



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXV, No. 2
June 1975

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

A MORNING ON THE SWEETLEAF TRAIL

"An island of quiet in a busy world". That was said nearly 5 years ago by a Chronicle reporter in an article about the Sweetleaf Nature Trail in Jones State Forest, and the other day it seemed even more true. Sunday morning, June 1st, being so delightfully cool and clear, with virtually no wind or clouds, seemed a good time to return to the Trail for the first time in several years.

Just before arriving at the trail parking lot we came upon a flock of Indigo Buntings in the trees and bushes along the roadside. Also, seen on the way into the parking lot were two Parula Warblers and a Roadrunner. Over the parking lot could be seen an immature Cooper's Hawk wheeling in the clear blue sky overhead. Some of his tail feathers and one or two primary wing feathers were missing. Streaky, barred breast and almost clear belly was observed. After watching this hawk wheel above us for a minute or two, he started making a straight flight away from us and was about to pass from our view when another hawk (sp?) dived on him in a very swift "stoop" and they passed out of our sight down behind the trees.

Leaving the hawks to their devices, we began to hear many birds singing as we entered the Trail itself. A close-by twittering call attracted our attention and in the tree just above us a Brown-headed Nuthatch was busily feeding and singing along the branches. Heard singing, too, were Eastern Pewee, Cardinal and White-eyed Vireos. Other "voices" heard deeper in the woods were Pine Warblers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmouse, all of which were later seen except the White-eyed Vireos, who were very difficult to see in the lush forest growth we were going through, and who calls are so distinctive that we didn't make a real attempt to see them.

One very interesting sound we began to hear at one point on the trail was a sort of Carolina Wren song, but to both of us it had a different cadence and tone. After much standing, peering, peering and moving stealthily about, Margaret spotted the producer of this delightful song - a Kentucky Warbler - in beautiful plumage! We think a territory was being proclaimed and a mate being invited to share it. About an hour later as we came back along the trail, after going to the far end, this little warbler was still proclaiming that this was his area.

Shortly after this, our attention was caught by a quiet tapping, which had to be coming from a small woodpecker. Then we started hearing short calls, like "squeals" or "squeaks" (Paul says squeals, I say squeak!), and following the sounds a few yards off the trail, we found, on a large loblolly pine, a Red-cockaded Woodpecker working his way up the tree trunk and pecking into the bark. While observing this bird, some more "squeals" were heard nearby, and by moving a few yards further into the brush, two more of the Red-cockaded woodpeckers were seen, on one of which the small red "cockade" was visible. We were especially delighted to find these unusual birds apparently feeding in the trees in the trail area. They are known to inhabit and nest in Jones Forest, but are usually seen in some loblolly pine trees about a mile from the trail area. We later drove to the marked nesting trees and could hear the calls but did not see the birds.

Other calls heard as we moved along the Trail were of the Pileated Woodpecker, Common Crow, Blue Jay and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Overhead were seen Turkey Vulture, and Black Vulture, and Purple Martins. One Bay-breasted Warbler was sighted, probably our last for this spring.

In addition to the birds we were so pleased to see, hear and enjoy, we saw many damselflies with their beautiful electric blue bodies and black gauze wings. Other dragonflies were seen, especially some with a startling bright green body and ecru wings.

The Texas Forest Service has prepared a guide list for trees, vines and shrubs that can be observed on the Sweetleaf Trail and is available in a box at the start of the trail. The items are marked and numbered to correspond to the guide list. In addition to being educational we found it interesting to know about the uses and value of these woody inhabitants of the forest. The trail follows along both sides of a lovely small stream, which is crossed at the far end by a swinging cable bridge that is fun to walk across as well as being aesthetically satisfying. This exceptionally pleasant morning was terminated with a picnic lunch under the shade of some trees near an old oil well. We had planned this lunch to be at the picnic area, but too many other folks had the same idea, so we drove along the forest roads until we found this quiet shady spot. A bonus here was some aluminum beverage cans which we salvaged for the OG aluminum sales effort.

