



THE SPOONBILL

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MOVING ON

Everyone has heard the old saying that "no one is indispensable", and most have also heard the ironic follow-up: "True, but some are more dispensible than others". Well...the one person that comes to mind that is least dispensible to the OG is our chairman, Ted Eubanks, Jr. Many of you already know that Ted's work is taking him from the UTC to Baltimore, Md. (It is only justice that Ted goes from one fantastic birding area to another!)

For several years the OG has been the beneficiary of Ted's love for birding the UTC, and we have been carried on the tide of his unflagging enthusiasm to many club accomplishments. That enthusiasm and his excellent birding skills have pointed the way for many of the Group to broaden their birding beyond merely "listing", and his patient tutelage has aided quite a few to increase their own birding skills.

His regular and meticulously noted contributions to the Clearing House will be of inestimable value for years to come. He has been THE SPOONBILL Editor's staunch supporter and cheerful supplier of information whenever she needed it. We wish Ted the best of luck and birding, and hope eventually he can return to the UTC to stay.

COMING EVENTS

- Sep. 13-22 Remember to drop by THE CHICKADEE for the showing of the works of the wildlife artist, Larry Haines. Expanded hours during the show are: Monday through Friday 12:00 - 6:00, Thursday till 9:00 and Saturdays 9:00 - 6:00. Larry will be on hand to discuss his work with you Thursday and all day Saturday.
- Saturday
Sep. 15 Birding Research Group's monthly pelagic trip on "New Buccaneer" out of Galveston. Contact Colin Summerhayes for details at home, 977-9139. (See page 2 for the BRG's plans for these pelagic studies and their need for your assistance).
- Sep. 18-25 Records indicate that this is the peak time for Broadwing Hawk migration through the UTC. In September 1977, Margaret Anderson reported an enormous kettle moving south - thousands of Broadwings visible at all times, horizon to horizon, during the nearly 30 minutes it took for the kettle to cross W. University Place. In September 1978, David Dauphin reported many kettles during a period of a few days. Watch for them (and report to the CH!).
- Tuesday
Sep. 25 THE SPOONBILL deadline for articles, announcements, etc. Especially wanted are identification-problem articles. Simple line drawings which illustrate your article can be copied by the editor on a stencil. You don't have to be a member to submit "grist" for THE SPOONBILL'S "mill", any birder is welcome to share his/her knowledge with our readers.
- Sep. 29-30 Annual Close-Site Study of Broad-wing Migration through the Texas Coastal Bend. See page 7.
- Wednesday
Oct. 3 Clearing House deadline for September observations.
- Wednesday
Oct. 3 Photography Group regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bayou Manor, 4141 So. Braeswood. Marilyn Crane will show her slides of a recent birding trip to Panama. Since Marilyn's slides are a treat for photographers and birders alike, we know this will be a good program.

- Thursday
Oct 4 OG regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bayou Manor, 4141 So. Braeswood. The program will be presented by Eric Lautzenheizer, Houston Audubon, and Carol Meyer, Chairperson of Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition, and will unfortunately be all too topical....the subject will be the effects of the oil spill on wildlife in the Gulf and the rehabilitation of oiled birds.
- Oct. 5-6-7 A workshop is being arranged on this subject of rehabilitation of oiled birds...on the 5th in Houston, and 6th and 7th in Galveston. For details call Armand Bayou Nature Center, 474-2551.
- Saturday
Oct. 6 Fall Raptor Watch, David Wolfe, coordinator. Please read David's account on page 6 of the "why's" and wherefor's" of an annual hawk watch. David Dauphin has some Hawk Migration of North America forms, or write David Wolfe for one. Try to participate, you are needed.
- Sunday
Oct. 7 HAS pelagic trip out of Galveston on the New Buccaneer, limit 35. Send checks for \$20.00 to David Matson, 5510 Arboles, Houston, 77035, made payable to Houston Audubon Society, by October 1st. Meet at Pier 18-- from Broadway turn left on 16th street, go to dead end, turn left to 17 street, turn right and you are at the parking lot. Boat leaves at 7:30, but be there by 7:00 a.m.
- Tuesday
Oct. 9 ONC regular meeting, 8:00 p.m. at Garden Center in Hermann Park. The program will be presented by Dr. Glenn Aumann on "Migration of Animals" which will include birds.
- Saturday
Oct. 13 OG pelagic trip on "New Buccaneer:". Cost is \$20.00 per person. Note date change for OG. Meet at 7:00 a.m., follow same directions to reach pier as above on HAS announcement. Send postcard or call Paul Jones, 665-4197 or 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401, if you plan to attend, for limit is 35.

HOW YOU CAN HELP THE BIRD RESEARCH GROUP....by Colin Summerhayes

The Bird Research Group is planning to make an historical study of the distribution and movements of pelagic birds of the Texas coast. We think that this study is especially important right now because of the affects the Mexican oil spill may have on seabirds off our coast. We need all of the data that we can get, so that we can show what the bird population was, and compare it with what follows the spill. On our August trip we encountered the first thin fringe of the spill (according to the Captain of the "New Buccaneer").

We plan to get our information in three different ways. One is by making our monthly trips into the Gulf. Another is by searching the literature. But, most important, we hope to obtain from Texas birders their unpublished records of birds seen on past pelagic trips into the Gulf out of the coastal ports of our state. We propose to use their records to make up a checklist and to prepare a booklet describing what can be, or has been seen in the Gulf. We plan to have the booklet printed as a field guide by the Houston Audubon Society, and hope to illustrate it with sketches taken from seabird manuals.

Naturally, we cannot make a success of a project like this without the help of SPOONBILL readers, especially those who took the trouble to keep good records of what they saw. We ask all of you who have good records to send us copies. Let us have your information about the birds, numbers of species, field notes, weather notes, sea state, time place, feeding behavior, etc. Your help will be acknowledged in the field guide.

We'd like to stress again that your help at this time is very important because of the possibly disastrous effects of the spill upon our local seabirds. Please send your information to Colin Summerhayes, HAS/ONC-OG Bird Research Group, % Houston Audubon Society, 440 Wilchester Blvd., Houston, Texas 77079

ALUMINUM COLLECTORS, PLEASE NOTE: Jerry Baker asks that all cans be flattened and put in plastic bag. Following is a list of cans not acceptable to the re-cycling company: Coke, Sprite, Tab, Mr. Pibb, RC Cole, A&W Root Beer, Welches, Lipton, Old Milwaukee, Schlitz Tall Boy, Mellow Yellow. These cans are not aluminum.

PAST EVENTS: BIRD RESEARCH GROUP'S PELAGIC TRIP, AUGUST 18... by Colin Summerhayes

It was a calm, clear, sunny day - hot, but with a light 10-15 knot breeze that kept us from overheating provided we stayed in the shade on the windward side of the boat. There were 10 observers including me: Ron and Marcia Braun, Mike Austin, Fred Collins, Diane Cabeness, Emery Froelich, Chris Sturm, Pete Bauml, and John Poston. We left the Galveston breakwater behind us at 0804 and were on the fishing ground, 60 nautical miles offshore, by 1055. Four and three quarter hours later, at 1538, 23 left for home, arriving back at the breakwater at 1805. On the way out we saw one porpoise, at the 50 mile mark. We saw another 10 of them on the fishing ground, in two separate groups of 7 and 3, as well as one large turtle. And we saw a lot of birds. Unfortunately, none of them were pelagic.

Yes, this was almost a rerun of our July trip, when all that we saw were black terns --about 150 of them altogether. This time we organized the party a bit more efficiently, and recorded the numbers and species of all birds seen, as well as the times of the observations. Knowing the times, and the ship's approximate track to the fishing grounds, we were able to determine the distributional pattern of the birds that we saw. The distribution of the black terns is shown in Figure 1.

We saw 941 black terns. Most of them were singles, or in small groups, except in a belt between 10 and 30 miles from shore, where there were some large flocks (Figure 1). The most we saw on the way out in the morning, was 40 at any one time; at that time flock sizes were between 5 and 20 individuals. We saw a lot more on the way back, in the afternoon; again these were in small flocks of 5 to 20 individuals usually. The figure does not show the true maxima seen in the afternoon. The actual maxima were 65 (at 25.6 miles), 300 (at 24 miles), 160 (at 20.2 miles), and 100 (at 13.3 miles)(these are the peaks shown for birds seen in the afternoon, on Figure 1).

The terns were concentrated in the general area of the "20-mile oil rigs", in a very sharply defined band with an abrupt seaward cutoff at about 30 miles both in the morning and in the afternoon (Figure 1). We saw very few of them further seaward. While we were "parked" on the fishing grounds (1055-1538) we saw 5 more black terns.

Most of the black terns that we saw were in flight. They were not flying in any special direction, though the ones nearest shore looked as if they were heading offshore. During the afternoon several of the birds in the 10-30 mile band were feeding. Nearly all of the birds were in molting/winter plumage, with the characteristic dark spot over the ear.

We saw very few other seabirds, none of them pelagic (table 1).

Table 1. Distribution of other seabirds, giving mile mark and, in parentheses, numbers seen.

Species	Where seen and how many	Total
Royal Tern	9.1(5), 10.9(1), 11.6(1), 28.4(5) morning 3.1(2), 6.3(8), 14.1(1), 24.4(2) afternoon	25
Least Tern	14.4(4) morning 10.8(1), 7.1(1) afternoon	6
Sandwich Tern	morning - none 14.1(1), 16.2(3), 25.6(1) afternoon	5
Laughing Gull	21.4(1) morning 1.8(4), 6.3(2), 13.3(1), 14.1(3), 16.2(5), 24.2(2) afternoon	18

Note that two of the least terns we saw in the morning were immature. So too were all of the Laughing Gulls, except two of those we saw at the 1.8 mile mark.

