



# THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XVII, NO. 5

September, 1968

The first field club in the British Isles was formed in Belfast in 1821. The first United States bird group the Nuttall Club, was organized in Cambridge, Mass., in 1873; it was the forerunner of local and regional bird clubs throughout the land. Henry David Thoreau, born just 150 years ago, was perhaps America's first authentic bird watcher--and certainly its most articulate one.

Roger Tory Peterson

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## A LARGE MARTIN ROOST IN HOUSTON by Margaret Anderson

On August 10th I happened to see a large congregation of Martins at the corner of University Blvd. and Morningside Dr. about 7:00 P. M. in the evening. They completely lined the telephone wires for two blocks and were in the trees also. At nearby Rice University they were around the stadium in large numbers, even perched on the ground in one group of 500 or so. They apparently went out into the fields to feed during the day and returned to roost at this location at night.

On August 10th I estimated the number at 6,000+. By August 17th they had built up until there were about 15,000+. This was evidently the peak of the numbers as there were fewer on August 18th. On August 22nd only about 1,000 remained.

Just before dark they would all circle the area, swirling in the air so thick that it seemed they must collide. The wires were so solid with birds that it appeared there was not room for one more. At the peak period the wires were covered for a space of four blocks like this.

Various other members of the Ornithology Group also saw them, as well as non-birding neighbors in the area.

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## AN ALLEN'S HUMMINGBIRD IN SOUTHWEST HOUSTON - by Margaret Anderson

On August 15th I saw a hummingbird feeding on the shrimp plant that at first glance appeared completely reddish brown. I observed the bird with ten power glasses in full sunlight at a distance of 12 to 30 feet. It was a male in full breeding plumage. The throat was a paler shade of red than the throat of the ruby throated hummingbird. The belly was reddish brown. The tail and lower back were also reddish brown. The upper back and cap on the head were green. I came to the conclusion that it was an Allen's Hummingbird in full male breeding plumage.

The bird was chased off by ruby-throats but returned three times that day. On August 16th I saw him one time and on this occasion he lit in a tree where he preened and raised his wings for a very good look on my part.

I am very well aware that this is a remarkable record for the Upper Gulf Coast and I was very careful in checking out every detail with the sun at my back so that I could see well. I called two other people to come and try to see it, but the bird did not return while they were present. My husband also checked the bird with binoculars, but no other member of the OG Group saw it. However, in view of the fine plumage of the bird, my excellent observations of it, I hope this record will be accepted as valid.

Page 2.

The Editors received the following note from Miss Hazel C. Green, Box 136, Red Bird Lodge, Wimberley, Texas 78676: "Dear Folks: Had looked forward to some discussion of the Flamingoes sighted in the Matagorda area - but not a word in August 'Spoonbill.' Was it all a false report, after all?"

Miss Green, we think you will be interested in the article below by Noel Pettingell regarding the sighting of the Flamingoes:

FLAMINGOES REPORTED IN MATAGORDA COUNTY by Noel Pettingell

On July 24th Armand Yramategui (Director of Burke Baker Planetarium in Houston) suggested that I notify the Ornithology Group's Rare Bird Alert concerning a convincing sighting of 2 American Flamingoes by William C. Sexton (of World Book Science Service) and his wife. The birds originally were reported seen on Matagorda Peninsula some 200 yards in from the beach, behind sand dunes. However, when I discussed the details with Mr. Sexton he said that two birds were seen in flight on June 28th along F. M. 521 east of Wadsworth and a single bird was seen the following day flying near the Intracoastal Waterway in the vicinity of Gulf, an abandoned community some 5 miles northeast of Matagorda.

The curved bills, black wing markings and vivid deep pink coloration were all carefully noted at the time of both observations by Mr. and Mrs. Sexton. On June 28 the two birds were watched during a leisurely flight of several minutes with the late afternoon sun at the observers' backs. The June 29 bird was seen in mid-afternoon in direct flight of shorter duration than that of the previous day.

Mr. Yramategui suggested that the birds probably wandered to the Texas coast from the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico at the end of the breeding season and he felt there was a good chance they would remain in the Matagorda area for several weeks. However, the birds apparently had departed prior to the July 24 RBA as several Houston birders searched the general vicinity without success.