June is an excellent time to visit Jones Forest, for the foliage is lush and green, especially the ferns along the stream bank and around small ponds. This place is reached from Houston by going north on IH 45 to the FM 1488 exit. Take FM 1488 west, toward Hempstead, for about two and 1/2 miles and entrances to Jones Forest picnic area (on left) and Sweetleaf Trail (on right) are marked by signposts at the roadside. (Take insect repellent, the mosquitos up there are hungry!) -- Margaret & Paul Jones

AROUND AND ABOUT

* There was a singular lack of clarity on my part last month when I asked for information about someone in this area qualified to handle injured birds. Lynda Snyder, of Morgan's Point, is so well known, I assumed all my readers would know I was asking about an additional person, someone within the city of Houston and its close environs. Lynda, who is particularly well-known for her rescue efforts of oil-spill-injured birds (her methods of cleaning these birds have been widely adopted), has at this time, some 30 birds to take care of, of various species and injuries. She will take any protected bird, which excepts starlings, house sparrows and pigeons. A racing pigeon (banded pigeon) she will accept, but she asks that you first call Jim Nelson Sporting Goods Store, Baytown, 422-6197, give them the information on the band, and they can identify the owner from their records of most racing pigeons and owners.

Also she asks that any birds needing care be brought to her; she spends her time, money, and effort in caring for them, she would appreciate not being asked to drive miles to go get them.

* If you happen to visit Pedernales State Park any time this month, be sure to take the River Trail leading from the picnic area down to the river, and you will stand a good chance of seeing a Golden-cheeked Warbler. When we were there recently during the first week in June, the lady at headquarters told us he had been seen along this trail, and, sure enough, as advertised, there he was, singing his head off. And he didn't seem to be a bit shy, either, staying quite close to us for some time. In fact, we moved off before he did!

* We seemed to see and hear about others seeing, an unusual number of Cerulean Warblers this spring. Usually one or two are seen a season by any one observer, but on April 11th, 12 plus were seen by Paul and Margaret Jones at High Island, and, according to the June TOS newsletter, Rick McCamant saw 12 in a loose flock at Flour Bluff on April 20. Did any of our readers note seeing more of the Ceruleans this past migration than usual?

* According to the SCISSORTAIL, Lubbock Audubon Society had a "truly spectacular Spring Count on May 3, 1975. Of the 130 species on Count Day, five do not even appear on the Lubbock Checklist (Black-throated Gray, and Blackpoll Warblers, Philadelphia Vireo, Long-eared Owl, and Whimbrel), and two others (Virginia Rail and Lazuli Bunting) are listed as accidentals. Fourteen additional species were spotted during the count period, of which 3 (Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Swamp Sparrow) are not listed, either! Adding them up, we have a truly grand total of 144, of which 26 species are new to the count!

"From the presence of a number of Eastern species, and the absence of many Western, it seems that normal migration paths were displaced west by 300 miles or more. Our lack of hawks may be partially due to this shift, though we are missing both Eastern and Western species as well".

(Whatever happened to our Spring Count Day? For several years, there has been little to-do over it, and this year it wasn't even mentioned. It would be interesting to have a Spring Count next year, covering the same area as the Christmas Count, and with as many observers as possible. Give some thought to this).

* The Sunday after the picnic (and you who were absent, or left the picnic early,

missed the marvelous sight of the Magnificent Frigatebirds riding the wind before an approaching squall line) the Jones and the Bristers had a sneak preview of the new Galveston Island State Park. Supt. Bill Granberry told us something of their plans for the "wilderness" part of the park, and allowed us to go in and walk some of the nature trails. These trails have been built up to provide solid footing (with board walks over the water areas) and vegetation will be encouraged to grow over them so that it will be as natural as possible. There are several observation platforms, affording fine views of the surrounding marsh. The picnic areas will be confined to the beach side of the park, although there will be some screened shelters and RV pads back of headquarters on the bay side.

We are most enthusiastic about this newest park, it should be one of the greatest assets in the study of nature in this area. So many of our long-time birding "spots" are disappearing (or have already disappeared) from view in forests of subdivisions, that we are indeed grateful to be able to look forward to this place for years to come. (This is just across the road from the famous corner, "The Old House", known to birders for many years. Dr. Marrack reported at the picnic that efforts to get this land, so far have been unsuccessful). Mr. Granberry says if all goes well, the park should open sometime in August.

