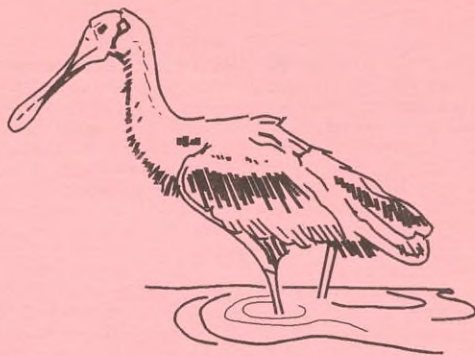


The Spoonbill

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, December 2: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. The birds of the Florida Keys and the Dry Tortugas is the subject of the presentation to be given by Greg Lasley. Long known as a North American birding "hot spot," these small tropical islands host the only nesting colony of Brown Noddies and the only large colony of nesting Sooty Terns in the U.S. Much like High Island, the Dry Tortugas also serve as a migrant trap for warblers, thrushes, vireos and other passerines in the spring and fall. Greg is actively involved in the documentation of rare birds in Texas, currently serving as Secretary of the Texas Bird Records Committee of the Texas Ornithological Society and co-editor of the Texas Region for *American Birds* magazine. He has been birding in Texas for more than fifteen years and has authored over twenty published articles. In addition to the program subject matter, Greg will be pleased to address documentation of rare birds during the question and answer session. This is absolutely a "don't-miss-it" presentation. **Learning Corner** will meet at 7:00 P.M. before the meeting. Don Richardson will review identification of diving ducks in flight.

Thursday, December 12: ONC MEMBERSHIP MEETING. 7:30 P.M. Houston Arboretum, 4501 Woodway. Dr. Carolyn Summers, Director of Astronomy and Physics at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, will present "Keeping Up With the Sun." She will discuss the astronomy of ancient Americans from the mountains of Wyoming to the jungles of the Yucatan noting the special contributions of Monte Alban. Photographs of the total eclipse of the sun from Monte Alban will be shown.

Saturday, December 14: OG'S HOUSTON CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Call P.D. or Richard for meeting place and time. P.D. Hulce, 863-1142, Richard Uzar, 527-0454.

Saturday, December 21: BUFFALO BAYOU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Meet at 6:00 A.M. at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, 4501 Woodway. For information call Doug Williams at 660-7625 or Bob Honig at 665-6963. Those interested in feeder watching can pick up a checklist at the 2 December OG meeting.

Monday, January 6, 1992: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. 7:30 P.M. Harris County Bayland Community Center. Ed Kutac will present a program entitled, "Some Good Texas Birds with Emphasis on the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Ed has authored several books including *Birder's Guide to Texas* and *Texas Birds: Where They Are and How to Find Them*. A native Texan, Ed is a past president of the Texas Ornithological Society

and the Travis Audubon Society and a past treasurer of The Nature Conservancy (Texas Chapter). He currently teaches local bird identification classes in Austin. Come on out and meet the man who wrote the books on finding birds in Texas! **Learning Corner** will meet at 7:00 P.M. before the meeting.

Saturday, January 11: OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY for sparrows, hawks, ducks and geese and other wintering birds. This trip is expected to view many sparrows and cover many miles. Bring a lunch and drinks. Meet our leader, David Bradford, in the bank parking lot at 7:30 A.M. just opposite the small white church on the east side of Highway 6 just north of I-10. For more information call David Bradford, 855-2615.

Sunday, January 12: THIS OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY is designed to accommodate the novice birder. Slow and easy, we will spend time learning how to find and identify sparrows and other birds. Meet trip leader, David Bradford, in the bank parking lot at 7:30 A.M. opposite the little white church located on the east side of Highway 6 just north of I-10. Bring a sack lunch and the desire to learn sparrows!

Friday-Sunday, February 15-17: OG/ONC FIELD TRIP TO THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS for a taste of some subtropical birding. Our leader, Bill Tarbox, has lived in the Valley and birded all the "hotspots." We will meet him at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge headquarters at 7:30 A.M. Areas to be birded will include Santa Ana NWR, Bentsen Rio Grande State Park, Falcon Dam Recreation Area, Salinero and possibly the Brownsville area. If you are interested please contact David Bradford at 855-2615. More details to follow in the next issue of *The Spoonbill*.

NEWS BRIEFS

.....OG FIELD TRIP REPORT, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19: ANAHUAC, HIGH ISLAND AND SMITH POINT. Our leader, Don Richardson, rounded up about 35 eager birders and headed them out to Joe Whitehead's property just north of Smith Point. Here Don pointed out some typical woodland species as well as a few hawks. Later, Gail Luckner brought us to Candy Abshier W.M.A. (Smith Point) to study those most difficult of accipiters, Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks. From Smith Point, Don led us to Anahuac N.W.R. for a tour of the refuge that ended with rails calling tantalizingly close to us but which never exposed themselves to our peering eyes. Thanks to Don and Gail for an enjoyable day of birding. **David Bradford.**

.....SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL FOREST: Exxon Corporation has joined the U.S. Forest Service to preserve a habitat for an estimated 260 breeding pairs of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker in four national forests in Texas. Exxon donated \$24,400, which will be matched with a federal grant, for the project. Under the plan, the forest service will buy and install nearly 400 artificial nest inserts, as well as a device that will protect the small woodpecker from larger predators. A protection device, call a steel restrictor plate, also will be installed to prevent larger and more aggressive species, such as the Pileated Woodpecker, from taking over or damaging the Red-cockaded Woodpecker's nest. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker population has dropped along with the number of natural forests...the birds burrow holes for nests in older pine trees [which have been heavily logged]...the birds have been able to find more older pines in public forests. There is no accurate count of the birds, but the forest service estimates there are 260 breeding pairs...in the four national forest within Texas. More than half of that bird population lives within the Sam Houston National Forest, which stretches across Walker, Montgomery and San Jacinto counties. *Houston Chronicle*, Nov. 1991.

.....OG MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 4, 1991. Preceding the meeting Don Richardson conducted a Learning Corner session on duck identification.

Chairman Bob Honig opened the meeting by inquiring if anyone had ideas about how the aluminum can fund monies should be spent. No ideas were presented.

David Bradford announced the November field trip details. David also announced the joint OG/ONG field trip plans to the Valley during President's Day weekend, February 15-17, 1992.

