



# THE SPOONBILL

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LATE NEWS: Page 17, Rare Bird Alert Listings  
Page 18, Fish-eating Bird Survey

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## SOMETHING MISSING?

The April SPOONBILL lacked a page last month, due to an ironic coincidence. The Editor numbered two stencils the same (page 10), and the mimeograph frustratingly misbehaved, causing much gnashing of teeth and doing and re-doing. Jumping over the painful whys and wherefors, the upshot was that the Clearing House jumped from Scissor-tailed Flycatcher to Louisiana Waterthrush! You will find the missing page (numbered 10-A) inserted at the end of this issue. Those of you who keep your SPOONBILLS, please detach and insert that page between pages 10 and 11 of your copy of the April SPOONBILL. Sorry about that, folks! (The really painful part is that it cost \$70.00 and 2 trips with it to A.B. Dick to get the machine fixed.)

## SOMETHING ELSE MISSING?

Russ Clapper sent in the following notice: FOUND: in good condition at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, paperback edition of Birds of North America containing notes of personal value recording "lifers". Owner may call (713) 267-3337 or pick up at Anahuac Refuge office (in the town of Anahuac). [Sadly, no name was on this book. Be sure your name and address is on your field guide!]

## SOMETHING ADDED

Included in this issue is the first of our up-dated birding maps, a newly drawn and keyed map of West Harris County. It was prepared and keyed by Ted Eubanks, Jr., who has birded that area extensively. With development rolling westward in an inexorable lava-like flow, we wonder how soon another up-date will be needed. We suggest you put the map with your field birding guide, so that you will have it with you when you bird this area. Get familiar with West Harris County in all seasons, not just the spectacular winter waterfowl display at Warren Lake! There will be other updated maps in future issues of the SPOONBILL, as well as a new one or two. Look for them!

## COMING EVENTS

May 18-19-20: OG field trip to Mo Ranch. Reservations made by the OG have been filled, but check with Jim Morgan, 461 3080, for cancellations or possible additional available reservations. To get there from Kerrville, take Hwy 27 to Ingram, then Hwy 39 to Hunt, then FM 1340 to Mo Ranch.

May 26-27-28: OG picnic on Saturday, May 26, at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Come early (as early as Friday night, if you wish), stay late, or stay for the entire weekend. Bring food, water, binoculars and walking shoes! On Sunday there will be a grand demolition of the rotting "pie house", so bring muscles and crow-bars, etc. This is a much needed project that the OG is undertaking, and we need your help. We've had a hustling, bustling migration this spring, now let's go to the Sanctuary and see some nesting birds amidst quiet woodlands. The lovely song of the nesting Swainson's warbler is one of many bird songs you will hear (you might even get to see one of the elusive little creatures). Those new members who have never been there are urged to attend this annual get-together and see what a jewel of wilderness the Outdoor Nature Club has. To reach the Little Thicket, take I-45 north to Willis, turn right on FM 1097, right again on FM 150, then right again on FM 945, go 2 miles to gate on left (gate is set back from road, drive winds around to it).

June 26-30: Spring Branch I.S.D.'s Continuing Education Dept. is having a Natural History Tour to Big Bend, guided by Randy Beavers, director, and Charles Peterson, Asst. director of the Environmental Science Center (and ONC-OG members). This sounds like a winner....carefully planned and pre-run. Registration is May 15-16, space is limited, call 464-1511, Ext. 304 or 305, or call 465-9628 for fuller details.

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE:

From Bruce C. Thompson, who is initiating a doctoral program at Texas A&M University involving research on apparent declines in the breeding population of Least Terns along the Texas coast. The editor suggests that you copy the following information and carry it with you in your field guide when birding areas with Least Tern concentrations. If you have the "what to report", the "who to report to" and the "what to look for" information right at hand, you will be much more likely to send in any sightings requested!

"Least Tern sightings needed - I have initiated research on the population dynamics and site requirements of Least Terns on the Texas coast to identify possible causes of a recent decline in breeding pairs. Both adult and young terns will be marked with colored wing tags (streamers) during the 1979, 1980, and 1981 breeding seasons. Tags will be placed on both wings and will bear a single letter and digit for individual recognition of birds. Anyone observing Least Terns marked in this manner is requested to record: date, time, specific location, tag color, letter and digit, general activity, plumage description, association with other birds, observation distance and direction, and name, address, and telephone number of observer. Also, further information is needed concerning concentration areas (feeding, loafing, courting, nesting) used by Least Terns in Texas. Information recorded on such sites should include that requested above, excluding tag description. Please send all information to: Bruce C. Thompson, Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences, Texas A & M University, College Station, Texas 77843. Also please report sightings of marked terns to: Bird Banding Laboratory, Office of Migratory Bird Management, USFWS, Laurel, MD 20811. Anyone interested in participating in a Least Tern census this summer should contact Mr. Thompson as soon as possible at the address listed." [See elsewhere in this issue news of the formation of a new bird research group. Ed.]

From Gladys Donohue: May 30, 1979 is the deadline for all spring hawk migration records. Please send them to her, Route 6, Box 616D, Mission Texas 78572. Also a Mississippi Kite watch is projected for August. Interested persons should contact her at the above address with suggestions as to the best date/s. The watch will cover Texas and Oklahoma.

From The Raptor Preservation Fund: Birds of prey face an uncertain future, for they are still shot, trapped, or poisoned in great numbers, as well as suffering an unending loss of critical habitat. The Raptor Preservation Fund, a nonprofit organization devoted to the preservation of our birds of prey, places great emphasis on education and conservation, is actively involved in golden eagle conservation by pushing for legislation providing complete protection and an active translocation program to help alleviate any problems. An associate membership to the Fund is \$15 annually. Membership dues or tax-deductible donations should be sent to Raptor Preservation Fund, 2100 Walsh Road, Round Rock, Texas 78664.

BIRD RESEARCH GROUP BEING FORMED

The Houston Audubon Society in conjunction with the Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club is pleased to announce the formation of a Houston area bird research group. The purpose of this group is to encourage birders, students and amateur ornithologists to organize their observations into useful data. The ultimate goal of this is to produce publications pertinent to the bird life in the Houston area. The group will include a variety of expertise: Al Barr, Spring Branch school teacher, wildlife scientist and bird bander, Randy Beavers, teacher at McAshan Arboretum and bird bander, Fred Collins, wildlife scientist and bird bander, Ted Eubanks, Jr., amateur ornithologist, journalist, and Chairman of the Ornithology Group, David Dauphin, bird bander and former chairman of the OG, Barry Hinderstein, Professor of Ornithology at Texas Southern University, Elric McHenry, amateur ornithologist and project instigator, Jim Morgan, birder and active participant in compilation of several checklists. We encourage all who would like to participate in an existing project, or start a project, to become members of our group. The organizational meeting will be on May 23, 1979 at 8:00 at the Moore Sanctuary.

PAST EVENTS: Field Trip to Anahuac NWR, April 28, 1979

As expected the OG Rail Buggy Field Trip produced a mass of birders, over 60, which necessitated splitting into three groups so that all could get a ride. Although rails were seen on all three trips, the most productive trip was the third one. On that trip they saw five yellows, three Virginias, three Soras and one King rail. The maximum number of Soras, ten, was seen on the second trip. (Fred Collins, with a small group of birders, saw a fantastic 120 Whimbrels on the refuge.) On one trip, a small bird with dangling legs was claimed by some to be a Black rail, by others as a "possible" but without conclusive proof. (The day before, on the 27th, a group

of Louisiana birders, with a few Houston birders, saw three Black, 12 Yellows, and 12 Virginias). The "official" field trip ended at the refuge, however many participants went on to bird other areas in the afternoon.

A NOTE ON STRATOSPHERIC STREAKING.....by LeRon Bielak

Having read an article most appropriate to this time of year for birders I would like to share it with you. It concerns one of the many mysteries of bird migration-- how birds can survive migratory flight at nearly stratospheric heights. The article appears in *Science* (v. 203 #4386, 23 March, 1979) under the title "Birds Fly. Why Can't I" by Thomas Maugh II. Here is the essence:

If you or I were to board a jetliner on a flight north the pilot would eventually inform us that our cruising altitude was some 30,000 feet or more. We would also be reminded that emergency oxygen masks will pop out of the overhead compartments if cabin pressure is lost. Should you or I find ourselves exposed to the rarified conditions five miles or more above the surface of the earth we would begin hyperventilating, our blood would then turn alkaline due to the large drop in carbon dioxide in our bloodstream, and our blood vessels would contract causing our brains to become oxygen starved. Severe pain and death are likely to follow unless normal atmospheric conditions are rapidly re-established.

Our much admired avian aviators get around the hyperventilation problem quite well. While birds also hyperventilate at high altitudes their blood vessels by contrast do not constrict reducing the flow of blood to the brain. At least this was true of the mallard ducks which Dr. Barbara R. Grubb of Duke University studied in trying to explain the high flying capability of birds during migration. Using a radioactive tracer gas, Dr. Grubb discovered that the mallard's brain receives about the same blood flow during hyperventilation as during normal breathing. So, for a duck's brain at 30,000 feet it is business as usual. But still unexplained is the mechanism by which the bird's blood vessels are kept from constricting during hyperventilation despite the fact that blood alkalinity may rise to a pH of 8 or more. This condition is lethal to most other animals.. So now Dr. Grubb is looking into the possibility that the proportionately larger heart of birds may act as a heavy duty pressure pump keeping blood vessels open.

I wish someone would now explain to me how I can keep my binoculars from fogging up!

[The latter is one problem that LeRon doesn't have to worry about at this time, for the day after he mailed this interesting article to the SPOONBILL, someone entered his home and then left with his binoculars scope and camera, along with stereo equipment, etc. It is an insult when one is robbed at any time, but it is truly an injury added when a birder's binoculars are stolen during migration!]

