



THE SPOONBILL

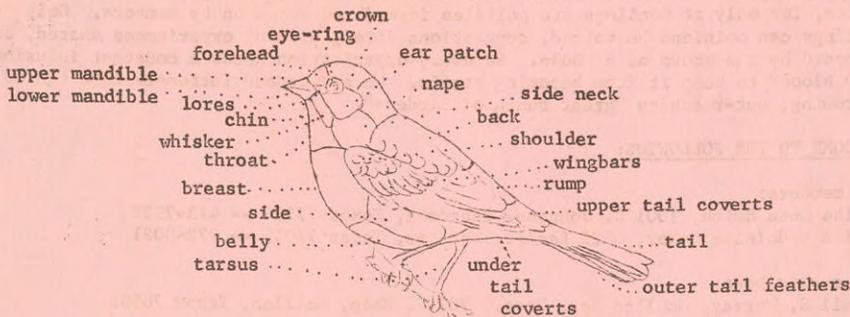
Volume XXIII, No. 10
February, 1975

PUBLISHED BY THE ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB, HOUSTON, TEXAS

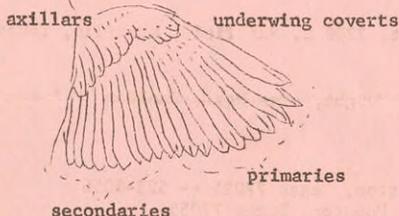
TOPOGRAPHY OF A BIRD

Last month Dan Hardy gave some hints on details to be submitted to the Clearing House, substantiating birds seen. To be able to correctly name the parts of a bird helps immeasurably in making one's notes clear and understandable. "The use of correct terminology will also aid you in making comparisons and in checking variations in color and pattern of local birds. Knowing the terminology helps focus your attention on specific parts of a bird as you observe it. Sometimes such details as an incomplete eye-ring or the color of the undertail coverts will clinch an identification"..... Birds of North America.

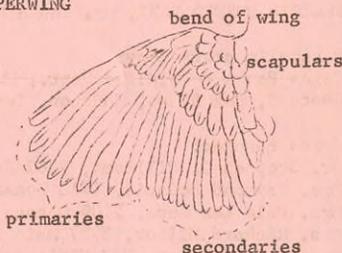
This month we have a "refresher" sketch, giving the common nomenclature of the topography of a bird. Two books have been used in making up the sketch and names: Audubon Land Bird Guide, by Pough, and Birds of North America, by Robbins, et.al.



UNDERWING



UPPERWING



BIRD STUDY COURSE BEING OFFERED

The OG and the University of Houston are co-sponsoring a new study course by John Tveten, titled: "Bird Study and Identification". It starts March 6, continuing for 8 consecutive Thursday nights, is being held at the Houston Museum of Natural Science 7:30 - 9:30 PM; cost is \$30.00, (senior citizens may attend at no cost).

John says this is primarily a course to enable people to identify birds in the field, quickly and easily. "How to separate bird families, problems of seasonal plumage change, identification by bird song, summarization of common problems of field identification" are some of the things that will be covered. There will be probably two field trips, also.

This will be an excellent course for all you less-than-expert birders, as well as the true novice. Most of us can use help in sharpening our skills in order to heighten our enjoyment in birding.

How to register? For information on that, call the Continuing Education office at the University of Houston, 749-1232.

SPOONBILL DISTRIBUTION

Our OG membership is growing apace, and the SPOONBILL mailing list is growing even more rapidly. We now have 133 members, and are welcoming one or two new members nearly every month, as well as subscribers. Following is a breakdown of our mailing list:

- 109 members (where man and wife are members, only 1 newsletter is sent)
- 59 subscribers
- 11 exchanges
- 17 complimentary copies (includes six libraries)
- 196 SPOONBILLS mailed each month

The SPOONBILL is sent from California to New York, and, in Texas, from El Paso to Orange, Amarillo to the Valley. We even send one to a subscriber who recently moved to London, England!

As you know, the creed of our group is: "The OG seeks to join together all those individuals who have a love for and interest in birds, and who find pleasure and enjoyment in the fellowship of shared observation and study". We are delighted to welcome more and more people who share these sentiments.

There is a certain amount of effort that needs to be expended in order to keep any group "going". This includes the "effort" of attending meetings, as well as holding office, for only at meetings are policies formed and voted on by members. Only at meetings can opinions be voiced, suggestions aired, birding experiences shared, and be heard by the group as a whole. So every organization needs a constant infusion of "new blood" to keep it from becoming static. We are indeed fortunate that the OG is a growing, out-reaching "great bunch of birders".

