked in the vicinity of La Lima in the Republic of Honduras.

Colored feathers were attached to the backs of 2,500 birds. In March, 799 birds were marked with yellow beathers (211 Orchard Orioles, 107 Indigo Buntings, 100 Catbirds, 31 Rough-winged Swallows, 28 Painted Buntings, 14 Baltimore Orioles, and 308 others of 37 species) in British Honduras. In the Republic of Honduras during March, 615 birds were marked with red feathers (283 Indigo Buntings, 180 Orchard Orioles, 42 Baltimore Orioles, 33 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 31 Painted Buntings and 46 others of 13 species.). In April, the team moved to the Delta National Wildlife Refuge near Pilot-town, Louisiana where 1,086 birds were marked with light blue feathers (138 Catbirds, 116 Orchard Orioles, 70 Summer Tanagers, 65 Red-eyed Vireos, 63 Wood Thrushes, 35 Scarlet Tanagers, 29 Oven-birds, 27 Eastern Kingbirds, 26 Indigo Buntings, and 517 others of 35 species).

Last year, at least eight competent observations were made of the feather marked birds (5 Catbirds, 1 Indigo Bunting, 1 Scarlet Tanager, and 1 Purple Martin). If you observe any of these birds this year, your finding, including all the usual data on location, date, habitat, weather, etc., should be reported to the Arbovirus Unit, Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia 30333 (telephone 404 633-311, ext. 574). More important, if you learn of the whereabouts of a residential marked bird which might be investigated, immediate notification will be appreciated.

Your cooperation in notifying competent ornithologists (both amateur and professional) in your region of this study would likely increase greatly the probability of success for this project.

A BIRDING TRIP TO MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND by Nancy and Jerry Strickling

On May 9, 1964, Nancy and I sailed from Cutler, Maine with Captain Purcell W. Corbett for the Canadian lighthouse on Machias Seal Island. The early morning was cold, gray, and overcast.

A 20 knot east wind drove the light mist and spray across the choppy harbor.

Captain Corbett steered his forty foot diesel boat past the granite cliffs that sheltered the small harbor and the swells of the open sea tossed about the 12' dory we were towing. The purpose of the dory? - to make an open sea transfer from the diesel launch so we could be put ashore on that five acre pile of granite rocks projecting above the Atlantic some ten miles off shore.

Several Black Guillemots were feeding in the swells and Common Eiders flushed ahead of our boat as we left the shore.

After an hour, the lighthouse and rocks appeared from the mist and we could see birds circling the island. Captain Corbett anchored some 300 yards off shore in 40 fathoms. He signaled the lighthouse keepers and they gave permission to come ashore. Transferring to a small dory in an open sea was an experience, but under Captain Corbett's skillful eye and seamanship, we made it. Some 500 Atlantic Puffins were now circling our boat and we spotted 25-30 Razor-billed Auks.

The lighthouse keepers pulled our dory high on the seaweed covered rocks and invited us in to warm up. We needed it. Captain Corbett had the foresight to bring a present for the men. He had four quarts of milk, several heads of lettuce and some caramel candies. The lighthouse keepers were very apologetic for all they could offer in return was a bowl, containing about five pounds of fresh lobster meat. About 30 minutes later, Nancy and I returned the bowl with two pounds of fresh lobster meat.

Birds? The Puffins and Auks nest in burrows among the rocks. In the nearby surf were Horned Grebes in Spring Plumage, Common Eiders, Red Throated Loons, Brant Geese, and Black Scoters. A Common Murre obligingly flew by and a Dovekie buzzed along just above the waves. A few Great Black-backed Gulls circled.

The sea-birds we expected. But the big surprise were the migrating land birds. There wasn't a bush or a tree on these barren rocks -- only tufts of grass. Yet in migration, the land birds abounded here this day. We saw a total of 51 species on the trip of which 33 were land birds. There were species of ten warblers, including eight Black-throated Blues, which were lifers for Nancy. The four thrushes, six sparrows, catbirds, flickers, Baltimore Orioles, and Robins were in big numbers.

We were permitted to climb to the top of the lighthouse. At the base we found evidence of the tragedies of migration. We picked up several dead birds that had evidently crashed in the light the previous night, including a Leach Petrel and a Common Murre.

The weather began to close in about 3:00 P.M. and Captain Corbett spotted an angry cloud in the Northeast. He hustled us to our dory. The tide was out and we were now some 30' above the surf. The lighthouse men again helped. We got the dory and slid down the slick seaweed covered rocks

into that threatening looking ocean. Apparently, this is how one leaves a lighthouse. We tried, unsuccessfully, to appear calm. However, we sailed into Cutler harbor ahead of the squall with memories of one of our most memorable birding adventures, impressed with the courteousness and abilities of our Captain and the cheerful hospitality of the men who tend the light on Machias Seal Island.

