

FIRST HOUSTON SPRING CENSUS

April 24, 1960

compiled by Victor L. Emanuel

This years spring census was an experiment. For the past 7 years, the O.G. group has held a Spring Roundup. The area was roughly limited to a section of Texas extending 200 miles along the Coast from Port Aransas and Rockport to High Island and inland about 80 miles to Hockley in NW Harris County. This tremendous area was "covered" by about 50 people in 10 parties with the largest number of observers and parties in the Houston-Galveston area. Only species were counted, not individuals. The object was to see how many species could be seen in one day, but there was no basis for competition with other groups in the country since there was no definite limitation of area.

Also there was very little scientific value in such a count since (1) only species were counted, not individuals, (2) the huge area could not be covered well at all and thus the results were more a function of where the various parties went in a particular year rather than a function of what species were present in the whole area.

This year it was decided to conduct a spring census in our Christmas Count circle. This type of count has the advantage of being limited to a definite area, which is desirable from both the competitive and scientific standpoint, and of being in small enough area so that the area can be covered fairly well. Most important of all, individuals as well as species were counted. Tennessee Warbler - 125 is much more meaningful and useful in defining the status of this warbler in our area and in judging the tempo of spring migration in a given year than just Tennessee Warbler.

Also, by holding the spring census in our Christmas count area we are able to gain knowledge about the fluctuations in resident species and the numbers of wintering birds which linger. The latter information is very useful in determining whether the season is early, average, or late.

The results of this years spring census are given on the following pages. Total number of species seen: 197. Total number of individuals seen: 19,100. Six hundred and seventy five warblers representing twenty-nine species were identified. One party (party 6) mentioned 200 unidentified warblers. Other parties undoubtedly had unidentified warblers also, but these were not noted. In the future, it would be a good idea for all parties to note unidentified warblers to give a better idea of the volume of the warbler migration.

This years spring census was an excellent success in many respects. The total of species is a very good one for a 15-mile diameter circle and should rank high among spring censuses throughout the nation. Many parties found large numbers of migrants, but some areas found few migrants and generally the pattern was one of pockets of migrants. Light thunderstorms during the day and an overcast sky all day were evidently responsible for the large numbers of migrants observed. It is also possible that the birds were anticipating the cool front which swept into central Texas on Sunday, but was very weak when it hit the Houston area Monday.

More important, the census results furnish valuable data which will enable us to gauge the flow of spring migration and the departure of winter residents. The census figures show example after example to demonstrate the lateness of land bird migration this spring. Also, the totals for the individual species are useful in defining the status of several species in the area, particularly warblers. I will have more to say about this in an article in the next "Spoonbill" summing up the spring season.

Our spring census will be published in the TOS newsletter along with censuses from other parts of the state. It is to be hoped that other areas, especially coastal areas, will conduct spring censuses in the years to come. This will enable us to learn much more about the pattern of Texas migration. Several localities in other parts of the country such as New Jersey held spring censuses this spring. In a later issue of the "Spoonbill" I hope to report their totals for comparison with ours.

THE RESULTS

TOTAL SPECIES: 197 within 15 mile diameter circle (Rock Dove excluded)

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 19,100

AREA: Same as for Houston Christmas Count, 15 mile diameter circle with center just north of Baytown including parts of San Jacinto Monument, Highlands, Dutton Lake, Mont Belvieu and La Porte at its limits.

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS: 31 observers in 9 parties (we suffered from having too few observers; with more observers and parties I am confident we could have broken 200).

WEATHER: temperature range - 69° to 75°; sky: overcast all day; humidity: 6 a.m. - 95%, 6 p.m. - 79%; rain: trace in several areas, light thunderstorm activity.

The count day was humid and overcast. On the next day, a severe thunderstorm hit the area in the late afternoon with heavy rain and winds up to 30 mph. The wind shifted to the NW for a few hours that night. This activity was caused by a weak cool front which barely reached Houston and caused only a temporary wind shift from SE to NW.

PARTY SUMMARY: I am including a brief sketch of the areas so the party results can be interpreted in relation to the type of area covered. Party leader's name is underlined as are exclusive species (species seen by only one party).

PARTY 1A: Walter S. Barbaree and Paul Miller. Area: northeast part of the circle, an area with fairly good pine-sweet gum-palmetto association along Cedar Bayou, rest of area mostly open fields. Exclusive species: Wood Ducks (2), Coopers Hawk (1). Other "good" birds: Brewers Blackbird (10) late date, Buff-breasted Sandpiper (60) high count, Field Sparrow (1) late date.

PARTY 1B: Mr. & Mrs. Henry S. Hoffman, Mr. Joe M. Heiser, Mrs. L. A. M. Barnette. Area: A section of the eastern half of the circle just south of area 1A and north of Farm Road 565. Habitat similar to area 1A. Exclusive species: Eastern Bluebird (2), Brown Creeper (1) late date, Bairds Sandpiper (1), Mountain Plover (7), Swainson's Warbler (1). Other "good" birds: Brewers Blackbird (11) late date, Goldfinch (3) late date, Eared Grebe (1), Prothonotary Warbler (6) good count.

PARTY 2: Ella Wolfer, Helen Wolfer, Katrina Thompson, Mr. & Mrs. Kershner. Area: the northwest section of the circle including Highlands reservoir and the town of Highlands. Mostly open country with some rice fields and some mixed pine oaks woods around Highlands. Exclusive species: Gadwall, Mallard. Other "good" birds: Water Pipit (50).

PARTY 3: Armand Yramategui, Mabel and Bob Deshayes. Area: the central section of the circle west of Cedar Bayou, mostly deciduous woods, some pine, part of Tabbs Bay and a good deal of urban area. Exclusive species: American Robin (2), Yellow-throated Vireo (1). Other "good" birds: Field Sparrow (1) late date, Brewers Blackbird (1), Canvasback (1), Cerulean Warbler (12) good count.

PARTY 4A: Carl H. Aiken, Paul Corneil, Harry Ohlendorf. Area: east of Cedar Bayou and south of Farm Road 565, mostly open fields with some rice fields, some huisache brush and oak woods and some pine woods. Exclusive species: White-winged Dove, Long-billed Curlew, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Whimbrel. Other "good" birds: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (7), late date, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4) late date, Am. Bittern (1), Swamp Sparrow (1).

PARTY 4B: Arlie McKay, Victor Emanuel. Area: southeast section of the circle including Dutton Lake, Swan Marsh, and parts of Trinity bay, mostly open fields, marsh, deciduous woods (in patches) along the bay and brier thickets in ravines near the bay. Exclusive species: Double-crested Cormorant (2), Black-billed Cuckoo (1), Froad-winged Hawk (1), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Great Horned Owl (1). Other "good" birds: Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1) late date, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1) late date.

PARTY 5: Steve Williams, George G. Williams, Jim Ambrose. Area: on west edge of the circle including Lynchburg ferry marshes (north side), Burnett Bay, Scott Bay, Wooster, mostly marsh, urban area and oak woods. Exclusive species: Am. Widgeon (2), Lark Sparrow (1), Rufous-sided Towhee (2) very late date. Other "good" birds: Canvasback (1), Song Sparrow (1).

PARTY 6: Mr. & Mrs. Jerry B. Strickling, Mr. & Mrs. Frazier Morian, John O'Neill, Doug Stine. Area: section of the circle around San Jacinto battlegrounds, mainly deciduous woods with ravines and gullies, Peggy lake and upper San Jacinto Bay. Exclusive species: Caracara (2), Chuck-wills-widow (1), Common Gallinule (2), Screech Owl (4), Stilt Sandpiper (1), Solitary Vireo (2), Black-poll Warbler (4), Bewick's Wren (1) very late date, Other "good" birds: Am. Bittern (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Song Sparrow (2), Warbling Vireo (18) very high count. This party had 26 species of warblers and excellent counts on many of them.

