

The Spoonbill

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CHRISTMAS COUNT COMPILATION Phyllis and Tony Frank

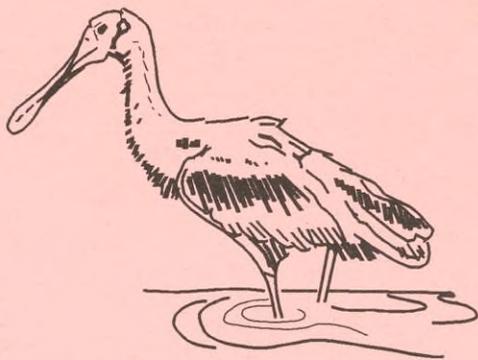
Since so many of you were so diligent in finding birds during the ninety-first Christmas count season, we had to issue a supplement to *The Spoonbill* in order to compile the results. Detailed data was received for twelve Christmas counts in the UTC. UTC counts were held throughout the official Christmas count season of December 15, 1990 through January 2, 1991. The early count for this report was the Brazoria count held on the first day of the season. The last count was Cypress Creek held on the next to last day of the official season. Weather during the count season was unusually warm for the early counts with rain and cold for the later counts. The big freeze date for this Christmas count season was December 22. The Bolivar count was held that day, but detailed results were not available for this summary.

The Freeport count had the highest species total for any of the area count and was the only count in which the observers outnumbered the species. Diverse quality habitat plus many observers equals many species. Eleven counts tallied 100 or more species on count day.

A total of 265 species was reported for all twelve counts. Forty-nine of these species were found exclusively on one count. Forty-three species were found on all twelve counts. The prize for most numerous bird for the area counts goes to the Red-winged Blackbird with over 380,000 being reported. Snow Goose was second at 196,631 individuals.

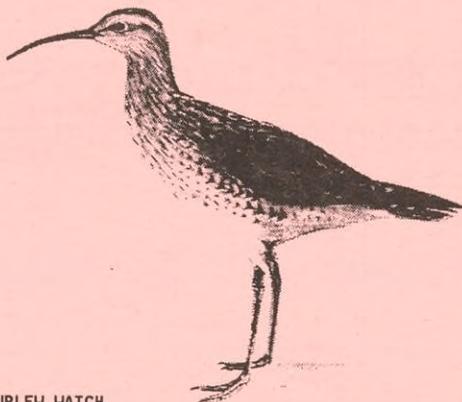
The unseasonably warm weather preceding the Christmas count season that lingered through December 22 probably contributed to the number of flycatchers and lingering warblers report from the early counts. Chordeiles species was reported from the Brazoria count on the 15th. One Least Flycatcher and a total of eight Empidonax sp. from three different counts were reported before the freeze. Couch's and Western Kingbirds were reported from Attwater. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were reported on three counts with one bird apiece. None of these species were reported for post-freeze counts.

Warblers showed a similar trend, although some notable warblers were found on the post-freeze counts. Two Nashville and Magnolia Warblers were counted pre-freeze.



Two out of three Yellow-throated Warblers, thirteen out of fourteen Black and White Warblers, and one out of two Prothonotary Warblers were reported pre-freeze. The post-freeze warbler species diversity was noticeably smaller.

The following summary contains rarities and some old friends, residents and wintering birds. The 91st Christmas count season did not see some of the irruptive species such as nuthatches. For those of you who have not yet participated in a Christmas count, consider doing so next year. Next year's official season is December 14, 1991 through January 2, 1992. Local count dates will be published in *The Spoonbill* next November. You'll see good birds and visit with some nice people.



ESKIMO CURLEW WATCH

The Eskimo Curlew is a federally endangered species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting information on any reported sightings of this bird. The last confirmed sighting was in 1987 in Nebraska. The Texas Coast is a historic spring migration stopover for this species. Ted Eubanks is organizing a censusing effort this spring during migration, late March through mid-April. If you are interested in participating contact Ted. The Eskimo Curlew is smaller than a Whimbrel with rich cinnamon color to upperparts and underwing.