OG members were encouraged to become involved in the Christmas Bird Counts. Among the counts discussed were Attwater, Dec. 18, Buffalo Bayou, Dec. 21 and Brazos Bend, Dec. 28.

Bob's request for notable bird sightings resulted in reports of a Sabine's Gull, a Ross' Goose and a Bullock's Oriole.

Gail Luckner introduced the evening's program speaker, Jim Morgan. Jim shared his vast knowledge, skill and personal experience in sparrow identification and behavior. With the assistance of some great detailed slides, Jim discussed features and behaviors which aid in differentiating sparrows that at first appear to be similar. Overall, Jim made sparrow identification easier in his enlightening program which attracted a large gathering of OG members. Christine Bourgeois, Secretary

.....NOTABLE QUOTE: Housing Secretary Jack Kemp. "People are not a drain on the resources of the planet."

.....Peregrine falcons can fly at 150 mph, but it takes them a while to get up to speed. Upshot: In a rare show of agreement, unions, the builder and the site owner have agreed to stop work on a construction site in Melbourne, Australia, until two peregrine falcon eggs hatch and the chicks are able to fly. In the state of Victoria the creatures are classified as threatened wildlife. The birds usually nest in rugged country on cliffs or in high tree hollows. This rooftop nest is said to be rare. Quoth a wildlife officer: "To have them in the city is unbelievable." *The Houston Post*, Sept. 1991.

.....FAIRFIELD--Only 90 miles south of Dallas, Fairfield Lake State Park offers fishing and swimming in a sandy-bottomed, heated lake of a power plant, and in the winter visitors often observe one or more of the 22 Bald Eagles that have been observed to spend the cold months at this warm water refuge. The park has 135 primitive, water-only and water and electric campsites. Backpackers and hikers

can follow more than six miles of maintained trails that lead to the primitive camping areas. There is also a bird watching trail developed and maintained by a local Boy Scout troop. Stately oaks, hickories, cedar and elm trees mark the transition zone between the pine forests to the east and prairie grasslands to the north and west. *Texas Parks and Wildlife News*.

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

By Noel Pettingell

10 YEARS AGO/FROM NOVEMBER 1981 SPOONBILL

PARTICIPATION IS THE KEY (AN EDITORIAL)

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is a truly unique phenomenon. It is as traditional to birdwatching as the life list and has an age of 82 years. No other birders' activity is synchronized over such a large geographical area on an annual basis with a comparable level of organization. To top it off the results are published in a widely circulated journal, *American Birds*, forming a permanent record of wintering bird species and their numbers.

I don't mean to overlook the count's inherent flaws. Anyone familiar with the count knows that only location and date are stable from year to year. Changes in habitat quality are recorded in crude fashion at best and observes are merely listed alphabetically with no hint of their differences in knowledge and experience. The truth of the matter is a statistician would drive himself to drinking trying to falsify null hypotheses with Christmas count data! But let's ignore these problems for the moment because my aim is to encourage and not to discourage participation.

A friend whose knowledge and experience exceeds my own recently wrote me and stated that he felt the value of Christmas counts dropped off sharply as the number of participants dropped below twenty. I feel this is a ballpark figure unless you, again, take into consideration observer quality, but his basic point is right.

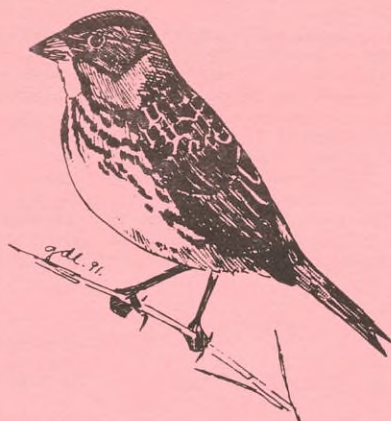
Ponder for a moment the fact that a count circle is 177 square miles in area. That's a very large amount of ground to cover in one day! It's possible for fewer than twenty observers to make a fairly accurate census of large birds which are airborne much of the day, buteos or geese for example. But what about tiny woodland species? We're kidding ourselves if we think a handful of observers can approach even a marginal sampling of their numbers in one day on such a large area.

The Audubon Christmas Bird Count was designed with one purpose in mind: to establish a record of wintering bird populations and to use that record to track fluctuations in those populations. The importance of such a record (particularly in the tropics) can't be stressed enough, and the Audubon count can be an accurate one if interested folks will participate. There's a place for everyone, regardless of experience. Novice or "backyard" birders can play a very important role by counting familiar species and/or unfamiliar ones which are easily identified--all you need is binoculars and a field guide. Beginners can tag along with more seasoned birders and aid them by adding an extra pair of eyes.

A REMINDER TO CHRISTMAS COUNT COMPILERS

Christmas count bird records which affect the UTC Checklist (vagrant sightings, out-of-season reports, etc.) must be documented in The Spoonbill or details must be sent to one of the members of the OG's Checklist Committee if they are to be considered for acceptance as valid UTC records. No exceptions!...The Checklist Committee

UNCOMMON BIRD OF THE UPPER TEXAS COAST
by P.D. Hulce



(Henslow's Sparrow by Gail Diane Luckner)

Henslow's Sparrow (Passerherbulus henslowii)

When seen well, the Henslow's Sparrow is a quite distinctive bird, with a large, flat, olive-green head and nape, and reddish-brown wings and back. However, this secretive and elusive species often allows only quick glimpses as it reluctantly flushes across the prairies. It is possible for a group of observers walking the prairie, to repeatedly flush this bird, in the hope that it may perch in the open. With patience, and not too much harassment, even a lone observer can sometimes flush this bird into a small bush or bare patch of prairie where it can be approached to within a few feet. Under such close observation, Henslow's Sparrow shows a very striped head, with two malar stripes, an irregular line at the rear of the ear patch, and a lighter center crown stripe. The lores and front end of the supercilium may be bright yellowish-green, and the back of the crown and nape are finely streaked with black. The bill is large and may have a paler lower mandible. There is a thin dingy white eye ring. The rusty back has a few rows of black and nearly white stripes. Fine streaking extends across the buffy breast and onto the sides. The tail is generally dark, thin and short. When flushed, this bird flies low and erratically, with a characteristic twisting of its tail.

