



The Spoonbill

Published by The Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston

COMING EVENTS

Monday, May 2: OG MEETING. "Show and Tell" Night. 7:00 p.m. Harris County Bayland Community Center located on the north side of Bissonnet west of Hillcroft. At our final membership meeting before the summer break, OG members will show their best bird slides and tell their best birding stories after discussion and vote on various proposals for spending OG monies. Karen Beekman will discuss "Bird Vocalizations: How and When" during Learning Corner beginning at 6:30 p.m. The next membership meeting will be Monday, August 1.

Saturday, May 21: OG FIELD TRIP TO SOUTHEAST TEXAS' PINEY WOODS This area is an excellent birding area for the post-migration period and is the breeding ground for several species often difficult to find at High Island in migration such as Prairie and Swainson's Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. We will first visit the area along the road to the Wacuta Girl's Camp just north of Silsbee to search for Bachman's Sparrow, Prairie Warbler and Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We'll then head for the Big Thicket's Hickory Creek and Turkey Creek Units north of Kountze. Here we'll look for Brown-headed Nuthatch, and a number of warbler species including Prothonotary, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Meet in the parking lot of Silsbee State Bank at 6:45 a.m. Take Hwy. 69 north from Beaumont into downtown Silsbee. The bank is just past the railroad tracks on the right. Bill Tarbox, 356-4749 after 6:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 28: OG Pelagic Trip out of Port O'Conner. The May 28 trip is currently full but subsequent trips are planned for July 23 and August 20 out of Port O'Conner. See the March Spoonbill for details. Call Dwight Peake (409) 740-4621 to sign up.

Monday, May 2, 16: OG/MUSEUM NATURAL SCIENCE BIRD WALKS in Hermann Park for one hour beginning at 9:00 a.m. on the above dates. The trips will be led by Doug Stein. Please contact Norma Barnes (713) 668-2918 for more information. If you want to go on these trips, please call Norma because they will be canceled if there are not enough interested participants.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4: OG PICNIC. Brazos Bend State Park. Get together with all your OG friends for birdwatching and good potluck eating! Details will appear in the May issue of The Spoonbill.

NEWS BRIEFS

.....**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF THE SPOONBILL IS MAY 16:** Please contribute your trip reports, meeting information, trip-schedules and bird-stories for our final issue before the summer hiatus. Humor is always welcomed! Remember: the first issue for the 1994-95 year will be the combined June/July issue mailed just prior to our August 1 meeting. There will be no membership meetings in June and July. Have a great summer and keep The Spoonbill in mind. Your contributions for publication should be mailed to Judy Boyce, 5546 Aspen, Houston, 77081.

.....**MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 1994 OG MEETING:** Karen Beekman discussed identification of spring migrants for the Learning Corner. In Dave Bradford's absence, Vice Chairperson, Gail Luckner, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Treasurer Mike Gremillion reviewed the OG's spending options for our \$5000-surplus. Options up for discussion and vote at our May 2 meeting include: 1) purchase of The Birds of North America; 2) purchase of VIREO or other slides;

3) upgrade of our publishing hard and software; and/or 4) produce a new OG patch or T-shirt. Mike also listed suggestions made since last month, which include donating money to Texas Ornithological Society's Sabine Woods, the Katy Prairie Conservancy or the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center. Mike explained that a donation to one of these will help to preserve habitat which many of us use to watch birds and will also go to help education programs about birds and conserving habitat. Because we do have a considerable surplus, it is possible that we may choose more than one of the many possible options listed above. A discussion and vote will be held at the May meeting. Voting on the 1994-95 slate of OG officers was deferred until the May meeting.

Steve Bennett introduced the evening's speaker, Ted Eubanks. Ted gave a talk on the economic impact of ecotourism on the community around High Island. He pointed out that ecotourism can help bring money into communities which are near good habitat and because of that, can encourage local citizenry to preserve their natural resources and provide services for ecotourists (e.g., food, lodging, etc.). Ted shared his research results with us and encouraged us when we are out birding to be make it obvious to everyone who we are and why we are in their communities. Let everyone know you are a birder and you are spending money in their communities. **Maggie Dinse, Secretary**

.....**NORTH CAROLINA PELAGIC TRIPS:** Our group currently numbers 15 and plenty more spaces are available. Trips are scheduled for August 13, August 14 and August 15. The trips on August 13 and 14 are out of Cape Hatteras and cost \$75 per person per trip and the August 15 trip is out of Manteo and costs \$85 per person. The schedule is flexible and some people plan to go on one or two pelagic trips and do land birding on the other day. See details in the February and March Spoonbill. Call Dwight Peake (409) 740-4621 for more information about great pelagic birding.

