



THE SPOONBILL

Volume XI No. 19

November, 1963

* We tend to place value on rarity at *
* all levels of experience. Perhaps *
* that is why these few days live so *
* vividly in my mind. But I think not.*
* I have seen other birds rarer in *
* museum collections and about which *
* much less is known. My experiences *
* were in no way unique; others have *
* seen Ivorybills, and some have known *
* them far more intimately. I have had *
* higher adventure in more exotic *
* places. No, it was the stamp of Fate *
* which impressed this experience upon *
* me. Nature is little concerned with *
* the fate of the individual, but there *
* is no greater tragedy in the scheme *
* of things than the extinction of a *
* species. *
* Search for the Rare Ivorybill by *
* Don Eckleberry from "Discovery", *
* a book of short stories. *

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COMING EVENTS

- November 23-24 (Sat. Sun) Noel Pettingell and Joe Farrell leading two day trip to Big Thicket. Meet at the Court House in Livingston 9:00 AM Saturday. Saturday's trip to Woodville where motels are available--The Willis Motel and the Community Inn. Sunday on to the Kountze-Silsbee area and return to Houston via Cleveland or Liberty.
- December 5 (Thursday) Regular O.G. Meeting at the Downtown Recreation Center at 7:30 PM. Norma Oates will present a program of "Birding in Mexico."
- December 10 (Tuesday) Regular O.N.C. Meeting, 8:00 PM at the Houston Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive. Program will be "The Magic of Sulphur" by V. Benner Dowe.
- December 28 (Saturday) Houston Christmas Count, Dr. David Marrack leader. Everyone is invited to participate. Even if you can spend only a little while in the field, fill out the coupon from last month and send it to Dr. Marrack, 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, Texas.
- January 26 (Sunday) O.G. Field Trip to Palmetto State Park. Excellent Sparrow habitat as well as the elusive Fox Sparrow, plus other good winter birds. Meet at the entrance of the park at 9:30 AM. Josiephine Wilkin will lead the trip.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIP By Jerry Baker

Thirty-six O. G. members and friends met at the Post Office in Montgomery on Saturday, October 26th, and were led by Margaret Anderson to the ranch home of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Jones. We were welcomed by our host and hostess and spent some time exploring the house and grounds. We then started out to explore the woods and meadows of the ranch.

Just a few days before, this area had been fortunate in receiving about three inches of welcome rainfall; the woods were fresh and clean; the shrubs - sassafras, sumac, etc. were beginning their fall show of color. The plentiful deciduous holly, or "possum haw", with its red berries, were bright spots of color along every path. All this made for such pleasant strolling that it would sometimes take a Bluebird flying across the path, or the hoo hoo hoo hoo hoo of the Great Horned Owl to remind us that we were birders, and that our main objective was to find birds. Several times a small group would dally behind, trying to find and identify some bird that had been glimpsed briefly, then they would discover that they were lost, but our efficient guide always seemed to find them. When noon came, and we were getting hungry, as birders seem to do, we talked about starting back, but were reluctant to do so, and would decide to go around the bend to just one more meadow, so it was rather late when we finally came back to the house to eat lunch. In the meantime, Leonard Wilkin had tried to keep us from starving by serving splinters of sassafras wood. As we ate we were entertained with recordings of bird songs over a loud speaker system in the yard. Several Woodpeckers kept flying around almost as if they were playing games.

After lunch the caravan started to Jackson's Lake. Heavy showers were encountered on the way, but just before the entrance gate was reached the showers stopped. The lake is in a beautiful, heavily wooded area. It would have been so pleasant to have spent several hours here, but after about half an hour - here came the rains again - hard - so there was nothing else to do but end a very happy day.

Some of the birds seen were: Canada, Blue and Snow Geese, Sapsuckers, Downy, Pileated and Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Yellow-shafted Flickers, Red-shouldered Hawks, Sparrow Hawks, Vesper Sparrow, Indigo Buntings, Bluebirds, Pine Warblers, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Brown Thrashers, Wood Pewee, Bobwhite, Brown Creepers, Carolina Wrens, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and Pied-billed Grebes.

Members and Friends who came were: David Marrack, Mary Sears, Thelma Smith, Pat Sullivan, Ralph Hunter, Helen Via, Norma Oates, John Howze, Louise Hoffman, Henry Hoffman, Katrina Thompson, Bill Ladwig, Nelson Jones, Lou Jones, Mary Ellen Kimbro, Turman Kimbro, Jean Harwell, Bill Harwell, Linda Snyder, Gene Snyder, Josephine Wilkin, Brahman Wilkin, Michael Wilkin, Leonard Wilkin, Edna Miner, Helen Wolfer, Ella Wolfer, Eva Gilman, Clayton Gilman, Mary Marrs, Ruth Faris, Cecil Faris, Darris Massingill, Jerry Baker, Ruth Moorman, Margaret Anderson.

