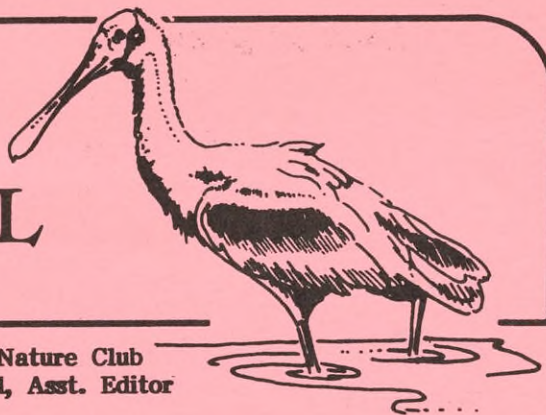


The SPOONBILL



Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club
Houston, Texas, Libby Price, Editor; Ellen Red, Asst. Editor

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Coming Events

Saturday, June 3: Deadline for Spoonbill material and for Clearing House. N.B. If your April reports were returned, please send them again. The P.O. Box is operative.

Saturday, June 17: Ornithology Group field trip to Jesse Jones Park. From 7:00 to 10:00 a.m. Bob Honig will lead us through the woods in search of breeding birds. From 10:00 to 1:00 Richard Orr will join Bob to look for butterflies and dragonflies. To reach the park go to the intersection of Kenswick Dr. and FM 1960. The intersection is 1.8 mi. west of Hwy 59 and 8 miles east of I-45. Go north on Kenswick to the park. For more information Call Don & Lee Richardson at 661-1365.

NO June meeting; no July meeting or field trip.

OUR THANKS TO PHILLIPS PETROLEUM

Our thanks go to Phillips 66 for funding the printing of the Upper Texas Coast Checklist, Seventh Edition. Because the Ornithology Group did not have to pay for printing, we were able to give funds towards Houston Audubon's purchase of an undivided interest in Smith Oaks Sanctuary, a significant habitat, vital to migrant birds when they have just crossed the Gulf of Mexico. Our thanks also go to Steve Gast for his good offices in obtaining funding.

Besides the help that Phillips 66 has given the OG, The Phillips Petroleum Foundation, Inc. has become the first corporate sponsor of the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project. This sort of help is not an exceptional action for Phillips. The Foundation has been for some time a substantial supporter of a raptor rehabilitation center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, for example. Some may also remember that Phillips donated part of the land for San Jacinto Battlegrounds State Park, a great birding place for shorebirds and waterbirds, especially Wood Storks and Hooded Mergansers.

A FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I want to thank the Ornithology Group for the opportunity to serve as its chairman during the past year. This has been a rewarding growth experience for me.

I hope that this year was beneficial to the OG as well. Although we have had some setbacks we have also made some progress.

After some setbacks, the 7th edition of the UTC Checklist should be at least on its way to the printers as you read this. Our goal was to be finished in May, and we may make it yet.

We have left Bayou Manor to meet at Bayland Community Center. Our thanks go to Bayou Manor for their hospitality for the last 10 years. Marion Taylor deserves special thanks for serving as our sponsor. She was a buffer between us and Bayou Manor when we got too loud or stayed too late. She had to make every meeting no matter what else she might have wanted to do or how badly she might have felt.

We had to make the year without a Resources Chairman. Many of us would like to use our resources, but without anyone to shepherd the library cart we can't leave our books out. Don and Lee Richardson will be Resource Chairmen next year.

We will also need an Aluminum Chairman. This endeavor brings needed revenue from a virtually free source if someone does the job.

We donated \$2000 to help retire the Smith Oaks Sanctuary debt (owed by Houston Audubon). We were able to give the money because Phillips Petroleum is sponsoring publication of the checklist, thanks to the efforts of Steve Gast.

My chairmanship has been a sometimes frustrating, but often rewarding experience. I look forward to future years as an OG member, and hope to serve you in any way I can.

Ed Rozenburg, Chairman

Noel's Niche Looking Back

by Noel Pettingell

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

"A Note on Stratospheric Streaking...by LeRon Bielak

Having read an article most appropriate to this time of year for birders I would like to share it with you. It concerns one of the many mysteries of bird migration--how birds can survive migratory flight at nearly stratospheric heights. The article appears in Science (v.203 #4386, 23 March 1979) under the title "Birds Fly. Why Can't I" by Thomas Maugh II. Here is the essence:

"If you or I were to board a jetliner on a flight north the pilot would eventually inform us that our cruising altitude was some 30,000 feet or more. We would also be reminded that emergency oxygen masks will pop out of the overhead compartments if cabin pressure is lost. Should you or I find ourselves exposed to the rarified conditions five miles or more above the surface of the earth we would begin hyperventilating, our blood would then turn alkaline due to the large drop in carbon dioxide in our bloodstream, and our blood vessels would contract, causing our brains to become oxygen starved. Severe pain and death are likely to follow unless normal atmospheric conditions are rapidly reestablished.

"Our much admired avian aviators get around the hyperventilation problem quite well. While birds also hyperventilate at high altitudes their blood vessels by contrast do not constrict reducing the flow of blood to the brain. At least this was true of the mallard ducks which Dr. Barbara R. Grubb of Duke University studied in trying to explain the high flying capability of birds during migration. Using a radioactive tracer gas, Dr. Grubb discovered that the mallard's brain receives about the same blood flow during hyperventilation as during normal breathing. So, for a duck's brain at 30,000 feet it is business as usual. But still unexplained is the mechanism by which the bird's blood vessels are kept from constricting during hyperventilation despite the fact that blood alkalinity may rise to a pH of 8 or more. This condition is lethal to most other animals. So now Dr. Grubb is looking into the possibility that the proportionately larger heart of birds may act as a heavy duty pressure pump keeping blood vessels open."

THE SPOONBILL STAFF

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	and Ed Rozenberg

GREAT DAY IN THE MORNING!

by Barbara Darr

Sometimes we get lucky and enjoy such an incredible day of birding that we just wish other birders could have been along for the fun. Wednesday, April 5, was that kind of day.

My husband and I arrived at our house in Jamaica Beach on Tuesday to find the beach piled high with sargassum weed. You literally had to climb over the stuff to get to the water, which was filled with great rafts of seaweed, slowly washing in to shore. The beach is always different, and this was very interesting, certainly the largest accumulation of seaweed I had ever seen, but no unusual bird activity...yet.