It would seem to be most unlikely that tropical storm "Candy" was the direct cause of the abnormal occurrence of Flamingoes on the Texas coast since it originated in the Gulf of Mexico opposite the Brownsville area at the southern tip of Texas, moving inland later the same day (June 23) some 65 miles northeast of Corpus Christi (winds were 72 MPH at Austwell about 7 P. M.)

The last previous valid observation of the American Flamingo in Texas that I know of took place at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (Cameron County) when what was presumed to be a wild individual of this species was seen by a total of 5 persons on October 21 and November 26, 1965.

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MINUTES OF THE REGULAR OG MEETING AUGUST 1, 1968

The Ornithology Group Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wallace Mebane at the Downtown Recreation Center at 7:30. New members were introduced: Bill McClure, and Marilyn Crane who has moved here from Corpus Christi. Jay Snyder was introduced as a visitor. The minutes were read and approved as corrected: 33 people present at June meeting. Sarah Gordon read the Treasurer's report. The July 31 balance is \$268.52 of which \$165.55 is from sale of check-lists. Melba Drake reported on her "Save the Spoonbill" campaign.

It was reported that Mrs. R. B. Moore will give a January program for the Meyerland Garden Club.

Pat Ridge announced that he had had correspondence with Dr. Rylander regarding the TOS Bulletin and said that there is little information from the Houston area that gets in the Bulletin and that he (Pat) thinks it would make for a stronger TOS if Houston were better represented. There should be more contributions from the Houston area - specifically of a scientific nature. It was announced that the Spoonbill started going to Dr. Rylander in July, this being the first time it was known that there was a new Editor.

Wallace Mebane asked for volunteers to lead the Christmas Count, to be held on December 21st. None were forthcoming! John Tveten was commended for his excellent job the last two years. John said he will give information and a list of names and phone numbers of people who have participated to the new Chairman.

Wallace Mebane announced that an excellent September program was planned for the ONC meeting. Armand Yramategui will be speaker. Armand was asked about the Flamingoes which were reported in the area and he said he did not see them - they were reported to him by Bill Sexton of the World Book Science Service who said he saw 2 one day and one the next day about a week after a storm which occurred about 4 weeks ago.

Marian Washburn, Program Chairman, announced that at the next meeting a new member, Marilyn Crane, would give the program. She also announced that they had the list of names of members and subscribers and that the Roster would soon be underway and she hoped it would be ready at the next OG meeting.

Marian introduced Linda Snyder who gave an account of her trip to Alaska on an Audubon Tour. She gave a most interesting report of the places she went and particularly birds seen and also showed some slides of some of the places visited.

After the program Wallace had one more item of business. This was regarding insuring the 'scope which the club owns. After a discussion Mary Sears moved that we do not take a policy insuring the 'scope on account of its age and depreciation on it. This motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

The meeting was then adjourned.

(Thanks to Sarah Gordon for taking the minutes for me - respectfully submitted,  
Katrina Ladwig.)

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ANOTHER BIRD STUDY MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR FOR B. S. A.

Johnny Fay Barnette tells us that she has been serving the Sam Houston Area Boy Scouts as Counselor for the Bird Study Merit Badge for almost 6 years. During this time she has helped some 35 boys to enjoy this worthwhile study. Most of these boys were quite happy to have a field trip or two included in the work required of them. She highly recommends this work with scouts to keep "one from getting old."

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The Editors are very pleased indeed to pass along to our readers the following account of what the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department are planning with regard to "acquainting school-age children with the problems of conservation and some of the solutions to the problems."

"Heading up the program will be T. D. Carroll, coordinator of conservation education for the Department. Carroll, a 17-year employee of the Department, holds a degree in Wildlife Management and a Master's Degree in Education from Texas A & M University. Involved with conservation work for many years Carroll says he first got the urge to bring the conservation message to children while serving two summers as a ranger naturalist in Glacier National Park in northern Montana.

'When I discussed the plants and animals and the delicate ecological balance of the area with the park visitors, I noticed that the kids were the ones who really listened and they were the ones who wanted to learn more. Adults were usually more interested in miles per gallon, or preoccupied with other travel, schedule or financial matters.