As well as these seabirds, we also saw 29 migrating swallows, including one purple martin and 10 barn swallows, all flying south. These birds were single, or in pairs, at the 38.9, 49.4, and 50 mile marks in the morning, and at the 30.5, and 48.1 mile marks in the afternoon. Most of them we saw flying over the fishing grounds (22) in groups of up to 5 individuals at intervals averaging 30 minutes.

Two final comments. I forgot to mention that the breeze was out of the ESE. Fred Collins gets the prize for making the most accurate guess (he's been out there

before). Secondly, there was an extensive oil slick over part of the fishing ground. It was in the form of a thin film, more like the washings from a passing tanker than the tarry residue one might expect from the Mexican spill. But the Captain of the New Buccaneer seemed to think that this was the leading edge of the spill. It was the first time he'd seen it there. Without an aerial survey we'll never know. But this points up the importance of our offshore activities. We need to keep a group of birders going out once a month to document the effects of the spill. It really helps the birding if we have about 10 pairs of eyes on each trip. So, come along some time. September will be better for those of you in search of that pelagic lifer. Third time lucky, right? And we've had two runs of bad luck in July and August.

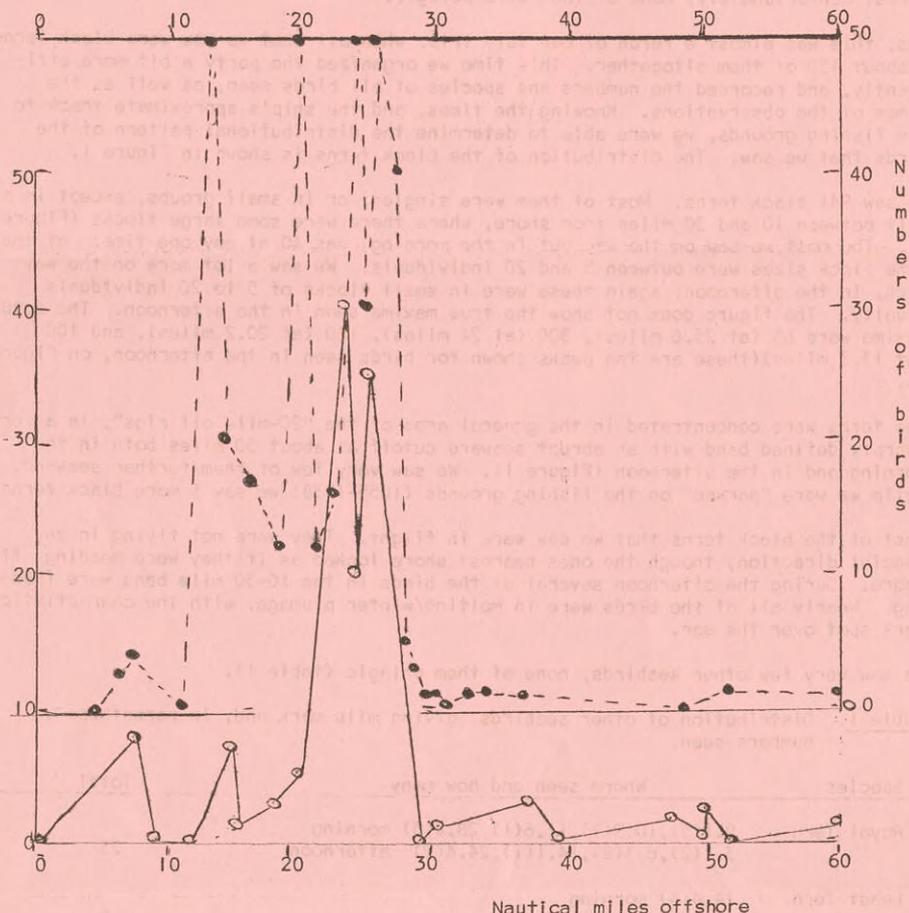


Figure 1. Numbers of black terns seen en route to and from fishing grounds 60 n. miles off Galveston.
Outward bound = lower line
Homeward bound = upper dashed line

NEW PELAGIC FIELD GUIDE IS AVAILABLE.....by Jim Morgan

With ever increasing interest in pelagic birding, birders will be pleased to know of a recently published field guide dealing with all the world's seabirds, from penguins to puffins. This book, titled "A FIELD GUIDE TO THE SEABIRDS OF BRITAIN AND THE WORLD", by Gerald S. Tuck and illustrated by well-known bird artist Hermann Heinzel, was published in 1978 by Collins of London. To the best of my knowledge this is the only currently available field guide on all pelagic birds.

Prior to this recent publication of Tuck's book the only field guide dealing with the world's seabirds was W.B. Alexander's "Birds of the Ocean", first published in 1928,

with more recent editions through 1963. Alexander's book, now out of print, has much useful information but it is not organized in modern field guide format and it has no color plates. My use of Alexander's book has had to be supplemented with Xerox copies of bits and pieces of information from technical journals and other ornithological publications. Thus, securing my copy of Tuck's book was most satisfying.

Tuck's book treats almost 300 species of seabirds. The color plates picture 781 birds (sometimes same species shown above and below, at rest, or in immature plumage) and the quality of the plates vary from acceptable to excellent, at least on those species I am familiar with. The text contains about as much information as most good modern field guides and it is liberally sprinkled with 138 useful line drawings. A useful feature of the book is the distribution and breeding maps for each species and some races. These maps are general patterns and thus are not always accurate on distributional fringes. They are very helpful nevertheless. Nesting information on each seabird family is also included in the text.

Being a first printing there are some errors but they are mostly trivial or minor and one can easily overlook these mistakes in view of the book's positive qualities. And the buyer will obtain a book of the usual Collins' quality - sturdy, well printed, with a water resistant cover.

If you plan to do pelagic birding, or only wish to increase your knowledge of seabirds, you will want to purchase this book. I was fortunate to have my copy hand-carried from England by a birding friend of John Eyre. But I understand that THE CHICKADEE is making an all out effort to obtain this book for their customers. Buy it!

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Editor's Note: Before we leave the pelagics for this time, let me share some recent comments from Hazel Nichols, the well-known birder from Dallas, who was mentioned by Ted Eubanks in his Map Key last month as the discoverer of the first Long-tailed Jaeger recorded in Texas. Hazel and Jenny Huey were on their way to the 1971 TOS meeting in Galveston when they stopped at Rollover Pass to check out the gulls, terns, etc. When they spied this Rock Dove-sized bird, pigeon-shaped with pigeon-like head and bill, barring on the flanks that continued on under tail, and a dusky band across the breast, plus pale blue legs, they knew they had never seen it before. They checked off every visible detail, Hazel sketching like mad, and Jenny getting a picture by holding her camera to her scope. Finally making it fly and expecting it to disappear into the distance, they were amazed when the bird winged slowly over their heads, showing off the wedge-shaped tail, the nighthawk-like wings, and flashing a show of white at base of primaries. By then they had checked the book and knew it was an immature jaeger, and checking again realized it was the Long-tailed because of the blue legs they had already noted. Not many of us are favored with the great chance to completely check out a lifer that Hazel and Jenny had. Hazel says this was the most personable bird of her experience: "As he stood on the sand he would "tred" his feet to make a little puddle in which to sit. When he flew over, instead of flying off - never to be seen again - he came back and lit on the end of the sand bar, then went into the water - out about 10', shuffled about bathing, then sprang straight up about 3-4 feet and shook his feathers like a dog shakes its fur when wet. He did this several times obviously enjoying every bit of it. We left as he lingered there resting contentedly on the water!" That bird was the bird of the TOS convention that year, being seen by nearly all members in attendance and photographed by many. The credit for the bird's amiable cooperation seemed to belong to a fisherman who said he had been feeding the bird for several days!

Hazel had this tip to give: When driving the Bolivar beach away from the Flats, watch the shrimp boats not far from the strip. If you see an aerial battle in progress, suspect a jaeger. The gulls watch the boats and the fish, and the jaegers watch the gulls that catch fish, then attack with a flurry. A real battle sometimes results but the jaeger always ends up with the fish. In general, this is the best way to spot them when on pelagic trips, and you always have gulls for good comparisons of sizes.

Editor's tip on vantage points ashore from which to look for these birds: the jetties at Quintana and Surfside....when the weather is not too good, jaegers often come closer to shore, and sometimes follow the shrimp boats right up the channel. If you are birding from Rollover Pass to High Island, walk out to the end of one of the three piers along that stretch of beach. There is a fee for fishermen, but sometimes they will let birders walk out "for free".

LINGERING EFFECTS OF CLAUDETTE

Matt Robinson of Lake Jackson gets some new neighbors: "Never before have I seen a Green Heron or a Belted Kingfisher in the area behind my house. Ever since Claudette these two birds have been living in the woods there.

"I did a little investigating to find out why these two birds suddenly appeared. I found out that the drainage ditch behind my house empties into Oyster Creek. When Oyster Creek flooded so badly it forced water back into its man-made branches, bringing with it minnows and small fish. Thus even though the ditch waters receded the minnows stayed. So now the minnows aren't the only ones that have a new home, a Belted Kingfisher and Green Heron are now my neighbors. I only hope that some more birds will come and feed off the minnows."

TP&W gloomy about Mottled Ducks: While an average production year is predicted for waterfowl in the Canada nesting grounds, the same can't be said for Texas' native mottled ducks. "We were hoping for a good nesting year to help reverse a long term skid in the mottled duck population, but we don't believe we are going to get it this year," said TP&W Department biologist C.D. Stutzenbaker. "The nesting season started well, but the April storm came along to flood a lot of nests and it was two weeks before things dried out enough for the ducks to try nesting again. Now, on top of the problems earlier in the nesting season, tropical storm Claudette swept in to flood out the late nesting birds. Consequently, our overall forecast is for a poor production year for our mottled ducks."