.....**THE A.O.U. HAS DONE IT AGAIN!** They've generated some bird name changes of special interest to Texans: Green-backed Heron is now split into the Green Heron and Striated Heron (Mexico); Black-shouldered Kite is now called the White-tailed Kite; the Lesser Golden-plover is split into the American Golden-plover and Pacific Golden-plover (western Alaska and California coast).

.....**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 20-21, GULF COASTAL PRAIRIES SYMPOSIUM:** Co-sponsored by the Houston Zoological Gardens and the Gulf Coastal Prairie Foundation, the symposium begins with a social Friday night at 8:00 p.m. at the zoo's Brown Auditorium. A \$20.00 donation is requested at the door, but is not mandatory. The speaker will discuss the history and condition of the Attwater's Prairie-chicken. On Saturday, the program begins at 8:00 a.m. with program presenters discussing numerous coastal prairie topics. George Levandoski, 895-0700.

.....**ESCAPE HOUSTON HEAT WITH ARMAND BAYOU ON A TRIP TO GRAND MANAN ISLAND AND COASTAL MAINE:** July 22-August 1, 1994. Grand Manan is located in the Bay of Fundy and offers excellent birding opportunities among its boreal forests and seashores. Along with birding on the island, trip highlights include three days of boat explorations, taking us one day to Machias Seal Island to see Atlantic puffins, razorbills, arctic terns and other species nesting there. The other two boat days will take us in search of pelagic birds and whales. After six days on Grand Manan, we will spend three days in Cobscook Bay area in eastern Maine where millions of shorebirds use the mudflats as staging areas for their migration south. For registration and cost information, call Armand Bayou Nature Center at 474-2551, Wednesday through Sunday.

.....**THE 6TH ANNUAL HUMMER/BIRD CELEBRATION IN ROCKPORT/FULTON** will be held September 8-11, 1994. To obtain more information call the Rockport/Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce 1-800-242-0071 or 1-512-729-6445. Young people are encouraged to participate in this exciting event. Admission to programs is free to all persons under age 16.

OG FIELD TRIP REPORT

Beeville and Choke Canyon
by Dwight Peake

Twenty-five birders met Bob Honig at the Drummer's Inn in Beeville on April 2nd and departed shortly after 6:00 a.m. to explore the local brush country. We were soon surrounded by Bewick's Wrens, Long-billed Thrashers, Green Jays, and Olive Sparrows. Maggie Honig and Rob Thacker pointed out several flowering plants while the group paused between south Texas specialties. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was more difficult to spot than the Couch's Kingbirds, which posed long enough for good views through spotting scopes. A Lark Sparrow perched on a telephone line, but the windy conditions kept the singing Cassin's Sparrows from their aerial display. We stopped for lunch at Lake Corpus Christi State Park and managed to add Pyruloxia and Harris Hawk to the trip list.

The group then travelled to the Choke Canyon area and when we stopped to make arrangements for the remainder of the day's birding, nesting Cave Swallows provided an interesting diversion. An immaculately plumaged Swainson's Hawk preoccupied with a captured lizard generated even more interest. Choke Canyon State Park was our next stop and we were disappointed that we missed by a few days what will surely be a spectacular Prickly Pear bloom. The Great Egret rookery we found around the lake is an oddity in this semi-arid terrain.

We ended the day watching a flock of Turkey, herds of deer and javelina along the park roads. According to Peggy Boston, the javelina's reputation for strong odor is justly earned.

CLEARING HOUSE

MARCH 1994

Editors: Phyllis and Tony Frank

The report this month includes reports of early migrants. A total of 176 species were reported highlighted by the return of the Cave Swallows, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Barid's Sandpiper and Black Tern. Read below for details.