LATE MARCH AND EARLY APRIL BIRDING IN CENTRAL CALIFORNIA.....with Gladys Donohue

I would not have chosen to go to California at this time, but the Vulture Symposium at Santa Barbara, in which I was to participate, was set for March 23-26, so I had no choice in the matter. The weather was cold and rainy up to the end of March. After that, days were warm on the Pacific, but nights very cold. Thus, camping out in a station wagon is not the most comfortable thing to do. Mountain passes are either closed with snow or impassable due to slides. And it is really cold as soon as one leaves the lower elevations. But there are compensations. Along the coast the winter birds are still present, and pelagics are heading north. At the seawall, a free camping area on the water on the old highway northwest of Ventura, the morning after a night of pouring rain, I saw a fine gray whale migration. For about an hour and a half they poured north, breaking surface like porpoises I have watched sporting in Florida waters. However, the march north was determined. People told me I could find the whales by the spouting, for most see only the spouts. But I saw none of that, only the backs of the great leviathans as they periodically broke the surface. Whales were spaced about equally in ranks of 5 or 6 and rolled along like a great flotilla, their progress slow and majestic. The part of the backs that I could see flashed a rather buffy brownish in the sun. Later I saw a film about the whales at Channel Islands National Refuge Headquarters and could see that the sun flashing off the many barnacles on the whales' backs would make them look that way. Also, because they were between 1 1/2 to 2 miles off, it is probable that the spouting would not be visible. The ranger on duty seemed to think so many whales together very unusual. In fact, he said he had never seen more than possibly 15 together. I wished then that I had paid more attention to how many whales there actually were! There were more than 100 easily, possibly 150-200 or more. According to the film, there can be 75 to 100 in a migration. In addition, it was stated that the whales are accompanied by their calves. These I could not see, it was too far off for that. An interesting facet of this migration - and the one that tripped me up -

was that the whales were accompanied by a great lot of seabirds. Probably I would not have seen the whales if I had not seen the seabirds out there. From approximately 8 to 9:30 in the morning this parade marched up the coast out where the marine shelf with its light color dropped off into dark blue depths. Apparently the whales disturb marine life into action, creating a bonanza of food for the accompanying seabirds.

At the beautiful marina area in Ventura where the Channel Islands National Monument headquarters is located (lovely place of sheltered canals with at least 1,000 sailboats moored either at the sailing club or at private residences), birds take advantage of the quiet waters. Western grebes can be found any time of day, and both Red-throated and Arctic loons winter here.

In the parking lot at the Santa Barbara Museum where the symposium was held, many birds sang and foraged about. Song sparrows are common everywhere, to my constant amazement. Being a dyed-in-the-wool New Englander, I associate Song Sparrows with the east. In the forties I fed many White-crowned as well as White-throated sparrows spring and fall at my home in Massachusetts. White-crowns invariably sang their throaty little songs for me there in the yard, somewhat different from the western version which I hear in this area. One White-crown surprised me by feeding in the marina parking lot on crumbs dropped by weekend boaters.

Santa Barbara has many beautiful woody parks in which to find birds. In fact, all of Santa Barbara is woody. Downy, Acorn and Nuttall's woodpeckers, Scrub jays, Mockingbirds, Wrentits and House finches are some of the birds to be found there. In the Botanic Garden I found Brown towhees carrying nesting material on March 27. California quails fed in a covey behind the administration building, running back and forth across the path as long as no one disturbed them. In the morning they can be heard calling their distinctive calls, nothing like the Mama-doll call of the Gambel's quails which they so much resemble in appearance. The Cliff swallows were picking up mud from puddles left by recent rains at the Ventura marina and building their nests in the rock walls of the adjacent canals.

I knocked myself out going to all the right places around Santa Barbara, not once but a number of times, looking for Tricolored blackbirds without success. Then, as I was standing at the marina in Ventura watching Western grebes on April 3rd, two Tricolors flew over me, calling. Such is the luck of birding!

[In the March, 1979 SPOONBILL, the Editor asked for comments on perching habits of Buff-bellied hummingbirds, for two of these rare visitors had been observed perching quite low in bushes. Gladys, who lives in the Valley, had this comment: It does seem to be a characteristic as I have seen them doing that along the Rio Grande bank in Santa Ana. When looking down at the vegetation from a bluff, it was very hard to get good looks at them.]

#### BRAZOSPORT REPORT ....by Sherry Collins

As I sit in my back yard writing this report, the evidence of spring migration is all around me. I've heard the busy twittering song of the Tennessee warbler all morning, a Nashville is feeding at the top of a pecan tree; and the backyard sounds like a battleground for miniature jets as the ruby throats dive-bomb each other for the rights to the feeder. A mockingbird is serenading me with the calls of a summer tanager, a Great-crested flycatcher, and a Chuck-wills-widow. Migration seemed to start slowly this year, but has picked up greatly in the past few days. Perhaps it is just as well that these beautiful birds are here for such a short time. Possibly the eye can become satiated with the continuous presence of such a wealth of beauty and color! As it is, my first look at a Baltimore oriole this year was at an adult male in full sunlight whose brilliance was almost unbelievable.

Our usual migrant traps have proved busy this week. The best areas at the Freeport City Park have been around the old barn at the back of the park, and in the trees bordering the alley that runs alongside that barn and down past the park. The salt cedars along the Old Bryan Beach Road have been very productive. Shirley Wright and Ann Atkins report that the cedars looked like Christmas trees covered with bright blue balls as the Indigo buntings came in. One can't help but empathize with these small creatures as they come in so exhausted from their long flight. Shirley tells of a Tennessee warbler that came walking up the beach at Quintana jetty and took refuge under a house trailer. Tom Collins reported a scarlet tanager that was so tired that it merely pecked his hand when he placed it beside the bird. A Lesser nighthawk and a bobolink were seen at the salt cedars where the Old Bryan Beach Road makes its jog to the left to go to the beach. These cedars seem especially active in the afternoon.

Paul and Jim Haddox have had an adult male Broad-tailed hummer at their feeder for over a week. His beautiful rose gorget is in full color and the whine of his wings is audible anywhere in the yard.

Tom and Sherry Collins had a new birding experience Friday, April 20. Lake Jackson received only light rain during the time Houston was experiencing its downpour. Nevertheless Friday night was very foggy and visibility understandably poor. During a two hour period, starting at about 7 p.m., literally hundreds of small birds flew very low over our heads. We could pick out no definite species but thought they were probably small shorebirds and warblers. Occasionally we could see a dark shape go by close overhead. There was a constant sound of buzzes and trills and chips, and Tom once heard a warbler singing its full song. It was an amazing phenomenon and I wish we could have seen as well as heard.

The Brazosport Birders have not yet had their April meeting, so have not set a date for the May picnic. Contact a member for more details.

#### AROUND AND ABOUT

\*\* LeRon Bielak sent us a clipping about a Minneapolis utility which found owls can be useful, even plastic ones. They are up in the air over power outages caused by squirrels crawling on high-voltage wires, and officials decided to take to the air to solve it. North States Power Co. has installed 30 plastic owls at four substations in hopes of warding off the squirrels. Owls are natural enemies of squirrels, blamed by utility officials for about 1,200 of the 7,900 power failures in the Twin Cities area in 1978.

\*\* Shall we send Southern California our condolences? From the Western Tanager we learn that the Great-tailed Grackle is invading that area. "Twelve years ago the birds were found with difficulty along the Colorado River near Imperial Dam, but this year a quick count revealed 300 along five or six miles of river below the dam." The birds are being seen to the northwest in the Imperial Valley, and also along the coast, one here, one there. Too bad there isn't a way to "stem the tide" while the birds are so few!

\*\* Also from the Western Tanager we learned that the first Cattle Egret in the west was found in Orange Co. in Dec. 1962. Checking with our demon statistician, Noel Pettingell, we find the first Cattle Egret on the upper Texas Coast was reported March 25, 1956. However, the first Texas record was at Rockport (Connie Hagar and members of TOS field trip). The January, 1956, SPOONBILL carried an item about the bird, and warned members to be on the lookout for this newcomer to Texas. First indication of breeding in Texas was in Galveston (many young seen, August 17, 1958, Norma Oates), according to The Bird Life of Texas.

#### OUT OF THE PAST

In the early years of the OG, one of their projects was a yearly census of nesting birds at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Members camped there the night before and got an early (alarm clocks set for 4:30 a.m.!) start. Also there was a Sanctuary Spring Round-up. The May, 1955, SPOONBILL carried this item: May 1---Swainson's Warblers (2 males, 1 female), Bachman's (Pinewoods) Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bell's Vireo and Roadrunner, all recorded by Joe M. Heiser, Jr. in the Little Thicket Sanctuary Spring Round-up. This is a first record for Bell's Vireo at the sanctuary and the second year Swainson's Warblers have been seen in the area".

And from the September, 1955 SPOONBILL, Joe Heiser had this report: August 11, 1955-- During the week of July 17th, Vic Emanuel and Carl Aiken discovered a Painted Bunting's nest not far from Camp Cove. The two nestlings proved to be cowbirds - drat their fat, sassy hides! I felt like throwing them out, but didn't have the heart, after the two buntings had worked so hard taking care of them. We had one pair of Roadrunners, probably nesting on the preserve, though nobody found the nest. The three Swainson's warblers I saw were probably migrants. Another Swainson's was observed a week later. However, we looked in vain for these birds during the nesting season now nearly over. This has been a successful season for Kentucky warblers, including the pair whose nest was located by OG members during their nesting-bird count at the Sanctuary. We did not record many rarities, but we have seen more young birds being fed, and heard more songs, than in any previous year. Among the special experiences was coming on a Bobcat enjoying a stretch in a narrow section of Dillowallow trail. It was evidently a young animal, very heavily spotted, and appeared to be as much surprised as I was, when I turned a sharp corner and saw the bob-tailed kitty only a few feet ahead of me."

## A NEAR-RECORD UPPER TEXAS COAST BIG DAY.....by Noel Pettingell

On April 28 a team of four birders consisting of David Dauphin, Ted Eubanks, Jr., Paul Nimmons, and the writer identified a total of 185 species in Harris, Galveston, and Chambers counties, a one-day list exceeded in the UTC area only by the 194 species found in Harris and Galveston counties on April 22, 1971 by Ben Feltner, Jim Tucker, Charles Turner, Phillip Warren, and the writer.

