



# THE SPOONBILL

2

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

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, FEBRUARY 3, 1972 by Gladys Galbreath

Miss Sarah Gordon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M. Minutes of the December 2, 1971, meeting were approved as corrected.

Miss Melba Drake, Treasurer, read the financial report for the period ending January 31, 1972, showing receipts of \$99.85, disbursements of \$51.14, leaving a balance of \$235.79. Report attached.

Mrs. Margaret Jones, Program Chairman, announced that Mrs. Maxine Wenger, assisted by Mrs. Dorothy Lefkovits, will present a program of bird calls along with slides of the birds that give the calls at the April 13 meeting.

Miss Gordon announced that the April 6 meeting has been postponed to April 13 because the Audubon Wildlife Film, "Migration Mysteries" is being shown on the 6th.

Miss Marilyn Crane announced Dan Hardy would lead the field trip Sunday, February 6, beginning at Bear Creek Park and covering part of West Harris County. On March 25-26 Ralph Hunter and Kay McCracken will lead a field trip at Corpus Christi and nearby points on Saturday and on Sunday go to the Welder Wildlife Refuge. Details are published in the "Spoonbill."

Miss Gordon announced that Mrs. Margaret Anderson underwent emergency surgery this week and is doing as well as can be expected. She is in Room 434 of Methodist Hospital.

Reports on recent sightings of rare birds are Scaup, Scoter, Jaeger, Gannet, Wright's Quail (dead) and Lesser Goldfinch.

Miss Gordon started a report on "Good News" seven months ago because of bad news featured daily in our newspapers, TV and radio. The good news reported at this meeting was the return of various species of birds to the Thames River, near London, England; a Bald Eagle whose mate was shot and wounded was being cared for by the Audubon Society, and he was air-lifted food until he acquired a new mate.

Jim Lane advised that Dennis Russell reported nine pairs of Bald Eagles were nesting in Texas.

Under date of January 15, 1972, a meeting was held in Alpine with reference to building a multi-storied motel in Chisos Basin, construction of a bridge at Boquillas and establishing a Port of Entry at that point in Big Bend National Park. Miss Gordon recommended that each member of OG write a letter, and below are listed three things to oppose: 1) Support the National Park Service plan for a Wilderness Area in Big Bend National Park. Oppose any further housing facilities or development in Chisos Basin. 2) Object to the building of bridge at Boquillas Canyon area which would result in increased traffic and commercial use of park roads. 3) Request that your letter be part of the record of the January 15 hearing on the park. Deadline for letter being in hands of Park Superintendent, February 15, 1972.

John Tveton reported he sent a print of the Jaeger to Edward Kincaid.

Mrs. Avis Brister stated 39 members were present and two guests, Violet and Sandy Mitchell, their friends.

In the absence of T. Paul Jones, Chairman of Cost Committee, Miss Gordon advised there has been difficulty in getting the "Spoonbill" published. OG has acquired a mimeograph machine from ONC and Mrs. Jones has agreed to run off the "Spoonbill" for the time being. Many avenues have been checked into with regard to reducing the cost of publishing rather than increasing dues, but no final agreement has been reached. After further discussion it was agreed to table the matter until next meeting.

For the program Jimmy Murray showed two movies. One, entitled "Blind Birding," was of birds he had photographed from a blind, and the other was of birds and scenery he had taken on a trip to Tobago.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

#### SPECIAL SHOW

On March 15, 1972, the Outdoor Nature Club proudly presents a special show at the Home Builders' Auditorium, 2710 West Alabama, starting at 8:00 P.M. The title of this show is The Silent World, and it stars Captain Jacques Cousteau and the crew of the Calypso. This is one of the greatest documentaries ever filmed. It is an Academy Award winner and a winner of the Cannes Film Festival Gold Palm Award. It is underwater adventure at its best. The donations for this year's special show will be for the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary.

