

VOLUME 42, No. 4
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The Spoonbill

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, May 3: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. 7:00 p.m. Harris County Bayland Community Park located on the north side of Bissonnet just west of Hillcroft. OG member, Marilyn Crane, will present a program about the birds of Australia where she traveled extensively last year. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Marilyn is a retired geologist who has been an OG member since 1968 and served a two-year term as chairperson in the 1970's. She is actively involved in censusing at Attwater Prairie-chicken NWR and other area parks and participates in several Christmas counts each year. Remember our new meeting times: 6:30 p.m. for Learning Corner with the general meeting following at 7:00 p.m. At Learning Corner Don Richardson will discuss identifying the birds of Brazos Bend by their calls. This will be our final meeting before our summer break. The next OG meeting will be Monday, August 2nd.

Saturday, May 8: OG FIELD TRIP TO JONES STATE FOREST for birds and dragonflies/damselflies. Leader: Bob Honig. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Jones State Forest. We will spend the early morning hours birdwatching, looking for Piney Woods specialties such as Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Brown-headed Nuthatch. This will also be a good opportunity to become more familiar with some of the songs and calls of east Texas birds. Later in the morning we will study the abundant damselflies and dragonflies at the ponds. (You may want to pick up copies of Sid Dunkle's excellent field guides to Florida dragonflies and damselflies.) The trip should end by early afternoon. To reach Jones State Forest, take I-45 north from Houston, past The Woodlands and exit FM 1488. Go west on 1488 (toward Magnolia) for approximately 2.5 miles and turn left onto a dirt road and park--this road is the western boundary of Jones State Forest. (Landmark: you will pass the headquarters of Jones State Forest on your right about 1.4 miles west of I-45.) Those who wish to sleep late and join us only for the

dragonfly and damselfly observation should meet up with the group at 10:00 a.m. at the meeting place described above.

Saturday, May 15: OG FIELD TRIP TO EAST TEXAS in search of typical Piney Woods birds. An effort will be made to locate Bachman's Sparrow and Prairie Warbler, however both birds are difficult to locate. Over the years this has proven to be an excellent trip. Meet our leaders, Royce Pendergast and John Whittle at 7:30 a.m. at the intersection of FM 1122 and Highway 92 just north of Silsbee. Please be on time. The trip will conclude around 1:00 p.m. Direct any questions you may have to Royce at 1-409-886-7504.

Wednesday, May 19: OG WEEKDAY FIELD TRIP TO GALVESTON ISLAND. We'll be covering several areas of the island for shorebirds and passerines and expect to see both migrants and summer residents. This was a great trip last year! Meet Gail Luckner and Winnie Burkett at 8:00 a.m. where Seawall Blvd. ends at the extreme east end of Galveston Island. Bring insect repellent and scopes and plan to bird until early afternoon. Call Gail for more information...328-6236.

Saturday, June 5: OG FIELD TRIP AND 4th ANNUAL POTLUCK PICNIC AT BRAZOS BEND STATE PARK. Meet the oldtimers and newcomers at our 4th Annual OG End-of-the-Year Potluck Picnic. Meet at the park headquarters at 7:30 a.m. for a half day of enjoying some of our local nesting birds. At noon we will put down our binoculars and pick up forks and knives for lunch. Bring your favorite, easy-to-make-and-serve dish to share with fellow OG members. To reach Brazos Bend State Park, follow US 59 south past the Brazos River, then follow the signs. For those without the Texas Conservation Pass, the entrance fee is \$5.00 per vehicle. Call Dave Bradford if you have questions, 855-2615.

NEWS BRIEFS

.....**MINUTES OF OG MEETING, APRIL 5, 1993:** Karen Beekman presented slides detailing bird topography for the Learning Corner.

Chairman Bob Honig opened the meeting by announcing the Purple Martin house donated to the city of Houston by the OG will be placed between the Museum of Natural Science and the Hermann Park Garden Center.

The Nominating Committee, Bob Honig, Peter Gottschling and Lynne Aldrich, presented their roster of officers for 1993-1994: David Bradford, Chairman; Gail Luckner, Vice-Chair; Mike Gremillion, Treasurer; and Maggie Dinse, Secretary. The slate of officers was elected unanimously. Steven Bennett is the new Program Chairman. A membership chairperson is still needed.

In response to Bob's request for notable bird sightings, Cerulean Warbler was reported at High Island and Kempner Park; Pyrrhuloxia at Davis Estate Road; Swallow-tailed Kite at High Island and Black-chinned Hummingbird in several Houston backyards.

Birds and how they use islands was the subject of Winnie Burkett's presentation for the evening. What great fortune to grow up with an Audubon warden for a father! Winnie shared her knowledge with the group as we island-hopped starting at the Farallon Islands 25 miles offshore from San Francisco. Since sea birds need very little nesting territory, 250,000 birds (12 different species) nest there. The bird list for these islands stands at 380 species as migrants are found migrating southwest instead of the normal southeast. On to the Dry Tortugas and a Sooty Tern colony where banding information indicates young terns fly to the coast of South Africa for two to three years and then travel back to the Dry Tortugas to nest. The Isle of Shoals off New Hampshire and Maine offers a migrant trap as birds use the coast as a frame of reference when migrating. Finally Winnie took us to mangrove islands and sandbars off the Florida coast. Winnie's presentation was full of fascinating information and some beautiful slides. Our thanks to Winnie for her "don't miss" program. **Christine Bourgeois, Secretary.**

.....**THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING OG MEMBERS WHO HELPED MAN THE OG table** at the ONC 70th anniversary celebration held April 4th at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center: Phil Beekman, Bert duPlessis, Patrick Baum, Bob Schwartz, Barbara Hortvet, Maggie Dinse, Dave and Dodie Bradford and Christine Bourgeois. And thanks to P.D. Hulce for having the Goshawk brought for demonstration!