'The new program has three objectives, the highest priority going to 'stimulating interest in and developing desirable attitudes and activities pertaining to the natural environment.'

"The second objective is to plan, produce, and distribute conservation education materials and services to schools, clubs, organizations and individuals interested and active in conservation. The third objective is to evaluate the Department's conservation education effort and to make needed adjustments and needed refinements compatible with the evolving environment in Texas.

'In this day and age, when our 'air-conditioned' children sit in front of a TV sipping a synthetic orange drink from a plastic container, it is not surprising that they might not realize man's utter dependence on the soil for survival,' said Carroll. 'Man, with his technological advancement and expanding horizons, tends to forget or ignore his

dependence upon the land,' he said. 'In violation of natural laws that govern his environment, which, with heredity contributions, determine what man shall be, he pollutes and exploits the land, water and air in his frenzied, progressive quest of unknown worlds.'

'What arrogance, to think that man should be privileged to conquer distant planets in the midst of mounting evidence of his poor stewardship toward the resources of the earth he now inhabits.'

"Youth, Carroll believes, is the biggest hope the world has to stop the mad and wasteful exploitation of resources. 'The training of youth,' he says, 'that is, equipping them to cope with the problems of their present and evolving environment, is one of the most perplexing challenges of modern education. 'Our youth of today are exposed to areas of learning and social involvement not even imagined by youth fifty years ago. Who can blame them if they rebel against the stereotyped patterns of success and progress expounded by their elders who, in this enlightened age of plenty, cannot explain or hide the desecration of our natural beauty, and the daily damaging of our environment. Youth may not find a better way of life, but they demand a voice in the environmental manipulations which will affect their present and future. It is the responsibility of education to promote truth and understanding. It is the responsibility of those who control the use of the land to exercise wise stewardship.'

"Carroll says the Conservation Education program will be carried out in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency which will schedule teacher training workshops. Game management officers, Department biologists, and conservationists outside the Department will be available to speak to schools all over the State. According to Carroll, the predominant theme of the program will be an expansion of conservation thinking which will embrace the multiple use-total environment concepts, with new emphasis on the problems of urbanization.

'In developing a respect for the land--a respect born of perception, ecological understanding, and renewed association--our youth may find a better road to progress, a new meaning to freedom, their individual answers to why they exist, and who they are, and a real and deserved foundation for pride in their native land,' said Carroll."  
--From the Texas Parks and Wildlife News Letter 8-27-68

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The Editors are aware that most Houstonians read Bob Brister's column in the Houston Chronicle, but for those who do not and our subscribers out of town we would like to re-print in part his column "Oldtimers Know What They See" which appeared in the August 2nd edition of the Chronicle:

"Vic Yeamans came sidling down Corbin's Dock at Port O'Connor, the epitome of an old salt who knows exactly what he's doing anywhere around the waterfront. And when he spoke, I listened. He might be called an oldtimer of a fisherman; he's been around plenty long enough in years and in experience, and his family dates back to the settling of the Middle Coast around the old city of Indianola. If anybody knows much about fishing the Middle Coast of Texas, he should.

'I don't know if you can do anything about it or not, son,' he started out, 'But you're in about the best shape of anybody I happen to know of around here to try. You just tell your readers to take a real good look the next time they go trout fishing in the back bays .. because they won't be enjoying that much longer unless there are some changes made fast.'

"That was a pretty fair attention getter, so we went into Melba's Cafe for coffee and I listened to the reasons behind his dire predictions. Sadly enough, they seemed pretty valid...and they tied in with the same sort of predictions all along this coast and a whole lot of places inland.

"The problem, Vic says, is insecticide spraying; he puts it ahead of industrial pollution, human pollution, dredging, or anything else as the imminent danger of marine life in Texas bays. 'When's the last time you saw a brown pelican?' he asked suddenly. I'll tell you before you answer, that wherever it was, they ain't raising cotton and they ain't spraying weed and insect killers on rice.'