#### WHITE-FRONTED DOVES NEAR LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI by Mrs. C. F. (Charlotte) Johnson

January 26, 1972, about 1:30 P.M., in good sunlight, two WHITE-FRONTED DOVES were spotted on the road from the Wright Ranch to Fort Lipantitlan. About half-way between the Ranch and the Fort is a large white mail-box with the number 114-A on the front, opposite this is a private road with a gate. About 500 feet past this white painted mail-box is a small old windmill on the same side of the road. On the opposite side of the road from the windmill the two WHITE-FRONTED DOVES were spotted and identified by Ella Anderson (Rockport), at the edge of a field where deciduous trees and brush begin. They were on the bare branches in good sunlight and were clearly visible. Ella said they were not the Mourning Dove but the species she had observed with the writer at Santa Ana last February, where one came to feed at evening near the Park Headquarters. The writer, Charlotte Johnson (Houston & Rockport), and Ella used Zeiss 7x50 and Bausch & Lomb 7x35 binoculars to observe and identify these two doves. The doves stretched their wings while on the branches and the chestnut reddish underwings were observed. The light forehead and light underparts were also observed. Then they flew slowly to the ground and the dark underneath of the rounded tail with the white corners was clearly visible. Most of these marks of identification were also noted by Ivy Nell Gable (Hayward, Wisconsin) with binoculars. We were able to observe the Doves and to refer to our books during about 15 minutes of observation at about 150 feet in full sunlight.

Some distance past this spot there were many, many Mourning Doves at a Ranch on the windmill and mailbox side of the road. They were in short grass fields and on telephone and barbed wires.

(The Wright Ranch is on Farm Rd. 666 near Lake Corpus Christi. Here are seen many Black-bellied Tree Ducks and Exotic animals.)

#### JANUARY FIELD TRIP by Maxine and Richard Davis

On the 8th of January, thirty enthusiastic "birders" met at the Trinity River bridge on I-10 for a day of birding, with Mr. Arlie McKay as leader. The caravan proceeded east to Hankamer exit, and south to White Memorial Park. There was a good variety of birds here including bluebirds, fish crow, slate-colored juncos, brown-headed nuthatches, brown creeper, barred owl, pileated woodpecker, solitary vireo, pine warbler, orange-crowned warbler and other woodpeckers.

We returned to I-10 and drove west to FM 563, Liberty exit, and went north about 3.8 miles, then west to Texas Gulf sulphur pipe line where we parked and walked to a lake at the right. There were cormorants, anhinga, winter wren, and pileated woodpecker in this area. Continuing on west one mile we turned south for about a mile and parked on a curve, and walked to the right through some woods to another lake. From here we drove on east to a cross road and turned right onto FM 536, then south under I-10 about .7 mile, turned right .6 mile to Anahuac Lake. At this location there was an osprey, some spoonbills and a spotted sandpiper.

We returned to FM 563, turned left to I-10 and drove west to the original meeting place for lunch. From here we proceeded west to FM 565, near Cove, turned left

Page. 3.

under I-10 and then west to an access road to FM 2354, Cotton Lake Road, and followed along the bay to Baytown. At one point there were avocets in an inlet off the bay, and at another place we saw an Olivaceous Cormorant and Wilson's Snipe. Through this area there were many Red-tailed hawks, but we didn't see the Krider's Hawk.

During the trip there were 88 species recorded and everyone enjoyed a good day of birding under the very capable supervision of Mr. McKay, in areas new to many of us.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP by Jim Beaty

17 members of the Ornithology Group braved the elements on Sunday morning Feb. 6th for a field trip to Bear Creek Park, Warren Lake and the area around Hockley. But the frequent rain showers sent 6 scurrying back home to a nice dry place.

But those who stuck it out were well rewarded. Among the total of 77 species that were observed were 10 Bald Eagles, Le Conte's, Harris', white-crowned, and Vesper Sparrows, a couple of Purple Martins, and numerous Ducks and Geese.

Our thanks go to our leader Dan Hardy for a very enjoyable trip.