During the night the wind changed and a very strong north wind started to move this great mat of floating vegetation out to sea. It seemed to pile up at every sand bar, trapping small fish and other goodies in the resulting troughs between the bars.

The birds woke me at dawn. I stepped out onto the deck and saw hundreds and hundreds of gulls, terns and other birds engaged in a feeding frenzy. I have never experienced a fallout in High Island, but here was its equivalent right in my own watery front yard.

I grabbed my binoculars, set up the spotting scope, and for the next hour sorted out the teaming mass of birds before me. The sun was behind a cloud bank, giving me strong, bright light but no glare off the water. Gulls and terns were flying at random and diving for food, while flocks of scoters, mostly white-winged, flew by without stopping. The cormorants were not slowing down either. Herons and egrets flew by closer to shore, all headed east. Air space was at a premium; a pair of boobies flew right down the shoreline! On the beach, small shorebirds were tossed about by the strong wind like so much popcorn.

Suddenly, far to the west, two new birds came into view. They were jet-black above and white below, with black bills and deeply forked tails. These striking birds stayed fairly close to the water about 350 yards out - or where the brown water turns to green. No time to get the scope on them, but I followed them with my binoculars as long as I could see them. I never saw them dive into the water as the other terns did; they just continued flying east with a strong, steady wingbeat.

I had just seen my first Sooty Terns, but this incredible morning, this "happening," was far more exciting to me than adding another bird to my life list. I just can't tell you how much FUN it was to watch those birds from dawn until about 10:30, when things began to slow down.

I reported my sighting to the Clearing House and then started wondering what else was out there that I might have missed. The Sooty Terns were so unique, so easy to identify, like picking out a Black Skimmer in a lineup of Ring-billed Gulls. No telling what had slipped through my field of view while I was having so much fun. A Ted Eubanks or a Jim Morgan would have found a sackful of rare birds. Tomorrow morning I would get serious. I would study each bird very carefully, throw out all common ones and come up with some really great or rare bird.

(continued next page)

What did I see next morning? The beach is always different, and Thursday dawned bright and clear, a gentle breeze from the southeast, no more seaweed coming in or going out and hardly a bird to be seen--just our resident Willet, a sprinkle of Sanderlings and some lazy Laughing Gulls. The Party was over.

MINUTES OF OG MEETING, MAY 2, 1989

The last meeting of the 1988-89 season was the first in our new meeting space. The Bayland Community Center facilities were quite adequate and comfortable for the 50 of us who were present. We enjoyed a great slide program, nearly all birds. (John Baird slipped in a Long-horned Antelope and a Mule Deer.) The members who shared their slides and anecdotes with the rest of us were: John Baird, Bob Behrstock, Barbara Hoffmann, Frank Cleland, Bob Moore, Dottie Praus, Ed Rozenburg, Charles Smith and Dick Whanger. Our photographic field trip totaled about 76 species and included some rare and exotic birds; terrific shots of some more regular though no less spectacular birds were also exhibited. This was a real fun meeting program.

Jerry Patrick, Treasurer, gave his report (copies available on request). The proposed budget for next year was voted on and approved. This writer presented some information about the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project. There is still time to volunteer as an atlaser. Call me or Ted Eubanks for an area. Of course send in sightings of breeding birds from anywhere you may bird; they will be used and appreciated.

Libby Price asked everyone to write down experiences, stories or tall tales for The Spoonbill. Andrew Franks gave a report on Clearing House work, which is very busy in spring, yet the editors want more of us to send in complete sightings records [to get true numbers of common birds that many do not report]. Peggy Milstead said new, revised CH report forms are available. Rene Franks presented an aluminum report and collected contributions. Lee Richardson gave a report on field trips upcoming in May and June.

Ed Rozenburg told of ONC Conservation Group efforts to oppose the West Harris Co. airport; interested persons should contact Jack Gillette. ONC President Ron Grimes put in a plug for the Old-timer's Day at the LTNS. Ed expressed his gratitude to all the OG members who work so diligently each month in unnoticed positions. While thanking each personally, he passed out certificates of appreciation. Before closing, we heard of the rare birds being seen and rumored along the UTC.

Permit me one last line to say thank you for the opportunity of serving as secretary this year. It has been fun getting to know ya'll a little better.

Richard Uzar, Secretary

THE FIRST BIG PUSH OF SPRING

by Jim Morgan

The first significant groundings of passerine migrants took place during the period April 13-15, 1989. These actions were precipitated by weather events associated with a cold front and a series of upper atmosphere low pressure cells moving across southeast Texas. A strong line of thunderstorms passed through the area during the very early morning hours of April 13. The following night produced intermittent light rain, showers, drizzle, mist and fog, with thunderstorms continuing out over the Gulf of Mexico well into the daylight hours of April 14. Generally messy conditions persisted until Saturday, April 15, when the weather cleared. Winds were north and northeast April 12-13, becoming easterly on Friday, April 14, then turning to come strong from the southeast by midday April 15.

The weather events just described produced the best fallouts of early migrating warblers since UTC birders started attempting to quantify migrant groundings. In addition, significant numbers of Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos were reported, as well as a nice assortment of tanagers, grosbeaks, buntings and orioles.

Birders on the coast during all three days reported very good counts of vireos and warblers early on April 13, then a drop-off in numbers until late afternoon, Friday, April 14, produced the best all-day birding, with a peak during and just after a strong shower at High Island from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Saturday morning continued to be very good, but by midday numbers of migrants had fallen off significantly.

My own observations took place on April 14-15; unfortunately I missed the early morning April 13 show, which by some reports may have been the best for some species. I list below some species counts which are noteworthy. The April 13 numbers came from the Piney Woods' Rare Bird Alert, and were submitted by a very competent observer. My April 14 numbers are primarily from High Island, with a small portion coming from Bolivar Peninsula "hot spots." The April 15 numbers include my observations from Sabine Woods, the Highway 87 salt cedars and High Island.

SPECIES	Apr 13	Apr 14	Apr 15
Acadian Flycatcher		12	40
Yellow-throated Vireo		45	17
Red-eyed Vireo	700	195	65
Blue-winged Warbler	130	65	45
Northern Parula	150	70	30
Prothonotary Warbler	50	45	30
Worm-eating Warbler	65	70	25
Kentucky Warbler	150	115	60
Common Yellowthroat		35	130
Hooded Warbler	450	210	130
Yellow-breasted Chat		17	9
Summer Tanager		85	40

Over the three days, 32 species of warblers were reported, which included a very rare Virginia's Warbler and the elusive (for spring) Prairie Warbler. I personally recorded 25 species of warblers on both April 14 and April 15, with a cumulative total of 28 species for the two days. Other observers had similar counts.