"WHY THE BROWN PELICAN? He was, of course, quite correct. The last brown pelicans I've seen were in the Florida Everglades and in British Honduras, neither place being bothered by cotton nor rice spraying. All of which was particularly interesting because

another famous oldtime angler, Cap'n Benny Allen of Freeport had recently remarked some of the same things about the brown pelican, a bird which unfortunately happened to be at the top of the 'chain of life' which is most affected by such things as DDT, endrin, Methyl parathion, etc ... the sort of creature which is on the way out unless man changes very fast his basic approach to some sorts of farming. Insecticides are sprayed on the growing plants. It rains. The water runs from the field into the river, and from there into the bay ... maybe not being really poisonous at any given point to mature fish. But modern insecticides are tough and long lasting. They are deposited, ultimately, in the silt and in suspension in the bays. Plankton, the basic food of many baby fish and bait species, absorbs the insecticide, which in turn passed on to the tiny fish and larvae eating the plankton. Each time the 'chain' enters a new link the tiny bit of poison present is concentrated another time. A larger fish eats the bait fish, and ultimately some predator ... such as the brown pelican, or perhaps man, consumes the concentrated poison.

"If you think this is an over-dramatization, consider what happened in Michigan last year. The greatest thing in years in that part of the world, for fishing, was the stocking of the coho salmon, in the Great Lakes. In a couple of years, the coho (introduced from the West Coast) had become a multi-million dollar sport fishing business. But suddenly 700,000 baby cohos died in Michigan hatcheries, not as a result of pollution of any sort, but because the DDT which killed them was passed on in the eggs from mother to offspring. These baby fish were born into a legacy of death, with built-in DDT.

"In a special report issued March 7 of this year by T. B. Durling, director of fisheries management for the Michigan Department of Conservation, it was explained, that the mature females got the DDT from consuming the alewives and other bait fish eaten during the year and one half they spent in Lake Michigan growing to full size from fingerlings planted there in 1966. The bait fish had picked up the DDT by eating microscopic plant and animal life. As they were consumed, small amounts of DDT were stored as fat in the larger fish. After the eggs of these fish were laid and fertilized, the growing fry naturally had to live for some time on fat stored in the eggs ... and it was the DDT in this fat that killed them.

"This is the same basic process that is killing off many of the larger birds of prey, the brown pelican, osprey, eagle, hawk, falcon, even the owl.

"Vic Yeamans may seem like an alarmist. But he reads a lot, and he fishes a lot. And he is seeing rivers pour into the middle coast that drain farmlands where DDT and other insecticides are put on one day, washed off the next. - - Who knows, Man may ultimately follow the brown pelican. But it won't be because Vic Yeamans, and a lot of others like him, haven't seen the handwriting on the wall . . . and warned those who will listen."

Bob says that the above column and a column dealing with the problem of trout and red-fish netting, apparently hit some "exposed nerves" of public opinion because the phone and the mail have been busy, largely with requests for information on "what the public can do" to protest the netting of trout and reds and apprehensive requests for more information on pesticides. He states that fortunately some Agencies admit the danger, such as the Harris County Mosquito Control Advisory Board with its recommendations NOT to use chlorinated hydrocarbons or organo phosphate insecticides in mosquito breeding areas. But, unfortunately he states that some governmental agencies, including the U. S. Department of Agriculture, continue recommending the widespread use of pesticides, and public apathy seems to have replaced the wave of public concern generated some years ago by the publication of Rachel Carson's book, "The Silent Spring."

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CORRECTION IN THE VOLUME NUMBERS OF THE AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1967 SPOONBILLS

Noel Pettingell points out to the Editors that there is a portrait of two young Masked Ducks on the cover of the February, 1968 Audubon Field Notes, said portrait taken by Dirk Hagemeyer on November 4, 1967 at the Anahuac Refuge. A summary of the observations at the Refuge appears on Page 65 of this same issue (South Texas Region), including a reference to further details in The Spoonbill, Vol. XVIII, Nos. 6, 7 and 8.

The Spoonbill reference is actually incorrect, which is why Noel states that he favors month/year rather than Vol./No.

The errors in the volume numeration along with the corrections appear on the following page.

