

# THE SPOONBILL

Volume XXVIII, No. 2  
June, 1979

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

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## COMING EVENTS

There are no scheduled field trips or programs for the OG until August, when activities resume. THE SPOONBILL will continue to be published this summer as usual, so please remember our deadline for articles, announcements, etc.: the 25th of the month and the Clearing House deadline of the following 3rd of the month for sighting reports. While birding slows down considerably on the coast during the summer, you can add to the Clearing House by sending in your sightings when you do brave the heat! Any nesting evidence (downy young, parents feeding young, etc.) is especially desired by the CH Editor.

\*\* Martins are already gathering over Mayerland Plaza Mall, THE SPOONBILL Editor counted several hundred the evening of May 24th. It will be interesting to monitor this area every week for the next five or six weeks as the number of congregating martins builds to a peak just before they take off for the south. West University Village is another well known gathering spot, where, several years ago, 500,000 martins were estimated to be gathered. It is a sight to see just before dusk, the thousands of birds overhead, on telephone lines shoulder to shoulder, fluttering into trees almost atop one another, soaring, wheeling, all to the accompaniment of a muted roar coming from the chirping of thousands and thousands of birds.

\*\* In the next few weeks jot down your ideas for programs you would like to see (preferably give, or participate in), and field trips you would like to take, and send to Ted Eubanks, Jr., 4012 Childress, Houston, 77005.

\*\* Fred Webster reminds us that you still have time for the August Rancho del Cielo trip, from the 5th to the 11th. Rancho del Cielo is a biological field station of Texas Southmost College, Brownsville; guest trips are sponsored by Gorgas Science Society of T.S.C.; proceeds go to maintenance of the station, a project dedicated to conservation and investigation in the field of natural history. You can bird a Mexican wilderness area, walk a cloud forest, photograph, all in complete freedom. "The Wilderness experience with the comforts of home". Write Fred Webster, 4926 Strass Drive, Austin, Texas 78731 (512/451-1669) for further details.

\*\* David Dauphin again reminds those who would like to be on or stay on the Rare Bird Alert list, to fill out and send in the form found on page 17.

\*\* Another up-dated map is included in this issue. A Galveston area map, drawn by Ron Braun and keyed by Ted Eubanks, Jr. is inserted between pp. 16 and 17. As these maps are published, we suggest you remove them and begin your own file of Places to Go. As places to go birding are suggested in THE SPOONBILL, put them on a list to be kept with the maps. The April, 1977 SPOONBILL had a resume of places to go in spring and summer. If you keep your old SPOONBILLS, make a list of all the places to go mentioned in them, you may have forgotten some of them.

\*\* Do remember to call David Dauphin immediately when you see an unusual bird, or one completely out of seasonal occurrence. Of course you will call if you sight a really rare bird! His new number is 383-3955.

\*\* For the birders who get chicken-hearted in the heat and retire to air-conditioned comfort, reading about birds is the next best thing to seeing them. The Chickadee & Naturalist's Emporium is open this summer Wednesday thru Friday, noon to six, and Saturday nine to six. The book selection has been expanding, including their collection of rare and out-of-print books, and there are many new titles for summer indoor birders. To whet the youngsters' interest, some juvenile titles can be found, as well as books on butterflies, shells and wild flowers.

\*\* Promised for the July SPOONBILL are Professor George Williams reminiscences of The Gulf Coast Migrant, a series of bird records, why he decided to publish them and some of their experiences. Sounds like a treat!

PAST EVENTS

From verbal reports we gather the OG field trip to Mo Ranch was a great success. The promised Green Kingfisher made an appearance, 2 in fact, and several Golden-cheeked Warblers delighted the some-30 people on the trip. In fact, Maxine Davis says the Golden-cheeked played right around their camping spot. Most found it a bit far for a week-end, especially those who couldn't go until Saturday morning. A few lifers were garnered, fellowship abounded, and observers became re-acquainted with some unfamiliar birds.....sounds like a good field trip!

The OG Annual Picnic couldn't have been planned for a more perfect week-end...the weather was perfect! Cool enough that even a long walk didn't raise a sweat, the mosquitoes were conspicuous by their absence (well, maybe a few were there), the birds were singing everywhere. The Friday night campers didn't enjoy the singing of a pack of hunting dogs which apparently invaded the Sanctuary and were in full cry all night! The OG had pledged to remove the rotting "pie house", and after the meeting, which followed lunch, the men fell to with a will. By nightfall, the ground was cleared, smoothed, and sported a couple of picnic tables. A good deal of the lumber was burned in the night's campfire. Some of the 39 people who attended stayed just Saturday, some came Friday and stayed until Sunday, and a few lucky ones came Friday and stayed until Monday. It was a lovely time!