(continued next page)

During the same time period the Texas Ornithological Society Spring Meeting was being held in Corpus Christi. If anything, they had better fallouts on the coastal bend than we experienced on the UTC. The species mix was different further south (as for high numbers), but early migrating warblers were also dominant. They experienced significantly more Black-and-White Warblers, Golden-winged Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers. All in all it was a great three days along the Texas Coast.

THE "OG OGLERS" - OUR BIRDATHON TEAM by Jerry Patrick

The "OG Oglers," the '89 Houston Audubon Society Birdathon team sponsored by the OG, was composed of Stennie Meadours, Dottie Praus and Noel Pettingell. At 4:50 a.m., April 22, the team hit the road running. Eighteen hours, twenty minutes and 382 miles later, the team had logged a total of 160 species, 147 seen by all, the rest by one or two members. This made the official count for the team, calculating by Birdathon rules, 155 species. The team birded through East Hardin, Chambers, Jefferson, Galveston and Harris counties.

The team was particularly proud of a Northern Gannet seen off the beach along Hwy 87 and a Western Tanager in Northeast Hardin County. While they mourned that there were 35 species that were expected, but missed, the team had all of the terns except the black, and saw 16 species of warblers. A great job, "Oglers"!

THE NEXT GENERATION - WILL THEY CARE? by Ellen Red

Last week on the Birdathon we saw two kids with BB guns shoot at a spoonbill. They were across a marsh, and all we could do was yell at them. Some kids have never heard of the value of wildlife, and there's something we can do about it. The Houston Public School System is always looking for volunteers to give short programs on nature subjects to elementary children.

Avis and Harry Brister have put together some good slide programs through the years, complete with scripts. They and others have taken these to the schools. You could use one of them as is or develop your own ideas. It's a wonderful way to educate the next generation. If we don't, who will? If you can give just one morning to this, give me a call at 523-4287.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Clearing House - APRIL, 1989

April Editors: Andrew and Rene Franks

A grand total of 67 reports were received for April, recording a whopping 277 species and 122,317 individuals. During the first week of the month, there were noteworthy sightings of seabirds, and an excellent grounding occurred April 14-16.

Jefferson County became the focus of unusual and much-needed attention with the arrival and possible nesting of Swallow-tailed Kites north of Winnie. Late in the month Cave Swallows made their first recorded appearance on the UTC at Sea Rim State Park. By May 2, two pairs were nesting there. For the second spring, Glossy Ibis were spotted at several locations. The new sightings raise them from vagrant to very rare status, according to the Checklist Committee. It will be interesting to see whether the range of these birds is expanding, or whether birders are just looking more closely at dark ibis. Also of note is a very late Black Duck seen on the 22nd at Anahuac NWR. No fewer than 37 species and one subspecies of warblers were reported during the month. Virginia's, MacGillivray's and "Lawrence's" (Blue-winged x Golden-winged) warblers were the highlights. No one turned in sightings of Cape May Warblers, which were present at High Island on several days.

Since TOS has now acquired Sabine Woods near Sabine Pass, a new location code, SW, has been added.

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the upper Texas Coast. How to interpret the data:

SPECIES DATES TOTAL BRAZ CHAM FBEND GALV HARR JEFF WALL
 Bird Name early/late reports/individuals
 OR county-location(#), date, observer

Noteworthy sightings will be underlined (very rare on date), capitalized (no previous sighting on date), or underlined and capitalized (no previous sighting on the UTC). Birds with very rare, vagrant, accidental or no status on the checklist at the date of the sighting require notes. However, due to space considerations, only the notes on sightings which affect the checklist will consistently be published. Notes on very rare at date of sighting may be published at the editor's discretion if space allows.

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	FBEND	GALV	HARR	JEFF	WALL
Loon, Pacific	8-8	1/1							
Loon, Common	8-23	8/23							
Grebe, Pied-bill	1-30	26/200	5/94	7/29	3/39	6/28	2/4	3/13	
Grebe, Horned	9-16	3/5							
Grebe, Eared	8-22	6/16							
BOOBY, Masked	1-1	2/24							
BOOBY, BROWN	1-1	2/5							
Gannet, Northern	1-2	7/719	2/25						
Pelican, Amer	1-29	18/951	3/280	1/60					
Pelican, Brown	1-29	10/52	2/8						
Corm, Obl-crested	1-30	25/495	3/33	3/30	2/2	11/289	1/1	3/21	
Corm, Olivaceous	1-30	17/174			2/6			4/18	
Anhinga	1-20	6/31			2/6			1/2	
Frigatebird, Magn	1-16	9/31							
Bittern, American	1-29	5/6	1/2	3/3					
Bittern, Least	1-30	9/19							
Heron, Great Blue	1-30	42/243	4/51	9/34	4/13	16/95	2/2	3/21	1/4
Egret, Great	1-30	45/538	5/50	8/59	4/36	19/188	2/5	2/124	1/12
Egret, Snowy	1-30	43/407	4/19	9/79	3/11	20/210	2/5	1/60	1/7
Heron, Little Blu	1-30	34/727	3/12	7/45	4/240	13/40		3/360	
Heron, Tricolored	1-30	31/169	4/18	6/11	3/8	15/89		1/30	
Egret, Reddish	1-29	16/70	2/2						
Egret, Cattle	1-30	44/6495	4/72	10/677	4/2856	15/792	2/28	4/480	1/250
Heron, Grn-backed	1-30	36/118		9/24	4/21	10/222	3/3	4/38	
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	1-30	16/82	3/36	1/1	3/15	3/3		2/4	1/3
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	1-30	16/89	2/32	2/6	3/13	2/2	7/30		