.....**PLEASE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS** Evan L. Guengerich, Spring; Patricia A. Parrinello, Richwood; and Mark C. Poppendeck and Mark Bengston, Houston.

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

by Noel Pettingell
30 YEARS AGO/FROM APRIL 1963 SPOONBILL

Following the recent trip to George West, Mary Belle and I spent most of Monday, March 25, at Garner State Park. It is a very attractive park in many ways and at this season we practically had the place to ourselves. Mr. Ross Hopkins, a semi-retired park attendant, is very much interested in birds and attracts them to his back porch by shining a light at night so as to accumulate a multitude of moths, upon which the birds feed the following morning.

Two days at Prade Ranch yielded 60 species. Among the varieties were Golden-cheeked Warbler, Rock and Canyon Wren, Black Phoebe, and close looks at Cliff Swallow in and about their nests on the cliff overhanging the Frio River. Prade is a unique spot, with excellent birding and the exciting drive of several miles down the Frio Canyon, in and out of the riverbed. June Prade's interest in birds is increasing and she [said] she would give a substantial discount from regular rates to a bunch of birders.

Kerr State Park at Kerrville was also very attractive. We picked up a half a dozen Common Bushtit there. Near Boerne we saw a Roadrunner, in bright spring plumage, sitting in a tree. Near the river at Boerne we saw Pine Siskin.

At Austin, Mary Ann McClendon showed us many Golden-cheeked Warbler, but a singing Black-capped Vireo eluded us. **Frank Koresh**

ARTICLES

SUMMER PELAGIC TRIPS

On three Saturdays this summer, June 12, July 24 and August 21, T.O.S. and Texas A&M University are sponsoring three, 16-hour, 100-mile pelagic trips from the Pelican Island campus of Texas A&M in Galveston. Target birds are Band-rumped and Leach's Storm-Petrel, Bridled and Sooty Tern, Audubon's and Cory's Shearwater, Masked Booby, and Parasitic and Pomarine Jaeger.

On the Friday night before each trip, Texas A&M will hold a two-hour seminar at the Pelican Island campus, Room 109 of the Classroom and Lab Building from 7-9 p.m.

The trips will be made on the McGrail, an 80-foot air conditioned boat. Twenty participants per trip. Cost is \$125.00 per person, including meals. For reservations and information, call Ronnie Carroll at (713) 447-8457 or (409) 756-0478.

HERMANN PARK BIRDING UPDATE

1993

by P. D. Hulce

From 1984 until 1990, I worked at Miller Outdoor Theater in Hermann Park, and enjoyed nearly daily access to one of the largest parks in Houston. Since that time, I have continued to make occasional forays in the park, especially in spring and fall, when I have worked with certain performing arts groups at Miller Theater. I would like to recount here some of the great birding experiences, some of the ecological low points, and a personal opinion of the present status of the park and its avian residents.

My most personal birding memory of Hermann Park would have to be the pair of Eastern Screech-Owl that have lived inside Miller Theater since at least 1986. I have seen Otus and Odette perched on practically every ledge, lighting fixture, piece of conduit and cable in the building. In the spring, their tremulous calls often echo during rehearsals for the opera or ballet. I regularly examined their pellets to see if this week's menu included June bugs, mice or the ubiquitous House Sparrow, seemingly a favorite meal. Steve Schultz and I once found one of the owls perched right outside the theater, with an entire dead robin in its talons. One summer we discovered a parent owl with three downy young in an oak tree by the reflecting pond, where they remained every day for about a month. On one of the coldest winter mornings, we found one of the owls, inside the theater, perched on the fixture of a 150 watt light, where he (or she) stayed all day and subsequent days until warmer weather returned. As of April 15, 1993, the owls were still there and could usually be observed at about 8:00 p.m., when they would exit the building and fly directly in front of the stage to the large oak tree on the east side of the building.

Winter is my personal favorite time to bird in the park, for several reasons, not the least of which is the paucity of other people at this time. For seven years, the Grand Basin, located by the entrance to the zoo, played host to a beautiful male Greater Scaup, that I have often studied as close as 20 feet away. A few Lesser Scaup are usually also present, as well as a few other species such as Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck, Gadwall, Pied-billed Grebe, Belted Kingfisher and Caspian Tern. The Houston Zoo maintains many species of waterfowl here as well, including three or four Redhead that are present year-round and a number of Black-bellied Whistling Duck, that may have been joined by some of their wild relatives.

Another winter phenomenon at Hermann Park has been the presence of a huge flock of mixed passerines, consisting of numerous Pine Warbler, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler and occasionally a few Brown Creeper, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and in some years, a Yellow-throated Warbler or two. Several times, I have seen this flock number well over 100 individuals.