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING:

New members:

- Miss Gwen Smith, 1001 S. Johnson, Pasadena, Texas 77506 -- 473-7922
- Miss Madeleine Baker, 6825 Leader, Houston, Texas 77036 -- 772-8021

New subscribers:

- Neil S. Murray, McAllen Gen. Hosp., 701 S. Main, McAllen, Texas 78501
- Miss Josephine Sims, 809 Front St., Orange, Texas 77630

New exchange:

- PRAIRIE HORNED LARK, Mr. Kenneth Seyffert, 2709 S. Fairfield, Amarillo, Texas 79103

New complimentary copy:

- Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept., Mr. Wm. T. Wright, Area Mgr., Sheldon WM Area Route 5, Box 563-A, Houston, Texas 77044

Address changes:

- Dr. Stephen G. Williams, 7202 Edlow, Houston, Texas 77025 -- 523-6856
- Mrs. Raymond McDavid, 1718 Monarch Oaks, Houston, Texas 77055
- Mrs. Dale Lee Ross, 2909 Cason, Houston, Texas 77006
- Mrs. Richard Miller, 3987 Main St., Hilliard, Ohio 43026
- Mr. Randy Korotev, TN7 NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas 77058
- Mr. John Cys, 4201 N. Garfield #247, Midland, Texas 79701
- Mr. Michael Hoke, 1802 W. Rein, Orange, Texas 77630

TELL TP&WD BIOLOGISTS ABOUT EAGLES, OSPREYS -- TP&WD News Bulletin

If you've seen a bald eagle or an osprey, Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept. officials want to hear about it. Dept. biologists are continuing a three-year survey of eagles and ospreys Last year, there were 646 eagle sightings and 380 osprey sightings, up slightly from the year before. Biologists are cautious about saying eagle populations are increasing, believing the increased sightings could be the result of better participation in the survey from one year to the next.

According to John Smith, a department biologist, Texas has two populations of bald eagles -- the southern and the northern subspecies. The southern bald eagle is considered endangered. It spends the entire year in the southern states, building its

nests and rearing young in warm climes. Texas has the third largest population of southern bald eagles, estimated from 30 to 50 individuals, trailing behind Florida and California. Seven bald eagle nests were found in Texas last year, five of them active. Only one bird is known positively to have been fledged from the nests although biologists report one other possible fledgling.

Northern bald eagles winter in Texas and then migrate north to nest. They are indistinguishable from southern bald eagles except they are slightly larger. Observers must rely on nesting activity of eagles to determine if they are seeing a northern or southern bird. Only the southern birds will have nests in Texas. From 250 to 350 northern bald eagles find their way to Texas each winter, according to biologists.

Sightings of bald eagles and ospreys should be reported to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, John H. Reagan Building, Austin, Texas 78701.

(Ed. note: the above item seems interesting in view of the many sightings of bald eagles in the past month or two in the Warren Lake area.)

CHRISTMAS COUNT CORRECTION

Due to an inadvertent oversight, three participants' names were omitted from the list in last month's issue: Mary Tigner, Josephine Wilkin, and Jeanette Winfree. The editor apologizes.

CHRISTMAS COUNTS REPORTED IN OUR EXCHANGE NEWSLETTERS

AMARILLO -- Audubon Society (Newsletter: The Prairie Horned Lark). 6 counts reported.

Palo Duro Canyon: 70 species, 16 observers.
Lake Meredith (east): 61 species, 5 observers.
Lake Meredith (west): 66 species, 5 observers.
Buffalo Lake NWR: 43 species, 5 observers. (Rain, sleet and snow!)
Kenton (Black Mesa) Okla: 72 species, 17 observers.
Arnett, Okla: 67 species, 5 observers.

AUSTIN -- Travis Audubon Society (Newsletter: Signal Smoke)

136 species, 3 additional races, 49 observers and 1 feeder watcher.

BRYAN-COLLEGE STATION -- Brazos Ornithological Society (Newsletter: El Chapparal)

110 species, 45 observers

DALLAS -- Dallas Co. Audubon Society (Newsletter: Woods, Wings, Water)

102 species, ? observers

LUBBOCK -- Lubbock Audubon Society (Newsletter: The Scissor-tail). 2 counts reported

Lubbock: 96 species, 38 observers (Cold wind!)
Mulshoe NWR: 65 species, 8 observers (Same as above!)

MIDLAND -- Midland Naturalists, Inc. (Newsletter: The Phalarope). 8 counts reported.

Balmorhea: 93 species, 11 observers
Fort Davis: 99 species, 20 observers
Stanton: 72 species, 9 observers
Big Spring: 93 species, 16 observers
Lake Thomas: 72 species, 4 observers
Midland: 89 species, 20 observers
Sheffield: 83 species, 7 observers
Robert Lee: 111 species, 10 observers

NACOGDOCHES -- Nacogdoches Co. Audubon Society (Newsletter: Newsletter)

114 species (109 on count day, 5 during count period), ? observers

ORANGE -- Sabine Audubon Society (Newsletter: Wingbeat)

120 species, 1 race and 1 form, 38 observers. (Fog and gloom!)

RIO GRANDE VALLEY -- Rio Grande Valley Audubon Society. (Newsletter: News Bulletin)

No report at this time

WICHITA FALLS -- North Texas Bird & Wildlife Club. (Newsletter: The Cardinal)

86 species, 12 observers (plus 3 feeder watchers)

We now have 11 exchanges, including Texas Parks & Wildlife bulletins. The editor keeps these on file, available to anyone, and they are always available at our meetings, usually on the tables along the right-hand wall.