Please note that if you submitted a March report and don't see it included in the CH that we had to start compiling on April 3rd because of the early publication deadline this month. All reports received after that date will be acknowledged next month.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted reports and documentation. Reports for next month are due by May 3rd, but early reports are welcomed. Readers are reminded that all decisions regarding checklist status are made by the checklist committee. Publication of a rarity does not imply acceptance of the record by the editors or the committee. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

Grebe, Pied-bill 5-27 13/68 BR-1/6 CH-5/37 GA-3/11 JE-4/14
 Gannet, Northern 27-27 1/3 JE-(3)27,PTF
 Pelican, Amer Wht 5-27 6/917 GA-4/816 JE-2/101
 Pelican, Brown 5-27 6/79 GA-5/77 JE-1/2
 Corm, Dbl-crested 5-27 10/175 BR-1/10 CH-2/4 GA-5/157
 HA-1/3 JE-1/1
 Corm, Neotropic 5-27 10/89 CH-4/9 GA-4/64 JE-2/16
 Heron, Great Blue 5-27 11/66 BR-1/7 CH-4/24 GA-5/29 JE-1/6
 Egret, Great 3-27 17/133 U-1/20 BR-1/4 CH-4/41
 GA-3/8 HA-2/2 JE-6/58
 Egret, Snowy 3-27 17/104 U-1/5 CH-5/30 GA-3/12
 HA-2/4 JE-6/53
 Heron, Little Blu 5-27 12/181 BR-1/1 CH-5/156 GA-2/5 JE-4/19
 Heron, Tricolored 6-27 10/23 BR-1/3 CH-3/3 GA-2/7 JE-4/10
 Egret, Reddish 5-27 7/63 BR-1/1 CH-1/45 GA-4/16 JE-1/1
 Egret, Cattle 6-27 11/303 BR-1/2 CH-3/11 GA-3/63
 HA-1/14 JE-3/213
 Heron, Green 6-27 4/4 GA-1/1 JE-3/3
 Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 6-27 4/18 CH-2/15 GA-1/1 JE-1/2
 Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 12-27 5/11 BR-1/2 CH-1/4 FB-1/3
 HA-1/1 JE-1/1
 Ibis, White 5-27 13/556 BR-1/34 CH-5/226 FB-1/4
 GA-3/167 JE-3/125
 Ibis, White-faced 5-27 12/352 BR-1/18 CH-4/192 GA-1/5
 JE-6/137
 Spoonbill, Roseat 5-27 16/253 BR-1/11 CH-5/139 FB-1/1
 GA-4/67 JE-5/35
 Wshl-Duck, Fulvs 6-27 7/803 CH-3/103 GA-1/190 JE-3/510
 Wshl-Duck, Blk-bd 20-20 1/1 JE-(1)20,AGA
 Goose, Gr Wht-frn 6-6 1/80 CH-AW(80)6,JW
 Goose, Snow 5-13 3/29 CH-3/29
 Goose, Canada 27-27 1/6 JE-(6)27,JW
 Duck, Wood 12-17 2/6 CH-(4)17,G; HA-(2)12, AG
 Teal, Green-wing 5-27 14/1259 CH-4/1094 GA-7/135 JE-3/30
 Duck, Mottled 5-27 17/278 U-1/30 BR-1/10 CH-5/95
 GA-4/21 JE-6/122
 Pintail, Northern 12-13 3/46 BR-1/36 CH-1/1 GA-1/9
 Teal, Blue-winged 5-27 18/2026 U-1/1000 BR-1/35
 CH-4/309 FB-1/30 GA-5/207 JE-6/445