Other interesting sightings include Great Horned Owl nesting on the golf course at least three years in a row,

and a probable nesting Northern Flicker at least once. On two occasions I have seen over 120 Wood Stork circling over the Grand Basin or the bayou. In the spring of 1989, Steve and I discovered a Virginia's Warbler in the "oak canyon" around the reflecting pool. An Empidonax flycatcher was seen in this same area one January.

In previous years, one of my favorite birds in the park was the Red-headed Woodpecker. These birds would usually arrive rather late, about the first or second week of April, possibly to avoid some competition with the starlings and other woodpeckers, which begin to nest earlier. In the summer of 1984, four pair of Red-headed Woodpecker nested seven times (that I know of) within the park, and fledged out at least seven young. On one day in September of that year, Steve and I carefully counted at least 17 in the vicinity of Miller Theater and the surrounding wooded areas. Since then, there has been a steady decline of "redheads" nesting in the park, or in the adjacent areas outside of the park. In 1992, I was able to locate only one pair, attempting to nest outside the park near Hermann Drive. In 1993, despite numerous bird walks during the first two weeks of April, I was unable to locate any "redheads" and only one pair each of Red-bellied and Downy Woodpecker. There was, however, a single pair of calling Northern Flicker on Hermann Drive.

The seeming extirpation of Red-headed Woodpeckers from Hermann Park is one of the most visible results of a number of environmental problems that are, in my opinion, seriously affecting the natural quality of the park. In the mid 1980's, Southern Pine Beetles invaded the park in great numbers, for several years in a row. In one year alone, they were responsible for the destruction of approximately 300 mature pine trees just in the areas adjacent to Miller Theater. Potentially, these dead trees should have provided an excellent nesting source for all of the woodpeckers in the park, but unfortunately, such trees are anathema to a municipally-owned park. Aside from their "unsightly appearance," they present a liability hazard to the city, should a large limb or trunk fall on someone. I am not a forester, but during my seven years at Miller Theater, I personally observed that a dead pine tree will usually survive two or three years, and possibly four, before the main trunk is ready to fall naturally. If the tree is topped and the branches trimmed off, the public safety factor is greatly enhanced and the tree can still be an excellent nest site for the Red-head Woodpecker. Even if this is not possible, the redheads don't arrive in the park until mid-April. If dangerous snags could be cut by the end of March, the woodpeckers could still enjoy a reasonable rate of nesting success. During my seven-year stint in the park, I tried to work with the city forestry department to achieve this goal. Unfortunately, I met with very little success or cooperation in this regard. Even in years when I made a nuisance of myself to the forestry personnel, and they agreed to "top and trim" recently dead pine trees, they would invariably return within days or even hours and cut down these same trees, often with eggs and young in the

nest. One year they told me to mark the known nesting trees with a ring of orange spray paint, in order to spare them. Within two weeks, they returned and cut down every tree I had marked.

Increasing public usage, often with tens of thousands of people in the park at once, during the summer season, has also severely compacted the soil in many areas, which apparently eventually weakens the trees and makes them more susceptible to Pine Beetles. The same problems that confront forested areas worldwide are present in the Hermann park microcosm: too many people, loss of trees and seeming indifference of public officials. In the past three years, the city's forestry department has at least planted a number of young pine trees in one or two areas of the park, but several areas, such as the woods by the Hermann Park railroad are just a shadow of what they were only 10 years ago and the once familiar call of the Red-headed Woodpecker may have become a thing of the past in Hermann Park.

The park has seen other changes as well, such as the rental of paddle boats on the Grand Basin, with accompanying harassment and decline of water birds. Also, the opening of the Japanese Gardens to the west of the reflecting pond is a commendable project, but it now imposes a \$2.00 fee to walk and bird what was once a very nice and birdy part of the park. Few casual birdwatchers will want to pay every time they come to Hermann Park for a short birdwalk.

There are still many wild areas in the park that can have very good birding in season, such as the oak-lined jogging trail that starts by the golf course and the Chinese pagoda, and the completely wild-section across the bayou on Alameda Road. I will continue to bird the park in the future, always hoping to hear the wild call of the Red-headed Woodpecker. In April of 1956, Noel Pettingell recorded a best single day's total of 66 species of birds seen in Hermann Park. The best that Steve and I ever did was 45 species of birds in three separate one-hour walks in May. I certainly hope that this trend does not continue in the future.

UNCOMMON BIRDS OF THE UPPER TEXAS COAST

Bachman's Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*)
by P. D. Hulce

Bachman's Sparrow belongs to a genus of very plain, nondescript sparrows, best identified by range and voice. When seen well, however, it is a rather handsome, if unpatterned, species. Its underparts are a very plain, unstreaked grey color, while the crown and back are greyish-brown with rusty or rufous-brown stripes. Under less than perfect lighting conditions, the entire bird can present an overall lilac appearance, which is rather distinctive, and unlike any other sparrow likely to be found in its range. The head and face are also plain, with no distinctive auriculars or ear patch, no malar stripe and a dark eye stripe. It has a

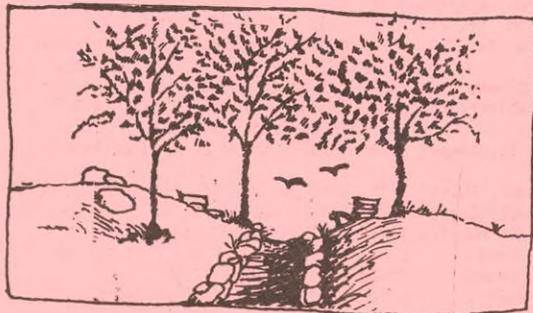
fairly large bill, with a dark upper mandible and a fairly flat head. It has a dark crown, finely streaked with rufous or rusty, and the immature may show a faint eye ring. It is a large sparrow, with a long, dark, rounded tail, and it may show a touch of yellow at the bend of the wing, although this can be difficult to see. The immature shows some streaking on the underparts. The western subspecies, *illinoensis*, is more reddish, while the southern subspecies, *aestivalis*, is much greyer.

