



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XXII, NO. 12
APRIL, 1974

PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS
MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, APRIL 4, 1974

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M. by Marilyn Crane, Chairman.

There being no corrections or additions to the Minutes of the February Meeting, as published in the February issue of THE SPOONBILL, the Group dispensed with the reading of these Minutes.

The Treasurer's Report for the period February 1, 1974 to March 31, 1974 was accepted as read. Receipts were \$66.80, disbursements \$26.35, and balance on hand was \$575.00. The Treasurer also submitted a brief written report on finances for the Arizona Field Trip. Jerry Baker added that she had, this day, turned over \$27.00 to the Treasurer, that amount being the latest proceeds from the sale of aluminum.

Gladys Galbreath announced there were 41 people present at the meeting, including 3 new members and two guests. Our Chairman especially welcomed our guests and new members.

The Group was reminded that the next meeting, customarily referred to as The June Picnic, will be held Sunday, May 19, at Mary Tigner's place near Dayton.

Reporting on the Arizona Field Trip, Harry Brister mentioned that he would be collecting all monies due by May 1. He also said that accommodations were still available for two more women.

Mr. Gilman announced that he had two bus loads signed up for the ONC Field Trip to Jefferson in May.

Margaret Anderson announced that Marilyn Crane reported a Bronze Cowbird on North Boulevard, Sarah Gordon a Northern Oriole on South Boulevard, and Dan Hardy the Henslow Sparrows may still be seen in the same field as they have been found before. The Iceland Gull, Mrs. Anderson said, may still be sighted at Galveston.

It was announced that a list of the books willed to the Ornithology Group by Mrs. Edna Miner Fielding will be published in THE SPOONBILL.

Miss Crane reported there will be a slight delay in the publication of the new checklist. Hopefully this will be accomplished in May.

With respect to our permanent exhibit at the Sanctuary, Gladys Galbreath announced that she has looked at some counters and taken measurements. She hopes to get with the rest of her committee soon to come up with a definite recommendation.

The manager of Sheldon Reservoir has opened the area behind his headquarters to birders, according to Marilyn Crane. Mr. Wright has talked with John Tveten and confirmed that he will put up some blinds

for the use of bird watchers and photographers. To ascertain the exact location of this newly opened area, visitors should check with Mr. Wright at headquarters the first time they enter it. Marilyn encouraged us to avail ourselves of this worthwhile enlargement of the area now open to us at Sheldon.

Mr. Lee Herzberger, the newly assigned resident manager of the Attwater Prairie Chicken National Wildlife Refuge, wants to make a bird species count early this month. ONC has been contacted for some volunteer assistance from some of our more able Birders. One group plans to show up for the census on Good Friday. Those who wish to enjoy the booming of the Prairie Chickens should be there at 6:15 A.M. Anyone else who is interested in participating on that date or any other time may contact Marilyn Crane for details and a map of the area.

Our Chairman reported she had heard from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department regarding their Regional Environmental Analysis, a study revolving around an inventory and conservation of wildlife-recreation resources in the eight-county Houston-Galveston region. The Department plans to map a group of selected wildlife species, including: ducks, geese, quail, Attwater's prairie chicken, bald eagle, red-cockaded woodpecker, and pheasant. Their Mr. Bill Novak requested copies of our checklist and permission to include it in Birds of the Upper Texas Coast in their Analysis. Miss Crane said she sent him several copies of the checklist currently in use and gave him Noel Pettingill's number to secure copies of the proposed new checklist if it is ready in time to be used for reprinting in the Department's publication. Otherwise, the Department will use the old checklist.

Melba Drake announced that Dr. Cottam, of the Welder Wildlife Refuge, had died. Miss Crane commented that conservation had lost a fine friend thereby.

Our outgoing Chairman then thanked all the Officers and Chairmen who had worked with her during the past two years, saying that their help had made her job easier than it might have been otherwise, and thanked the Ornithology Group for the privilege and honor of serving as their Chairman. Miss Crane then turned the Meeting over to the incoming Chairman, Mr. Harry Brister. Following a round of applause, which Mr. Brister said Miss Crane well deserved, our new Chairman said Miss Crane's administration would be a hard one to follow but that he looked forward to the coming year. With this, he asked Mr. Jim Beaty to introduce our program for the evening.

Mr. Beaty welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gillette back to our midst. Mr. Gillette manned the projector while Mrs. Gillette narrated the background of their slide presentation of the landscape, architecture, points of interest, and the birds of The Lowlands, Norway, Sweden, England and Spain.

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M. Respectfully submitted,
Louise Rogers.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING

New Members:

Mrs. Mildred Elkins, 4901 Locust, Bellaire, Tx. 77401
Mr. Alvah C. Learned, Route 1, Freeport, Tx. 77541
Mr. Holly H. Hobart, 1316 Radio Lane, #29, Rosenberg, Tx. 77471
Mr. Mark Miller, 7326 Jetty Lane, Houston, Tx. 77072
Mrs. Dale Lee Ross, 8810 Ilona, #1, Houston, Tx. 77025

New Subscriber:

Dr. Mary Sears, 10500 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Md. 20852

Change of address:

Miss Jean Coberly, 1424 Kipling, Houston, Tx. 77006
Mr. Noel Pettingell, 210 E. Edgebrook Dr., Houston, Tx. 77034
Mrs. Margaret Maxson, P.O. Box 36798, Houston, Tx. 77036
Mr. Alan Wenger, Drawer 659, LaPorte, Tx. 77571
Mr. and Mrs. Ewell C. Bradley, 4141 S. Braeswood #358, Houston, Tx. 77025 (will return to Houston around the end of April; welcome home!)