A JANUARY VACATION IN HAWAII by Noel Pettingell

On January 13 I experienced the full impact of the fantastic "Jet Age" firsthand: from Houston to Los Angeles in less than 3 hours and then across 2,551 miles of open ocean to Honolulu in just 5 hours. I had seen Rock Doves and Starlings in Houston that morning and Barred Doves and Common Nynas that afternoon at Honolulu Airport--the first species I'd ever added to my "Life List" outside of the North American Continent. (Barred Doves were first brought into Hawaii in 1922 from Malaya and Nynas in 1865 from India.)

We (my wife, Ethel, and offspring Mark and Mary Beth were with me) didn't reach our final destination on the Island of Maui until after dark so were unable to fully appreciate our exotic surroundings until the following day. Early that morning I was awakened by a song so totally unfamiliar that there was no doubt in my mind that I was about to add another new species to my Life List. But much to my surprise and disappointment I soon discovered that the "mystery voice" belonged to one of the most abundant birds of residential areas in Hawaii-- none other than the common Myna! I also learned, after having spent most of that day in the immediate vicinity of our beachfront hotel, that there were no waterbirds at all in that area (Kaanapali, NW Maui) and only 5 species of landbirds-- none of which were natives of Hawaii. Equalling the Myna in abundance were the very tame Barred Doves (similar to the Inca Dove in size and appearance) followed by the somewhat less common House Finch, House Sparrow, and a tiny (4-inch) Grassfinch the Ricebird (introduced into the Islands about 1865 from Malaysia)--my 3rd Hawaiian "Lifer". During that day I also added two other imported species to my Hawaii list--the Spotted Dove (brought into the Islands prior to 1879) and N. Am. Cardinal (introduced in 1929) near Lahaina, south of Kaanapali. Jan. 14 weather note: Temp. range--Honolulu: 65-79°F. Houston: 40-61°F. (Honolulu is 75 miles NNW of Kaanapali.)

The next day I finally saw my first waterbirds-- Wandering Tattler, Ruddy Turnstone and Sanderling-- and the day after added my 4th Life List species, the Japanese White-eye. Flocks of these birds responded to squeaks much like Ruby-crowned Kinglets and they appeared to be the commonest of landbirds in all wooded habitats which I investigated in the NW part of Maui I. This species was also the first one I ever encountered which belongs to a family with no North American Representatives. (White-eyes comprise some 85 species ranging from Africa through Asia and the E. Pacific Ocean, are usually classified immediately preceding the Vireos, and were first brought into Hawaii in 1929.) At dusk on that same day (Jan. 16) at Kaanapali a Short-eared Owl flew over -- my first native Hawaiian landbird.

A visit to Haleakala National Park, site of the World's largest dormant crater, on January 18, produced my first endemic landbird, the Amakihi, a member of the isolated and remarkably diversified Hawaiian Honeycreeper family. On the return trip to the lowlands I added my 6th Lifer, the Skylark (imported from England in 1865 and New Zealand in 1870). Other species added to my Hawaiian list that day included my first 3 resident waterbirds -- Black-crowned Nightheron, Am. Coot, and the Hawaiian form of the Black-necked Stilt; Pintail, Shoveler, Am. Golden Plover (all at Kanaha Ponds near Kahului Airport); and Mockingbird (introduced from N. Am. in 1928). During the course of that most eventful and memorable day we had ascended to 10,023 feet, the highest point on Maui where the temperature was 42°F. under a tropical sun, and then had gone swimming in the warm Pacific only 14 miles away

from the SW rim of Haleakala Crater. Jan. 18 weather note: Temp. range- Honolulu: 64 - 80°F; Houston: 55 - 71°F.