Although it may occasionally be found in pine woods in winter, the Henslow's Sparrow is primarily a bird of the prairies. It is found in wet, weedy fields, meadows and grasslands. It seems to prefer areas with a varied mixture of tall weeds and grasses and occasional scattered groves and woody outgrowths.

In the late 1970's, a small colony of Henslow's Sparrow was discovered breeding in southeast Houston near Mykawa Road. This represented an isolated population and presumably, a distinct subspecies. For several years, census work, collecting for research and birding field trips used and enjoyed this small colony and reports of Henslow's Sparrow to the Clearing House were regular. By 1982, however, the Henslow's Sparrow had become virtually extirpated at this site.

A single bird was seen on the 1982 Houston Christmas Bird Count, and in 1983, three individuals were observed on the Freeport Christmas Count, and single birds were seen on the Attwater and Brazoria counts. The next sighting of Henslow's Sparrow on the UTC occurred on the Freeport count in December, 1990. This individual remained until at least March, 1991. During this same period, one and possibly two individuals were discovered at the Candy Abshire WMA in Chambers County.

It is conceivable that another undiscovered colony of breeding Henslow's Sparrow exist somewhere on the UTC, in suitable but inaccessible or unbirded habitat. Reserves such as Candy Abshire WMA and Brazoria NWR offer access to areas where this species has over-wintered in the past. Even if this bird is reported as a stake-out, you still have to get out and walk the prairies to have a chance of seeing this one.

1991 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Compiled by P. D. Hulce

Saturday, December 14:

Houston-----P.D. Hulce 863-1142 or
Richard Uzar 527-0454
Brazoria-----Tom Taroni (409) 297-5563
West Corpus Christi--Gene Blacklock (512) 882-7232
Victoria-----Peter Riesz (512) 575-4600

Sunday, December 15:

Freeport-----Jim Morgan 461-3080 or Houston
Audubon Society 932-1639
Corpus Christi
(Flour Bluff)-----Frank Bachman (512) 853-6774

Monday, December 16:

Port Aransas-----Scott Holt (512) 749-5656

Tuesday, December 17:

San Bernard-----Mike Lang (409) 849-6062
Welder WR-----Tom Blankenship (512) 364-2643

Wednesday, December 18:

Attwater NWR-----Refuge Headquarters (409)
234-3021

Thursday, December 19:

Chaparral WMA-----Jaime Rutledge (512) 676-3413
Aransas NWR-----Tom Stehn (512) 286-3559

Saturday, December 21:

Galveston-----Arch Dillard 996-0107
Buffalo Bayou-----Bob Honig 665-6963
Armand Bayou-----George Regmund 474-2551
Choke Canyon-----Doug Booher (512) 345-2966

Sunday, December 22:

Bolivar-----Bill Graber (409) 866-5452 (h)
or 833-8160 (w)
Kingsville-----Paul Palmer (512) 592-7558

Friday, December 27:

Old River-----Jonelle Buckles 1-576-2504

Saturday, December 28:

Brazos Bend-----Lynne Aldrich/Peter Gottschling
996-1109
Turkey Creek-----David Baker (409) 899-1878

Sunday, December 29:

Rio Corona-----Gene Blacklock (512) 882-7232
El Naranjo-----Nick Jackson (512) 257-2052

Wednesday, January 1:

Cypress Creek-----Ted Eubanks, Jr. 666-7639

Saturday, January 4:

Beech Creek-----David Baker (409) 899-1878
(Note: this count is after the
official count period.)



(Immature Sharp-shinned Hawk by Gail Diane Luckner)

1991 SMITH POINT HAWK COUNT
September 20-October 10, 1991

Total raptors observed: 13,651
 Total observation hours: 81
 Average raptors/hour: 169

Identified Species

Osprey	22
American Swallow-tailed Kite	2
Black-shouldered Kite	1
Mississippi Kite	383
Northern Harrier	63
Sharp-shinned Hawk	840
Cooper's Hawk	531
Red-shouldered Hawk	9
Broad-winged Hawk	10,885
Swainson's Hawk	1
American Kestrel	501
Peregrine Falcon	4
Crested Caracara	2

Compilers: G.D. Luckner and F.S. Peace

CLEARING HOUSE

CLEARING HOUSE
October, 1991

Editors: Phyllis and Tony Frank

A total of 202 species were reported in October. This report includes 19 species of raptors including a "probable" Rough-legged Hawk and 22 species of warblers. The presence or confirmed absence of patagial marks would have clarified the "ID." All in all it seemed a good month for warbler diversity, but numbers of hawks observed during

migration seemed to be lower than previous years. Other notables for the month include Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Trail's Flycatcher and a Bewick's Wren (located in Bellaire). Late Hooded Warblers were a highlight among the warblers. A early Bronzed Cowbird was reported for the month.

As always, early reports will be appreciated, but they are due by December 3rd. As the Postal Service urges - mail early. 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. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