* A suggestion has been made by Midge Randolph (member of Ft. Worth Audubon Society, our newest exchange newsletter) that perhaps we have all become too dependent on the convenience of the "Birds of North America" and have been neglecting the more detailed text of Peterson. In her letter to me (extremely complimentary to our C-H and C-H Notes) she says "Peterson's excellent "Field Marks" and "Similar Species" are unbeatable, and I for one, am going back to using both in the field, during migration and in working with our new members" (I would like to add Pough's "Audubon Bird Guides" to that list, for a great deal of information can be gained by consulting Pough in addition to the others. --Ed.)

ROSE-THROATED BECARD NEST CAUSES EXCITEMENT -- by Roger Zimmerman

On May 22 I visited Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and found a nesting pair of Rose-throated Becards which created quite a stir among the refuge personnel. The manager said it was the first report in about 20 years. To find the nest you drive past the headquarters on the loop road until you reach Highland Trail. This trail crosses the road about half way between the headquarters and the old Spanish cemetery.

Park and walk to the left on the Highland Trail which ends just a short distance at a small loop or circle, which contains the ashes of old camp fires and about three large trees. One of the trees has a Lichenstein's Oriole's nest, which is a long, hanging nest. Just below and to the right is the Rose-throated Becard's nest, which is a round nest about the size of a basketball. Both nests are made of Spanish moss. The Becard's were still building the nest, so they should be there for all of June and probably July. They were very tame and continued their work with a large audience as the word spread. The nest is about 25 feet from the ground and ideal for photographs.

I also followed the instructions on the Brown Jay in a past issue of the ABA and saw three Brown Jays -- two at very close range by squeaking on my hand. Listen for the explosive "Peow, Peow". It almost sounds like "Pow, Pow".

The Elf Owls are still nesting in the telephone pole by the restrooms at the lake area in Bentsen State Park. They came out for inspection after dark in response to a tape of their call. The Screech Owls put on quite a show on the Nature Trail after dark, as they came up in response to a tape of their call. Two followed me as I came out even though I stopped playing the tape. Pauragues were numerous on the roads of Bentsen after dark. Lesser Goldfinch were present at roadside parks just south of Sarita on US 77.

I put my canoe in on the Rio Grande at Salenino just below Falcon State Park, and saw several Ringed Kingfishers and one Green Kingfisher. Almost got washed into the Gulf of Mexico when they opened the locks (not really)! Had a hard time getting back up the river to the car.

My trip count was 113 species.

HOW TO DESCRIBE A BIRD

If anyone should ask you to describe a bird, you might tell them it is a warm-blooded bipedal (two-footed), air-breathing, vertebrate (animal with backbone), with forelimbs modified into wings or winglike structures and a body covered with feathers.-- June, Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine.