The first species of the day (4:51 am) was the Screech Owl, several of which responded to our tape at San Jacinto State Park (near the battleship "Texas"). Our next important birding site was the University of Houston at Clear Lake City campus which we reached at 5:25, just in time for the dawn chorus. This beautifully-wooded area, through which flows Horsepen Bayou, contained a surprisingly large variety of essential species, including Yellow-crowned Night Heron, both Vultures, an unexpected pair of White-tailed Kites (probably nesting), Red-shouldered Hawk, Purple Gallinule, Solitary Sandpiper, Barred Owl, Pileated Woodpecker, Bluebird, Gnatcatcher, Blue Grosbeak, and the following warblers: Parula, Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, Kentucky and Chat (a total of 11 species were found on the campus). A brief stop (7:30-7:45) at Bay Area Park on the east bank of Armand Bayou yielded Red-headed Woodpecker and Common Grackle. Our next key birding locality was Compton's Woods (north of Seabrook between Todville Road and Galveston Bay) where we added Inca Dove (new species for this area), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (calling), Philadelphia Vireo, and the following warblers: Swainson's, Golden-winged, Blue-winged, Magnolia, and Cerulean (bonus).

Three Mallards in flight at Kemah were a bonus addition to the list, as were a Swainson's Hawk and Black-billed Cuckoo in the vicinity of Spaceland Airpark north of Dickinson, as well as a Swamp Sparrow at Virginia Point at the west end of the Galveston I. bridge.

We birded Galveston Island from 10:15 am to 2:30 pm, increasing our day's list from 112 to 151 by the time we boarded the ferry to Bolivar Peninsula. Our 4 hours on the island enabled us to add the following essential and bonus (B) species at key localities (noted in parentheses):

KP - Kempner Park (28th &amp; O)

MH - Menard House (33rd &amp; N 1/2)

Common Loon (West Bay at Sportsman Rd.)	Veery (MH)
Black-cr. Night Heron (Anderson Ways Rd.)	Ruby-crowned Kinglet (MH)
Oystercatcher (S. Deer I. -by scope)	Cedar Waxwing (13-mi. Rd.)
Upland Sandpiper (Nottingham Ranch Rd.)	Yellow Warbler (9-mi. Rd.)
Spotted " (Anderson Ways Rd.)	Blackpoll " (KP)
(B) Baird's " (99th St. Golf Course)	Ovenbird (13-mi. Rd.)
White-winged Dove (Courthouse, 21st & Ball)	(B) Bronzed Cowbird (Nottingham Ranch Rd.)
(B) Cliff Swallow (Rd. east of Nottingham)	Scarlet Tanager (KP)
Robin (KP)	Dickcissel (Stewart Rd. near 11-mi. Rd.)
Gray-cheeked Thrush (MH)	Lincoln's Sparrow (13-mi. Rd.)

Bolivar Flats once again justified its reputation as one of North America's prime shorebird areas for it was here that we added 12 species in little over half an hour, including Semipalmated, Piping, Snowy, and Wilson's Plovers, Knot, and Avocet. Enroute to Rollover Pass (Gilchrist) we spotted several Buff-breasted Sandpipers (B) and at Rollover a small flock of unexpected Bonaparte's Gulls. At the High Island woods we added two more warblers (Worm-eating and N. Waterthrush) and another 9 species by the time we left the oil fields (about 5:45), including 4 ducks and Wilson's Phalarope (B)--our 180th species for the day.

Enroute to White Park (just south of I-10 off Hwy 61) we added Boat-tailed Grackle and Hudsonian Godwit (FM 1985 rice fields). We reached the park at 6:25 and heard Yellow-throated Vireo and our 23rd parulid for the day, the Pine warbler.

We tried for the Anhinga, Osprey, and Prothonotary warbler at Lake Charlotte (north of I-10 and west of FM 563) without success and then drove I-10 to the Trinity River (west of Wallisville) where we found our 185th species shortly after 7 pm (dusk), the Wood Duck.

Had we managed to find the following 15 essential (expected) species, we would have attained our ultimate UTC Big Day goal of 200, as well as exceeding the current all-time single-party record of 194 species (which includes both large grackles, although counted as a single species in 1971):

Anhinga	Lesser Scaup	Great Horned Owl
Fulvous Whistling Duck	Red-tailed Hawk	Long-billed Marsh Wren

Pintail	Common Snipe	Short-billed Marsh Wren
Green-winged Teal	*Long-billed Curlew	Prothonotary Warbler
American Wigeon	Marbled Godwit	White-throated Sparrow

\* Biggest "miss", yet several less-expected Whimbrels were found along the route.

Personal Species totals--April 28, 1979: David Dauphin--182; Ted Eubanks--180; Paul Nimmons--178; Noel Pettingell--178. Total species by everyone--174; car miles (start and end at Dauphin residence, Baytown)--251; foot miles--8.

#### PLACES TO GO

Elsewhere in this issue you will find a new W. Harris County map with keys to birding that area, done by Ted Eubanks, Jr. You may find your favorite spot for some particular species is not shown, but this is a good general guide to a close area that is good birding most seasons of the year.

The Big Day Runners highly recommend the Nature Trail at the UH Clear Lake City campus. They found it interesting and productive last month. You might consider combining three spots when in that area: UH, Bay Area Park, and Armand's Bayou Interpretive Center, all on Bay Area Blvd. within two miles of each other.

A spot to be checked for possible nesting waterfowl is our old favorite, Mercury Drive Dredge Disposal Area. Remember to be cautious when parking on shoulder, of the ground and the traffic!

#### REPORT FROM RUSS CLAPPER

Fourteen Rail Buggy trips were taken at Anahuac NWR during the month of April, with 385 people taking advantage of this unique opportunity to try to see the Yellow and Black rails. This is the highest total of people we have ever taken out at Anahuac. We never failed to find a Yellow rail, though it was sort of hit or miss..... on some trips we found one early, on others we really had to work for it. The Soras were not plentiful early in the month, but seemed to come in great numbers toward the last. A most disturbing note to us was our failure to see even one Pied-billed Grebe in an all-day air boat trip to Sea Rim State R.A., Murphree Management Area and McFaddin Ranch. (The CH editor reminds us that reports of this bird have been scarce this year. What's happening?) And guess who did not see a Black rail..... Russ Clapper, who went on six of the fourteen trips!

#### REPORT FROM THE STRICKLINGS:

We spent 9 days on Galveston Island, April 14 thru April 23, 1979, and 5 days at High Island April 26 thru April 30, 1979, looking at migrants. During this period of observations we: 1) saw practically no Sora Rails, only at Anahuac NWR on the buggy ride (the CH editor received reports of Soras being observed all during the month, however only two reports were Galveston sightings. Could this be an indication that the burgeoning development of Galveston is taking its toll of this bird's habitat?). 2) saw practically no Least Bitterns; 3) saw few rails of any type; 4) good news, we saw about 400 Hudsonian Godwits in one field near High Island on April 30; 5) thrushes seemed to be in good numbers (Wood, Swainson's, Veery and Gray-cheeked) both at Galveston and High Island; 6) Vireos seemed to be in good numbers (white-eyed, yellow-throated, red-eyed and warbling) and on schedule with the 5th edition of THE checklist (we would like to publicly compliment and thank Ben Feltner and Noel Pettingell for compiling the Birder's Checklist, 5th Edition of the Upper Texas Coast. We join many others in feeling it is the finest thing of its type we've ever seen); 7) As for warblers we will note the exceptions we found this year to the checklist: Worm-eating--abundant until last week in April; Nashville--never abundant, at best "fairly common", we saw only four in 14 days; Blackpoll--earlier than usual, at mid-April was possibly the most abundant warbler but was rare on May 1; Canada--later than usual, none were seen April by us. (The CH editor received only four reports, all observations made late in the month).

The strangest of bird sightings was a light phased Barn Owl circling with a group of Laughing Gulls about 150' overhead at the water's edge of West Bay. The group circled for 10-15 seconds at about 100' to 200' altitude. They disappeared to the west and the Barn Owl was still with the group. We saw the large owl head with its "monkey face" clearly. It stood out distinctly from the gulls. This is what called our attention to it. --Nancy & Jerry Strickling

REPORT FROM BARRY HINDERSTEIN

On April 22, 1979 from 8:20 am to 5:20 pm, Jim and Betsy Massey, Carol Meyer and I banded birds at the Sun Oil Lease, Bolivar Peninsula, 3.2 miles west of Rollover Pass. Nets were placed in front of salt cedar patches. The 10+ birds banded per hour left us little time to bird (108 birds were netted during the day). Many birds were "falling out" as front moved through. We had light rain in the morning. After banding House Sparrows for over a year for a project, it was the greatest pleasure to do this kind of banding. It was especially gratifying to key out the 4 Acadian Flycatchers, and know that was what they were. We netted, but did not attempt to band, 11 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and were amazed at the whimpering, crying sound they made while caught in the nets. In each case, the net mesh was eased so they could back out and zoom off, none the worse for the experience.

We were almost netted by the Texas Parks & Wildlife warden and the sheriff's department, but fortunately I had my permits in the car. They were seemingly not concerned about my federal banding permit, but read every word of my state papers!

[Ed. note: Bird banding is a research facet of birding that is very worthwhile. The recovery of banded birds or reports of marked birds helps ornithologists determine migration routes and/or fluctuations thereof, etc. If you are interested in this phase of birding, please note elsewhere in this issue the news of the formation of a bird research group. Expanding your interest in birding beyond "looking and listening" can be very rewarding.]

COMMENT FROM THE CLEARING HOUSE EDITOR

An altered format has been used in compiling this edition of the Clearing House. Exceptional numbers of reports and exceptional numbers of individuals were reported from the "migrant traps" in the UTC for each week-end in April. The possibility of overlap in numbers is great in this case, so a "numbers of reports" system is used this month for various localities. And, locality designations have been combined into "route areas". "Chambers-High Is." is the route area from White Memorial Park--Lake Charlotte--Anahuac NWR--Smith's Woods--Boy Scout Woods and High Island Oil fields. "Bolivar" is the entire Bolivar Peninsula west of High Island oil fields to the ferry. "Galveston" is the entire island of Galveston from the ferry to San Luis Pass.

In the future, observers are asked to use the regular CH format to report sightings as this altered format will be used only in exceptional instances.