Gift Subscription to:

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Brannan, Box 1013, High Island, Tx. 77623

CLEARING HOUSE, MARCH, 1974

(Note: the rarity of these birds are somewhat arbitrarily determined because of the general inaccuracy of the present checklist for Match. "p" means + or ±. - Ed.)

- Grebe, Horned:
(1)2,(2)9,Houston Lighting & Power Ponds,DH,BF,FC;
(1)4,8,HL&P,AKM
- Grebe, Eared:
(33p)4,(10p)8,(8)23,Cove,AKM
- GREBE, WESTERN:
(1)2,HL&P,DH&BF; (1)4,8,HL&P,AKM;(1)9,HL&P,A, see notes.
- Pelican, White:
(3)2,(1)4,Cove,AKM
- Cormorant, Double-crested:
(10-30)2,4,8,27, (1-2)21,29,30, Cove,AKM
- Cormorant, Olivaceous:
(NC)4,(75p)8,(3p)23,Cove,AKM
- Anhinga:
(20-30)23,Manor Lake,B;
(2)29,yard,JH
- Heron, Great Blue:
(1)28,Jack Rd.,PJ
- Heron, Green:
(4)12,High Island,VLE; (1)20, Galveston,PJ; (1)27,Cove,AKM
- Heron, Little Blue:
(1)15,27,29,Cove,AKM
- Egret, Reddish:
(1,white phase)27,Bolivar Light-house Pond,VLE,DD,BF; (1)31, Bayou Vista,PJ & RD
- Nightheron, Yellow-crowned:
(1)28,Cove,AKM
- Bittern, Least:
(1)31,near Intracoastal Canal, High Island,D
- Bittern, American:
(1)11,Mykawa Rd.,NP; (1)31,near Intracoastal Canal,High Island,D
- Ibis, White-faced:
(150p)31,Bolivar-first any of this group had seen all year!,D
- Ibis, White:
(40)16,near IH10 and Trinity R.,
(45)17 on Hwy.87 near Sabine Pass,Jefferson Co.,VLE;(50p)29, Cove,AKM
- Spoonbill, Roseate:
(1)31,Bayou Vista,PJ & RD
- Goose, Canada:
(14)28,Warren L.,PJ
- Goose, White-fronted:
(88)7,near Anahuac Refuge,VLE
- Goose, Snow:
(NC)till 27,Cove,AKM; (2000)16, on north side of IH10 just before Trinity R.,VLE
- Duck, Mottled:
(1)8,(2)14,(4)21,(3)27,30,Cove,AKM
- Gadwall:
(2p)4,(10p)8,Cove,AKM
- Teal, Green-winged:
(25p)4,(63)21,(5p)23,Cove,AKM;
(15)28,Warren L.,PJ
- Teal, Blue-winged:
(7)8,(3-12)5 days,Cove,AKM
- Teal, Cinnamon:
(4)23,Manor Lake,B; (5p)31, Shovelor Pond,Anahuac R.,D
- Wigeon, American:
(3)4,(1)8,(12)21,Cove,AKM
- Shovelor, Northern:
(4-10)2,4,23,(60p)21,Cove,AKM;
(4)28,Warren L.,PJ
- Scaup, Greater:
(2)2,HL&P,BF&DH
- Scaup, Lesser:
(100-1000)2,4,8,23,Cove,AKM
- Goldeneye, Common:
(1)8,Rail Road,Galveston,VLE;
(2)9,HL&P,A
- Bufflehead:
(1)2,Cove,AKM
- Oldsquaw:
(1)2,4,HL&P,BF & DH,AKM
- Scoter, White-winged:
(2,male and female)17,in Gulf about ten miles east of the Jefferson-Chambers county line in Jefferson Co.,VLE
- Duck, Ruddy:
(NC)2,(1000p)4,(300p)8,Cove,AKM
- Merganser, Red-breasted:
(1)4,(83p)23,Cove,AKM
- Vulture, Turkey:
(4)29,Cove,AKM
- Vulture, Black:
(9)29,Cove,AKM
- Kite, White-tailed:
(1)24,Gulf Fry. at Choate Rd.,C
- Hawk, Cooper's:
(1)21,23,Galveston,DH,B
- Hawk, Red-tailed:
(1)2,8,(2)4,(3)12,15,Cove,AKM;
(1)28,Katy-Hockley Cut-off,PJ
- Hawk, Red-shouldered:
(1)29,Cove,AKM
- Hawk, Broad-winged:
(51p)29,Sheldon,DH&VLE; (1600p) 29,yard-flying north,JH
- Hawk, Swainson's:
(2)31,Cedar Bayou,D
- Hawk, Rough-legged:
(1)16,21,Galveston,DH; (1)4,West Galveston,Douglas Pratt & John O'Neill; (1)8,West Galveston,VLE- this hawk has spent all winter on W. Galv-details in March issue.
- Hawk, Marsh:
(1)2,22,Cove,AKM
- Osprey:
(1)27,High Island,BF
- Falcon, Peregrine:
(1)10,Bolivar,FC&DH
- Kestrel, American:
(1)8 days,(2)23,Cove,AKM
- Rail, King:
(2)17,in ditches near Port Bolivar,(7-2 adults,5 young chicks) 27,feeding in short grass marsh, High Island,VLE; (6)28,Mykawa Rd.,DH