During a tour along the northeastern coast of Maui on Jan. 19 I found a colony of White-capped Noddies at Waiānapanapa State Park - the only waterbird I added to my Life List while in Hawaii. Although Hawaii's only goose and state bird, the rare Nene had been reintroduced in Haleakala Crater in 1962, the area was 10 miles from the nearest paved road so there was only one easily - accessible site where I could hope to find any new lifers - Hosmer Grove, a 7,000 - foot cloud forest in the NW corner of Haleakala National Park where I'd found my first endemic 3 days earlier. So it was that Jan. 21 turned out to be the most exciting birding day of my entire stay in Hawaii.

At the entrance of a  $\frac{1}{2}$  - mile-long nature trail through the Grove a permanent guide map display portrays several species of birds in color and indicates localities where they can usually be found along the trail. Three of the species depicted were not yet on my life list: the Apapane and Iiwi, members of the Hawaiian Honeycreeper family, and the Red-billed Leiothrix (or Japanese Hill Robin or Pekin Nightingale), a Babbler imported from China in 1911. Handy trail guide booklets are also available beside the map display in which are described each of 50 natural points of interest keyed to numbered stakes along the path, such as the following helpful excerpts of special interest to birders:

"Proceed Quietly...beyond this point you will continue on a slight upgrade to a sunny overlook where it is possible to see and hear some of Hawaii's native birds as they feed on their favorite foods. Slow approach, little movement, and quiet on your part should help to provide a rewarding experience...If you will pause in this area for a few minutes and observe carefully, you may see some of the following birds...native to Hawaii - Amakihi, Iiwi, Apapane... note the large concentration of the red blossoms (Ohia) trees in the stream area...this helps to make a favorite gathering place for some of the loveliest true Hawaiian birds which feed on the nectar and the native berries."

And there they were! All 3 Honeycreepers! The green and yellow Amakihi (the most common), several Apapanes (Lifer #8) with crimson bodies and black wings and tails and a single Iiwi with its brilliant vermilion body, black wings with white patch, black tail, and deeply-curved inch-long salmon bill. It was a scene I'll never forget - one of those rare and priceless birding memories that I know will rank among the most unique I'll ever experience. I never saw the Leiothrix but was most fortunate to have found the Honeycreepers when I did because shortly after I had identified the Iiwi (about 10:30) the clouds moved in and I had to seek cover from heavy drizzle which prevented me from doing any additional birding in that section of the Park. As it turned out, the Iiwi was actually the 25th and last species on my Hawaii list - and the most spectacular of all! (I had recorded my last new exotic and earliest Hawaiian import (1796) - the Rock Dove - on Jan. 20 about 4 mi. N. of Kaanapali.) Of the 25 species I found on Maui, 10 were native waterbirds, of which 4 were permanent residents; and all except the Noddy also occur in North America. Of the 15 landbirds, 3 were endemic (i.e. Hawaii only) and the only other native species (short-eared Owl) also North American; 6 of the 11 introduced landbirds also inhabit North America.

I've related only the bird-finding highlights of my vacation, but there are other memories I'll always cherish of those 12 days I spent on the enchanted isle of Maui, so appropriately called "The Last Hawaiian Place"... I remember the incredibly clear water in which I swam with delight every single day except the first and last... and being lulled to sleep and awakening to the gentle sound of the surf on the beach outside our open windows...and watching the ever changing cloud patterns over the islands of Molokai 13 miles to the northwest and Lanai 10 miles to the southwest... and viewing the lush foliage abounding on the windward side of Maui which resulted from being constantly drenched by moisture-laden northeast trade winds...and sensing the tremendous and hypnotic forces in surging breakers crashing against rocky shorelines...and imagining the cataclysmic volcanic upheaval that created an island rising more than 10,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean...and vast pineapple and sugarcane plantations... and black sand beaches... and agile surfers skimming the crests of mountainous waves... and gazing at the matchless grandeur of the sun sinking into the Pacific.