A record of 284 species is reported for April by more than 80 observers. As one reporting member noted: "It was wing-to-wing birds and elbow-to-elbow birders" at all the "hot spots" on the UTC in April.

The reports of all birders is greatly appreciated and welcomed by the CH Editor.

[SPOONBILL Ed. note: Some of you may not be aware that we have Clearing House Bird Sighting report forms, which save you a lot of writing time if you are in the habit of sending in long lists. And the use of such a form might encourage some of you to report some of our more common birds. First made up by Mary Ann Chapman for her own use, the forms are available at meetings from Mary Gillette, or by mail from Maxine Davis. They are 10¢ each, plus postage (2 can be sent for 1 stamp). Maxine's address is 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston, 77096.]

CLEARING HOUSE, April, 1979

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made in the six counties comprising the upper Texas coast: Jefferson, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Ft. Bend, and Brazoria. How to read the CH: Species: Location--(how many)date, observers.

Those common species which can be readily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by number of reports, with lowest and highest numbers seen in parentheses, i.e. (1-42). If any of these species is reported in unusual habitat or numbers that will be noted separately.

Loon, Common: Texas City--(1)1,D, (4)21,HN,LS; W.Galveston--(2)8,(7)22,G, (1)20,JHa, (2)27,JMo, (2)28,R&AD, (1)29,J&BH  
Grebe, Horned: Galveston--(3)17,HN,LS (see notes)  
Grebe, Eared: 16 reports (1-60)  
Grebe, Pied-billed: 15 reports (1-40) (Numbers low-CH Ed.)  
Pelican, White: 16 reports (3-200)  
Pelican, Brown: Bolivar--(1)7,R&MB; Offats Bayou--(1)23,J&NS; W.Galveston Bay--(1)28,R&AD

- GANNET: Quintana Jetty--(3)22, Jim & Pat Swartz, fide LB (see notes)  
 Cormorant, Double-crested: 16 reports (1-100)  
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: Bolivar--(10)1,D, (2)8,GH; Bryan Beach--(2)2,L&MB; Galveston  
 --(3)8,2,G, (5)27,JMo, (1)28,R&AD; High Is.--(1)14,M, (20)19,E, (6)21,C  
 Anhinga: Brazoria Co.--(5)8,G, (1)22,M&JSu; Cove--(1)28,GH; Lake Charlotte--(2)28,H  
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: Galveston--(1)22,G  
 Heron, Great Blue: 25 reports (1-100)  
 Heron, Green: High Is.--(1 on nest w/3 eggs)14,28,FGB; 43 additional reports (1-50)  
 Heron, Little Blue: 23 reports (1-65)  
 Egret, Cattle: 31 reports (3-1000)  
 Egret, Reddish: Bolivar--(1)1,D, (8)7,(3)8GH, (1)13,28,R&MBR, (2)14,28,FGB, (24)14,  
 21,28,R&AD, (12)21,C; Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe; High Is.--(2)7,JEy, (4)14,M, (2)19,  
 E, (1)28,H; W. Galveston--(2)8,(8)22,G, (2)13,FGB, (1)13,R&MBR, (2)13,B&EW, (2)20,  
 JHa, (6)27,JMo, (1)29,J&BH  
 Egret, Great: 27 reports (1-100)  
 Egret, Snowy: 25 reports (1-75)  
 Heron, Louisiana: 25 reports (1-150)  
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 10 reports (1-20)  
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: Galveston--(1)4,JHa; High Is.--(1)4,JMo, (10)19,E, (10)  
 28,H; Houston--(1)9,WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)21,R&MBR (Buffalo Bayou); Anahuac NWR  
 --(1)14,M, (1)28,L  
 Bittern, Least: Freeport Marsh--(1)22,L&MB; Galveston--(1)22,G, (2)28,R&AD; Anahuac  
 NWR--(1)28,R&MBR; (1)28,DM; High Is.--(1)28,A; Smith's Point--(1)28,GH  
 Bittern, American: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,P&MJ; Anahuac NWR--(1)12,TBF; Galveston--(1)  
 22,G  
 Ibis, White-faced: 28 reports (1-100)  
 Ibis, White: 18 reports (1-300)  
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 35 reports (1-36)  
 Goose, Canada: W.Harris Co.--(1)10,JEy  
 Goose, White-fronted: W.Harris Co.--(6)10,JEy  
 Goose, Snow: W.Harris Co.--(20)10,JEy  
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: W.Harris Co.--(1)22,FGB, (3)27,(4)29,JEy  
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Chambers Co.--(3)13,TBF, (6)14,M, (2)19,E; W.Harris Co.--  
 (10)21,(130)27,(80)29,JEy; Brazoria Co.--(2)29,D&RMe  
 Mallard: W.Galveston--(5)7,GH, (2)13,FGB  
 Duck, Mottled: 20 reports (2-100)  
 Duck, Gadwall: Chambers Co.--(15)1,D, (50)14,M, (5)19,E; Galveston--(2)22,A  
 Pintail: W.Harris Co.--(4)29,JEy  
 Teal, Green-winged: High Is.--(30)1,D; Brazoria Co.--(3)4,D&RMe; Galveston--(2)8,G;  
 Anahuac NWR--(20)14,M  
 Teal, Blue-winged: 32 reports (2-1000)  
 Wigeon, American: High Is.--(2)1,D; Galveston--(15)13,B&EW; Anahuac NWR--(32)14,  
 R&AD, (30)14,M  
 Shoveler, Northern: 11 reports (1-50)  
 Duck, Wood: Chambers Co.--(1)1,D, (1)28,R  
 Scaup, Greater: Brazoria Co.--(4)4,D&RMe  
 Scaup, Lesser: High Is.--(2)1,D; Brazoria Co.--(1)4,P&MJ; Galveston--(1)8,G  
 Scaup, sp.: Houston--(3)27,WC (Mercury Dr.)  
 GOLDENEYE, COMMON: Bolivar--(1 Imm. male)29,JCG (no field notes)  
 Duck, Ruddy: Galveston--(14)1,D, (15)8,(2)22,G, (8)13,FGB; High Is.--(2)4,D&RMe,  
 (1)14,M  
 Merganser, Hooded: Galveston--(2)29,L&MB (see notes)  
 Merganser, Red-breasted: High Is.--(20)1,D, (20)14,M, (20)19,E, (17)21,C; Brazoria--  
 (10)4,D&RMe; Galveston--(14)14,28,R&AD, (1)22,G, (2)29,JMo; Anahuac NWR--(1)28,  
 FGB, (1)28,R&MBR  
 Vulture, Turkey: 12 reports (1-10)  
 Vulture, Black: 3 reports (2-15)  
 White-tailed Kite: Galveston--(1-2 on nest)all month, m.obs., (2)21,DD,DC (one  
 adult observed feeding young) (Nottingham Ranch Rd.); Pearland--(1)4,B&EW; Brazor-  
 ia Co.--(1)22,D&RMe  
 Kite, Mississippi: Bellaire--(5)11,PJ (yard); Houston--(7)11,R&MBR; W.Harris Co.--  
 (7)20,JEy  
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Galveston--(2)3,TBF; Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe; High Is.--(1)  
 12,13,TBF; Bolivar--(1)22,J; W.Harris Co.--(2)22,JEy  
 Hawk, Cooper's: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe; Kempner Pk.--(1)4,JHa; Houston--(1)11,  
 R&MBR; Galveston--(1)22,G  
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 9 reports (1-2)  
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 6 reports (1-2)  
 Hawk, Broad-winged: 9 reports (1-10)  
 Hawk, Swainson's: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,P&MJ, (1)8,G; W.Harris Co.--(2)4,JEy; Houston--  
 (1)6,BH, (4)11,(1)30,R&MBR  
 Hawk, White-tailed: Ellington AFB--(1)20,M&RA (prior reports)  
 HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED: Bellaire--(1)18,DM (yard, no field notes); Sheldon Res.--(1)21,  
 DM (no field notes)

