



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XI, No. 22
February, 1964

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* Fox Sparrow - Runner-up in the
* Family Beauty Show
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* One good look at this economy-size
* sparrow and you know where it gets
* its name, for the upper side of the
* tail is bright rufous-red and there
* is a strong tinge of this same foxy
* color on the back and wings. The
* bird is fox-like in more than color
* too, for no other member of the
* sparrow tribe can equal it in
* scratching away the dead leaves,
* and even snow, in busy search for
* seed or insect food. Foxy really
* makes things fly, hopping from the
* ground and, while still in the air,
* kicking the obstruction backward
* with both feet.
*
* Our Amazing Birds - R. S. Lemmon
* * * * *

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COMING EVENTS:

March 10 (Tuesday) - Regular O. N.C. Meeting at 8:00 PM. Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. The program will be presented by Andre Blanchard - "Butterflies and Moths of Texas."

March 16 (Monday) - Audubon Wildlife Film - William E. Ferguson's "This Curious World in Nature II".

March 22 (Sunday) - O.G. Field Trip. Leader Dr. Pat Sullivan. Visit to Sheldon Reservoir and Buckhorn Lake. Meet at 9:00 AM Southwest corner of Sheldon Res. off Highway 90, reached by turning left at Fauna and going to entrance.

April 25-26 - T.O.S. Annual Spring Meeting in Beaumont, Texas. Further details in next issue of Spoonbill.

Purple Martins - reports on and advice about -

Jerry and Nancy Strickling saw Purple Martins at LaGrange, Texas on February 9th, and in Houston on February 18th.

It's a good idea to put one teaspoon of sulphur in each compartment of Martin Boxes.

Compiled by Stephen G. Williams

This year was another record high for species (140) on the Galveston Count. The same number of persons were present as on last year's Count (17), and were rewarded by cloudless skies for their efforts instead of last year's rain and fog.

The count circle was the same as last year's and included Bolivar Peninsula as far as North Jetty, Galveston Island as far west as the beginning of Termini Road, and much of Texas City and LaMarque on the mainland.

Party areas, with the names of party members and exclusive species seen, are as follows:

A: Clinton and Linda Snyder. The northeast section of the count circle including Texas City. C. B. Gilman worked the area within the count circle in the northern parts of Texas City and LaMarque. Exclusives: Horned Grebe, Cattle Egret, Common Grackle.

B: Ben and Maria Feltner, Dudley Deaver. Bolivar Peninsula and adjoining bays. Exclusives: Green-winged Teal, Greater Scaup, Common Goldeneye, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, Clapper Rail, Snowy Plover, Sprague's Pipit, Grasshopper Sparrow, Sora Rail.

C: Jim and Pat Ellis. Galveston Island east of 61st Street. Exclusive: Ruddy Turnstone.

D: Bob and Mabel Deshayes, Henry and Louise Hoffman, Albert Hermie. Galveston Island west of 61st Street to limit of Count Circle. Exclusives: Yellow-crowned Night Heron, American Bittern, White-faced Ibis, Oystercatcher, Common Gallinule, Ground Dove, Inca Dove, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Philadelphia Vireo.

E: Paul and Betty Caillet, Karen Morse, Steve Williams. Northwest section of Count Circle around LaMarque including Galveston Causeway. Exclusives: Canada Goose, American Woodcock, Long-billed Dowitcher, Short-billed Dowitcher, Common Tern, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Carolina Wren, Catbird, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

Interesting species observed by two parties were Least Tern, by Bob and Mabel Deshayes and Albert Hermie, also by Dudley Deaver; Pine Siskin, a first record for the Galveston vicinity, by Jim and Pat Ellis, also by Paul and Betty Caillet, Karen Morse and Steve Williams.

The cloudless day perhaps contributed to greater activity among the birds and certainly to greater visibility, which might help to explain the huge individual count (69,000.) Many species, especially the shore and water birds, were more numerous than in any other previous count in the Houston-Galveston-Freepport area.