Rail, Sora:

(1)24, Bolivar, VLE

Coot, American:

(50p)2,4, (300p)8, (5p)23, Cove, AKM

Plover, Snowy:

(1)17, on beach about ten miles east of Jefferson-Chambers County line, VLE

Plover, American Golden:

(147, counted in one field)17, Bolivar peninsula, VLE; (4)2, Trinity R., AKM, BF, DH; (150p)9, Highlands Resv., A; (16)15, (65)16, (150p)21, (1)29, Cove, AKM

Plover, Black-bellied:

(2)21, Cove, AKM

Snipe, Common:

(1)2, 15, 26, Cove, AKM

Whimbrel:

(1)21, Galv, DH; (5)23, Galv, B

Sandpiper, Upland:

(35)28, FM 529, PJ; (2)17, in a field on Bolivar peninsula, VLE

Sandpiper, Spotted:

(3p)4, (1)8, 23, Cove, AKM

Sandpiper, Solitary:

(1)7, (2)12, High Island, (1)27, Bolivar, VLE; (2)10, High Island, A

Yellowlegs, Greater:

(1p)2, 4, 21, 29, (7)15, 25, Cove, AKM

Yellowlegs, Lesser:

(2p)2, 21, 28, 30, (50p)29, Cove, AKM; (4)28, FM 529, (15)31, Galv, PJ, RD

Knot, Red:

(20p)16, Bolivar, VLE; (40p)10, Bolivar, A

Sandpiper, Pectoral:

(15p)16, fields near Anahuac R., (60p)27, field on Bolivar peninsula; (10p)21, Cove, AKM; (11)28, Warren Lake, (14)28, FM 529, PJ

SANDPIPER, WHITE-RUMPED:

(12)31, Galv, PJ & RD - see notes

Sandpiper, Baird's:

(6)28, FM 529, PJ - see notes

Dowitcher species:

(2-14)2, 4, 8, 21, 30, Cove, AKM; (12)31, Bayou Vista, PJ&RD

Sandpiper, Buff-breasted:

(5)27, in a field on Bolivar peninsula, VLE, DD, BF

Godwit, Marbled:

(45)8, Rail Road, W. Galv, VLE; (21)23, Galv, B

Sanderling:

(NC)31, Bayou Vista, PJ&RD

Avocet, American:

(2000p)17, Bolivar flats, VLE

Stilt, Black-necked:

(9)16, flying up the coast over the gulf near High Island, VLE; (15p)10, High Island, FC

Phalarope, Wilson's:

(1)31, Anahuac Refuge, D

JAEGER SPECIES:

(3, one probable Pomarine, two probable Parasitic)17, in gulf harrassing gulls following shrimp boats, VLE, see notes

GULL, GLAUCOUS:

(1)17, 2nd winter bird, about 3 mi. east of Jefferson-Chambers County line in Jefferson County, VLE - see notes

GULL, ICELAND-THAYER'S:

(1)22, Galv seawall at 35th St., VLE, BF, CF; (1)23, Galv seawall at 61st St., B; (1)24, Galv, BF&EM; (1)April 1, Jim Lane, see notes

Gull, Franklin's:

(1)24, seen from Bolivar ferry, VLE

Gull, Bonaparte's:

(4p)4, (1)23, Cove, AKM; (30)17, on beach near High Island, VLE

Tern, Forster's:

(15)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Tern, Least:

(57)24, on beach and at Bolivar flats, VLE, FC, DH; (5)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Tern, Royal:

(8)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Tern, Sandwich:

(3)8, (20p)13, East Jetty, Galv, VLE

Tern, Black:

(1)27, from Bolivar ferry, VLE, BF, DD, earliest ever.

Dove, Inca:

(NC)20, (8)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Ani, Groove-billed:

(1)15, W. Galv, VLE; (1)all month, Cove, AKM

Owl, Barn:

(1)16, Crystal Beach, (1)27, High Island, (1)27, Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD; (1)10, Gilchrist, A

Owl, Screech:

(1)16, yard, DH

Owl, Barred:

(1)29, Cove, AKM

Owl, Short-eared:

(1)31, Bolivar, D

Swift, Chimney:

(1)13, Crystal Beach, VLE; (1)16, Galv, DH

Hummingbird, Ruby-throated:

(1)12, near entrance to Anahuac R., (3)13, High Island, Crystal Beach and Bolivar, (9)16, High Island to Sabine Pass, VLE; (8)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD

Kingfisher, Belted:

(1)4, 8, 23, Cove, AKM

Flicker, Common:

(1)30, Cove, AKM

Woodpecker, Pileated:

(1)29, Cove, AKM

Woodpecker, Red-bellied:

(1)27, 29, Cove, AKM

Woodpecker, Red-headed:

(2)9, Deussen Park, A

Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied:

(1)27, 29, Cove, AKM; (30p)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD

Woodpecker, Hairy:

(1)9, Ralston Rd., $\frac{1}{2}$ mi. south of Bell Telephone, A

Woodpecker, Downy:

(2)29, Cove, AKM

Kingbird, Eastern:

(2)16, near Sabine Pass (earliest ever, March 15 - Steve Williams' book), (1)27, High Island, VLE

Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed:

(3)28, Jack Rd., PJ; (1)22, near LaMarque, VLE, BF, CF; (2)27, High Island and Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD

- Flycatcher, Great Crested:
 (1)21, Kempner Park, DH; (1)30, Cove, AKM; (1)22, Kempner Park, VLE, BF, CF
- Phoebe, Eastern:
 (1)27, Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD-last of the season; (1)2, Cove, AKM
- Flycatcher, Empidonax sp.:
 (1)16, Sabine Pass, probably a wintering bird, VLE
- Swallow, Tree:
 (250-300)9, Highlands Resv. & HL&P, (350p)10, Bolivar, A; (6)13, Trinity R. at IH 10, PJ
- Swallow, Bank:
 (2)31, Rollover, VLE, FC, BF
- Swallow, Rough-winged:
 (3)9, HL&P, (2)10, Gilchrist, A; (1)16, between High Island and Sabine Pass, VLE
- Swallow, Barn:
 (1)13, Crystal Beach (earliest ever, March 20 acc. to Steve Williams), VLE
- Chickadee, Carolina:
 (2)29, Cove, AKM
- Titmouse, Tufted:
 (1)19, (8p)29, Cove, AKM
- Creepers, Brown:
 (1)15, Bear Creek Park, DH
- Wren, House:
 (3)16, High Island to Sabine Pass to Bolivar, VLE
- Wren, Short-billed Marsh:
 (1)2, Cove, AKM
- Catbird:
 (1)7, Cove, AKM; (1)7, High Island, (1)8, Galv, (1)12, Crystal Beach, (1)16, High Island, VLE; (1)27, near Kempner Park, Galv, VLE, BF, CF
- Thrasher, Brown:
 (1)7, Cove, AKM
- Robin:
 (15p)1, (50p)2, (1p)5 days, Cove, AKM
- Thrush, Wood:
 (1)7, High Island, probably wintered according to Mike Hoke, VLE
- Thrush, Hermit:
 (1)22, Menard House, singing full song, VLE, BF, CF; (1)2, 29, Cove, AKM
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray:
 (140)16, High Island to Sabine Pass to Bolivar, peak, VLE; (1)2, 23, (2)28, Cove, AKM; (1)31, Galv, PJ&RD
- Kinglet, Golden-crowned:
 (1)10, High Island, A
- Pipit, Water:
 (1)3, (5)29, Cove, AKM
- Waxwing, Cedar:
 (150p)13, Cove, AKM
- Vireo, White-eyed:
 (1)27, Cove, AKM; (20p)20, Galv, PJ
- Vireo, Yellow-throated:
 (3)16, High Island, Sabine Pass, (80-100)27, High Island and Bolivar, the most abundant migrant on that date, one in every tree, VLE, BF, DD; (1)31, Galv, PJ&RD
- Vireo, Red-eyed:
 (1)24, High Island, VLE;
 (3)20, Galv, PJ
- Warbler, Black-and-White:
 (12)13, High Island to Galv, (53)16, High Island to Sabine Pass to Bolivar, seen in salt cedar on beach, (20)27, High Island to Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD; (1)9, Edith L. Moore Sanctuary, A; (3)31, Galveston, PJ&RD
- Warbler, Prothonotary:
 (1)23, Galv, B; (1)31, Galv, PJ&RD; (1)16 & 17, in same salt cedars on beach near High Island, ties earliest ever acc. to Steve Williams, VLE; (19)27, High Island to Bolivar, seen in twos and threes, VLE, BF, DD, peak.
- Warbler, Worm-eating:
 (75p)27, High Island to Bolivar, VLE, DD, BF; the most abundant warbler this date, VLE
- Warbler, Tennessee:
 (2)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD
- Warbler, Orange-crowned:
 (1)7, (3)13, Cove, AKM
- Warbler, Parula:
 (12)13, High Island to Galv, (96)16, High Island to Sabine Pass to Bolivar, peak, VLE; (20)27, High Island to Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD; (2)31, Galv, PJ&RD; (2)28, Cove, AKM; (1)9, Buckhorn Lake-calling, DH
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue:
 (1)10, High Island, A; (1)24, High Island, C; (1)15, High Island, VLE; (1)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD-same, "staked out", bird, all sightings
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped:
 (45)8, High Island, (36)16, High Island to Sabine to Bolivar, VLE; (10)27, High Island to Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD; (1)1, (50p)6, (6p)7, (40p)13, (2p)23, (1p)28, Cove, AKM; (5)31, Galv, PJ&RD
- Warbler, Black-throated Green:
 (1)23, Kempner Park, B
- Warbler, Yellow-throated:
 (2)9, Deussen Park, A; (1)20, Galv, PJ; (1)31, Galv, PJ&RD; (3)13, Bolivar & Galv, (12)16, High Island to Sabine Pass to Bolivar, peak, VLE; (3)27, High Island to Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD
- WARBLER, PRAIRIE:
 (1)13, Crystal Beach, a female, also 15 min. later, (1)13, at Bolivar 5 mi. away, (1)17, Bolivar, wintering bird at Bolivar-details in Feb. issue. See notes in this issue. VE
- Warbler, Palm:
 (6)8, Bolivar, (12)16, Sabine Pass, in one grove of trees, including one Yellow race, (1)16, Bolivar, VE; (1)27, High Island, DD; (4)9, Garrett Rd., A, (6p)10, Bolivar, A, (1)21, Galv, DH; (3)23, Galv, B
- Waterthrush, Northern:
 (2)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD
- Waterthrush, Louisiana:
 (1)14, West Blvd, Houston, (8)27, High Island to Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD; (1)23, Kempner Park, B; (4)24, High Island, C