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, for giving us the opportunity to bird on your ranch, and thank you, Margaret, for this very pleasant day.

FOR THE BIRDS By Clayton Gilman

This dissertation (a six-bit word for a two-bit article) is the result of two mistakes - one by Jim Ellis in asking me to do it, and one by me in agreeing to do so.

Although I was asked to write about plants which may be used to attract birds, I shall deviate somewhat from that subject for a moment to mention two important matters - cover and water. Most birds, especially those which we particularly desire to attract, require an area of thick growth in which they may hide. Therefore, a corner or side of the property should be planted with dense growing shrubs and vines, and a water supply provided very close by. Of course, a conventional bird bath is a must, but many birds seem to prefer a ground supply for drinking and bathing, so a shallow pool adjacent to cover is helpful. A few small fish such as Black Mollies or top water minnows will eliminate the mosquito hazard.

One difficulty in recommending plants for the stated purpose is the fact that many of them attain too large a size for the usual city lot, but let's see what we can come up with.

One of my favorite shrubs for all-purpose use is *Eleagnus pungens*. It can be used either as a hedge or specimen, and in addition to bearing fruits during the winter season which are particularly attractive to several species of birds, are loaded with the most fragrant of flowers in late October and early November.

Hummingbirds are attracted to nearly all flowers, but seem to particularly like those with a tubular shape - Trumpet vine (*Campsis*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*,) Morning-glory (*Ipomoea*,) Cypress vine (*Quamoclit pennata*,) Fire-cracker plant (*Resilia*,) and many others of similar form.

The hollies are decorative plants and attract many berry-eating birds. Deciduous holly, sometimes known as Possum Haw (*Ilex decidua*) seems to be a great favorite of the Cedar Waxwings, flocks of which will strip a plant of all berries before leaving the area. Other fine hollies which will do well in Houston are American Holly (*Ilex opaca*,) Chinese Holly (*Ilex cornuta*,) Improved Chinese or Burford Holly (*Ilex cornuta burfordi*), Dahoon Holly (*Ilex cassine*,) Yaupon (*Ilex vomitoria*,) and some of the hybrids, not forgetting that hollies are dioecious and should be planted at the rate of one staminate to ten pistillate plants.

The fruiting Mulberry (*Morus rubra*) is not usually considered as a very desirable tree, but for the attraction of many species of birds it is in a class by itself. Not only the fruit-eating birds find the Mulberry an inviting lunch counter (and it must be admitted that the Grackles will be in the majority,) but many of the insect eaters - Buntings, Wrens, Orioles, and Warblers - will search for their food among the leaves and branches, especially during spring migration.

There are many varieties of Sunflower (*Helianthus*,) some of them quite ornamental in the flower garden, and the Cardinals will be especially grateful.

The above covers only a small number of plants that might be described in detail, but there are many more that may be used, space permitting. Among these are American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa Americana*,) Pyracantha, Jerusalem Cherry (*Solanum pseudo-capsicum*,) *Duranta*, Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*,) many Hawthorns (*Crataegus*,) Barbados Cherry (*Malpighia glabra*,) Candletree (*Cassia alata*,) Catalpa, Pepper-vine (*Ampelopsis arnorea*,) Bird Pepper (*Capsicum baccatum*,)

Many of these cannot be found at the neighborhood nursery, but there are a few nurseries which specialize in native plants, some of which are well known to many of the members of the Outdoor Nature Club. Or do a little collecting on Field Trips and grow your own.

TWENTY-NINE LIFERS IN A DAY AND A HALF By Bob Braden

My wife and I were in San Francisco from October 7th through October 10th for an American Society of Civil Engineers Convention. Before leaving Houston, I had asked Jerry and Nancy Strickling about birding possibilities in this area, and, as usual, they rose to the occasion. In this instance, their recommendation was that I contact Horace Jeter who now lives in San Francisco. Horace is, of course, well known to Houston birders since he spent most of his life in Shreveport and has actively birded the entire Gulf Coast region.

Upon arriving in San Francisco, I called Horace, and he most generously agreed to show me around the following day, when I was free. It was naturally impossible to hit all of the prime spots in a single day so we concentrated on the Tomales Bay and Bodega Bay areas north of San Francisco in San Marin County.