SPECIES	TOTALS	# CNTS	COUNT DATE												
			AB 12/22	AT 12/19	BB 12/29	BC 12/15	BU 12/23	CC 1/1/91	FC 12/16	GC 12/26	HC 12/15	SB 12/18	SC 12/29	VC 12/22	
Loon, Pacific	1	1									1				
Loon, Common	42	5	2							3	23	13	1		
Grebe, Pied-bill	926	10	12	169	53	359			27	193	52	34	21	6	
Grebe, Horned	8	2					4					4			
Grebe, Eared	23	5		1						7	6	8	1		
Shrwater, Sooty	1	1									1				
Booby, Masked	1	1								1					
Gannet, Northern	93	3								89	3		1		
Pelican, Amer Wht	3064	8		678	230	333			69	497	383	537	337		
Pelican, Brown	448	5			1					291	71	10	75		
Corm, Dbl-crested	7165	12	54	1434	482	1957		1	8	731	666	741	1014	46	31
Corm, Olivaceous	204	6	26				5			40	89	42	2		
cormorant, sp.	259	3	1				5				253				
Anhinga	137	6		4	12	103				16		1	1		
Frigatebird, Magn	1	1									1				
Bittern, American	21	8		1	2	1			1	10	1	1	4		
Heron, Great Blue	1285	12	35	83	57	110		5	64	344	144	314	97	21	11
Egret, Great	1406	12	48	80	76	113		1	58	573	170	205	63	18	1
Egret, Snowy	1155	10	73	56	53	39			33	510	212	131	44		4
Heron, Little Blu	169	7			6	20			2	81	32	14	14		
Heron, Tricolored	249	9	6	3	12	4			1	149	47	18	9		
Egret, Reddish	76	3								50	19		7		
Egret, Cattle	195	11	36	8	3			2	15	50	28	13	8	1	31
Heron, Grn-backed	8	4				4				1	1	2			
Nt-Heron, Blk-crn	784	9	1	43	63	35			77	351	138	54	22		
Nt-Heron, Yel-crn	46	5			2	2				23	6	13			
Ibis, White	2295	9	70	519	343	166			58	710	359	26	44		
Ibis, White-faced	621	7		85	83	92				294	12	7	48		
Ibis, sp.	14	1							14						
Spoonbill, Roseat	249	6		3		2				174	45	2	23		
Whsl-Duck, Fulvs	6	2			5						1				
Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd	1751	4		748	963	13				27					
Goose, Gr Wht-frn	18715	10		5473	2073	59		61	10024	437		293	68	220	7
Goose, Snow	196631	11		68977	25781	423		745	59300	14808	384	481	19350	6259	123
(Goose, Blue)	44279	8		15017	4770	62		90	20300	3731	29		280		
Goose, Ross'	117	7		66	25			2	17	5	1	1			
Goose, Canada	4734	10		2066	1056	71		15	1138	123	41	2	219		3
goose, sp.	100	1						100							
Duck, Wood	623	10	4	205	70	165		16	28	81		11	11	32	
Teal, Green-wing	48934	11	7	298	1061	13		85	43777	2536	333	208	611		5
Duck, Mottled	842	10	147	38	29	4		2	58	320	90	70	84		
Mallard	2081	12	62	563	181	13		19	1020	99	52	61	8	2	1
Pintail, Northern	9162	9		224	799	4			7049	912	63	9	97		5
Teal, Blue-winged	1630	10	1	438	285	163		2	15	592	102	6	26		
Teal, Cinnamon	63	4		45	3					6			9		
Shoveler, Northrn	10914	8		1046	143	22			5554	2963	438	160	588		
Gadwall	5828	11	11	340	499	976		1	500	2026	111	68	1293		3
Wigeon, American	2702	9	30	68	212	616			226	644	130	67	709		
Canvasback	190	6		8	2				5	19	31	125			
Redhead	234	5		21					8	201	2	2			