Common Loon	17	Horned Grebe	1
Eared Grebe	32	Pied-billed Grebe	21
White Pelican	1100	Double-crested Cormorant	42
Great Blue Heron	55	Little Blue Heron	12
Cattle Egret	4	Reddish Egret	2
Common Egret	71	Snowy Egret	36
Louisiana Heron	49	Black-crowned Night Heron	3
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	1	American Bittern	2
White-faced Ibis	7	White Ibis	53
Roseate Spoonbill	28	Canada Goose	24
Snow Goose	6269	Blue Goose	2083
Mallard	2	Mottled Duck	21
Gadwall	58	Pintail	36
Green-winged Teal	5	American Widgeon	2050
Shoveler	71	Canvasback	27
Greater Scaup	3	Lesser Scaup	3623
Common Goldeneye	4	Ruddy Duck	72
Red-breasted Merganser	8	Turkey Vulture	19

Red-tailed Hawk	13	Red-shouldered Hawk	2
Marsh Hawk	38	Peregrine Falcon	1
Sparrow Hawk	34	Bobwhite	16
King Rail	1	Clapper Rail	28
Sora	1	Common Gallinule	1
American Coot	607	American Oystercatcher	2
Semipalmated Plover	105	Piping Plover	12
Snowy Plover	107	Killdeer	2887
Black-bellied Plover	113	Ruddy Turnstone	8
American Woodcock	3	Common Snipe	51
Long-billed Curlew	344	Spotted Sandpiper	9
Willet	63	Greater Yellowlegs	11
Lesser Yellowlegs	37	Sandpiper (sp.)	1000
Dowitcher (sp.)	300	Least Sandpiper	14
Dunlin	80	Short-billed Dowitcher	4
Long-billed Dowitcher	10	Semipalmated Sandpiper	850
Western Sandpiper	525	Marbled Godwit	17
Sanderling	92	American Avocet	403
Herring Gull	561	Ring-billed Gull	2077
Laughing Gull	10,768	Bonaparte's Gull	3000
Forster's Tern	1000	Gull-billed Tern	5
Least Tern	2	Royal Tern	128
Caspian Tern	25	Black Skimmer	184
Mourning Dove	76	Ground Dove	5
Inca Dove	3	Great Horned Owl	1
Barred Owl	1	Belted Kingfisher	9
Yellow-shafted Flicker	9	Red-bellied Woodpecker	3
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	9	<u>Yellow-bellied Flycatcher</u>	1
Eastern Phoebe	11	Horned Lark	144
Blue Jay	18	House Wren	4
Carolina Wren	1	Short-billed Marsh Wren	7
Mockingbird	103	Catbird	1
Brown Thrasher	31	Robin	186
Hermit Thrush	1	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	9
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	8	Water Pipit	495
Sprague's Pipit	3	Cedar Waxwing	60
Loggerhead Shrike	36	Starling	1253
<u>Philadelphia Vireo</u>	1	Orange-crowned Warbler	6
Myrtle Warbler	55	Palm Warbler	2
Yellowthroat	10	Wilson's Warbler	2
House Sparrow	383	Eastern Meadowlark	1635
Redwinged Blackbird	7872	Brewer's Blackbird	609
Boat-tailed Grackle	3262	Common Grackle	103
Brown-headed Cowbird	8250	Blackbird (sp.)	2200
Cardinal	28	<u>Pine Siskin</u>	36
American Goldfinch	25	Rufous-sided Towhee	1
Savannah Sparrow	407	Grasshopper Sparrow	1
LeConte's Sparrow	6	Sharp-tailed Sparrow	4
Seaside Sparrow	13	Vesper Sparrow	4
Slate-colored Junco	10	Chipping Sparrow	30
Field Sparrow	3	White-crowned Sparrow	10
White-throated Sparrow	5	Lincoln's Sparrow	12
Swamp Sparrow	16	Song Sparrow	1
Sparrow (sp.)	200		

"BIRD PIE" from Signal Smoke, newsletter of Travis Audubon Society
Grace Groce

(We are giving a recipe and directions for a Bird Pie that is really full of lots of goodies and I know it is enjoyed by our yard birds, as Jim put together the Pie in the amounts called for and every day a piece or pieces are quickly eaten up. Be prepared for a lot of pie. Jim used every available container and this amount should last for many, many weeks. If the birds enjoy eating it as much as he did making it, then it is worth the shock the butcher had when asked for 15 pounds of suet.Eds.)