This species is exceptionally shy and reclusive, and usually forages on the ground, often running through the thick undergrowth like a mouse. It is quite difficult to flush, almost seeming to deliberately conceal itself from an observer. During the breeding season, it will sometimes sing from a raised perch in the under-story.

Previously called the Piney Woods Sparrow, its preferred habitat is the open, dry pine woods of the south, usually with dense scrub or ground cover, palmettos and oaks. It is also found in brushy pastures with broom sedge and other grasses and scattered trees and shrubs.

In the spring, it is a beautiful songster, alternating clear whistles with varied trills and warbles. The whistles are generally loud and distinct, while the trills are slower and sweeter. Its song is often described as having an ethereal quality. It also gives a hissing call note.

Historically, Bachman's Sparrow was a rare and local breeder in Harris and Chambers counties, at the very southern and western limits of its range. However, the pressures and influences of the 20th century eventually extirpated this species from the UTC and from the late 1970's to date, there has been only one documented sighting of Bachman's Sparrow in our area. This occurred in December, 1989, when Scheuerman and Taylor discovered a single wintering individual on House and Hahl Road in west Harris County. Despite extreme skepticism concerning the identification of this bird, it was relocated January 1, 1990, on the Cypress Creek Christmas Bird Count, seen and photographed by many observers and heard singing in response to a tape of its call. This individual bird perfectly characterized the skulking, running in the grass behavior of Bachman's Sparrow, and should serve as a reminder of the difficulty of locating this species, especially in an unexpected, out-of-range location during the winter season. It is conceivable that Bachman's Sparrow will be found wintering on the UTC again, but it will take observant and knowledgeable birders to find it.



CLEARING HOUSE

March, 1993

Editors: Phyllis and Tony Frank

A total of 192 species were reported for the month. Interesting sightings this month include Glossy Ibis and early warblers. In what appears to be a lingering winter invasion, Pyrrhuloxia were reported again this month.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted reports and documentation. Reports are due by May 3rd, but early reports are welcomed. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Birds new to the checklist are capitalized and underlined. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