SPECIES	TOTALS	# CNTS	AB	AT	BB	BC	BU	CC	FC	GC	HC	SB	SC	VC
Duck, Ring-necked	1442	9	14	423	267	450		84	121	14	64	5		
Scaup, Greater	31	2								6		25		
Scaup, Lesser	1913	11	18	363	22	33		758	268	61	321	54	12	3
scaup, sp.	110	2							106	4				
Scoter, Black	6	2							2	4				
Scoter, Surf	2	2							1	1				
Scoter, Wht-wingd	1	1							1					
Goldeneye, Common	50	5			1				5	3	39	2		
Bufflehead	479	7		322	4			3	68	37	12	33		
Merganser, Hooded	111	6		2		5			12	1	56	35		
Merganser, Red-br	462	6	1						239	168	44	9		1
Duck, Ruddy	323	8		63	1	19		8	73	104	25	30		
duck, sp.	2103	4		10				200	2010	82			1	
Vulture, Black	2020	11	5	143	370	297	10	187	808		3	85	92	20
Vulture, Turkey	2900	11	21	479	1279	149	24	338	394		45	90	64	17
Osprey	55	7	12			6	1		26		8	1		1
Kite, Blk-shouldr	109	9	1	2	1	4		2	57	24	2	16		
Eagle, Bald	86	6		50	2	2		24	2			6		
Harrier, Northern	821	11	4	157	64	15	17	252	127	47	25	77		36
Hawk, Sharp-shin	48	10	1	7	2	3	4	9	14	1	4		3	
Hawk, Cooper's	45	9	1	5	11	1	2	10	11	1	3			
accipiter, sp.	11	4				1	1	3	6					
Hawk, Red-shouldr	294	11	7	44	37	44	5	21	84		16	20	14	2
Hawk, White-taild	43	6		31	2	1		1	1					7
Hawk, Red-tailed	1263	11	3	241	167	37	59	449	156	18	83	36	14	
(Hawk, Harlan's)	5	3		2	1		2							
(Hawk, Krider's)	4	1		4										
Hawk, Ferruginous	7	3		5	1			5						1
buteo, sp.	5	2				1				4				
Caracara, Crested	183	6		132	6			21	12			2		10
Kestrel, American	1224	12	18	114	150	97	27	159	307	53	166	84	16	33
Merlin	11	5						1	6	2		1		1
Falcon, Peregrine	6	3							1	3		2		
Falcon, Prairie	2	1		2										
falcon, sp.	1	1							1					
Prairie Chick, Gr	31	1		31										
Turkey, Wild	9	1												9
Bobwhite, Northrn	439	7		196	33		11	62	78		1			58
Rail, Yellow	7	3							5		1	1		
Rail, Clapper	66	6	1			2			26	34	2	1		
Rail, King	7	4			1			2	2	2				
Rail, Virginia	15	2							13			2		
Sora	5	4		1				1	2	1				
Moorhen, Common	483	6		25	231	96			107	8		16		
Coot, American	6802	11	123	1183	449	2966		139	1288	326	58	266	2	2
Crane, Sandhill	5637	11	7	333	2180	1034	37	228	1147	50	7	213		401
Plover, Blk-belli	509	5		11					240	188	14	56		
Plover, Snowy	43	3							19	8		16		
Plover, Wilson's	4	2								2		2		
Plover, Semipalm	52	4							3	37	7	5		
Plover, Piping	35	3							6	19		10		
Killdeer	5128	12	212	1331	214	307	341	1038	399	285	600	152	122	127