15 lbs. suet
3 lbs peanut butter (NOT HOMOGENIZED)
2 lbs. yellow or white cornmeal (dry)

2 lbs. rolled oats (dry)
 1 lb. cream of wheat (dry)
 1 cup molasses
 Millet and hen scratch

Render out the suet and remove from heat. Add the peanut butter and stir until it is all melted and thoroughly blended with the suet. Add the molasses and mix thoroughly. Add all cereals and blend well. Lastly add enough of the millet and hen scratch until the mixture will no longer pour. Spread this mixture in cookie pans to a thickness of 1/2 to 3/4 inch and place in refrigerator until firmly set. Remove from pans and break into pieces about 6 to 8 inches square. Put these squares of pie into plastic bags and store in the freezer until needed.

Mrs. Groce adds a word of warning about the use of peanut butter for feeding birds. -- Peanut butter can be spread thinly on the limb of a tree, but heed this warning: use only the old fashioned types of peanut butter that will dry quickly in the cold air. The homogenized types of peanut butter not only melt easily at high temperatures and just soak into the bark, but they also are soft and can pack in the bill of the bird or even choke it in its attempt to eat the peanut butter.--

The morning after Thanksgiving, still recovering from too much turkey-- one of my favorite birds--we were awakened by a phone call from our neighbors, Dr. and Mrs. R. H. Patton, informing us that there was a Pheasant in the woods in back of our houses on Inwood in Baytown. The bird, however, flew off before we could get there. It was not until January 2nd that my wife, Gloria, and I saw him again while looking for some Towhees who have taken up residence in a brushy ravine. Suddenly a beautiful rooster flew up in front of us and disappeared up the hill. Having been raised in Minnesota, it took us a few seconds to realize we were seeing anything unusual. We have not seen him since, but finding a lone Pheasant in two or three square miles of brushy woods and fields is like finding the proverbial needle. Evidently this visitor has found a home he likes, and we would appreciate hearing from anyone who might know where he might have come from.

Dr. John L. Tveten

FIELD TRIP TO PALMETTO STATE PARK - 1-25-64 by Midge Susie

A very sure bet-o, the Park called Palmetto,
 For Birders in search of the Bird.
 In beautiful weather we followed the feather,
 The flight and the sound that we hear.
 The brains of the party, like Harvey - the Smarty! -
 And Clayton and Jerry and Nancy,
 Corrected our guesses with no's and with yes's
 (Except for the Harlan's -- just fancy!)
 The woods and the meadow, the stalks of palmetto,
 The swamp, lake and stream where we dallied
 All yielded their prizes as we strained our "eyeses"
 And 82 species we tallied,
 Plus some on the "thither" and more on the "hither"
 To make 88 for the total,
 With 31 pollsters, from youngsters to oldsters,
 And a whistle that yodeled and yodeled.
 All those who attended my children befriended
 And lifers galore they collected.
 No part of the park was (until it near dark was)
 By O.N.C. birders neglected.

I apologize! The above "pome" came to me on the way home and I couldn't resist including it. Seriously, Palmetto State Park, a small park lightly patronized by the PICNIC SET, offers a good variety of habitat and is just far enough west to boast a few specialties rarely seen in these parts. Actually, with a few exceptions, we didn't see them in any quantity in