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	FBEND	GALV	HARR	JEFF	WALL
Ibis, White	1-30	27/574	4/138	7/87	2/26	11/229		1/4	
IBIS, GLOSSY	22-29	3/3	G-(1) 2, JWR; G-(1) 29	EMBE; G-(1) 29	ER				
Ibis, White-faced	1-30	30/615	4/110	9/143	1/5	7/139	2/4	3/110	
Spoonbill, Roseat	1-30	34/218	4/16	8/32	2/18	14/75	1/4	2/28	
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	1-30	2/1679	1/1	9/1360	3/118	4/17	1/10	1/8	1/65
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd	1-30	10/77	1/2	1/4	4/46		3/24		
Goose, Gr Wht-frn	4-22	3/61	C-(30) 19, AGL; H-(25) 4, CJ; H-(6) 22, ABCG						
Goose, Snow	19-22	6/15	C-(1) 19, AGL; H-(1) 22, ABCG						
Duck, Wood	1-30	6/15					1/6	2/4	1/2
Teal, Green-wing	1-22	11/679	4/551	3/52		2/25	1/50		1/1
DUCK, AMER BLACK	22-22	1/1	C-AW(1) 2, HST						
Duck, Mottled	1-30	36/223	2/18	13/84	2/16	11/48	2/10	3/23	1/6
Mallard	22-22	1/2	G-(2) 22, HST						
Pintail, Northern	1-2	3/4	B-(1) 2, RU; B-BW(2) 1, TEL; B-BW(1) 2, TEL						
Teal, Blue-winged	1-30	41/2086	4/576	11/221	4/52	14/1026	2/55	3/90	1/14
Teal, Cinnamon	1-26	5/29	3/19	1/10			1/30	3/15	2/8
Shoveler, Northern	1-30	27/837	3/560	4/64	3/42	9/99	1/30	3/15	2/8
Gadwall	1-32	12/59	4/24	2/30	1/10	3/41		2/4	
Wigeon, American	1-22	7/47	4/23	1/20					1/2
Canvasback	16-29	3/8	B-(4) 23, EMBE; J-(3) 16, AGP; J-(1) 22, ABCG						
Scup, Lesser	1-22	8/190	1/1			4/780		3/9	
Scup, Mkt-winged	2-2	1/10	G-(10) 2, DR						
Bufflehead	1-26	3/17	B-(1) 1, TEL; J-(6) 16, AGP; J-(10) 9, TELP						
Merganser, Red-br	1-29	12/96				10/89		2/7	
Duck, Ruddy	1-22	5/242	1/20					4/222	
DUCK, MASKED	26-26	1/1	B-BW(1) 26, CD						
Vulture, Black	1-30	25/109	5/27	5/13	2/2	2/5	4/9		
Culture, Turkey	1-30	42/333	6/108	11/109	6/31	9/48	3/12	4/9	
Osprey	1-30	5/5	3/3					1/1	
Kite, Am Swl-tail	9-23	4/4		1/1				2/2	
Kite, Blk-shouldr	1-29	15/22	4/7					2/3	
Kite, Mississippi	29-29	1/1	F-(1) 29, PM						
Eagle, Bald	30-30	1/1	F-(1) 30, GLV						
Havk, Northern	1-29	32/130	5/32	11/33	1/3	12/51	1/3	1/2	
Havk, Sharp-shin	22-22	1/1	W-(1) 22, HST						
Havk, Cooper's	1-26	3/3	F-(1) 26, RU; G-(1) 1, AG; H-(1) 4, CJ						
Havk, Red-shouldr	1-30	14/22	1/3	1/3	5/6	2/2	2/2	2/3	1/2
Havk, Broad-winged	1-22	9/17	2/2	1/1		4/5		2/9	
Havk, Swainson's	1-30	20/45	5/11	4/10	4/6		5/9	1/3	1/6
Havk, White-tailed	10-16	2/2	C-(1) 10, JP; H-(1) 16, AD						
Havk, Red-tailed	1-30	33/66	2/6	12/26	3/6	10/19	2/3	1/1	
Caracara, Crested	1-4	3/3	B-BW(1) 1, PC; B-(1) 2, TEL; H-(1) 4, CJ						
Kestrel, American	1-22	14/22	2/6	3/4		5/7	1/2	2/2	1/1
Falcon, Peregrine	1-29	3/3	B-BW(1) 1, PC; G-(1) 29, EMBE; J-(1) 9, TELP						
Pheasant, Ring-neck	2-15	2/2	C-(1) 15, DR; G-(1) 2, DR						
Turkey, Wild	7-7	1/1	F-(1) 7, PH						
Bobwhite, Northern	2-26	7/11			1/1	2/4	2/4		
Rail, Yellow	29-22	1/1	C-AW(1) 22, ABCG						
Rail, Black	29-22	1/1	C-AW(1) 22, ABCG						
Rail, Clapper	3-30	1/14			4/5		6/8		1/1
Rail, King	1-23	7/21			5/19		1/1		
Rail, Virginia	9-22	2/2	C-AW(1) 22, ABCG; G-(1) 9, OG						
Sora	2-29	7/7			1/1		2/2		3/3
Gallinule, Purple	15-30	31/223			10/113	1/1			
Moorhen, Common	1-30	31/539	4/56	16/339	2/17	5/86	1/1		
Coot, American	1-30	29/1483	4/826	11/318	3/97	5/156	3/9		

