



THE SPOONBILL

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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WESTERN STATES STANDBY FOR SANDHILL CRANE ALERT from the Department of the Interior

Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's Regional Director William T. Krummes, Albuquerque, New Mexico, reported today 103 greater sandhill cranes carrying varying combinations of plastic markers to improve knowledge of their movements will soon start their southward migration. The marking is the result of cooperative studies conducted by two graduate students working on Grays Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Idaho, and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon.

"Sightings of these birds will help biologists discern the exact migration and wintering areas to give them special attention," said Krummes.

Grays Lake birds are marked above the ankle joint with 2 1/4" square green, orange, yellow or red plastic markers. Thirty-one of 46 cranes marked at Malheur are banded with 1 1/2" brightly colored plastic bands placed above the conventional metal bands more commonly used on birds. In addition, all Malheur birds are carrying colored plastic streamers 1 1/2" wide and 4" long attached to the metal bands. Twenty-five Malheur birds are dyed green.

"Anyone sighting birds so marked is urged to write the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P. O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103, stating date and place of sighting and nature of the markers.

The greater sandhill crane, which stands over three feet tall, is officially listed as a rare bird by the Bureau. It has two close relatives, the endangered whooping crane and more common lesser sandhill crane which it closely resembles. Greater sandhill cranes mingle with the smaller lesser sandhill cranes in migration and wintering areas. Separation is difficult, even for trained biologists. Since the greater sandhill crane is a species requiring special management, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife is anxious to learn more of the migratory and wintering habitats.

MASKED DUCK - ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE by Dirk Hagemeyer

This is the third consecutive year that the Masked Duck has been a resident on Shoveler Pond on the Anahuac Refuge. This is probably also the third year in a row that they nested on Shoveler Pond. In the fall of 1968 3 Masked Duck were seen on Shoveler Pond. At that time these were believed to be immature birds, however they were always at too large a distance to be certain. This year however, like in the fall of 1967, there is no question.

Was I surprised when Noel Pettingell informed me on the evening of October 26, 1969 that he and Vic Emanuel had sighted 8 young and 1 adult Masked Duck in the N.W. corner of Shoveller Pond that same afternoon. They estimated the ducklings to be about 2 weeks old. I was surprised, even though I had expected the brood. Earlier, in August and September, a drake and hen had been seen in the same corner. But no sightings at all after September 4th.

The following is a resume of some of the sightings that I know of:

August 20. - A beautiful MALE Masked Duck was sighted by Fred Abshier at the N.W. corner of Shoveller Pond.

August 21. - Fred showed the male to Russ Clapper. They also saw a female on this day.