A GOOD DEED by Olaf Atmi

Ebenezer McGuilicuty, an enthusiastic but inexperienced birder, discovered an unattended nest on a recent field trip. "It had speckled eggs in it," he reported to the leader. "But don't worry - I put some ice cubes in the nest to keep the eggs from spoiling!"

SUMMARY OF 1964 CHRISTMAS COUNTS Compiled by Noel Pettingell

(Source: Audubon Field Notes, 65th Christmas Bird Count Edition - April, 1965, and previous reports published annually by the National Audubon Society since 1900)

Total Counts Published: 723 (new all-time high; previous: 688 in 1963)

Note: Incl. 1 Hawaiian, 3 Alaskan, 59 Canadian.

Total Valid Species: 532 (New all-time high; previous: 515 in 1963) Note: Hawaiian species excluded.

Top 10 Counts by Total Species

<u>Rank</u>		<u>Locality</u>	<u>Species</u>		<u>Individuals</u>		<u>Observers</u>	
1964	(1963)		1964	(1963)	(1964)	(1963)	1964	(1963)
1	(1)	Cocoa, Fla.	204	(195)	151,446		49	(37)
2	(9)	Tomales Bay, Calif.	186	(164)	97,452		59	(51)
3	(6)	FREEPORT, TEXAS	183	(165)	1,740,000		29	(16)
4	(3)	Coot Bay-Everglades Nat. Park, Fla.	174	(172)	65,169		86	(78)
5	(4)	San Diego, California	173	(170)	123,636		44	(48)
6	(7)	Oakland, Calif.	171	(165)	123,349		51	(50)
7	(2)	HOUSTON, TEXAS	166	(192)	276,891		78	(62)
8	(15)	Fort Lauderdale, Fla.	160	(153)	41,679		61	(44)
9	(8)	Monterey Peninsula, Calif.	155	(164)	16,125		14	(15)
10	(10)	Crystal Springs, Calif.	155	(159)	43,107		24	(20)

Note: Monterey ranked higher than Crystal Springs on basis of fewer observers.

All-time Highest Species Counts by U. S. Localities (1900-1964)

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Year</u>
1	Cocoa, Fla.	204	1964	6	LAGUNA ATASCOSA, TEX.	176	1956
2	HOUSTON, TEXAS	192	1963	7	Coot Bay, Fla.	174	1964
3	Tomales Bay, Calif.	186	1964	8	HARLINGEN, TEXAS	172	1950
4	FREEPORT, TEXAS	183	1964	9	Oakland, Calif.	171	1964
5	San Diego, Calif.	179	1956	10	Santa Monica, Calif.	168	1934

Total Texas Counts Published - 1964: 48 (new high for a single State; previous: 44 by N.Y. in 1962 and 1963)

Top 10 Texas Counts - 1964

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Locality</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Observers</u>	<u>Individuals</u>
1	FREEPORT	183	29	1,740,400
2	HOUSTON	166	78	276,891
3	Bentsen State Park	149	27	20,227
4	Welder Wildlife Refuge	145	13	16,946
5	La Sal Vieja	140	18	26,514
6	GALVESTON	134	20	22,939
7	San Antonio	127	31	24,795
8	Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge	126	13	16,504
9	Corpus Christi (Flour Bluff)	125	16	73,160
10	Southern Travis County	124	14	15,489

Note: Galveston ranked 28th among N. Am. counts by total species in 1964, 22nd in 1963 (3rd in Texas) with 140 species.

Houston - Freeport - Galveston Summary

	<u>Houston</u>	<u>Freeport</u>	<u>Galveston</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total counts through 1964	30	8	12	30
Total species all counts	259	219	190	286
Total Species with Highest Individual Counts				
In North America 1963:	21	3	5	29
1964:	13	12	3	28
All counts (1947-1964)	70	19	17	85
Total Species with Individual Counts Equaling				
or Exceedin Previous All-time Local High				
1963:	58	51	52	--
1964:	39	96	33	--

Houston/Freeport/Galveston 1964 Count Species with Highest Individual Totals in North America

Key: H - Houston F - Freeport G - Galveston (8) - Tied with 8 other localities

* Equals or exceeds all-time high for N. Am.