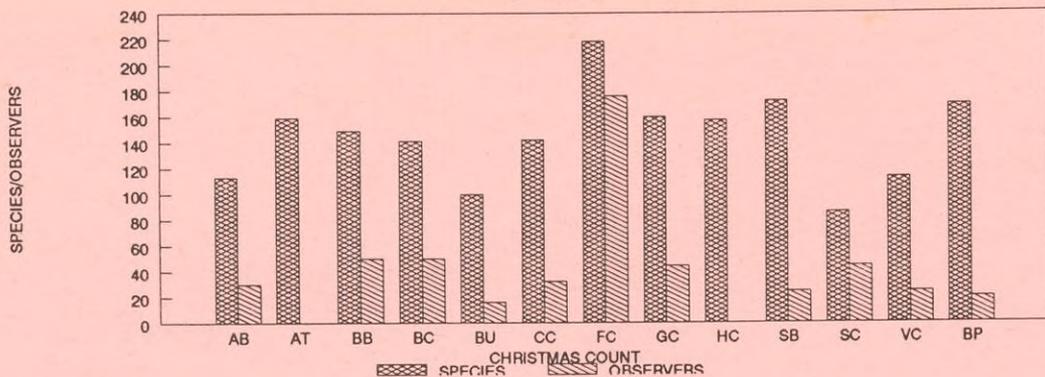
SPECIES	TOTALS	# CNTS	AB	AT	BB	BC	BU	CC	FC	GC	HC	SB	SC	VC
Oystercatcher, Am	32	3							7	23		2		
Stilt, Black-neck	339	3	13						20	306				
Avocet, American	3771	6			1	1			841	2520	1	407		
Yellowlegs, Great	570	11	4	44	17	14	36	28	324	32	24	46		1
Yellowlegs, Less	525	10	4	17	3	21	16	21	336	60	7	40		
yellowlegs, sp.	6	1								6				
Sandppr, Solitary	251	2		250								1		
Willet	1101	5	3						359	527	44	168		
Sandppr, Spotted	117	10	10		7	8		2	39	16	31	1	2	1
Curlew, Long-bill	694	10	1	3	30	88		74	274	56	3	159		6
Godwit, Marbled	149	2							6	143				
Turnstone, Ruddy	173	5	11						55	93	9	5		
Knot, Red	75	1								75				
Sanderling	1045	4							243	742	5	55		
Sandppr, Western	1894	10	4	25	152	31	6	18	555	286	317	500		
Sandppr, Least	597	10	20	150	11	17	3	62	173	77	54	30		
Sandppr, Purple	2	1							2					
Dunlin	2464	6		80				3	1080	608	61	632		
peep, sp.	2365	5		6		1		6		200		2152		
Sandppr, Stilt	3	1							3					
Dowitcher, S-bill	1096	4							152	917	12	15		
Dowitcher, L-bill	1233	9	1	277		3		439	477	16	2	11		7
dowitcher, sp.	3020	7		42	5	10	32		1765	266		900		
Snipe, Common	575	12	6	40	3	19	40	164	134	27	24	99	6	13
Woodcock, Amer	26	9			9	1	1	2	4	3	3		1	2
jaeger, sp.	4	1							4					
Gull, Laughing	25121	6	681			37			7173	6221	10565	444		
Gull, Franklin's	1	1							1					
Gull, Bonaparte's	198	7	2		1			1	51	114	6	23		
Gull, Ring-billed	10595	12	239	556	1	79	3	90	868	1659	6843	161	36	60
Gull, Herring	738	5	16						137	497	57	31		
Kitiwake, Blk-leg	2	2							1	1				
gull, sp.	804	3					1		503	300				
Tern, Gull-billed	59	3							40	5		14		
Tern, Caspian	272	7	14		2	23			128	58	20	27		
Tern, Royal	573	6	3			2			369	132	49	18		
Tern, Sandwich	32	3							21	5		6		
Tern, Common	26	3							11	6		9		
Tern, Forster's	2588	10	134	3	6	6		6	1324	488	140	480		1
Skimmer, Black	373	4							2	189	2	180		
Dove, Rock	3890	12	364	50	357	26	82	77	387	1815	660	7	59	6
Turtle-Dove, Ring	4	2					3				1			
Dove, White-wingd	40	3					7			31				2
Dove, Mourning	7562	12	220	2316	349	134	512	699	1085	88	1229	116	144	670
Dove, Inca	272	10	40		8	21	66	2	22	32		2	3	76
Ground-Dove, Comm	65	6		25	24			4	7			1		4
Budgerigar	1	1												
Parakeet, Monk	30	1												
Roadrunner, Great	4	1		4										
Ani, Groove-billd	3	2		1					2					
Owl, Barn	41	9	1	5	4		2	18	5	2	3	1		
Screech-Owl, East	27	8		2	1		3	8	1	1	10		1	