Grebe, Pied-bill	5-27 10/84 BR-2/44 CH-2/15 CO-2/13
	GA-2/5 JE-2/7
Pelican, Amer Wht	5-27 12/1220 BR-1/45 CH-3/54 CO-1/1
	GA-6/970 JE-1/150
Pelican, Brown	11-26 4/135 GA-BF(33)11, RU; GA-(80)19, JJW;
	GA-BF(10)20, DEM; GA-BF(12)26, MTD
Corm, Dbl-crested	5-27 11/327 BR-1/1 CH-2/3 CO-2/11
	GA-4/303 JE-2/9
Corm, Olivaceous	5-20 6/90 CH-3/59 GA-3/31
Anhinga	11-15 2/38 CH-(37)15, GL; GA-(1)11, WPP
Bittern, American	5-5 1/1 CH-AW(1)5, HAFT
Heron, Great Blue	4-27 17/89 BR-2/11 CH-4/26 CO-2/9
	GA-5/35 JE-4/8
Egret, Great	4-27 20/156 BR-2/16 CH-4/30 CO-2/20
	GA-6/56 HA-1/1 JE-5/33
Egret, Snowy	4-27 16/169 BR-2/5 CH-2/15 CO-2/52
	GA-4/47 HA-1/5 JE-5/45
Heron, Little Blu	4-27 13/45 BR-2/6 CH-3/4 CO-1/2
	GA-4/30 JE-3/3
Heron, Tricolored	4-27 16/62 BR-2/26 CH-1/6 CO-2/6
	GA-5/11 HA-1/1 JE-5/12
Egret, Reddish	5-20 4/15 CH-SP(1)5, HAFT; GA-BF(4)11, RU;
	GA-(7)19, JJW; GA-BF(3)20, DEM
Egret, Cattle	4-27 20/3696 BR-2/250 CH-6/1377
	CO-2/340 GA-4/118 HA-1/50 JE-5/1561
Heron, Grn-backed	5-20 4/4 CH-AW(1)5, HAFT; CH-(1)20, DEM;
	JE-SPW(1)5, JJW; JE-(1)11, WPP
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	6-26 6/38 BR-2/20 GA-4/18
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	11-27 3/4 CO-AP(1)27, RU; GA-(2)11, WPP;
	GA-(1)26, MTD
Ibis, White	4-27 15/428 BR-2/131 CH-3/125
	CO-2/90 GA-4/65 JE-4/17
Ibis, White-faced	5-27 11/388 BR-1/22 CH-3/258 CO-2/34
	GA-3/56 JE-2/18
Spoonbill, Roseat	5-20 8/88 BR-1/3 CH-1/10 GA-3/37 JE-3/38
Stork, Wood	5-15 3/17 BR-(1)6, RF; CH-SP(2)5, HAFT;
	CH-(14)15, GL
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	6-6 1/10 JE-(10)6, JJW
Goose, Gr Wht-frn	5-27 7/24371 BR-1/46 CH-2/285
	CO-2/19000 JE-1/40 WA-1/5000
Goose, Snow	11-27 4/4425 CO-2/3400 GA-1/25 WA-1/1000
Goose, Ross'	27-27 1/2 CO-AP(2)27, RU
Goose, Canada	25-25 1/11 CO-AP(1)25, DM
Teal, Green-wing	11-11 1/2 JE-(2)11, WPP
Duck, Mottled	5-27 12/216 BR-2/30 CH-1/86 CO-2/13
	GA-3/21 JE-4/66
Pintail, Northern	6-27 4/517 BR-1/100 CO-2/412 JE-1/5
Teal, Blue-winged	6-25 7/1176 BR-2/1106 CH-1/6 CO-1/40
	GA-1/2 JE-2/22
Teal, Cinnamon	25-27 2/4 CO-AP(3)25, DM; CO-AP(1)27, RU
Shoveler, Northrn	5-27 6/3606 BR-1/1500 CO-2/2090 JE-3/16
Gadwall	12-12 2/14 GA-(2)12, JJW; JE-(12)12, JJW
Wigeon, American	6-27 3/1412 BR-1/400 CO-2/1012
Redhead	27-27 1/2 CO-AP(2)27, RU
Duck, Ruddy	25-27 2/406 CO-AP(6)25, DM; CO-AP(400)27, RU

Vulture, Black 5-27 8/62 BR-1/8 CH-4/24 CO-2/11 JE-1/19
Vulture, Turkey 4-27 16/201 BR-2/16 CH-6/110 CO-2/48
GA-3/16 JE-3/11
Osprey 6-26 5/10 BR-1/1 CH-1/2 GA-3/7
Kite, Blk-shouldr 6-26 5/15 BR-2/3 GA-3/12
Kite, Mississippi 5-15 2/11 CH-SP(10)5,HAFT; CH-CA(1)15,GL
Harrier, Northern 5-27 13/51 BR-2/11 CH-5/20 CO-2/10
GA-3/7 JE-1/3
Hawk, Sharp-shin 5-27 6/76 CH-4/74 CO-1/1 JE-1/1
Hawk, Cooper's 5-28 6/8 CH-2/4 CO-1/1 GA-2/2 JE-1/1
accipiter, sp. 6-6 1/1 BR-(1)6,RF
Hawk, Red-shouldr 6-26 6/6 BR-1/1 CH-2/2 GA-3/3
Hawk, Broad-wingd 5-27 4/2046 CH-SP(40)5,HAFT;
CH-CA(2000)12,AG; CH-(5)15,GL;
HA-(1)27,PM
Hawk, Swainson's 6-12 2/8 BR-(1)6,RF; CH-CA(7)12,AG
Hawk, White-taild 6-25 3/4 BR-1/1 CO-1/2 WA-1/1
Hawk, Red-taild 4-27 12/34 BR-1/7 CH-5/7 CO-2/12
GA-3/7 JE-1/1
Hawk, Rough-legged 19-19 1/1 CH-(1)19,JJW
Caracara, Crested 19-27 3/25 CO-2/24 WA-1/1
Kestrel, American 4-27 22/265 BR-2/10 CH-6/69 CO-2/22
GA-5/31 HA-1/1 JE-5/32 WA-1/100
Merlin 5-20 4/7 CH-(3)5,HAFT; CH-CA(2)12,AG;
GA-(1)19,JJW; GA-(1)20,DEM
Falcon, Peregrine 12-20 4/4 CH-(1)12,JJW; CH-(1)19,JJW;
CH-(1)20,DEM; GA-HI(1)18,RNA
Bobwhite, Northern 6-27 3/26 BR-1/2 CO-2/24
Rail, Clapper 6-26 4/19 BR-1/4 GA-3/15
Rail, King 5-5 1/6 CH-(6)5,HAFT
Sora 11-11 1/1 JE-(1)11,WPP
Gallinule, Purple 5-12 4/6 BR-2/3 CH-2/3
Moorhen, Common 5-25 9/292 BR-2/76 CH-3/114 CO-1/2
JE-3/100
Coot, American 5-27 8/505 BR-2/56 CH-2/31 CO-2/401
JE-2/17
Plover, Blk-bell 5-26 9/396 BR-2/15 CH-1/3 GA-5/376 JE-1/2
Golden-Plover, Ls 20-20 1/1 GA-BF(1)20,DEM
Plover, Snowy 19-26 2/24 GA-HI(10)19,JJW;
GA-BF(14)26,MTD
Plover, Semipalm 11-26 3/207 GA-3/207
Plover, Piping 11-26 3/37 GA-3/37
Killdeer 5-27 14/98 BR-1/6 CH-2/6 CO-1/30
GA-6/34 HA-1/5 JE-3/17
Oystercatcher, Am 11-26 3/39 GA-BF(7)11,RU; GA-(6)19,JJW;
GA-(26)26,MTD
Stilt, Black-neck 5-26 8/82 GA-5/50 JE-3/32
Avocet, American 5-26 4/967 CO-1/2 GA-2/815 JE-1/150
Yellowlegs, Great 5-27 13/95 BR-2/20 CH-1/5 CO-2/19
GA-5/22 HA-1/4 JE-2/25
Yellowlegs, Less 5-26 10/59 BR-2/14 GA-6/34 JE-2/11
Willet 5-26 8/157 BR-1/12 CH-1/15 GA-6/130
Sandprr, Spotted 11-27 3/3 GA-(1)11,WPP; GA-HI(1)26,MTD;
HA-(1)27,PM
Whimbrel 26-26 1/1 GA-(1)26,MTD
Curlew, Long-bill 5-27 10/46 CH-2/5 CO-2/4 GA-4/31 JE-2/6
Godwit, Marbled 11-26 4/117 GA-3/113 JE-1/4
Turnstone, Ruddy 11-20 3/24 GA-3/24
Knot, Red 11-26 3/9 GA-3/9
Sanderling 11-26 4/480 GA-4/480
Sandprr, Semipalm 6-6 1/2 BR-BW(2)6,WP
Sandprr, Western 6-26 6/2241 BR-1/1 GA-4/2230 JE-1/10
Sandprr, Least 6-27 6/196 BR-1/8 CO-2/17 GA-2/26 HA-
1/145
Sandprr, Pectoral 11-11 1/1 JE-(1)11,WPP
Dunlin 11-26 3/614 GA-2/610 JE-1/4
peep, sp. 14-14 1/25 GA-1/25
Dowitcher, S-bill 6-26 6/158 GA-6/158
Dowitcher, L-bill 6-27 7/87 BR-1/30 CO-2/18 GA-2/22 JE-2/17
Snipe, Common 5-27 6/22 CH-1/2 CO-2/15 GA-2/4 JE-1/1
Gull, Laughing 5-26 11/18862 BR-1/50 CH-2/204
GA-7/18508 JE-1/100
Gull, Franklin's 25-25 1/18 CO-AP(18)25,DM
Gull, Ring-billed 11-26 4/307 CO-1/1 GA-3/306
Gull, Herring 19-26 2/31 GA-(1)19,JJW; GA-(30)26,MTD
Tern, Gull-billed 12-12 1/2 CH-AW(2)12,JJW