[The CH Editor has mentioned several times that numbers of mottled ducks reported to THE SPOONBILL for the past several seasons have been very low].

FALL RAPTOR WATCH, the "Whys" and "Wherefors".....by David Wolfe

The Texas Gulf Coast Raptor Migration Study will be held again this year, on October 6. There is much to be learned about the movement of migrating birds of prey along the coastal plain of Texas and UTC observers are in an ideal position to help. The purpose of this watch is to gain some insight into what routes the birds are using and why. Key species that we are interested in are the accipiters, Northern Harrier, Osprey and the falcons, important species often overlooked by those watching for the more impressive buteo flights. Though last year's watch did not produce hawk sightings at every station, some interesting questions were raised:

- Where do these birds enter the state? Sizable westerly flights are noted annually in coastal Alabama and Louisiana and these birds should come our way.
- After entering Texas do these birds pass along the inland side of the bays? Past counts from Baytown and the dearth of sightings from Galveston to Matagorda suggest that many hawks may do this.
- Do some species normally cross water gaps and continue down the outer coastline? Sightings of harriers, Ospreys and falcons on the Bolivar Peninsula and outer islands suggest that at least some individuals do this.
- How do weather conditions affect the coastal flights? Presumably the greatest numbers are seen along the coast when riding the cool fronts south or when strong NW winds drift them right up to the beaches. NE winds may shift the flight inland. Do significant flights also occur with the prevailing south winds?
- After passing the UTC, do the birds continue their journey inland in a SW direction, or do they turn south and follow the central coast? Last year the largest numbers of coastally migrating raptors were reported from Aransas Refuge and Rockport.
- Just how important is the coastal route to migrating accipiters, harriers and falcons? Possibly they pass inland in greater numbers, but are overlooked among the hordes of buteos passing through this large area.

To address these questions we need observers. Several key lookouts are favored UTC birding areas and hawk-watching could easily be combined with a birding trip. Complete coverage could be obtained by working in shifts. To enhance everyone's chances of seeing at least some migrating raptors, parties may choose alternate lookouts - a coastal site to be manned if winds look favorable for a flight, and an inland site

on the coastal plain if winds are southerly. I also encourage interested observers to choose lookouts in areas where they have noted hawk movement in the past. Forms will be provided by the Hawk Migration Association of North America. Even a few hours of careful coverage will be helpful. For further details or forms please contact: David E. Wolf, 801 Martinsville St., Nacogdoches, Texas 75961; phone (713) 569-6531.

The third annual Close-Site Study of Broad-wing Migration Through the Texas Coastal Bend will be held again this year on September 29-30. This watch is designed to intercept the large numbers of *buteos* that are funneled through the Coastal Bend corridor every fall. Observers are stationed at intervals along the Nueces River and each lookout should see numbers of migrating raptors. For further information on this Close-site Study contact Rose Ann Rowlett, 1010 Woodland Ave., Austin, Texas 78704; phone: (512) 444-5869.

[As the Editor wrote this, almost on cue the May 1979 *American Birds* was delivered by the postman. Contained therein is a fascinating article: "The Identification of North American Accipiters"...(Seventy man-years of watching and trapping distilled herewith: how to, and how not to, identify Accipiters). The three authors are trappers and banders of migrating hawks, and during their combined time at this they have banded more than 6000 Accipiters, so their advice should be well regarded!]

 WE SAID "A-BIRDING WE WILL GO" AND WE DID! Four Reports

David Marrack...Green River rafting in Utah: This trip at the end of June was south of Ouray basically in Gray and Desolation canyons. The latter is aptly named for this area must be one of the most isolated in the USA. Once on the river there is no way out except down the water and there was lots of it....much of it white.

I took the opportunity to try to "bird" this 100+ miles of canyons. This was not always easy from a rocking raft, and there is no stopping or going back to look at anything in the willow sedges that form much of the edge of the channel wherever there is a shelf of sediment on which to get a root hold. At times the flies and mosquitos impeded birding. Within these limitations this rarely birded canyon yielded: no waterfowl, no accipiters but of hawks saw 1 Swainson's, 10 Kestrels, and 1 Merlin; 1 party of Gambel's quail, 10 Great Blue Herons (no other herons or egrets), spotted sandpipers but no killdeer, no gulls, Mourning Doves were frequent and Rock Doves, 3 Yellow-billed Cuckoos, but no owls inspite of calling and searching dawn and evening; no goatsuckers, but 4 Black Swifts (probably missed others), and White-throated Swifts were numerous; no kingfishers or woodpeckers (found only 2 sets of holes; of flycatchers, the Western Kingbirds were numerous, with 1 Cassin's 1 Ashthroated, and 2 Western Wood Pewee; only 2 Tree Swallows, but Cave and Violet-Green Swallows were numerous; no *Corvidae*, and 1 Verdin, 2 Rock Wrens, 1 Sage Thrasher and 5 thrasher sp.; 4 robins, 1 Gray Vireo and 1 vireo sp., and 1 Yellowthroat was the only warbler found; "blackbird" sp., n/c of mostly juveniles; and 2 kinds of sparrow sp.

I find the composition of species recognized as unexpected, and presume the food supply is such that few can make a living in winter in the canyon because of lack of foods and many species don't cross the arid land 20-50 miles + which surround it.

Betty Young went to Arizona and found a "bonus" bird: My trip to Arizona August 6-14, under the excellent leadership of David Wolf, was even better than anticipated. The birds were "as advertised" and the weather a delightful change from Texas. The mountains are beautiful, with magnificent trees and wildflowers, and even the grasslands were green.

The big bonus of this trip was learning that the Eared Trogon had been sighted in Cave Creek canyon the day before we arrived there. We did find him, an immature male, and were able to watch him feeding for some minutes not more than 35 yards away.

Another treat was a family of Peregrine falcons. We heard them calling from the rocky crest of the mountains around Sunny Flat, and for some fifteen minutes or so they swooped, flew among the rocks, and followed each other. The female perched long enough to give us all a good look in the scope.

The funniest incident happened one morning as we birded a dry creek bed. We were frozen in our tracks by the "call" of a Pygmy Owl. The small birds nearby were very excited, particularly a large number of hummingbirds, and the object of their atten-

tion seemed to be a cliff chipmunk flattened on the top of a tall sycamore stump. It turned out that he was making the call we'd heard. Then suddenly as we watched this strange performance, a Great Horned Owl flew out of the neighboring sycamore and the excitement ended.

[While at the Desert Museum in Tucson, Betty struck up a conversation with David Deifik, a former member of OG, who asked to be remembered to his many friends here. An enthusiastic birder, David is still missed here on the UTC.]

Linda Graetz found Desoto National Wildlife Refuge a pleasure to visit: If you have reason to visit the Omaha-Council Bluffs area, you're in for a real treat. Desoto National Wildlife Refuge is located along U.S. Hwy 30, six miles west of Missouri Valley, Iowa, and just north of Omaha, Nebraska and Council Bluffs, Iowa. When visiting my family there this month, we took a day to go to the refuge. The weather was in our favor: overcast and in the 50's, so the park was void of any bathers or boaters, we practically had it all to ourselves. The refuge is located along the fast-moving Missouri river and is marked by "lakes" which were formed by a shift in the river's course. The checklist for birds includes 195 species. We saw some 25 species that morning including a family of ring necked pheasant, an immature ring-billed gull, a flock of female and immature yellow-headed blackbirds, many bank swallows and barn swallows (I had no idea my hometown, Omaha, ever had so many swallows in the summer time. Where did they all come from? I never noticed them when I was a child. Birding has given me new eyes!). Red-headed woodpeckers were very apparent at Desoto Bend. They are gregarious and real show-offs. We also saw about 8 great blue herons. They looked very beautiful in the lush green environment of the refuge; different from the herons when seen on the Gulf coast...the Iowa environment seemed to make them more beautiful.

While at the refuge we also enjoyed a walk along a self-guided nature trail. Local birders told me that the most spectacular birding there is during the fall migration. So, if you're ever in that part of the country I recommend Desoto National Wildlife Refuge, it's even worth a special trip! I found it one of the most beautiful stops of my vacation.

Bessie Cornelius tells of one jewel among many visited during her five weeks of birding in Europe....Fontainebleau Forest: If anyone should have an extra day in Paris and would like to bird in a beautiful forest not far from the city, Fontainebleau Forest is a beautiful place and very accessible. It is not more than 25 miles almost directly south of d'Orly Airport if you use the main four-lane highway, A-6, exiting onto secondary road #7 going into the picturesque town of Fontainebleau itself. Tour guides say it is just 50 kilometers from Paris via Autoroute du Sud. We stopped in the town to shop for our lunch in a fine modern super-market with many choices of delicious French cheese, lunch meat and hard rolls. Wine, vegetables and fruit were in good supply. Nearby was a bank we found open on Saturday, whereas the banks in Paris are closed on Saturdays.

The Forest itself is quite near the town and directions are gladly given upon inquiry. This is an extensive (800 square miles) mostly deciduous forest with easy walking paths and many, many birds singing throughout the day. At least they were in May! In days gone by this great forest was the private hunting preserve of the kings of France. Royalty and their guests hunted wild boars and other animals, plus game birds, for centuries. Napoleon kept it for the hunting use of his officers in the army. It was closed to the ordinary citizen and closely guarded. We did not visit the famous Chateau. Most of this vast forest is now State-owned. It claims 5,685 plant species and 6,800 animal species, 400 kilometres of trodden paths and bicycles and horses are for rent. A Guide of Footpaths in Fontainebleau and maps are available in all Fontainebleau bookshops and at the Fontainebleau station. We followed only the trodden paths and in less than four hours' birding time saw at least 20 species.