This was certainly a beautiful trip and yielded marvelous results as far as I was concerned. En route to Tomales Bay State Park, we picked up California Quail, Black Phoebe, Western Gull, Brown Towhee, and Townsend's Warbler. We also saw several Band-tailed Pigeons, however, as luck would have it, the light conditions were unsatisfactory and I was unable to pick up the key features that would have been necessary to make this a bona fide lifer.

Tomales Bay State Park was a real treat and presented an entirely new and interesting habitat. We immediately added the Western Bluebird, Oregon Junco, Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Red-breasted Nuthatch to my life list. In the next few minutes, Horace skillfully produced several good looks at the

Wrentit, which I had hardly hoped to see in view of Peterson's comments about their elusive personalities. Although rather shy, they were certainly plentiful in this particular habitat.

An added bonus in the same area was Hutton's Vireo, which I would probably have mistaken for a Ruby-crowned Kinglet had I not been in the hands of an expert. It was interesting to me that this park is also the home of the Spotted Owl, one of the few land birds of North America not yet on Horace's copious list.

While skirting Tomales Bay itself, we saw the first of many Scrub Jays, and in the bay, we added Surf Scoter, Western Grebe, and Pelagic Cormorant. On one occasion, it was possible to observe (at a range of about 20 yards) a Pelagic Cormorant side by side with a Double-crested Cormorant and thus compare the differences in size, profile, and bill shape.

Our next stop was the rocky coast area around Bodega Bay. The following lifers were observed: White-winged Scoter, Red-throated Loon, California Gull, Heerman's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Brandt's Cormorant, Black Turnstone, and Surfbird. Oddly enough, the Red-throated Loon had washed up on the beach (he was apparently ill) and was stranded. We therefore had an opportunity to observe this handsome bird at a range of two feet. I can now testify from first hand experience that a loon is awkward indeed when out of water.

Later in the week, Suzanne and I visited Mt. Diablo State Park at Horace's suggestion. This unusual park is located east of the Berkley hills and offers several different types of habitat. I am convinced that there is an Acorn Woodpecker in every tree. We also picked up Plain Titmouse, California Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, Common Bushtit, and Nuttall's Woodpecker. Incidentally, the California race of Sage Sparrow is much darker than the gray race east of the Sierra, and has dramatic black whiskers. Until Horace later explained this point to me, I wasn't sure what I'd seen.

Time limitations made it impossible to check out many other promising areas. As a result, we failed to see the Phainopepla, Varied Thrush, Yellow-billed Magpie and Pygmy Nuthatch, all of which are common in the San Francisco area. Horace and I missed the Wandering Tattler and Black Oystercatcher on our trip, but these rascals can't always be depended upon, apparently. It was a little early for much success with the ducks and geese.

We were also too pressed for time to bird beautiful Golden Gate Park in the City of San Francisco, which was regrettable. On the other hand, I'll settle for 29 lifers in a day and a half. Horace Jeter has my unqualified endorsement as a guide - he even included a tour of San Francisco night spots for which we are equally indebted.

NOTES ON A FEW MEXICAN BIRDS by Hardin Craig

Mr. Buck Edwards in his Bird-finding in Mexico says that San Miguel de Allende isn't much, but actually if you spend some time in that little valley below the delightful Hotel Rancho Atascadero you will see quite a lot. In a few days of early August I compiled a list of 41 species, none of them strictly Mexican. It was an interesting mixture of Western, Valley, and Eastern birds.

Not to be exhaustive or exhausting, these are samples: Flycatchers: Kiskadee, Vermilion, E. Wood Peewee, Black and Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird; Warblers: Black-and-White, La. Waterthrush, Yellow-breasted Chat; Hummingbirds: Violet-crowned, White-eared, Rivoli (the latter in the hills nearby); Grosbeaks: Blue, Black-headed; Kingfisher: Green.

We didn't have a car and traveled about very little, so there was no chance for one of those fantastic Xilitla-type lists. In Chapultepec Park I saw a lot of those scrubby-looking Rufous-backed Robins, a real Mexican bird, and also the Black-eared Bushtit, a new one for me. Bird-watching with binoculars in the Park, however, can be embarrassing because of all the loving couples lying about. At Popo Park the volcanoes were obscured, but we added the Orange-billed Nightingale-thrush and the Mexican Junco.

LETTERS

The publication of Dr. Hanson's letter on the Greater Canada Goose brought me a letter from Mr. A.A. McKay, Route 2, Box 184, Baytown advising that the D.H. Talbot collection, located in the Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa contains a Greater Canada with a wing spread of 72 inches.

weight $11\frac{1}{2}$ pounds. Specimens of lesser size and weight (as low as three pounds) are also contained in the collection. Mr. McKay also advises that a Mr. Joe Lagow (Pine Island, mail address Anahuac, and telephone no. Anahuac 2 4422) is operator of the Barrow Ranch and interested in conservation.