Vol. XV, No. 12 - April, 1967 (OK)  
Vol. XVI, Nos. 1-3 - May - July, 1967 (OK)  
Vol. XVII, No. 4 - August, 1967 should read Vol. XVI, No. 4 - Aug. 1967  
Vol. XVIII, No. 5 - September, 1967 should read Vol. XVI, No. 5 - September, 1967  
Vol. XVIII, No. 6 - October, 1967 should read Vol. XVI, No. 6 - October, 1967  
Vol. XVIII, No. 7 - November, 1967 should read Vol. XVI, No. 7 - November, 1967  
Vol. XVI, No. 8 - December, 1967 (OK)

So, in summary, the Audubon Field Notes reference should read Vol. XVI, Nos. 6, 7 and 8. Thank you Noel for bringing this to our attention. Mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa, and we promise to brush up on our Roman numerals!

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Speaking of the MASKED DUCK, the last reported sighting we have received is on July 21st by Norma Oates and Margaret Anderson who made the trip especially to Anahuac so that Margaret could add it to her Life List. Has anyone seen it or them since that date?

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In order to maintain a permanent record of the birds placed on the RARE BIRD ALERT will the person who first observes the bird and reports it to Darris Massingill, please send in an article to The Spoonbill, giving details as to date, place observed, markings, etc. Also, will all subsequent observers of the particular bird please send in their names to The Spoonbill. - We have had two observations placed on the ALERT recently, the Flamingoes described in the article in this issue of The Spoonbill on Page 2, and three sub-adult Gannets seen by Sharon and Levy Davis. The Gannets were flying over the Sun Oil property on Bolivar Peninsula, the date August 27, 1968. (This date may be incorrect as we have received no direct word from the Davises and we have not been able to contact anyone who kept a record of the date, but it is approximate.)

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Notes on August 20 "Big Day"-type Party Count - by Noel Pettingell

124 species, including Rock Dove, were recorded by Party "A" - 4 less than the all-time Upper Texas Coast record for a single day in August set by Steve Williams, Linda Snyder and Paul Corneil on August 13, 1960. It was the second-highest party count for any summer day (June-July-Aug.) in the UTC area.

We had determined that "par" for our "course" was 135 expected or essential species. We missed 18 of these and even though 7 "bonus" (unexpected) species were recorded, we finished up the day with a net total 11 below par and thus failed in our efforts to set a new August/summer record for one party in a single day's birding (see lists below).

Our route was as follows: Houston (4:50 A. M., CDT) - Sheldon and Lake Houston (5:05 to 10:10 A. M.) - Anahuac Refuge (12:00 to 1:15 P. M.) - High Island - Bolivar Peninsula - Galveston I. (4:30 P. M.) out to San Luis Pass (7:50 P. M.) - Houston (9:20 P. M.)

We had listed 75 species upon entering Anahuac Refuge, left there with 93, and arrived at Galveston with 112. Most unexpected "expected" species of the day were both vultures at Anahuac and most common species almost missed was the cowbird, the next-to-last bird of the day (seen less than an hour before nightfall at 7:15 P. M.!) The 124th species was a Yellow-crowned Night Heron (with a Black-crowned, yet!) at the pond just beyond the Lowe House on 13-mile Road (about 7:30 P. M.).

Although it was an extremely hot and humid day (see "Vital Statistics" below), both my non-birder son, Mark (age 12) and avid-birder Dan Hardy (age 14) kept right up with "Old Hard-Core" Steve and me. Dan added 3 species to his life list and remarked that he had never seen as many different birds in a day (he only missed two) nor had as much fun finding them. Mark, on the other hand, was intrigued by the many Blue Crabs lining the shore of Shoveler Pond at Anahuac Refuge, the numerous Tiger Spiders in the High Island woods and clinging by the dozens in sail-like webs suspended from the telephone wires around Lafitte's Grove on Galveston, and several porpoises seen from the Bolivar Ferry.

Sharon and Levy Davis (a truly energetic and enthusiastic pair of birders who have just moved to Baytown from Weslake, La.) joined our party at Anahuac Refuge and accompanied

us to High Island. They had seen two species at the Refuge, prior to our arrival there, which we missed that day - the Least Bittern and the Marsh Hawk. None of us saw the Masked Duck(s), however.

"Vital Statistics":

Total Car Miles: 293 (7146 Ilex, Houston and return)  
 " Foot " : 5  
 Bolivar Ferry : 3.2 miles  
 Extent of Route Covered: 60 air miles, from jct. F. M. 1985 and Rt. 124 (SE Chambers County) To San Luis Pass bridge (W. tip of Galveston I.)  
 Weather: Clear until about 9 AM then partly cloudy or overcast.  
 Temperatures: Houston 81°F at 4 AM (88% humidity)  
 94°F at 11:30 AM  
 Galveston 83 to 90°F.