Species	Area	Individuals	Species	Area	Individuals
1 - Blue Goose	F	41,500	15 - Brown Thrasher	H	821*
2 - Red-tailed Hawk	F	197	16 - Wood Thrush	H	3*
3 - Marsh Hawk	F	160	17 - Ruby-crowned Kinglet	F	1,504*
4 - King Rail	F	21	18 - Sprague's Pipit	H	15
5 - Solitary Sandpiper	F(8)	1	19 - Philadelphia Vireo	H(1)	1
(Note: Houston's bird confirmed too late for inclusion in official count list)			20 - Warbling Vireo	G(1)	1*
6 - Lesser Yellowlegs	H	1,044	21 - Orange-crowned Warb.	F	112
7 - Pectoral Sandpiper	G	30*	22 - Lucy's Warbler	F	1*
8 - Forster's Tern	H	1,697*	23 - Pine Warbler	H	113
9 - Caspian Tern	H	170	24 - Kentucky Warbler	G	1*
10 - Groove-billed Ani	F	18	25 - Wilson's Warbler	F	22
11 - Common Nighthawk	H(5)	1	26 - Eastern Meadowlark	H	1,338
			27 - White-throated Spar.	H	5,183*
			28 - Lincoln's Sparrow	F	353

NEW CLUE SEEN ON IVORY BILL Bulletin from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin.

(Editors' note: Last month we printed a reported sighting of an Ivory-billed Woodpecker that had been published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Jerry Strickling has been checking this previous report out, but so far has not been able to confirm it. We again are printing this latest bulletin dated June 2, 1965 and received by your editors on June 7. Any information obtained on following up either of these reports will be appreciated.)

Gilmer, June -- Bird groups may sit up and take notice at the second East Texas report to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in a matter of weeks concerning the possible presence of the rare Ivory-billed Woodpecker, thought by many to be extinct in Texas.

Mrs. C. O. Barrow of Big Sandy, in Upshur County, has twice seen a large woodpecker near the family cabin on the Sabine River, and in both instances has been close enough to hear the raucous rattling voice of the bird, as well as note the off-white, or ivory coloring of the bill.

The first report of such a sighting was made by a woman in Longview. Big Sandy and Longview are 17 miles apart.

OPINIONLESS EDITORIAL -- CLEARING HOUSE UNDER ATTACK!

There were some questions raised at the Annual Picnic Meeting of the OG about the continuation of the Clearing House. Suggestions included, among others, complete omission and quarterly publication. However, the final decision was left with the editors. While we do not feel strongly motivated at present for a change in the Clearing House, we would like to have comments from the readers as to WHY they like and/or how they use these monthly reports.

CLEARING HOUSE - May, 1965

Eared Grebe: (2)8 Galveston JLT HB.
 Pied-billed Grebe: (1)30 Cove AKM.
 White Pelican: (40-75)1,7,13,20,26 Cove AKM.
 Olivaceous Cormorant: (1)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Little Blue Heron: (25)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Cattle Egret: (2-90)11 days, Cove AKM.
 Least Bittern: (2)1, (1)2 Galveston JLT GAT.
 American Bittern: (1)1 Anahuac Refuge JLT GAT; (1)8 Galveston JLT HB.
 White-faced Ibis: (1)8 Galveston JLT HB.
 White Ibis: (15)8 Galveston JLT HB; (2)24, (35)29 Cove AKM.
 Roseate Spoonbill: (1)12,27 (2)17 (4)20 Cove AKM; (19)8 Galveston JLT HB.
 Snow Goose: (10)1 Anahuac Refuge JLT GAT.
 Blue Goose: (7)1 Anahuac JLT GAT.
 Fulvous Tree Duck: (6)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (4)1 (2)24 Cove AKM.
 Mallard: (2)1 Cove AKM.
 Mottled Duck: 25 days (30)1, (22 + 8 imm.)27 Cove AKM.
 Gadwall: (8)1 (3)2 Cove AKM.
 Green-winged Teal: (2)1 (1)2 Cove AKM.
 Blue-winged Teal: (30)1 (8)2 (4)3 (1-2)13,17,23,24,26,30 AKM.
 American Widgeon: (2)1 (1)27 Cove AKM.
 Shoveler: (7)1 Cove AKM.
 Ring-necked Duck: (1, First May record)13 Cove AKM.
 Canvasback: (6)2 (2)13 (1)26 Cove AKM.
 Lesser Scaup: (1)1,13 Cove AKM
 Ruddy Duck: (2)2,13 Cove AKM.
 Red-shouldered Hawk: (1)20 Cove AKM.