H.W. Goodall

Sunday (Oct. 20) I went birding for all of a half hour or so but saw something I enjoyed a lot.

It was right after the big red sun had slipped out of sight when I saw about 100 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on the wires between two utility poles just out Westheimer, 5.2 miles beyond the Houston city line. I know they are flocking for their migration now but it was a lovely sight and interesting-too- to see how many different tail lengths Scissor-tails come in. One, who perched loftily on the top wire and alone, looked as if it had a 12" tail - though it couldn't have. While others were so bob-tailed, they looked like very new Scissor-tails. As I watched, one by one they peeled off the wire and flew back into some tallow (?) trees, presumably to feed or to spend the night??? I don't know when they fly on migration - do you? day or night?

Thelma Smith

--from the Bandelier National Monument museum:

EXOTIC PLANTS NOT NATIVE TO THIS AREA BUT FREQUENTLY FOUND HERE
 Bottle Plant (*Depositus nonreturnii*)
 Kleenex Bush (*Proboscis wipus*)
 Tin Toadstool (*Canus bentii*)
 Discard Vine (*Wrappus discardii*)
 Filter Weed (*Nicotinus burntii*)

At Bandelier they have a case with a display of not-so-rare plants, as indicated above. A lot of ingenuity went into the display, and you can imagine what it looks like, if you have not seen it. I thought the list might amuse you and might be a note for the Spoonbill, although it is not directly connected with birds. Bandelier is a great place for bird-watching, because that little river which runs through the otherwise parched country is a magnet for all the birds in that part of New Mexico. For example: we trailed the elusive Hermit Thrush through the woods above Taos, but at Bandelier there are dozens that hop around and pick up bits of sandwiches under the picnic tables.

Hardin Craig

CLEARING HOUSE

Eared Grebe: (1)14 to 25 Cove AKM.
 Pied-billed Grebe: 7days (30)1 (114)25, (90)29 Cove AKM.
 White Pelican: 5 days (300)3, (800)14, (3000)29 Cove AKM.
 Double-crested Cormorant: (12)18, (3)20,30, (2)29 Cove AKM.
 Anhinga: (1)11,17 Cove AKM.
 Green Heron: (1)1,17,29 Cove AKM.
 Cattle Egret: (55)3,25,29, (75)5, (3)10, (6)31 Cove AKM.
 Reddish Egret: 6 days (4)29 Cove AKM.
 Black-crowned Night Heron: 5 days (52)25 Cove AKM.
 Yellow-crowned Night Heron: (1)14, (2)24 Cove AKM.
 Wood Ibis: (1)25 Cove AKM.
 White-faced Ibis: (3)9, (65)17, (15)20, (19)24 Cove AKM.
 White Ibis: (15)9, (2)19,21, (75)20 Cove AKM.
 Roseate Spoonbill: (1-11) 7 days Cove AKM.
 Canada Goose: (Greater)(31)14, (25)17, (Lesser)(22 or less in mixed flock) 16 Cove AKM.
 White-fronted Goose: (2 flocks)12 Cove BD; (4)16, (24)17, (90)19 Cove AKM.
 Snow and Blue Geese: (1 flock)4 AFM Cove; (2 flocks)5 Cove WG; (1200)from the 9th Cove AKM.
 Mallard: (8)28, (15)29, (4)30 Cove AKM.
 Mottled Duck: 13 days (50)10, (39)24 Cove AKM.
 Gadwall: (1)17, (2)25, (10)29 Cove AKM.