Tern, Caspian 11-26 3/172 GA-3/172
Tern, Royal 5-26 5/3085 CH-1/15 GA-4/3070
Tern, Sandwich 5-11 2/9 CH-SP(6)5,HAFT; GA-BF(3)11,RU
Tern, Common 11-19 2/61 GA-BF(60)11,RU; GA-(1)19,JJW
Tern, Forster's 5-26 7/294 BR-1/20 CH-1/10 GA-5/264
Skimmer, Black 5-26 4/436 CH-1/1 GA-3/435
Dove, Rock 1-31 8/127 BR-1/30 GA-2/14 HA-3/70 JE-
2/13
Dove, White-wingd 26-26 1/1 GA-(1)26,MTD
Dove, Mourning 1-31 18/696 BR-2/37 CH-5/266 CO-1/30
GA-4/53 HA-2/126 JE-4/184
Dove, Inca 1-31 11/40 BR-1/2 CH-1/2 GA-4/13
HA-2/11 JE-3/12
Parakeet, Monk 27-27 1/5 HA-(5)27,PM
Screech-Owl, East 20-20 2/2 HA-(1)20,PM; HA-(1)20,PDH
Owl, Great Horned 12-26 2/2 GA-HI(1)12,JJW; GA-HI(1)26,MTD
Nighthawk, Common 1-31 1/2 HA-(2)1,NP
Chuck-wills-widow 18-26 2/2 GA-HI(1)26,MTD; JE-SW(1)18,RNA
Swift, Chimney 4-11 2/54 JE-(50)4,JJW; JE-(4)11,WPP
Hummer, Ruby-thrt 5-12 2/4 GA-HI(2)12,JJW; JE-(2)5,JJW
hummingbird, sp. 5-5 1/1 CH-1/1
Kingfisher, Beltd 4-27 15/29 CH-5/9 CO-1/1 GA-4/10
HA-1/1 JE-4/8
Wdpeckr, Red-head 15-15 1/1 CH-(1)15,GL
Wdpeckr, Red-bell 1-31 3/7 CH-2/5 HA-1/2
Sapsuck, Yel-bell 6-27 5/7 GA-3/4 HA-2/3
Wdpeckr, Downy 1-31 7/9 CH-1/1 GA-3/4 HA-2/3 JE-1/1
Flicker, Northern 5-26 5/11 CH-2/3 GA-2/5 JE-1/3
Wdpeckr, Pileated 5-15 2/7 CH-WM(1)5,HAFT; CH-(6)15,GL
Flycatch, Olv-sid 11-11 1/1 GA-BF(1)11,RU
Wood-Pewee, East 11-26 5/8 CH-1/1 GA-2/5 JE-2/2
Flycatch, Yel-bel 26-26 1/2 GA-HI(2)26,MTD
Flycatch, "Trail" 18-18 1/1 JE-SW(1)18,RNA
Flycatch, Least 12-12 1/1 GA-HI(1)12,JJW
empidonax, sp. 11-18 3/7 GA-1/2 JE-2/5
Phoebe, Eastern 6-27 5/15 CH-1/2 CO-1/1 GA-2/11 JE-1/1
Flycatch, Vermiln 15-15 1/1 CH-CA(1)15,GL
Flycatch, Gr Crst 11-18 2/2 JE-SW(1)11,RNA; JE-SW(1)18,RNA
Kingbird, Cou/Trp 15-15 1/1 CH-(1)15,GL
Kingbird, Eastern 4-12 3/8 CH-1/2 JE-2/6
Flycatch, Ss-tail 4-27 19/994 BR-2/38 CH-5/208 CO-2/25
GA-6/294 JE-3/229 HA-1/200
Lark, Horned 6-20 5/24 BR-2/6 GA-3/18
Swallow, Tree 4-20 7/382 CH-2/20 GA-2/70 JE-3/292
Swallow, N R-wing 5-27 5/93 CH-2/52 CO-1/1 GA-1/20 JE-1/20
Swallow, Cliff 15-15 1/4 CH-(14)15,GL
Swallow, Barn 1-27 13/1754 BR-1/62 CH-2/755
CO-2/660 GA-4/140 HA-1/3 JE-3/134
swallow, sp. 5-5 1/400 CH-1/400
Jay, Blue 1-31 15/121 BR-1/5 CH-2/11 GA-7/73
HA-1/10 JE-4/22
Crow, American 4-27 8/45 BR-1/10 CH-3/20 CO-1/2
HA-2/6 JE-1/7
Chickadee, Carol 1-31 2/11 CH-WM(5)5,HAFT; HA-(6)1,PDH
Titmouse, Tufted 1-31 1/4 HA-(4)1,PDH
Wren, Carolina 5-27 6/8 CH-2/3 CO-1/1 GA-2/3 HA-1/1
Wren, Bewick's 16-18 1/1 HA-(1)16,BB
Wren, House 15-27 3/15 CH-1/1 CO-1/1 GA-1/13
Wren, Sedge 5-25 2/2 CH-1/1 CO-1/1
Wren, Marsh 6-27 4/7 BR-1/2 CO-2/3 GA-1/2
Kinglet, Ruby-crn 6-26 5/33 CH-1/3 GA-3/28 HA-1/2
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra 5-26 9/63 CH-2/12 GA-5/45 HA-1/1 JE-1/5
Thrush, Swainsons 18-18 1/6 JE-SW(6)18,RNA
Thrush, Hermit 20-26 2/2 GA-HI(1)20,DEM; GA-HI(1)26,MTD
Thrush, Wood 11-26 6/13 GA-5/9 JE-1/4
Robin, American 1-31 1/50 HA-(50)1,PDH
Catbird, Gray 6-26 8/66 CH-1/2 GA-5/38 JE-2/26
Mockingbird, N 1-31 17/124 BR-1/14 CH-4/55 CO-1/10
GA-4/13 HA-3/6 JE-4/26
Thrasher, Brown 6-26 10/88 CH-1/3 GA-7/75 JE-2/10
Pipit, American 5-25 2/3 CH-AW(1)5,HAFT; CO-AP(2)25,DM
Shrike, Loggerhed 4-27 20/205 BR-1/18 CH-6/44 CO-1/12
GA-5/35 HA-2/2 JE-5/94
Starling, Euro 4-27 12/990 BR-1/100 CH-1/100
CO-1/200 GA-3/150 HA-1/100 JE-5/340
Vireo, White-eyed 11-26 5/13 GA-3/9 JE-2/4