CLEARING HOUSE, MAY, 1975

- Cormorant, Olivaceous: (1)22, Seabrook, RK.
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: (1)24, W. Galv., David Deifik, OG picnic.
 Bittern, Least: (1)10, Bolivar, RK.
 Merganser, Red-breasted: (3)10, Bolivar, RK.
 Kite, Swallow-tailed: (1)18, Sandy Point on Hwy 288, Dan Hardy & Fred Collins--see notes
 Hawk, Broad-winged: (1)17, High Island, RK.
 " , Swainson's: (1)20, Johnson Space Center, RK.
 Pheasant, Ring-necked: (2)31, Anahuac R., David Dauphin--see notes.
 Gallinule, Purple: (30p)10, Anahuac R., RK.
 Curlew, Long-billed: (1)24, Galveston, GC.
 Godwit, Marbled: (6)4, Golf Course, RM 528 near Friendswood, BL, RK.
 Phalarope, Wilson's: (5)4, Golf Course, FM 528 near Friendswood, (5)10, (4)17, Anahuac R. RK, BL.
 Gull, "Large, all-white type": (1)26, Galv., Jean & Bill Harwell--see notes
 Flicker, Common: (1)26, Hermann Park, GC.
 Woodpecker, Hairy: (1)5, Houston, P&MJ
 Kingbird, Western: (2)9, White Oak Bayou, WC.
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: (1)18, Katy area, P&MJ
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: (1)0, White Oak Bayou, WC.
 Swallows, Cliff: (3)18, Katy area, P&MJ.
 Thrasher, Brown: (1)9, White Oak Bayou, (1)14, yard, W&GC.
 Robin: (3)28, Herman Park, GC.
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked: (1)14, 17, yard, GC; (2)16, 17, Bellaire, P&MJ.
 Veery: (1)April 26, yard, L&IG; (1)1, 3, Bellaire, (3)9, High Island, P&MJ.
 Pipit, Water: (1)9, Nassau Bay, last day this flock observed, RK.
 Vireo, Red-eyed: (2)25, (1)31, White Oak Bayou, WC; (1)24, West University, yard, MA.
 " , Philadelphia: (4)9, White Oak Bayou, GC; (1)7, Galv. Co. Park, MJ&NO.
 Warbler, Prothonotary: (1)9, High Island, P&MJ
 " Golden-winged: (5-6)5, Houston, P&MJ, NO.
 " Blue-winged: (1)16, yard, SE Houston, NP--see notes; (1)9, High Island, P&MJ.
 " Tennessee: (NC)1 thru 12, Harris & Galv. Counties, P&MJ
 " Northern Parula: (1)9, White Oak Bayou, GC.
 " Yellow: (4)9, High Island, (2)18, Katy area, P&MJ
 " Magnolia: (5)5, City Hall, WC; (1)3, 4, 5, Bellaire, (3)5, 9, Houston, P&MJ
 " Black-throated Green: (1)18, N. Rosehill-Cypress Rd., RK, BL.
 " Blackburnian: (1)10, Smith Woods, (4)9, White Oak Bayou, W&GC; (1)24, West University, MA.
 " Chestnut-sided: (1)24, West University, MA; (6)9, White Oak Bayou, GC; (2-3)5, Houston, P&MJ, NO.
 " Bay-breasted: (6)9, White Oak Bayou, GC.
 " Blackpoll: (1)24, West University, MA--see notes.
 Ovenbird: (4)14, City Hall, WC; (1)5 thru 12, Bellaire, P&MJ
 Waterthrush, Northern: (1)9, White Oak Bayou, GC; (1)9, High Island, (1)11, Bellaire, P&MJ.
 Warbler, Canada: (3)9, White Oak Bayou, GC.
 Oriole, Northern: (1)4, yard, GC.
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: (1)10, Bellaire, P&MJ.
 Dickcissel: (20)1, Mykawa Rd., RK; (1)April 4, 8, 12, 13, 20, yard, L&IG.
 Goldfinch, American: (1)6, (5)9, White Oak Bayou, WC.
 Sparrow, Henslow's: (3)31, SW of Hobby Airport, SE Houston - singing in same area as last month--NP.

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

MA - Margaret Anderson; GC - Glenn Cureton; WC - Wesley Cureton; L&IG - Laura and Irv Greenbaum; P&MJ - Paul & Margaret Jones; RK - Randy Korotev; BL - Betty Lobos; NO - Norma Oates; NP - Noel Pattingell.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

Swallow-tailed Kite: On May 18 Fred Collins and I were driving south on Hwy 288 about 10 o'clock when Fred cries, "What's that?" We looked up and were treated to the magnificent sight of a Swallow-tailed Kite crossing the road at treetop level! It circled on the other side of the road and floated over a massive liveoak a few feet above the crown as if it would light before banking and gliding toward the northeast. We tried to follow it but it had quickly vanished. Appearance: a very long-winged, long bird--impression created by the tail. The tail was very long with two streaming pendants on the sides. Black and white pattern beneath; slender, elegant wings; upper wings and back were black which darkened near shoulders. Wings and forked tail were gracefully maneuvered as the bird "slipped" through the air. It was a beautiful, sun-light day; we watched the bird with binoculars for not much more than a minute (my estimate). The kite crossed the road a few hundred yards before the community of Sandy Point. The kite moved rapidly and we could not locate it again. I presume it to be

a migrant, however, Sherri and Tom Collins told me that a Mr. Don Hackathorn of Angleton saw a Swallow-tail near Arcola on May 28. Birders driving down 288 should watch carefully for Kites, even in the summer months. --Dan Hardy