- Pintail: 9 days, (300)17,25, (100)26 Cove AKM; (60)18 Longenbaugh LH HH; (2000)18 Anahuac JMD FWD.
- Green-winged Teal: 9 days, (25,000)17, (4000)18, (1000)26 Cove AKM; (1)5 Galveston LH HH.
- Blue-winged Teal: (2)16, (3)30 Cove AKM; (3)17 Buckhorn Ranch Lake GP BP.
- Cinnamon Teal: (1)29 Cove AKM.
- American Widgeon: 8 days (100)26, (40)30 Cove AKM.
- Shoveler: 7 days (100)17, (400)18 Cove AKM; (2)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP.
- Wood Duck: (2)9 Old River JB.
- Ring-necked Duck: (2)14,24, (1)31 Cove AKM.
- Canvasback: 9 days, (94)14, (100)24 Cove AKM; (1)5 Galveston LH HH; (5)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP.
- Greater Scaup: (3)19 Bolivar Peninsula LH HH; (2)23 High Island Rd. MA ER CJ.
- Lesser Scaup: 12 days, (100)17,25,26, (200)18, (150)19 Cove AKM; (500)26 Tex. City Dike and Galveston GP BP.
- Common Goldeneye: 7 days, (15)14, (100)19 Cove AKM.
- Bufflehead: (20)14, (28)19,24, (22)26, 29 Cove AKM.
- Oldsquaw: (1)17,18 Cove AKM.
- Ruddy Duck: (3)17, (60)18, (101)26 Cove AKM; (1)5 Galveston LH HH; (1)17,26 Sheldon Res. GP BP; (20)22,24 Baytown Tunnel JMD.
- Hooded Merganser: (24)17, (16)18 Cove AKM.
- Red-breasted Merganser: (10)14, (20)19, (1)24,26, (3)29 Cove AKM; (2)26 Tex. City Dike GP BP.
- Turkey Vulture: (1-3) frequently, (200)7 Cove AKM; (1)26 Sheldon Res. GP BP; (1) most days - crippled - (15)7 Old River FWD.
- Black Vulture: (5)23, (12)26, (100)26 feeding on dead carp in Wolf Res. Cove AKM; (30)27 Old River FWD.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1)5,23 Cove AKM; (1)17 Hwy. 73 GP BP.
- Coopers Hawk: (1)11 Cove AKM.
- Red-tailed Hawk: (4)14, (11)24, (34)25, (9)26, Krider's (1)7 Cove AKM; (1)26 Sheldon Res. GP BP; (4)7 dead in water Double Bayou JMD FWD.
- Harlan's Hawk: (1)17,18,19,25,26,29 Cove AKM.
- Red-shouldered Hawk: (1)14, 19, 24,31 Cove AKM; (5)26 Old Galv. Rd. GP BP.; (2)6-9 Cedar Bayou (1) most days Old River JMD FWD.
- Bald Eagle: (1)10 Wolf Res. JB; (1)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP; (1)10,11,14 Wolf Res. FWD; (3) 2 mature - 1 imm. 26 Warren Lake CJ.
- Marsh Hawk: (5)14, (13)24, (19)25, (27)26 Cove AKM; (6)26 Old Galv. Rd. GP BP.
- Peregrine Falcon: (1)30 Cove AKM.
- Pidgeon Hawk: (1)14 Cove AKM.
- Sparrow Hawk: (12)14, (23)24, (39)25, (21)26 Cove AKM; (48)26 Sheldon-Galveston areas GP BP.
- Greater Prairie Chicken: (NC)26 Clay Road CJ.
- Bobwhite: (NC)23,25 Cove AKM; (7)26 Galveston GP BP; (7)7 Double Bayou JMD FWD.
- Sandhill Cranes: (6)14 Katy-Hockley Rd. LH HH.
- King Rail: (3)4 Katy-Hockley Rd. TS CJ.
- Clapper Rail: (1)24 Cove AKM; (3)5 Galveston LH HH.
- American Coot: 6 days (125)23, (300)23 Cove AKM.
- Semipalmated Plover: (4)14,26, (1)19 Cove AKM.
- Black-bellied Plover: 7 days, (25)19, (7)26 Cove AKM.
- Ruddy Turnstone: (1)18,26 Cove AKM; (4)5 Galveston LH HH.
- American Woodcock: (1)30 dead in yard FWD.
- Common Snipe: 8 days (30)14, (18)31 Cove AKM; (4)5 Galveston (1)18 Katy-Hockley LH HH; (2)23 Old River JB.
- Long-billed Curlew: 7 days, (24)14,27 Cove AKM; (40)5 Galveston LH HH; (8)4, (15)7, Anahuac JMD FWD.
- Spotted Sandpiper: (1)5 Galveston LH HH.
- Willet: 7 days (19)19, (26)26 Cove AKM.
- Greater Yellowlegs: 7 days (18)14, (7)19 Cove AKM.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: (1)16,26 (5)17, (7)25, (3)30 Cove AKM.
- Least Sandpiper: 7 days Cove AKM.
- Dunlin: 7 days Cove AKM.
- Dowitcher (Species): 9 days, (1000)17, (5000)26 Cove AKM.
- Stilt Sandpiper: (5)17 Cove AKM.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: (12)19 Tex. City Dike LH HH.
- Western Sandpiper: 8 days Cove AKM.
- Sanderling: (1)24, (5)26, (2)29 Cove AKM.