- August 24. - Russ Clapper again saw the male and female. They were together, the female in full view, the male partly hidden.
- August 31. - I had a very short glimpse of the male. After a wait of several hours at the NW corner of Shoveller Pond a Masked Duck was sighted in the air about 300 feet away. It flew up out of the grass and alighted about 50 feet further. The white wing patches were clearly visible. Next, just for a few seconds, the duck raised itself flapping its wings. It was then that the coal black head and the back a very rich reddish brown could be seen. Unmistakeably a DRAKE.
- September 4. - The last date that I know of that the adult birds were seen until the sighting by Noel Pettingell and Vic Emanuel.
- October 26-8. - ducklings and a hen seen by Noel, Vic and others.
- October 27. - 8 ducklings and hen seen by R. W. Clapper, Fred Abshier, Nesbitt and Thomas, all refuge personnel.
- October 28. - Margaret Anderson, Jerry Baker and Norma Oates observed the 8 young and adult for an extended period. They believe that the ducklings were of different sizes, which would suggest different broods.
- October 29-31. - Only groups of 2, 3, or 4 immature birds were seen by refuge personnel at any one time.
- November 1. - Immatures seen by Travis County Audubon Society members and other visitors to the refuge, including myself. When I arrived 3 immature Masked Duck moved out of the weeds into open water and actually approached my car. The same was observed later in the day when a station wagon drove up and stopped in the corner. The ducklings again came out of hiding as if to show themselves. They did not appear to have any fear of cars, as a matter of fact cars seemed to interest them. The same 3 ducklings were seen feeding, preening and resting for about 5 hours. Comparing photographs with those taken 2 years ago, I estimate them to be 3-3½ weeks old. The rumps are still downy, and have the whitish round spot. The white wing patches are already visible, but the primaries are still lacking. They had their black stiff tail feathers. At one time they approached me to within 20 feet (when the station wagon pulled up) and right there in front of me whistled softly "pee, pee, pee, " for about 30 seconds. When I left the refuge they had moved about 1000 feet South of the N. W. corner and were at the first old board walk.
- November 8. - Sightings have become rarer. I could not find any on this date. However toward dusk Russel Clapper saw one Masked Duck in the N.E. corner of Shoveller Pond. He again had sightings in the same corner a few days later.
- November 16. - I had 3 sightings, at three different places, all of which were near the N.E. corner. The first sighting was along the new road, about 300 feet from the N.E. corner. This was at 11 a.m. The second sighting was at 1:30 p.m. about 2000 feet West of that corner, and the third sighting at about 4:00 p.m. was in the ditch on the outside of Shoveller Pond. This was about 100 feet East from the N.E. corner. At 11 a.m. the duck was seen for about one hour. It was feeding when first noticed. It spent from 23-27 seconds below the surface and from 9-12 seconds on top. While preening about 100 feet away, it stretched and flapped its wings. These were fully grown, the dark primaries were distinctly visible, even later when the duck was resting. I believe that this was an adult Masked Duck.

These are my last sightings and the last that I know of. The brood or broods in some ways behaved similar to those seen in October - November 1967. However the adults left the young much sooner and the latter for some reason or another scattered at a much earlier date after they were hatched. The interesting fact is the now more probable looking northward extension of its range by the Masked Duck and its return to the same locality. I have been told that other species also extend their range more to the north. Does this mean that our climate is changing and that our feathered friends are more aware of this? What other reasons might they have to extend their range.

SUPER SOFT IRON SHOT TO STOP DUCK POISONING from Texas Parks & Wildlife Notes

When dabbling ducks, such as mallards and pintails ingest spent shot from hunter's shotgun shells they contract lead poison which often results in death.

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institution (SAAMI) is sponsoring a project at the Illinois Institute of Technology to solve the problem.

After exploring several areas, such as additives which would make lead non-toxic, and coated shot, the group decided that iron shot would be the best answer even though there were many problems.

Even though iron is plentiful and relatively inexpensive, uniformly round iron shot is almost impossible to manufacture and, once manufactured, will "scar" shotgun barrels.

Super soft iron, coated with graphite or aluminum wire and processed into shot, was tried and satisfied researchers as having almost identical "killing effectiveness" as lead shot when used under 50 yards. Basic information is still being evaluated, with results to be released in several months.

SAAMI indicates that an economical manufacturing process must still be found and the end product must be accepted and used by the waterfowl hunting public before the lead-poisoned-duck problem can be solved.

MARKED FULVOUS TREE DUCKS

We received the following letter from the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife of the U. S. Department of the Interior in Victoria:

Fulvous Tree Ducks were marked with colored nasal discs and released in three southeast Texas counties this year to obtain information needed on their movements in relation to a pesticide study. There was a total of 97 birds marked. At the Fulvous Tree Duck nesting colony near El Campo, Wharton County, 36 birds were marked with yellow nasal discs; 25 with numbered discs and 11 with unnumbered discs on July 30 and September 4. At Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge 41 birds were marked on August 21, 28 with white numbered discs and 13 with red numbered discs. On September 3 20 birds were marked with green unnumbered nasal discs at Iowa Colony, Brazoria County. Each bird was also marked with a numbered plastic leg band the same color as its nasal disc. The young birds were approximately 3 and one-half months old when released.