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	FBEND	GALV	HARR	JEFF	WALL
Crane, Sandhill	1-17	3/10	B-(3)	1,TEL;	B-(5)	2,TEL;	G-(2)	17,MO	
Plover, Blk-bell	1-30	18/939	3/8	2/7		10/247			
Golden-plover, Ls	2-29	14/218	2/56	4/65	1/10	4/26	2/60		
Plover, Snowy's	8-23	6/28				6/28			
Plover, Wilson's	1-29	10/58				9/55		1/3	
Plover, Semipalm	2-30	15/1247				9/374	1/2	1/10	
Plover, Piping	2-30	11/179				9/140		2/13	1/25
Killdeer	1-30	46/493	5/53	13/164	5/17	4/131	2/12		
Wingscatcher, Am	1-29	9/63	2/45	1/1		6/17		2/17	
Stilt, Black-neck	1-30	39/610	3/90	11/158	3/39	17/246	1/4		
Avocet, American	1-29	12/10250	1/300			11/9785			
Yellowlegs, Great	1-30	38/366	4/25	10/57	2/2	15/100	2/2		1/6
Yellowlegs, Less	1-30	34/1562	4/90	8/76	3/33	12/317	2/38		1/14
Sandpiper, Solitary	1-30	22/30	2/3	1/2	3/3	7/10	1/1	6/9	1/1
Willet	1-30	33/1746	3/51	7/93		16/398		3/65	
Sandpiper, Spotted	1-30	13/21	1/1	1/1	1/1	3/5	2/12	5/10	1/2
Sandpiper, Upland	1-29	11/95	3/30	1/1		4/51	2/12	1/1	
Wheatear	1-30	18/224		5/62		3/14		4/19	
Curlew, Long-bill	1-30	13/98	1/56			12/49	1/2	1/4	
Godwit, Hudsonian	1-29	13/98				10/69		1/2	
Godwit, Marbled	1-29	9/1089	1/12	1/4		8/73		2/5	
Turnstone, Ruddy	1-29	9/1089	1/12	1/4		8/73		2/5	
Knott, Red	1-29	9/1089	1/12	1/4		8/73		2/5	
Sanderling	1-30	17/2607	2/106	1/1		10/424		1/20	
Sandpiper, Semipalm	1-30	16/194		4/57	1/1	7/19	1/10		1/1
Sandpiper, Western	1-30	18/669		5/167		12/492			
Sandpiper, Least	1-30	24/1267	3/16	4/94	4/49	9/1040	3/38		
Sandpiper, Baird's	29-30	2/15	G-(1)	30,PMW;	U-(11)	29,EMBE			
Sandpiper, Pectoral	1-30	16/1688	4/17	6/307	1/10	1/15	2/35		
Dunlin	1-30	16/2875	2/86	3/4		11/790			
Sandpiper, Stilt	1-30	12/170	3/118	3/7		5/39			
Sandpiper, Buf-brst	1-30	7/351	1/210	3/75	1/40		1/20		1/5
Dowitcher, S-bill	1-30	24/2791	3/901	3/175		14/681			
Dowitcher, L-bill	1-30	21/1707	2/351	5/676	4/45	8/228	1/20		
Snipe, Common	1-29	11/30	1/1	3/4		5/16	2/9		
Phalarope, Wilson	1-30	28/328	4/85	4/80	1/5	15/66	2/8		
Jaeger, Pomarine	1-1	2/9	G-(1)	1,JM;	G-(5)	1,AG			
Gull, Laughing	1-30	33/18209	5/1029	6/624		16/7696		2/160	
Gull, Bonaparte's	1-22	11/392				8/384		2/7	
Gull, Ring-billed	1-30	24/1454	2/70	4/67		11/328	1/4	3/20	
Gull, Herring	1-30	20/506	3/57	1/2		11/336	1/4	2/23	
Gull, Glaucous	15-16	2/2	G-BF(1)	16,HOB;	G-BF(1)	15,ARD			
Tern, Gull-billed	1-30	9/49		2/19	5/22				
Tern, Caspian	1-30	24/177	1/2	4/6	1/1	14/21		2/8	
Tern, Royal	1-30	22/1844		2/7		13/1314		4/97	
Tern, Sandwich	1-30	11/193		1/2		8/129			
Tern, Common	1-22	3/34	C-(2)	22,ABCG;	G-(30)	1,JM;	G-BF(2)	15,HD	
Tern, Forster's	1-30	37/2400	3/53	8/28	1/1	18/1845	1/1	3/150	
Tern, Least	1-30	17/1175			1/1	12/847		2/23	
Tern, Sooty	5-9	1/1	G-(1)	5,8D (see notes, ed.)					
Tern, Black	22-30	3/48							
Skink, Black	1-30	15/1800							
Dove, Rock	1-30	36/591	4/39	2/110	4/16	13/1789		1/1	
Dove, White-winged	11-23	3/50				5/50		2/30	1/50
Dove, Mourning	1-30	51/667	4/20	13/206	5/33	18/228	4/54	1/20	1/25
Dove, Inca	1-30	29/143	1/1	3/8		20/124	4/8		
Parakeet, Monk	2-30	4/16				1/1	3/15		
Cuckoo, Blk-bill	15-30	11/16				8/13		1/1	
Cuckoo, Yel-bill	1-30	23/55				1/1	3/36	3/9	
Barn-Owl, Common	1-30	8/9				4/4	2/3	1/1	
Screech-Owl, East	1-30	8/9				1/2	6/6		