But mere words can't really describe how it is in such an extraordinary setting... it can only be experienced to be truly appreciated. Even the lack of birdlife amid an almost infinite variety of habitat is difficult for a mainland birder to accept and describe to other mainlanders. Hawaii is truly the paradise of the Pacific but,

as with the mainland States, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to preserve the natural resources of the Islands because of mounting economic and political pressures. I am therefore going to conclude my own impressions of a wonderful place with the following significant remarks published in The Auk, Oct. 1971 (PP.906-908) under the heading of Conservation of Birds in Hawaii:

"The U. S. Department of the Interior lists 28 endemic Hawaiian birds as 'endangered'; 24 others are already known or believed to be extinct. These facts point up the magnitude of the conservation crises in the Hawaiian Islands, unmatched anywhere in the world for threat to extinction of terrestrial vertebrates. A building boom in the lowlands menaces continued existence of endemic races of the stilt, coot, and gallinule. Nene, Koloa (duck), and Hawaiian forms of Manx Shearwater and Dark-rumped Petrel continue to be exposed in varying degrees to introduced ground predators such as rats, cats, dogs, and mongooses on coinhabited islands. Populations of 16 species or races of upland birds continue to decline from long term habitat changes brought about by continual grazing of domestic livestock, feral goats, and sheep and pigs that are managed as game animals. While ungulates are primary destroyers, they also hasten establishment of a plethora of introduced biota that alter fundamental natural relationships and cause irreversible changes... cattle ranchers and plantation owners continue to clear and develop native forests for increased numbers of cattle. Real estate ventures, once confined largely to lowlands, are moving higher and higher in the forest zone where more natural conditions important to survival of bird populations prevail. On balance, clearly conservation programs in Hawaii are not keeping pace with deleterious effects attributable directly or indirectly to man."

CLEARING HOUSE, January, 1972

- Grebe, Horned: (4)6, Cove, AKM.  
 Eared: (5)3, (3)5, (15+)6, (1)14, Cove, AKM.  
 Pied-billed: (1)3, (2)17, Cove, AKM.
- Pelican, White: (2-10)3,5,8, (40)6, (80)14, Cove, AKM.
- Cormorant, Double-crested: (1-15)9 days, (400+)5, Cove, AKM.  
 Olivaceous: (2-14)3,6,8,14, Cove, AKM.
- Heron, Great Blue: (1)22, Addicks Dam, P&PN.  
 Little Blue: (2)3,17, (1)6,16,28, Cove, AKM; (1)25,26, Cove, C&DP.
- Egret, Cattle: (1-11)12 days, Cove, AKM; (73)15, Galveston, DM.  
 Common: (100+)22, Addicks Dam, P&PN.
- Nightheron, Black-crowned: (NC)8, Cove, AKM.
- Bittern, American: (1)10,13, Cove, C&DP; (1)13, Galveston, D&DL.
- Spoonbill, Roseate: (16-20)3 days, (1-3)3 days, Cove, AKM.
- Goose, Canada (Lesser): (2)10, C&DP.  
 White-fronted: (200+)15, (2)17, Cove, AKM.  
 Snow and Blue: (NC)13 days, Cove, AKM.
- Ducks, Mallard: (1)5, (2)14, (5)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Mottled: (2-10)6,24,25, Cove, AKM.  
 Gadwall: (2-7)5,6,7,13, Cove, AKM.  
 Pintail: (NC)6 days, (23+)3,8, Cove, AKM.  
 Teal, Green-winged: (NC)6 days, (400+)24,25, Cove, AKM.  
 Blue-winged: (4)10, Cove, C&DP.  
 Cinnamon: (14)23, Anahuac Refuge, DH.
- Widgeon, American: (NC)6 days, (33+)5, Cove, AKM.
- Shoveler: (NC)4 days, (5+)25, Cove, AKM.
- Wood: (10)2, (1)6, Cove, AKM.
- Scaup, Lesser: (2000+)10, (2)11, Cove, C&DP.
- Goldeneye, Common: (1)3, (11)6, Cove, AKM.
- Bufflehead: (2)6,14, Cove, AKM.
- SCOTER, SURF: (1)30, West Galveston Beach, P&MJ.
- Merganser, Red-breasted: (30)3,6, (11)5, (115+)8, Cove, AKM.
- Vulture, Turkey: (1-5)6 days, (7)1,14, (1)7, Cove, AKM.  
 Black: (51)1, (5)13, Cove, AKM (the 51 was the largest flock in about 12 years).
- Hawk: Sharp-shinned: (1)8,15, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Red-tailed: (1-9)7 days, (10-19)8 days, (25)6,15, (26)7, Cove, AKM; (2)22, Katy Freeway at Hiway 6, P&PN.  
 Krider's Red-tailed: (1)several days, Cove, AKM.  
 Harlan's: (1)8, Cove, C&DP.  
 Rough-legged: (1)23, Chambers County, DH.  
 Marsh: (1-8)17 days, Cove, AKM.
- Falcon, Peregrine: (1)26, Cove, C&DP; (1)23, Anahuac Refuge, DH.
- Hawk, Sparrow: (1-12)26 days, (13)6,7, (27)14, (18)15, Cove, AKM; (1)9, 7702 Westview, (1)30, Bammel Road, P&PN