Essential (Expected) Species Missed

\*Key species which should not have been missed.

White Pelican (didn't visit Battlegrounds)	
Frigatebird (13-mi. Rd. Aug. 11, 5 to 8 PM)	
*Least Bittern (seen at Anahuac Refuge just prior to arrival of Party "A")	
American Bittern	
Stilt Sandpiper	Chat
Avocet (didn't visit Battlegrounds)	Redstart
Common Tern	*Common Grackle
Hairy Woodpecker	*Indigo Bunting
*Wood Thrush	*Painted Bunting
Kentucky Warbler	*Dickcissel
*Yellowthroat	*Lark Sparrow

Bonus (Unexpected) Species Recorded

Yellow-crowned Night Heron	Piping Plover
Fulvous Tree Duck	Great Horned Owl
Lesser Scaup	Canada Warbler
Ruddy Duck	

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We were very sorry that Arlie McKay's July list for the Clearing House was not received before the Spoonbill went to press. We are including it below:

Heron, Green: (1) 5, (2) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Nightheron, Black-crowned: (1-3) 2, 5, 14, Cove, AKM.  
 Yellow-crowned: (1) 2, 5, Cove, AKM.  
 Stork, Wood: (115+) 14, (15+) 16, (20+) 20, (3) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Ibis, White-faced: (2) 2, 5, (40+) 14, (11+) 20, Cove, AKM.  
 White: (200+) 14, (10+) 20, Cove, AKM.  
 Spoonbill, Roseate: (4-11) 5, 20, 27, (24) 14, Cove, AKM.  
 Duck, Mottled: (4) 5, (5) 13, (13) 14, Cove, AKM.  
 Rail, King: (1) 20, Cove, AKM.  
 Coot, American: (7) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Yellowlegs, Greater: (1) 5, (2) 16, (16) 25, Cove, AKM.  
 Lesser : (1) 5, (1) 27, (10-30) 11, 14, 16, Cove, AKM.  
 Willett: (2) 16, Cove, AKM.  
 Dowitcher (sp.): (5) 14, (1) 16, Cove, AKM.  
 Tern, Gull-billed: (1) 16, Cove, AKM.  
 Black: (75+) 27, (14-25) 13, 16, 30, (1) 7 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Caspian (nc.) 5, Cove, AKM.  
 Skimmer, Black: (20+) 14, (2) 23, Cove, AKM.  
 Owl, Great Horned: (1) 12, 13, Cove, AKM.  
 Hummingbird (sp.): (5) 27, (1) 28, Cove, AKM.  
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: (1) 4, Cove, AKM.  
 Red-headed: (1) 23, (5+) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Kingbird, Eastern: (1) 6 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Flycatcher, Empid. sp.: (1) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Wood Pewee, Eastern: (1) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 SWALLOW, BANK: (4) 21, Cove, AKM.  
 CLIFF: (1) 8, Cove, AKM.  
 Chickadee, Carolina: (1) 3, (2) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Titmouse, Tufted: (2) 11, Cove, AKM.

Warbler, Pine: (1+) 27, Cove, AKM.  
Oriole, Orchard: (20+) 16, (4) 24, (5-15) 25, 27, Cove, AKM.  
Grackle, Common: (1) 6, (5) 14, (4) 24, 27, Cove, AKM.  
Tanager, Summer: (1) 27, Cove, AKM.  
Dickcissal: (1-3) 6 days, Cove, AKM.