those part either! It took hunting. The delicacies were the Harris' and Fox Sparrows, Bewick's Wren, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Spotted Towhee, Harlan's Hawk, Ground and Inca Doves, Roadrunner, and Caracara. The Duck selection was good, with Canvasback, Ring-necked, Blue and Green-winged Teal adding the spice. This was a one-day trip, with birding beginning officially at 9:30 AM, except for Nancy and Jerry who went down the day before and scouted it out for us.

Participants: Josiephine Wilkin (leader), Jerry Baker, Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Gilman, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hoffman, Bill Ladwig, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller, Ruth Moorman, Norma Oates, Harvey Patten, Betsey Perry, Mary Sears, Thelma Smith, Nancy and Jerry Strickling, Pat Sullivan, Midge Susie, Katrina Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Everitt Wiley, Betty Williams, Betty and Bill Wright. Also, Mary Anne McClendon and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Webster from Austin, Maribeth Massie from San Marcos, and Charles Susie and Mike Houlihan (Junior Houstonians out to learn the trade.)

Birds Seen: Brewer's Blackbird, Rid-winged Blackbird, Rusty Blackbird, Bluebird, Caracara, Cardinal, Carolina Chickadee, Coot, Double-crested Cormorant **, Brown-headed Cowbird, Sandhill Crane*, Brown Creeper, Common Crow, Ground Dove, Inca Dove*, Mourning Dove, Canvasback, Gadwall, Pintail, Ring-necked Duck, Ruddy, Lesser Scaup, Shoveler, American Widgeon, Common Egret**, Purple Finch, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Goldfinch, Snow Goose**, Boat-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Pied-billed Grebe, Marsh Hawk**, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Harlan's Hawk, Great Blue Heron, Blue Jay, Slate-colored Junco, Killdeer, Belted Kingfisher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Phoebe, Water Pipit, Roadrunner, Robin, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Loggerhead Shrike, Common Snipe, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, House Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, White-crowned and White-throated Sparrow, Starling, Blue-winged Teal, Green-winged Teal, Brown Thrasher, Hermit Thrush, Tufted Titmouse, Spotted Towhee, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Myrtle, Orange-crowned and Pine Warblers, Cedar Waxwing, Downy, Red-bellied, Red-headed, and Ladder-backed Woodpeckers, Bewick's, Carolina, House and Winter Wrens.

* Birds seen on trip to Park

** Birds seen on return trip.

CLEARING HOUSE 1-64

Horned Grebe: (5)19, (1)29, (10)31 Cove AKM.

Eared Grebe: (1)18,24, (2)19, (3)26 Cove AKM; (10)5 Tex. City Dike LH HH; (1)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP.

Least Grebe: (1)26 Cove AKM.

Pied-billed Grebe: (5)17,(6)23,(1)25, (4)26, (2)27 Cove AKM; (5)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP.

White Pelican: 8 days, (750)26 Cove AKM; (50)5 Tex. City Dike LH HH; (7)26 Tex. City Dike GP BP.

Double-crested Cormorant: (1)13,23,24, (200)26, (3)29 Cove AKM; (5)5 Tex. City Dike LH HH.

Little Blue Heron: (2)5 Galveston LH HH.

Cattle Egret: (1)7 Cove AKM.

Reddish Egret: (1)26 Cove AKM; (3)5 Galveston LH HH.

Snowy Egret: (8)26 Tex. City-Galveston area GP BP.