Eagle, Bald: Maner Lake--(1)1,R&MBr; Brazoria Co.--(4)8,G  
Hawk, Marsh: 23 reports (1-10)  
Osprey: Brazoria--(1)4,D&RMe; Galveston--(1)14,AD; Bolivar--(1)28,FGB; High Isl--  
(1)28,R&MBr  
Falcon, Peregrine: Chambers Co.--(1)27,DD (see notes)  
Merlin: W.Galveston--(2)5,JHa; Bolivar--(1)14,FGB, (1)21,DD,DC; W.Harris Co.--(1)  
21,JEy  
Kestrel, American: Chambers Co.--(1)1,D,(1)4,JMo, (1)12,WC; Brazoria Co.--(1)14,P&MJ;  
Galveston--(n/c)7,8,GH (1)8,G; Bolivar--(1)14,FGB; Houston--(1)21,PM (Westbury)  
Prairie Chickens, Greater: Brazoria Co.--(7)3,4,D&RMe (see notes)  
PHEASANT, RING-NECKED: Chambers Co.--(2)22,B, (1)20,HN,LS, (1)22,TM (prior reports)  
Bobwhite: 22 reports (1-30)  
CRANE, SANDHILL: Galveston--(8)8,GH (flying high overhead)  
Rail, King: Pearland--(1-w/4 chicks)14,B&EW; 26 additional reports (1-6)  
Rail, Clapper: 16 reports (1-30)  
Rail, Virginia: Chambers Co.--8 reports (1-12)  
Sora: Chambers Co.--(12 reports (1-15); Galveston--2 reports (1 ea.)  
Rail, Yellow: Chambers Co.--11 reports (1-12) last date 28th  
Rail, Black: Anahuac NWR--(1)14,R&MBr; (1)14,R&AD, (3)27,MA, (1)28,DM  
Gallinule, Purple: Brazoria Co.--(3)8,G; Galveston--(3)13,R&MBr, (1)27,JMo, (1)28,V/  
Anahuac NWR--(2)28,H  
Gallinule, Common: 11 reports (1-10)  
Coot, American: 18 reports (1-600)  
Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(2)1,D, (2)7,GH, (2)14,21,R&AD; Galveston--(1)22,  
G, (1)28,R  
Plover, Semipalmated: 15 reports (1-40)  
Plover, Piping: 9 reports (1-60)  
Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(2)1,D, (4)7,GH  
Plover, Wilson's: 10 reports (1-30)  
Killdeer: 27 reports (1-48)  
Plover, Golden American: 22 reports (1-5000)  
Plover, Black-bellied: 28 reports (1-60)  
Turnstone, Ruddy: 15 reports (1-100)  
Snipe, Common: Chambers Co.--(3)1,D, (4)13,TBF, (5)14,M, (2)21,C, (1)21,J&BH; Gal-  
veston--(1)5,JHa, (2)8,G, (3)13,FGB, (3)13,B&EW; Bolivar--(1)7,GH, (5)14,R&AD  
Curlew, Long-billed: 20 reports (1-31)  
Whimbrel: Galveston--16 reports (1-22); Chambers Co.--4 reports (1-120); Bolivar--  
4 reports (1-3); Sheldon Res.--1 report (1)  
Sandpiper, Upland: 24 reports (1-150)  
Sandpiper, Spotted: 9 reports (1-4)  
Sandpiper, Solitary: 8 reports (1-6)  
Willet: 26 reports (1-300)  
Yellowlegs, Greater: 19 reports (1-1700)  
Yellowlegs, Lesser: 28 reports (2-7500)  
Knot, Red: 10 reports (1-36)  
Sandpiper, Pectoral: 15 reports (1-400)  
Sandpiper, White-rumped: Chambers Co.--(3)13,TBF; Galveston--(2)28,R&AD, (1)28,V  
Sandpiper, Baird's: Chambers Co.--(1)21,C (see notes); W.Harris Co.--(4)27,JEy (no  
field notes); Galveston--(1)29,J&BH (no field notes, (3)28,R (no field notes)  
Sandpiper, Least: 12 reports (1-200)  
Dunlin: 16 reports (1-500)  
Dowitcher, Short-billed: Chambers Co.--(100)1,D, (500)14,M, (10)19,E; Bolivar--(1)  
7,GH, (100)14,21,28,R&AD; Galveston--(30)8,G, (4)17,HN,LS  
Dowitcher, Long-billed: Chambers Co.--6 reports (10-18,000); Brazoria Co.--5 reports  
(10-50); Galveston--4 reports (2-5); Bolivar--3 reports (10-300)  
Dowitcher, sp.: 9 reports (6-20,000)  
Sandpiper, Stilt: Chambers Co.--8 reports (1-950); Bolivar--3 reports (2-37); Gal-  
veston--3 reports (1-6); Houston--3 reports (30-50) (Mercury Dr.)  
Sandpiper, Semipalmated: 12 reports (1-100)  
Sandpiper, Western: 11 reports (3-750)  
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Chambers Co.--(3)1,D, (1)13,R&MBr, (85)13,TBF, (4)28,J&BH,  
(15)28,H; Ft.Bend Co.--(16)8,G; Bolivar--(14)14,R&AD; W.Harris Co.--(45)22,(300)24  
JEy; Freeport Marsh--(4)25,L&MB  
Godwit, Marbled: 11 reports (1-15)  
Godwit, Hudsonian: Bolivar--(4)7,GH; Chambers Co.--(1)13,TBF, (50)19,J&BH, (24)19,  
HN,LS, (30)19,E, (8)21,R&MBr, (39)21,C, (400)30,J&NS; W.Harris Co.--(4)27,29,JEY  
RUFF (REEVE): W.Galveston--(1)28,V & Dodie Rosmarin, m.obs. (see notes); High Is.--  
(1)29,JCG (see notes)  
Sanderling: 16 reports (1-250)  
Avocet, American: 13 reports (2-4000)  
Stilt, Black-necked: 24 reports (1-250)  
Phalarope, Wilson's: Chambers Co.--(1)1,D, (5)7,JEy, (3)13,TBF, (20)14,M, (3)19,E,  
(1)28,H; Houston--(2)12,(60)27,WC (Mercury Dr.); Bolivar--(1)14,FGB; W.Harris Co.--  
(1)22,FGB, (22)27,JEy, Galveston--(22)28,R&AD, (1)29,L&MB; Brazoria Co.--(1)29,D&RM

Gull, Herring: 11 reports (1-150)  
 Gull, Ring-billed: 13 reports (1-300)  
 Gull, Laughing: 30 reports (1-5,000)  
 Gull, Franklin's: Chambers Co.--(2)13,TBF  
 Gull, Bonaparte's: Bolivar--(15)1,D, (1)21,FGB, (2)21,C, (8)28,R; Galveston--(1)22,G  
 Tern, Gull-billed: Bolivar--(5)1,D, (1)14,FGB; Galveston--(2)8,22,G, (3)13,B&EW;  
 Chambers Co.--(5)13,TBF; Hitchcock--(2)13,B&EW; High Is.--(1)14,R&AD, (2)14,M  
 Tern, Forster's: 21 reports (1-500)  
 Tern, Common: Bolivar--(2)1,D, (n/c)7,8,FG, (1)28,FGB; Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe;  
 Galveston--(1)22,G, (18)28,R&AD  
 Tern, Least: Chambers Co.--(25 nesting pairs)13,DC (observed mating and nesting on  
 sand and shell spoil bank at mouth of Trinity River); 13 additional reports (2-300)  
 Tern, Royal: 14 reports (1-300)  
 Tern, Sandwich: Bolivar--(n/c)7,8,GH, (12)28,R&AD; Galveston--(30)22,G  
 Tern, Caspian: 10 reports (1-20)  
 Tern, Black: Bolivar--(1)7,GH, High Is.--(3)7,R&MBr, (1)14,M; Galveston--(1)8,(3)22,  
 G; Anahuac NWR--(2)28,H  
 Skimmer, Black: 15 reports (1-1005)  
 Dove, Rock: 18 reports (2-500)  
 Dove, White-winged: Galveston--(3)all month, JHa (yard), (3)7,GH, (3)27,JMo; High  
Is.--(2)14,R&AD, (1)14,M  
 Dove, Mourning: 35 reports (1-200) plus 1 nesting report  
 DOVE, RINGED TURTLE: Bellaire--(2)25,PJ 9yard), (3 chicks + 5-6 adults)all month,  
 Barbara Milwee (prior reports)  
 Dove, Ground: Galveston--(1)22,G  
 Dove, Inca: 21 reports (1-40)  
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: Chambers Co.--9 reports (3-25); Brazoria Co.--6 reports (1-2  
 Galveston--5 reports (1-20); Bolivar--2 reports (1 ea.)  
 Cuckoo, Black-billed: High Is.--(1)14,21,(5)28,FGB, (1)22,(2)28,R&MBr, (1)22,TM,  
 (3)28,J&BH, (1)28,H; Galveston--(1)20,21,JHa, (2)22,G, (12)23,MA,VC; (1)28,R&AD,  
 (1)28,V, (3)29,J&BH; Alta Loma--(1)24,JSu; Bellaire--(1)26,DM (yard)  
 Roadrunner: W.Galveston--(1)17,HN,LS (no field notes)  
 Ani, Groove-billed: Galveston--(1)28,R&AD, V  
 Owl, Barn: 13 reports (1-2)  
 Owl, Screech: Alvin--(1)1,D&RMe (yard); Houston--(1)6,JMo (yard)  
 Owl, Barred: Brazoria Co.--(2)4,21,D&RMe; W.Harris Co.--(1)4,BH; Chambers Co.--(1)  
 28,H  
 Owl, Short-eared: Anahuac NWR--(1)7,TBF  
 Chuck-will's widow: 13 reports (1-4)  
 Whip-poor-will: High Is.--(1)4,JMo; Houston--(1)8,PM (Westbury); Bolivar--(1)12,TBF;  
 Galveston--(1)20,MA, (1)20,JHa  
 Nighthawk, Common: Chambers Co.--12 reports (1-20) first date: 14th; Galveston Co.--  
 10 reports (1-24) first date: 13th; Brazoria Co.--4 reports (1-3) first date: 22nd;  
 Houston--4 reports (2-3) first date 24th; Bellaire--1 report (1) first date 6th  
 Nighthawk, Lesser: W.Galveston--(1)28,T (see notes)  
 Swift, Chimney: 29 reports (1-1,500)  
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 28 reports (1-100)  
 HUMMINGBIRD, BROAD-TAILED: Lake Jackson--(1)14-18,Paula Haddox (see notes)  
 Kingfisher, Belted: 23 reports (1-10)  
 Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Kempner Pk.--(1)4,JHa; Brazoria Co.(1)8,D&RMe;  
 High Is.--(1)13,R&AD  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 9 reports (1-4)  
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 13 reports (1-4)  
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co.--(1)13,TBF, (1)28,H; Jefferson Co.--(2)14,M;  
 Houston--(1)17,28,WC (White Oak Bayou), (5)19,LBK (Hermann Pk.), (1)29,JMo (yard);  
 Galveston--(1)20,27,JHa; Bolivar--(1)22,J  
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 8 reports (1-2)  
 Woodpecker, Hairy: W.Harris Co.--(2 mating)4,BH  
 Woodpecker, Downy: 12 reports (1-2)  
 Kingbird, Eastern: 37 reports (1-75)  
 Kingbird, Western: Galveston--(1)19,E, (1)22,G, (3)27,JMo  
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 37 reports (1-25)  
 Flycatcher, Great-crested: 22 reports (1-4)  
 Phoebe, Eastern: High Is.--(18)14,21,28,R&AD, (1)22,PM; Anahuac NWR--(1)28,GH  
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: Sabine Pass--(1)21,TBF; Bryan Beach--(1)22,L&MB  
 Flycatcher, Acadian: High Is.--(1)21,C; Sabine Pass--(3)21,F; Bryan Beach--(2)22,  
 L&MB; Galveston--(2)22,G; Bolivar--(4)22,J  
 Flycatcher, Willow: Bryan Beach--(1)22,L&MB; Kempner Pk.--(4)28,R&AD  
 Flycatcher, Least: Sabine Pass--(1)21,F; Kempner Pk.--(1)30,R&AD  
 Flycatcher, Empidonax sp.: 16 reports (1-100)  
 Pewee, Eastern: 26 reports (1-10)  
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Houston--(1)23,WC (White Oak Bayou)  
 Lark, Horned: 9 reports (1-15)