Marking consisted of threading two 5/8 inch plastic nasal discs to a beaded strand of monofilament fish line inserted through the opening between the nares. In other marking studies with ducks, nasal discs persisted for two years without handicapping birds.

Your help in providing us with any of the following information on sightings of these marked birds would be most appreciated.

- 1) Number of marked Fulvous Tree Ducks seen and color of nasal discs
- 2) Numbers of nasal discs, if possible
- 3) Number of unmarked Fulvous Tree Ducks with marked birds
- 4) Any unusual social behavior or activity of marked birds
- 5) Any definition of the relative use of an area by marked birds, such as feeding, resting and time spent there

Thank you for your help.

Edward L. Flickinger
Wildlife Research Biologist

Information should be mailed to Pesticide-Wildlife Research Station
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife
P. O. Box 2506
Victoria, Texas 77901

OF NOTE FROM THE BAYSHORE by Linda Snyder

Allen's Hummingbird (Oct. 10 and 11) returned to my feeders but didn't stay. Unfortunately the Bottle-brush (which primarily attracted him last November) wasn't in bloom. This hummer was a fully rufous adult male, except for the green upper back and probably my winter resident (Nov. , 1968-April, 1969).

RLEFFER'S (RUFIOUS-TAILED) HUMMINGBIRD Nov. 11 and 12) This strange visitor first startled me by coming out of the fog to my feeders the morning of Nov. 11, feeding several times, then disappearing. I did get to see it very well (10 feet) from the front, noting the emerald green throat area, pale gray belly and longish, red man-

dibles with dusky tips; and from the back, noting the rich chestnut tail and rump, the rufous flanks and the deep green back. This hummer was medium large (about 4 inches) in size, appeared ^{dark} from a distance and had a strong tick or click note as it approached the feeders. I hunted for it all that day but didn't see it again until the next morning. Then it started feeding regularly, staying the whole day. All the field marks were studied and rechecked in good light from all angles. I separated this bird from a female Berylline by the longer, reddish bill (both mandibles), rufous (not bronze) flanks, pale gray belly, and longer, more chestnutty (only dark near tips) tail. The Buff-bellied was eliminated by the pale gray (light) belly. I sent word out, especially for photographers, but only John and Gloria Tveten (sans camera) got to see it before the final disappearing act. I think John has some good confirmation on this Amazilia tzacatl, as he saw many the species on a recent Mexican trip. I hope we'll hear more from him on that subject.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL (Nov. 28 and 29, Dec. 4), Texas City dike. I was taking some Californians birding when I first saw this sooty-mantled gull out on the end of a sandspit. We walked out on the spit for a closer view (with scope and binoculars), eventually getting to within 50-60 feet. With their first good views the California couple kept reiterating "don't know what it is, but it isn't a Western Gull." Well, of course, I knew it wasn't a Western Gull from the general configuration—the size, coloration and bill, but I was glad to hear them say so too. We kept trying to see the leg color, but such was rather indeterminate, for sometimes the legs appeared yellow, while, at other times, just pallid. The light was terrible, for on this dark, cold, windy day even the Ring-bill's legs looked pallid. Only once, as the gull was wading out of shallow water, did I see the good yellow of the webs and lower shanks. The gull was very skittish, leading us around for hours with no better results. Thus I went back the next morning to recheck, meeting Margaret Anderson, whom I had notified, and her son, Robert. Together we chased the gull around, checking all marks, and finally seeing the yellow toes and shanks, again as the bird was wading out of the water onto the sand spit. Convinced that this was a Lesser Black-backed Gull (very probably the adult winter version of our March bird), I put it on Bird Call. Again, I felt impelled to return to study the gull, this time in the company of Norma Oates and Margaret Anderson. We concentrated on the gull at 100 feet, noting the size, general coloration, eyes, bill and legs. Again we only got pallid legs. It wasn't until the gull flew to the muddy shore that the yellow feet showed up. I finally figured out why the leg color was so indeterminate—I think the gull had a "winter bloom" on the legs, dulling the color, which only showed up well when the gull was walking away, or the legs were extended out into direct light or were wet. I saw a similar bloom on a few of the Western Gulls, only this was a gray bloom dulling their rosy-pink leg color to a bluish or purplish shade. I am only talking about the leg color because it is so uppermost in some people's minds. Actually the leg color is relatively unimportant for there are much more important diagnostic aspects that say this slaty-mantled gull is not a Western Gull in any shape or form (Californian or Mexican), but a Lesser Black-backed Gull in adult winter plumage.