Ring-necked Pheasant: At 1230 hours on May 31, 1975 I observed a pair of Ring-necked Pheasants at Anahuac WR. Weather was clear, bright, around 75°, wind NE at 10mph. The pheasants were in the area behind the restrooms between the line of culverts and gravel piles. I observed the birds at 30-40 feet for about 5 minutes while they pecked at the ground. Having raised Ring-necked Pheasants as a boy, it was again a delight to see the colorful male and its female companion. I assume the birds are escaped captives, but let's hope not. The birds were observed also with 10x50 binoculars which weren't necessary at such close range. When I opened my car door the birds flew over the area behind the barn on the hill. --David Dauphin

(Weren't there some of these birds introduced in this area in the past by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept.? Do any of our readers remember about this? --Ed.)

"Large, all-white type" Gull:

Jean and I would like to report on an unusual gull we saw at Galveston near the south jetty on May 25, 1975. The bird was discovered by Jean on the sand flats east of the road to the beach, roughly opposite the area where the pavement ends. We observed it for almost an hour, in good sunlight (noon), using 7x50 binocs and a 30X Baiscope, at perhaps 100 yards. It was seen at rest and flying. We made these notes:

1. Very pale, essentially white. Head, neck, breast, tail, and primaries white. Some pale buffy or "dirty" mottling on the belly, back, and mantle. No gray or black seen.
2. Considerably larger than adjacent laughing and ring-billed gulls, though judged smaller than herring (though one not available for comparison). Appeared sleeker and less bulky than a herring - more like an enlarged ring-bill.
3. Mandible solid black - no spots, marks, or variation in base, tip, or upper or lower.
4. Legs flesh-colored, or light pinkish.
5. Eye dark - no eye-ring discernable.
6. Wings appeared longer than tail when at rest.

The bird was seen in the same area on the following day by T. Paul Jones, who made observations essentially the same as those above. Paul made some pictures.

Questionably this could be a 2nd-year Iceland Gull, another possibility, a Thayer's.
--Jean and Bill Harwell

Photography notes on above gull

Photographed at 120' with 250mm lens just after take-off. (Resultant picture is fairly good). Also, photographed as gull flew away from me (Resultant picture shows very wide wing span. Estimated to be 30" - 32"). Agree with Bill on above observations.
--T. Paul Jones

Blue-winged Warbler: Black eye-line, yellow face and entire underparts, and white wingbars clearly seen at about 8 yards with 7x35 binoculars. --Noel Pettingell

Blackpoll Warbler: male; bright pink legs, solid black cap, white cheeks, streaks on side. These were all rather late and were here after a heavy rain and wind. --Margaret Anderson

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING

New member: Mr. Paul Bailey, 414 Marshall #5, Houston, Texas 77006 528-4867

New subscriber: Mr. George Golding, 7240 Northeast Dr., #101, Austin, Texas 78723

Change of address: Fort Worth Audubon Soc. Mrs. Alice A. Leskinen
Mrs. Wm. D. Hall, Editor c/o Mrs. Will Anderson
2825 Merida 4105 Ave. T 1/2
Fort Worth, Texas 76109 Galveston, Texas 77550

MINUTES-REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, May 24, 1975

The meeting was called to order by Harry Brister, Chairman, at 1:00 pm at Dune Castle on Galveston Beach.

Mr. Brister thanked Margaret and Paul Jones and Margaret's brother, Elliott Flowers, for the use of Mr. Flower's beach house for the group's annual picnic. Everyone present expressed appreciation for Mr. Flower's generosity.

In the absence of Melba Drake, outgoing treasurer, the new treasurer, Mary Gillette, presented the treasurer's report for the period April 1, 1975 through April 30, 1975, indicating receipts of \$322.66, disbursements of \$118.13, and a balance on hand of \$409.76. The report was accepted as read.

Margaret Jones, Spoonbill editor and publisher, reported that she is still working on trying to get bulk mailing privileges for the Spoonbill. Additional information has been requested by the Post Office and it is not certain at this time if the permit will be issued to our group.

The Chairman introduced the new officers and committee chairmen and predicted that the coming year will be a great one for the Ornithology Group.