Swallow, Tree: 17 reports (1-200)  
 Swallow, Bank: Bolivar--(n/c)7,GH, (1)28,FGB; Chambers Co.--(2)21,C, (3)28,R&MBR, (2)28,A; Galveston--(2)27,JMo, (1)29,J&BH; Bryan Beach--(6)29,L&MB  
 Swallow, Rough-winged: 18 reports (1-1,000)  
 Swallow, Barn: 32 reports (4-10,000)  
 Swallow, Cliff: Oyster Creek--(3)8,G (at Hwy 59); Bryan Beach--(3)22,L&MB; Galveston--(1)22,G, (1)27,JMo, (2)28,R&AD; Anahuac--(4)28,R&MBR, (1)28,GH  
 Martin, Purple: 32 reports (8-100)  
 Jay, Blue: Houston--(nesting pair 2/4 nestlings) all month,BC (yard); 28 additional reports (1-25)  
 Crow, Common: 12 reports (1-30)  
 Crow, Fish: Sabine Pass--(6)14,M (see notes)  
 Chickadee, Carolina: 18 reports (1-20)  
 Titmouse, Tufted: 9 reports (1-10)  
 Nuthatch, Red-breasted: Houston--(1)10.15,JMo (yard)  
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Houston--(1-2) all month, JMo (yard-nesting); Chambers Co.--(1)7,JEy  
 Wren, House: Galveston--(1)1,D; High Is.--(1)12,WC; Houston--(1)22,WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)29,TE (City Hall); Bellaire--(1)26,DM (yard)  
 Wren, Carolina: 13 reports (1-5)  
 Wren, Sedge (Short-billed Marsh); Chambers Co.--5 reports (1-20)  
 Mockingbird: 32 reports (1-40)  
 Catbird, Gray: 36 reports (1-300)  
 Thrasher, Brown: 31 reports (1-20)  
 THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: Nottingham Ranch Rd.--(1)22,Bill Kieh, (1)23,J&NS (prior reports)  
 Robin, American: 13 reports (1-4)  
 Thrush, Wood: 34 reports (1-24)  
 Thrush, Hermit: Chambers Co.--(2)1,D; Brazoria Co.--(1)22,L&MB; High Is.--(1)22,PM  
 Thrush, Swainson's: 31 reports (1-60)  
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked: High Is.--8 reports (2-20) first date: 21st; Galveston--5 reports (1-2) first date: 19th; Bellaire--(1)24,26,PJ; Bolivar--(1)22,J; Bryan Beach--(3)27,L&MB  
 Veery: Chambers-High Is.--11 reports (1-20) first date 14th; Galveston--6 reports (1-5) first date 13th; Brazoria Co.--4 reports (2-4) first date 22nd; Bolivar--(1)2,J  
 Bluebird, Eastern: Ft. Bend Co.--(10)8,G; Clear Lake--(1)28,R  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 17 reports (1-60)  
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: Chambers Co.--High Is.--(15)1,D, (20)4,JMo, (2)7,(1)22,GH, (2)14,R&AD, (2)14,FGB, (10)14,M; Galveston--(2)4,5,JHa, (1)8,G, (1)21,C; Houston--(1)19,WC (White Oak Bayou)  
 Pipit, Water: High Is.--(n/c)8,GH; Bolivar--(8)14,R&AD; Bellaire--(1)26,DM (yard); Anahuac NWR--(4)28,DM  
 Pipit, Sprague's: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe (no field notes)  
 Waxwing, Cedar: 13 reports (2-100)  
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 28 reports (1-50)  
 Starling: 24 reports (1-500)  
 Vireo, White-eyed: 34 reports (1-40)  
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: 21 reports (1-4)  
 Vireo, Solitary: High Is.--(1)1,D, (1)14,M, (1)21,FGB, (1)21,J&BH; Houston--(1)1,WC (White Oak Bayou); Brazoria Co.--(1)4,P&MJ  
 Vireo, Red-eyed: 21 reports (1-15)  
 Vireo, Philadelphia: Galveston--(1)20,27,JHa, (2)22,G, (1)27,JMo, (1)28,V; High Is.--(1)21,R&AD, (2)21,(1)28,FGB, (6)21,C, (1)21,F, (2)21,J&BH, (1)28,L&MB, (2)28,H  
 Vireo, Warbling: High Is.--(8)21,FGB (no field notes), (3)21,J&BH (no field notes), (2)28,H (see notes); Galveston--(4)27,JMo (see notes), (2)29,J&BH (no field notes)  
 Warbler, Black-and-white: 44 reports (1-142)  
 Warbler, Prothonotary: 13 reports (1-5)  
 Warbler, Swainson's: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,L&MB; Galveston--(2)3,(1)12,TBF, (1)4,JHa, (2)19,E, (1)27,JMo; Houston--(1)15-17,WC (White Oak Bayou); High Is.--(1)21,J&BH, (3)21,F, (1)28,H  
 Warbler, Worm-eating: 30 reports (1-40)  
 Warbler, Golden-winged: Galveston--(1)3,TBF, (1)4,30,JHa, (2)19,E, (1)27,JMo, (1)28,V; High Is.--(10)21,(4)28,FGB, (15)21,C, (6)21,F, (6)22,TM, (4)21,(2)28,J&BH, (7)28,H, (10)28,L; Brazoria Co.--(1)22,L; Bellaire--(1)26,DM (yard); Houston--(1)27,GH (yard)  
 Warbler, Blue-winged: High Is.--12 reports (1-75); Galveston--11 reports (1-14); Brazoria Co.--3 reports (1 ea.); Houston--2 reports (1-2); Bellaire--1 report(2)  
 Warbler, Brewster's: High Is.--(2)21,C, F, m.obs. (see notes) (1)22,TM  
 W.Galveston--(1)20,J&NS (see notes)  
 Warbler, Lawrence's: High Is.--(1)21,Elaine Robinson, m.obs. (see notes), (1)21,C (see notes); Sabine Pass--(1)21,TBF (see notes)

- Warbler, Tennessee: Galveston--14 reports (1-12); Chambers-High Is.--13 reports (4-150); Houston--9 reports (1-4); Brazoria Co.--5 reports (2-12); Bellaire--2 reports (2-12); Bellaire--2 reports (1-5); Bolivar--1 report (22)
- Warbler, Orange-crowned: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,P&MJ; High Is.--(1)4,JMo; Houston--(2)4,GH (yard), (1)22,LBk (City Hall); Galveston--(2)8,G
- Warbler, Nashville: High Is.--(1)21,FGB, (1)21,F, (3)22,TM, (1)28,H; Brazoria--(1)22,L&MB; Bellaire--(1)24,PJ (yard), (2)26,DM (yard); Houston--(1)28,WC (White Oak Bayou)
- Warbler, Northern Parula: 19 reports (1-43)
- Warbler, Yellow: Chambers-High Is.--8 reports (1-15); Galveston--8 reports (1-15); Brazoria Co.--3 reports (1-5); Bellaire--1 report (1); Bolivar--1 report (2); Houston--1 report (1); Sabine Pass--1 report (52)
- Warbler, Magnolia: Galveston--6 reports (1-3) first date: 20th; High Is.--6 reports (1-60) first date: 21st; Houston--6 reports (1-2) first date: 22nd; Brazoria Co.--2 reports (1) first date: 21st; Bolivar--1 report (1)22nd
- Warbler, Cape May: High Is.--(1)20,HN,LS, (1)21,C; Brazoria Co.--(1)22,L&MB
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue: Galveston--(1)28,MA,MJ (see notes)
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped: Chambers-High Is.--7 reports (2-50) last date: 19th; Galveston--9 reports (1-4) last date 23rd; Brazoria Co.--3 reports (1-4) last date: 22nd; Houston--3 reports (1-50) last date: 17th; Bolivar--1 report (1)22nd; W. Harri Co.--1 report (4)4th
- Warbler, Black-throated Gray: High Is.--(1)21,DC,DD (see notes)
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: 30 reports (1-15)
- Warbler, Cerulean: Chambers-High Is.--11 reports (1-15); Galveston--8 reports (1-15) Bellaire--1 report (1); Brazoria Co.--1 report (1)
- Warbler, Blackburnian: 28 reports (1-20)
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: Chambers-High Is.--(4)4,JMo, (1)7,GH, (1)14,M, (2)21,C, (1)22,TM, (1)28,L&MB, (1)28,H; Brazoria (1)4,P&MJ; Galveston--(1)3,TBF, (2)4,(1)5,JH&,(1)8,G
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Chambers-High Is.--10 reports (1-30) first date 21st; Brazoria Co.--6 reports (1-2) first date: 22nd; Galveston--6 reports (1-6) first date: 20th; Houston--5 reports (1-12) first date: 19th; Bellaire--3 reports (1-2) first date--22nd
- Warbler, Bay-breasted: Galveston--6 reports (1-10) first date: 23rd; Houston--4 reports (1-15) first date: 28th; Brazoria Co.--3 reports (2-4) first date: 22nd; Chambers-High Is.--3 reports (12-75) first date: 28th; Bellaire--1 report (1)22nd; Sabine Pass--1 report (1)21st
- Warbler, Blackpoll: Galveston--9 reports (1-20) first date: 19th; Houston--7 reports (1-11) first date: 19th; Bellaire--1 report (1)26th
- Warbler, Pine: Chambers Co.--(15)1,D, (5)4,JMo, (20)14,M, (2)28,H; Brazoria Co.--(1)15,M&JSu
- Warbler, Prairie: Kempner Pk.--(1)4,5,JHa, (1)8,L&MB (prior reports)
- Warbler, Palm: Galveston--(1)3,TBF, (1)4,5,JHa; Brazoria Co.--(1)24,L&MB
- Ovenbird: Galveston--13 reports (1-10) first date: 3rd; Chambers-High Is.--10 reports (1-45) first date: 14th; Bellaire--2 reports (1-2) first date: 23rd; Brazoria Co.--1 report (1)27th; Houston--1 report (2)28th
- Waterthrush, Northern: Chambers-High Is.--14 reports (1-8) first date: 4th; Galveston--6 reports (1-15) first date: 4th; Bolivar--2 reports (1-3) first date: 22nd; Bellaire--1 report (1)26th; Houston--1 report (1)22nd
- Waterthrush, Louisiana: Chambers-High Is.--11 reports (1-3) last date: 28th; Bellaire--1 report (1)23rd; Galveston--1 report (1)27th
- Warbler, Kentucky: 31 reports (1-105)
- Warbler, Mourning: High Is.--(1)22,PM (see notes)
- Yellowthroat, Common: 42 reports (1-150)
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: Chambers-High Is.--7 reports (1-8) first date 21st; Brazoria Co.--2 reports (1) first date: 22nd; Galveston--2 reports (1-3) first date: 22nd; Houston--2 reports (1) first date: 21st; Bellaire--1 report (1)21st
- Warbler, Hooded: 40 reports (1-350)
- Warbler, Wilson's: Brazoria Co.--(1)7,MRO, (1)22,D&RMe; High Is.--(2)22,TM; Kempner Pk.--(1)30,R&AD
- Warbler, Canada: High Is.--(1)22,TM; Houston--(2)27,28,GH (yard), (1)28,WC (White Oak Bayou); Kempner Pk.--(1)28,JCG
- Redstart, American: Chambers-High Is.--10 reports (2-40) first date: 19th; Galveston--10 reports (1-25) first date: 4th; Houston--6 reports (1-2) first date: 19th; Brazoria Co.--4 reports (1-2) first date: 22nd; Sabine Pass--1 report (6)21st
- Sparrow, House: 20 reports (2-500)
- Bobolink: Brazoria Co.--(1)22,L&MB; Galveston--(4)28,LG,PW
- Meadowlark, Eastern: 23 reports (1-300)
- Blackbird, Yellow-headed: W. Galveston--(2)22,Brian McKinney & Mark Hancock
- Blackbird, Red-winged: 28 reports (10-1,000)
- Oriole, Orchard: 41 reports (1-100)
- Oriole, Northern (Baltimore) 37 reports (1-200)