Warbler, Kentucky:

(1)19, singing, SW Bell Station, VLE, Dr. Charles Hartshorne, (earliest ever acc. to Steve Williams, previous record, March 27); (12)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD

Yellowthroat, Common:

(2)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Chat, Yellow-breasted:

(1)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Warbler, Hooded:

(1)13, Bolivar, earliest ever is March 9, VLE; (50)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD; (1)16, Kempner Park, DH; (1)29, Cove, AKM; (1)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Warbler, Wilson's:

(1)10, High Island, DH; (1)8, 15, High Island, VLE-probably wintered acc. to Hoke.

Oriole, Orchard:

(1)27, Bolivar, VLE, BF, DD;
(1p)23, Cove, AKM

Oriole, Northern (Baltimore):

(1)9, McCollum Park, FC

Oriole, Northern (Bullock's):

(1)13, High Island, (1)13, Galv-probably wintered, VLE

Grackle, Boat-tailed:

(30p)23, Manor Lake, B

Grackle, Common:

(2)13, (10p)28, Cove, AKM

Tanager, Summer:

(1)24, High Island, C;
(2)31, Galv, PJ&RD

Bunting, Indigo:

(15)27, High Island, VLE, BF, DD

BUNTING, PAINTED:

(1-singing)13, Crystal Beach, winterer?-VLE-see notes

Dickcissel:

(2)8, Mykawa Rd., DH

Finch, Purple:

(1)23, Kempner Park, B

Goldfinch, American:

(500p)29, Cove, AKM;
(20)28, Cypress, PJ

Towhee, Rufous-sided:

(1)9, Edith L. Moore Sanctuary, A;
(1)31, Ralston Rd., D

Sparrow, Savannah:

(1-5)4, 5, 8, 12, 21, 23, Cove, AKM

Sparrow, LeConte's:

(6)2, near HL&P, AKM, DH, BF

Sparrow, Henslow's:

(7)11, SE Houston SW of Hobby Airport (same site where breeding in 1973); (6)28, same site, DH-see notes

Junco, Dark-eyed:

(12)13, High Island, VLE

Sparrow, Chipping:

(10p)31, White Memorial Park, D

Sparrow, White-throated:

(NC)13, 21, Cove, AKM; (6)all month, yard, PJ

Sparrow, Lincoln's:

(2)13, (1)22, 23, Cove, AKM; (1)13, singing, very unusual, Bolivar, VLE

Sparrow, Swamp:

(12)16, High Island to Sabine Pass to Bolivar, VLE

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

FC	Fred Collins	DH	Dan Hardy
RD	Richard Davis	JH	Jean Harwell
DD	Dave DeSante	PJ	Paul Jones
VLE	Victor L. Emanuel	EM	Elric McHenry
BF	Ben Feltner	AKM	Arlie K. McKay
CF	Charles Fuller	NP	Noel Pettingell

A Dan Hardy, Fred Collins
B Walter Krawiec (from Chicago), Fred Collins, Dan Hardy
C Fred Collins, Vic Emanuel, Dan Hardy
D Vic Emanuel, Ben Feltner, Noel Pettingell, Fred Collins, Dan Hardy

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

WESTERN GREBE: 1 at the Houston Lighting & Power Cooling Ponds in early March. Discovered March 2, 1974, by Dan Hardy and Ben Feltner. Larger than Horned and Eared Grebes; gracefully curved, slender, long neck. Immaculate contrast between gleaming white cheeks and neck and thin black line on hindneck, black crown, and black back. Long, yellow bill. Taller and longer than nearby scaup. Watched through scopes and binoculars at leisure. This bird was a lifer for Arlie K. McKay. --Dan Hardy.