Minutes of the Annual Picnic Meeting, May 26, 1979

Chairman Ted Eubanks announced there were 39 members present and opened the meeting by commending last year's officers. He said the OG patches would be available at the August meeting. He stated that the membership is steadily growing...we now have 285 members, plus 121 SPOONBILL subscribers.

Ted then passed out certificates to this year's officers and announced officers for the coming year as follows:

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|------------------------------------|---|
| Chairman - Ted Eubanks             | Mailing Chairman - Maxine Davis         |
| Vice-Chairman - Wesley Cureton     | Seminar Chairman - Jack Gillette        |
| Secretary - Ellen Red              | Resource Chairman - Cindy Lupe          |
| Treasurer - Mary Gillette          | Rare Bird Alert - David Dauphin         |
| SPOONBILL Editor - Margaret Jones  | Field Trip Chairman - Jim Morgan        |
| Clearing House Editor - Paul Jones | Christmas Count Chairman - Paul Nimmons |

There was a discussion as to how the energy shortage would affect our field trips, and it was suggested that we consider car pooling and bus trips. Some suggestions were made for future field trips to be given to the field trip chairman.

There was a discussion of programs for our meetings. It was suggested that programs need to be cut in length, and our membership could be tapped for short presentations.

There was also a discussion of finances. A large amount of OG money is going to pay for the new check list.

Paul Jones spoke on keeping records for the Clearing House; he said to write down birds when you see them. We need even cardinals, bluejays, etc., to determine rise and fall of bird numbers.

Margaret Jones said the Roster Committee would have the roster ready by the August meeting. Linda Graetz is redesigning the SPOONBILL masthead to incorporate the new patch design, done by Ben Feltner.

Meeting adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Ellen Red

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Cooperators are needed for these studies sponsored by the South Central Region, Hawk Migration Association of North America:

MISSISSIPPI KITE WATCHES on 18-19 August and 25-26 August in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. For forms and instructions contact Gladys Schumacher Donohue, Regional Editor, Rt. 6, Box 616D, Mission, Texas 78572.

Fall CLOSE-SITE STUDY of Broadwing migration through the Texas Coastal Bend along the Nueces River will again be conducted by Rose Ann Rowlett on 29-30 September. For forms and instructions contact her at 1010 Woodland, Austin Texas 78704.

The GULF COAST RAPTOR MIGRATION STUDY will be on 6-7 October. Prospective participants should contact David Wolf, 801 Martinsville, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961.

Fall region-wide hawk watch dates for Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma are 22-25 September and 29-30 September. Contact Gladys Schumacher Donohue, Rt. 6, Box 616D, Mission, Texas 78572 for more information.

WOW!!....A SPRING TO REMEMBER!.....bv Jim Morgan

Upper Texas Coast (UTC) birders look forward to Spring migration every year because they know they will usually see more species (and often more individuals) per day, and per month, than any other time of year. Also, one waits in anticipation of possibly witnessing a significant fallout or being at the right place at the right time for a real rarity, blown off course or just wandering. The Spring of 1979 provided enough excitement and interesting events to satisfy even the most impassive birders around. From a birder's standpoint it was truly a spring to remember!

March began innocently enough with the usual good numbers of early migrant shorebirds and a sprinkling of migrant passerines. As the month progressed, light waves of Northern Parula Warblers were detected along the coast but, in general, the month ended quietly and uneventfully. It was literally the calm before the storm!

On April 2, rain began to fall along the UTC. Ben Feltner, dining with clients in Galveston that night, saw a Kentucky Warbler land outside the window. This was just a hint of what was to come. The following day, April 3, a light drizzle fell all day and the wind switched to the NW. Ben witnessed a very good early fallout that day. Good numbers of Swainson's, Worm-eating and Kentucky Warblers crowded the vegetation on Galveston Island along with an excellent 142 Black-and white Warblers, and 350 Hooded Warblers observed. Over the 3 day period, April 2-4, 23 species of warblers were sighted along the coast, which is good that early in the migration.