COMING EVENTS

- Saturday
March 1 OG Field Trip to National Attwater Prairie Chicken Refuge. Leader: Marilyn Crane. SEE PRAIRIE CHICKENS BOOMING! Meet at 6:45 a.m. (Daylight Saving Time starts the week before on Feb. 23) at Stuckey's, ten miles west of Sealy, on IH 10. Bring lunch, insect repellent, and walking shoes.
- Tuesday
March 4 The Photography Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Bayou Manor Auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Chandler will present the program: "Little Thicket Sanctuary Open House - 1973, 1974, 1975".
- Friday
March 7 Outdoor Nature Club Wildlife Film, "Vanishing Africa". 8:00 p.m., auditorium of Great Southern Life Insurance Company, 3121 Buffalo Speedway.
- Saturday
March 8 Audubon Field trip to Jones State Forest. Leader: Margaret Anderson. Meet at entrance to Sweet Gum Nature Trail on FM 1488 (exit IH 45 left, or west, on FM 1488) at 8:30 a.m. Bring lunch.
- Thursday
March 13 Houston Audubon Society's film: "Animaux Sauvages". 8:00 p.m., Houston Music Hall.

ABOUT OUR FIELD TRIPS.....

We are having such great turn-outs for our field trips in the past year or so, that sometimes the line of cars is so long the back end doesn't know what the front end is seeing, and those in the middle are really lost! There are various schemes being considered to make the trips more enjoyable for everyone, in cars or on foot, there will be more about this in the future. For right now, one thing we could all do is share rides so that the number of cars can be reduced. (Saves gasoline, too!)

WHAT A DAY FOR A FIELD TRIP!!! by Sarah Gordon

January 25th dawned as perfect and rare as that day in June that was written about so beautifully by Mr. Shakespeare. Lovely blue skies, sunshine, comfortable temperature and no wind made for a grand day.

A large assemblage gathered to meet our leader, Dan Hardy, who did a masterful job in handling so many cars and making sure that everyone got to see most of the 78 species found that morning. Our first stop was on Clay Road at the Sewage Treatment Plant and one could truly say "You're in Robin Country". All the trees in sight with the exception of the pine trees were "robin trees". I would not know how to estimate such a huge flock but I would guess in the thousands. At this location we also saw Mourning Ground and Inca doves.

This was a half day trip and for a number of the group the most exciting birds were the Bald Eagles sighted. One eagle was on the ground in a field where geese were feeding and another sat high in a tree - majestic and impressive with his beautiful white head almost glowing. I wish more Americans could see this emblem of our nation in person!

Some few were fortunate enough to see the prairie chickens and though our caravan retraced our route on Clay Road we could not find them again. However, it's good to know that they are still in those particular fields. As always, the geese in huge numbers, with their constant conversations, are exciting - Canada, White-fronted, Snow, Blue and Ross' were all seen by someone in the group. Warren Lake was not covered with waterfowl this day as it usually is, but Gadwalls, Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Shovelers and Ruddy ducks were on the lake. The hawks were out in numbers, and among those sighted were the Coopers and Rough-legged. Some who continued to bird after the trip broke up after lunch, saw a Ferruginous hawk in the area. The usual wood birds were observed and the fields produced a variety of sparrows, such as Song, Lincoln, Fox, White-throated and White-crowned, Harris', Field, Lark, Vesper and Savannah. Those who planned for lunch ate at a delightful little park called New Kentucky Park, where a number of birds were also lurching, such as a pair of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers.

There were several guests among the 45 birders who made this field trip, and we invite them to become members of the group and to participate in our activities.

WHAT A DAY FOR A FIELD TRIP??? - by Wesley Cureton

After a night of rain, and more forecast, a surprising 37 people showed up Saturday, February 1, for the OG field trip at Sheldon Reservoir. Paul and Margaret Jones, who had scouted the area the day before predicted low numbers of birds, and a high amount of mud, and, for the most part, they were right. Particularly disappointing was the

lack of ducks. Paul said the reservoir manager attributed the lack to the high muddy water, which seemed to cut down on the food supply.

The OG members split into two groups, and those who went to the headquarters area had better luck. They saw an American bittern, Sora, Anhinga, and an injured White Pelican, among others. Both groups saw several Sparrow species, and somebody reported a Catbird. The most common species were Snow Geese, Robins, and Myrtle Warblers.

From Sheldon Reservoir the group went to Eisenhower Park for a try at the woodland birds, but again they evaded us. Several Red-shouldered Hawks were seen and heard calling. The park also served as our lunch stop and tallying station. In spite of the mud underfoot and mistiness overhead most of the morning, a surprising 63 species were seen. All seemed to enjoy seeing the very early signs of spring and being in the company of other nature lovers. A hearty thanks goes to Paul Jones for his leadership, and Marilyn Crane for helping out.

HOW ABOUT A FIELD TRIP FARTHER AFIELD?

Jim Lane will be leading the Massachusetts Audubon Society on a field trip to Florida this year and one of the stops will be the Dry Tortugas Island, off the Florida Keys. He is restricting the regular tour to 20, but they need 50 people for the boat trip. Jim has openings for the regular tour, as well as for just the boat trip.