White-winged Scoter: A male and female seen with 12 scaup in the Gulf about 15 miles east of High Island in Jefferson County on March 17. Distance: 50 to 75 yards. Equipment: 20 power balscope. Light: good. Marks: Large size (1/3 larger than the scaup), cocked tail like Ruddy Duck, all dark except for white "tear" around eye of male, large white wing patches seen in flight and also seen at rest when birds were preening. Male had orange bill. --VLE

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER: These sandpipers were observed in good light by two observers close to frontage road on IH 45 at Bayou Vista on mud flats among some sanderlings, dowitchers and Lesser Yellowlegs. White rump was conspicuous both while probing and in flight. Paul Jones

Baird's Sandpiper: These six were seen in a field of newly sprouted rice along with Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpipers, Upland Sandpipers and Killdeer. Looking at them through a 20X telescope I could distinguish that they were about two-thirds the size of the nearby Pectoral Sandpipers, had a buffy "bib", and very scaly appearing buffy back markings. The folded wings extended well beyond the end of the tail. Also noted was their pecking in the shallow water of the field rather than probing along in it. When these sandpipers flew the wing stripe was rather indistinct. They were observed for about 4 or 5 minutes in a good light through the telescope at close proximity to the other birds mentioned above. --T. Paul Jones

JAEGER SPECIES: Location: about 3 miles east of Jefferson-Chambers County line. Observer: VLE. Equipment: 8X40 binoculars and 20X scope. The three birds were observed in the gulf harrassing gulls behind a shrimp boat 200-300 yards offshore. They would fly into a cloud of gulls coming in low over the water. The gulls would explode in all directions. Marks: wedge shaped tail, dark wings and body, sharply pointed wings, breast band. One approached Herring Gull size and showed much white in the primaries and was thus probably a Pomarine. The other two appeared smaller and showed less white in the primaries. They were probably Parasitic. Time of observation: about 3:00 - 3:15 P.M. --Victor Emanuel

GLAUCOUS GULL: Observer: VLE. Location: about 3 miles east of Jefferson-Chambers County line. Equipment: 8X40 binoculars. Light: good. Distance: 20-30 yards. The bird flew by me as I was parked on the beach. It had evidently been sitting on the beach with a group of gulls and was flushed by a car. It flew south along the beach and passed right in front of me. Marks: a very large (larger than Herring Gull), snowy white gull (2nd winter plumage). --Victor Emanuel

ICELAND-THAYER'S GULL: On seawall between 33rd and 35th Street. 9:30-10:30 AM. Observers: T. Ben Feltner, Victor Emanuel, and Charles Fuller. Distance: 5 yards overhead, 30 yards distant as it fed on beach. Equipment: 8X40 binoculars, 30X telescope. Light: excellent. Bill: black. Gape: pinkish. Legs: dirty pink. Feet: dirty pink. Eye: dark. Plumage: an almost uniform "dirty or off white." The wings were a uniform off white. Size: approx. same size as a nearby Herring Gull. Key marks noted: All dark bill; wings at rest extended one inch beyond tail; bill was shorter (slightly) and less massive than Herring Gull. Neck was thinner than the Herring Gull, head was smaller. Bird was fat, chunky, pot-bellied. Wings did not appear long or narrow in flight. --Vic Emanuel

Vireos at Kempner Park, Galveston: On Wednesday, March 20th, I went to Kempner Park in Galveston about 1 P.M. to see what birds might be there. At first, only the omnipresent grackles, House Sparrows, Inca Doves, and Blue Jays could be seen or heard. I had walked almost around the Hutchins Sealy house when I heard a White-eyed Vireo, and was able to locate it in the top of a tree. Near the White-eyed Vireo, also, was a Red-eyed Vireo. After noting these two birds I went on the east side of the park and was working along the hedges when suddenly it seemed that I could hear White-eyed Vireos everywhere! And, they could be seen on almost every high limb in the trees. I quit counting at twenty! Two more Red-eyed Vireos were sighted among the White-eyed ones. Using my binoculars I tried to locate other species and did see a Green Heron on a limb high in a tree, and a Yellow-throated Warbler, with many vireos still in my view. I decided to leave and could not locate a single one by sight or sound. I do believe that a migrating wave of them had come and I was fortunate enough to be at the place where they settled briefly in their passage. The weather was fairly warm (about 75°) and a 15-18 mph wind was blowing from the south. The sky was partly overcast but bright. --T. Paul Jones

PRAIRIE WARBLER: One female seen at Crystal Beach in Prickly Ash Woods on March 13. Distance: 30 feet. Equipment: 8X40 binoculars. Light: excellent. Marks: Yellow outline of black eye (i.e., yellow stripe above and below eye), throat and underparts bright yellow except for crissum which was white, black streaks on sides, upper parts olive (including back), 2 white wing bars. Prominent tail wagging noted. -- Victor Emanuel

PAINTED BUNTING: Individual heard singing at Crystal Beach March 13. Bird sang 3 or 4 times, "a series of jumbled phrases." Observer was unable to locate the bird. --Victor Emanuel

Henslow's Sparrow: All individuals noted were singing. Time of observations about 7:30 to 7:45 P.M. (dusk). Temperature range on March 11 was 70° to 86°. Area was checked again on March 16 (3:15 - 3:40 PM) and March 20 (2:45-3 PM) but no birds were heard singing. --Noel Pettingell

On March 28 I found several Henslow's Sparrows singing from 6:30 to 7:30 PM and was able to approach one bird singing in the top of a weed. Henslow's Sparrows nested in this field in 1973 (see Mike Braun's article in August, 1973 SPOONBILL) and are apparently repeating this feat again. --Dan Hardy

NEW DALLAS COUNTY CHECKLIST AVAILABLE

The publishers, the Dallas Museum of Natural History, and the authors, the Dallas County Audubon Society, announce the January 1974 edition of their Checklist of the Birds of Dallas County. It is a most attractive 5 by 7 booklet with a total of 31 pages and shows abundance of bird species throughout the full year (as ours does), and also includes a map of Dallas County. By mail, the cost is \$1.00 per copy (which includes postage and handling); checks should be made out to the Dallas Natural Science Association and you should address your order to the Dallas Museum of Natural History, P.O.Box 26193, Dallas, Tx. 75226.