Teal, Cinnamon 5-5 1/2 CH-AW(2)5,JW
 Shoveler, Northrn 5-27 16/1131 BR-1/326 CH-5/579
 GA-5/180 JE-5/46
 Gadwall 5-27 12/161 BR-1/79 CH-4/13 GA-5/61 JE-2/8
 Wigeon, American 5-27 9/636 BR-1/11 GA-6/580 JE-2/45
 Redhead 13-27 3/2 GA-(1)13,G; GA-(1)20,AGA;
 GA-(1)27,PTF
 Duck, Ring-necked 20-20 1/6 JE-(6)20,AGA
 Scaup, Lesser 6-27 4/4030 GA-2/4020 JE-2/10
 Merganser, Red-br 5-26 4/57 GA-4/57
 Vulture, Black 6-27 6/32 BR-1/12 CH-3/7 JE-2/13
 Vulture, Turkey 2-27 13/73 BR-1/10 CH-6/37 FB-1/2
 GA-1/7 HA-1/2 JE-3/15
 Osprey 12-17 2/2 BR-BW(1)12,WP; GA-(1)17,G
 Kite, White-taild 5-27 11/29 U-1/6 BR-1/2 CH-2/3
 GA-2/9 JE-5/9
 Harrier, Northern 5-27 15/50 BR-1/11 CH-6/17 FB-1/1
 GA-3/6 JE-4/15
 Hawk, Sharp-shin 27-27 1/1 JE-(1)27,G
 Hawk, Cooper's 12-27 3/3 BR-1/1 CH-1/1 JE-1/1
 Hawk, Red-shouldr 13-20 4/5 CH-2/2 FB-1/2 JE-1/1
 Hawk, Red-tailed 5-27 16/76 U-1/5 BR-1/2 CH-5/37
 FB-2/4 GA-3/12 JE-4/16
 (Hawk, Krider's) 12-12 1/1 BR-BW(1)12,WP
 Hawk, Rough-legged 6-6 1/1 CH-(1)6,JW
 Kestrel, American 5-27 19/140 U-2/23 BR-1/2 CH-4/62
 GA-5/22 HA-1/1 JE-6/30
 Merlin 27-27 3/4 JE-3/4
 Falcon, Peregrine 27-27 1/1 CH-(1)27,PTF
 Rail, Yellow 27-27 1/1 JE-(1)27,G
 Rail, Clapper 26-27 2/6 GA-(1)26,JW; JE-(5)27,G
 Rail, Virginia 27-27 1/1 JE-(1)27,G
 Sora 27-27 1/1 JE-(1)27,G
 Moorhen, Common 5-27 14/657 BR-1/121 CH-5/470
 FB-1/40 GA-2/11 JE-5/15
 Coot, American 5-27 14/1643 BR-1/756 CH-5/338
 FB-1/30 GA-4/117 JE-3/402
 Crane, Sandhill 6-12 2/132 BR-BW(10)12,WP; JE-(3)6,JW
 Plover, Blk-belli 5-27 8/543 GA-4/500 JE-4/43
 Golden-Plover, Ls 20-27 3/35 GA-(6)20,AGA; GA-(8)26,JW;
 JE-(21)27,G
 Plover, Snowy 6-27 4/22 GA-3/21 JE-1/1
 Plover, Wilson's 6-27 5/19 GA-3/14 JE-2/5
 Plover, Semipalm 6-27 4/87 GA-3/86 JE-1/1
 Plover, Piping 6-26 3/119 GA-3/119
 Killdeer 3-27 16/133 U-2/42 CH-5/57 GA-3/9
 HA-2/4 JE-4/21
 Oystercatcher, Am 6-6 1/2 GA-(2)6,JW
 Stilt, Black-neck 5-27 13/180 CH-6/72 GA-2/32 JE-5/76
 Avocet, American 6-27 4/1006 GA-3/1000 JE-1/6
 Yellowlegs, Great 3-27 12/47 BR-1/1 CH-3/9 GA-4/15
 HA-1/1 JE-3/21
 Yellowlegs, Less 5-27 9/326 BR-1/4 CH-3/11 GA-2/51 JE-3/260
 Willet 5-27 9/940 GA-5/761 JE-4/179
 Sandprr, Spotted 26-27 2/2 GA-(1)26,JW; JE-(1)27,G
 Whimbrel 20-27 3/16 GA-2/15 JE-1/1
 Curlew, Long-bill 5-26 4/35 GA-4/35
 Godwit, Marbled 5-26 4/205 GA-4/205
 Turnstone, Ruddy 6-27 5/195 GA-3/190 JE-2/5
 Knot, Red 6-26 3/42 GA-3/42
 Sanderling 5-27 8/1680 GA-4/1506 JE-4/174
 Sandprr, Western 5-27 7/2268 BR-1/11 GA-4/2250
 HA-1/4 JE-1/3
 Sandprr, Least 6-27 4/222 BR-1/14 GA-2/202 JE-1/6
 Sandprr, Baird's 20-20 1/3 GA-BF(3)20,AGA
 Sandprr, Pectoral 27-27 1/10 JE-(10)27,G
 Dunlin 6-27 4/663 GA-3/660 JE-1/3
 Sandprr, Stilt 27-27 1/2 JE-(2)27,G
 Dowitcher, S-bill 6-27 5/408 CH-1/2 GA-3/206 JE-1/200
 Dowitcher, L-bill 5-27 5/256 CH-2/38 GA-1/10 JE-2/208
 dowitcher, sp 27-27 1/150 JE-1/150
 Snipe, Common 5-27 6/17 BR-1/1 CH-2/12 GA-1/2 JE-2/2
 Gull, Laughing 5-27 11/4168 U-1/2000 BR-1/264
 CH-1/3 GA-4/1071 JE-4/830

April 3rd at Choke Canyon began cold, wet and windy but the front had passed and the sky was clear by 10:00 a.m. Despite the dreary weather, we continued to find new species for the trip including Brown-crested Flycatcher. The Duck Cove Trail produced Green-winged Teal, Mottled Ducks and an unexpected Greater Scaup which everyone was able to view through Elaine Wilson's scope. When we returned to the parking area, several (Bullock's) Northern Orioles in brilliant plumage adorned the scattered mesquite trees. Some of the group went with Bob to the area below the Choke Canyon Dam while the remainder began the drive back to Houston.