The European Kestrel, Eurasian Cuckoo and Turtle Dove are common. There were Green Woodpeckers, Middle and Great Spotted Woodpeckers and with any luck and a little more time the Black Woodpecker can be found in the pine woods area. We saw the handsome Jays. There are many old-world warblers but in this short time we saw the Blackcap, Bonelli's and Wood Warblers. Chaffinch are numerous. The Chiff Chaff reiterates its simple notes, evidently from dawn to dusk. The strikingly handsome Pied Flycatcher was going in and out of his nest-hole in a tree trunk. We had very good looks at the common Great Tit in his distinctive smart black waistcoat. Even more active and acrobatic than the Great Tit is the Blue Tit and its lively presence could not be missed. Distinctive in voice and appearance was the lovely and agile

Long-tailed Tit, a bird of the woodlands. I am sure Spotted Flycatchers were there and could be found along the forest edges. In the town of Fontainebleau itself Swifts were plentiful, wheeling and dealing among the high steeped roofs. House Martins were busy setting up housekeeping under the roof ledges and Wood Pigeons were in good supply. Also in town Rooks, Jackdaws and Crows were found in good supply, but those, of course, are found in all the parks in Paris. One could spend several days in this spot and find many more species but for a short visit the Forest is attractive and birds plentiful.

[Editor's comment: Bessie had a fantastic five weeks birding in Europe, including eight days in the Camargue in Southern France, six days at Fair Isle, an island between the Orkneys and Shetlands, and then sixteen days with Bryan Bland in Wales, Scotland and England. Bland is the foremost bird tour leader in Great Britain, and is co-leader of a Merlin Birding Tour, with Ben Feltner and Elaine Robinson, next June, 1980. (For information on that Merlin tour to Great Britain, write Elaine, 1736 Albans, #1, Houston, Texas 77005, or call AC713/ 524-4712). I want to thank all four members for sharing their summer birding experiences with us.]

AROUND AND ABOUT

**In April 1979 and June 1979 SPOONBILLS, mention was made in this section of flight orientation studies at Cornell, and a Smithsonian Magazine article on the subject. The Houston Post, August 16, 1979, had an item on the discovery of an apparent clue to how some birds find home. "A tiny bit of iron-rich tissue found in the heads of pigeons may help explain how the birds find home. The pigeons studied had the same magnetic substance that has been found in bees, which also are known for their navigational abilities, scientists said. Professor Charles Walcott, a biologist at the State University of New York at Stony Brook who discovered the tissue, has been working with pigeons during the summers in Lincoln, Mass."

Quoting Walcott: "I think this is a major step forward. We now at least have some place to look. The main question, of course, and which we don't have any idea about, is whether this magnetic tissue has anything to do with the magnetic sensitivity the pigeons have. We can't prove that. But since nobody even had a clue about where to start before this, it seems like a likely place to start."

Experiments indicate pigeons use the Earth's magnetic field for navigation, although on clear days, they apparently use the sun instead. Walcott said the tissue he found is highly magnetic and less than one square millimeter in size. It is outside the brain near the back of the birds' eye sockets.

The tissue is believed to contain magnetite, a highly magnetic mineral often called lodestone. Discovery of magnetite in honey bees led to the suggestion that Walcott look for it in pigeons. Cornell University bird navigation specialist Melvin Kreithen said of the discovery in birds: "This is one of those things people get excited about. It's the first magnetic thing ever found in a bird. Whether it's important is not known yet, but it will be important if we find it's part of the nervous system." Walcott said the magnetic tissue is served by nerve endings, but he must find out whether the system is involved in birds' finding direction.

[Editor's note: Surely this magnetic tissue could explain the mystery of the Jersey Hill site near Cornell, where pigeons, released there, become so severely disoriented some never find their way home.]

** An interesting commentary on man's effect on birds was made by James Vardaman: "A reporter who recently interviewed me thought that man's effect on birds had been completely adverse and asked me if I had noticed it. I'm not sure about man's total impact on birds, but it is clear that he has created ideal habitats for many species and caused great concentrations of them. The Bohemian Waxwings are abundant in Edmonton because food is plentiful on ornamental trees and shrubs there; they are much less numerous outside the city. White-necked Ravens, Mexican Crows, and several gulls occur in great numbers at the city dump of Brownsville, Texas, and dumps and sewage treatment plants are favorite birding spots everywhere. The geese and ducks I got in Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado were there because man, in one way or another, kept the water from freezing; the Spotted Oriole can't make it anywhere except among the lawns and gardens of Florida cities. Even in the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Sanctuary in Arizona, the abandoned railroad bed and the tangle of brush under the adjacent telephone lines are the best places for some species and increase the variety of habitats offered by the sanctuary. Man and some birds certainly get along well together."

A BOOK REVIEW.....by Margaret Jones

The OG has in its Library "The Roseate Spoonbill", by Robert Porter Allen, the definitive work on this exquisitely, beautifully, plumaged bird. Allen left his post as Sanctuary Director for the National Audubon Society in October 1939 to spend a total of twenty-five months making an intensive study of the Spoonbill--sixteen in the field in the bird's Florida and Texas habitats, and nine in museum, library and office. The field work involved living midst the the spoonbills day and night, twenty-four hours a day, week after week, month after month. This intensive study resulted in Research Report No. 2 of the National Audubon Society, published in 1942. This Dover edition, first published in 1966, is an unabridged and unaltered republication of the work as it was originally published.

The author begins with distribution of the species in the U.S., from earliest times known to about 1850, tells of the period of decline between 1850 to 1890, then traces the birds' movements and abundance up to the time of his study. During that period of decline, one of violence and change, witnessing the destruction of nearly all spoonbill colonies within our borders, the fashion for the use of feathers in millinery creations played a part. However, surprisingly, the lovely feathers of the spoonbill were not in the demand as the great plumes, because, according to T. Gilbert Pearson, the feathers "begin to fade in a short time, and for this reason have little commercial value". But breeding spoonbills are very shy, and disturbance in breeding colonies caused by shooting of egrets affected both species.

Migration and post-nuptial wandering are discussed, in which one learns that the Florida Roseate Spoonbills and the Texas spoonbills have a distinctly different migration pattern. "In Texas there is a very clear-cut migration concerned altogether with the breeding season in that state; there is also a somewhat regular movement of nonbreeding flocks that is presumably correlated with an earlier breeding season along the tropical Gulf coast of Mexico. There is a slightly more complicated pattern in Florida".

When one considers this book was first published some 37 years ago, in the light of current headlines a paragraph in the chapter on limiting factors of a bird's abundance and distribution takes on a painful immediacy: "These open water drilling rigs are a real threat to wildlife. A blowout (which may occur as a result of a failure of the human equation, and despite careful mechanical checks) can pollute vast areas of normally healthy water environments. Birds of many kinds and in great numbers may die as a result of direct contact with floating oil".

The chapters on Breeding-Cycle Behavior, and Food and Feeding Habits, give us a look at the spoonbill we would never get as casual birders. Robert Porter Allen's exhaustive studies of all aspects of the spoonbill's life included one period of 28 days during which one pair of the birds was watched for a total of 51 hours. We who marvel at the beauty of a few of these birds we see overhead on a sunny day, or catch them for a few moments as they feed before they become aware of our intrusion and take flight, can feel we really know the bird after reading these chapters.

From the chapter on Plumages and Molts, we learn there are four outstanding plumage characteristics that can be readily seen in the field which can indicate the approximate age of the individual. It should make your observations of spoonbills more interesting if you have an idea of the approximate age of the birds, so following are those four different plumages:

Juvenal or First Postnatal (from about one month to undetermined age under one year)
Entire plumage white with little evidence of pink except when in flight. Wing tips prominently black; head feathered.

First Winter or Second Postnatal (a continuation of the juvenal, retained until age thirteen to fourteen months)
Head still feathered. Considerable *pale* pink on mantle; tail pale buff but sometimes diffused with pink. Some dusky on wing tips.

Second Winter or Third Postnatal (from twenty-one to thirty-three months; sometimes from twenty-four to thirty-six months)
Hard to distinguish in field from adult except at close range. From a distance appears to have all characteristics but lacks all the following items which are present in the adult bird.

Adult (from thirty-three to thirty-six months)
Head varies from apple green to golden buff. The bill has prominent horn-like excrescences toward base of upper mandible and is in general varied with green-

ish and blackish hues to tip and splotched toward base. Much rougher in older adults.

The black skin around the ear openings and down back of the neck is more extensive and beneath it the feathers show a varied amount of carmine mottling. The mantle is a deeper pink and the drip, which is present in a limited form in the preceding plumage, is now more extensive and of richer color.

The upper and lower tail coverts are a deep carmine and are more extensive than previously. Instead of buff the tail is a rich ochraceous buff, almost an orange.

In front of the shoulders there are suffusions of ochraceous buff, but these tend to be more yellowish than orange in color. At the base of the neck is a patch of stiff curly carmine feathers surrounded by some pink and usually a suffusion of yellowish buff.

Naturally there are variations within each age group, according to individuals and incomplete molts. However, this is a general guide you can follow to enhance your enjoyment in the next observation of a spoonbill.

This book is in my own library, and is one of my favorites. It is a paper-back, which, like all Dover books, is very well done, and inexpensive to a degree you shouldn't be without it. THE CHICKADEE has a number of copies for only \$2.50 each. If you don't wish to add it to your own book shelf, check it out from the OG Library at the next meeting. And if you think our new patch is somewhat..."colorful", read about the adult plumage again!