COMING EVENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Saturday
April 27 | Audubon Field Trip (note change of date from that originally published by Audubon) led by Steve Williams. Meet at 8 A.M. at the East end of the Seawall in Galveston. We will be going to Bolivar and High Island. Bring lunch. |
| Saturday
April 27 | OG Field Trip to High Island led by Victor Emanuel. It will be an all-day field trip to High Island (warblers et al), Sabine Pass (bobolinks) and Bolivar (shorebirds.) Meet at the roadside park on Highway 124 at High Island at 8 A.M. |
| Sat. & Sun.
May 4 & 5 | ONC Field Trip by bus to Old Jefferson entitled "Jefferson Antiquities." It will be led by Clayton Gilman; for details contact him at Rt.2 - Box 164-B, Willis, Tx. 77378. |
| Saturday
May 4 | Audubon Field Trip to Western Edge of the Big Thicket, led by Nance and Raymond McDavid. Meet at 9 A.M. Go north out Hwy. 59 until you see the FM 1960 (Humble) exit -take the exit lane and meet at the parking lot by Ray's Cafe just before FM 1960 intersects Hwy. 59. Further instructions and a map will be furnished there. Bring lunch and insect repellent. |
| Tuesday
May 7 | Regular Photography Group meeting - 7:30 P.M., Bayou Manor Auditorium. A large number of members will participate in the program, "Amateurs' Favorites." It is a show made up of the several slides each which the contributing members have selected as their favorites and best. |
| Sunday
May 19 | Annual Spring Picnic at Mary Tigner's farm near Dayton. Mary says come as early as you like and stay as late as you can. Drinks and dessert will be complimentary. We will eat about 1 P.M. Don't forget your chair. Directions |

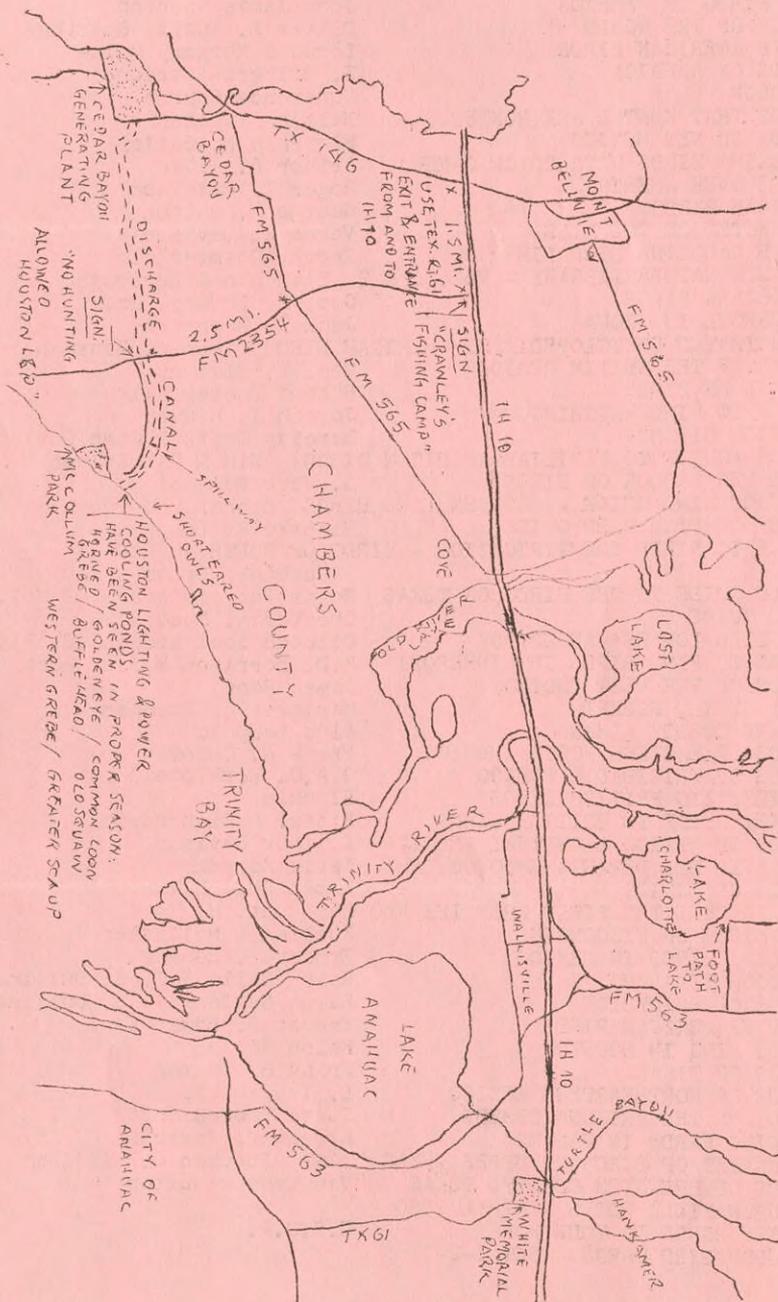
are as follows: Coming down highway 90 East, turn left at the third red light, go two blocks, cross railroad, immediately turn right, which is FM 1008. Clock your speedometer for nine miles, all black top road, there will be a sign saying "Tig's", turn right down a dirt road, veer slightly to the left, pass one trailer home on the left, follow the lane, come to aluminum gate with a no trespassing sign, (gate will be open), you can now see my home, white roof, rock chimney, rock front, with brown western cedar siding. Park in the field.