Mr. Brister presented a letter which has been received by the group from a publication titled "Nature Guide". It is the purpose of "Nature Guide" to help travelers find sources of birding and nature information in the areas to which they travel. Guides to assist them on birding and nature trips are particularly desired. The publishers are seeking volunteers to be listed in the Nature Guide as people to be contacted by visitors to the Houston area. It was requested that anyone willing to have their name and address published so notify Mr. Brister.

It was announced that the planning session of the officers, originally scheduled for June 6, at Dr. Pat Sullivan's apartment, would have to be changed because she will be out of town on that date. A tentative date of Saturday, June 21, at 12:00 noon was selected, which time will be confirmed after consulting with Dr. Sullivan. (date has now been set for June 28th --Ed.)

Margaret Jones asked for suggestions from the group on how to advise visitors to the Houston area on where to bird during the summer months. Some of the suggestions were: Bolivar, Galveston beach, Anahuac Wildlife Refuge, Jones State Forest, Manor Lake, and the new Galveston Island State Park, which will be opened on Galveston's West Beach in early August. Dr. David Marrack advised that nature walks are being built in the park that will be excellent for observing marsh birds.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Avis Brister for Louise Rogers, Secretary

HOW BIRDS ARE NAMED -- from Birds of the World Wall Chart

TAXONOMY is a formidable term for the essentially simple concept of arranging (systematising) all plants and animals in order of their evolution. The starting point in all discussion of taxonomy is the Swedish naturalist Linne's *Systema Naturae* published in 1758. Like all scholars of his time Linne made use of Latin as an international language and even his name is usually latinised to Linnaeus. In brief Linne's system was to give each animal or bird two Latin names, a Latin binomial. Vernacular names vary from locality to locality and there is obvious advantage in having a permanent name that is widely accepted. Though Latin is daunting to the layman it is in fact the only way that biologists can pick out the animal or plant that they want to talk about.

And the following is from "Words for Birds" by Edward S. Gruson

The common Names: MacLeod, in his *Key to the Names of British Birds*, makes the nice distinction between "book" names and "popular" ones. A "popular" name is one which has developed along with the language and is in common usage, for example, hawk, sparrow and duck. "Book" names are those which have been bestowed upon species by ornithologists or naturalists usually to distinguish one species from another, for example, Red-shouldered Hawk, Mute Swan, Clay-colored Sparrow, or Green-winged Teal. As these examples suggest, the popular names are usually more general in coverage and the "book" names are usually created by adding an adjective to the "popular" name.

The common names fall into seven classes. These are:

1. Appearance--Often a feature of the anatomy of the bird is singled out to characterize the species. Among these are Black-capped Chickadee, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Brown Pelican, etc.
2. Eponymy--A number of common names commemorate individuals. Naturalists and others named birds for their associates, friends, wives, children and, in one instance, inadvertently for himself. Examples of eponyms are Wilson's Warbler, Sabine's Gull, Wied's Flycatcher, etc.
3. Echoics--Many common names are derived from or suggestive of the call of the bird. Kittiwake, Screech Owl, Whooping Crane, etc., are examples of this.
4. Habitat--Marsh Wren, Mountain Quail and Sage Thrasher are among this group.
5. Behavior--Among this group are the Nuthatches, Woodpeckers, and Shearwaters.
6. Food--Goshawk, Flycatcher and Oystercatcher are examples of common names formed from the food of the birds.
7. Region--Some birds are named for the region or place where they were first found or where their range is confined. Examples of the former are the Nashville and Connecticut Warblers, and of the latter are the California Condor and the San Blas Jay.

Common names vary within regions. For the United States and Canada, the American Ornithologist's Union has standardized them. However, in many places different names may be used for the same species. Waldo Lee McAtee collected thousands of these by region and by species. Their variability underscores the importance of the scientific name, which for each species of bird is unique.

The Scientific Names: The scientific name consists of two elements, the first of which is the generic term and the second is the trivial. Together they make up the name of the species. Subspecies are named by adding a third element to the two making up the species name. Generic terms are usually nouns, while the trivial element is usually an adjective.