- Bobwhite: (1)2, (1 covey)14, Cove, AKM.  
 Crane, Sandhill: (8 flocks)15, Galveston, DM (see Clearing House Notes).  
 Rail, King: (1)8,13,25, Cove, C&DP; (1)13, Cove, AKM.  
     Virginia: (1)28, Cove, C&DP.  
 Coot, American: (1)6, Cove, AKM.  
 Plover, Black-bellied: (1)2,10,13,25, Cove, AKM; (1)8,9,27, Cove, C&DP.  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: (7)6, Cove, AKM.  
 Woodcock, American: (1)1, Cove, AKM.  
 Snipe, Common: (10)24, (1)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Sandpiper, Spotted: (1)7 days, (2)24, Cove, AKM.  
 Willet: (53)3, (1-5)6 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Yellowlegs, Greater: (1-4)6 days, Cove, AKM.  
     Lesser: (1-10)7 days, (35+)14, (15+)25, Cove, AKM.  
 Sandpiper, Least: (NC)3 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Dunlin: (NC)1,3,25, Cove, AKM.  
 Dowitcher, Sp.: (10-50)4 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Sandpiper, Semi-palmated: (NC)6,14, Cove, AKM.  
 Sanderling: (3)5, (5)6, Cove, AKM.  
 Avocet, American: (25+)14, Dr. Fayle's Island at mouth of Cedar Bayou, AKM.  
 Gull, Franklin's: (1)25, Cove, AKM.  
     Bonaparte's: (9)1, (1+)3, Cove, AKM.  
 Skimmer, Black: (6)5, Cove, AKM.  
 Dove, Rock: (1)13, Cove, AKM (1st in over a year).  
     Inca: (8)9, (4+)daily, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Ani, Groove-billed: (3)13, Stewart Road, Galveston, D&DL.  
 Owl, Barn: (4)2, Cove, AKM.  
     Screech: (1)21, Cove, AKM; (1)13, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
     Great-horned: (1)1, 28, Cove, AKM.  
     Barred: (2)1, (3)2, (1)17, Cove, AKM.  
     Short-eared: 1 found dead on FM 565 by C&DP.  
 Kingfisher, Belted: (1)7,14,17,25, Cove, AKM.  
 Flicker, Yellow-shafted, (1)9 days, (2)1,17, (12)2, (5)15, (3)19, Cove, AKM; (2)9, 7702 Westview, P&PN (frequent visitor).  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: (2)1, (1)2,15,19, Cove, AKM.  
     Red-bellied: (2)1, (1)6, Cove, AKM; (1)9, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: (1)7 days, (2)3, (4)14, (5)15, Cove, AKM; (1)29, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Woodpecker, Downy: (1)2, Cove, AKM.  
 Phoebe, Eastern: (1)1,6,12, (3)2, (2)14, (4)15, Cove, AKM.  
 Swallow, Tree: (1)14, Cove, AKM.  
 Martin, Purple: (1)30, Gulf Freeway near Dickinson, NW Galveston Co., FC; (NC)26, Manor Lake, 15 miles NW of Angleton, JJJ.  
 Jay, Blue: (2)29, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Chickadee, Carolina: (9)1, (2)2,12,19, (1)3,28, Cove, AKM; (4+)daily, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Titmouse, Tufted: (1)1,6,14,19, Cove, AKM; (8+)daily, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Creeper, Brown: (1)9,30, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Wren, House: (1-3)11 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Mockingbird: (1)9, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Catbird: (4)1, (2)2, (1)28, Cove, AKM.  
 Thrasher, Brown: (1)23, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Robin: (1-100)15 days (1 an albino), (100-300)1,2, (800+)22, Cove, AKM; (3)30,31, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Thrush, Hermit: (1)1,2,28, (3)17, Cove, AKM; (1)1, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Bluebird, Eastern: (20+)15, Cove, AKM; (1)22, Hempstead Hiway, P&PN.  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: (1-4)5 days, (5-10)3 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned: (1)1, Cove, AKM.  
     Ruby-crowned: (1)15, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Pipit, Water: (counted, not recorded)5 days, Cove, AKM.  
 Waxwing, Cedar: (3-4)5 days, (100+)22,25,26, Cove, AKM.  
 Shrike, Loggerhead: (2)22, Hempstead Hiway, P&PN.  
 Starling: (1)15, Katy Freeway, P&PN.  
 VIREO, WHITE-EYED: (1)15, Cove, AKM.  
     Solitary: (1)1,14,28, Cove, AKM; (1)1, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Warbler, Orange-crowned: (7)1, (2)2,14, (1)6,19,28, Cove, AKM.  
     Myrtle: (NC)18 days, (100-200)6 days, (250+)14, Cove, AKM; (5+)23, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
     Pine: (1)14, Cove, AKM; (1)3,5,14,23, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
     PRAIRIE: (1)13, Cove, AKM (see Clearing House Notes).  
 Yellowthroat: (3)1, (1)2,31, Cove, AKM.  
 WARBLER, WILSON'S: (1)16,19, 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.