SPECIES	DATES	TOTAL	BRAZ	CHAM	FBEND	GALV	HARR	JEFF	WALL
Warb, Blue-winged	9-24	16/225							
Warb, Gold-winged	14-30	9/13	1/1	--	--	12/174	--	2/5	--
Warb, Lawrence	16-16	2/4	J-SW(1) 16, MA; G-(3) 16, HOR			5/7		--	--
Warb, Tennessee	14-30	20/135	1/4	3/13	--	9/88	2/8	2/3	1/50
Warb, Orange-crn	1-16	12/27	1/1	--	--	6/17	1/1	3/4	--
Warb, Nashville	1-16	5/12	--	--	--	5/12	--	--	--
WARB, VIRGINIA'S	26-26	1/1	H-HP(1) 26, HS						
Parula, Northern	1-30	23/211			4/10	12/161	1/1	5/9	1/40
Warb, Yellow	9-30	18/42	--	4/10	--	9/15	--	1/3	--
Warb, Chestnut-side	14-30	13/78	--	1/8	2/3	8/46	1/1	--	--
Warb, Magnolia	24-30	7/29	--	1/4	1/1	3/19	--	--	--
Warb, Blk-thr	14-14	1/1	G-HI(1) 14, MBM						
Warb, Yellow-rump	1-16	16/84	--	2/7	--	8/62	3/5	2/9	--
Warb, Blk-thr Grn	9-30	15/51	--	1/2	--	10/39	--	2/3	--
Warb, Blackburn	10-30	12/41	--	1/6	1/1	6/23	3/4	--	--
Warb, Yellow-throat	9-22	10/17	--	1/1	--	5/7	--	4/9	--
Warb, Prairie	15-19	2/2	J-(1) 15, JM; J-SW(1) 19, AGL						
Warb, Palm	3-16	4/8	--	1/1	--	1/2	--	--	--
Warb, Bay-breast	29-30	4/14	--	1/4	--	2/6	--	--	--
Warb, Blackpoll	9-30	7/10	--	2/3	1/1	1/2	--	2/2	--
Warb, Cerulean	14-24	9/14	--			8/10	--	--	--
Warb, Blk-and-wht	1-30	32/207	1/2	3/6	1/1	21/154	--	4/9	--
Redstart, Amer	10-30	18/91	--	1/1	--	12/39	--	2/4	--
Warb, Prothonotry	1-30	24/167	--	1/1	4/19	10/89	--	7/26	2/3
Warb, Worm-eating	14-24	15/169	--	3/5	--	10/136	--	1/3	--
Warb, Swainson's	9-24	5/7	--			4/6	--	1/1	--
Ovenbird	2-30	20/102	--	3/7	--	14/69	--	1/3	--
Waterthrush, N	14-30	23/56	1/1	4/8	1/2	11/28	1/1	2/5	--
Waterthrush, Lou	1-24	8/13	--			7/10	--	1/3	--
Warb, Kentucky	7-30	22/277	--	2/7	1/1	14/184	1/1	2/23	--
Warb, Mourning	30-30	1/1	G-(1) 30, PWW						
WARB, MCGILLIVRAY	16-16	1/1	H-(1) 16, DEW						
Yellowthroat, Com	1-30	30/335	1/1	11/68	1/2	12/122	--	2/9	--
Warb, Hooded	9-30	22/636	--	3/10	--	14/457	--	3/38	--
Warb, Wilson's	1-29	6/6	--	--	--	2/2	--	4/4	--
Warb, Canada	15-30	3/4	C-AW(2) 30, HSB; J-(1) 15, JM; U-(1) 30, CPJ						
Chat, Yellow-brst	9-30	15/54	--	--	--	9/34	1/2	3/8	--
Tanager, Summer	2-30	30/397	--	4/9	--	18/333	2/3	2/2	--
Tanager, Scarlet	11-30	26/196	--	6/18	1/1	15/153	--	2/2	--
Cardinal, Northern	1-30	48/501	5/43	8/83	5/46	17/249	5/17	2/9	--
Grosbeak, Ros-brs	13-30	21/160	--	2/16	--	13/112	1/6	2/7	--
Grosbeak, Blue	9-30	18/186	--	4/7	--	10/128	--	2/9	--
Bunting, Indigo	10-30	32/2890	--	6/59	2/3	16/448	1/8	3/80	--
Bunting, Painted	11-22	8/49	--	--	--	5/15	--	3/34	--
Dickcissel	1-30	19/961	--	7/103	5/132	1/6	1/75	--	2/60
(Toxhe, Spotted)	24-24	1/1	G-(1) 24, MNJD						
Sparrow, Chipping	1-29	2/2	G-(1) 29, EMBB; J-(1) 1, AG						
Sparrow, Clay-cool	30-30	1/1	U-(1) 30, CPJ						
Sparrow, Lark	11-11	1/1	G-(1) 11, JJJ						
Sparrow, Savannah	1-30	30/321	4/121	9/55	1/15	10/50	2/45	1/2	1/20
Sparrow, Grasshop	22-22	1/1	W-(1) 22, ABCG						
Sparrow, Shp-tail	9-22	4/12	--	--	--	4/12	--	--	--
Sparrow, Seaside	9-29	7/29	--	1/3	--	3/13	--	2/12	--
Sparrow, Lincoln	1-21	12/21	1/1	1/1	3/3	2/8	2/2	3/6	--
Sparrow, Swamp	1-22	12/31	1/2	5/6	1/3	3/6	--	2/14	--
Sparrow, Wht-thrt	1-22	14/101	2/35	1/6	1/20	7/27	1/10	2/3	--
Blackbird, Red-wg	1-30	48/5910	4/124	11/1265	4/122	16/1792	3/37	3/120	1/150
Headovlark, East	1-30	45/722	4/61	10/193	5/17	14/169	2/14	3/70	--
Headovlark, West	20-20	1/2	W-(2) 20, HS						
Blackbird, Yel-hd	22-30	2/2	G-(1) 30, HO; G-(1) 22, ABCG						
Crackle, Gr-tail	1-30	40/2168	3/47	4/165	4/80	16/562	4/74	2/55	1/40
Crackle, Bt-tail	1-30	32/1325	4/30	15/760	1/1	5/287	--	4/139	--

CLEARING HOUSE CODES

OBSERVERS:
 AB = K. Adams, C Bookout
 ABCG = Austin, Bookout, Clark, Gast
 ("Blkd Alerts" birdathon team)
 AD = Arch Dillard, P. Gottschling
 AG = L. Aldrich, P. Gottschling
 AGL = Aldrich, Gottschling, Lennihan,
 Righter
 AGP = Austin, Gast, Paulsen
 ARD = A. & R. Dillard
 BD = B. Darr
 BE = B. Behrstock
 BM = J. Buckman, M. Magruder
 BMC = B. McClure
 BW =
 CAL = Aldrich, Gottschling, Danielson,
 Spoelman, Reynolds, Lennihan
 CALR = Aldrich, Gottschling, Lennihan,
 Reynolds
 CD = S. Collins, A. Dillard
 CJ = C. Jones
 CPJ = C. & P. Jones
 CS = J. Cacaviotis, B. Schwartz
 DD = D. Dauphin
 DEM = D. & E. Maddox
 DLR = D. & L. Richardson
 DR = D. Richardson
 EMBE = Eubanks, Morgan, Behrstock, Ellis
 ER = E. Rosenburg
 GLV = G. Lavern
 GN = R. & M. Gillard, P. & P. Nimmons
 HD = B. Honig, B. Decker
 HOR = Honig, Ort, Rabinovitz
 HS = P. D. Hulce, S. Schultz
 HSB = Hulce, Schultz, Barhorst
 HSST = Hulce, Scheuerman, Schultz, Taylor
 ("Hot-Hots" birdathon team)
 JB = J. Buckman
 JJJ = J. & J. Hamilton
 JM = J. Morgan
 JP = J. Patrick
 JWR = J. & W. Risser
 MAH = M. Magruder
 MBH = M. & B. Moore
 MGD = M. Micks, J. Dunn
 MO = E. & H. O. Owens
 OG = OG Field Trip led by P. D. Hulce
 PG = N. & J. Patrick, F. Cleland
 PC = P. Gottschling
 PH = P. Milstead
 PWW = Piney Woods Wildlife Society
 Field Trip led by D. Richardson

COUNTIES:
 B = Brazoria
 C = Chambers
 F = Fort Bend
 G = Galveston
 H = Harris
 J = Jefferson
 W = Waller

LOCATIONS:
 AV = Annuac NWR
 BB = Brazos Bend State Park
 BC = Bear Creek Park
 BF = Bolivar Flats
 BW = Brazoria NWR
 HI = High Island
 HP = Hermann Park
 SB = San Bernard NWR
 SL = San Louis Pass
 SW = Sabine Woods
 WP = White Memorial Park