Swainson's Hawk: (2)20 Cove AKM.
 Peregrine Falcon: (1)1,7 Cove AKM.
 King Rail: (3)1 High Island JLT GAT; (2)24, (1)30 Cove AKM.
 Clapper Rail: (2)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (1)7,20 Cove AKM.
 Sora: (2)1 Anahuac Refuge JLT GAT; (2)1 (1)2 Cove AKM.
 Purple Gallinule: (1)1 Anahuac Refuge JLT GAT; (6+)10 Cove AKM.
 American Coot: (4)1 (75)2,13 (2)30 Cove AKM
 Common Gallinule: (13)1, (7)8 Galveston & Anahuac JLT GAT.
 Semi-palmated Plover: (6)1 Galveston & Gilchrist JLT GAT.
 Piping Plover: (1)1 (2)8 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Wilson's Plover: (2)1,8 Galveston JLT GAT; (1)7 Cove AKM.
 American Golden Plover: (30)1 Galveston & Gilchrist JLT GAT; (8)1,4 (10)3 (1)7 (5)8 Cove AKM.
 Black-bellied Plover: (3)1,7 (1-2)3,10,20,27,30 Cove AKM.
 Ruddy Turnstone: (3)20, (2)27 Cove AKM.
 Whimbrel: (5)8 Galveston JLT HB.
 Upland Plover: (5)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (1)1 Cove AKM.
 Spotted Sandpiper: (1)8 Galveston JLT HB; (4)1 (1)2,27 (2)13 Cove AKM.
 Solitary Sandpiper: (2)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Willet: (1)7 Cove AKM.
 Greater Yellowlegs: (1)27 Cove AKM.
 Lesser Yellowlegs: (125)1, (1+2+)3,7,13,24 Cove AKM.
 Pectoral Sandpiper: (6)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (30)1 (5+)13, (2)7 Cove AKM.
 White-rumped Sandpiper: (20-75)20,23,24,27,30 Cove AKM.
 Baird's Sandpiper: (2)8 Galveston JLT HP
 Least Sandpiper: (nc)1,2,24 Cove AKM.
 Dunlin: (nc)1,13 Cove AKM.
 Dowitcher(sp): (9)1 Cove AKM.
 Stilt Sandpiper: (1)8 Galveston JLT HB; (3)13 Cove AKM.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: (nc)1,13 (5)20 Cove AKM.
 Sanderling: (1)7,20 Cove AKM.
 American Avocet: (25)1 Gilchrist JLT GAT; (6)8 Gilchrist JLT HB
 Wilson's Phalarope: (4)1 Anahuac Refuge JLT GAT: (1)8 Galveston JLT HB; (1)1 Cove AKM.
 Ring-billed Gull: (1)8 Cove AKM.
 Gull-billed Tern: (2)7 Cove AKM.
 Royal Tern: (nc)7 Cove AKM.
 Caspian Tern: (nc)1,2,7,13, (33)26 Cove AKM. Black Tern: (500)8 Galveston & Anahuac JLT HB.
 Inca Dove: (2)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Black-billed Cuckoo: (1)24 yard NP.
 Screech Owl: (1)23,31 Cove AKM;
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1)3,10,12,24 Cove AKM.
 Red-Headed Woodpecker: (1)4,7,1 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Kingbird: (1-4)14 days Cove AKM.
 Traill's Flycatcher: (2)20 Cove AKM.
 Empidonax Flycatchers: (2)13,20 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Wood Pewee: (1)1 High Island JLT GAT; (nc)13 (2)20 Cove AKM.
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: (5)20 Cove AKM.
 Tree Swallow: (nc)to the 7th, Cove AKM.
 Bank Swallow: (nc)to the 24th, COVE AKM.
 Rough-winged Swallow: to the 9th, Cove AKM.
 Barn Swallow: to the 27th, Cove AKM.
 Cliff Swallow: to the 20th, Cove AKM.
 Tufted Titmouse: (1-2) 7 days, Cove AKM.
 Catbird: (3+)7 (1)8,25 Cove AKM.
 Brown Thrasher: to the 2nd, Cove AKM.
 Swainson's Thrush: (1)13 Cove AKM.
 Cedar Waxwing: (5)5 Yard NP (last noted); (20-60)1,2,7,8,13,20,30 Cove AKM.
 Starling: (1)13 Cove AKM.
 Red-eyed Vireo: (2)1 High Island JLT GAT.
 Black-and-white Warbler: (1)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (1)7 Cove AKM.
 Tennessee Warbler: (1)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (2+)13 Cove AKM.
 Yellow Warbler: (nc)1-13 Cove AKM.
 Magnolia Warbler: (2+)13 Cove AKM.
 Black-throated Green Warbler: (3)13 Cove AKM.
 Blackburnian Warbler: (3+)13 Cove AKM.
 Bay-breasted Warblers: (2)1 Galveston JLT GAT; (1)13 Cove AKM.
 Ovenbird: (2)1 High Island JLT GAT.
 Northern Waterthrush: (1)13 Cove AKM.
 Kentucky Warbler: (1)1 High Island JLT GAT.
 Yellowthroat: (1)13 Cove AKM.
 Canada Warbler: (1)13 Cove AKM.
 American Redstart: (2)1 High Island JLT GAT.
 Bobolink: (53)8 High Island JLT HB(all males).
 Orchard Oriole: (3)1 High Island JLT GAT; (1)26 (2)30 Cove AKM.
 Baltimore Oriole: (5)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Yellow-headed Blackbird: "Johnnie Jennings saw some in late April" Cove AKM.