PARTY 7: Mrs. J. A. Snyder, Clinton Snyder, Mr. Harvey Patten. Area: Southwest section of the circle including the Baytown tunnel, Morgans point, La Porte and lower half of San Jacinto Bay. Mostly marsh, open water, deciduous woods and urban area. Exclusive species: Olivaceous Cormorant (2), Hudsonian Godwit (5), Red-breasted Merganser (1), Wilson's Phalarope (14), Virginia Rail (1), Dunlin (3), Other "good" birds: Goldfinch (1) late date, Eared Grebe (25), Water Pipit (72) Swamp Sparrow (1).

Birds missed on the Census which might be expected to occur in the Census area:

Am. Avocet This species has not been reported anywhere in the area since just prior to the Houston Christmas Count (January 2, 1960). For several years, Avocets have been present at the Baytown Tunnel almost all year, sometimes in flocks numbering several hundreds.

Pintail) This has been a poor season for ducks.
Redhead)
Ruddy Ducks)

Bonapartes Gull) These birds didn't linger in the area as they did last year.
Red-tailed Hawk)
Sparrow Hawk)

White Ibis) Dutton Lake was too high for ibis.
White-faced)
Ibis)

Hermit Thrush Despite the lateness of the migration movement none of these winter residents lingered.

Nashville Warbler - this species has been scarce all spring; in some years it is found in good numbers.

SPECIES	PARTY NUMBER									COUNT TOTAL
	1A	1B	2	3	4A	4B	5	6	7	
Anhinga			1				1			2
Bittern, Am.					1			2		3
Bittern Least						1	1	2	2	6
Blackbird, Brewers	10	11		1						22
" , Redwinged	100	85	11	193	256	529	160	575	161	2170
Bluebird, Eastern		2								2
Bobwhite	3	10	1	3	9	7	9	18	9	69
Bunting, Indigo	125	18	3	110	31	176	45	92	120	720
" , Painted	3	5		7	3	14	3	4	6	45
Caracara								2		2
Cardinal	55	30	13	90	72	102	11	75	58	506
Catbird	2	2	1	2	1	11	1	2	2	24
Chickadee, Carolina	17	7		9	5	12	5	28	15	98
Chuck-wills-widow								1		1
Coot, American			25				6	2	11	44
Cormorant, Double- crested						2	8			10
" , Olivaceous								1	1	2
Cowbird, Brown-h.	20	50	20	40	200	27	38	170	41	600
Creeper, Brown		1								1
Crow, Common	20	2	2	11	13	1	2	25	9	85
Cuckoo, Black-bill.						1				1
" , Yellow-billed		1	2	1	7			5	1	17
Curlew, Long-billed					4					4
Whimbrel					4					4
Dickcissel	1	33	1	1	2	2	6	5	2	52
Dove, Mourning	50	16	14	30	30	51	35	160	36	422
Dove, White-winged				1						1
Dowitcher (sp?)			2		16	1	2	60	700	783

SPECIES	1A	1B	2	3	4A	4B	5	6	7	COUNT TOTAL
Duck,										
Canvasback				1			1			2
Gadwall			2							2
Mallard			1							1
Mottled		2			6	2	1	9	7	27
Scaup, Lesser		2		11		360	24		24	420
Shoveler							1	1	30	32
Tree, Fulvous			100	2		25	116		2	245
Wigeon, Am.							2			2
Wood	2									2
Egret, Common	3	5	2	272	20	32	48	44	54	480
" , Snowy	3			129	3	16	2	130	57	340
Flicker, Yellow-shafted					1					1
Flycatcher, Great										
Crested	2	1	1			2	1	6	1	14
Empidonax				5					1	6
Scissor-tail		5	9	6	37	5	6	10	13	81
Gallinule, Common								2		2
Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray					7	1				8
Godwit, Hudsonian									5	5
Goldfinch, American		3							1	4
Grackle, Boat-tailed	15	60	2	22	149	82	4	75	41	550
" , Common	15	6		16			3	5	17	62
Grebe, Eared		1							25	26
" , Pied-billed							5	1		6
Grosbeak, Blue		13	1	30	13	23		15	10	105
" , Rose-breasted	1		1		2	3		2	7	16
Gull, Herring						7	2	2	1	12
" , Laughing	25	62	9	3	25	260	670	270	285	1710
" , Ring-billed	15	3	3	6	2		75	50	28	182
Hawk, Broad-winged						1				1
" , Coopers	1									1
" , Marsh	1					3	1	1	2	8
" , Red-sh.	1	1		1		3		2	3	11
" , Swainsons		1		2	4	1		1		9
Heron, Great Blue	2			2	2	6	9	15	12	48
" , Green				3	4	1	9	21	1	39
" , Little Blue	2			142	7	9	2	23	4	189
" , Louisiana				110	3	38	5	8	30	190
" , B-c Night				84		8	2	18	8	120
" , Y-c Night								2	3	5
Hummingbird, R-th.	1	14		6	10	28	2	15	9	85
Jay, Blue	1	10	4	15	8	8	6	28	32	112
Killdeer	10	11	2	18	15	18	8	45	23	150
Kingbird, Eastern	3	23	2	1	10	15	1	9	11	75
Kingfisher, Belted		1		1						1
Kinglet, Ruby-cr.					4	1		1		6
Martin, Purple	5	58	4	40	16	10	11	70	28	252
Meadowlark, Eastern	250	60	12	138	103	67	130	120	26	900
Merganser, Red-b.									1	1
Mockingbird	15	6	12	60	10	20	8	100	34	265
Nighthawk, Common	2	5	1	1	10	18	16	23	14	90
Oriole, Baltimore		3	3	3	1	5	1	36	14	66
" , Orchard	9	23	3		11	43	18	30	16	153
Owl, Barn						1		2	1	4
" , Barred	1				1	2		4		8
" , Great Horned						1				1
" , Screech								4		4
Pelican, White				34			8	8	500	550
Fewee, Wood, East.	1	8	1	7	4	8		16	5	50
Phalarope Wilsons									14	14
Pipit, Water			50			1	1	2	72	126

SPECIES	1A	1B	2	3	4A	4B	5	6	7	COUNT TOTAL
Flover, Black-bel.						5			2	7
" , Golden	30	2			50	14	11			107
" , Mountain		7								7
" , Semipalm.						14			10	24
" , Upland		2			41	2	13			58
Rail, Clapper						2	1		2	5
" , King		2				1		1		4
" , Sora							1	1	1	3
" , Virginia									1	1
Robin, American				2						2
Sanderling							3		9	12
Sandpiper, Bairds		1								1
" , Buff-br.	60					5				65
" , Dunlin									3	3
" , Least						30	5	15	100	150
" , Pectoral		3	50		10	4	1	5	26	96
" , Semipalm.						1	1	6	150	158
" , Solitary		1				1	3	1	3	9
" , Spotted		2			2	1	4	5	1	15
" , Stilt								1		1
" , Western							1	2	21	24
" , White-rumped								15	6	21
Sapsucker, Yellow-b						1				1
Shrike, Loggerhead	1	6	10	26	10	18	4	14	3	92
Skimmer, Black				375		4	21		160	560
Snipe, Common		1			1	1	2			5
Sparrow, Field	1			1						2
" , House		5	5	200	17	27	21	8	25	308
" , Lark							1			1
" , Lincolns	5	10		5	2	13	2	27	1	65
" , Savannah	10	7	8		3	6	2	28	6	70
" , Seaside				4		6			41	51
" , Song							1	2		3
" , Swamp					1				1	2
" , White-necked	10		2	7	15	17		26		77
" , White-throated					5	9	4	53	7	78
Spoonbill, Roseate				62		5	1	1		69
Stilt, Black-necked	3	7	4	8	9	2	14	22	131	200
Swallow, Bank	1					17	1	5	6	30
" , Barn	10	30	4	82	91	183	12	65	143	630
" , Cliff		1		5	1		2			9
" , Rough-winged		4			3	58	4	2	51	120
" , Tree	1	2			29		1	4	3	40
Swift, Chimney	1	6	3	37	3	2	47	124	27	250
Tanager, Scarlet		3		1		2		8		14
" , Summer		7	3	12	15	5	1	16	11	70
Teal, Blue-winged	2	1	5	17		39	28	8	55	155
Tern, Black				3		1	1	8	14	27
" , Caspian				14	1	13	2		16	46
" , Forster's	1				2	34	65	5	4	111
" , Gull-billed		1			3	3	8	5	2	22
" , Least				6		13	22	15	30	86
" , Royal				2	2	1	6		4	15
Thrasher, Brown	10	2		1	7	50	2	12	22	106
Thrush, Gray-chk.		3			1			2		6
" , Swainsons		1			1	10		2	1	15
" , Wood				2		5		1	1	9
Titmouse, Tufted	6	3	1	25	5	6	2	20	16	84
Towhee, Rufous-s.							2			2
Veery		1			1	2		1		5
Vireo, Red-eyed		3		3	7	4		13	11	41
" , Solitary								2		2
" , Warbling				1				18	1	20