SPECIES	TOTALS	# CNTS	AB	AT	BB	BC	BU	CC	FC	GC	HC	SB	SC	VC
Owl, Great Horned	89	10	2	28	8	2	3	25	13		3	2		3
Owl, Burrowing	1	1										1		
Owl, Barred	78	10	3	6	13	10	2	7	27			5	4	1
Owl, Short-eared	7	4		1	1			4	1					
chordeiles, sp.	1	1				1								
Hummer, Ruby-thrt	2	2	1							1				
Hummer, Blk-chind	1	1							1					
Hummer, Anna's	2	1							2					
Hummer, Brd-taild	1	1							1					
Hummer, Rufous	13	5	2				6		1		1			3
selasphorous, sp.	2	1												2
hummingbird, sp.	1	1					1							
Kingfisher, Beltd	304	12	15	12	12	48	5	15	72	44	59	9	9	4
Wdpeckr, Red-head	51	7		7		2		2	1		2	1	36	
Wdpeckr, Red-bell	848	12	34	68	169	99	32	66	181	2	61	46	61	29
Sapsuck, Yel-bell	441	12	7	40	42	48	12	50	138	1	41	44	x	18
Wdpeckr, Lddr-bck	9	2		1										8
Wdpeckr, Downy	306	12	11	49	70	29	23	16	71	1	21	10	x	5
Wdpeckr, Hairy	3	2	1											2
Wdpeckr, Red-cckd	15	1												15
Flicker, Northern	517	12	18	62	29	42	17	69	135	37	68	10	16	14
Wdpeckr, Pileated	238	10	3	13	34	49	3	2	84		17	14	19	
Flycatch, Least	1	1										1		
empidonax, sp.	8	3				1			6		1			
Phoebe, Eastern	1790	12	13	211	154	247	29	138	496	19	274	143	19	47
Flycatch, Vermilin	16	4				2			10	1		3		
Flycatch, Ash-thr	4	2							3			1		
Kingbird, Couch's	1	1		1										
Kingbird, Western	1	1		1										
Flycatch, Ss-tail	3	3	1						1		1			
Lark, Horned	50	5			2			1	6	37		4		
Swallow, Tree	27	4			6				2	9		10		
Swallow, N R-wing	2	1			2									
Swallow, Cliff	7	1		7										
Swallow, Barn	1	1		1										
swallow, sp.	3	3							1	1				1
Jay, Blue	1007	12	113	108	57	51	130	99	84	15	183	13	142	12
Crow, American	5790	11	106	589	2241	654	224	156	962		220	379	183	76
Chickadee, Carol	2745	11	53	225	417	372	75	65	873		239	160	208	58
Titmouse, Tufted	1273	11	14	131	319	242	44	7	291		28	78	104	15
Nuthatch, Red-brs	1	1			1									
Nuthatch, Wht-brs	2	1											2	
Nuthatch, Brn-hed	7	1												7
Creepers, Brown	62	11	2	6	3	3	1	4	21	1	7	4	10	
Wren, Carolina	722	12	10	75	113	75	16	27	180	1	101	37	75	12
Wren, Bewick's	38	4		21				15				1		1
Wren, House	458	12	1	69	38	24	2	39	136	16	69	24	12	28
Wren, Winter	17	9	1		1	4	1	2	5		1	1	1	
Wren, Sedge	972	10	1	38	3	2		9	444	24	38	412		1
Wren, Marsh	113	7		12		8			61	18	3	10	1	
Kinglet, Gold-crn	476	12	17	34	74	59	4	32	205	5	26	8	2	10
Kinglet, Ruby-crn	4010	12	139	515	347	565	80	120	1244	72	573	242	89	24