The boat will leave Garden Key Friday, May 2, 1975 at 2:00 p.m. and I understand it is a short 3 hour trip to the Island. Four meals are included in the trip, 2 breakfasts and 2 dinners, and no extra charge for sleeping on the beach. There are no bunks on the boat or on the island. The boat will leave Sunday morning for the return to Garden Key. Cost is \$80.00 and bring your sleeping bag.

If you would like to make the full 10 day tour, the price is \$635.00. This includes all meals, lodging and transportation in Florida. Address all inquiries to:

Natural History Service
Massachusetts Audubon Society
Attn: Mr. Jim Baird
Lincoln, Mass. 01773

There will also be a biologist on the tour with Jim Lane.

DO YOU WANT A FIELD TRIP VACATION IN MEXICO?

Fred Webster is taking reservations for the spring trip to Rancho del Cielo, June 1 to June 7, 1975. This is a biological station maintained by Texas Southmost College of Brownsville, and offers a rare opportunity to explore this wilderness area. Experienced naturalists lead walks about the station and in the surrounding oak-sweet gum cloud forest. Hikers may take trails which lead downslope toward the tropical mountainside forest or above to the humid oak-pine zone. At least 35 species of non-U.S. bird species nest in the cloud forest, many others at other elevations. For further details write: Fred S. Webster, Jr., 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731.

ART EXHIBIT OF INTEREST

Bill Mealy has announced an exhibition of the bird and wildlife art of John O'Neill at the Museum of Natural Science. The opening will be held March 4, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., and will run through March 30.

BIG THICKET NATURE PILGRIMAGE.

This week-end field trip in 25 different subjects will be held April 4th, 5th, 6th. There will be 50 top leaders in these subjects from all over the state, including artists such as John O'Neill, who will give demonstrations of their wildlife painting. Contact Bill Mealy, 664-7862, for further information on field subjects, accommodations, etc.

CLEARING HOUSE RECORD BOUNDARIES

It might bear repeating for some of our new readers that the Clearing House is a record of birds seen in the area covered by "A Birder's Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast". This area is made up of six counties: Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and our newest county, Jefferson. It would seem, from reading the C-H, that Bolivar and West Harris County have been getting the great majority of the birding for several months, as will Galveston and High Island this spring. Our Jefferson County readers may add some places to these in the months to come.