RT = R. Thacker
RU = R. Uzar
TECL = Thacker, Evans, Cossack, Lavern
TEL = Thacker, Evans, Lavern
TELP = Thacker, Evans, Lavern, Prazs
UB = R. Uzar, C. Bourgeois

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - APRIL, 1989

MASKED BOOBY Lynne Aldritch, Peter Gottschling 4/1/89

This bird was observed on Saturday, April 1 at 10:00 A.M. at Rollover Pass. It was following a shrimp boat with a mixed flock of gulls, Gannets and at least one Masked Booby. This entire flock was observed for nearly 1/2 hour. The weather was overcast, the seas were slightly rough (Jaegers landing on the seas were unobservable due to wave action) This bird was approximately one mile out at the edge of the muddy/clear water line. The birds were observed with a 20x Bushnell Spacemaster for the entire time. The Gannets and boobies were easily selected from the much smaller gulls (nearly twice the size) with which they interacted. This bird was an all white bird both above and below. When banking, you could easily see the black trailing edges of the wing which extended from the primaries through the secondaries. No other features were observable at that distance. The black trailing edge of the primaries were secondaries distinguished this bird from the Gannets with which it flew.

MASKED BOOBY David Dauphin 4/1/89

Twenty-three birds seen milling and feeding with Gannets. Fourteen adult birds were all white except black primaries and trailing edge of wing, and tail. Dark patch at eye and under the heavy bill noted on a few of the birds. Tails were long. Nine immature bird seen with brown heads and necks (not breasts), backs, tails, wings. White breast, belly, and undertail coverts. Wing linings were white with a dark line running through the middle of the wing lining from the base of the wing to near the base of the primaries. Same long, pointedly wedged calls as noted in the adults and accompanying Gannets. Slightly smaller than Gannets and definitely shorter wingspan. Excellent light, 45x scope, 20 mins., 400 Yards, Gilchrist, Galveston County.

BROWN BOOBY Lynne Aldritch, Peter Gottschling 4/1/89

These birds were observed in the same mixed flock following a shrimp boat near Rollover Pass. These boobies were all dark on the back. When banking, you could see the all dark head, neck and upper belly with contrasting wing linings. The remaining underparts were light (buffy) but did not appear to be clear white from this distance. The birds were distinguishable from the Gannets by their underneath wing color pattern. They also appeared to be somewhat sleeker (smaller) than the Gannets.

BROWN BOOBY David Dauphin 4/1/89

Four birds seen April 1, Gilchrist, Galveston County. Excellent light, 45x scope, 5 minutes, 200-400 yards. Birds were all brown, including breast, except white belly, undertail coverts, wing linings. Tails looked very long and pointed. Heavy-besked, cigar-shaped birds seen feeding and flying with Gannets and Masked Boobies where the blue water met the murky water of Gulf. Birds were noticeably shorter and had smaller wingspans than gannets and Masked Boobies. Wingbeats were more rapid.

GLOSSY IBIS Jim Morgan, Ted Eubanks, Bob Behrstock, Randy Ellis 4/29/89

Seen in pond/marsh on north side of Hwy 87 at Bolivar Lighthouse on Bolivar side about one mile from ferry landing. Seen in excellent light with binocs, 22X scope and Questars. Seen at distances of 30-40 meters for 10 min. Photographed dark plegadis species, mainly very dark maroon with purple and green iridescent on folded wings. Grey-green legs with tad joints; dark and brown-olive bill. Bright blue skin at base of bill leading up the top and bottom of eye; this skin "pinches in" (is concave toward the center) in front of eye behind bill. Complete lack of white feathering on face. Seen in direct comparison with White-faced Ibis feeding the same pond/marsh.

GLOSSY IBIS ED Rozenburg 4/29/89

Large dark bird with long grayish-green recurved bill. Legs grayish with red "knees" and ankles. White line behind face was not extended behind bill or under bill. Back neck head and breast shiny red. Rest of body very dark. Seen at 4:00 p.m. with 10x50 binocs in good light.

GLOSSY IBIS Jan and Will Risser 4/22/89

Galveston Island, small marsh. 10:00 A.M., observed for 20 minutes. Chestnut with purple and green gloss; legs dark gray-brown with red ankle joints; bill brownish-gray; bare facial skin bluish-gray, bordered narrowly above and below with pale blue feathers; no border behind eye. Eye brown. Seen next to White-faced Ibis, which had reddish legs and bill, red face and eye, broad white border to face, including behind eye. Seen at 50 yards with 10x40 binoculars, 25x scope. Familiar with bird from years of living on central coast, trips to Florida.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK P. D. Hulce and others 4/22/89

This bird was seen on the west side of Shovelers Pond, in the open, at a distance of about 40'. It was approximately 4 p.m.; the light was at our backs. Immediate impression was of a very dark duck. Scapulars, tertials, and back feathers were solid black or dark blackish-brown, with a narrow margin of Golden-buff. There were no internal markings on any of these feathers. The crown, hind-neck and eye-stripe were very dark, and the remainder of the head was a paler, brownish-buff, covered with narrow dark streaks. The bill was a violet or purplish-blue, and no white border was observed. I believe the unpatterned, black scapulars, etc., and the fine streaking on the lighter head eliminate Mottled Duck or female Mallard. Seen by: P.D. Hulce, Steve Schultz, Mark Scheuerman, Kent Taylor, Don and Lee Richardson and several others.

MASKED DUCK Sherry Collins and Arch Dillard 4/26/89

Place: Brazoria NWR in small bend of Big Slough behind equipment shed. Brazoria county. Habitat: Pond weeds and saw grass in the slough. Distance: about 40 feet. High overcast, at about noon. Visibility: Excellent. Behavior: Popped up out of the water in pond weeds right in front of us. Fed and preened for more than 20 minutes in clear, unobstructed view. Dove underwater several times, swam away and returned to spot again to be observed by 2 additional birders, Martha and Larry Ballard of Lake Jackson. Description: Small duck the size of a Ruddy Duck with similar bright blue bill of breeding Tundra duck. Entire body was brick red (rufous red) very reminiscent of Cinnamon Teal or Red Phalarope. Back showed slightly scalloped appearance because of secondaries which were dark and edged with rufous red. White wing patch displayed very well when preening. Black cap and black cheek patch with red (rufous) line showing horizontally beneath eye. Black tail feathers with pointed shape flared out when swimming and preening. Feet not seen.