- Pintail: 13 days (1500)10, (5000)30 Cove AKM.
 Green-winged Teal: 9 days (500)19 Cove AKM.
 Blue-winged Teal: 12 days (300)1, (600)9 Cove AKM.
 American Widgeon: 10 days (100)9, (500)30 Cove AKM.
 Shoveler: 8 days (65)25, (150)28 Cove AKM.
 Wood Duck: (2)9,29, (8)28 Cove AKM.
 Redhead: (4)29, (1)30 Cove AKM.
 Ring-necked Duck: (7)25, (75)28, (50)29, (30)30 Cove AKM.
 Lesser Scaup: (1 since August not crippled), (45)29, (7)30 Cove AKM.
 Ruddy Duck: 7 days (6)11, (26)28 Cove AKM.
 Redbreasted Merganser: (1)29 equal to my earliest Cove AKM.
 Turkey Vulture: (1)29 Fondren Road MA LH.
 Black Vulture: (1)14,29, (3)31 Cove AKM.
 Cooper's Hawk: (1)29 Cove AKM; (1)6 Foster LH HH.
 Red-tailed Hawk: (2)29, (1)30 Cove AKM; (1)20 Fondren Road LH HH.
 Red-shouldered Hawk: (1-3) 9 days, (4)25 Cove AKM; (1)6 Foster, (2)20 Fondren Road LH HH.
 Bald Eagle: (1 adult)11, (1 immature)25, Cove AKM; (2 adults)28 Cove JHS.
 Marsh Hawk: Frequent (5)17 Cove AKM; (5)6 Foster LH HH.
 Osprey: (3)10, (1)5,14,17,20 Cove AKM.
 Peregrine Falcon: (1)5,25,28 Cove AKM; (4)4 Foster "A", (1)6 Foster LH HH.
 Pigeon Hawk: (1)20 Cove AKM.
 Common Gallinule: (2)1,11, (1)17,25 Cove AKM.
 American Coot: 7 days (30)1, (1000)29, (2000)30 AKM Cove.
 Semipalmated Plover: (2)3,30 Cove AKM.
 Black-bellied Plover: (1-5) 5 days, (2)1)14 Cove AKM.
 Ruddy Turnstone: (2)14, (1)24,29 Cove AKM.
 Common Snipe: (2-10) 13 days, (2)20 Cove AKM.
 Long-billed Curlew: (1)14, (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Spotted Sandpiper: (3)11,25,29, (1)28 Cove AKM.
 Willet: (3)3, (2)14, (2)18, (6)29, (1)30 Cove AKM.
 Greater Yellowlegs: 11 days (2)1 Cove AKM.
 Lesser Yellowlegs: 10 days (15)11,17,25 Cove AKM.
 Least Sandpiper: 14 days Cove AKM.
 Dunlin: 3 days Cove AKM.
 Dowitcher Species: 13 days, (400)1, (250)25 Cove AKM.
 Semipalmated Sandpiper: 3 days Cove AKM.
 Western Sandpiper: 11 days Cove AKM.
 Marbled Godwit: (3)29 Cove AKM.
 American Avocet: (1)24 Wallisville AKM.
 Herring Gull: (4)29, (1)30 Cove AKM.
 Ring-billed Gull: (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Franklin's Gull: (4-100) 9 days Cove AKM; (10)29 Fondren Road MA LH.
 Common Tern: (100)3,24, (200)14 Cove AKM.
 Royal Tern: 3 days Cove AKM.
 Sandwich Tern: (1)3, (2)14 Cove AKM.
 Caspian Tern: 3 days Cove AKM.
 Ground Dove: (1)24, (2)29 Cove AKM; (1)22 Houston CBG.
 Inca Dove: (4)25 Houston JH.
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo: (1)3,29 Cove AKM; (1)6 Foster LH HH.
 Groove-billed Ani: (3)6 Foster LH HH.
 Barn Owl: (2)29 Cove AKM.
 Screech Owl: 5 days Cove AKM.
 Great-horned Owl: 4 days Cove AKM.
 Barred Owl: (1)8 Cove AKM.
 Chuck-Will's-Widow: (1)30 latest ever by 13 days Cove AKM.
 Whip-poor-will: (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Common Nighthawk: (1) to the 28th Downtown Houston NP.
 Chimney Swift: (4 days) (1)14, (6)25 Cove AKM; Hundreds migrating over downtown Houston on the 15th, (6)18 Downtown Houston, (100)23 South East Houston, (5)23 Downtown Houston, (8)24 South East Houston, (3)26 South East Houston NP.
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1-4) 20 days Cove AKM; (1)4 yard LH HH.
 Belted Kingfisher: (1-2)9 days Cove AKM; (1)20 Foster LH HH.
 Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1-3) 11 days Cove AKM; (6)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH.
 Pileated Woodpecker: (1)24 Cove AKM.
 Red-bellied Woodpecker: (3)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH.
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1)9,30, (3)14, (4)29 Cove AKM; (2)29 Fondren Road MA LH; (2)19 Fondren Rd. LH HH; (2)30 Sp. Valley JH.
 Downy Woodpecker: (1)9 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Kingbird: (2)3 Cove AKM.