Description, as seen by all above mentioned:

General configuration—not as heavy or as lordly as Western

Size—slightly smaller than Herring Gull (adult and Immature)

Mantle—very slaty, probably Scandinavian race

Body and tail—white

Head—very dusky white with dusky areas concentrated on top of head, back of neck and near eye. The adult Western Gull has a pure white head at all seasons.

Eye—light ivory with distinct dark ring

Bill—pale yellow with large red spot near tip of lower mandible; not heavy, moderate in size; lower mandible, straight and relatively narrow to tip. No hump or thickening towards tip as in Western Gull.

Feet (shanks and toes)—pallid-yellow only shows when legs are extended into direct light or are wet.

Ruby-crowned Kinglet acting like a hummer. This kinglet hovers at my feeders sipping sugar solution!

Golden-crowned Kinglet and Pine Siskin—common since early and mid-November.

TRAVIS COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD TRIP

We had a very nice letter from Mrs. Pearl Eakins, who was with the Travis County Audubon Society on their field trip to the Anahuac Refuge and Galveston Nov. 1 & 2. Mrs. Eakins reported that "every person got at least one lifer and Bob and I each

got eight. In total on the trip the group saw 117 birds, many of which were really spectacular. On the rail trip, which we all enjoyed, we flushed five Virginia Rails countless times and eight Short-eared Owls put on a wonderful show for us. Of course the Seaside Sparrows and Marsh Wrens flushed endlessly during the two hour trip."

SURVEY OF ROOSTING BLACKBIRDS AND STARLINGS

The Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife Of the U. S. Department of the Interior is making a nationwide winter survey of roosting blackbirds (all varieties) and starlings. They hope to make as complete a survey as possible and are interested in roosts ranging from a few starlings to several million blackbirds and starlings in a large marsh. No roost is too small to report. If you know of such a place in Harris County or vicinity please contact Mrs. Norma C. Oates at 668-6140.

RINGED KINGFISHER AT FALCON DAM NOV. 28, 1969 by Noel Pettingell

Birders wishing to add the Ringed Kingfisher to their life lists have the best chance of doing so in the vicinity of Falcon Dam between Laredo and Brownsville on the Texas side of the Rio Grande. At least one pair of this species is resident in this area (from the dam site to about 12 miles below), having been here since 1966, although not known to be nesting.

Since it had been raining for several days prior to my visit to Falcon, I decided against trying to reach the Rio Grande at several favored points below the dam (Chapena, Salinero, Fronton) because of muddy road conditions. Birders failing to find the Ringed Kingfisher at the dam are therefore advised to try the other sites during dry periods only. In any case the dam should be visited first as it is easiest to reach via hard-surfaced road. Here are the detailed directions to the Falcon Dam site:

- 1) From U. S. 83 take F. M. 2098 (from either Laredo or Rio Grande City) to Falcon Heights and thence to Customs Building at U.S. end of dam.
- 2) Proceed along top of dam 1.2 miles from Customs Building to tower overlooking locks and another .3 mile to road on left (i.e., 1.5 miles west of U.S. Customs Building) leading down from top of dam.
- 3) Follow road from top of dam and make sharp left to parking area at Falcon Power Plant, U.S. Unit, a distance of .5 mile.
- 4) Drive or walk via gravel road leading down from power plant to park and sign on right as follows: "NOTICE-This area closed to public from 10 pm to 8 am."
- 5) Follow foot path on left through gate with following sign: WARNING-When alarm is sounded vacate channel immediately.
- 6) Proceed along foot path alongside channel leading away from dam. Note: Channel entirely within U.S.