SOOTY TERN

Barbara Darz

4/5/89

Seen at Jamaica Beach, West Galveston Island, 8:15 a.m. Light was excellent with the sun behind cloud bank, eliminating glare from water. Watched the two birds flying west to east, fairly close to the water surface, some 500 yards from shore. Was able to observe for 3 to 4 min. with 9x36 binoculars. Birds did not dive, but flew steadily in eastward direction. Medium to large terns with striking black and white contrast. Jet black above, white below with black bills and deeply forked tails.
(Note: This description may not eliminate Bridled Tern, ed.)

COUCH'S/TROPICAL KINGBIRD

Jan and Will Risser

4/22/89

Galveston Island, small grove of trees and brush; fenceline nearby. Noon, observed at 30 feet. Gray head with dark ear patch, large bill; white throat and chin; rest of underparts yellow, mixed with olive on breast; wing brown with faint pale wingbars (2); back green mixed with gray. Tail brown with notch and without white edges. Never vocalized. Slightly bigger than Eastern Kingbird. Seen for 30 minutes at 10-40 yards in good light with 10x40 binoculars. Familiar with bird from trips to Rio Grande Valley.

CAVE SWALLOW

Jerry Caraviotis and Bob Schwartz

4/24/89

This pair of birds was discovered associated with a small colony of breeding Barn Swallows, while working on this season's Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project. The colony was located in the Marsh Unit of Sea Rim State Park, under the wooden roof of the boat stall adjacent to the public boat ramp. Swallows, square-tailed and broad-winged, smaller in body size than the surrounding Barn Swallows. Throats and cheeks light cinnamon, spilling onto upper breast; absolutely no trace of dark color. Large rump patches, of much the same color. Forehead patch a dark cinnamon, much darker than both throat and rump. Whitish feathering at sides of upper breast extending as narrow triangles up sides of neck and onto nape, giving the appearance of a pale collar at many angles. Upper-parts of wings, tail, back, and cap pale bluish-gray; cap not distinct in appearance, however. Remainder of breast and belly whitish. Pale-looking birds overall, washed-out in color. Cliff Swallow eliminated by combination of pale throats and dark forehead patches.

Birds observed for about 45 min. under a sunny afternoon sky, as close as 15 ft., with 7x50 binocs. The pair spent much of their time squabbling with the Barn Swallows over a partially completed nest, the different species alternating sitting in the nest, only to be soon confronted by the other birds. The Cave Swallows appeared to be winning. Ted Eubanks confirmed much of the behavior we had observed; the birds are booming rapidly in their range, both the Southwest and Florida populations are associating with nesting Barn Swallows and are usurping the Barn Swallows' nests.

Update: 5/2/89 In the colony there now appear to be two pairs of Cave Swallows, and about four to five pairs of Cliff Swallows. (Jerry Caraviotis)

CAVE SWALLOW

Charles and Patricia Jones

4/29/89

Four birds seen at Sea Rim State Park under eaves of boat ramp. One nest among nests of Barn Swallows. Square tail, light buffy rump - thus this is not likely to be the Caribbean subspecies. Dark forehead and light throat - this eliminates the southwestern form of the Cliff Swallow. Whitish streaks on back.

"LAWRENCE'S WARBLER" HYBRID

Bob Honig, Richard Orr
and Robin Rabinowitz

4/16/89

Three individuals seen at the Johnson property on Bolivar Peninsula. Looked like male Golden-winged Warbler but with yellow wash on breast fading to white on belly. Like the middle of the three "Lawrence's" pictured in the second edition of the National Geographic field guide but with yellow extending slightly less onto belly.

"LAWRENCE'S WARBLER" HYBRID

Mike Austin, Steve Gast

4/16/89

Number and sex: One breeding plumaged male
Locality: Jefferson Co., E. side of Sabine Woods Sanctuary.
Time: 2:45 P.m.
Optical equipment: 7x42 Telca binoculars
Distance to bird: 50 feet
Habitat: Coastal oak/hackberry grove.
Behavior: Actively feeding during observation, gleaning leaves for insects.
Description: Small active wood warbler.
Bill: Head yellow except nape which was concolor with back and wings. Wide black mask through eye. Chin and upper breast black, contrasting sharply with lower breast. Back and Wings: back bluish gray, unstreaked (less bluish tint than male Prothonotary of which there were 8 for comparison). Rump concolor with back. Wings concolor with back. Two prominent white wing bars, upper wider than the lower.
Tail: Gray, more or less concolor with back. Square. No apparent white feathers or spots. Underparts: lower breast, flanks and belly bright yellow, concolor with face. Crissum white.
Voice: Sharp chip.
Similar species eliminated: Facial pattern rules out all but Golden-winged. Nalar, lower breast and belly color, and white wing bar rule out Golden-winged.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER

P.D Hulce and Steve Schultz

4/25/89

Seen as close as 25' away in the row of oaks bordering the reflecting pond in Hermann Park. First impression was of a very clear, gray, white and yellow warbler. Closer inspection showed a yellow rump and undertail coverts, yellow breast, white throat and belly, and gray wings, back and head, with a distinct white eye ring. I believe the combination of white throat and light grey upperparts eliminates Nashville Warbler.

MCGILLIVRAY'S WARBLER

Donna and Ed Maddox

4/15/89

At 10:30 a.m. I had my windows open in the house listening for bird songs. We live near Buffalo Bayou and Chimney Rock. I heard an unfamiliar warbler sing. The bird was foraging, then singing, in a hackberry tree at eye level from me about 15 yards away. It was an oporornis warbler: slate blue head, greenish back and wings, throat and upper breast dark grey (not black) with darker tips where it met the yellow of the rest of the underparts. It had bright white crescents above and below the eye. We watched it for about 5 min. With Bushnell 9x35's at from 10 to 15 yards. It sang repeatedly and we confirmed the song with Peterson's Western Birds tapes. Mourning Warbler male has no eye ring at this time of year and also has a darker throat and it wasn't Connecticut Warbler because that is my most-wanted bird!

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE (Western form)

Martha Micks

4/24/89

While birding Galveston gardens with Jon Dunn and a group of six, a busy towhee was observed doing his thing along a fence-row. Closer observation revealed the two wing bars and the white spotting on the upper parts, clearly indicating the western form of this bird.

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP (Outdoor Nature Club)
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