CLEARING HOUSE - January, 1975

- Loon, Common: (1)1,10,Cove,AKM; (12)14,Texas City Dike,A; (4)20,Texas City Dike,RK;
(6)26,Texas City Dike, HH; (18)4,Texas City Dike,TPJ.
" ARCTIC: (1)11,Texas City Dike,MAM,RBM,MA; (1)23,Texas City Dike,NO,VC,MA-see notes
" Red-throated: (2)23,Texas City Dike,NO,VC,MA-see notes.
Grebe, Horned: (1)8,10,Cove,AKM; (4)19,Houston L&P,Cove,HH.
" , Eared: (60p)4,21,31,(50p)8,(28)25,Cove,AKM; (50)14,Texas City Dike,A; (30)20,
Houston L&P,TBF; (2)18,Maner Lake, (6)19,Houston L&P,Cove,HH; (200p)4,Texas City
Dike,P&MJ; (1)11,Warren Lake,W&GC; (75p)22,Texas City Dike,MS,DC.
" WESTERN: (1)19,Houston L&P Ponds,HH; (2)18,Same Site,OG trip; (1)4,25,(2)18,Cove,
AKM-see notes.
Gannet: (1)30,Freeport Jetty,BK,TBF-see notes.
Cormorant, Double-crested: (2000p)1,Cove,AKM; (3500)14,Texas City Dike,A; (1000)20,
Houston L&P,TBF.
" Olivaceous: (10-150p)10 days, Cove,AKM; (6)20,Houston L&P,TBF.
Anhinga: (1)6,Cove,AKM; (2)11,Smither's Lake,RK; (2)18,Maner L.,(8)18,Smither's Lake
HH.
Heron, Green: (2)31,Sheldon,P&MJ.
Egret, Reddish: (3)30,Galveston,A; (2)19,Houston L&P,HH.
Bittern, American: (1)31,Sheldon,P&MJ.
STORK, WOOD: (1)26,Near Armand Bayou,Randy & Sandi Hobart-see notes.
Ibis, White: (9)30,Galveston, A.
Spoonbill, Roseate: (1)1,(12-31)4,8,10,25,(50p)16,Cove,AKM; (11)19,Houston L&P,HH.
Goose, Canada: (37)26,Brazoria Co., (65)31,Sheldon,P&MJ.
" , White-fronted: (100p)6,Anahuac,P&MJ,AB.
" , Snow: (20,000)6,West Harris Co.,ER&TBF; (1000p)6,Anahuac,(6000p)26,FM 762,
(1500)31,Sheldon,P&MJ.
" , Ross': (2)6,West Harris Co.,ER&TBF-see notes.
Mallard: (6)12,(2)25,Warren Lake,HH; (3)11,Warren Lake,W&GC.
Teal, Blue-winged: (2)11,26,Warren Lake,RK; (10)6,Anahuac,P&MJ; (1)11,Warren L.,W&GC.
" , Cinnamon: (4)6,West Harris Co.,ER&TBF; (1)11,19,Warren L.,RK: (1)18,Maner Lake,
HH; (2)26,Maner Lake,P&MJ.
Wigeon, American: (5000p)1,4,8,Cove,AKM; (3)25,Warren L.,(31)26,Galv.Airport,HH.
Shoveler, Northern: (2000p)4,7 more days,Cove,AKM; (1000-1200)6,Anahuac,P&MJ,AB.
Redhead: (8p)18,White-Barrow Rd.,near Anahuac,AKM.
Duck, Ring-necked: (1)18,Maner L., (1)19,Buckhorn L.,HH.
Canvasback: (13)1,4,Cove,AKM; (25)20,Houston L&P,TBF; (20)30,Galveston,A, (1)5,Lunar
Science Institute, (1)11,Warren L.,RK; (1)18,Maner L.,HH; (1)11,Warren L.,W&GC.
Goldeneye, Common: (1-4)9 days, (13)25,Cove,AKM; (2)20,Houston L&P,TBF; (8)30,Galves-
ton,A; (3 female)19,Houston L&P,HH; (5)18,Houston L&P, Field Trip.
Bufflehead: (25p)10 days,Cove,AKM; (12)14,Texas City Dike,A; (30)20,Houston L&P,TBF;
(4)4,Texas City Dike,RK: (28)19,Houston L&P, (14)26,Texas City Dike,HH: (5)18,
Houston L&P,Field Trip; (15)4,Texas City Dike,P&MJ; (7)22,Texas City Dike,MS,DC.
Scoter, White-winged: (1 female)23,High Island beaches,A,RR-see notes.
Duck, Ruddy: (500p)1,Cove,AKM; (10)20,Houston L&P,TBF; (20)18,Maner Lake,HH; (8)26,
Maner L.,P&MJ.
Merganser, Hooded: (2)25,Cove,AKM.
Kite, White-tailed: (1)11,Smither's L. Rd.,RK; (1)12,Salt mine,Jack Rd.,(1)25,W.Harris
Co.,HH; (1)26,FM 762,P&MJ.
Hawk, Sharp-shinned: (1)4,Baytown,P&MJ; (1)12,Baytown,W&GC.
" , Cooper's: (1)25,Robert's Cemetary,OG.
" , Accipiter species: (1)4,White Oak Bayou,W&GC.
" , Rough-legged: (1)25,Warren Ranch Rd. & Jack Rd.,P&PN,HH-see notes.
" , Ferruginous: (1)25,½ mile NE of Watter-Tomball Rd. & Hegar Rd.,P&PN,HH,see notes
Eagle, Golden: (1)6,West Harris Co.,ER&TBF-see notes.
" , Bald: (3)6,W.Harris Co.,ER&TBF; (7-2a,5i)11, (3i)25,Warren L.,RK; (1)12,Warren
Lake,HH; (8-4a,4i)16,W.Harris Co.,DH; (4-2a,2i)25,W.Harris Co.,OG.
Caracara: (1)19,W.Harris Co.,A; (1)19,Barker-Cypress Rd.,EM,Bertram McHenry,David
Burkett.
Kestrel, American: (1, carrying cowbird)11,Groveswood St.,W&GC.
Crane, Sandhill: (40)19,W.Harris Co., (85)30,Galveston,A; (168)19,25,26,Barker-Cypress
Rd.,RK,RM,Bertram McHenry,David Burkett; (20p)12,Harris Co.,so. of Katy,Ft.Bend
Co.,also, (12)26,West Halveston,HH; (287)26,Brazoria Co.,P&MJ; (150)December 21,
west of Satsuma,W&GC-(correction-Ed.).
GALLINULE, PURPLE: (1)18,Maner L. HH-see notes.
" , Common: (12)18,Maner L.,HH
Jacana: (7)18,Maner L.-1a,6i,HH.
Oystercatcher, American: (2)30,Galveston,A.
Plover, Semipalmated: (2)26,Texas City Dike,HH.
" , Piping: (6)18,E.Galveston,RK.
" , Snowy: (2)18,E.Galveston,RK.
" , Wilson's: (1)18,E.Galveston,RK.