Shortly after my arrival at the channel a Belted Kingfisher flew by, calling, followed a few minutes later (1:55 PM) by the Ringed Kingfisher, also calling (it never landed but circled over the channel again at 2:05 PM). Peterson's Texas Guide, p. 143, describes the call as a "rusty 'cla-ack' or 'wa-ak'" (according to Fred Webster) whereas it sounded more like "chet-up ! chet-up !" to me. It also uttered a loud rattle, deeper and not as rapid as the Belted. I didn't find the Green Kingfisher, which has also been seen in this area, but considered myself extremely lucky to have seen the Ringed in so short a time and during a lull in the rains which fell throughout the five days I was away from Houston.

BENEFIT SHOW FOR LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY

"The Vanishing Prairie," a Walt Disney color-sound production, will be shown Monday, January 26, at 8:00 PM in the Home Builders' Auditorium, 2710 West Alabama. The donation for this year's special show will be for benefit of the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. "The Vanishing Prairie" relates the story of the great American prairie, the vanishing wildlife of the American scene, bringing intimate stories of birds and animals almost extinct. The antelope, prairie dog, bighorn sheep, cougar, buffalo and a variety of other creatures who once found an abundant life in their prairie home are starred in lavish splendor. Bring your friends and children. This a wonderful movie for all ages and is for a worthwhile cause.

MORE ON DARK-BACKED GULL AT TEXAS CITY DIKE VS. LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL VS. HERRING GULL by Noel Pettingell

On December 2 Norma Oates, Jerry (Mrs. Charles F.) Baker, Josephine Wilkin, Jo-

hanna Grabbe and the writer studied a slaty-backed gull from about 10:30 to 12:30 on the north side of the Texas City dike (Tropical Restaurant pier across road from Galveston County public rest rooms, .5 mile from Bay St.). We used a 20X Bausch and Lomb telescope to observe the gull at about 250 feet under excellent light (sky was clear, sun was at our backs). The dark-backed gull was about the same size as two nearby immature Herring Gulls when all 3 birds were walking (i.e., not standing with necks hunched down). All observers agreed that the dark-backed gull's legs and feet were pinkish (about the same color as Herring's and immature Ring-billed's), bill yellowish with red spot on lower mandible (and two small black marks on upper mandible), and about same size as Herring Gull's bill, iris pale and eyes completely enclosed with darkish areas, whitish forehead and front of neck, and light streaks on crown with heavier streaks and spots on back of head and sides and back of neck. The Dec. 2 bird did not appear as dark-winged nor as large as the one which was seen in the same area last March, and the rear edge of the wings were edged with white without any white spots at tips, although ends of wings appeared darker than rest of upper wings and back.

I ran across the following interesting observation of a Lesser Black-backed Gull along the coast of Maine in the fall of 1968, as published in Audubon Field Notes, Feb., 1969, pp. 19 & 20:

"The most unusual gull species reported was certainly a LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL present at Mount Desert Is., Me., Oct. 12-Nov. 21. The back was a black-gray, the legs greenish yellow, and the size somewhat smaller than the Herring Gull with a more streamlined look caused by the longer wings."