SPECIES	1A	1B	2	3	4A	4B	5	6	7	COUNT TOTAL
Vireo, White-eyed	3	1	1		3	3		6	8	25
" , Yellow-th.				1						1
Vulture, Black	13	4	1	3	1	3	4		2	31
" , Turkey	8	7	1	3	1	8	5	2		35
Warbler, Bay-br.		1		1		1		8		11
Black & White		8	1	5	5	12		17	5	53
Blackburnian				1				8	3	12
Blackpoll								4		4
Blk. th. Green		1		1		3		11		16
Blue-winged		3		1		1		3	1	9
Canada								1	1	2
Cerulean		2		12				4	5	23
Chat, Yellow-b.		1					1	1		3
Chestnut-sided		1				1		33	1	36
Golden-winged			1	4		1		10	2	18
Hooded		3	1	4	4	7		21	1	41
Kentucky	1					2		16	5	24
Magnolia								2	1	3
Myrtle	1			3					1	5
Orange-crowned								1		1
Ovenbird		1						2		3
Parula	2	5			1		1	10		19
Pine		1		6				1		8
Prothonotary		6						1	1	8
Redstart, Am.		13	2	11	5	8		46	11	96
Swainson's		1								1
Tennessee		25		4	5	10		69	16	130
Worm-eating		3		5		2	1	3	3	17
Yellow		25		2	1	43		11	2	84
Yellow-throat		1		1	2	3		11	10	28
Yellow-throated						1		2	1	4
Waterthrush, La.		12						1		13
Northern				1	4	1	1	2	1	10
Waxwing, Cedar				50			6	20	11	87
Willet	5	8		3	6	4	43	5	3	77
Woodpecker, Downy	2	1		1	1				2	7
Pileated		2		1	2					5
Red-bellied	10	2	1			1		6	11	31
Red-headed	10	4		1			2	1		18
Wren, Bewicks								1		1
Carolina	2	6	5	19	9	6	15	15	18	95
House		1						2	2	5
L-b. Marsh						2	1	5	6	14
S-b. Marsh	1	1				2	1	1	5	11
Yellowlegs, Gr.		1		2	9	1	2	15	50	80
Lesser	15	100	15	2	19	36	75	35	43	340

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS

19,100

THE T.O.S. MEETING AT SAN BENITO, APRIL 15-16

REPORTED BY LINDA SNYDER.

It was with great anticipation that Clint and I started for the Valley with its famous birds - mostly new to us. Along the way we picked up 50 species including American Bittern, Caracara, Green-winged Teal, Harris' Hawk (7 miles east of Port Lavaca), Ground and Inca Doves, and a Common Crow 25 miles south of Victoria (its southern limit in Texas). The warm, very windy weather was against good birding, but a night cloud cover brought down some migrants. We chose Santa Ana Refuge for the first days trip. There amid the jungle-like forests of elm, ebony, hackberry, anaqua, huisache, and retama, interspersed with mesquite and cactus, we found many of the interesting birds we had come to see - the handsome Kiskadee Flycatcher, Wied's Crested Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, the brilliant Green Jay, Hooded Oriole, Red-eyed Cowbird, Long-billed and Curve-billed Thrashers, Cactus and Bewick's Wrens, Black-crested Titmouse, Olive Sparrow, White-collared Seedeater,

White-necked Raven, Red-billed Pigeon, White-winged and White-fronted Doves. All of this was accompanied by the loud song of the Olive-backed Warbler and the constant chatter of the Chachalacas. Overhead were soaring birds - the White-tailed and Mississippi Kites (both rare birds at the Refuge), Broad-winged, Harris', Swainson's Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks, and Anhingas. Of the small migrants, the most interesting was the Prothonotary Warbler (classified as rare on the Refuge). In the ponds were the Least Grebe and the sought-after Black-bellied Tree Duck. The Black-bellied Tree Duck was the subject that evening of a very interesting film showing its arrival, the community nests from which the young tumble two days after hatching, their feeding in ponds, and final departure in handsome flights in the fall.

The second day's trip was to Laguna Atascosa Refuge - a very different habitat. An unusual fresh-water pond yielded many ducks - the best one being the Bufflehead. Along the shores of the lakes were sandpipers, Ruddy Turnstones, plovers, Whimbrels, Avocets, Reddish Egrets, etc. The high wind and consequent dust hampered land birding, but we did find a group of 15 Clay-colored Sparrows, Grasshopper Sparrows, and Dickcissels. Going on to Port Isabel, we added Red-breasted Mergansers, Eared Grebes, Knots, Piping and Snowy Plovers. Back at San Benito and after a delicious Smorgasbord dinner we were entertained with a very interesting talk by Dr. Pauline James on the birds and typical habitats of the four border counties in the Valley. A composite tally was also made, hitting about 212 species for the two days. We came home through Rockport to hunt an elusive Ruff. Instead, we were met with a roaring norther that made us wish we could stay. The Valley trip devolved two things for us -- a tremendous thirst not quenchable by Rio Grande river water and an even greater thirst for more birding there !

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M E X I C O

The ensuing chronological and numerical bird lists are the results of observations made between Victoria, Texas, and Ciudad del Maiz, San Luis Potosi, Mexico, by the late Milton C. Chandler, Vic Emanuel, and myself. Although the birds were counted (in most cases) the counts do not by any means represent the populations of these species. The numbers are given in order that readers may gather some idea of their chances of seeing such and such a bird on a similar trip:

January 30, 1960: (Vic Emanuel, Milton Chandler, Walter Barbare, & T. B. Feltner) Area between and including Refugio, Texas, and Santa Ana Refuge:

Verdin-8, Bewick's Wren-9, Clay-colored Sparrow -2, Field Sparrow - 10, Myrtle Warbler - 1, Harris' Hawk - 27, Ladder-backed Woodpecker - 5, Gadwall - 31, Green-winged Teal - 70, Ruddy Duck - 7, Pyrrhuloxia - 50, Olive Sparrow - 1, Lichtenstein's (Altamira) Oriole - 1, Rose-throated Becard - 1 ♂ (missed at Santa Ana on their Christmas Count, seen by Walt Barbare, Vic Emanuel & myself.), Sennett's Thrasher - 3, White-fronted Dove - 2, Ground Dove - 10, Green Jay - 11, Chachalaca - 8, Black & White Warbler - 1, White-collared Seedeater - 6, Kiskadee - 6, Vermillion Flycatcher - 1, Groove-billed Ani - 2, Red-shouldered Hawk - 1.