Loon, Common	15-28	2/24	GA-2/24
Grebe, Pied-bill	6-28	10/97	U-1/20 BR-2/29 CH-1/1
			FB-1/25 GA-4/21 JE-1/1
Gannet, Northern	6-28	3/9	U-(4)15,PS; GA-BF(4)6,WK; GA-(1)28,AAG
Pelican, Amer Wht	6-21	5/2755	U-1/50 BR-1/30 GA-3/2675
Pelican, Brown	6-21	3/192	U-1/12 GA-2/180
Corm, Dbl-crested	6-21	7/81	U-1/10 BR-1/6 CH-1/5
			FB-1/25 GA-3/35
Corm, Neotropical	6-21	6/87	U-1/35 GA-2/25 HA-1/15
			JE-2/12
Anhinga	8-21	2/11	FB-BB(10)8,PS; GA-HI(1)21,JW
Bittern, American	8-20	2/2	BR-BW(1)20,WP; FB-BB(1)8,PS
Bittern, Least	20-20	1/2	BR-BW(2)20,WP
Heron, Great Blue	6-21	8/54	U-2/18 BR-2/12 GA-3/22
			JE-1/2
Egret, Great	6-21	10/243	U-2/120 BR-2/9 CH-1/1
			GA-3/106 JE-2/7
Egret, Snowy	6-26	12/225	U-2/31 BR-2/18 CH-2/23
			GA-4/123 JE-2/30
Heron, Little Blu	6-21	7/71	U-2/24 BR-1/11 GA-2/5
			JE-2/31
Heron, Tricolored	6-21	4/11	U-2/4 GA-2/7
Egret, Reddish	15-15	1/1	U-(1)15,PS
Egret, Cattle	6-26	9/170	U-2/2 BR-2/30 CH-1/10
			GA-3/121 JE-1/7
Heron, Grn-backed	15-21	2/3	CH-AW(1)15,PS; GA-(2)21,JW
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	6-20	5/43	U-2/17 BR-2/25 GA-1/1
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	6-15	4/12	U-2/7 BR-1/2 GA-1/3
Ibis, White	6-28	8/2810	U-1/50 BR-2/91 CH-1/2500
			GA-4/169
Ibis, Glossy	21-28	2/2	GA-(1)28,AAG; JE-(1)21,JW
Ibis, White-faced	6-28	7/633	U-1/100 BR-2/117 CH-2/71
			GA-1/300 JE-1/45
Spoonbill, Roseat	6-28	10/150	U-1/6 BR-4/21 GA-4/103
			JE-1/20
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	8-15	2/60	CH-AW(40)15,PS; FB-BB(20)8,PS
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd	8-27	2/3	FB-BB(1)8,PS; WA-(2)27,DM
Goose, Gr Wht-frn	11-11	1/50	BR-(50)11,DLR
Goose, Snow	6-8	2/425	U-(400)8,PS; CH-(25)6,WK
Goose, Canada	20-20	1/25	BR-BW(25)20,WP
Duck, Wood	6-11	3/7	U-1/3 BR-1/2 JE-1/2
Teal, Green-wing	6-28	7/168	U-2/77 BR-1/4 CH-1/25
			GA-2/12 JE-1/50
Duck, Mottled	6-28	10/88	U-2/23 BR-2/21 CH-1/5
			GA-3/21 JE-2/18
Mallard	6-21	4/12	CH-1/4 GA-3/8
Pintail, Northern	6-11	2/24	BR-(4)11,DLR; CH-(20)6,WK
Teal, Blue-winged	6-28	10/365	U-2/180 BR-2/83 CH-1/2
			GA-3/85 JE-2/15
Shoveler, Northrn	6-28	7/238	U-2/106 BR-2/90 GA-2/32
			JE-1/10
Gadwall	6-28	8/175	U-2/120 BR-1/6 CH-1/1
			GA-3/47 JE-1/1
Wigeon, American	7-21	5/261	U-2/146 BR-1/10 GA-2/105
Canvasback	8-8	1/30	U-(30)8,PS
Duck, Ring-necked	8-15	2/27	U-(15)8,PS; U-(12)15,PS
Scaup, Greater	15-15	1/2	GA-(2)15,PS
Scaup, Lesser	6-21	4/64	CH-1/4 GA-1/20 JE-2/40
Merganser, Red-br	6-28	5/339	GA-5/339
Vulture, Black	8-20	4/20	U-2/10 BR-2/10
Vulture, Turkey	8-21	5/105	U-2/60 BR-2/43 GA-1/2
Kite, Blk-shouldr	6-28	7/15	U-1/3 BR-2/3 CH-1/1
			GA-3/8
Harrier, Northern	6-21	5/30	U-2/18 BR-1/5 CH-2/7
Hawk, Sharp-shin	8-15	2/2	U-(1)8,PS; U-(1)15,PS
Hawk, Cooper's	11-15	2/2	U-(1)15,PS; BR-(1)11,DLR
Hawk, Red-shouldr	8-11	2/3	U-(1)8,PS; BR-(2)11,DLR
Hawk, Broad-wingd	20-24	2/16	HA-(1)20,X; HA-(15)24,X
Hawk, Swainson's	28-31	2/2	GA-(1)28,AAG; HA-(1)31,PTF
Hawk, Red-tailed	6-21	11/86	U-2/48 BR-3/11 CH-3/22
			GA-2/3 JE-1/2
Kestrel, American	6-21	11/162	U-2/50 BR-2/11 CH-3/68
			GA-2/27 JE-2/6
Rail, Yellow	20-20	1/16	BR-BW(16)20,WP
Rail, Clapper	15-28	3/9	BR-1/4 CH-1/3 GA-1/2
Rail, King	20-20	1/2	BR-BW(2)20,WP
Rail, Virginia	20-20	1/5	BR-BW(5)20,WP
Sora	15-28	3/4	BR-1/1 CH-1/2 GA-1/1
<u>Gallinule, Purple</u>	20-20	1/1	CH-AW(1)20,PTF
Moorhen, Common	6-21	7/408	U-2/165 BR-2/222 CH-2/19
			JE-1/2
Coot, American	6-21	6/277	U-2/162 BR-2/102 CH-2/13
Crane, Sandhill	6-20	4/1292	U-1/175 BR-3/1117
Plover, Blk-belli	6-28	4/1148	U-1/25 GA-3/1123
Golden-Plover, Ls	28-28	1/30	GA-(30)28,AAG
Plover, Snowy	6-28	3/7	GA-3/7
Plover, Wilson's	6-28	3/17	GA-3/17
Plover, Semipalm	6-28	4/54	GA-4/54
Plover, Piping	6-28	4/128	GA-4/128
Killdeer	6-26	10/106	U-2/62 BR-2/26 CH-2/4
			GA-3/13 JE-1/1
Oystercatcher, Am	6-28	3/7	GA-(4)6,WK; GA-(2)15,PS; GA-(1)28,AAG
Stilt, Black-neck	6-21	5/67	U-1/4 BR-2/37 GA-2/26
Avocet, American	6-28	5/14960	U-1/400 GA-4/14560
Yellowlegs, Great	6-20	5/34	U-1/1 BR-2/13 GA-1/15
			JE-1/5
Yellowlegs, Less	6-15	3/37	U-1/2 GA-1/25 JE-1/10
Willet	6-21	5/180	U-1/4 BR-1/9 CH-1/10
			GA-2/157
Sandppr, Spotted	6-6	1/2	GA-(2)6,WK
Whimbrel	21-21	1/2	GA-YBR(2)21,JW
Curlew, Long-bill	6-28	6/37	U-2/4 BR-1/3 GA-3/30
Godwit, Marbled	6-28	4/114	U-1/1 GA-3/113
Turnstone, Ruddy	15-28	3/114	U-1/5 GA-2/109
Knot, Red	21-21	1/15	GA-BF(15)21,JW
Sanderling	6-28	4/775	U-1/40 GA-3/735
Sandppr, Semipalm	6-6	1/20	GA-(20)6,WK
Sandppr, Western	6-28	3/6800	GA-3/6800
Sandppr, Least	6-28	2/11	GA-(10)6,WK; GA-(1)28,AAG
Dunlin	6-28	4/600	U-1/10 GA-3/590
Dowitcher, S-bill	6-28	4/536	CH-1/200 GA-2/326 JE-1/10
Dowitcher, L-bill	28-28	1/20	GA-(20)28,AAG
Snipe, Common	8-20	2/31	U-(30)8,PS; BR-BW(1)20,WP
Gull, Laughing	6-20	4/1021	U-1/500 BR-1/26 GA-2/495
Gull, Bonaparte's	15-15	1/60	GA-(60)15,PS