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August, 1968 Clearing House:

Grebe, Pied-billed: (1-4) 5 days, Cove, AKM.  
Pelican, White: (114) 17, Kemah, BM.  
Cormorant, Olivaceous: (1) 30, Anahuac Refuge, AKM.  
Frigatebird, Magnificent: (1 immature) 11, Galveston West Beach at 13 mi. road, NP.  
Heron, Green: (1) 19, (2) 28, Cove, AKM.  
Nightheron, Black-crowned: (2) 12, 28, Cove, AKM.  
                    Yellow-crowned: (2-6) 18, 19, 20, 30, (13) 24, Cove, AKM.  
Stork, Wood: (20-30) 2, 19, (5) 20, (1) 24, Cove, AKM.  
Ibis, White-faced: (1) 19, Cove, AKM.  
                    White: (10+) 7, (5) 30, Cove, AKM.  
Spoonbill, Roseate: (1) 7, (10) 19, (40+) 28, Cove, AKM.  
GEESE, SNOW AND BLUE: 1 flock heard on 25th by Bazel Dutton, (1) Snow, seen by S.  
L. Griffith, reported by AKM.  
Duck, Tulvous Treeduck: (1) 20 Anahuac Refuge, Party "A" (DH only), S&LD; (7+) 30,  
Anahuac Refuge, AKM.  
                    Mottled: (2-12) 6 days, (35-44) 20, 27 and 30, Cove, AKM.  
                    PINTAIL: (1 flock) 3 weeks reported by Douglas Myres to AKM.  
Teal, Blue-winged: (14) 12, (3) 18, (8) 19, Cove, AKM.  
Scaup, Lesser: (1 female) 20, Galveston (Ruddy Duck Pond east of Sweetwater Lake)  
Party "A".  
Hawk, Red-shouldered: (1) 19, 28, Cove, AKM.  
                    Marsh: (1) 20, Anahuac Refuge, S&LD.  
                    Sparrow: (4) 30, Cove, AKM.  
Rail, King: (1) 17, Cove, AKM.  
Gallinule, Common: (1, +5+ immatures) 3, 5, (4) 18, (9) 19, (12) 28, (16) 30, Cove, AKM.  
Coot, American: (10) 12, Cove, AKM.  
Oystercatcher, American: (4) 20, Galveston (West Bay north of Anderson Ways Rd.) Party  
"A".  
Plover, Piping: (2) 20, Bolivar Peninsula (beach west of "Dump Road" - F. M. 2612)  
and Galveston (San Luis Pass), Party "A".  
Curlew, Long-billed: (2) 18, 19, Cove, AKM.  
Plover, Upland: (1) 8, 27, 28 and 31, Cove, AKM.  
Sandpiper, Spotted: (1) 3, 7, (3) 12, (2) 19, Cove, AKM.  
                    Solitary: (1) 10, 18, 26, White Oak Bayou south of West 18th Street, BM  
Willet: (2) 28, Cove, AKM.  
Yellowlegs, Lesser: (8) 2, (4) 3, 12, Cove, AKM.  
Sandpiper, Pectoral: (1-10) 7 days, Cove, AKM.  
                    Least: (nc.) 6 days, Cove, AKM.  
Dowitcher (sp.): (1) 18, 19, Cove, AKM.  
Sandpiper, Western: (nc.) 30, Cove, AKM.  
                    Buff-breasted: (16) 18, (26) 29, Cove, AKM.  
Gull, Herring: (1) 17, 23, Kemah, BM.  
Tern, Royal: (nc.) 28, Cove, AKM.  
                    Caspian: (2) 12, (1) 28, Cove, AKM.  
                    Black: (1-20) 18 days, (30+) 19, Cove, AKM.  
Skimmer, Black: (2) 23, Cove, AKM.  
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: (1) 10, 27, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Owl, Great Horned: (1-2 same?) 20, 21, 22, Cove, AKM.  
Hummingbird: (1 sp.) 7 days, Cove, AKM; (2 or more) 18 through 31, Eureka Junction, BM  
Ruby-throated: (1) 9, 13, 17, 28, 31, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Black-chinned (probable): (1) 15, 16, (back was green, belly white, bill black,  
entire head and throat appeared black, purple at lower throat) Eureka Junction,  
BM.  
BLUE-THROATED: (1) 18, 19, 20, (twice the size of a Ruby-throat, back green,  
throat dark, large white area on tail), Eureka Junction, BM.  
Woodpecker, Red-bellied: (1) 27, Cove, AKM.  
                    Red-headed: (1 or 2) 12 days during month, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Kingbird, Eastern: (1-3) 13 days, (5) 20, Cove, AKM; (5) 2, (2) 7, 8, 14, 15, Eureka  
Junction, BM.  
Flycatcher, Great Crested: (1) 24, 27, 29, 30 and 31, Eureka Junction, BM.  
                    Empid. sp.: (1) 12, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Wood Pewee, Eastern: (1) 19, Cove, AKM.