This field trip covered areas relatively near Houston (3-4 hours driving time). Many Houston birders, however, do not realize that so many of the species normally associated with the lower Rio Grande Valley occur much closer and a leisurely weekend trip to the Beeville-Choke Canyon area can allow a person to find them without an entire day's drive each way. Thanks, Bob, for a great trip!

OG FIELD TRIP

San Bernard Refuge and Cryptic Spots!
by Nancy Patrick

What a great birding day March 19th turned out to be for a dozen early risers who joined leader, Richard Uzar, in Angleton. The trip began with gorgeous Wood Ducks at Planters Point and ended at dusk with a flock of American Avocets, Gull-billed Terns, Black-bellied Plovers, Long- and Short-billed Dowitchers and a glorious Reddish Egret feeding on a Freeport pond. Across the road were four Purple Martin houses, one already fully occupied while overhead a Long-billed Curlew and a Brown Pelican added to the sunset's beauty.

One hundred and four species were spotted while birding the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge and Freeport areas—many lifers for at least one participant and old friends for most of the rest of us. At a time of year when spring migration has not yet truly begun, it was a wonderful treat to get good looks at such a variety of woodland birds, waterfowl and shorebirds. A pair of Eastern Bluebirds, Belted Kingfishers, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Little Blue Herons, Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers were our first gems and Richard seemed to know just where to find Northern Parula, a juvenile Hooded Warbler, an Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Crested Caracara, a Black-shouldered Kite and Cinnamon Teal. I think, however, even he was surprised and happy when that beautiful Peregrine Falcon appeared while we were lunching alongside the road.

The abundance of Bonaparte Gulls at the Freeport sewer pond along with several Osprey proved that there is indeed something for everyone. For me, the highlight of the trip was catching a glimpse of an American Bittern hotfooting it into the tall reeds only a few feet from the road. In almost nine years of birding, I've rarely seen that

bird other than in the rigid pose with its bill pointing skyward, looking exactly like its habitat. Thank you, Richard, for a tremendous day of birding from one most grateful birder.

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

30 YEARS AGO/FROM APRIL 1964 SPOONBILL

by Noel Pettingell

"1964 Eskimo Curlews

Jerry Strickling and Bob Deshayes found two Eskimo Curlews on March 29 on Galveston Island. The birds were found three miles west of Jamaica Beach at about 4:30 p.m. Jerry and Bob observed the birds for half an hour. The birds have not been seen since, despite searching by Ogers.

"Rachel Carson is Dead

Rachel Carson died Tuesday, April 14. Miss Carson first gained fame as an ecologist with her book, The Sea Around Us. Her latest book, Silent Spring, lit the flame of controversy under a crucible full of pesticides from which we hope some truth may be distilled."

[When Silent Spring was published as a book, in 1962, "Time Magazine" said that Carson, in warning her readers about the health hazards posed by exposure to DDT and other pesticides, was guilty of "frightening and arousing" them. One leading scientist (male, as it happened) questioned her right to worry about future generations, pointing out that she was a spinster who had no children. That kind of talk is no longer acceptable in the United States, but the widespread use of toxic chemicals is still tolerated...This spring the "Journal of the National Cancer Institute" published a study showing that women with the highest exposure to DDT have a risk of developing breast cancer four times as great as that of women with the least exposure. Rachel Carson lives. The New Yorker, June 7, 1993. Ed.]

Mitchell Byrd is a recently retired ornithologist at the College of William and Mary in Virginia. His name, of course, has provoked any number of comments, most famously when a man called the William and Mary Biology Department one day while Byrd was out on an aerial nest-survey. Asked if the department had an ornithologist, the secretary replied, "Yes, Dr. Byrd." "You have an ornithologist named Dr. Byrd?" the man repeated. "Well, is he available?" "No," said the secretary, "he's out flying." The caller declined to leave a message.