[Editor's note: The Roseate Spoonbill has long been the symbol of the Outdoor Nature Club, as well as the OG. How many of you know that the ONC, many years ago, mounted an expedition to rediscover Vingt'un Islands in Galveston Bay, as a nesting site for these lovely birds? They then persuaded National Audubon Society to declare the islands a sanctuary and establish a warden to watch over them. Many ONC and OG members took part in planting grasses and shrubs on the islands to provide roosting and nesting facilities. We understand that erosion has taken its toll of Vingt'un, and only the tops of those shrubs now stand above the water. Erosion is also threatening Sydney Island, near Port Arthur, a sanctuary for nesting herons, egrets, spoonbills, etc. The Editor is planning a follow-up on the abundance and distribution of our Roseate Spoonbills in a forthcoming issue. Watch for it.]

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATION

The BIRDING NEWS SURVEY is beginning its second year of publication, and if you haven't yet subscribed to this quarterly magazine, you must start with the Fall 1979 issue. Each issue of this quarterly magazine is simply chock-a-block full of interesting articles you shouldn't miss, and the current issue is superb, with many timely articles on fall birds and birding. John Rickert does a masterly job of gleaming excellent articles from the many fine bird club newsletters he receives from clubs represented in his "Field Guide to North American Bird Clubs". In each issue he includes articles on attracting birds, tips on equipment, field techniques, identification problem help, bird finding, photography, recommended publications, club ideas, selected ornithological coming events, and information about a featured bird club. We are delighted that the OG is featured in this fall issue, plus one of THE SPOONBILL's Good Birding Maps in the bird finding section, also our Rare Bird Alert set-up in the club ideas section.

In this magazine you can enjoy the best of birding newsletters from all over the country four times a year. We thoroughly enjoyed the premier issue, and are amazed that Rickert keeps topping each one that is published. We heartily recommend this publication, it definitely should be on your shelf. Many of you who already subscribe, should check your label, your subscription may expire with the current issue. Remember that with each renewal or new subscription you can get "Field Guide to North American Bird Clubs" at 50% off. That's \$6.00 for a subscription, plus \$7.50 for the field guide. Treat yourself to an early Christmas present, and subscribe now. Hey, that's a good idea for a birding friend....he will thank you four times a year!

BIRDING NEWS SURVEY is published quarterly by Avian Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 310, Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701. Make your check payable to Avian Publications, Inc. and mail it today! And good reading!

RECOMMENDED ARTICLES

From Texas Highways, June 1979: The Best Little Bird Roost in Texas: The Editor just happened to see this magazine the other day, and discovered this excellent (though somewhat coy of title) article about Sydney Island, near Bridge City, beside the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel. This is a very informative article, with story and beautiful photographs by Bob Parvin. This nesting site is under the protection of the National Audubon Society. Those readers who made the ONC field trip to Gorman Falls several years ago will also be interested in an article in this issue about that beautiful spot.

From American Birds, May 1979: The Identification of North American Accipiters: Mentioned elsewhere in this issue, this identification-problem article should be read by all.

From Birding News Survey, Fall 1979: Identification of the Philadelphia Vireo in the Autumn: This discussion of a fall trouble maker should be very helpful to a great many of our readers, especially to those less experienced in observing vireos.

From National Geographic, August 1979: Mysteries of Bird Migration plus Tracking the Shore Dwellers: You will enjoy reading about the efforts to solve some of the mysteries surrounding the incredible journeys some birds make every year. There is also a superbly done map depicting some of these journeys which awe men by their length.

RECOMMENDED BOOK

Migration of Birds, published by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This is an updated version of a classic work by Frederick C. Lincoln, originally published in 1935. With so many articles of late about migration, this book, which was meant to present to the American public a summary of the facts on bird migration as they existed in the early 1930's and which has had more recent findings incorporated, might be interesting to add to your shelf. It is available for \$4.25 from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, order number S/N 024-010-00484-3. There is also a Government Printing Office shop on the Gulf Freeway near Park Place.

MINUTES OF OG MEETING, SEPTEMBER 6, 1979

The September meeting of the Ornithological Group of the Outdoor Nature Club was called to order by David Dauphin at 7:30 p.m. in the Bayou Manor auditorium. David announced that he had been appointed chairman of the OG by the ONC Board due to the unexpected transfer of Ted Eubanks to Baltimore.

The following announcements were made by various members:

- 1) When submitting observations of birds to the Clearing House, please include numbers of birds seen, even if only an approximate number.
- 2) The October program would be presented by Eric Lautzenheizer and Carol Meyer on effects of the recent oil spill and rehabilitation of oiled birds. A Workshop will be held October 5, 6, 7, on how to rescue birds afflicted by the oil.
- 3) 450 SPOONBILLS were being mailed each month, and to call Maxine Davis if you would like to help with the folding, stapling, etc.
- 4) Our September income was \$117.00, expenses were \$337.00, leaving a balance of \$1,867.00.
- 5) There are two ready-to-go slide programs available now for educational use in schools, clubs, scout meetings, etc.
- 6) Be sure to use David Dauphin's new phone number when calling him; the new roster has his correct number.
- 7) Ron Braun will lead the field trip to High Island on Sept. 8. The OG pelagic trip out from Galveston will be October 13. Notify Paul Jones if you intend to go.
- 8) Publicity announcements are sent to nineteen different news media each month.
- 9) A list of undesirable cans was read, and members were asked to please not include them in their aluminum contributions. It was requested that cans be flattened and put in plastic bags for ease of delivery.
- 10) The new UTC checklist will be completed by next month. There was a discussion as to the form the list should have; booklet or the way it is. It was suggested that costs of each be presented next meeting. The Arboretum checklist is also almost ready.
- 11) The Larry Haines exhibit will be held at THE CHICKADEE September 13-22.

12) A \$50.00 deposit is to be sent to Bill Mealy by anyone desirous of going on the ONC field trip in October to the Guadalupe Mountains area.

13) Nature Photography classes by John Tveten will be held at the Museum of Natural Science on Thursday nights this fall. The Museum's first field trip will be to South Texas, October 13-15 and will include Santa Anna and Laguna Atascosa Refuges.

14) There will be a beginning birders class at the Audubon House on September 13.

15) Contact Mary Ann Chapman for details regarding holiday birding in Mexico, including Tezuitlan, December 25, and El Naranjo, December 31. There are several groups open to those desiring to go.

Ted Eubanks moved that the OG contribute \$25.00 to the Bayou Manor Association in appreciation of the use of the auditorium. The motion was seconded and passed.

David Dauphin made a presentation of books and a photograph (by Harry Brister) to Ted and Janet and Cory Eubanks and expressed the heartfelt appreciation of the entire group for his dedicated service and fine leadership. Ted responded by asking all OG members to take an active part in the many activities of the OG.

Jack Gillette introduced Ben Feltner, who gave a very informative program on the identification of flycatchers.

Respectfully submitted, Ellen Red, Secretary

WHERE TO GO

In these days of worry about depletion of our gasoline supplies, let's consider two places "closer to home" than some of our favorite haunts. One is the Houston Arboretum on Woodway just east of Loop 610 West. The OG undertook to compile a checklist of this lovely area, under Wes Cureton's direction, but how many of you have ever birded this easy-to-get-to place? Help Wesley finish up the work on this checklist, bird this spot during the next few weeks, send your observations to him, 2121 Ella Blvd. #70, Houston 77008. Once you get acquainted with this peaceful place you will want to return again and again. Ask at their office about their A.M.I.G.O.S. program and how to get their newsletter.

The other birding spot not too far is Armand Bayou Nature Center and nearby campus of U of H at Clear Lake City. The Nature Center also is compiling a checklist, and they would like to add your observations. Leave your list at the office, or mail to them at P.O. Box 58828, Houston 77058. At the U of H campus, also on Bay Area Blvd., but on the south side of the Bayou, there is a Nature Trail to be found at the rear of the campus. And don't forget Bay Area Park, between these two spots.

CLEARING HOUSE, August 1979

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made in the six counties comprising the upper Texas coast: Jefferson, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Ft. Bend, and Brazoria. How to read the CH: Species: Location--(how many)date, observers. Those common species which can be readily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by number of reports, with lowest and highest numbers seen in parentheses, i.e. (1-42). If any of these species is reported in unusual habitat or numbers that will be noted separately. You will note some dates underlined, this will denote a late date, or possibly an early date. An underlined location denotes unusual location or habitat.