The generic elements may be classified as follows:

1. Appearance--Among the many genera named for a particular feature of their anatomy are *Oxyura*, "sharp-tailed" for the Ruddy Duck; *Polioptila*, "gray-feathered" for the gnatcatchers; and *Bombycilla*, "silk-tailed" for the waxwings. Words alluding to a feature of the physical appearance of birds make up the largest number of generic terms.
2. Eponymy--A few genera are named for person, real or legendary. Among these are: *Sayornis*, *Bartramia*, *Bulweria*, *Microthene*, and *Diomedea*.
3. Call--*Clangula*, "a little noise"; *Garrulax*, "a chatterer," and *Salpinctes*, "a trumpeter," as well as many others allude to the calls and noises made by birds.
4. Habitat--A number of generic terms allude to the favored habitats of the species. Among these are: *Dendrocopus*, "tree-cleaver" for some woodpeckers; *Telmatodytes*, "swamp-dweller" for the Long-billed Marsh Wren; and *Philohela*, "marsh-loving" for the American Woodcock.
5. Behavior--*Tyrannus*, "lord or tyrant" and *Empidonax*, "king of the gnats" both suggest the tyrannical domination of these insectivores over their prey. *Mimus*, "mimic," suggests the characteristic of this genus. Other examples are *Lanius*, "butcher," for the shrikes and *Mniotilta*, "moss-plucker," is very apt for the Black-and White Warbler.
6. Food--Words describing the food of birds are not infrequently used for generic terms. *Muscivora*, "fly-eating" and *Muscicapa*, "fly-catcher", are appropriate for the flycatchers. *Ixobrychus*, "mistletoe-eater" is attractive although incorrect, and *Helmittheros*, "bug-hunter" is probably better than the common name Worm-eating Warbler.

The trivial elements may be organized as follows"

1. Appearance--This again is the largest class. Examples are: *Leucogaster*, "white-bellied", in *Sula leucogaster* for the Brown Booby; *Rufescens*, "reddish" in *Dichromassa rufescens* for the Reddish Egret, and *Cyanocephalus*, "blue-headed" in *Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus* for the Pinon Jay.
2. Eponymy--A number of trivial terms commemorate persons. Examples are *l'herminieri* in *Puffinus lherminieri*, for Audubon's Shearwater; *baeri* in *Aythya baeri* for Baer's Pochard; *palmeri* in *Porzana palmeri* for the Laysan Rail, and *wrightii* in *Empidonax wrightii* for the Gray Flycatcher.
3. Call--Among the examples of trivial elements denoting the call of birds are *buccinator*, "trumpeter" in *Olor buccinator* for trumpeter Swan and *ridibundus*, "laughing" in *Larus ridibundus*, Black-headed Gull.
4. Habitat--Such words as *montana*, *limicola* for "of the mountains" and "mud-dweller" respectively, suggest the habitats of *Eupoda montana*, Mountain Plover, and *Rallus limicola*, Virginia Rail.
5. Character--A number of terms refer to some characteristic of behavior or food such as *solitaria* in *Tringa solitaria*, Solitary Sandpiper; *gnoma*, "knowing" in *Glaucidium gnoma*, Pygmy Owl, and *formicivorus* for "ant-eater" in *Melanerpes formicivorus*, Acorn Woodpecker.
6. Region--A good many trivial elements refer to a place where the species was first taken or which forms part of its range. Examples are: *hyperboreus* for "the furthest north" in *Larus hyperboreus*, Glaucous Gull; *nilotica*, "of the Nile", in *Gelochelidon nilotica*, Gull-billed Tern; and *jamaicensis* in *Buteo jamaicensis* for Red-tailed Hawk.

OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB
(ORNITHOLOGY GROUP)
10602 Cedarhurst
Houston, Texas 77035
(Return postage guaranteed)

NAMES FOR REFERENCE:

Chairman:	Mr. Harry Brister, 2314 Saxon, Houston, Texas 77018	681-6456
Treasurer:	Mrs. J.M. Gillette, 5027 Longmont, Houston, Texas 77027	626-1755
Spoonbill:	Mrs. T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Clearing House:	Mr. Dan Hardy, 10215 Chatterton, Houston, Texas 77043	468-2748
Rare Bird Alert:	Mrs. L.W. Anderson, 2913 Amherst, Houston, Texas 77005	668-6405
Change of address:	Mrs. Richard Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston, Texas 77035	723-8559