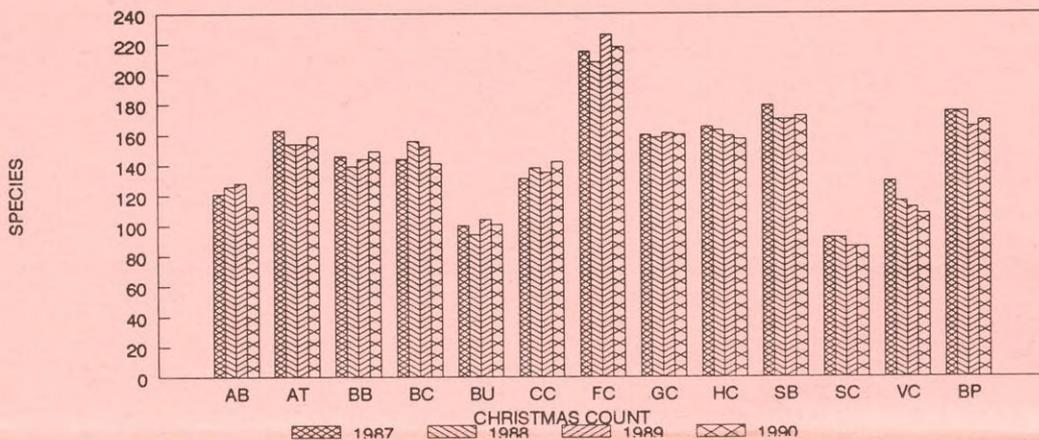
SPECIES	TOTALS	# CNTS	AB	AT	BB	BC	BU	CC	FC	GC	HC	SB	SC	VC
Gnatcatch, Blu-gra	481	11	4	31	2	98	1	1	236		37	64	4	3
Bluebird, Eastern	1641	11	15	253	173	266	6	65	203		188	208	78	186
Thrush, Swainsons	1	1							1					
Thrush, Hermit	588	12	19	38	57	48	30	42	204	11	62	48	10	19
Thrush, Wood	2	1							2					
Robin, American	28350	12	439	742	619	1221	413	8490	5124	353	2199	7600	954	196
Catbird, Gray	109	11	2	1	2	36		6	22	15	7	14	3	1
Mockingbird, N	2710	12	70	398	284	155	154	331	523	141	371	103	80	100
Thrasher, Brown	539	12	29	37	34	74	17	54	147	12	71	37	19	8
Thrasher, Lng-bil	1	1												1
Thrasher, Crv-bil	1	1		1										
Pipit, American	2319	11	19	762	429	62	27	451	358	46	19	45	101	
Pipit, Sprague's	50	8		10	4	1		5	9		10	9		2
Waxwing, Cedar	1281	12	1	357	134	11	110	506	34	1	32	1	73	21
Shrike, Loggerhed	1233	12	27	183	174	53	27	134	279	63	171	80	17	25
Starling, Euro	8818	12	1635	410	488	485	1318	603	1021	1101	1121	91	394	151
Vireo, White-eyed	43	9	1	5	4	3			18		5	5	1	1
Vireo, Solitary	213	11	2	15	8	18		7	115	1	31	7	8	1
Vireo, Yell-thrd	1	1							1					
Warb, Orange-crn	1095	12	70	65	83	97	22	45	355	182	113	35	9	19
Warb, Nashville	2	2		1		1								
Warb, Magnolia	2	1				2								
Warb, Yellow-rump	14207	12	545	1082	1606	1335	444	556	3821	652	3133	631	130	272
(Warb, Audubon's)	2	2		1	1									
Warb, Blk-thr Grn	2	1							2					
Warb, Yel-throat	3	2		2					1					
Warb, Pine	493	12	43	27	30	24	4	32	81	7	194	1	24	26
Warb, Prairie	1	1												1
Warb, Palm	26	5			4				3	7	1	11		
Warb, Blk-and-wht	14	5			1	2			9		1	1		
Warb, Prothonotry	2	2		1	1									
Waterthrush, N	3	1							3					
Yellowthroat, Com	518	9		30	17	24		7	385	31	10	12		2
Warb, Wilson's	33	6			1	8	1		21			1	1	
warbler, sp	3	1								3				
Tanager, Summer	1	1					1							
Tanager, Scarlet	1	1							1					
Cardinal, Northrn	4875	12	98	578	513	647	177	447	1288	34	312	192	396	193
Pyrrhuloxia	1	1		1										
Grosbeak, Blue	2	2										1		1
Bunting, Indigo	5	1							5					
Bunting, Painted	1	1							1					
Dickcissel	1	1												1
Towhee, Rfus-side	42	7		16	3			9	2		9		2	1
(Towhee, Spotted)	4	3		2				1	1					
Sparrow, Chipping	639	11	2	89	108	18	12	110	50		93	12	41	104
Sparrow, Clay-col	2	2		1					1					
Sparrow, Field	507	11	1	266	29	5	32	101	24	9	2	18		20
Sparrow, Vesper	2840	11	2	1195	135	6	29	725	47	10	45	23		623
Sparrow, Lark	73	4		22				2	2					47
Sparrow, Savannah	12239	12	14	2140	454	205	192	2780	4474	207	385	1051	18	319
Sparrow, Grasshop	49	5		13	2			2	30			2		