Submitted by Maggie Dineo

Gull, Bonaparte's 5-27 8/617 GA-5/67 JE-3/550
 Gull, Ring-billed 5-27 10/1120 BR-1/330 CH-1/1 GA-6/528
 JE-2/261
 Gull, Herring 5-27 8/204 BR-1/3 GA-5/37 JE-2/164
 Gull, Lsr Blk-back 27-27 1/2 JE-(2)27,PTF
 Tern, Gull-billed 17-27 3/5 CH-1/1 GA-1/2 JE-1/2
 Tern, Caspian 5-27 6/24 GA-4/22 JE-2/2
 Tern, Royal 5-27 7/533 BR-1/3 GA-4/283 JE-2/247
 Tern, Sandwich 6-27 4/41 GA-3/37 JE-1/4
 Tern, Common 5-27 5/35 GA-3/22 JE-2/13
 Tern, Forster's 5-27 13/1300 BR-1/5 CH-2/34 GA-6/999
 JE-4/262
 Tern, Least 26-26 1/7 GA-BF(7)26, JW
 Tern, Black 6-6 1/1 GA-(1)6, JW
 Skimmer, Black 5-6 2/500 GA-(300)5, JW; GA-(200)6, JW
 Dove, Rock 6-27 6/92 GA-2/51 HA-1/20 JE-3/21
 Dove, White-winged 6-6 1/4 GA-HI(4)6, JW
 Dove, Mourning 5-27 15/200 U-1/70 BR-1/10 CH-5/38
 GA-1/2 HA-1/12 JE-6/68
 Dove, Inca 6-26 2/4 GA-(2)26, JW; HA-(2)6, PM
 Parakeet, Monk 14-14 1/12 HA-(12)14, PM
 Cuckoo, Yel-billd 19-19 1/1 HA-(1)19, AG
 Swift, Chimney 27-28 3/8 HA-1/2 JE-2/6
 Hummer, Ruby-thrt 19-27 3/4 HA-(1)19, AG; HA-(1)27, PTF;
 JE-(2)27, G
 Kingfisher, Beltd 5-27 16/45 U-1/8 CH-4/12 GA-5/7
 HA-1/1 JE-5/17
 Wcpeckr, Red-bell 1-31 4/13 FB-1/4 GA-1/2 HA-1/2 JE-1/5
 Wcpeckr, Downy 5-27 5/7 GA-2/3 JE-3/4
 Flicker, Northern 5-13 4/5 CH-2/2 GA-1/2 JE-1/1
 Wcpeckr, Pileated 17-20 2/2 CH-(1)17, G; JE-(1)20, AGA
 Phoebe, Eastern 12-17 3/3 BR-1/1 CH-1/1 GA-1/1
 Kingbird, Eastern 27-27 1/1 JE-(1)27, G
 Flycatcher, Ss-tail 25-27 4/9 CH-1/2 GA-1/2 JE-2/5
 Lark, Horned 6-26 3/6 GA-3/6
 Martin, Purple 3-27 8/71 CH-2/3 GA-2/4 HA-1/3 JE-3/61
 Swallow, Tree 6-27 9/1656 CH-2/54 GA-2/26 JE-5/1576
 Swallow, N R-wing 25-27 3/504 JE-3/504
 Swallow, Cave 20-27 3/16 JE-SR(6)20, AGA; JE-SR(4)25, JW;
 JE-(6)27, G
 Swallow, Barn 17-27 6/243 U-1/10 CH-1/4 GA-1/16 JE-
 3/213
 Jay, Blue 1-31 10/50 CH-1/4 GA-3/17 HA-1/5 JE-5/24
 Crow, American 6-27 7/36 CH-4/24 FB-1/4 JE-2/8
 Crow, Fish 20-27 4/48 JE-4/48
 Chickadee, Carol 1-31 2/3 HA-(1)1, PM; JE-(2)20, AGA
 Titmouse, Tufted 20-20 1/3 JE-(3)20, AGA
 Wren, Carolina 1-27 5/8 FB-1/3 GA-2/3 HA-1/1 JE-1/1
 Wren, Sedge 6-6 1/1 JE-(1)6, JW
 Kinglet, Ruby-crnl 6-27 7/29 GA-3/6 JE-4/23
 Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 5-27 6/33 GA-3/3 JE-3/30
 Bluebird, Eastern 6-6 1/3 JE-(3)6, JW
 Thrush, Swainsons 13-13 1/1 HA-(1)13, AG
 Robin, American 5-27 6/9 HA-2/4 JE-4/5
 Catbird, Gray 17-20 2/4 GA-(1)17, G; JE-SW(3)20, AGA
 Mockingbird, N 1-31 15/110 U-1/30 CH-5/25 GA-4/12
 HA-1/2 JE-4/41
 Thrasher, Brown 3-27 6/17 GA-2/4 HA-1/1 JE-3/12
 Pipit, American 12-12 1/18 BR-BW(18)12, WP
 Pipit, Sprague's 6-6 1/1 CH-AW(1)6, JW
 Waxwing, Cedar 11-17 3/148 GA-1/4 HA-2/144
 Shrike, Loggerhed 5-27 18/159 U-1/9 BR-1/2 CH-5/59
 GA-4/30 HA-1/2 JE-6/57
 Starling, Euro 6-27 12/2278 U-1/100 CH-3/532
 GA-3/1031 HA-1/20 JE-4/595
 Vireo, White-eyed 17-27 6/23 GA-2/5 JE-4/18
 Vireo, Solitary 5-17 2/2 GA-HI(1)5, JW; GA-(1)17, G
 Vireo, Yell-thrtd 27-27 1/1 JE-SW(1)27, JW
 Warb, Orange-crnl 6-27 4/6 GA-2/3 JE-2/3
 Parula, Northern 17-27 6/16 CH-1/1 GA-1/2 JE-4/13
 Warb, Yellow-rump 5-27 12/150 BR-1/10 CH-4/14 GA-3/30
 JE-4/96
 Warb, Yel-throat 27-27 2/2 JE-(1)27, G; JE-SW(1)27, JW
 Warb, Pine 20-20 1/10 JE-(10)20, AGA
 Warb, Palm 20-27 3/7 CH-1/1 JE-2/6
 Warb, Blk-and-whl 17-27 4/9 GA-2/4 JE-2/5