- Knot, Red: (200p)18, E. Galveston, RK.
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: (30)30, Galveston, A.
 " , species: (31)4, (500p)13, (10p)16, (300p)25, (1200p)31, Cove, AKM; (20p)12, Warren L., (10)19, Houston L&P, (8)26, W. Galveston, HH.
 Godwit, Marbled: (5)30, Galveston, A.
 Stilt, Black-necked: (2)6, Anahuac, P&MJ-see notes.
 Gull, Bonaparte's: (10)14, Texas City Dike, A; (15)23, A, RR; (1)4, Texas City Dike, RK.
 Tern, Forster's: (2)14, Texas City Dike, A.
 " , Common: (6)14, Texas City Dike, A.
 Dove, White-winged: (6)26, Galveston Co. Courthouse, HH.
 " , Ringed Turtle: (2)9, (1)16, yard, P&MJ.
 " , Ground: (3)19, W. Harris Co., A; (5)25, Clay Rd., OG.
 " , Inca: (20)19, W. Harris Co., A; (2)7, 8, 10, yard, P&MJ
 Ani, Grove-billed: (1)14, Lunar Science Institute: this lone bird is a regular I've seen about 6 times in the last 3 months, RK; (2)18, Maner L., HH; (1)19, Franz Rd., 1/2 mile east of Mason Rd., W. Harris Co., C&SC.
 Owl, Barn: (1)nightly, yard, ER.
 " , Screech: (1)25, Cove, AKM.
 " , Barred: (1)22, yard, ER.
 " , Short-eared: (2)19, W. Harris Co., A.
 Hummingbird, Rufous: (1)20, Baytown, TBF; (1)18, Jim Beaty's yard, David Deifik & Jim Beaty; (2-4)everyday, yard, Moores: (1)all month, yard, JB-see notes.
 " , BUFF-BELLED: (1)20, 23, Baytown, TBF; (1)4, Baytown, P&MJ-see notes.
 Woodpecker, Pileated: (2)several days, Richmond State School, HH.
 KINGBIRD, WESTERN: (1)19, Texas City levee just east of dike, P&PN-see notes.
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: (2)18, Pelican Island, RK-see notes
 Phoebe, Eastern: (1)8, 15, 25, Cove, AKM; (1)18, Maner L., (3)19, Houston L&P, HH.
 Swallow, Tree: (10)1, (1)4, 16, (125p)13, (50p)21, Cove, AKM.
 Martin, Purple: (2)30, yard, TBF.
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted: (1)7, Clay Rd., P&MJ; (2)22, yard, ER.
 " , Brown-headed: (2)18, White Memorial Park, Field Trip.
 Wren, Long-billed Marsh: (1)17, Cove, AKM.
 Catbird, Gray: (1)25, Clay Rd., OG; (1)31, Sheldon, P&MJ.
 Thrush, Wood: (1)5, Lunar Science Institute, RK-see notes.
 " , Hermit: (1)4, Memorial Park, W&GC.
 Bluebird, Eastern: (2)8, Cove, AKM; (4)6, Anahuac, P&MJ.
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: (1)8, Cove, AKM.
 Waxwing, Cedar: (20)30, yard, A.
 Vireo, Solitary: (1)29, Cove, AKM.
 WARBLER, NORTHERN PARULA: (1)29, Armand Bayou (Bay Area) Park, RK-see notes.
 Blackbird, Rusty: (1)19, W. Harris Co., A.
 Grosbeak, Black-headed: (1 imm, male)7, yard-photographed at feeder, Chandlers in Conroe
 Finch, Purple: (3)20, Houston L&P, TBF; (1)6, W. Harris Co., ER&TBF; (3)8, yard, P&MJ; (2)4, White Oak Bayou, (2)12, Baytown, W&GC.
 Goldfinch, American: (8p)8, Cove, AKM.
 Towhee, Rufous-sided: (1 female)4, Memorial Park, W&GC.
 BUNTING, LARK: (1)17, IH 10 near Hwy 146, John Tveten, Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Buckels, AKM; (1)15, 17, 25, IH 10, AKM; (1)20, IH 10, TBF-see notes.
 Sparrow, Harris: (9)22, W. Harris Co., MS, DC.
 " , White-crowned: (2)8, Cove, AKM; (6)22, W. Harris Co., MS, DC.
 " , Fox: (3)31, Sheldon, P&MJ.
 " , Lincoln's: (2p)15, (4p)17, Cove, AKM.
 " , Swamp: (1)7, (10p)15, Cove, AKM.

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

MA - Margaret Anderson; JB - Jerry Baker; DC - Dot Calcote; C&SC - Chuck & Suzi Campbell; VC - Virginia Courtney; W&GC - Wesley & Glenn Cureton; TBF - T. Ben Feltner; DH - Dan Hardy; HH - Holly Hobart; P&MJ - Paul & Margaret Jones; BK - Barbara Kendrick; RK - Randy Korotev; EM - Elric McHenry; AKM - Arlie K. McKay; MAM - Mary Ann Moore; RBM - Robert B. Moore; P&PN - Paul & Phyllis Nimmons; NO - Norma Oates; ER - Elaine Robinson; RR - Rena Ross; MS - Martha Simmons

A - Barbara Kendrick, Elaine Robinson, T. Ben Feltner
 OG - Ornithology Group Field Trip

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

The following species were not exceptional in any way and were not included in the C-H---Pied-billed Grebe, White Pelican, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret, Black-crowned Night-heron, Mottled Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Bobwhite, Clapper Rail, Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Common Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, Greater Yellowlegs, Les-

ser Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Chickadee, Robin, Water Pipit, Orange-crowned Warbler, and Yellow-rumped Warbler.