Vireo, Yell-thrtd 11-12 2/2 GA-(1)11,WPP; GA-HI(1)12,JJW
 Vireo, Warbling 15-20 2/2 CH-CA(1)15,GL; GA-HI(1)20,DEM
 Vireo, Red-eyed 18-20 3/3 GA-HI(1)18,RNA; GA-HI(1)20,DEM;
 JE-SW(1)18,RNA
 Warb, Blue-winged 18-18 1/1 JE-SW(1)18,RNA
 Warb, Tennessee 18-26 5/9 GA-HI(1)18,RNA; GA-HI(3)20,DEM;
 GA-(2)26,MTD; HA-(2)24,PDH; JE-SW(1)18,RNA
 Warb, Orange-crtn 20-26 2/3 GA-HI(2)20,DEM; GA-(1)26,MTD
 Warb, Nashville 6-20 8/20 CH-1/1 GA-4/12 HA-1/3 JE-2/4
 Parula, Northern 6-26 4/10 GA-HI(4)6,JJW; GA-HI(1)18,RNA;
 GA-(3)26,MTD; JE-SW(2)18,RNA
 Warb, Yellow 20-20 1/3 GA-HI(3)20,DEM
 Warb, Magnolia 18-26 3/9 GA-HI(3)18,RNA; GA-(4)26,MTD;
 JE-SW(2)18,RNA
 Warb, Blk-thr Blu 18-26 3/3 GA-HI(1)18,RNA; GA-HI(1)20,DEM;
 GA-(1)26,MTD
 Warb, Yellow-rump 15-20 2/4 CH-(2)15,GL; GA-HI(2)20,DEM
 Warb, Blk-thr Grn 6-26 4/10 GA-HI(2)6,JJW; GA-HI(1)20,DEM;
 GA-(5)26,MTD; JE-SW(2)18,RNA
 Warb, Bay-breasted 12-12 1/1 GA-HI(1)12,JJW
 Warb, Blk-and-wht 5-26 3/7 GA-HI(2)20,DEM; GA-(3)26,MTD;
 JE-SPW(2)5,JJW
 Redstart, Amer 5-26 9/75 GA-6/33 JE-3/42
 Warb, Worm-eating 6-6 1/1 GA-HI(1)6,JJW
 Ovenbird 20-26 2/3 GA-HI(1)20,DEM; GA-(2)26,MTD
 Waterthrush, N 20-20 1/1 GA-HI(1)20,DEM
 Warb, Mourning 20-20 1/1 GA-HI(1)20,DEM
 Yellowthroat, Com 5-26 9/15 BR-2/3 CH-1/2 CO-1/1
 GA-4/8 JE-1/1
 Warb, Hooded 11-26 3/5 GA-HI(1)18,RNA; GA-(3)26,MTD;
 JE-SW(1)11,RNA
 Warb, Wilson's 6-26 6/22 GA-4/16 JE-2/6
 Warb, Canada 12-12 1/2 GA-HI(2)12,JJW
 Chat, Yellow-brst 12-12 1/1 GA-HI(1)12,JJW
 Tanager, Summer 13-26 2/2 GA-(1)26,MTD; HA-(1)13,PDH
 Cardinal, Northrn 1-31 11/51 BR-1/3 CH-1/3 GA-5/32
 HA-1/4 JE-3/9
 Grosbeak, Ros-brs 12-26 2/5 GA-HI(4)12,JJW; GA-(1)26,MTD
 Grosbeak, Blue 26-26 1/1 GA-HI(1)26,MTD
 Bunting, Indigo 6-26 5/38 CH-1/11 GA-4/27
 Sparrow, Vesper 27-27 1/1 CO-AP(1)27,RU
 Sparrow, Savannah 19-27 4/304 CO-2/300 GA-2/4
 Sparrow, Grasshop 27-27 1/1 CO-AP(1)27,RU
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 19-26 2/6 GA-(2)19,JJW; GA-(4)26,MTD
 Sparrow, Seaside 5-26 3/13 CH-1/2 GA-2/11
 Sparrow, Lincolns 27-27 1/25 CO-AP(25)27,RU
 Sparrow, Swamp 25-27 2/46 CO-AP(6)25,DM; CO-AP(40)27,RU
 Blackbird, Red-wg 5-27 10/1599 BR-2/34 CH-2/600
 CO-2/275 GA-2/540 JE-2/150
 Meadowlark, East 4-27 7/96 BR-2/40 CH-1/3 CO-1/15
 GA-1/28 JE-2/10
 Blackbird, Yel-hd 11-11 1/1 JE-SW(1)11,RNA
 Grackle, Gr-tail 1-31 10/235 BR-1/12 CH-2/70 GA-2/52
 HA-1/20 JE-4/81
 Grackle, Bt-tail 5-30 8/214 BR-1/15 CH-1/10 GA-5/174
 JE-1/15
 Grackle, Common 1-31 9/1761 BR-1/1000 CH-1/200
 CO-1/400 GA-1/40 HA-1/80 JE-4/41
 Cowbird, Bronzed 13-13 1/1 HA-(1)13,PDH
 Cowbird, Brn-head 4-27 4/740 BR-1/40 CO-1/400 JE-2/300
 blackbird, sp. 27-27 1/300 HA-1/300
 Sparrow, House 1-31 8/152 GA-1/5 HA-2/56 JE-5/91