Blackbird, Brewer's: Alvin--(1)all month, D&RMe (yard)  
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 10 reports (1-20)  
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 20 reports (2-200)  
 Grackle, Common: 14 reports (1-200)  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 19 reports (1-250)  
 Cowbird, Bronzed: W. Galveston--(1)28,R  
 Tanager, Scarlet: Chambers-High Is.--12 reports (1-15) first date: 19th; Galveston--12 reports (1-30) first date: 4th; Houston--4 reports (1-2) first date: 18th; Bellaire--3 reports (1-2) first date: 23rd; Brazoria Co.--2 reports (1) first date: 22nd; Alvin--1 report (1)30th  
 Tanager, Summer: 38 reports (1-25)  
 Cardinal: 43 reports (1-80) plus 1 nesting report  
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: Chambers-High Is.--13 reports (2-55) first date: 14th; Galveston--10 reports (1-600) first date: 3rd; Brazoria Co.--4 reports (1-9) first date: 22nd; Bellaire--3 reports (2-10) first date: 22nd; Houston--3 reports (2-3) first date: 22nd; Alcoa--1 report (1)28th; Bolivar--1 report (4)22nd  
 Grosbeak, Black-headed: Bellaire--(1 female)24PJ (see notes)  
 Grosbeak, Blue: Galveston--12 reports (1-100) first date: 5th; Chambers-High Is.--11 reports (1-20) first date: 19th; Brazoria Co.--5 reports (1-21) first date--22nd; Houston--4 reports (1) first date: 17th; Bolivar--1 report (2)22nd  
 Bunting, Indigo: 45 reports (1-3,500)  
 Bunting, Painted: Chambers-High Is.--10 reports (1-23) first date: 13th; Galveston--6 reports (1-20) first date: 20th; Brazoria Co.--5 reports (1-6) first date: 22nd; Bellaire--1 report (4)26th; Bolivar--1 report (3)22nd; W.Harris Co.--1 report (1)22nd  
 Dickcissel: Brazoria Co.--8 reports (3-25) first date: 21st; Galveston--6 reports (1-40) first date: 19th; Chambers-High Is.--4 reports (1-10) first date: 21st; W.Harris Co.--3 reports (30-300) first date: 22nd; Bolivar--1 report (6)28th; Houston--1 report (1)27th  
 Goldfinch, American: Houston--(2)7,WC (White Oak Bayou); High Is.--(1)14,R&AD; Bellaire--(1-5)23-30,P&MJ (yard)  
 Towhee, Rufous-sided: Alcoa--(1)3,22-24,DW (yard)  
 Sparrow, Savannah: 16 reports (2-100)  
 Sparrow, Grasshopper: Galveston--(1)22,G  
 Sparrow, LeConte's: Anahuac NWR--(3)7,TBF  
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: Bolivar--(9)13,TBF  
 Sparrow, Seaside: 8 reports (1-5)  
 Sparrow, Vesper: Galveston--(1)28,MJ  
 Sparrow, Lark: Kempner Pk.--(1)12,TBF  
 Sparrow, White-crowned: Brazoria Co.--(1)8,D&RMe; Anahuac NWR--(1)19,A  
 Sparrow, White-throated: 23 reports (1-6) last date: 29th  
 Sparrow, Lincoln's: Bolivar--(2)3,TBF; Galveston--(1)21,JHa, (1)22,G, (3)27,JMo, (1)28,R&AD, (3)28,V, (2)29,J&BH; High Is.--(1)21,J&BH, (1)21,F, (2)28,H; Bellaire--(1)25-29,P&MJ (yard)  
 Sparrow, Swamp: Bolivar--(1)21,C; Galveston--(1)22,G; Virginia Point--(1)28,R  
 Sparrow, Song: Bolivar--(1)3,TBF; Brazoria Co.--(5)4,21,(4)28,D&RMe

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS, April 1979

M&RA--Margaret & Robert Anderson; L&MB--Larry & Martha Ballard; FGB--Florence G. Bennett; DB--Dorothy Bertins; R&MBR--Ron & Marcia Braun; DC--Dennis L. Caputo; BC--Ben Chrisman; VC--Virginia Courtney; DD--David Dauphin; TE--Ted L. Eubanks, Jr. JEY--John Eyre; TBF--T. Ben Feltner; LG--Linda Graetz; JCG--Janet C. & John C. Green; JHa--John & Jane Hamilton; J&BH--Jean & Bill Harwell; GH--George Howe; P&MJ--T.Paul & Margaret Jones; DM--David Marrack; TM--Thorborn McGowan; D&RMe--Don & Ruthie Melton; PM--Peggy Milstead; JMo--Jim Morgan; HN--Hazel Nichols; MRo--Matt Robinson; LS--Lynn Stowers; J&NS--Jerry & Nancy Strickling; E,M&JSu--Estelle, Michael & Jeri Sullivan; PW--Pat Warner; B&EW--Bob & Edith Willman; DW--Diane Wise; OG--OG Anahuac Buggy Trip, fide,JMo; A--party of Ann & Ray Booth, J&BH; B--party of Marie Boyd, Jean Read, Jo Sims; C--party of WC,JMo; D--party of DD,TE, Malcolm Hodges, JMo; E--party of JEY,JMo, Mike Shaw; F--party of TBF, Elaine Robinson; G--party of Fred Collins,TE; H--party of JEY, Malcolm Hodges, JMo, Dick Pratt; J--party of Barry Hinderstein, Jim & Betsy Massey, Carol Meyer; L--party of L&MB, Gene Bauer, Bob Bradley; M--party of TE,JMo; T--party of Lee Chu, David Matson, John Trochet; V--party of MA, MJ,VC

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES, April, 1979

Horned Grebe: While a horned grebe would not normally merit reporting, the odd plumage and large size of this one causes me to report it for whatever interest it may have. The bird rested on small sandbank (on left-hand side of jetty road) about as close as across average street. It finally stretched its wings and waddled into the water where we had even closer studies. Nearby eared grebes (coming

into spring plumage) furnished good size comparison, as did the laughing gull. We judged it to be about size of the laughing gull, which, in Birds of North America, is 13", and the red-necked grebe is listed at 13". The bird looked large; that and the odd coloration - nothing at all like the wintering horned grebes, made us feel perhaps it was a red-necked. Then, obviously it must have been some phase of partial albino because of the off-white primaries - not the white patches of normal plumage, but complete primaries, in both wings. (Quite astounding, to say the least!) The bird looked large and relatively stocky with large bill. I've seen the red-necked grebe, but had never seen anything in plumage such as this and could only figure that, because of the black line down nape, it had to be a large horned grebe coming into spring plumage and partially albino at that. (Also the mostly all white neck). Bird study is interesting...always something to learn! (Very illustrative sketch of this observed grebe (in colors!) submitted with above notes. CH Ed.)  
--Hazel Nichols

CANNET: Pat Swartz described the Gannets "as being very long winged and appeared to be "double ended"; the head and neck looking to be the same length as the tail. Observed from the Quintana Jetties apparently moving toward land because of a very heavy rain cell in the Gulf". fide Larry Ballard

Hooded Merganser: Two small ducks - 1 with reddish head - flattened in appearance, long slender footed bill, 1 with black forehead with a large white patch on back of head which had flattened top, slender serrated bill (black), white chest, very dark back, lighter sides, observed at range of 40 yards w/8x50 & 7x50 binocs.  
Larry & Martha Ballard

Peregrine Falcon: Black mustaches noted while the falcon was wheeling overhead. Bird stooped while being observed. -- David Dauphin

Greater Prairie Chicken: The Meltons have seen these birds at this location (on private land near FM 2004 and Chocolate Bay) for two years, and have been told by a retired game warden who patrols this property that they have been there for many years. --fide Margaret Jones

Baird's Sandpiper: This bird was right next to a Still Sandpiper and a Western Sandpiper; it was intermediate in size between these two species. Back, wings, nape and crown were a rich brown color; breast with a lightly streaked, buffy and noticeable band; otherwise whitish underneath; dark legs; wings noticeably longer than tail. In flight, though not seen well, it was determined that the bird did not have a complete white rump. Size, color, wing length, breast markings, leg color and lack of white rump leads only to a Baird's. Seen at 30 50 ft. in good light for 2 minutes by both observers with binocs. --Jim Morgan