January 31, 1960: Between and including San Benito, Texas, and El Mante, Mexico. (M.C., V.L.E., T.B.F.)

White-fronted Dove - 1, Curve-billed Thrasher - 2, Sandhill Crane - 5, Mexican Crow - 2000, White-necked Raven - 37, Sparrow Hawk - 3, Gray Hawk - 2, Roadrunner - 3, Black-throated Sparrow - 80, Alta Mira Oriole - 2, Olive Sparrow - 80, Clay-colored Sparrow - 1, Ash-throated Flycatcher - 1, White-tailed Hawk - 1, Red-tailed Hawk - 1, Caracara - 3, Tropical Kingbird - 1, (Linneated Woodpecker - 1, Brown Jay - 18, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl - 1, Clay-colored Robin - 2, Kiskadee - 3, Black-throated Green Warbler - 1, Roadside Hawk - 1, (Corona River)), Red-crowned Parrot - 800 (5 miles south of Ilera.).

February 1, 1960: El Abra, 20 miles south of El Mante.

Blue Bunting - 5, Hepatic Tanager - 1, Black-headed Oriole - 3, Olive-backed Warbler - 3, Spot-breasted Wren - 2, White-tailed Kite - 1, Bat Falcon - 2, Rufous-capped Warbler - 1, Black-headed Saltator - 2. At El Salto Falls: Gray Hawk - 2, Red-eyed Cowbird - 2, Melodious Blackbird - 23, Blue Mockingbird - 1, Yellow-faced Grassquit - 3, Coue's Flycatcher - 1, Military Macaw - 4, Social Flycatcher - 9, White-collared Swift - 300, Rufous-capped Warbler - 10, Black Phoebe - 1, Clay-colored Robin - 6.

February 2, 1960: Oak woods fifteen miles east of Ciudad del Maiz.

Green Parakeets - 37 (El Naranjo), Red-billed Pigeon - 8, Allied Woodcreeper - 1, Hermit Warbler - 1, Townsend Warbler - 23, Spotted Cactus Wren - 6, Painted Redstart - 3, Blue-hooded Euphonia - 2, Rusty Sparrow - 3, Hartlaub's Warbler - 3, Rufous-crowned Altapetes - 3, Warbling Vireo - 1, Bridled Titmouse - 7, Mexican Jay - 23, 10 miles west of Ciudad del Maiz - Black-chinned Sparrow - 1, Brown Towhee - 17, Broad-billed Hummingbird - 3, Cactus Wren - 2, Green-tailed Towhee - 1.

February 3, 1960: The day of Mr. Chandler's death. This sad incident naturally precluded our planned birding to the south.

12 White-tailed Kites were seen between El Naranjo and Tampico (10 in a 40-mile stretch just west of Tampico), 6 Jacanas were counted just west of Tampico (we had to travel to Tampico to see the American Consul).

February 4, 1960: El Naranjo: Green Kingfisher - 1, Squirrel Cuckoo - 4, Emerald Canivet Hummingbird - 2, Buff-bellied Hummingbird - 1. Returning to States: Crimson-collared Grosbeak - 4, Blue-crowned Motmot - 1, Western Tanager - 1, Chachalacas - 6, (All just north of Rio Sabinas).

The following list is an overall count of species and numbers for the whole trip:

Pied-billed Grebe, Least Grebe - 9, Snow Goose, Blue Goose, Green-winged Teal, Shoveler, Blue-winged Teal, Pintail - 2, Black-bellied Tree Duck - 26, Lesser Scaup, Ruddy Duck - 20, Common Gallinule - 1, Coot, Jacana - 8, Little Blue Heron - 3, Great Blue Heron - 16, Snowy Egret - 1, American Egret - 3, Louisiana Heron - 1, Spoonbill - 1, Sandhill Crane - 7, Olivaceous Cormorant - 9, Laughing Gull, Killdeer - 3, Long-billed Curlew - 12, White-tailed Kite - 13, Marsh Hawk - 9, Sharp-shinned Hawk - 2, Sparrow Hawk - 23, Red-tailed Hawk - 4, Gray Hawk - 5, Red-shouldered Hawk - 1, White-tailed Hawk - 4, Osprey - 1, Harris' Hawk - 26, Turkey Vulture - 30+, Black Vulture - Abundant, Caracara - 26+, Chachalaca - 16, Bobwhite - 14, Red-billed Pigeon - 17, White-fronted Dove - 20, Inca Dove - 15+, Ground Dove - 15+, Groove-billed Ani - 12, Roadrunner - 9, Great Horned Owl - 1, Barn Owl - 3, Ferruginous Pygmy Owl - 3, Golden-fronted Woodpecker - 30+, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker - 2, Red-shafted Flicker - 1, Ladder-backed Woodpecker - 10, Parakee - 2, White-necked Raven - 70, Green Jay - 60, Tropical Kingbird - 100, Ash-throated Flycatcher - 7, Western Kingbird - 3, Eastern Phoebe - 37, Black Phoebe - 2, Say's Phoebe - 2, Kiskadee Flycatcher - 30, Vermillion Flycatcher - 60+, Green Kingfisher - 1, Rose-throated Becard - 2, Belted Kingfisher - 3, Cedar Waxwing - 70, Loggerhead Shrike, Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Black-crested Titmouse - 7, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - Abundant, Bewick's Wren - 20, Verdin - 18, Curve-billed Thrasher - 11, Mockingbird - Abundant, Cactus Wren - 2, Long-billed Thrasher - 7, American Robin - 12, Clay-colored Robin - 20+, Eastern Bluebird - 6, Warbling Vireo - 1, Solitary Vireo - 25, Yellow-throated Vireo - 1, White-eyed Vireo - 30, Wilson's Warbler - 150+, Yellowthroat - 5, Olive-backed Warbler - 3, Yellow-throated Warbler - 1, Audubon's Warbler - 2, Myrtle Warbler - 70, Black-throated Green Warbler - 30+, Black & White Warbler - 5, Orange-crowned Warbler - 20, Broad-billed Hummingbird - 3, Acorn Woodpecker - 17, Bridled Titmouse - 7, Hermit Warbler - 1, Townsend's Warbler - 23, Painted Redstart - 3, Mexican Jay - 23, Black-headed Grosbeak - 12, Hepatic Tanager - 9, Brown Towhee - 17, Black-chinned Sparrow - 1, Gadwall - 50, Mexican Crow - 4000 to 6000, Lined Woodpecker - 1, Brown Jays - 200, Roadside Hawk - 6, Red-crowned Parrot - 802, Blue Bunting - 8, Spot-breasted Wren - 3, Bat Falcon - 2, Rufous-capped Warbler - 27, Black-headed Saltator - 2, Melodious Blackbird - 13, Blue Mockingbird - 3, Yellow-faced Grassquit - 4, Military Macaw - 4, Social Flycatcher - 13, White-collared Swift - 300, Green Parakeets - 54, Allied Woodhewer (Spot-crowned Woodcreeper) - 1, Spotted Cactus Wren (Spotted Wren) - 5, Blue-hooded Euphonia - 2, Brewer's Blackbird - 35, Red-eyed Cowbird - 30, Brown-headed Cowbird - 200, Starling, Boat-tailed Grackle, Eastern Meadowlark - 3, Red-winged Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole - 4, Hooded Oriole - 3, Lichtenstein's Oriole - 21, Black-headed Oriole - 35, Western Tanager - 1, Pyrrhuloxia - 70+, Cardinal - 20, Rufous-sided Towhee (spotted) - 1, Green-tailed Towhee - 1, Olive Sparrow - 37, Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1, Indigo Bunting - 3, House Finch - 30, American Goldfinch - 12, Lesser Goldfinch - 38, White-collared Seedeater - 40, Black-throated Sparrow - 60+, Rufous-crowned Sparrow - 2, Clay-colored Sparrow - 2, Field Sparrow - 7, Vesper Sparrow - 8, Lark Sparrow - 3, Savannah Sparrow - 7, Lincoln's Sparrow - 6, Coue's Flycatcher - 3, Rusty Sparrow - 5, Hartlaub's Warbler (Crescent-crested Warbler) - 3, Rufous-crowned Brush Finch - 3, Squirrel Cuckoo - 4, Emerald Canivet Hummingbird (Fork-tailed Emerald) - 2, Crimson-collared Grosbeak - 4, Blue-crowned Motmot - 1, Burrowing Owl - 1, Catbird - 1.