Sparrow, House: (5+)daily, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Meadowlark, Eastern: (2)26, Houston Baptist College, P&PN.  
 Blackbird, Red-winged: (75+)9, (30+)daily, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Rusty: (1)14, Cove, AKM.  
 Brewer's: (2)9, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Grackle, Common: (4)8 days, 8th-30th, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: (3)16, (5+)22, (3+)29,30, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Cardinal: (2)daily, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 Grosbeak, Black-headed: (1)23-31, 701 Scenic Drive, Baytown, B&WT.  
 Bunting, Indigo: (1)15, Cove, AKM (see Clearing House notes).  
 Finch, Purple: (3)1, (1)6, (2)12, Cove, AKM; (1)1,7,25,27,31, (2)26, (7)13, 7146  
 Ilex, SE Houston, NP; (2)18, 7702 Westview, P&PN; (75+-150+)daily,  
 1601 Woodlawn, Baytown, D&DL.  
 Goldfinch, American: (NC)15 days, (250+)14, Cove, AKM; (25+)9, 7702 Westview, P&PN.  
 LESSER: (1)20,23, Cove, AKM (see Clearing House notes).  
 Sparrow, LeConte's: (1)2, (8)12, Cove, AKM.  
 Vesper: (2)15, Cove, AKM.  
 Field: (2)1, (10+)15,17, (1)24,28, Cove, AKM.  
 White-crowned: (3)14, (8)27, Cove, AKM.  
 Fox: (1)2, Cove, AKM.  
 Lincoln's: (3)14,17, Cove, AKM.  
 Swamp: (3)2, (1)15, Cove, AKM.  
 Song: (1)1,2, Cove, AKM.