Great-crested Flycatcher: (1)9,14 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Phoebe: (1)3,9, (11)29 Cove AKM; (4)29 Fondren Road MA LH;
 (1)6 Foster, (1)19 Fondren Rd. LH HH; (1)30 Spr. Valley JH.
 Empidonax Flycatcher: (8)3, (4)9, (1)14,20 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Wood Pewee: (1)3, (3)9, (5)14 Cove AKM.
 Vermilion Flycatcher: (1)1, 10,17,28 Cove AKM.
 Bank Swallow: no count 1 Cove AKM.
 Brown-headed Nuthatch: (2) daily yard LH HH; (7)26 Tomball JH BH.
 Brown Creeper: (3)29 Cove AKM; (3)29 Fondren Road MA LH; (2)30 Spr. Valley JH.
 House Wren: (1)3,9,25, (4)14,18, (2)29 Cove AKM; (5)29 Fondren Rd. LH MA;
 (3)6, (1)20 Foster LH HH.
 Winter Wren: (1)29, (2)30 Cove AKM; (1)30 Fondren Road LH HH.
 Bewick's Wren: (1)29 Cove AKM.
 Carolina Wren: (3)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (1)25,30 Spr.Valley JH.
 Long-billed Marsh Wren: (1)3,24, (2)29 Cove AKM.
 Short-billed Marsh Wren: (1)17,24,29 Cove AKM.
 Catbird: (10)3, (3)9, (8)14, (2)24,30, (1)28 Cove AKM; (1)29 Fondren
 Road MA LH.
 Brown Thrasher: (10)29 Fondren Road MA LH.
 Robin: (1)29 Cove AFT.
 Wood Thrush: (4)14, (1)24 Cove AKM.
 Hermit Thrush: (9)29 Cove AKM; (1)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (1)30 Fondren Rd.
 HH LH.
 Gray-cheeked Thrush: (1)14 Cove AKM.
 Eastern Bluebird: (7)4 Foster, B; (3)20 Foster HH LH.
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (1)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (3)4 Foster,A; (2)6 Foster
 HH LH; (12)19 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 Golden-crowned Kinglet: (8)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH.
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (7)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (1)3 yard HH LH; (1)6
 Foster HH LH; (5)19 (2)20 Fondren HH LH.
 Water Pipit: (1)17, 28 (3)29 (18)30 Cove AKM.
 Loggerhead Shrike: (1)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH.
 White-eyed Vireo: (1)14 Cove AKM.
 Bell's Vireo: (1)18 Cove AKM.
 Solitary Vireo: (1)19 Fondren HH LH.
 Red-eyed Vireo: (1)19 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 Black-and-white Warbler: (1)3,9,29 Cove AKM; (2)19 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 Swainson's Warbler: (1)22 Houston CBG.
 Orange-crowned Warbler: (3)29 Cove AKM; (1)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH.
 Nashville Warbler: (2-7)3,9,14,24,29 Cove AKM; (2)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH;
 (1)1 yard (1)6 Foster HH LH; (1)4 Foster A.
 Parula Warbler: (1)3 Cove AKM.
 Myrtle Warbler: (10)29 Cove AKM; (75)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (2)30 Spr.
 Valley JH.
 Black-throated Green Warbler: (1)14,29 Cove AKM; (1)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH;
 (4)19 (2)20 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 Pine Warbler: (6)29 Cove AKM; (6)26 Tomball JH BH.
 Palm Warbler: (15 in 3 places)29 Cove AKM.
 Northern Waterthrush: (1)4 Foster A.
 Kentucky Warbler: (1)6 (1)20 Foster HH LH.
 Connecticut Warbler: (2)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (1)12 Fondren Rd. MA.
 Yellowthroat: (1)3,14,25 (2)9,24,30 (8)18 (3)29 Cove AKM; (6)4 Foster A;
 (25)6 (10)20 Foster HH LH.
 Yellow-breasted Chat: (2)3,9 (1)14 Cove AKM.
 Wilson's Warbler: (1)3,14,18 (7)9 Cove AKM; (2)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH; (2)19,30
 (1)20 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 American Redstart: (3)9 (1)14 (2)24 Cove AKM; (2)19 (1)20 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 Orchard Oriole: (1)3 Cove AKM.
 Baltimore Oriole: (2)3 (12)14 Cove AKM; (1)20 Foster HH LH.
 Common Grackle: (60)28 Cove AKM; (10)4 yard HH LH.
 Summer Tanager: (1)14 Cove AKM; (1)1,4 yard HH LH.
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (2)14 Cove AKM.
 Blue Grosbeak: (1)3,29 Cove AKM; (10)6 (8)20 Foster HH LH.
 Indigo Bunting: (5)9 (1)11 (10)14 (4)24 (8)29 Cove AKM; (10)29 Fondren Rd.
 MA LH; (3)4 Foster A; (2)6 Foster HH LH.
 Dickcissel: (4)14 (1)21 Cove AKM; (50)6 (20)20 Foster HH LH.
 Rufous-sided Towhee: (1)30 Fondren Rd. HH LH.
 Savannah Sparrow: (2)17 (1)19 (5)20 Cove AKM.
 Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (6)24 (2)29 Cove AKM.
 Seaside Sparrow: (14-25)3,14,24,29 Cove AKM.
 Lark Sparrow: (20)3 (1)4,14 (3)28 Cove AKM.