Gull, Ring-billed 6-21 7/843 U-1/300 BR-1/13 GA-3/520
 HA-1/1 JE-1/9
 Gull, Herring 6-21 3/124 U-1/120 GA-2/4
 Tern, Caspian 6-15 2/5 U-(2)15,PS; GA-(3)6,WK
 Tern, Royal 6-21 4/400 U-1/10 GA-3/390
 Tern, Sandwich 21-21 1/2 GA-BF(2)21,JW
 Tern, Common 7-21 3/4 U-(1)15,PS; GA-(2)7,JJW;
 GA-(1)21,JW
 Tern, Forster's 6-21 5/673 U-1/110 BR-1/3 GA-3/560
 Tern, Least 28-28 1/6 GA-(6)28,AAG
 Tern, Black 21-21 1/3 GA-(3)21,JW
 Skimmer, Black 6-28 4/1175 U-1/250 GA-3/925
 Dove, Rock 1-15 4/254 U-2/200 BR-1/4 HA-1/50
 Dove, White-winged 15-15 1/1 GA-(1)15,PS
 Dove, Mourning 1-21 11/167 U-3/70 BR-2/43 CH-2/12
 GA-2/10 HA-1/12 JE-1/20
 Dove, Inca 1-21 4/11 GA-1/2 HA-1/6 JE-2/3
 Ground-Dove, Comm 6-28 3/30 GA-3/30
 Ani, Groove-billed 28-28 1/8 GA-(8)28,AAG
 Owl, Barn 7-7 1/1 GA-HI(1)7,JJW
 Screech-Owl, East 19-19 1/1 HA-HP(1)19,X
 Swift, Chimney 21-26 3/15 BR-1/2 GA-2/13
 Hummer, Ruby-thrt 6-31 7/14 BR-2/11 HA-4/11 JE-1/2
 Kingfisher, Beltd 6-21 8/29 U-2/6 BR-1/1 CH-2/11
 GA-2/9 JE-1/2
 Wdpeckr, Red-bell 8-17 3/9 U-1/4 BR-1/3 HA-1/2
 Sapsuck, Yel-bell 11-11 1/1 BR-(1)11,DLR
 Wdpeckr, Downy 15-17 2/3 U-(1)15,PS; HA-(2)17,X
 Flicker, Northern 8-26 4/7 U-1/2 BR-1/1 GA-1/2
 HA-1/2
 Wdpeckr, Pileated 8-11 2/2 U-(1)8,PS; BR-(1)11,DLR
 Phoebe, Eastern 6-20 6/16 U-2/11 BR-2/2 CH-1/2
 GA-1/1
 Phoebe, Say's 6-7 2/2 CH-(1)6,WK; CH-(1)7,JJW
 Kingbird, Eastern 20-28 2/3 BR-BW(1)20,WP; GA-(2)28,AAG
 Flycatcher, Ss-tail 20-28 3/13 BR-1/1 GA-2/12
 Lark, Horned 6-21 3/23 BR-1/4 GA-2/19
 Martin, Purple 6-28 10/201 U-2/79 BR-1/1 CH-1/7
 GA-5/104 JE-1/10
 Swallow, Tree 6-28 9/790 U-2/503 BR-2/9 CH-2/61
 GA-2/207 JE-1/10
 Swallow, N R-wing 21-21 1/1 GA-HI(1)21,JW
 Swallow, Barn 20-28 3/13 BR-1/2 GA-2/11
 Jay, Blue 1-26 7/48 U-2/23 BR-1/10 GA-2/7
 HA-1/6 JE-1/2
 Crow, American 8-21 5/115 U-2/62 BR-2/51 JE-1/2
 Crow, Fish 6-21 2/7 JE-(1)6,WK; JE-(6)21,JW
 Chickadee, Carol 8-15 3/13 U-2/7 BR-1/6
 Titmouse, Tufted 8-11 2/7 U-(2)8,PS; BR-(5)11,DLR
 Wren, Carolina 8-21 5/14 U-2/9 BR-2/4 GA-1/1
 Wren, House 28-28 1/2 GA-(2)28,AAG
 Wren, Sedge 8-20 3/26 U-1/1 BR-2/25
 Wren, Marsh 20-21 2/4 BR-BW(3)20,WP; CH-(1)21,JW
 Kinglet, Gold-crn 11-11 1/7 BR-(7)11,DLR
 Kinglet, Ruby-crn 6-21 7/32 U-2/10 BR-2/13 CH-1/2
 GA-2/7
 Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 6-28 7/39 U-2/8 CH-1/1 GA-3/28
 HA-1/2
 Bluebird, Eastern 8-8 1/10 U-(10)8,PS
 Thrush, Hermit 8-15 3/10 U-2/7 BR-1/3
 Robin, American 6-21 7/1199 U-2/1001 BR-2/122
 GA-1/25 JE-2/51
 Catbird, Gray 21-28 2/3 BR-BB(2)21,DMH; GA-(1)28,AAG
 Mockingbird, N 6-28 11/114 U-2/50 BR-2/5 CH-2/8
 GA-3/41 JE-2/10
 Thrasher, Brown 8-21 3/5 U-2/4 GA-1/1
 Waxwing, Cedar 1-21 5/377 U-1/10 BR-1/17 HA-2/210
 JE-1/140
 Shrike, Loggerhed 6-28 11/84 U-2/15 BR-2/9 CH-1/15
 GA-4/32 JE-2/13
 Starling, Euro 6-26 8/627 U-2/450 BR-2/84 CH-1/10
 GA-2/45 JE-1/38
 Vireo, White-eyed 20-28 4/11 BR-1/2 GA-2/7 HA-1/2
 Vireo, Solitary 15-21 2/2 U-(1)15,PS; GA-HI(1)21,JW
 Vireo, Yell-thrt 28-28 1/1 GA-(1)28,AAG