Black-crowned Night Heron: (5)19 Cove AKM; (2)7 Double Bayou JMD FWD.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: (1)10 Old River JB.

American Bittern: (2)23 High Island CJ.

White-faced Ibis: (1)3,5, (20)8,17,21, (2)12 Cove AKM; (200)4 Anahuac JMD FWD.

White Ibis: (30)5 Galveston LH HH.

Roseate Spoonbill: (4)8,(15)17, (1)18,25,(83)26 Cove AKM; (3)26 Galveston GP BP.

Canada Goose: (3)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP; (9)7 Double Bayou JMD FWD.

Snow and Blue Geese: (1,000)4, (400)18, (2,000)24 Cedar Bayou JMD FWD.

Mallard: 13 days, (30)17,25, (40)30 Cove AKM; (4)5 Galveston, (30)18 Longenbaugh LH HH; (6)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP; (6)24 Cedar Bayou JMD FWD

Mottled Duck: 12 days, (15)12,16,17,18, (25)26,30,(75)29 Cove AKM.

Gadwall: (8)14,(40)19,24,29, (6)23 Cove AKM; (4)5 Galveston LH HH; (16)17 Sheldon Res. GP BP.

- American Avocet: (11)18, (50)25, (70)26 Cove AKM; (31)18 Anahuac JMD FWD.
Herring Gull: 15 days (70)23, (100)27 Cove AKM.
Bonaparte's Gull: (1)14,18, (4)17, (5)25 Cove AKM; (2)5 Tex. City Dike LH HH.
Gull-billed Tern: (1)19 Tex. City Dike LH HH.
Royal Tern: 6 days Cove AKM.
Caspian Tern: 9 days, Cove AKM; (1)17 Lynchburg Ferry GP BP.
Roadrunner: (1)12 Katy-Hockley Rd. LH HH.
Barn Owl: (3)7 Double Bayou JMD FWD.
Screech Owl: (1)27 Cove AKM.
Barred Owl: (1)14, (1)20-23 Cove AKM; (1)9 13 hear nightly Old River JB;
(2)26 Buckhorn Ranch area GP BP; (1)23 Old River JMD FWD.
Belted Kingfisher: (1)14,31, (2)25 Cove AKM; (2)18 Katy-Hockley Rd. LH HH.
Yellowshafted Flicker: 18 days (3)11,14,17,28, (4)27 Cove AKM; (1)17
Buckhorn Lake area GP BP.
Pileated Woodpecker: (2)23, (3)27 Cove AKM; (1)17 Hwy. 17 and San Jacinto
River, (2)26 Buckhorn Lake GP BP; (1-2) most days FWD.
Red-bellied Woodpecker: 27 days (5)27 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days JB; (3)26
Buckhorn Lake area GP BP.
Red-headed Woodpecker: (1)14 Cove AKM; (1)12 Memorial Drive area LH HH;
(1)22 Old River JB; (1)17 Buckhorn Lake GP BP.
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: 12 days, (1-2), (4)14,27 Cove AKM; (1) most days
Old River JB; (1-2) in yard FWD.
Downy Woodpecker: (1)5,23,25,29, (6)27 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Old River
JB; (1)17 Buckhorn Lake GP BP; (1)24 Old River JMD FWD.
Eastern Phoebe: 17 days (1-3), (4)5,29 (5)27 Cove AKM.
Vermilion Flycatcher: (1)5,14,23,27 Cove AKM; (1)17 Sheldon Res. (1)26
Sheldon GP BP; (1)11,14 Old River FWD.
Tree Swallow: (2)26 Cove AKM.
Common Crow: (1-5) most days Old River JB.
Carolina Chickadee: (1-6) daily in yard JMD FWD.
Tufted Titmouse: (2)23, (1)24, (4)25, (7)27 Cove AKM; (1-2) at feeder
daily JB.
Brown-headed Nuthatch: (2) daily in yard LH HH.
Brown Creeper: (1)5,17, (2)14,25,27 Cove AKM; (2)18 Cypress area LH HH;
(1)26 Old River Rd. JB; (1)17 Buckhorn Ranch area GP BP;
(1)30 in yard FWD.
House Wren: (1)11,18,21, (2)14 Cove AKM; (2)14 Cypress area LH HH;
(1)11 Old River JB.
Winter Wren: (1)20 Cove AKM; (1)7 in yard LH HH.
Long-billed Marsh Wren: (5)19,26 Cove AKM.
Short-billed Marsh Wren: (1)19,24, (2)26 Cove AKM.
Catbird: (1)17, (2)25, (1)27 Cove AKM; more this year than in four years
Old River FWD.
Sage Thrasher: (1)24 Cove AKM.
Robin: 21 days (100)9,11, (150)24, (300)25 Cove AKM.
Hermit Thrush: (2)5,25, (1)12,14,26, (5)27 Cove AKM.
Eastern Bluebird: (7)5,19, (11)11,25,29, (2)20, (6)24, (25)27, (4)31 Cove
AKM; (1)12 Katy-Hockley Rd. (20)14 Cypress area LH HH;
(1-4)22,26 Old River JB; (2)17 Buckhorn Ranch area GP BP;
(20)27 Old River FWD.
Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher: (1-3)9 days Cove AKM.
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: 13 days, (5)17 Cove AKM; (1-2) most days Old River
JB; (1)17 Buckhorn Ranch area GP BP.
Water Pipit: 8 days Cove AKM.
Sprague's Pipit: (1)14,28, (8)25 Cove AKM.
Cedar Waxwing: 10 days from 19th (150)25, (100)27, (125)29, (300)31 Cove AKM;
(30)10, (4)26 Old River JB; (27)24, (25)27 Old River JMD FWD.
White-eyed Vireo: (1)27 Cove AKM.
Solitary Vireo: (1)31 Cove AKM; (1)18 Cypress area LH HH.
Orange-crowned Warbler: 8 days (5)17, (7)25 Cove AKM; (1)12 Clay Rd.,
(1)18 Cypress area, (1)19 in yard LH HH; (2)11 Old River JB.
Myrtle Warbler: 8 days (40)17, (15)23 Cove AKM; (12)9 Old River JB.
Pine Warbler: 7 days (5)11,23, (20)27 Cove AKM; (3)18 Cypress area LH HH;
(10)26 Old River JB; (1) daily in yard FWD.
Yellowthroat: (2)17,31, (1)26 Cove AKM; (1)5 Galveston LH HH.
Rusty Blackbird: (1)12 Clay Road LH HH.
Pine Siskin: (6)27 Cove AKM.
American Goldfinch: 16 days (250)18, (350)25 Cove AKM; (20)9, (40)26 Old
River JB.
Rufous-sided Towhee: (6)14, (2)26 Cove AKM; Western type (Spotted) (1)5,
24,25 Cove AKM; (2)23 Old River JMD FWD.
Grasshopper Sparrow: (1)14 Cove AKM.