Clay-colored Sparrow: (2 only)3,9,14 Cove AKM.
 White-crowned Sparrow: (20)29 (6)30 Cove AKM; (6)20 Foster HH LH.
 White-throated Sparrow: (13)29 (2)30 Cove AKM; (4)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH.
 Lincoln's Sparrow: (2)14 (1)15,24,29 Cove AKM; (6)29 Fondren Rd. MA LH;
 (3)6 Foster HH LH.
 Swamp Sparrow: (4)19 (3)21,30 (7)29 Cove AKM.

Notes from Clearing House Reports

The Connecticut Warblers were all seen feeding on ragweed. They were seen on sunny days as close as 15 feet.

MA

I observed 166 species in Oct.; 130 in first half (167 in 1959), 148 in last half (163 in 1954); 115 were counted Oct. 29. Sept. 18 I identified my first Common Tern since 1955. After identifying or misidentifying them as a scarce bird 13 of 20 years, I missed them for 7 years, 9 months. Oct. 3, 1963, I counted about 100. There were at least 200 Oct. 14 and then on Nov.1, the ones near enough to identify seemed to have increased as compared with Forster's Terns while the over-all total of both species were up 300 to 400%. None have been seen except in the marsh area.

Pine Warblers as a summer resident have been declining for years. I saw none since June, and they have not been abundant since 1939 when they were nesting in pine habitat everywhere in this area. Since a severe cold front, Jan 18 to 22, 1940, which wiped out the wintering birds, they have been confined to an area close to the Liberty County line. As a Winter resident they have been from scarce to common since 1940, but before Jan. 1940, they were several times more abundant than any year since. I suspect that the Summer residents are non-migratory and subject to Winter kill from local sleet and snow storms more than are the total species.

AKM

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS CENSUS David Marrack

This year we have lost the services of several of our members who normally participate in the Christmas Count, including some of the area leaders. It is essential to a highly successful count, therefore, that all of us work extra hard on the count, which is on December 28.

The field check list has been revised to facilitate recording species in the field and tabulating the final results. The following are responsibilities of all members participating in the count:

1. Make sure your name appears in the upper right-hand corner of your party check list. It serves two purposes: compiling an accurate, alphabetical listing of participants for the "Audubon Field Notes" and; determining who identified or listed any rare or unusual species.
2. Return the check lists to your area leader at the meeting following the count. They will subsequently be returned to the coordinator.
3. Have your workers estimate total party mileage covered on foot and by car of times "in" and "out" of your area.
4. Pay 50¢ per person to your area leader. This is to help defray the cost of publishing our count in "Audubon Field Notes". (Note: The latest issue of the AFN contains the following, "This year only Christmas Counts accompanied by a \$.50 fee for each and every participant will be accepted", italics ours, Eds.)

The Snyders have again extended an invitation to the count participants to meet at their home in LaPorte following the count. A generosity which we will all appreciate after a long day in the field. Bring a covered dish to contribute to the post-count feast. The Snyders will furnish meat and refreshments. In return for their hospitality every counter should be sure to do two things: bring dry, clean footwear to wear in the Snyders delightful home; and please, PLEASE, do not drive on the lawn. This plea has been unheeded the past two years and has resulted in considerable lawn damage.

Area boundaries and leaders.

Area 1A: Leader; Bill Pettit; party, Gene Pettit, Harvey Patten.
Boundaries: From the intersection of the circle circumference and Crosby-Cedar Bayou Road southeast to Garth Road, south on Garth to Wallisville Road, the east and south on Wallisville to Interstate 10 and east to edge of circle. All area north and east of above.

Area 1B: Leader; L.A.M. Barnette, Party; Mrs. Barnette, Sue Harris.
Boundaries: Area in northeast part of circle south of Interstate 10, east of Cedar Bayou and north of Cove Road.

Area 2: Leader; John O'Neill, Party; Bob Braden, Pat and Jim Ellis.
Boundaries: Area in northwest part of circle northwest of Crosby-Cedar Bayou Road, west of Garth Road, and north of Decker Drive. The southeast portion of this area is defined as north of Goose Creek and a portion of Bob Smith Road.

Area 3A: Leader; Katrina Thompson, Party; Edna Miner.
Boundaries: Area in north central part of circle east of Garth Road, south of Wallisville Road and Interstate 10, west of north-south branch of Wallisville Road and Cedar Bayou and north of Bob Smith Road.