CLEARING HOUSE, November, 1969

Loon, Commons: (1-5) 8, 9, 16, 28, 29, Trinity Bay, NB.
 Grebe, Eared: (1-50) 2, 8, 9, 16, 28, 29, Trinity Bay, NB; (32+) 30, Cove, AKM;
 (3) 16, (1) 22, Anahuac Refuge, DH.
 Pied-billed: (7) 20, (1-4) 10 days, Cove, AKM.
 Pelican, White: 5 days, (500) 20, Cove, AKM.
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 5 days, (45-50) 17, 20, Cove, AKM.
 Anhinga: (1)14, 21, Cove, AKM.
 Nightheron, Black-crowned: 5 days, (40)20, Cove, AKM.
 Ibis, White-faced: (60)14, (200)17, (120)28, Cove, AKM.
 Goose, White-fronted: (100)15, (60)17, (1)22, Cove, AKM.
 Snow and Blue: (200)1, 12 more days, unusually scarce, Cove, AKM.
 Duck, Mallard: (1 to 60+)5 days, Cove, AKM.
 Mottled: (50)17, (1 to 25) 8 days, Cove, AKM.
 Gadwall: (1000)14, 22, (2 to 17)5 days, Cove, AKM.
 Pintail: (2000)17, (3 to 100+)10 days, Cove, AKM.
 Teal, Green-winged: (500)17, (4 to 200+)10 days, Cove, AKM.
 Blue-winged: (10)2, 8, (1)10, Cove, AKM.
 CINNAMON: (2 male)8, Anahuac Refuge, DH.
 Widgeon, American: (1500)17, (2 to 100+)6 days, Cove, AKM.
 Shoveler: (200)1, (2 to 100+)10 days, Cove, AKM.
 Wood: (5 male)16, Turtle Bayou, White Memorial Park, DH.
 Redhead: (1)22, Cove, AKM.
 Ring-necked: (3)14, Cove, AKM.
 Canvasback: (7 to 30)5 days, Cove, AKM.
 Scaup, Lesser: (1)14, Cove, AKM.
 Goldeneye, Common: (14)20, (6)22, Cove, AKM.
 BUFFLEHEAD: (6+) both male and female, 30, Sheldon Lake, NE; (2)8, Trinity Bay, NB; (1)16, Anahuac Refuge, DH; (50)20, (2)22, Cove, AKM.
 Ruddy: (3)9, Trinity Bay, NB; (4)1, Cove, AKM; (24+)16, 24, Anahuac Refuge, (3 Male in winter plumage) DH.
 Merganser, Hooded: (3)20, Cove, AKM.
 Red-breasted: (2)20, Cove, AKM.
 Vulture, Turkey: (35, 27 in a migrating flock)1, (1 to 5)10 days, Cove, AKM.
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: (1)4, 22, Cove, AKM; (1)27, 28, Baytown, D&DL.
 Cooper's: (1)17, 22, Cove, AKM.
 Red-tailed: (1 to 16)17 days, (40)20, (52)22, Cove, AKM.
 Harlan's: (1)20, Cove, AKM.
 Red-shouldered: (2)1, (1)4, 12, 15, 22, Cove, AKM.
 Eagle, Bald: (10)20, (1)23, Warren Lake, J&BH; (1 immature)1, Cove, AKM.
 GOLDEN: (1 immature)1, Cove, AKM. (My second record both upper and lower parts clearly observed.)
 Hawk, Marsh: (14)17, (18)20, 22, (1 to 4)12 days, Cove, AKM.