Grebe, Eared: Houston--(5)30,WC (Mercury Dr. - see notes)

Grebe, Pied-billed: Freeport--(6 + 11 chicks)12,R&MBr; 8 additional reports (1-26)

Pelican, White: Texas City--(5)1,MRo, (2)3,RC, (4)14,RC,HS; Bolivar--(6)6,RC,GM;

Freeport--(72)11,DM, (1)19,BR; Baytown--(20)25,OG; San Jacinto State Park--(57)23,J

Pelican, Brown: Bolivar--(1)1,R (prior reports); Texas City--(1)5,RC,GM (see notes)

Cormorant, Double-crested: Bolivar--(3)14,JHa (no field notes), (1)25,OG (see notes)

Cormorant, Olivaceous: 10 reports (2-50)

Anhinga: 12 reports (1-8)

Frigatebird, Magnificent: Brazoria Co.--(2)5,EF, (1)25,F; Galveston--(1)6,PJ; (1)

11,DM, (2)12,J, (1)17,RC; Bolivar--(1)7,G; High Is.--(1)12,S&SC; Surfside--(1)23,

MAu

Heron, Great Blue: 20 reports (1-70)

Heron, Green: 22 reports (1-15)
 Heron, Little Blue: 18 reports (1-100)
 Egret, Cattle: 24 reports (1-700)
 Egret, Reddish: Galveston--(2)2,(1)5,6,20,m.obs.; Freeport--(5)2,DM (see notes),
 (1)5,MRo; Bolivar--(16)1, (12)4, (14)6, (5)7, (16)9, (1)(15)11, (28)25, m.obs.
 Gilchrist--(1)5,R
 Egret, Great: 29 reports (1-80)
 Egret, Snowy: 21 reports (1-200)
 Heron, Louisiana: 23 reports (1-50)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 13 reports (1-15)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: 17 reports (1-120)
 Bittern, Least: Texas City--(1)3,RC; Anahuac NWR--(1)7,G; Maner Lake--(3)12,R&MBR,
 (1)22,J; Bolivar--(1)14,JHa; Freeport Marsh--(4)25,F
 Stork, Wood: 22 reports (1-120)
 Ibis, White-faced: 17 reports (2-880)
 Ibis, White: 13 reports (1-800)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 27 reports (1-153)
 Goose, White-fronted: W.Harris Co.--(6)19,J,Ey (see notes)
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)12,R&MBR; W.Harris Co.--(15)18,23,
 26,27,J (see notes)
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Ft. Bend Co.--(6)12,R&MBR; Chambers Co.--(5)20,S&SC; W.
 Harris Co.--(10)9,(25)12,(19)18,(35 w/19 young)23,(50)26,J, (2)26,A&WE
 Duck, Mottled: Galveston--(1 + 10 ducklings)6,PJ; 13 additional reports (1-23)
 Pintail: W.Harris Co.--(1)19,R, (2)19,(14)23,(23)26,(24)27,J
 Teal, Green-winged: W.Harris Co.--(2)23,26,J (see notes)
 Teal, Blue-winged: Galveston--(105)25,OG; W.Harris Co.--(13)12,(57)23,(390)24,(350)
 26,J,(29)26,A&WE
 Shoveler, Northern: W.Harris Co.--(4)23,26,(7)24,J
 Duck, Wood: Maner Lake--(1)12,R&MBR; W.Harris Co.--(1)19,R
 Duck, Ruddy: Houston--(1)11,WC (Mercury Dr.)
 Vulture, Turkey: 7 reports (1-4)
 Vulture, Black: 8 reports (2-8)
 White-tailed Kite: Armand's Bayou--(1)15,RC,CE; Clear Lake City--(1)19,RC,CE;
 Brazoria Co.--(1)22,J
 Kite, Mississippi: 32 reports (1-46)
 Hawk, Red-tailed: Brazoria Co.--(1)12,J; Richmond--(1)5,F; High Is.--(1)25,OG
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: Clear Lake City--(2)2,4,RC; Armand's Bayou--(1)5,E,(1)15,
 RC,HS; Brazoria Co.--(3)12,R&MBR; Ft.Bend Co.--(2)12,R&MBR; Chambers Co.--(1)14,H;
 Alcoa--(1)26,29,DW
 Hawk, Broad-winged: Bellaire--(1)1,(2)5,12,DM (yard); High Is.--(1)6,7,24,(6)25,
 m.obs; Armand's Bayou--(1)15,RC,HS (see notes); Lake Jackson--(1)27,MRo; Houston--
 (4)22,DM (Mangum Oaks), (2)26,JMo (yard); Beaumont--(1)26,S&SC
 Hawk, Swainson's: Armand's Bayou--(1)5,12,15,RC,et al (see notes); Houston--(1)11,
 WC (N. Wayside); Brazoria Co.--(1)11,DM, (1)14,MAu; Friendswood--(1)14,MAU
 Eagle, Bald: Jones Creek--(1)11,DM (see notes)
 Hawk, Marsh: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,RC,CE; League City--(1)11,MAU; Galveston--(1)12,J;
 Armand's Bayou--(1)15,RC,HS
 Osprey: Armand's Bayou--(1)5,12,RC,et al
 Bobwhite: 24 reports (1-30)
 Rail, King: W.Harris Co.--(1 + 3 chicks)5,A&WE, (2)5,(1)15,24,23,J; Anahuac NWR--
 (1)12,MAU, (2)14,H
 Rail, Clapper: 8 reports (1-5)
 Rail, Black: Bolivar--(1--heard)6,RC,GM (see notes)
 Gallinule, Purple: Freeport--(1)11,DM, (7)12,R&MBR; Maner Lake--(1 + 3 young)12,
 R&MBR; Chambers Co.--(1)11,J, (2)25,OG
 Gallinule, Common: High Is.--(9 w/8 juv.)11,J; Freeport (4)11,DM, (12)12,R&MBR; W.
 Harris Co.--(1)11,FGB; (3)12,(10)18,(15)26,J; Houston--(1)30,WC (Mercury Dr.)
 Coot, American: High Is.--(2)11,J; Freeport--(10)12,R&MBR; W.Harris Co.--(2)12,
 (10)18,J; Galveston--(5)25,OG
 Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(2)1,25,(8)4,(3)6,9,(5)7,14,(6)16, m.obs; Texas
 City--(4)3,RC
 Plover, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(25)1,(1)6,(3)7,(20)14,25, m.obs; San Luis Pass--
 (3)16,DM; Chambers Co.--(n/c)14,H, (4)24,29,S&SC; W.Harris Co.--(3)31,J,Ey
 Plover, Piping: Bolivar--(30)4,(9)6,(8)7,(4)9,(20)14,(200)25, m.obs.; Galveston--
 (2)10,JHa; San Luis Pass--(1)11,DM; Brazoria Co.--(2)25,F
 Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(2)1,6,(5)7,(3)11,(4)25, m.obs.
 Plover, Wilson's: Texas City--(2)3,RC; Bolivar--(19)6,(22)7,(10)14,(80)25, m.obs.;
 Galveston--(6)10,JHa
 Killdeer: 26 reports (1-110)
 Plover, Black-bellied: 16 reports (1-75)
 Turnstone, Ruddy: 18 reports (1-50)
 Snipe, Common: Brazoria Co.--(1)25,F (see notes)

Curlew, Long-billed: 23 reports (1-17)
Whimbrel: Bolivar--(1)6,7,RC,et al, (1)9,S&SC (identified by bold white crown line and bill length comparison with nearby curlews)
 Sandpiper, Upland: Chambers Co.--(1)6,(3)25,(1)29, m.obs; W.Harris Co.--(4)23,(14)24,J; Galveston--(3)25,OG
 Sandpiper, Spotted: 19 reports (1-8)
 Sandpiper, Solitary: Chambers Co.--(1)11,(2)12,MAu; Brazoria Co.--(3)12,J; Galveston--(1)12,J; Houston--(2)23,J (Mercury Dr.); W.Harris Co.--(1)23,24,26,J
 Willet: (16 reports (1-350)
 Yellowlegs, Greater: League City--(1)5,RC,GM; Galveston--(2)6,PJ, (1)25,OG; Bolivar--(1)11,J; Chambers Co.--(n/c)14,H; W.Harris Co.--(40)23,(50)24,J
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 10 reports (3-150)
 Knot, Red: Bolivar--(2)25,OG
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: 12 reports (1-150)
 Sandpiper, Baird's: High Is.--(3)24,S&SC, (2)25,OG (see notes)
 Sandpiper, Least: 10 reports (2-300)
 Dunlin: San Luis Pass--(3)11,DM
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar--(25)6,(30)11,(10)14,(6,25)25, m.obs.
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: Bolivar--(13)4,(5)6,(4)14,m.obs.; Anahuac NWR--(5)12,MAu; Texas City--(1)15,RC,HS; W.Harris Co.--(60)26,A&WE
 Dowitcher, Species: Bolivar--(12)1,(20)6,(15)7,m.obs.; Chambers Co.--(n/c)4,H; W.Harris Co.--(62)23,(150)24,J
 Sandpiper, Stilt: Chambers Co.--(50)11,(1)14,(6)29, m.obs; Houston--(20)23,J (Mercury Dr.); W.Harris Co.--(300)23,(250)24,J; Galveston--(45)25,OG
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: 7 reports (1-100)
 Sandpiper, Western: 9 reports (5-2,125)
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: W.Harris Co.--(1)10,J; High Is.--(1)29,S&SC
 Godwit, Marbled: Galveston--(25)Sep.1, Ellen Red, Polly Moore
 Sanderling: 13 reports (1-500)
 Avocet, American: Bolivar--(1)1,R, (1)14,JHa; Freeport--(4)11,DM; High Is.--(3)24,S&SC; W.Harris Co.--(4)23,J
 Stilt, Black-necked: 16 reports (1-200)
 Phalarope, Wilson's: Galveston--(2)4,R&MBR; Texas City--(4)15,RC,HS; Chambers Co.--(1)24,S&SC, (9)25,OG; W.Harris Co.--(52)23,(16)24,27,J
 Gull, Herring: Bolivar--(1)1,(20)4,(2)7,25,(4)14, m.obs; Texas City--(1)5,RC,GM
 Gull, Ring-billed: Bolivar--(4)1,(5)4,(1)6,7,(6)14,(35)25, m.obs; Texas City--(6)15,RC,HS
 Gull, Laughing: 20 reports (5-2,300)
 Tern, Gull-billed: High Is.--(5)11,J; Anahuac NWR--(1)12,MAu; Galveston--(1)17,RC; Virginia Point--(1)17,JHa
 Tern, Forster's: 14 reports (1-100)
 Tern, Common: Galveston--(3)25,OG
 Tern, Least: 17 reports (2-1300)
 Tern, Royal: 14 reports (4-4,200)
 Tern, Sandwich: 12 reports (1-200)
 Tern, Caspian: 9 reports (2-30)
 Tern, Black: 26 reports (1-941)
 Skimmer, Black: 9 reports (2-100)
 Dove, Rock: 11 reports (1-30)
 Dove, White-winged: Galveston--(10)all month,JHa (yard), (1)6,RC,GM
 Dove, Mourning: 29 reports (1-41)
 Dove, Ringed Turtle: Houston--(1-5)all month,JW (Lindale); Bellaire--(2)10,BR;(4)26,PJ
 Dove, Inca: 14 reports (1-25)
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: W.Harris Co.--(1 + 1 young, learning to call)all month,A&WE; 18 additional reports (1-8)
Cuckoo, Black-billed: High Is.--(2)25,OG (see notes)
Ani, Groove-billed: Texas City--(1)15,RC,HS; Galveston--(2)20,BD (see notes)
 Owl, Barn: Houston--(1)22,JCa (West University)
 Owl, Screech: Bellaire--(1)all month,DM (yard); Houston--(1)211 month,JW (Lindale), (1)16,WC (White Oak Bayou); Alcoa--(1)23,DW
 Owl, Great Horned: Houston--(1)2,5,R&MBR
 Owl, Barred: Clear Lake City--(1)4,RC; Brazoria Co.--(1)10,MRO, (1)25,F; Kingwood--(2)all month,EF
 Chuck-will's-widow: High Is.--(1)7,S&SC; (1)11,EF,RE
 Nighthawk, Common: 20 reports (2-60)
 NIGHTHAWK, LESSER: Surfside--(5)11,DM (no field notes)
 Swift, Chimney: 16 reports (2-50)
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 16 reports (1-5)
 Hummingbird, Rufous: (1)all month,ERe (yard)
 Kingfisher, Belted: Galveston--(1)6,11,(3)12,(2)17,(1)23,(5)25, m.obs; Bolivar--(1)14,JHa; Chambers Co.--(1)12,MAu, (1)29,S&SC; Texas City--(1)15,17,RC,HS; W.Harris Co.--(1)15,J; Brazoria Co.--(1)25,F

Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Baytown--(1)14,RC; Bellaire--(1)26,DM (yard)
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 12 reports (1-2)
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 18 reports (1-7)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: W.Harris Co.--(4 + 2 young)10,J; Chambers Co.--(8)11,J,
 (n/c)14,H; Houston--(1 + 2 imm.)25,WC (zoo)
 Woodpecker, Hairy: Clear Lake City--(1)2,RC (see notes)
 Woodpecker, Downy: High Is.--(1)25,OG; 14 additional reports (1-5)
WOODPECKER, LADDERBACKED: Bellaire--(1)12,MJ (yard - see notes)
 Kingbird, Eastern: 24 reports (1-220)
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 17 reports (1-30)
 Flycatcher, Great-crested: 11 reports (1-4)
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: Galveston--(1)6,RC (see notes); Bolivar--(1)7,RC
 Flycatcher, Acadian: Lake Jackson--(1)4,RC,CE (Ident. by call); Armand's Bayou--
 (4)5,(1)12,(2)15,RC,et al (ident. by call); High Is.--(1)25,OG
 Flycatcher, Empidonax sp.: Clear Lake City--(1)4,RC; Galveston--(1)7,17,RC,et al;
 High Is.--(1)7,G, (35)25,OG
 Pewee, Eastern: High Is.--(1)6,7,RC,et al, (2)25,OG; W.Harris Co.--(1)15,J
 Flycatcher, Vermilion: Anahuac NWR--(1)14,H (see notes)
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Clear Lake City--(1)12,RC; High Is.--(1)12,(3)29,S&SC,
 (28)25,OG; W.Harris Co.--(1)23,J; Bolivar--(2)25,OG
 Lark, Horned: Bolivar--(2)6,(1)7,(5)28, m.obs; Ft.Bend Co.--(2)12,R&MBR; W.Harris
 Co.--(2)27,J
 Swallow, Bank: Jefferson Co.--(1)10,S&SC; Galveston--(1)17,RC, (1)25,OG; Houston--
 (2)30,WC (Mercury Dr.)
 Swallow, Rough-winged: Bolivar--(1)25,OG
 Swallow, Barn: 17 reports (1-5,300)
 Swallow, Cliff: W.Harris Co.--(7)26,A&WE
 Martin, Purple: 12 reports (1-80)
 Jay, Blue: 23 reports (1-20)
 Crow, Common: 21 reports (2-27)
 Chickadee, Carolina: 18 reports (2-24)
 Titmouse, Tufted: 14 reports (2-17)
 Wren, Carolina: 16 reports (1-22)
 Mockingbird: 34 reports (1-30)
Thrasher, Brown: Armand's Bayou--(1)15,RC,HS (see notes); High Is.--(1)24,29,S&SC,
 (1)25,OG (see notes)
 Robin, American: Houston--(1)all month, JW (Lindale); Galveston--(3)6,7,RC,et al
 Thrush, Wood: Clear Lake City--(1)19,RC,CE; Galveston--(1)25,OG
 THRUSH, SWAINSON'S: Houston--(4)4,5,ERE (West University - see notes)
 Bluebird, Eastern: Clear Lake City--(2)19,RC,CE
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 16 reports (1-80)
 KINGLET, RUBY-CROWNED: Chambers Co.--(n/c)14,H (no field notes)
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 23 reports (1-23)
 Starling: 21 reports (1-40)
 Vireo, White-eyed: Armand's Bayou--(2)4,B; Chambers Co.--(1)13,J, (n/c)14,H
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: High Is.--(1)24,S&SC, (3)25,OG
 Vireo, Red-eyed: Armand's Bayou--(1)4,B; High Is.--(4)24,(2)29,S&SC, (16)25,OG
 VIREO, WARBLING: High Is.--(1)25,OG.(see notes)
 Warbler, Black-and-white: Armand's Bayou--(1)4,B; Brazoria Co.--(2)12,J; High Is.--
 (2)12,24,S&SC, (5)25,OG
 Warbler, Prothonotary: Chambers Co.--(1)13,J; High Is.--(2)25,OG
 Warbler, Worm-eating: High Is.--(1)24,S&SC
 Warbler, Blue-winged: High Is.--(1)24,S&SC, (1)25,OG
 Warbler, Northern Parula: High Is.--(2)24,S&SC
 Warbler, Yellow: Chambers Co.--(2-3)14,H; High Is.--(1)24,29,S&SC, (3)25,OG
 Warbler, Pina: Chambers Co.--(20 w/young)11,J
 Warbler, Prairie: Anahuac NWR--(2)14,H (see notes)
 Ovenbird: High Is.--(2)11,EF,RE, (1)17,S&SC
 Waterthrush, Northern: High Is.--(1)25,OG; Houston--(1)29,WC (White Oak Bayou)
 Waterthrush, Louisiana: High Is.--(1)7,24,S&SC, (5)25,OG; Houston--(1)26,WC (yard)
 Warbler, Kentucky: High Is.--(4)24,S&SC, (1)25,OG
 Yellowthroat, Common: Houston--(8)4,B (Mykawa Rd.); Chambers Co.--(3)12,MAU; (n/c)
 14,H, (4)25,OG
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: W.Harris Co.--(1)19,R; High Is.--(1)25,OG
 Warbler, Hooded: High Is.--(1)24,S&SC
 Warbler, Canada: High Is.--(1)24,(2)29,S&SC, (25)25,OG
 Sparrow, House: 10 reports (10-60)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 8 reports (2-30)
 Oriole, Orchard: Brazoria Co.--(3)12,J; Chambers Co.--(35)25,OG; W.Harris Co.--
 (2)26,J
 Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): Chambers Co.--(18)14,H
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: Chambers Co.--(n/c)14,H; High Is.--(1)25,OG

Grackle, Great-tailed: 9 reports (10-60)
 Grackle, Common: 6 reports (2-200)
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 5 reports (1-22)
 Cardinal: 13 reports (3-34)
 Grosbeak, Blue: High Is.--(1)29,S&SC
 Bunting, Indigo: Kingwood--(6)all month,EF; W.Harris Co.--(1)12,J
 Bunting, Painted: W.Harris Co.--(1)14,A&WE; Bolivar--(1)25,OG
 Dickcissel: W.Harris Co.--(n/c)all month,A&WE, (4)5,(3)23,(2)26,J; Anahuac NWR--
 (6)12,MAu; Chambers Co.--(8)14,H, (3)25,OG
 Sparrow, Henslow's: Houston--(10)4,B (Mykawa Rd.)
 SPARROW, SHARP-TAILED: Anahuac NWR--(3)14,H (see notes)
 Sparrow, Seaside: Chambers Co.--(2)14,H; Galveston--(4)25,OG

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS, August 1979

FGB--Florence G. Bennett; S&SC--James & Sandra Calver; JCa--Jerry Caraviotis; RC--Robin Carter; WC--Wesley Cureton; BD--Barbara Darr; CE--Caroline Eastman; RE--Robert Ekas; A&WE--Ann & Willard Elston; JEy--John Eyre; EF--Emery Froehlich; JHa--John & Jane Hamilton; P&MJ--T. Paul & Margaret Jones; DM--David Marrack; GM--Gail Menk; JMo--Jim Morgan; ERe--Ellen Red; MRo--Matt Robinson; BR--B.C. Robison; HS--Henry Stevenson; JW--Josiephine Wilkin; B&EW--Bob & Edith Willman; DW--Diane Wise; B--party of FGB, Marilyn Crane, Shirley Smith; C--party of Diane Cabiness & Colin Summerhayes; E--party of RC, CE, GM; F--party of EF, Clark Ridgley, Linda Walsh; G--party of RC, Jan, Lois & Eric Garver; H--party of P.D. Hulce & Steve Schultz; J--party of John Clark, JEy, David Goff; P--pelagic trip of Bird Research Group (fide Colin Summerhayes); OG--Ornithology Field Trip (fide JMo); R--party of Polly Moore, ERe.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES, August 1979