Waterthrush, Lou 17-27 3/4 GA-(1)17, G; JE-SW(2)20, AGA;
 JE-(1)27, G
 Yellowthroat, Com 13-27 3/20 CH-1/3 JE-2/17
 Warb, Hooded 17-27 2/2 GA-(1)17, G; JE-(1)27, G
 Cardinal, Northrn 1-31 12/171 U-1/120 CH-2/3 GA-3/24
 HA-1/2 JE-5/22
 Sparrow, Chipping 6-6 1/25 JE-(25)6, JW
 Sparrow, Lark 27-27 1/2 JE-(2)27, G
 Sparrow, Savannah 5-27 13/204 BR-1/20 CH-5/54 GA-4/38
 JE-3/92
 Sparrow, Le Conte 6-6 1/2 GA-BF(2)6, JW
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 6-26 2/23 GA-BF(8)6, JW; GA-BF(15)26, JW
 Sparrow, Seaside 6-27 2/8 GA-BF(4)6, JW; JE-(4)27, G
 Sparrow, Song 20-20 1/1 JE-SW(1)20, AGA
 Sparrow, Lincolns 25-27 2/2 JE-SW(1)25, JW; JE-SW(1)27, JW
 Sparrow, Swamp 20-27 3/3 JE-3/3
 Sparrow, Wht-thrt 6-27 5/38 GA-1/5 JE-4/33
 Sparrow, Wht-crnl 5-6 2/11 CH-AW(1)5, JW; CH-AW(10)6, JW
 Sparrow, Harris' 27-27 1/1 JE-(1)27, G
 Blackbird, Red-wg 5-27 11/3177 U-1/150 BR-1/52
 CH-3/1412 GA-3/343 JE-3/1220
 Meadowlark, East 5-27 15/201 U-1/20 BR-1/69 CH-5/66
 FB-1/5 GA-4/14 JE-3/27
 Grackle, Gr-tail 5-27 18/1301 BR-1/32 CH-4/460
 GA-6/495 HA-1/4 JE-6/310
 5-27 14/477 CH-4/169 GA-5/92 JE-5/216
 Grackle, Bt-tail 5-27 9/101 CH-3/36 GA-1/1 HA-1/12 JE-4/52
 Cowbird, Brn-head 6-26 5/123 CH-1/1 GA-2/101 HA-1/20 JE-1/1
 Goldfinch, Amer 20-20 1/6 JE-(6)20, AGA
 Sparrow, House 5-27 10/122 CH-3/30 GA-4/20 HA-1/30
 JE-2/42