SPECIES	TOTALS	# CNTS	AB	AT	BB	BC	BU	CC	FC	GC	HC	SB	SC	VC
Sparrow, Henslows	2	2		1					1					
Sparrow, Le Conte	305	10		21	18	1	3	104	111	34	10	2		1
Sparrow, Shp-tail	178	4							47	128	1	2		
Sparrow, Seaside	191	4	2						82	102		5		
Sparrow, Fox	168	7		40	5	2	6	111			1			3
Sparrow, Song	607	12	8	164	59	2	14	221	57	31	18	8	13	12
Sparrow, Lincolns	867	12	8	180	97	35	6	107	243	47	36	41	5	62
Sparrow, Swamp	1672	12	4	178	92	62	3	111	735	343	81	58	3	2
Sparrow, Wht-thrt	5572	12	8	594	662	373	326	750	1161	172	998	279	130	119
Sparrow, Wht-crn	1294	12	228	536	53	31	46	208	59	67	22	14	21	9
Sparrow, Harris'	116	7		47		1	5	54	2	1				6
Junco, Dark-eyed	38	7		13	2		2	6	3		2			10
sparrow, sp.	1412	3		200					1200	12				
Longspur, Lapland	205	2		200				5						
longspur, sp.	16	1						16						
Blackbird, Red-wg	381849	12	61	11136	304340	8733	244	16065	32501	1910	2029	4186	570	74
Meadowlark, East	4118	12	124	1076	475	251	307	53	240	126	246	661	49	510
Meadowlark, West	7	3		3	3			1						
meadowlark, sp.	4017	6		260			15	1318	2322	48		54		
Blackbird, Rusty	25	2					20	5						
Blackbird, Brewer	3012	10		583	104	53	56	647	480		10	40	413	626
Grackle, Gr-tail	10115	12	279	798	822	838	3632	201	2022	856	276	334	1	56
Grackle, Bt-tail	862	3							767	11		84		
Grackle, Common	53821	12	1023	6175	4952	13424	230	4761	15823	192	4443	2060	732	6
Cowbird, Bronzed	1	1							1					
Cowbird, Brn-head	47563	11		3136	706	514	150	32620	6923	1931	239	1165	90	89
blackbird, sp.	94535	8		31200	5000	23850	2200	18200	9070	2000		3015		
Oriole, Northern	6	2				1			5					
(Oriole, Bullock)	2	1							2					
Finch, Purple	18	5		4			2	3				2	7	
Siskin, Pine	7	4			1	4		1	1					
Goldfinch, Lesser	1	1				1								
Goldfinch, Amer	4866	12	164	524	484	621	156	173	1386	123	350	283	290	312
Sparrow, House	1461	11		170	124	83	309	280	54	165	133		42	82
SPECIES	265		113	159	149	141	100	142	218	160	157	172	86	108
INDIVIDUALS	1208913		8399	176762	373477	68494	13991	247473	161925	36301	45096	57554	12945	6496
OBSERVERS			30	na	50	50	16	32	176	44	na	24	44	24
AB = ARMAND BAYOU					BU = BUFFALO BAYOU					HC = HOUSTON		BP = BOLIVAR PENINSULA		
AT = ATTWATER NWR					CC = CYPRESS CREEK					SB = SAN BERNARD NWR				
BB = BRAZOS BEND ST. PARK					FC = FREEPORT					SC = SPRING CREEK				
BC = BRAZORIA					GC = GALVESTON					VC = VICTORIA				

1990 CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS



CHRISTMAS COUNT RESULTS YRS '87 - '90



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