LeConte's Sparrow: (2)11, (3)17, (9)25, (4)28, (1)30 Cove AKM.
 Seaside Sparrow: (1)14, (12)19, (9)26 Cove AKM; (3)23 High Island MA ER CJ.
 Vesper Sparrow: (3)11, (30)14, (2)17, (15)25 Cove AKM; (1)12 Clay Rd.
 (15)18 Cypress area LH HH; (2)24 Cove FWD.
 Lark Sparrow: (13)5, (12)14 Cove AKM.
 Bachman's Sparrow: (3)18 Cypress area LH HH; (2)14 Cypress area MA LH CJ.
 Slate-colored Junco: (4-10) 5 days Cove AKM; (1)9 Old River JB.
 Chipping Sparrow: (11)23, (20)27 Cove AKM; (12)18 Cypress area LH HH;
 (35)17 (20)26 Buckhorn Lake GP BP; (30)6 Old River JMD FWD.
 Field Sparrow: 11 days Cove AKM; (8)12 Clay Road (1)18 Cypress area LH HH;
 (1-5)10-11 Old River JB.
 Harris' Sparrow: (1)14 Cove AKM; (1)12 Katy-Hockley Rd. LH HH.
 White-crowned Sparrow: (1)5, (7)14, (25)25, (8)29 Cove AKM; (1)12 Katy-
 Hockley LH HH.
 White-throated Sparrow: (8)12 Katy-Hockley LH HH.
 Fox Sparrow: (1)5,23,27, (2)24,25 Cove AKM; (1)12 Clay Rd. LH HH;
 (1)26 Old River JB; (1)14 Clay Rd. MA LH CJ, (1)19 Cinco TS CJ;
 (2)23 Brannon's Woods MA ER CJ.
 Lincoln's Sparrow: 8 days (15)14 Cove AKM; (1)12 Katy-Hockley Rd. LH HH.
 Swamp Sparrow: 9 days (40)24 Cove AKM; (1)5 Galveston LH HH.
 Song Sparrow: 10 days (4)17,25 Cove AKM; (1)11 Old River JB.
 Lapland Longspur: (75)18 Cypress area LH HH.