Flycatcher, Olive-sided: (1) 28, Cove, AKM; (1) 18, 23, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Martin, Purple: (dozens) 14 through 21, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: (2) 15, 18 through 26, Eureka Junction, BM; (20+) 24, (1) 29, Cove, AKM.  
Starling: (2) ten days during month, Eureka Junction, BM.  
Vireo, Yellow-throated: (1) 28, Eureka Junction, BM.  
OVENBIRD: (1) 11, Eureka Junction, BM  
Warbler, Canada: (1) 20, High Island (Brannan's Woods), Party "A"; (1) 31, Eureka Junc. BM.  
Cowbird, Brown-headed: (1) 22, (with family of Cardinals), Eureka Junction, BM.  
Dickcissal: (2) 3, (1) 5, 12, 17, Cove, AKM.

Contributors to Clearing House:

Party "A"	Dan Hardy, Noel and Mark Pettingell, Steve Williams.
S&LD	Sharon and Levy Davis.
BM	Bill McClure.
AKM	Arlie McKay
NP	Noel Pettingell

Clearing House Notes:

Persistence has paid off! The Hard-Luck Cardinals reported in the July Spoonbill showed up in my yard during the second week of August with three fledgling Cardinals. - Bill McClure

Russ Clapper has sent in the following information, regarding his observations at Anahuac Refuge during the month of August:

1 American Bittern present mid-July and Mid-August, Shoveller Pond. Brood of 5 Blue-winged Teals, one-third grown 8-15-68 northeast of Salt Cedars. Brood of 5 Blue-winged Teals, half grown 8-16-68 southwest of Salt Cedars. Two Long-billed Curlews with two Marbled Godwits, all feeding together 8-28-68 on one day old burn extreme southeast corner of refuge. Two red wolves !!!! southeast center on 8-28-68 at 7:00 A. M.

COMING EVENTS:

- Thursday, October 3: Regular OG Meeting, Downtown Recreation Center, 7:30 P. M. Program: A showing of slides by Miss Marilyn Crane, one of our new members who has moved to Houston from Corpus Christi. She will show approximately 133 species of birds organized according to family groups, the title BIRDS OF TEXAS.
- Tuesday, October 8: Regular ONC Meeting, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, 8:00 P. M. Program: "Oddities from a Reporter's Scrapbook" by Louis E. Hofferbert.
- Sunday, October 13: Regular Field Trip ONC. The Sierra Club Trail. Leader: Brahman Wilkin. Details in next Nature Notes.
- Saturday, October 26: It was stated in the last Spoonbill that a pelagic trip from Galveston was being arranged for, but David Marrack, who has worked very hard trying to accomplish this, states that the cost of a boat would be prohibitive. Anyone know of a "philanthropist" who would be willing to donate his yacht to the OG Group?? Anyway, a very interesting field trip has been scheduled for the 26th, the leader to be Russ Clapper, the Manager of the Anahuac Wildlife Refuge, embracing the Refuge and surrounding area. Meet at 8:00 A. M. at the intersection of Routes 61, 65 and 562, south of Highway 10 and approximately 3 miles east of the town of Anahuac. (See Humble Houston area map)

OFFICERS:

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Chairman: Mr. Wallace C. Mebane, Jr., 7106 Mobud, Houston, Texas 77036  
Vice-Chairman: Dr. John Tveten, 512 Inwood Drive, Baytown, Texas 77520  
Secretary: Mrs. Bill (Katrina) Ladwig, 3303 Sunset Blvd., Houston, Texas 77005  
Treasurer: Miss Sarah Gordon, 1746 Wroxtton Court, Houston, Texas 77005  
Field Trip Chairman: Dr. David Marrack, 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, Texas 77401  
Program Chairman: Mrs. Daniel T. (Marian) Washburn, 2101 59th St., Galveston, Texas  
Co-Editors of The Spoonbill: Mr. and Mrs. Ewell C. Bradley (Julia), #3 Briarway, Houston, Texas 77027

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