169 Species, 9,583+ Individuals.

Submitted by T. B. Feltner

ESKIMO CURLEW AT GALVESTON, APRIL 3, 1960

BY VICTOR L. EMANUEL

On March 26 and 27, I searched unsuccessfully for the Eskimo Curlew on Galveston, first with Paul Corneil and then with T. B. Feltner. On April 2, Leota Stilwell and Norma Oates saw a suspicious looking curlew on Galveston, but rain which started shortly after they sighted it prevented them from seeing it at close range.

On April 3, Steve Williams, Carl H. Aiken, and I went down to Galveston early. We searched for the Eskimo Curlew all day. At 3:55 just as we were starting to go home (we were looking at the last field we planned to check) we spotted five curlew in a field. Four of them were Whimbrel, the fifth was an Eskimo Curlew. After we had observed it for about one minute, it flew and headed down the island toward San Luis Pass. We had remained in the car the entire time and were a good distance from the bird. The Whimbrels ~~did not fly~~. With our binoculars we were able to follow the bird until it either went out of sight or dropped into a field far down the island (the heat waves made following it with binoculars difficult).

We attempted to locate the bird which we had seen in the fields toward which it had flown. In doing so, we met the Stricklings and Hoffmans and informed them of our discovery. After our unsuccessful attempt to locate the bird, we returned to the field where we had first found it. We were studying curlew in that field when Mrs. Strickling drove up to inform us that they had found an Eskimo Curlew in a nearby field. We rushed to that field. They had seen the bird there at 4:30 p.m. It was still there when we arrived and observation with the scope confirmed their identification which had been made with 7 x 50 binoculars at 300 yards. Mr. & Mrs. J. B. Strickling, Mr. & Mrs. Henry S. Hoffman and our party were able to observe the bird through a 30 power Balscope at 300 yards at leisure. The bird was still feeding in the field at 5:30 p.m. when we left.

The following are details on the observation: Perhaps the best mark and the most striking one was the very thin short bill. The Whimbrel is a decidedly thick billed bird with a thick blunt bill which usually has a pinkish base to the lower mandible. We estimated the bill length at one to one and one fourth head lengths. The second most striking mark was the buffiness. This is especially noticeable on the lower abdomen and crissum. Most Whimbrels have white crissums, some have a faint pinkish wash on the crissum, but the Eskimo Curlew had a distinctly buffy crissum. The small size, approximately the size of a Golden Plover, was also very striking. On April 3, we saw the Eskimo Curlew in comparison with Whimbrel (only at the first field we saw it in), Golden Plover, and a Long-billed Curlew. It was, of course, much smaller than the Long-billed Curlew. Other marks included the top of the head which is a uniform brown cap with a thin white indistinct median stripe. The line through the eye was brown and the line above the eye was light buff. The hind neck and upper back were delicately streaked and all the feathers of the back and secondaries of the wings appeared to be edged with buffy giving the whole bird a much darker over-all appearance than that of the Whimbrel. The Eskimo Curlew stood lower than the Whimbrel and had a different feeding posture which was also lower than that of the Whimbrel.

Subsequent Observations:

Neither I nor any of the other persons who saw the Eskimo Curlew on April 3rd were able to find it again this spring. However, other persons searched for the bird and the following observations have been reported to me.

April 4 - Armand Yramategui reported an Eskimo Curlew on Galveston.

April 6 - Clinton and Linda Snyder reported an Eskimo Curlew on Galveston.

April 11 - Mr. O'Hearn reported a "suspicious looking" curlew on Galveston.

Last spring the Eskimo Curlew was first reported on March 22 and stayed up until April 26. This spring no reports were received after April 11 despite persistent attempts to find the bird. Perhaps good flying weather in the first half of April induced the bird to migrate on north.

EASTER MIGRATION WAVE

BY T. B. FELTNER

On Sunday the 17th of April I spent the entire day on Galveston Island checking the natural migrant traps. A steady wind from the south resulted in a very poor count. Throughout the entire Island I found only three migrant passerines - an Orchard Oriole and a Redstart at LaFitte's Grove and a Red-eyed Vireo in one of the cedarbreaks on S Road.

At approximately 4:30 p.m. I had just started to leave the island when I caught sight of several beautiful thunderheads over West Galveston. Immediately I headed back toward the clouds hoping that the impending rain would bring down some migrants. Between 9- and 10- mile roads I met John Easter & Grant McNichols and while we stood there discussing the situation at large it began to rain very lightly with a wind shift bringing a fresh breeze from the northwest.

Almost immediately birds began to literally materialize in the sky over our heads.

A flock of Golden Plover dropped in from a high altitude flight. Several Nighthawks appeared and directly over the Gulf we identified two White-tailed Kites. By this time the skies were leaden gray and we decided to go to Lafitte's Grove since it represented the closest accessible group of trees. When we arrived there was only one bird there - a Redstart. This was a short lived count however, for the birds began arriving almost as soon as we did.

Within fifteen minutes the grove was literally full of birds. I estimated between 250 and 300, about 80% of them warblers. In the oaks all around there were Indigo Buntings, Summer Tanagers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Blue Grosbeaks, Tennessee, Yellow, Black & White, Blue-winged, and Blackpoll Warblers.

It was obvious that many of the birds were quite tired - one group containing 3 or 4 Indigo Buntings, 2 Orchard Orioles, 2 Baltimore Orioles, and a Redstart, sat quietly in the crown of an oak just under the canopy of leaves. They did not move at all. On the other hand, most of the warblers began nervously flitting from place to place, feeding immediately on landing. Looking up into the sky we could see birds dropping into the available cover by the dozens and half dozens. Unfortunately by now it was so dark that only about a quarter of the birds could be identified. Even the birds were having trouble seeing, for a Wood Thrush missed hitting me full in the face by a last minute veer that carried it to a nearby perch. With just enough light left to see color, we departed for Mulberry Grove #1. Here the same thing had occurred, but it was now impossible to tell one bird from another so we gave up for the day.

On the following morning, April 18, I returned to Lafitte's Grove with Nancy Strickling, the H. S. Hoffmans, and my wife, Anne. The grove was inundated with migrants -- twenty species of warblers, both orioles, numerous Indigo Buntings, and about 8 or 9 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The prevalent warbler here was Tennessee and Hooded each with a count of 30 odd, 25 - 30 Kentucky Warblers, and the same for Black & White. Not nearly so abundant, but still common were Chestnut-sided Warblers, Redstarts, Cerulean Warblers, Black-throated Green, Golden-winged Warbler, and Blue-winged Warbler. The real discoveries came in the form of three Blackpoll Warblers, and a demure little Swainson's Warbler making like a Towhee in the leaves on the ground. On to Nottingham Ranch Road and woods where again Kentucky and Hooded Warblers took high count, running over 100 birds in each species. Another Swainson's Warbler feeding beside his book partner, the Worm-eating Warbler. From Nottingham Ranch area we went to Mulberry Grove #2. Here the predominant warblers were Cerulean, and Chestnut-sided, about 20 of each. The predominant bird was the Blue Grosbeak. An estimate of 50 was conservative. They even outnumbered the Indigo Buntings at this spot. Here we also got a Martin which reflected bright blue as he launched out of the salt cedars. It was necessary for me to leave the island at 2:30 p.m., but I did stop by Kemper long enough to count 17 Worm-eating Warblers - quite a high count for a 5 M. (Casual Migrant)