- Hawk, Sparrow: (16)17, (5)20, (17)22, Cove, AKM.
 Crane, Sandhill: (2)17, Clay Road, DHH.
 Gallinule, Common: (2)8, Cove, AKM.
 Coot, American: (2000)17,22, (150 to 400)1,14, (1 to 25)2,8,15, Cove, AKM.
 Plover, Semipalmated: (5)20, Cove, AKM.
 Black-bellied: (28)17, (5)20, (1)22, Cove, AKM.
 Turnstone, Ruddy: (4)20, Cove, AKM.
 WOODCOCK, AMERICAN: (1)14,15,17, Baytown, D&DL.
 Snipe, Common: (1 to 17)10 days, Cove, AKM.
 Curlew, Long-billed: (3)17, (1)22, Cove, AKM.
 Sandpiper, Spotted: (2)14, (1)17,22, Cove, AKM.
 Willet: (2)12, (1)17, (3)22, Cove, AKM.
 Yellowlegs, Greater: (8)17, (4)20, (1)22, Cove, AKM.
 Lesser: (3)1, (5)14, Cove, AKM.
PURPLE SANDPIPER: (1)30 Freeport Jetty with the George Venettas. A very tame and cooperative bird! LS.
 Sandpiper, Least: (NC)8 days, Cove, AKM.
 Dunlin: (3)3,17,20,22, Cove, AKM.
 Dowitcher: (1-3)4,10,22, (24)17, (15)29, Cove, AKM.
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated, (NC)20,22, Cove, AKM.
 Western, (NC)4 days, Cove, AKM.
 Godwit, Marbled: (3)18, Golf course on Stewart Rd, Galveston, D&DL.
 Sanderling: (3)20, (1)22, Cove, AKM.
 Avocet, American: (3)20, (5)22, Cove, AKM.
 Gull, Franklin's: (2)6,17, (20)12, Cove, AKM.
 Bonaparte: ((1)17, Cove, AKM.
 Dove, Inca: (2)8, Robin Lake Lane, Houston, L&WM.
 Roadrunner: (1)23, Howell-Sugarland Rd, L&WM.
 Owl, Barred: (1)14, Cove, AKM.
 Hummingbird species: (1)1,2,4, Cove, AKM.
 Ruby-throated: (1)10,21,28, Baytown, NB; (1)10,11,21, 11926 Broken Bough, Houston, MA&RM.
 Rufous: (1 female) 24 to 28, 8150 Sandhurst, back-yard shrimp plant, NE. (1-2)11 days, Baytown, NB; (1 female) 12,24,27-30, (1 male)27, Broken Bough, Houston, MA&RM; (1)13 days, Baytown, D&DL.
 Kingfisher, Belted: (1)14,15, (4)22, Cove, AKM.
 Flicker, Yellow-shafted: (8)14,17, (1-6)20 days, Cove, AKM.
 Woodpecker, Pileated: (1)14,25, Cove, AKM.
 Red-bellied: (1)14, Cove, AKM.
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: (1)12,22,28, Cove, AKM.
 Woodpecker, Downy: (1)28, Cove, AKM; (1-2)5,7,13,22, Baytown, NB.
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: (1)2,3,12, Cove, AKM.
 Phoebe, Eastern: (1)4 days, (2)17, (4)22, (3)28, Cove, AKM.
 Wood Pewee, Eastern: (1)9,10,11, Baytown, D&DL.
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: (1)14, Cove, AKM.
 Swallow, Tree: (100)14, (1-10)4 days, (15)22, Cove, AKM.
 Bank: (1 or 2)14, Cove, AKM.
 Barn: ((25)1, (2-10+)2,4,13, Cove, AKM.
 Chickadee, Carolina: (1)8, Robin Lake Lane, L&WM.
 Titmouse, Tufted: (1)28, Cove, AKM.
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted: (1)1,22,30, 10215 Chatterton, DHH; (1)5,27, Broken Bough, MA&RM; (1)8, Robin Lake Lane, L&WM.
 Brown-headed: (1)6, (came several times to birdbath),10,27, Broken Bough, MA&RM.
 Creeper, Brown: (1)28, Cove, AKM; (2)23, (1)28, Broken Bough, MA&RM.
 Wren, Winter: (1)22, Baytown, NB; (2)8, Cove, AKM; (1)2-5, 7,11,17, Broken Bough, MA&RM.
 Long-bill Marsh: (3)1, Cove, AKM.
 Short-billed Marsh: (1)17,20, Cove, AKM.
 Robins: (20)28, Cove, AKM; (15)16,27,29,30, Baytown, D&DL.
 Thrush, Hermit: (1)1,22, Cove, AKM; (1)9, Baytown, D&DL.
 Bluebird, Eastern: (2)16, Cove, AKM.
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: (5+)13,28, (1-2)3 days, Cove, AKM.
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: (1-15)6 days, 10215 Chatterton, DHH; (10)14, (1-2)22,28, Cove, AKM; (1)27, Broken Bough, MA&RM; (1)8 Robin Lake Lane, L&WM; (NC)11 days, Baytown, D&DL.
 Pipit, Water:(3)2, (35)14, (20)17, (1-6)4 days, Cove, AKM.
 Sprague's: (6)30, Brazoria Refuge, LS.
 Vireo, Solitary: (2) 28, Cove, AKM, (2) 23, Broken Bough, MA&RM