AKM	Arlie K. McKay	TS	Thelma Smith
LH	Louise Hoffman	CJ	Charlotte Johnson
HH	Henry Hoffman	MA	Margaret Anderson
JB	Jonell Buckels	ER	Elaine Robinson
JMD	John M. Daves	GP	Gene Pettit
FWD	Frankie W. Daves	BP	Bill Pettit

NOTES FROM CLEARING HOUSE REPORTS

On January 19th I almost got a lifer, a Western Grebe, but before I could be sure the fog shut me out. When the fog lifted there was no Western Grebe but a Horned Grebe. The fog had tricked me. A little later I saw a Scoter. It disappeared and could not be found again. If the fog did that to me, I cannot understand how.

I often flush LeConte's Sparrows a second or third time easily, but when one appears to be darker I cannot flush it again, or if I do I find it was no darker than the others. January 27th I flushed one I know was darker. It lit in a clump of grass smaller than one square yard only a few steps from me. I could neither flush it or find it. I wonder if others have had a like experience.

Arlie McKay

I saw more Black Vultures on the 27th than I've seen in a number of years. The trash fish had been killed out of Wolf Res. and they were soaring over the Res.

Frankie W. Daves

A CHALLENGE TO CONSERVATIONISTS

Richard H. Pough

Pulling the Attwater Prairie Chicken back from the Brink of Extinction

It is a popular American pastime to bemoan the passing of the Passenger Pigeon, the Great Auk, and the other native species that have gone with them into the oblivion of extinction. A recent Wildlife Conservation Week was dedicated to threatened species and resulted in many articles in the popular press.

Now there is an opportunity to see how genuine this concern is. The Texas relative of the extinct Heath Hen-the Attwater Prairie Chicken-that once occurred by the millions on the coastal prairie of Texas is down to little more than a thousand birds.

Fortunately the cause of the birds' decline is clear-conversion of its prairie habitat into ricefields. Fortunately the remedy is equally clear-the purchase of enough of its remaining habitat to support a stock of sufficient size to assure the birds' survival.

Some 3,428 acres of prairie, most of it virgin, occupied by several hundred Attwater Prairie Chickens, is now under option to conservation interests. The National Wildlife Federation, The National Audubon Society, the World Wildlife Fund and The Nature Conservancy have all been asked to set up special appeals and contributions may be sent to any of them.

The total cost of the land will be \$364,000. which is less than many an art museum has paid for a single painting in recent years.

Is that which the Lord produced less worthy of preservation than a painting from the hand of man?

NEW MEMBERS

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 Mr. A.C. Learned, 6532 Belmont, Houston, Texas 77005 MO 8-7313

Thursday February 6, 1964

Quick note on two observations at Little Thicket Sanctuary today.

1 Whip-poor-will - I followed and flushed it three times.

Red-shafted Flicker - In loose group of winter residents.

Joe M. Heiser, Jr.

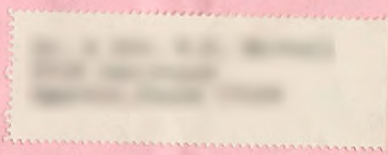
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Feb 64



Grasshopper
Terrace Sta
across the street
road to east of station
ditches on each side

Barthman's, Grasshopper,
Henslow's

all