ARCTIC LOON: 1 seen on January 11, 1975 at Texas City Dike by Mary Ann Moore, R.B. Moore, and Margaret Anderson. Location: about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from base of Dike, south side. Observed with 7x binoculars and 20x scopes (2). When first observed, bird was fishing, about 100 yards from observers. Bird was watched for nearly 10 minutes, during which time it moved steadily away from the observers. Description: (notes made on the scene by MAM). Thin bill, not upturned. Contrast between white of throat and dark of top of head and back was quite marked in comparison to a Common Loon, which was nearby. Bill markedly thinner than that of the Common Loon. -- Bob Moore

ARCTIC LOON: Small loon, smooth back, straight small bill. Good light at 50 yards, 20x scope. -- Margaret Anderson

Red-throated Loon: Small size, lower mandible upturned small bill, speckled back, no eye-ring--good light, 50 yards, 20x scope. -- Margaret Anderson

WESTERN GREBE: Light fair, distance 150-200 yards, 20-45x scope; bird observed swimming and splashing as if bathing, front of neck and underside of body very light, back of neck and upper body medium dark gray, not very dark black but very definitely contrasting with underside of body, neck of bird relatively longer than any other bird in area; only bird with comparable neck was cormorant. HL&P Cooling Ponds. --Holly Hobart.

WESTERN GREBE: with 20x scope at 200 yards. Large brown necked birds with sharply contrasting white foreneck extending to cheek areas. Richer dark brown at "ears". Seen diving in grebelike manner. -- Field trip (given by David Defifik)

WOOD STORK: Sighted on January 26 by Roger and Sandi Hobart. Stork was approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Armand's Bayou and 1 mile south of Genoa-Red Bluff Rd. in a cow pasture. Bird was seen walking in small puddle, apparently hunting food. The bird was about 4 feet tall with a white body. When I approached closely, the bird flew a short distance. The after edges of the wings (about 6-8 inches) were black, wingspan was about 5-5 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The bird landed in a larger puddle. I was able to get within 15 feet and take some black-and-white pictures with my camera using its standard 50mm lens and Plus-X film. The bill on the head of the stork was long, over a foot, and curved downward, like a curlew. The bill at its base was almost as broad as the head of the stork. The head was not feathered, but looked like wrinkled skin, black in color, extending down the neck. The wrinkles were quite pronounced. I am sending two of the five pictures taken. One is full frame, the other is an enlarged picture of the bird to show detail. -- Roger Hobart and Sandi Hobart (The submitted pictures show an unmistakable Wood Stork; the trouble and time these observers spent verifying this bird is appreciated--C-H Editor)

Gannet: An immature bird--dark and mottled, not white--seen in flight at the end of the Freeport Jetty as close as 45 yards with 8x30 binoculars. Watched about 3 minutes. A large bird with a large, pointed bill, white patch at the base of its pointed tail, and in flight the body was held in an "uphill" profile. --Elaine Robinson

Ross'Goose: Near Jack Rd. off Katy-Hockley Cutoff, W. Harris Co. Feeding in a rice stubble with several thousand Snow Geese. Equipment: 30x Balscope for about 2 minutes at distance of 100 yards. Extremely small size; shorter necked than Snow Goose; most striking field mark--small thimble-like bill and cuddly-headed appearance. --T. Ben Feltner

White-winged Scoter: Off Shorty's Longest Pier near High Island; 30x Balscope Sr. at 140 yards. All brown female duck with two dirty-white spots on face, one behind and one in front of the eye. White speculum visible in bird at rest in water. Bird's profile low in water and horse-headed; watched for about a minute; have seen thousands in more normal locale, ie Northwest and Northeast U.S. -- T. Ben Feltner

Rough-legged Hawk: Intersection of Warren Ranch Rd. and Jack Rd. Paul Nimmons, Phyllis Nimmons, and Holly Hobart. 8x30, 8x40, and 7x35 binoculars. Habitat--prairie; weather clear. Seen for 4 minutes. Description: underside--black belly, tail was white with dark band and tiny white band at tip; wings were white with black elbow patches and black tips. Head was light cream. Above: brown with some rufous. Tail was white at base with black band covering terminal half. Size of Red-tailed Hawk. Seen flying, soaring, fluttering and hovering from about 30 feet to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. All observers have several years experience but the bird was a life bird for all three. No sketches. Conclusions are based on the above. Field notes enclosed. --Paul Nimmons

Ferruginous Hawk: About $\frac{1}{2}$ mile NE of intersection of Waller-Tomball Rd. and Hegar Rd.

Observers and equipment same as above, two B&L scopes from 150 yards; weather clear. Habitat--prairie. Seen for 15 minutes. Description; underneath very white chest and belly. Head light gray--almost white. All white underneath except for rufous legs, rufous elbows and black wing-tips. White tail shaded to slightly darker (but still white) toward tip. Above: brownish-rufous with rufous elbows and white patches toward tips of wings. Size of Red-tailed Hawk. Seen on ground and in flight. Field notes enclosed. All observers had seen this species only a few (app. 3 each) times before. No sketches. Conclusions based on above. --Paul Nimmons.