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

AKM	Arlie K. McKay	DM	David Marrack
FC	Fred Collins	DH	Dirk Hagemeyer
NP	Noel Pettingell	P&MJ	Paul & Margaret Jones
P&PN	Paul & Phyllis Nimmons	JJJ	Mr. & Mrs. John J. Jones
D&DL	Dorothy & David Lefkovits	B&WT	Betty & Wiley Tompkins
C&DP	Chuck & Dennis Peting		

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

We want to welcome the Clearing House contribution of Paul and Phyllis Nimmons this month. They have not been OG members long and have contributed several sightings before, but this is their first extensive list.

From David Marrack: In scouring Galveston Isle for the Great White Heron Jan. 15, a cold, blowing norther day, I found it huddled under a bank and some scrub with a Great Blue Heron, and they flew around together. I also counted up Sandhill Cranes. The largest of the 8 parties I saw was 67. There were also several parties of Cattle Egrets, the total counted was 73. (Editors' apology--Dr. Marrack sent a follow-up note giving the total number of Sandhill Cranes, but we carelessly misplaced it) He also made a trip to Aspen, Colorado, and noted "Birds are few up there in the snow--Clark's Nutcrackers, Canada & Steller's Jays, and I fed a Mountain Chickadee with bread by hand on Aspen Mountain one morning. It was very friendly & hungry."

From Arlie K. McKay: Concerning the Prairie Warbler--my first winter record; Chuck Peting pointed out to me a warbler with yellow which I am quite sure was not a Prairie Warbler, then he saw two more, of which at least one was a Prairie. Much searching has failed to produce either since. About the Lesser Goldfinch--Both had been shot with a BB gun. A lifer for me! Peterson gives the length of this goldfinch as 4" and the American Goldfinch as 5" to 5½". Sprunt gives the length of the American Goldfinch as 4.8"-5.2"; Ridgway 4.45"-5.40"; Pearson (Birds of America) 5", the Lesser 4½". The ones I measured were 4.56" and 4.9" and one sice, 4.75". Their rumps were not whitish or light gray. Their crowns were faintly streaked as Pearson notes; also they were as Pearson says "tail: with white on inner webs of exterior tail feathers restricted to a squarish spot in middle portion". On Indigo Bunting: was a male, all blue, appearing darker than in spring. It was feeding with goldfinches, a little larger, feed method the same. I had never supposed one would be blue in winter.

#### CONSERVATION NOTES

President Nixon as ordered the federal government to end its practice of poisoning predatory animals. The target date for termination is March 9. More selective methods will be used to eliminate specific animals damaging livestock or crops. Federal agents are expected to begin immediately retrieving poison baits from the field.

The Corps of Engineers has announced that planning on an authorized 42-mile extension of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway from Carrabelle to St. Marks, Fla, has been terminated for environmental reasons. Considerable dredging through several areas which are vital habitat for marine life would have been necessary.

New federal legislation makes it illegal to shoot at any species of wildlife from an airplane or to use an airplane to pursue or harass wildlife. Penalties of as much as \$5,000 in fines and/or one year in jail are provided by the las.

COMING EVENTS

- Tuesday  
March 14 Regular meeting of ONC in Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, at 8 P.M. Program will be "Camp Strake, Scouting Nature Program," presented by Ralph D. Childs.
- Wednesday  
March 15 Special movie, "The Silent World." See Details on page 2.
- Sat. & Sun.  
March 18 & 19 Double ONC field trip, "Slithering Creatures," Woodrow Erwin, Leader, and "Dogwood Trek," Gladys Galbreath, Leader. Details will be published in Nature Notes.
- Sat. & Sun.  
March 25 & 26 OG field trip to Corpus Christi. Details in January Spoonbill.
- Sunday  
April 9 OG field trip to High Island for spring migration, Steve Williams, leader. Meet at roadside park, west side of Highway 124, in High Island, at 8 A.M. Bring lunch
- Saturday  
April 22 Spring Big Day count. Set this date aside now for participation in this annual event. Details will be announced later.



Outdoor Nature Club  
Ornithology Group  
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