List of Migrants: Eastern Pewee - 18, Sora - 5, Scarlet Tanager - 1, Summer Tanager - 13, Gray-cheeked Thrush - 2, Swainson's Thrush - 5, Wood Thrush - 25, Veery - 1, Red-eyed Vireo - 12, White-eyed Vireo - 7, Yellow-throated Vireo - 2, Warbling Vireo - 2, Chestnut-sided Warbler - 20, Redstart - 28, Yellow Warbler - 13, Cerulean Warbler - 25, Black & White Warbler - 50, Sycamore Warbler - 5, Blackpoll Warbler - 3, Parula Warbler - 2, Black-throated Green Warbler - 2, Hooded Warbler - 200, Kentucky Warbler - 200, Golden-winged Warbler - 20, Blue-winged Warbler - 20, Blackburnian Warbler - 3, Swainson's Warbler - 2, Prothonotary Warbler - 1, Worm-eating Warbler - 25, Myrtle Warbler - 1, Tennessee Warbler - 75, Northern Water Thrush - 1, Ovenbird - 2, Orange-crowned Warbler - 1, Nashville Warbler - 1, Indigo Buntings - 500, Painted Bunting - 3, Catbirds - 7, Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 6, Black-billed Cuckoo - 3, Blue Grosbeak - 65, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks - 7, Pigeon Hawk (Merlin) - 1, Ruby-throated Hummingbird - 5, Baltimore Oriole - 30, Orchard Oriole - 25.

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ARLIE MCKAY REPORTS FROM COVE FOR APRIL

April 18: I was in the field 90% of the day - 110 species; April 24: I got 100 species, out 60% of the day; April 26: out 50%, 110 species. I was out 60% to 80% of the 2nd, 5th, 10th, 13th, and 28th getting from 75 to 92 per day. I was out all day only on the 9th mostly in Galveston - 96 species + Edgar Kincaid and Fred Webster - for me, unexpected specimens, and lifers as well.

My collection for the month was 190 species, plus others seen out of the Cove area; such as these on the Galveston trip: Common loon - 4, Cabots Tern - 8, Brown Pelican - 34, White-faced Ibis - 9, Cattle Egret - 2, Reddish Egret - 3, Common Gallinule - 15 est., Avocet - 1, Wilson's Plover - 2, Horned Lark - 20 est., Sharp-tailed Sparrow - 1, Inca Dove - 6, Vermilion Flycatcher - 1, Marbled Godwit - 4, Stilt Sandpiper - 8,

Ruddy Duck - 1, Prairie Chicken - 1, TOTAL: 17. Other birds seen first out of the area on April 9 were: Black Skimmer, Least Tern, Fulvous Tree Duck, E. Wood Pewee, Baltimore Oriole, Bank Swallow, Scarlet Tanager.

Amos Tilton reported Wood Duck quite common on Big Caney, Liberty County.

Of the 96 species April 9, only 4 count in my local collection of identities, of which two were firsts, both goatsuckers.

Reporting is difficult for me, especially deciding what to leave out. I do leave out more than I put in, so if this report is inexcusably long, it is because your editor put in more than he left out. (Ed. Note: The editor has not and will not in the future delete any of Mr. McKay's valuable report) Blame him, not me.

Eared Grebe 1-April 29 (7 in Galveston the 9th); Pied-billed Grebe 11-3rd, 1 - 5th, 2 - 7th, 3 - 13th, 1 - 18th; White Pelican about 80 - 13th, last 2 - 18th; Double-crested Cormorant, 1 migrating flock, 82 - 5th, 1 - 18th, 2 - 24th; Olivaceous Cormorant, first 5 (est) - 2nd, last 2 - 10th; Anhinga, 1 - 17th; Green Heron, first 1 - 5th (late), peak, 5 - 28th; Black-crowned Night Heron: none in March, except the 31st, none in April till spring migration - 18th, spring migration usually finds some wintering birds; Yellow-c N. Heron; American Bittern 1 - 13th, 16th, 25th; Least Bittern: 1 or 2 heard - 24th; White Ibis 1 - 21st; Roseate Spoonbill 2 - 5th, 5 - 24th, 7 - 27th; Fulvous Tree Duck 25 (est) 16th, about 60 - 18th; White-fronted Goose 40+ - 3rd, 1 (with stiff leg) - 17th; Canada Goose (Greater) 18 - 7th; Snow and Blue Geese: a flock of about 65, half Blues, till - 21st.

Ducks: Mallard 4 - 18th, 2 - 21st, 28th; Mottled, on 18 days, peak, 15 - 28th; Gadwall 15 + - 2nd, 8 - 5th, 2 - 18th, 25th; Baldpate, 10 + - 2nd, 2 - 5th, 1 - 3rd, 17th, 28th; Pintail, 1 - 17th, 18th (flight good); Green-winged Teal: from 26 - 2nd to 8 - 13th, 1 - 18th; * Shoveler, peak, 30 - 3rd, 3 - 21st; Canvasback, 20 + - 2nd, 4 - 5th, 3 - 10th; Lesser Scaup, peak - about 1000 - 18th, 100's into May.

Hawks: Sharp-shinned, 1 - 21st; Coopers, 2 - April 2; Red-shouldered, 1 to 3 on 9 days; Broad-wing, only 3, 1 - 22nd, 23rd, 24th; Swainsons, 1, 2, or 3 on 10 days; Bald Eagle, 1 - April 3; Marsh, 1 to 3 on 9 days, to 27th (2); Caracara, 2 - 16th, 1 - 23rd; Sparrow, to 12th.

Rails: King, 1 - 1st, 16th, 18th, 25th, 27th, and 2 - 29th; Clapper 1 - 5th, 10th, 4 - 18th, 2 - 24th, 3 - 27th; Sora, 1 - 28th; Coot, peak, about 100 - 13th, last, 2 - 25th.

Plovers: Semipalmated, frequent, up to 20 - 13th; Golden, seen 17 days, peak of about 240 - 5th; Black-bellied, 9 days, peak, about 15 - 24th, 27th; Ruddy Turnstone, 3 - 2nd, 1 - 5th, 18 - 18th; Common Snipe, 2 - 2nd, 1 - 5th, 10th, 13th, 24th, 27th.

Sandpipers: Long-billed Curlew on 5 days, 21 - 18th; Whimbrels, 7 days, 72 - 27th; Upland Plover, 21 days, 28 - 1st, 26 - 12th; Spotted, 1 - April 2, same as seen December 25, first 2 migrants 13th, 1 on 6 other days; Solitary, 1 to 8, 7 days; Willet, 12 days, about 20 - 16th; Greater Yellowlegs, 23 days, 200 + - 3rd; Lesser Yellowlegs, 25 days, 3000 + - 16th; Pectoral, 16 days, 150 + - 16th; Least, 16 days; Semipalmated, identified only 6 days; Western, identified only 4 days; Dunlin, 9 days; Dowitcher, 9 days, about 30 - 16th; Buff-breasted, 10th to 27th, 8 days, peak, 18 - 27th; Hudsonian Godwit, only 1, April 13, earliest ever by two days; Sanderling, 1 - 13th, first I ever recall seeing in Trinity marshes, 1 - 18th at Swan marsh where they are not unexpected, they are unusual farther up the bay, 6 - April 28 (migrating) were the first I ever saw on Old River Lake at Cove; Wilson Phalarope, 2 - 28th.

Herring Gull, 9 days, peak, 17 - 21st, last 3 - 27th; Ring-billed Gull, to April 27; Least Tern, from 18th, eggs in nest by 21st; Black Tern, 2 in spring dress - 24th; Black Skimmer, from April 10; Yellow-billed Cuckoo, late and scarce, 1 - 18th, 21st, 28th, 2 - 27th; Black-billed Cuckoo, 1 - 21st, 28th.