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 56123 One bird that was reported that
 needed notes: Mississippi Kite

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Lynne Aldrich, Peter Gottschling
 (AG); Lynne Aldrich, Peter Gottschling, Mike Austin (AGA);
 Gail Luckner (G); John Whittle (JW); Peggy Milstead (PM);
 Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); Warren Pruess (WP)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahuac NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St.
 Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); Brazoria NWR (BW); High
 Island (HI); Sea Rim St. Park (SR); Sabine Woods (SW); Yacht
 Basin Road (YBR);

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria (BR); Chambers (CH); Fort
 Bend (FB); Galveston (GA); Harris (HA); Jefferson (JE);
 Upper Texas Coast (U)

Rough-legged Hawk - J. Whittle March 6, 1994

Documentation submitted. This species was
 documented in December, January and February at this or
 nearby locations.

Baird's Sandpiper - M. Austin March 20, 1994

Three peeps watched from exceedingly close range (10
 feet) for 5 minutes in excellent light at Bolivar Flats.
 Thin, black, slightly decurved bill with fine point, black
 legs. Head, throat and upper breast bright brown
 contrasting with darker brown back and white lower breast,
 belly and vent. Distinct lighter supercilium. Scapular and
 coverts had black center and wide light brown fringes.
 Wings extended well beyond tail when folded. Call note low
 pitched "krut" not soft "clip" of Sanderling. Relatively
 sedate feeder. Also documented by P. Gottschling and L.
 Aldrich.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Tony and Phyllis Frank March 27,
 1994 A medium-sized gull sitting amongst other gulls
 consisting of Herring Gulls (Larus argentatus), Ringed-
 billed Gulls (Larus delawarensis), and Laughing Gulls (Larus
 atricilla). This bird was larger than the Ringed-billed and
 Laughing gulls but slightly smaller than the Herring gulls.
 In a direct comparison, the mantle of this bird was darker
 than a Laughing gull's mantle. The bill was yellow with a
 red gonad spot on the lower mandible close to the tip of the
 bill. The eye color was light and the head was white with
 no brown streaking in it. The tail was completely white.
 The wings were same color as the back. The chest/breast was
 white. The bird in flight had very long appearing wings and

flew very direct and not very labored. No vocalizations were heard from this bird.

Lesser Black-backed Gull - Phyllis and Tony Frank March 27, 1994 This gull was sitting amongst several other gull species and was easily detected because of its darker back. It had a darker back than any of the other gulls sitting in this flock. It was bigger than both Laughing Gulls (*Larus atricilla*) and Ringed-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*). It was slightly smaller than the Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) in the flock. This bird had a mostly yellow bill with a smudge of black almost at the tip of the bill. This black was on both upper and lower mandibles. No red gonad spot was present. The eye coloration was light (almost yellow). The head was mostly white but contained very light brown streaking on the top and sides of the head (above the eyes) extending onto the neck and nape of the bird. The mantle was dark gray but not quite black. The breast/chest was white as was the tail. No vocalizations were heard from this bird and the bird was not seen in flight. Based on plumage characteristics, this bird is a probable 4th winter bird. The mantle was dark gray with no brown spots or flecking. The head was mostly white with light brown streaks like winter adult. The black smudge at the tip of the bill was more representative of immature body part coloration.

Black Tern - J. Whittle March 6, 1994

Intercoastal Waterway at end of Yacht Basin Rd. Slightly smaller than the numerous nearby Forster's Terns. The upper wing surfaces were a brownish black, with a blotched appearance. There was a smudgy dark spot behind the eye and a dark bar on the side of the breast from the forward wing/body joint down. The underside was light, the wings appearing to be grayer than the Forster's Terns. Tail was forked and medium length for a tern.

Cave Swallow - P. Gottschling March 20, 1994

Six at Sea Rim SP Boat House. Brown swallows tan rump, red forehead, light tan underparts, clean pale reddish chest. No black in chest separates from Cliff Swallows. Probably 6th year at boat house.

Cave Swallow - G. D. Luckner March 27, 1994

Same location as above. Viewed among Northern Rough-winged and Barn Swallows and Purple Martins.

Comparable in size and shape to Northern Rough-winged Swallow. Blue-black crown and back; tawny-buff rump; wings and tail dark above and below; tail square. Tawny-buff auriculars; cinnamon forehead; buffy throat, extending onto sides of the neck and nape. Remainder of underparts white.

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