Area 3B: Leader; Jerry Strickling, Party; Nancy Strickling, Mr. and Mrs. Evans.
Boundaries: Baytown proper in south central part of circle. Bordered on the east by Cedar Bayou (Dr. Fayle's Island is included) on the north by Bob Smith Road, on the west by Goose Creek, Decker Drive, Lee Drive and Highway 146 west. The southwest boundary begins at the outlet to Black Duck Bay, extends southeastward along the west side of Hog Island, then eastward between Hog Island and Atkinson Island to a point about midway between Atkinson Island and the shoreline near Cedar Bayou. The boundary then extends southeastward parallel to and one mile east of Atkinson Island to intersect the circle circumference.

Area 4A: Leader; Vic Emanuel, Party; Arlie McKay.
Area in eastern portion of circle, bounded on the north by the Cove Road, on the west by Cedar Bayou and on the south by the Smith-Tri-Cities Beach Road.

Area 4B: Leader; David Marrack, Party; Mabel and Bob Deshayes.
Boundaries: Area in southeast portion of the circle. Bounded on the north by the Smith-Tri-Cities Beach Road and on the west by Cedar Bayou.

Area 5: Leader; Steve Williams, Party; Hardin Craig, Jr.
Boundaries: Area in western portion of circle. Bordered on the east by Decker Drive and Lee Drive, on the south by Highway 146, and on the southwest by the Houston Ship Channel. This area covers both sides of Interstate 10 where it crosses the San Jacinto River.

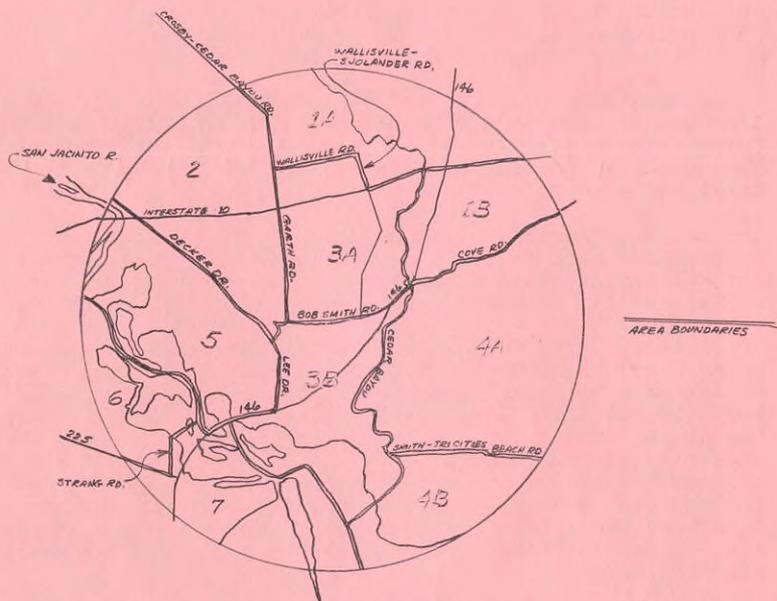
Area 6: Leader; Bill Harwell, Party; Jean Harwell, Doug Stein.
Boundaries: Area in the southwest portion of circle. Bordered on the northeast by the Houston Ship Channel, on the east by Strang Road, and on the south by Highway 225.

Area 7: Leader; Linda Snyder, Party; Mr. Snyder, Ralph Hunter, Noel Pettingell.
Boundaries: Area in the southern portion of the circle. Bordered on the northeast as described for the southwest of area 3B. Bordered on the northwest by Highway 225, Strang Road, a line $3/4$ of a mile northwest of and parallel to Highway 146, to intersect the ship channel, and Highway 146 northeast to the Black Duck Bay outlet.

Area leaders should:

1. Obtain permission to enter all private property for the purpose of the count from the landowners and keep a record of person, address, and area covered to be returned to the club secretary for use in future years.
2. Familiarize yourself with your area, its habitat, bird locations, roads and tracks.
3. Introduce the members of your party to the area before the count.

4. Collect 50¢ from each member of your party to pay part of the cost of publishing our count in "Audubon Field Notes".
5. Tally up area observations, mileage, etc. and report to count compiler at the Snyder's.



SLIGHTLY MISPLACED CLEARING HOUSE CREDITS

MA Margaret Anderson	BH Bill Harwell	WG Walter Greene
LH Louise Hoffman	CBG Clayton Gilman	JHS J.H. Strickland
HH Henry Hoffman	AKM Arlie McKay	A Margaret Anderson
NP Noel Pettingell	BD Barcel Dutton	Louise Hoffman
JH Jean Harwell	AFM Arnold F. McKay	Betty Glick

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