Boat-tailed Grackle: (1-5)11 days Cove AKM.
 Common Grackle: (4)7, (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Summer Tanager: (2)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Scarlet Tanager: (3)1 Galveston JLT GAT.
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (3)1 High Island JLT GAT.
 Blue Grosbeak: (2)1 High Island JLT GAT; (1)15, 20 Cove AKM.
 Indigo Bunting: (100)1 Galveston & High Island JLT GAT; (1)2 Cove AKM.
 Painted Bunting: (1)1 High Island JLT GAT;
 Dickcissel: (1)8 Anahuac Refuge: JLT HB.
 Savannah Sparrow: to the 7th, Cove AKM.
 Seaside Sparrow: (1)8 Anahuac Refuge JLT HB; (1)20 Cove AKM.
 White-throated Sparrow: (nc)1 Cove AKM.
 Swamp Sparrow: (1)2 Cove AKM.

CORRECTION TO APRIL CLEARING HOUSE

Brewster's Warbler at Galv. Co. Park by TBF on April 5 (Date omitted in error).

Notes From Clearing House Reports

I recorded 125 species, 252 in 30 years; 109 in first half, 166 in 1951 and 1960, 244 in 30 years; 75 in second half, 124 in 1963, 201 in 30 years.

My blood count went down this spring and my bird count followed it.

I did not know the date of the spring roundup. Had I known I would have went out at least an hour and would have added the Canvasback and maybe the Ringed-neck Duck. AKM

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

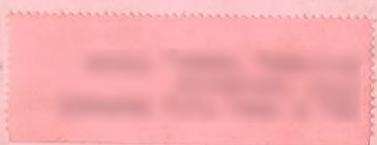
AKM Arlie K. McKay	JLT John Tveten
NP Noel Pettingell	GAT Gloria Tveten
HB Herman Bieber (New Jersey)	

BIRDING AT GEORGE WEST by John Tveten

On May 29-31 Gloria, Michael (we don't put his name on the records yet - everything is a "Black-bird") and I spent the holiday weekend birding and taking pictures around George West. The first two days it was raining there so we went south to Freer and Alice as well. We no sooner arrived in George West than we were greeted by flocks of Franklin's Gulls heading back the other way. The large numbers of Doves: Mourning, Ground, ~~White~~-winged, and both Bobwhite and Scaled Quail were a treat for a time and then became almost distracting. However, we never tired of seeing so many beautiful Painted Buntings and Bullock's Orioles. I've rarely seen so many large birds either: Vultures, Red-tailed Hawks (very white and probably of the *fuertesii* race), Swainson's Hawk, Harris Hawks (at least 20), Caracaras, and White-necked Ravens. Some of the other birds seen were: Barn Owl, Lesser Nighthawk, Golden-fronted and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Wied's and Ash-throated Flycatchers, Vermilion Flycatchers, Black-crested Titmouse, Cactus and Rock Wrens, Long and Curve-billed Thrashers, Bell's Vireo, Bronzed Cowbird, Pyrrhuloxia, Blue Grosbeak, Olive Sparrow, Cassin's Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, and Black-throated Sparrow. After many miles of driving as well as a few walking we returned home with two Texas Horned Lizards, a Texas Tortoise, some hard earned bird pictured, and the desire to return again soon.

OFFICERS

Chairman:	Harvey Patten
Secretary	Miss Katrina Thompson
Treasurer	Miss Ella Wolfer
Field Trip Chairman	Mrs. R. P. (Betty) Williams
Program Chairman	Dr. Pat Sullivan
Co-editors of Spoonbill	Bill and Betty Wright, 6734 Neff, Houston, Texas 77036.



June 65

Outdoor Nature Club
 (Ornithology Group)
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