Owls: Barn, 1 - 13th, 2 - 21st; Screech, 1 to 2 on 8 days; Horned, 1 or 2 on 7 days; Barred, 2 - 24th, 1 - 30th.

Chuck-wills-widow, 1 - 9th, 5 - 10th, 1 - 21st, 27th; Whip-poor-will, 1 - 9th; Common Night Hawk, latest ever - from 21st; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 1 to 6 on 12 days; Belted Kingfisher, 1 - 1st, 13th, 21st; Yellow-shafted Flicker, 1 - 10th.

Woodpeckers: Pileated - this bird can be found most any time in certain places, elsewhere it is infrequent; I went where it and the next species can be expected only on April 19, saw two; Red-headed, about 7 - 19th, 1 - 26th; Red-bellied, 1 to 2 on 22 days; Downy, 1 - 19th, 25th, 28th.

Flycatcher: Eastern Kingbird, 12 days, 16 - 27th; Scissor-tailed, 16 days, not common till May, peak, 6 - 18th; Great Crested, 1 - 10th, 2 - 18th, E. Wood Pewee, 2 - 10th, 12 days, peak, 33+ - 27th. Yellow-bellied, 1 - 13th. Empidonax, (1-13), 1 - 27th, 28th

Swallows: Tree, to April 18, 1 - 28th; Bank, 5 - 10th; Rough-winged, common most days; Barn, first - 1st; Cliff, April 25 and 28th; Purple Martin, very few except about nest boxes.

House Wren, 2 - 10th; Short-billed Marsh Wren, 1 - 18th, 24th, 29th; Catbird, from 13th, peak of about 55 - 27th.

Robin, 4 - 1st, 2nd, 5 - 3rd, Delois McKay saw one at Kemah - 9th.

* Sorry! Blue-winged Teal got left out up there - peaks, 125+ - 17th, 19th, 50+ - 28th.

Thrushes: Very good migration, Wood, 2 - 10th, 8 - 13th, 11 days; Swainson's, from April 13, 4 days, about 21 - 27th; Gray-cheeked, 4 - 27th, 1 - 28th; Veery, 1 - 25th, 13 - 27th, 3 - 28th, 1 - 29th, none in 1959; unidentified thrushes were much more numerous.

Gnatcatcher, 1 - 18th, 25th, 27th; Golden-crowned Kinglet, last 3 - 18th, 19th, 27th; Water Pipit, last, 1 - 16th, 5 - 21st; Sprague's Pipit, 1 - 13th, 25th; Starling, 1 - 1st, possibly the last migrant, 2 - 5th and another 23rd in the same place; Thair Harmon reports them entering oil field pipes at Barbers Hill where he found them nesting last year.

Vireos: White-eyed, 1 to 4 on 10 days; Yellow-throated, 1 - April 2; Red-eyed, 9 days from - 13th, 15 - 19th; Warbling, 8 - 27th, 1 - 29th, one on the 27th had a yellow throat but not dark lower, yet I feel sure it was a Philadelphia.

Warblers: 6 species - 10th, 7 - 12th, 6 - 14th, 9 - 18th, 6 - 24th, 19 - 27th, 14 - 28th, and 9 - 29th; Black and White, 1 to 3 on 6 days, about 12 - 27th; Prothonotary, 2 - 14th, 1 - 20th, 28th; Worm-eating, 1 - 13th, 28th; Golden-winged 1 - 13th, 29th; Blue-winged, 1 - 10th, 13th, 27th, 2 - 19th; Tennessee, 2 - 18th, 24th, 1 - 25th, 28th, 5 - 26th, 29th, about 38 - 27th; Orange-crowned, 1 - April 23; Nashville, 1 - 27th; Parula, 1 - 27th; Yellow, 1 - 18th, 2 - 19th, 24th, 28th, 3 - 29th, about 10 - 27th; Magnolia, about 4 - 27th, 1 - 28th; Myrtle, 2 - 1st, not counted - 12th, about 10 18th; Black-throated Green, 1 - March 20, earliest ever by 7 days, since, 1 - April 27; Cerulean, 3 - 18th, 1 - 27th; Blackburnian, 1 - 27th; Yellow-throated, none, after a good migration in March; Chestnut-sided, about 5 - 27th, 1 - 28th; Bay-breasted, 4 - 27th, 1 - 29th; Palm, 1 - 19th, latest ever by 9 days; Ovenbird, 1 - 10th, 20th, about 10 - 27th; Northern Water Thrush, 1 - 14th, 18th, 2 - 25th, 28th, about 7 - 27th; Kentucky, 2 - 10th, 1 on 5 days, about 19 and 9 on 27th and 28th; Yellowthroat, 1 - 3rd, 10th, 14th, 24th, 10 - 27th, 11 - 28th; Yellow-breasted Chat, 1 - 15th, 19th, 29th, 5 - 21st, 27th, about 10 - 28th; Hooded, 1 to 5 on 11 days from April 1, about 25 - 27th, 12+ - 28th; Canada, 1 - 27th, 28th, 29th; American Redstart, 1 to 4 on 8 days from 13th, about 12 - 27th; by far most warblers seen were unidentified.

Orchard Oriole, 18 days, peak, about 50 - 29th; Baltimore Oriole, first 5 - 24th, about 25 - 29th; Brewer's Blackbird, 6 days to 11th; Common Grackle, about 20 at Barbers Hill (within the area) where they may still be, they nest at Baytown; Scarlet Tanager, 1 - 16th, 4 - 27th; Summer Tanager, 1 - 10th, 11 - 18th, 1 to 7 on 10 other days; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 1 - 18th, 7 - 27th, 2 - 28th, 29th; Blue Grosbeak, 1 - 14th, on 8 days, peak, 10 - 24th; Indigo Bunting, about 25 - 13th, peak, about 125 - 24th; Painted Bunting, from 20th (1); Dickcissel, 1 - 18th, 2 - 24th, 27th, common by 29th, Rufous-sided Towhee, 2 - 2nd, 1 - 14th.

Sparrows: Savannah, many, an aberrant Savannah, or else a sparrow unknown to me April 13, it closely resembled a Cassin's; Seaside, 1 to 3 on 5 days; Vesper, 1 - April 2; Lark, 1 - 19th, 27th; White-crowned, peak, about 25 - April 12, last 5 - 27th, latest ever by 1 day; White-throated, to 24th, Lincolns, peak, about 19 - 27th; Swamp, 1 - 17th, 18th, less than ever before.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The following letter was sent to O.G. Chairman, Jerry Strickling, and is published below since it is addressed to the entire Ornithology Group:

Ornithology Group
Houston, Texas

Please accept, on behalf of Mike, myself and the rest of Mac's mortal family, the sincerest gratitude and pride for the unprecedented memorial to him in the form of the beautiful bench at Enchanted Isle in the Sanctuary.

No finer tribute could be shown to a man's life on earth than such a manifestation of the love of so many friends.