RUFF (REEVE): Observed from about 30' in bright sunlight, naked eye and binocs. Very slightly larger, with legs shorter and deeper yellow than nearby Lesser Yellowlegs. Bill short (about the length of head or very slightly longer), two-toned with base yellow and broader than narrow dark end; white belly and undertail coverts, streaked ("patterned") breast with defined lower edge; bird lifted and flew toward us at fence-top height, then obligingly circled before us and returned to former spot, giving an excellent look at white oval tail patches; bird was not wary or "skittish". --Margaret Jones

Found in a small group of 8-10 shorebirds beside the road through the Amoco Oil field at High Island. Watched from the car in the rain, using binoculars out an open window. First spotted about 40-50' from the car. My attention was caught immediately by its bill which was yellow for about the basal two-thirds of its length but dark at the tip, and by its stance which was stocky and appeared short-legged for a bird its size. After wondering for a moment what we had, I realized it must be a Reeve. We have seen that species once before, but 15 years between sightings is a long time. Examining the bird further, I had a good opportunity to compare it with both a Lesser Yellowlegs and a Pectoral which were in the same group of shorebirds. Its size was between that of those two species, indicating that it was a female and not an immature male. The bill was thicker than the Pectoral's, straight, about the length of the bird's head and dark at the tip and light for over half its length. The rest of the head was featureless except for an indistinct eyeline. The legs were yellow, brighter than the Pectoral's but not as bright as the Lesser Yellowlegs. The bird was quarter-turned away from us so we could not see the breast, but could see white on the side of the tail as it preened. After watching them for a couple of minutes, the flock flushed and most flew out of sight but the Reeve landed momentarily about 150' ahead of the car. Watched it there for less than a minute before it flew again. This time in flight I was able to see the white patches on either side of the tail clearly.

--Janet C. Green

[The Greens, who were sent here for a year's stay, are returning this month to Minnesota, where Janet is a member of the Bird Records Committee of the MOS...Ed.]

Lesser Nighthawk: Flushed at 50'. This bird was seen in excellent light in the late afternoon on Nottingham Ranch road. First Impression was of a small night-hawk. The bird was noticeably smaller and finer than nearby common nighthawks. The wing patches were not bright and distinctly located beyond the "crook" of the wing. The plumage suggested that the bird may be subadult--or something similar. In its markings it lacked the "salt-and-pepper" effect of the commons. The bird was seen separately by Matson and Chu and by Trochet. Each agreed to the identification separately. No call was heard. --David O. Matson

Fish Crow: Seen and heard along Hwy 87 below Sabine Pass. Also seen last year in same area, same time. Both observers are familiar with voice of this species. --Jim Morgan

Warbling Vireo: Four birds seen on Galveston Island and two birds at High Island. All 6 birds had relatively heavy bill, grayish upperparts, whitish underparts and light (whitish) lores and supercilial stripe. No wing bars on any of these birds. Three of the 6 birds had a very faint yellow wash on the sides. Seen as close as 15' with binocs in excellent light. All birds seen for at least 5 seconds, some as much as 30 seconds. --Jim Morgan

Brewster's Warbler: Bird No. 1: Yellow crown; thin black eye line; gray back; 2 yellow wing bars on blue-gray wings; white throat, breast and belly with yellow breast band. Bird No. 2: Same as No. 1, but without the yellow breast band. First bird discovered by Wes Cureton and seen by myself and other observers at 30-70 ft. in fair to good light with binocs. Second bird seen as close as 15 ft. with binocs. --Jim Morgan

Apparent Blue-winged, Golden-winged warbler hybrid seen at Sea Isle. This was a Brewster's type hybrid, the initial cross between two pure parents. It had a yellow forehead, yellow on the chest and yellow wing bars and an overall gray back and wings and otherwise white underparts. --Jerry Strickling

LAWRENCE'S WARBLER: Brilliant yellow underparts; black eye patch and black throat (as Golden-winged); wings blue-grey with white wingbars; discovered initially at about 9:45 am by Elaine Robinson, subsequently seen by scores of birders. A second bird was found at Sabine Pass by TBF; same general field marks but throat patch and auricular patch less distinct. --T. Ben Felner

This bird seen within 5 minutes of bird seen by Merlin Birding Tour, and at least 1/4 mile away in a distinctly separate patch of woods. Concluded that this was a second bird. Basic color was yellow of the Blue-winged warbler. Black face/cheek mask and black throat (bib); yellow crown and underparts but with white undertail coverts; noticeable white in tail when bird would make short flights; the wings were blue greyish olive with 2 white wing bars and the back was olive yellow. Seen first by Wes Cureton and repeated looks by both observers allowed a total 30 second viewing time in good to fair light at 30 to 50 ft. with binocs. --Jim Morgan

[The bird initially discovered by Elaine was a lifer for TBF, and it is ironic that he would then see a second one the same day! Three individuals of this bird seen on the same day anywhere in Texas is unprecedented. --CH Ed.]

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Observed twice for about 5 seconds each time at a distance of 15' in edge of salt cedars at LaFitte's Grove. Plain grayish back, light front parts (no yellowish wash noted), eye line and small square wing patch seen by both observers (both of whom have seen this female of the species before). --Margaret Jones

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Male bird observed in good light with 10x50 binocs at a distance of 20 to 25 ft. in a tree at Smith's Woods. It was about 5 to 12 ft. above the ground. Top of head, cheek and throat, and speckling on sides were black. Breast, belly, sides, and line above and below eye, and two fine wingbars were white. Back was dark gray with fine black streaking. Yellow spot in front of eye seen. Observed for about 1 minute. --Dennis Caputo

Mourning Warbler: Bird had grey hood; no eyering; soft yellow underparts; back was yellow-green; small black line thru eye. In low shrubbery, stayed out of sight a lot. Looked like female pictured in book. --Peggy Millstead

Black-headed Grosbeak: Bright yellow wash on lower throat; streaking of breast and flanks very fine; pale facial pattern; slimmer than nearby female Rose-breasted Grosbeak; when flew, yellow underwing color noted. --Paul Jones

BROAD-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD: When the bird began coming to our feeder we immediately noticed the metallic trill of his wings when he flew. He was very belligerent, even to the point of running off chickadees and titmice from their nearby feeder. Pink-red throat, as opposed to fire-red throat of a ruby-throat. He was subse-

quently observed by Sherry Collins and others. After 10 days, his departure was simultaneous with the arrival of two very feisty females (probably ruby-throat).

--Paula Haddox

SPECIAL REPORTS

EUROPEAN WIGEON: Seen April 14, 1979, sitting and standing in shallow pond near Teal Slough at Anahuac NWR in group of American Wigeons for easy comparison. Observed by all five members of party, bird has been seen in Alaska and Europe by two members before. Observed through 20-60 power scope for at least ten minutes, as well as binoculars. First picked up by binoculars. Good light - 1 pm. Markings: clearly seen yellowish pate which contrasted with white pate of nearby American Wigeons. Chestnut side of face with no green color. Rich buffy breast, gray on sides. Same white pattern on sides as other wigeons. Unmistakable. Identified by Arch Dillard and observed by Ruth Dillard, Nevin Isenberg, Prince Beach and Ralph ?.

--Arch Dillard

[Last confirmed sightings of this species in the UTC (2nd & 3rd records):

Galveston Is.--(1 male)Jan.1,1969,Mrs.Stewart Wier, Jenny Huey & Betty Cornelius  
Bayshore area--(1 male & 1 female)Feb. 3, 1969, Linda Snyder & Dr. Robert Krebs  
From Clearing House records of THE SPOONBILL --CH Ed.]

NORTHERN PHALAROPE: Seen April 29, 1979. Clearly a Phalarope with small head, thin neck and thin bill. Top of head dark (gunmetal) gray. No white on head. White cheek patch. Back of neck dark gray. Rusty patch extended down side of neck from ear almost to body. Rusty patch did not extend completely around anterior neck but faded into mottled gray and white at front. Presumably this is transitional plumage. Back was slightly dark bluish gray mottled with lighter color. Sides were light gray mottled with white extending to clear white belly and white under-tail coverts. The bird was feeding in a rice field in about 3 inches of water. It generally proceeded in a straight line during feeding and progressed about 200 yards while under observation. In the same field at the same time as the observation was a Wilson's Phalarope. The Northern was smaller than the Wilson's and the Wilson's clearly showed the characteristic white marking above the eye and white streak down the back of the neck which the Northern lacked. The Wilson's showed a rusty streak on the side of the neck extending into a streak along the back and had a black streak through the eye, and also showed more white on the sides than the Northern and had a light gray cap. The observation was made from 7:05 to 7:23 pm on April 29, 1979 in clear to partly cloudy weather. Part of the observation was in direct sunlight. Range was between 30 and 75 yards. Optical equipment was a 20 to 45 X telescope with 60mm objective lens and 7x35 binoculars. Photographs were made with a 500 mm lens and high speed color negative film. Location: North-eastern Brazoria County off County Road 169 about 300 meters, and 400 meters west of Phillips Petroleum Company's Brazoria Gasoline Plant.

--Don & Ruthie Melton

[Last confirmed sighting of this species in the UTC:

Bayshore area--(1)Oct. 24, 1959, Linda Snyder  
From Clearing House records of THE SPOONBILL --CH Ed.]

IMPORTANT! RARE BIRD ALERT LISTING

If you wish your name to be placed on, or continue to be placed on, the Rare Bird Alert, it is important that you return this form to:

David Dauphin  
7315 Cottonwood Dr.  
Baytown, Texas 77521

FISH-EATING NESTING BIRD SURVEY

Doug Slack of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences at Texas A & M University has announced this important survey will be held the last week of May and the first week of June. Plagued in the past by organizational problems, caused in part by lack of an adequate number of observers, this survey this year should provide more information on nesting numbers of fish-eating birds. The Galveston Bay area has undergone and is undergoing so many drastic changes, an annual monitoring of this segment of the bird world at our doorstep is of vital importance in order to record fluctuations in populations of nesting pairs.

If you can help with this survey at any time during the two weeks, please contact Fred Collins at 526-7644. Boats will be especially needed in order to visit some of the bay islands.