Warb, Orange-crn 6-28 4/4 GA-3/3 HA-1/1
 Warb, Nashville 6-6 1/1 HA-(1)6,AG
 Parula, Northern 6-28 6/32 GA-4/28 HA-2/4
 Warb, Yellow-rump 1-28 12/545 U-2/130 BR-2/78 CH-1/5
 GA-4/295 HA-2/35 JE-1/2
 Warb, Yel-throat 20-21 2/2 BR-BW(1)20,WP; GA-HI(1)21,JW
 Warb, Blk-and-wht 6-26 4/5 GA-1/2 HA-3/3
 Warb, Worm-eating 21-21 1/1 GA-HI(1)21,JW
 Yellowthroat, Com 8-21 3/10 U-2/8 GA-1/2
 Warb, Hooded 26-28 2/11 GA-(10)28,AAG; HA-(1)26,X
 Warb, Wilson's 8-8 1/1 HA-(1)8,PS
 Tanager, Scarlet 20-20 1/2 BR-BW(2)20,WP
 Cardinal, Northrn 6-21 8/142 U-1/12 BR-2/36 CH-2/3
 FB-1/75 GA-1/5 JE-1/11
 Pyrrhuloxia 8-28 3/3 FB-(1)8,PS; GA-(1)28,AAG;
 HA-(1)8,PS
 Grosbeak, Ros-brs 1-16 1/1 HA-(1)1-16,PTF
 Bunting, Indigo 28-28 1/1 GA-(1)28,AAG
 Towhee, Rfus-side 28-28 1/1 GA-(1)28,AAG
 Sparrow, Chipping 8-11 2/10 BR-(9)11,DLR; HA-BR(1)8,PS
 Sparrow, Field 8-8 1/1 HA-BR(1)8,PS
 Sparrow, Vesper 8-11 2/12 BR-(6)11,DLR; FB-(6)8,PS
 Sparrow, Savannah 6-21 8/301 U-2/96 BR-2/186 CH-2/11
 GA-1/5 JE-1/3
 Sparrow, Grasshop 8-8 1/3 HA-BR(3)8,PS
 Sparrow, Le Conte 8-21 2/8 GA-BF(2)21,JW; HA-BR(6)8,PS
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 6-21 2/11 GA-(10)6,WK; GA-BF(1)21,JW
 Sparrow, Seaside 20-20 1/5 BR-BW(5)20,WP
 Sparrow, Song 8-15 2/2 U-(1)8,PS; U-(1)15,PS
 Sparrow, Lincolns 8-8 1/12 HA-BR(12)8,PS
 Sparrow, Swamp 8-20 4/19 U-1/8 BR-2/5 HA-1/6
 Sparrow, Wht-thrt 8-21 4/24 U-2/22 GA-2/2
 Sparrow, Harris' 8-8 1/1 BR-(1)8,PS
 Junco, Dark-eyed 15-15 1/1 U-(1)15,PS
 Blackbird, Red-wg 8-26 8/1276 U-2/1000 BR-2/223
 GA-2/18 HA-1/15 JE-1/20
 Meadowlark, East 6-21 10/179 U-2/80 BR-3/73 CH-2/15
 GA-1/1 JE-2/10
 Blackbird, Brewer 15-15 1/4 GA-(4)15,MO
 Grackle, Gr-tail 6-21 6/164 U-2/100 CH-1/10 GA-2/30
 JE-1/24
 Grackle, Bt-tail 11-21 5/267 U-1/80 BR-2/167 CH-1/10
 GA-1/10
 Grackle, Common 8-21 4/195 U-2/55 CH-1/25 JE-1/115
 Cowbird, Brn-head 8-21 5/47 U-2/40 BR-1/2 CH-1/1
 GA-1/4
 Oriole, Orchard 28-28 1/8 GA-(8)28,AAG
 Goldfinch, Amer 8-21 2/70 U-(40)8,PS; HA-(30)21,X
 Sparrow, House 1-15 4/85 U-2/50 GA-1/10 HA-1/25

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 50525

One bird, blue grosbeak, was reported with no notes.