Most sincerely,

Bette Ramsey
April 12, 1960

CLEARING HOUSE

- March 9 -Last record for Slate-colored Junco at College Station - Harry Ohlendorf.
- March 14 -Last record for Yellow-shafted Flicker at College Station - Harry Ohlendorf.
- March 24 -Black & White Warbler at College Station, Harry Ohlendorf.
- March 29 -First 2 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers at College Station - Carl Aiken.
- April 3 -Seen on Galveston Island by D. A. Deaver, & T. B. Feltner: 37 Parula Warblers (LaFitte's Grove), 18 Black & White Warblers (LaFitte's), 9 Brown Pelicans, 1 Hooded Warbler, 3 Fulvous Tree Ducks, 18 Knots, 2 Least Bitterns, 5 Indigo Buntings, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 2 Sycamore Warblers, 1 Baltimore Oriole, 1 Worm-eating Warbler, 1 Wood Thrush, 1 Kentucky Warbler, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Crested Flycatcher, 1 Summer Tanager, 19 Green Herons, 2 Black Ducks, 2 Barn Swallows.
- April 5 -First 3 Chimney Swifts at College Station, Carl Aiken.
- April 10 -Thelma Smith, Katrina Thompson, et. al. - 1 Swainson's Warbler at Kempner Park. Seen by Vic Emanuel on West Boulevard: 1 Crested Flycatcher, 1 Black & White Warbler, 1 Nashville Warbler, 15 Myrtle Warblers, 2 Indigo Buntings, 1 White-eyed Vireo, 100 Goldfinches, 1 Catbird, White-throated Sparrows - 10, Brown Thrasher - 2.
- April 10 -W. V. Tingle, John O'Neill, Ralph Peterson, and Doug Stine - one Short-eared Owl - Barker.
- April 15 -Thelma Smith, Josiephine Wilkin - 1 Palm Warbler at Kempner Park.
- April 16 -John O'Neill, H. C. McElroy at Galveston: 1 Alligator (6ft.) at 9 mile road!! Common Gallinules, 1 White-tailed Hawk (freeway). J'ON Yard - 1 Blue-headed Vireo, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches.
- April 17 -J'ON, W. V. Tingle, H. C. McElroy at Barker, Texas - 3 Upland Plover, 2 American Goldfinches in spring plumage, 1 Swainson's Hawk.
- April 18 -Harvey Patton, Bellaire Blvd. - 1 Wood Pewee, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 12 Upland Plover, 6 Swainson's Thrush, 2 Wood Thrush, 3+ Bobolinks (6M), 25+ Dickcissels, 1 Crested Flycatcher, 5 Blue Grosbeaks, 2 Swainson's Hawks. Hoffmans heard Inca Doves on Bingle.
- April 19 -Mr. & Mrs. R. B. Siler and Mr. & Mrs. E. G. Thompson - Galveston (west), 94 species - 16 warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Yellow-shafted Flicker, etc.
- April 21 -Margaret Cory, Ruth Kershner, J'ON, Soug Stine, J. Baker - 3+ CAPE MAY WARBLERS - west Galveston Island; Scarlet Tanager.
- April 24 -Norma G. Oates yard - Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler.
- April 26 -Helen & Ella Wolfer - Charlton Park - Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanager, 9 Warblers including one Nashville. Hoffmans yard - Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 2 Indigo Buntings. J'ON, R. Peterson, - Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Chestnut-sided, 2 Swainson's, Worm-eating, 1 Mourning.
- April 28 -J'ON, W. V. Tingle, R. Peterson - Brookshire, Texas - 14 Mississippi Kites, Black-throated Green, Parula, Canada, Catbirds, Indigo & Painted Buntings, Dickcissels, Prothonotary.
- April 30 -J'ON, W. V. Tingle, R. Peterson, D. Stine - Brookshire, Texas, 173 Mississippi Kites, Baltimore Orioles, Louisiana & Northern Waterthrushes, Maryland Yellowthroat, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blue Grosbeaks, Indigo & Painted Buntings, 2,500 Dickcissels, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Prothonotary.

STEVE WILLIAMS REPORTS:

So far it has been a pretty good spring for birds. Lots of northers, some showers, and lots of birders out every time any of these weather quirks happened. West Boulevard in Houston has paid off exceptionally well for migrants. It has paid off so well that it will receive a special designation in this report: H-WB, meaning Houston-West Blvd. H-Yd means the observation was made in or near my yard at 2732 University Blvd. in Houston. Other Houston sightings will be given full name locations. Houston is so spread out now that a mere reference to the city does not do much to pinpoint the observation.

Eared Grebe: Texas City, Ap. 3 (220 in breeding plumage, GGW). Red-tailed Hawk: Webster Ap. 16 (1). Cooper's Hawk: Houston-U of H. Ap. 15, 27 (1). Caracara: Webster Ap. 16 (1). White-tailed Hawk: Webster Ap. 16 (1). Yellow-billed Cuckoo: In late this year; very few in April compared with other years. Chuck-wills-widow: H-Yd Ap. 6 (3); H-WB Ap. 21 (1); H-Yd Ap. 24 (1). Nighthawk: My first record for area this spring Galv. Ap. 16 (2). Red-bellied Woodpecker: Three nests with young within 100 feet of each other (May 1) Houston-Rice Campus. Red-headed Woodpecker: The common woodpecker at U. of H. (4 pairs).

Empidonax Flycatchers: H-WB, Ap. 21 (8), Ap. 27 (25), but none at all there May 1, despite migration wave of other species. Least Flycatcher: H-WB, Ap. 27 (1, identified by call). Wood Pewee: Several at H-WB Ap. 27, about 25 May 1. Seem to have replaced Empidonax Flycatchers which came through several days before. Catbird: H-Yd Ap. 20, 27, May 1 (1 each time). Robin: H-Yd, last Ap. 12 (2). All these birds were dark-breasted and Robins do not ever stay in this particular in summer although they nest at Herman Park and Rice Campus close by. Wood Thrush: H-Yd Ap. 6 (1). Swainson's Thrush: H-Yd Ap. 27, May 1 (1); H-WB and Rice Campus May 1 (2). Gray-cheeked Thrush: H-WB Ap. 21 (1). Veery: H-WB Ap. 27 (1). Ruby-crowned Kinglet: H-WB Ap. 21 (2). Water Pipit: Still at H-Rice Campus May 1. Solitary Vireo: H-Yd Ap. 27 (1, Mrs. Wm. Donahue, a neighbor. She will be referred to as WmD). Warbling Vireo: H-Yd Ap. 27 (1).

Warblers: Black-and-white: H-WB Ap. 27 (3), May 1 (10). Worm-eating: H-Yd Ap. 27 (2, WmD). Golden-winged Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (1), May 1 (2). Blue-winged Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27, May 1 (1). Tennessee: H-Yd Ap. 18 (2), then 15 to 20 Ap. 22 - 27, and 3 - 5 daily after that until May 1, when still present. Parula Warbler: Breeding at H-WB. Yellow Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (1). Magnolia Warbler: H-WB May 1 (3). Myrtle Warbler: H-Yd, last large bunch of migrants Ap. 10 (15) and then two more Ap. 12. Black-throated Green: H-Yd Ap. 27 (2, WmD); H-WB May 1 (4). Cerulean Warbler: H-Yd Ap. 27 (1, WmD); H-WB May 1 (3). Blackburnian Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (3). Chestnut-sided Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (11), May 1 (4). Bay-breasted Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (4); May 1 (8). Northern Water-thrush: H-Yd Ap. 27 (1 - WmD); Baytown Ap. 24 (1). Kentucky Warbler: H-Yd Ap. 27 (1, WmD). Yellow-throat: Female found dead at KTRK-TV tower, near U of H Ap. 29. Yellow-breasted Chat: found dead at KTRK-TV tower Ap. 29 (1). Hooded Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (3); May 1 (1). Canada Warbler: H-WB Ap. 27 (2). Am. Redstart: H-WB Ap. 21 (1), 27 (3), May 1 (4); H-Yd Ap. 9 (1). Meadowlark: Nest with 3 eggs, Lynchburg, Ap. 24. Baltimore Oriole: H-Yd and H-WB Ap. 27 (3). Scarlet Tanager: H-WB Ap. 27 (1). Rose-breasted Grosbeak: H-Yd Ap. 27 (4) and H-WB Ap. 27 (30 - 35, more than ever in my life put together). Indigo Bunting: H-Yd Ap. 27 (2) and U of H Ap. 20 (2). American Goldfinch: H-WB Ap. 27 (2, late).

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