Warbler, Orange-crowned: (1) 4, 25, 26, Baytown NB, (1) 8, (2) 22, (4) 28, Cove
AKM, (1) 24, 27, Broken Bough, MA&RM
Myrtle: (1) 5, 6, 8, 13, 25, Baytown, NB, (1) 28-30 (comes to feeder)
Broken Bough MA&RM, (1-10) 9 days, Baytown D&DL
Yellow-throated: (1) 6, Broken Bough MA&RM
Pine: (1) 14 (2) 22, (10+) 28, Cove, AKM, (1) 27, 30 (came several
times to feeder containing bread crumb mixture) Broken Bough
MA&RM
Palm: (1) 20, Cove, AKM
Yellowthroat: (2) 8, (1) 15, (3) 17, Cove AKM
BLACKBIRD, RUSTY: (2) 14, Cove, AKM
DICKCISSEL: (1) 20, Cove, AKM, (1) 6 days, Baytown, D&DL
Finch, Purple: (1) 29, 30, Baytown, D&DL
SISKIN, PINE: (2) 25, (1) 29, 30, Baytown, NB, (1) 30, Baytown, D&DL
Goldfinch, American: (1) 25, Baytown, NB, (25) 14, (5) 20, (15) 22, (60) 28,
Cove, AKM
Towhee (sp): (1) 22, Cove, AKM
Towhee, Rufous-sided: (1) 29, 30, Baytown, D&DL
Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: (2) 20, Cove, AKM
Seaside: (2) 17, (3) 20, Cove, AKM
Field: (1) 1, 14, 22, Cove, AKM
White-crowned: (10) 17, 22, Cove, AKM
White-throated: (1) 8, Robin Lake Lane, L&WM
Lincoln's: (1) 22, Cove, AKM
Swamp: (1) 1, 8, 15, (17+) 14, (2) 20, Cove, AKM

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES:

I saw two partly albino Redwings in one feeding flock. One had a little white in each wing. The other was beautifully patterned, body, head and wings. Seen three times, but not well.

Philip Dutton killed a small goose Oct. 31, 1969. His father Bassil is an old hunter. They insist that it was a Richardson's-type Canada Goose smaller than a Mallard, nearer the size of a Pintail. Their description lead me to believe it was a Brant because Philip said he heard it honk. It did not have the white throat patch, only a few white feathers on neck. Looked somewhat like a young Blue Goose, but did not call like one. I wish very much I could have seen it. I have never seen a Brant or heard of one in this area. It had the short stubby bill of the Lesser Canada Goose type, quite unlike a Blue Goose.
Arlie K. McKay

A small flock of Cedar Waxwings was seen in Houston on December 1, 1969, by Lyvonda Mebane.

Eagle, Bald: 2 mature birds in good adult plumage and 8 immatures seen at one time. Eagles were all on the ground at once (edge of lake) - then seen soaring above. Immatures varied in white mottling, also white in wing linings and base of tail.

Jean Harwell

COMING EVENTS

- December 27 Last reminder of the Christmas count. The area to be covered is divided into 10 sections, and plenty of help is needed to cover the territory thoroughly. Anyone interested in taking part who hasn't already made plans to assist, contact Wallace Mebane at his office, 224-5541, or home, 774-9435. All taking part will meet after dark at Youngblood's Restaurant, corner of East Texas and Highway 146 in Baytown to eat and assemble results of the count.
- January 18 ONC field trip to Anahuac Refuge. This will be "birding in Chambers County, led by Linda Snyder. See the January Nature Club Notes for details.

OFFICERS:

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Outdoor Nature Club
(Ornithology Group)
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