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 88813

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES:

Peter Gottschling, Lynne Aldrich(AG)
 Bob Behrstock(BB)
 Barbara Hortort(BH)
 Donna & Ed Maddox(DEM)
 Derek Muschalek(DM)
 Gail D. Luckner(GL)
 Houston Aboretum FT/Julia Ricketts(HAFT)
 John & Jana Whittle(JJW)

M.L. & Ellen Owens(MO)
 Derek Muschalek, Rob Thacker, Jim Day(MTD)
 Noel Pettingell(NP)
 P.D. Hulce(PDH)
 Peggy Milstead(PM)
 Richard Uzar, Joe Farrell(RF)
 Rich & Nanette Armstrong(RNA)
 Richard Uzar(RU)
 W.R. Furley(WF)
 Warren Pruess(WP)
 John & Jana Whittle, Royce Pendergast(WPP)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES:

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR(AP)
 Anahauc NWR(AW)
 Bolivar Flats(BF)
 Brazoria NWR(BW)
 Candy Abshire WMA(CA)
 High Island(HI)
 Smith Point(SP)
 Sabine Pass Woods(SPW)
 Sabine Woods(SW)
 White Memorial Park(WM)

LIST OF COUNTY CODES:

Brazoria (BR)
 Chambers(CH)
 Colorado(CO)
 Galveston(GA)
 Harris(HA)
 Jefferson(JE)
 Waller(WA)

Rough-legged Hawk - John and Jana Whittle October 19, 1991

The identification of this bird is probable based on the combination of field marks discussed below. The bird was observed on the crossbar of a tall utility pole overlooking open field on one side and Highway 124 between High Island and Stowell (Winnie) just north of Fairview Rd., Chambers county and an area of low trees on the other. The bird was observed at 6:45 P.M. for about 20 seconds using 10X50 binoculars. The weather was clear, but the light conditions were poor because of gathering darkness. The distance was approximately 100-150 feet slant distance. After about 20 seconds observation of the sitting bird, it departed with minimal wing motion and glided down and across the road and into the wooded area at just above treetop height. The departure and flight appeared more agile and less belabored than typical of Red-tailed Hawk. In a glide, the bird tilted somewhat, in the manner of, but less pronounced than a hunting Northern Harrier. The wings, however, were held at only a small dihedral angle. The wings appeared relatively long on this large buteo.

Only the underside of the bird was visible for detailed observation. The throat as well as the upper breast were dark brown, but with a few light streaks, forming a very obvious bib. The lower breast was light, with bold dark brown streaking. The bird had a wide, dark belly band with essentially no lighter streaking. The wings as seen at rest appeared uniformly dark brown. No significant detail of the upper or lower wings could be observed during flight. The base of the tail on the underside was dark. No color was discerned on the tail during flight. The bill appeared to be dark and the cere lighter; however, no color could be determined in the available light. The thighs had a prominent light colored feathering. The legs appeared light and thick as if feathered.

The belly band in conjunction with the dark throat and bib eliminates most buteos. Although the light was poor, the bird appeared brown rather than black/dark gray making an immature changing to sub-adult White-tailed very unlikely and the legs did not appear long. The markings of

Red-tailed Hawks are notoriously variable. For a Red-tailed to have such a heavy belly band, it would have to be an immature. Yet this bird showed no traces of white on the head or wings (at rest) as do most immature Red-tailed Hawks, and the throat itself was solidly dark. We base our conclusion of "probable" Rough-legged Hawk on a combination of all characteristics observed. This bird was observed on a day when hawk migration was active.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher - Derek Muschalek October 26, 1991
Two Empidonax with mostly yellowish underparts including throats. Bold yellow eye rings and olive upperparts. Observed feeding high up in canopy. No vocalizations heard. Identification as Yellow-bellied based on yellowish throats and underparts.

Couch's/Tropical Kingbird - Gail Diane Luckner October 15, 1991. A large Tyrannus flycatcher was sighted at 9:30 AM perched on the top line of a barbed wire fence enclosing pasture land at Smith Point, Chambers county. The bird was observed for about five minutes at a distance of approximately 75 feet with 10X42 binoculars and TSN-2 scope at 30X wide angle in excellent light. In flight the bird was observed for about 20 seconds at a distance of approximately 15 feet. The bird was in the company of three Scissor-tailed Flycatchers.

When viewed from the side, the bird had a squarish, medium-gray head and somewhat flat forehead, with a prominent dark gray ear patch; white throat with deep yellow breast, belly, and undertail coverts. Breast was very lightly washed with olive. Dark olive back; unmarked dark gray wings and tail, both faintly tinged with brown. In flight, the tail was clearly but shallowly notched with no white present. Large thick black bill, slightly shorter than length of head; legs and feet black. The bird did not vocalize.