BOOKS LEFT TO THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP FROM THE ESTATE OF EDNA FIELDING

THE BIRDS OF AMERICA	John James Audubon
BIRDS OF THE WORLD	Oliver L. Austin & Arthur Singer
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS	Lorus & Margery Milne
BIRDS OF AMERICA	T. Gilbert Pearson
AUDUBON	Constance Rourke
BIRDS THAT HUNT & ARE HUNTED	Neltje Blanchan
BIRDS OF NEW MEXICO	Florence M. Bailey
STALKING BIRDS WITH COLOR CAMERA	Arthur A. Allen
BIRDS OVER AMERICA	Roger T. Peterson
MEXICAN BIRDS	George M. Sutton
BOBWHITES ON THE RISE	Verne E. Davison
SOUTH CAROLINA BIRD LIFE	Sprunt-Chamberlain
THE NEW NATURE LIBRARY - Vol. 1 & 2	Blanchan & Burroughs
LOUISIANA BIRDS	Geo. H. Lowery, Jr.
WATERFOWL IN IOWA	Jack W. Musgrove
ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN BIRDS	Leon A. Hausman
BIRDS OF THE AUSTIN REGION	Geo. F. Simmons
THE FLAME BIRDS	Robert Porter Allen
GUIDE TO BIRD WATCHING	Joseph J. Hickey
BRITISH BIRDS	Barclay-Smith & John Gould
BIRDS (GUIDE TO FAMILIAR AMERICAN BIRDS)	Zim & Gabrielson
OBSERVER'S BOOK OF BIRDS	S. Vere Benson
AUDUBON BIRD GUIDE - EASTERN LAND BIRDS	Richard H. Pough
AUDUBON WATER BIRD GUIDE	Richard H. Pough
GUIDE TO FIELD IDENTIFICATION - BIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA	Robbins, Bruun & Zim
FIELD GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF TEXAS	Roger Tory Peterson (2 Vol.)
BIRD GUIDE	Chester A. Reed
THE BIRD LOVERS' ANTHOLOGY	Clinton Scollard & J.B. Rittenhouse
WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN MINNESOTA	K.D. Morrison & J.D. Herz
BIRDS OF THE WEST INDIES	James Bond
THAT QUAIL, ROBERT	Margaret A. Stanger
A SAND COUNTY ALMANAC	Aldo Leopold
BIRDS OF EASTERN NORTH AMERICA	Frank M. Chapman
BIRDS OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	G.A.C. Herklots
INTERESTING BRITISH BIRDS	Blackie
POCKET GUIDE TO BRITISH BIRDS	Fitter & Richardson
BIRDS OF MEXICO & CENTRAL AMERICA	L. Irby Davis
LAS AVES DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE LIMA	Maria Koepcke
BIRDS OF MEXICO	Emmet Reid Blake
HOW TO TELL THE BIRDS FROM THE FLOWERS	Robt. W. Wood
THE BIRDS OF WISCONSIN	Kumlien & Hollister
FINDING BIRDS IN MEXICO	Ernest P. Edwards
OUTDOOR TEXAS NO. 3	Ralph Selle & J. S. Cullinan
BIRDS OF SHADYSIDE	Ralph Selle & J. S. Cullinan
LIST OF MEXICAN BIRDS	Ernest P. Edwards
BIRDS SING IN HOUSTON	Ralph Selle
BIRDS OF TIKAL	Frank B. Smithe
BIRDS OF NORTHEASTERN MEXICO	L. Irby Davis
BIRDS OF THE ARIZONA DESERT	Gusse Thomas Smith
FINDING BIRDS IN PANAMA	Ernest P. Edwards
CHECKLIST OF BIRDS OF UPPER TEXAS COAST	Stephen G. Williams
BIRDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS	Van Tyne & Sutton
AUDUBON FIELD NOTES - APRIL 1950	
INVITE BIRDS TO YOUR HOME	U.S.D.A.
AUDUBON BIRD CARDS - SET 1-2-3	

The map for this issue was prepared by Dan Hardy. It shows several excellent birding spots: Houston Lighting & Power Company's Cedar Bayou Cooling Ponds, Ed White Memorial Park and Lakes Anahuac and Charlotte. All are easily accessible and are within a 200 mile round trip from Houston.

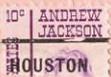
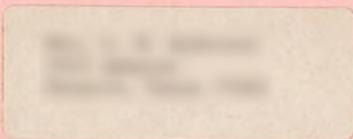
The editor of the Spoonbill would like to have maps or suggestions regarding maps from birders to publish in future issues.







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