Eared Grebe: Pointed-beaked, small-headed grebes with dark upper parts and dull whitish underparts. A large spot behind and below eye. Already in winter plumage Dove frequently. --Wesley Cureton

Brown Pelican: Watched bird for about 2 minutes thru 7x50 binocs in excellent light as it flew northward about 1/2 mile out in Galveston Bay. Pelican bill clearly visible, dark body and light head, undoubtedly a Brown Pelican. Both observers are Floridians with abundant experience with both pelican species. --Robin Carter

Double-crested Cormorant: Bird seen next to an Olivaceous Cormorant for excellent size comparison. The Double-crested was markedly larger, about 30-40%. Seen by JMo, TE, & DD in excellent light at 100 meters with binocs. --Jim Morgan

Reddish Egret "rescued": This bird was stuck in soft mud and about 2" of water 3 feet from the water's edge in the lagoon on the north side of the road to Bryan Beach. It was up to the leg feathers in the 'goo'. In retrieving this emaciated bird I got in up to my knees and had to be pulled out! The bird was washed free of mud...legs, primaries and tail. After drying and a feed of meat it was too weak to fly. It was released in a "safer" marsh near Freeport. Other shorebirds in the lagoon nearby were ok. --David Marrack

White-fronted Goose: Presumably feral birds on Borgsted's Pond. --John Eyre

Black-bellied Whistling Duck: One brood, 2 adults & 13 half grown young present for most of the month on Pitt Road pond. --John Eyre

Green-winged Teal: 2 seen in flight and then on Pitt Road pond with Blue-winged Teal. Wings appeared dark in flight, lacking large blue areas of accompanying Blue-wings. On the water, birds were pale, and grayer than Blue wings, bright green speculum was visible. --John Eyre

Broad-winged Hawk: We watched a Buteo soaring low over Boy Scout woods for about 3 minutes, thru 7x50 binocs in excellent light. We judged it a Broad-wing by its striking wide white tail bands and relatively short, broad wings. The same bird (?) was still present the next day. --Robin Carter

Soaring low over trees. A buteo with several wide white tail bands. Wings too short and broad to be a Red-shouldered Hawk...a typical adult Broad-wing. --RC

Swainson's Hawk: Seen flying directly overhead for 5 minutes--buteo shape, dark above, dark head and throat region, white belly, wings underside mostly dark, but leading edge of underwing light colored. Seen well thru 7x50 and 7x35 binocs in excellent light as close as 100 yards. --Robin Carter

Bald Eagle: Late immature with several pale feathers in the back of its head. Jones Creek south of Hwy 36. Presumably Southern Bald Eagle, the date seen suggests that its too early for the arrival of northern birds which normally appear after October. --David Marrack

Black Rail: We had stopped at about 11 a.m. to examine pastures with marsh vegetation east of Port Bolivar, when we hear the "ik-ee-ky" call of a Black Rail from about 150 yards away. We did not leave the road, but listened to more or less constant calling for about 10 minutes.....two quick high notes, than one longer, lower note. --Robin Carter

Common Snipe: Bird observed at about 9:00 a.m. in bright sun from about 50 yards with 9x binocs and 20x scope for about 5 minutes. Bird seen in mud on edge of marsh. Rather plump bird similar in size to knot. Crown heavily streaked black and buffy and back dark brown streaked with buff. Bill was light gray to flesh and about twice as long as the head. Breast buffy and somewhat streaked. Belly white. Legs light gray to greenish. --Emery Froelich

Baird's Sandpiper: 3 birds seen together on damp open dirt area with scattered dirt clumps. Killdeer were the only other shorebird in the area. Birds larger than peep, smaller than killdeer. Black legs, bill almost as long as head, very slightly decurved at tip. Overall appearance of birds was light grayish-brown to buffy, fine streaks on neck to upper breast, breast and belly white, broad pale buffy edgings to coverts and secondaries. Blakish primary tips extended beyond tail. --James Calver

One bird was a 'typical' summer plumaged adult. The bright, rusty color was visible from a great distance, enabling the bird to be picked out from several pectoral and western sandpipers. Closer, the long wings, short legs, slim straight bill, pectoral band and dark central tail feathers (in flight) were seen by all observers. The second bird was darker and drabber than the first. It was picked out from the accompanying western and semipalmated sandpipers because of its larger size. The drabber appearance was caused by pale grey or white feather edging on the wings, which, combined with the dark centers to the feathers, gave a very scaly look. At this time of the year, this plumage is presumably that of a first year bird. --John Eyre

Black-billed Cuckoo: Seen by 10-15 observers. Complete black bill and red eye-ring noted. Bird stayed at rest for 2-3 minutes at a distance of 30 ft. Second bird seen by the Brauns, John Clark and John Eyre was an immature as eye-ring was yellow, not red, bill entirely black. --Jim Morgan

Groove-billed Ani: We had stopped along a back road west of Texas 146 near the water reservoir in northwest Texas City when we heard an ani calling in brush on the left side of the road. Suddenly a grackle-sized black bird with a massive bill flew across the road about 20 yards in front of us and disappeared. The flight was the typical "floppy" flight of an ani. We saw no grooves in the bill, but the bird was definitely an ani. Its calls sounded to me more like that of a groove-bill. --Robin Carter

As I was driving out of "Clapper Rail Trail" parking lot in Galveston Island State Park, a pair of groove-billed anis flew by in their loose-jointed way and lit in a mulberry tree about 15 feet from road. I was able to observe birds from every angle in excellent light for 5 or 10 minutes. Their long tail and huge bill made me think of a small crow wearing a Halloween mask! (Last Sept. 30 I saw two anis in this same location). --Barbara Darr

Hairy Woodpecker: I observed a female *Dendrocopos* woodpecker for about 5 minutes at 15 yards thru 7x50 binocs in fair light as she fed on small branches of a huge tree on the nature trail at the U of H CLC campus. I judged her to be a Hairy by her large bill and lack of barring on the white outer tail feathers. The bird did not call. --Robin Carter

LADDERBACKED WOODPECKER: Bird was first seen near House Sparrow in mulberry tree; slimmer than sparrow, perhaps 1" or less longer. First impression: a smallish woodpecker. Bird moved into oak branches which mingled with mulberry branches, and started working its way into oak tree. First good look, unobscured by leaves, was of bird's back....black and white "laddered" effect across complete back, black nape and back of head; when bird turned head to side, red was observed on top of head, cheek was not completely white, but white with dark streaks, not a sapsucker face. In brief looks at bird from side, no color was observed on throat. Bird was not observed in flight, tail at rest seemed all dark. Time observed overall - 30/40 seconds at 20-30' with binocs, Sunny. --Margaret Jones

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: An Empidonax flycatcher that was rather small, with wing-bars and eye-ring, colored diffuse yellow below, from throat thru under the tail. Seen for 3 minutes at 15-25 yards as it foraged among thick tree limbs about 12-18 feet above the ground at the Menard House yard. We watched it in good light thru 7x50 binocs. Too much yellow to be an Acadian Flycatcher, The bird did not call.

--Robin Carter

Vermilion Flycatcher: Female, small, grey-backed, white breasted flycatcher, seen perched about 5' from ground, repeatedly returned to same branch and allowed close approach (10-15'), streaked belly and sides, and light orangish-yellow sides and undertail coverts, dark tail. --P.D. Hulce

Brown Thrasher: Saw bird on Armand Bayou nature trail, and watched it scurry away thru the brush 15 yards in front of us. "Chack" note heard; a large mimid, long tail, rufous above, white below with brown streaks. Thrushes eliminated by long bill and streaks, rather than spots, on the breast. --Robin Carter

Heard but not seen in Smith Woods. Same species seen week earlier, same location, by Ted Eubanks, Jr. All observers hearing bird are very familiar with call notes. --Jim Morgan

SWAINSON'S THRUSH: Aug.4, 8:30 p.m....Heard soft "whit" in cedar trees (Duke St. at Vanderbilt, W. University). Saw no birds. Aug.5, 7:45 p.m., same corner. Heard same call on opposite corner (more cedar trees). Spotted 2 thrushes...uniform brownish with buffy eye ring, and indistinct spots on upper breast (not Wood Thrush spots). Two more seen in nearby pecan tree. --Ellen Red

WARBLING VIREO: Nondescript vireo with no yellow, no wing bars, faint superciliary and very light lores. Seen for 3 seconds in fair to good light at 20' with binocs. --Jim Morgan

Prairie Warbler: Two small very active, tail-wagging warblers, undertail coverts and bottom of tail definitely white, breast and belly yellow with faint greyish streaking on sides, back greyish-olive, eye line and upward curving malar stripe were dark greyish olive, eye stripe, face and chin slightly lighter yellow than chest and belly, two very faint wingbars, seen in good light as close as 10' for 10 to 15 minutes, 7x35 and 8x40 glasses, NE corner of salt cedars at Anahuac. --P.D. Hulce

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW: 3 birds seen together with one or two Seaside sparrows, making comparison easy. Distinctive eye patch and orange wash on face and breast, very short, pointed tail, browner and more distinctively marked than Seaside Sparrow and slightly smaller. SW corner of Anahuac near windmill, in good light at about 20'. The birds moved back and forth between two bushes for about 10 minutes. --P.D. Hulce

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[Ron Braun reported a good fall migration day on the September 8 OG field trip to High Island. (Complete report will be in next issue). During a phone call the next morning, Ron said a quick check showed approximately a dozen warblers, including several Mourning Warblers. One *Oporornis* had a complete eye-ring, which made it very interesting indeed, but it wasn't seen well enough for long enough to list it as a Connecticut.]

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