Overall shape, bill size, yellow breast and absence of white in the tail rules out Western Kingbird. Overall shape, bill size and yellow breast rules out Cassin's Kingbird. The general coloration and notched tail rule out the Myiarchus flycatchers. Although reference books show Tropical Kingbird with a longer, thinner bill than observed on the bird in question, this mark can be variable and difficult to judge in the field. Since the bird did not vocalize, must call it Couch's/Tropical Kingbird.

Bewick's Wren (Eastern form) - Bob Behrstock October 16, 18, 1991. On October 16, 1991, Gretchen Mueller observed a Bewick's Wren in her yard on Vivian St. in Bellaire. The observation was between 2 and 3 PM. On October 18, the bird was observed in late afternoon by Mueller and Bob Behrstock. On both occasions, it was observed from the ground to about 4 feet above ground foraging in Canna lilies and other ornamentals, as well as inside and on top of brush pile. The bird was always located by its rapid nervous foraging and the eye-catching activity of its long expressive tail. The bird exhibited a long, very pale but not quite white eyestripe. Below it was pale gray with no trace of cinnamon tones. The crown, back, wings and tail were chestnut brown lacking bright hues. The long tail was barred with black above. The underside of the tail was largely black, each graduated feather was tipped with white. The pattern was like that of a cuckoo or a trogon. The bill appeared dark and slender. Because there are few records of the species "around town," pains were taken to identify it within the context of similar species. Both observers are familiar with the species.

Hooded Warbler - Derek Muschalek October 26, 1991
These males had an extensive black hood and yellow face and underparts with olive back. Loud calls heard repeatedly. Seen at Smith Oaks, Johnson's grove and Singing Sands Rd. on Bolivar.

Bronzed Cowbird - P.D. Hulce October 30, 1991
One female with flock of Common Grackles and Starlings. Slimmer than grackles. Uniform blue-black plumage with red eye and slight ruff on the hind neck. Seen as close as 30 feet with 10X40 binoculars. No records the last three weeks of October.

REPORT FROM AUGUST CH

Hudsonian Godwit - Bob Behrstock August 31, 1991. On August 31, an adult Hudsonian Godwit well into winter (basic) plumage was located by Ted Eubanks. The bird was in a large shallow pool in the oilfields just NW of High Island. It was observed at the same time by Bob Behrstock, Gretchen Mueller and Virginia Davidson, all of whom have some to extensive experience with the species. In the same pool were a number of other shorebird species including Stilt and Baird's Sandpipers, Wilson's Phalarope and both Black and Gull-billed Terns. The general impression was of a tall gray shorebird with a bicolored upcurved bill. As the bird foraged, the striking black and white tail pattern could be observed. Although its bill was curved enough to eliminate the possibility of Black-tailed Godwit, we flushed the bird to observe its underlying pattern. Behrstock obtained one slide as the bird flushed. The slide demonstrates the strongly contrasting underlying pattern with blackish coverts, upcurved bill-pinkish at its base and the general absence of orange tones. Later the bird was relocated east of Highway 124 and Eubanks obtained slides of the bird. Aging was based on the color of the back and wing feathering.

CONTACTS

- SEND CLEARING HOUSE bird sightings to: Clearing House, (OG), P.O. Box 271374, Houston 77277.
- TEXAS RARE BIRD ALERT TAPE, sponsored by Houston Audubon Society, 992-2757.
- SEND SPOONBILL MATERIAL to Editor, Judy Boyce, 5546 Aspen, Houston 77081, 668-5359(h) 771-2432 (w). Fax: 771-2433 Monday through Friday, business hours.
- OG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, dues, subscriptions and address changes. Edward J. Lebeau, Jr., 5459 Beechnut, Houston, Texas 77096 (713) 664-4900. Annual dues \$15. Non-member Spoonbill subscriptions \$13.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

With Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) approaching, I encourage your participation in the OG-sponsored Houston CBC on 14 December. I'll leave the promotion of that event to compilers P.D. Hulce and Richard Uzar. I want to use this column to plug another CBC, the one that I compile with Doug Williams--this year the Buffalo Bayou CBC will be held on Saturday, 21 December (see page 1).

Like many other CBCs, Buffalo Bayou always seems undermanned, often with less than 20 participants in the field. It's quite a task to census more than 47 square miles with that few people. So what can I say to convince you to participate? Well, for most of you it's your home town--a sampling of the bird community right where you live--the only CBC in Houston. Located in an urbanized, still growing area, this count continues to reflect the effects of development. For example, White-tailed Hawks seem to have disappeared from Barker Reservoir, after nesting about four years ago where there is now a target-shooting range.

The Buffalo Bayou CBC also contains some marvelous habitat: Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary at the count center; the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center on its eastern edge; and Bear Creek Park/Addicks Reservoir in its northwest quadrant. On the count's western boundary, Barker Reservoir/Cullen-Barker Park yield over 70 species including over a dozen sparrows. Noteworthy sightings in 14 years of Buffalo Bayou counts include Rough-legged Hawk, Burrowing Owl and Green-tailed Towhee.

What baffles me most, however, is the low number of feeder watchers. The Buffalo Bayou CBC, in the fourth most populous city in the United States, has had no more than 13 feeder watchers (one year there were zero!) in any of its 14 years. (Compare this to over 1000 feeder watchers a few years ago in a CBC in Massachusetts.) Because so much of the count circle is residential, feeder watchers are critical to the count, recording all the hummingbirds observed (Rufous, Anna's and Black-chinned have been seen) and last year's Summer Tanager. We rely on a few regular feeder watchers each year, but we need more help. Many of you live in the count circle (the circle extends from Memorial Park on the east to beyond Highway 6 on the west and from the Southwest Freeway at West Belt on the south to FM 529 near Jersey Village on the north), and some of you are bound to be home on 21 December. Feeder watching doesn't take much effort. You don't even have to have a feeder--just note the birds you observe in your normal routine--so please help us if you can.

Bob Honig 665-6963

P.S. Should the name of the OG-sponsored CBC be changed? Originally the only CBC in the area, it made sense to name it for the nearest major city, especially since Houstonians ran the count. However, the name has caused confusion (especially to those new to this area, and to those wishing to participate in the Buffalo Bayou count, the only CBC in Houston). Also, because Houston is not a prominent feature in the Houston CBC circle, the name is not in conformance with current guidelines for establishing a CBC. One possible alternative: the "Houston(Baytown) CBC," keeping "Houston" the first word to retain continuity. The compilers and the OG membership can decide what action, if any, is appropriate.

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