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Lynne Aldrich, Mike Austin, Peter Gottschling (AAG); Lynne Aldrich, Peter Gottschling (AG); Don & Lee Richardson (DLR); David Marrack (DM); David Marrack, Rachel Harrison (DMH); John & Jana Whittle (JJW); John Whittle (JW); M. L. & Ellen Owens (MO); P. D. Hulce, Steve Schultz (PS); Phyllis & Tony Frank (PTF); John Whittle, Jim Krawowski (WK); Warren Pruess (WP); P. D. Hulce (X)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Anahauc NWR (AW); Brazos Bend St. Park (BB); Bolivar Flats (BF); Barker Reservoir (BR); Brazoria NWR (BW); High Island (HI); Hermann Park (HP); Texas City Dike (TCD); Yacht Basin Road (YBR)

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

Glossy Ibis - J. Whittle, March 21, 1993

Observed for about 3 minutes in an open field along FM 365 between Nederland and Fannett with 15-60X scope. Bird was feeding in a flock of about 20 Plegadis. An adult in alternate plumage with rich dark chestnut head and neck. The eye was dark brown. The bare-skin forward of the eyes was dark blue black with a lighter blue border that did not encircle the eye. The bill was brownish. White-faced Ibis eliminated by color and extent of facial skin.

Glossy Ibis - L. Aldrich, P. Gottschling, M. Austin, March 28, 1993

Light blue facial skin went to eye above and below but did not go behind the eye. There were lots of White-faced Ibis for comparison.

Purple Gallinule P. and T. Frank, March 20, 1993

A moorhen like bird, similar size, shape and appearance but different coloration. This bird had a purplish-blue head with a red upper bill and yellow lower bill. The underside of the bird was bluish while upperside of bird was a blue-green color. (photos)

Black Tern - J. Whittle, March 21, 1993

At Intercoastal Waterway at end of Yacht Basin Rd. One bird observed at 2 p.m. and three birds at 5:10 p.m. Small terns, smaller than accompanying Forster's Terns. These birds were easily picked out of the flock by the uniformly gray upper wings, body and upper tail. The underwings were uniformly pale gray. The cap was black. A dark mask was behind the eye. A dark bar was on the side of the breast from the joint of the wing leading edge. Tail was forked and bill was dark.

Say's Phoebe - J. Whittle & J. Krakowski, March 6, 1993

On FM 1941 the bird was observed flycatching from fence wires. Most flight were close to the ground and apparently successful. When perched, the bird frequently pumped its tail, usually spreading tail at the end of the movement, especially after landing. Typical flycatcher/phoebe shape. Size very similar to Eastern Phoebe. Top of head and nape medium grayish brown; back a much paler grayish brown, contrasting with the darker brown underlying color of the wings. A broad, diffuse, "washed out" pale lower wing bar was evident. The chin and upper breast were pale gray, and the belly and undertail coverts a pale rust. Tail was dark brown and slightly notched.

Nashville Warbler - L. Aldrich, P. Gottschling, March 6, 1993 Warbler high in the oaks. All yellow underparts and

chin. Gray on head with white eyering. Olive back, no wingbars. It was in a group of two N. Parulas and a Black and White.

Pyrrhuloxia - P.D. Hulce, March 8, 1993

Size and shape of Cardinal. Gray with cranberry red crest and wings. Large yellow bill with crooked line between mandibles.

Pyrrhuloxia - L. Aldrich, P. Gottschling, M. Austin, March 28, 1993

Hummighaus and Zimmelman Rd. on Galveston Island. All gray bird size of a Cardinal, but thin long red crest, red patch on chest/belly. No black mask. Bill larger than Cardinal, yellow color.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak P. and T. Frank, March 1-16, 1993

Present daily from Feb 6, 1993 at feeder in backyard. First year winter male molting into adult plumage. At last observation, bird had entire black head and mostly black upper back and scapulars. Red in breast was starting to molt into place. (See February Clearing House for additional details.)

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Mexican Spotted Owl Given Threatened Status

The Mexican Spotted Owl will be listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced March 11, 1993.

The principle threat to the owl comes from forestry practices which modify the bird's preferred habitat. The owl occurs primarily in forested habitats from central Utah and Colorado south through New Mexico and Arizona, the Guadalupe Mountains in Texas, and into the mountains of northern and central Mexico. The Service estimates there are approximately 2,160 Mexican Spotted Owls in the United States.

The Service has named a Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Team...ten individuals, scientists with the Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Republic of Mexico, several universities and land managers who will produce a plan to recover the species.

The owl uses a variety of habitats, including slickrock canyons at the north end of its range, and forested mountains and canyons elsewhere. Forest types include mixed conifer, Ponderosa pine/oak, and occasionally pinon-juniper woodland. Although the species is found in a variety of habitats, it is most abundant in mature and old-growth mixed coniferous forests. In New Mexico and Arizona, about 50% of the owl's suitable habitat is identified in U.S. Forest Service plans as being potentially available for timber harvest. News Release, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, March 11, 1993.

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