Golden Eagle: Adult; open field; 150 yards south of Jack Rd, off Katy-Hockley Cutoff, W. Harris Co.; in an open rice field. Observers: Elaine Robinson and T. Ben Feltner. Optical equipment used--8x40, 8x30 binoculars, 30x Balscope St. at 200 yds. Subject under observation about 35 minutes. We observed a very large bird of prey dive into a flock of geese and assumed immediately it was an eagle. The huge size, larger than a Turkey Vulture, was striking. Through the scope the following details were evident: uniform dark brown plumage except top of head and nape down to the shoulders, which were golden-ochre. Soft parts yellow. Massive legs with very heavy shaggy "pants". The eagle was dismantling a kill which we examined after the bird finished eating. It was an adult Blue Goose from which all the breast and one leg were eaten. We were surprised to find the liver untouched. I have seen Golden Eagles about 15 times prior to this in every Southwestern state. My identification is based on previous experience and the above details. --T. Ben Feltner

PURPLE GALLINULE: Light good, distance 50-70 yds., 20-45x scope, bird approximately size and shape very similar to Common Gallinule (sic) but bird was colored purplish and with a white forehead, no white along sides as in Common Gallinule. --Holly Hobart

Black-necked Stilt: 2 were seen on edge of pond south of Shoveler Pond at Anahuac. Long reddish legs, white front of neck and belly, black back of neck and back, distinctive black and white facial pattern, long thin bill. Observed by Paul and Margaret Jones, Avis Brister, and Arlie McKay. 20x Balscope. -- Paul Jones

Rufous Hummingbird: David and Jim Beaty at feeder in Beaty's yard; 8x at 30 feet; Rusty back and tail, light breast with reddish iridescent throat patch. --D. Deifik

Rufous Hummingbird: 2 seen every day in our yard at feeders. On some days 3 were seen simultaneously and on at least one day 4 individuals were observed. One of the individuals seen every day was quite rufous on the back while the other was green-backed. Both had rufous at base of tail. --Bob Moore

BUFF-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD: Seen at Lefkovitz' feeder by Paul and Margaret Jones (and many others). Large size, greenish throat and back, buffy belly and tail. 7x35 and 7x50 binoculars. Bright sunlight. --T. Paul Jones

WESTERN KINGBIRD: Texas City levee just east of dike. Paul and Phyllis Nimmons. 8x40 and 8x30 binoculars and 30x B&L scope from 100 to 25 yards. Seen flying and perching. Description: Black tail with white side borders and square terminus. Dark gray head, light gray throat, medium gray breast and yellow below. Feet did not hang down in flight. Both observers have seen all North American kingbirds and are familiar with Western Cassin's and Tropical Kingbirds. Field notes attached. --P. Nimmons

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: These birds were spotted perched on the wires along the main road near the Pennzoil road intersection (right across from the small pond). They were about 100 yards apart and behaving and looking just like the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers we all know and love. Had it been June I wouldn't have given them a second look. Both had long, well-developed tails. I wasn't close enough to see if there was any color on their sides. I had them in view about 5 minutes while checking over the pond. During this time they changed positions 2 or 3 times and appeared to be catching insects. Other details: bright sunshine, about 65 degrees, app. noon, Bushnell 7x50 binoculars. --Randy Korotev

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER: I heard its distinctive voice first, a rising trill with a little flip at the end. It called about ten times during the three minutes or so I watched it feeding high in some leafless trees. The chin and breast were bright yellow, the belly and undertail area were light gray or white. What little I saw of the top of its head was greenish. The wings were gray with two light wingbars. I observed the bird about 30 to 40 feet overhead with Bushnell 7x50 binoculars. Time: about noon. I saw four Northern Parulas in this same area last April. --R. Korotev

Wood Thrush: This bird was seen perched about 8 feet above ground in a leafless shrub in bright sunlight about 12:30 p.m. I first spotted its back and noticed immediately that the tail, back, and wings were all about the same brown color; the tail was not rufous. I did not observe the head to be rufous, but when it turned toward me I did see a pronounced white eye-ring and the large, distinctive black spots typical of a

Wood Thrush. I am familiar with breeding Wood Thrushes from Wisconsin. The bird was visible for 1/2 minute and was observed at about 40 feet with 7x50 binoculars. --Randy Korotev

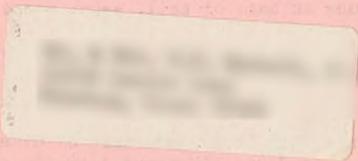
LARK BUNTING: Bird was found and observed almost every day for a week before this date by Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Buckels. Details: seen at 25 ft. with 8x40 binoculars for two hours. Color photographs taken by John Tveten. Bird perching in tallow and willow trees along road over little stream. Generally with flock of House Sparrows. Often left to feed in weed field and then returned to trees. Also fed on shoulder of road. Large Sparrow-like bird. Larger than House Sparrow. Large buff-colored patch in wing visible while perched and in flight. Outer tail feathers lighter on outer half. Rounded tail with light feather tips. Back light tan with darker streaking. Light face markings in form of streak down and back from bill and light patch behind ear. Head streaked with darker brown, Breast sharply streaked, especially on sides, with what appeared to be a dark central spot. Bill light bluish-gray. Lower mandible lighter. General impression that of very large, light sparrow. --John Tveten

NO DETAILS were submitted with the following sightings:

Gannet: (9)19; SCOTER, BLACK: (40)19, High Is. area; GULL, LESSER BLACK-BACKED, (1) date?, Galveston; Jerry & Nancy Strickling. Scoter, Surf: (1)22, Texas City Dike, MS, DC. SCOTER, BLACK: (4 females)23, High Is. area, RR, A. Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: (1) all month, yard, JB. See Jan. SPOONBILL for rules on submitting rare species.

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