Ben ended his day on April 3 at High Island, where he found only a few birds at Scout Woods and nothing at Smith Woods. Yet, the next morning, I found most of my birds in Smith Woods from my High Island list of 15 species of warblers, 6 species in double figures, including 50 Hooded Warblers. The point is, migrants are arriving on the coast at all times of the day and night. I discussed this with Ben and he agrees that this is true in general, but particularly true as the migration matures. Early in the migration Ben believes most migrant passerines arrive between 2:00 and 6:00 p.m. My experience (e.g., early afternoon fallout April 16, 1977) also bears this out, but the migrants are constantly coming in at any time, but in varying quantities. Trans-Gulf migrants depart from diverse points, and surely at different times. The birds encounter different wind and weather, fly at different speeds, based on physiological factors and individual ability, and navigate different courses. The result is that after such a long journey the many factors tend to insure some migrant arrivals at almost any hour. When the migrants encounter the Texas coast they will seek the first available cover if they had a hard journey or if they encounter adverse weather, such as a thunderstorm or a strong north wind. Sometimes they do not even make it! On the other hand, if the journey was smooth and the weather is good along the coast, with prevailing SE winds, they will often go far inland before alighting.

After the first good push in early April, it was the weekend of April 13-14, before anything of note happened. Though not reported to the Clearing House a Greater Kiskadee was seen at High Island on the 13th. The bird was found and identified independently by Vic Emanuel and by Ben Feltner. On the 14th, Ted Eubanks, Jr., and I found a tremendous number of shorebirds along FM 1985 between Hwy 124 and Anahuac NWR. The rice fields were covered with just the right amount of water to be attractive and the short grass fields held their fair share also. We found 5,000 American Golden Plovers, 7,500 Lesser Yellowlegs, and 21,000 Dowitchers, plus an excellent variety of shorebird species.

On April 18, the torrential rains that caused the Montgomery County flooding passed through Houston, then the coast, and out into the Gulf. The following day John Eyre, Mike Shaw and I found numerous warblers, buntings, grosbeaks and other migrants in the early morning at High Island. Then, by mid-morning, nothing! We could see a storm in progress to the west, so we headed towards Galveston. We encountered heavy rains before leaving Bolivar Peninsula and the after effects on Galveston were more warblers, northern Orioles had arrived in numbers, along with Tanagers, more buntings and grosbeaks. The most impressive count of the day was the 100 Ruby-throated Hummingbirds feeding on fully bloomed Honeysuckle and emerging Lanfana. Tennessee Warblers were the most common warbler and over 20 Blackpoll warblers accounted for the second most common warbler.

Driving home the night of the 19th we encountered the huge thunderstorm that dumped up to 6 inches of rain on parts of Houston. There is no way a migrant could have flown through that! Jane Hamilton of Galveston told me that the following day, the 20th, was even better than the day before, and as rain again fell in the late afternoon and evening she witnessed birds "falling out" on West Galveston Island.

Saturday, April 21, will be long remembered by many birders. Migrants were everywhere along the coast. Wes Cureton and I headed to High Island where we found 25 species of warblers, 15 species in double figures, topped by 150 Tennessee Warblers and 105 Kentucky Warblers. However, the real highlight of the day was possibly the best Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warbler (plus hybrids!) push ever witnessed on the UTC by the many birders who were lucky enough to be there. Ben Feltner, also at High Island part of the day, said he had never seen as many Golden-wings on the coast. And will the rest of the world believe that there were 3 separate Lawrence's Warblers (2 at High Island, one at Sabine Pass) and at least 3 Brewster's Warblers at High Island that day? Believe it! There were many witnesses! On this day 30 species of warblers were seen along the coast, plus outstanding numbers of catbirds, thrushes, buntings and grosbeaks.

Thunderstorms continued out over the Gulf on the 21st, setting the stage for another good day on the 22nd. High Island was again impressive, but not quite as good as the day before. However the really impressive numbers were saved this time for Galveston Island. Fred Collins and Ted Eubanks, Jr. reported an excellent variety of migrants plus some outstanding numbers of individuals. Their counts showed 300 catbirds, 150 Common Yellowthroats, 200 Baltimore Orioles, 600 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, 100 Blue Grosbeaks, and a very impressive 3,500 Indigo Buntings. Though not on the UTC, it is interesting to note that on the same day in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, Ben Feltner found "thousands" of Yellow-billed Cuckoos and over 100 Black-billed Cuckoos. The latter species was more numerous than usual this spring on the UTC.

The 4 day period, April 19-22, may represent the best consecutive 4 days of birding the UTC has seen in many, many years!

A dry cold front passed through the UTC on April 26, again shifting the wind to the NW. A second re-inforcing front passed through on April 27. After work on that day, I found 21 species of warblers on Galveston Island. Every salt cedar had numerous warblers, thrushes and catbirds. Before and after the OG Buggy Trip at Anahuac on the 28th, the party I was with found warblers again to be very numerous. We found 25 species, with 14 species in double figures and over 500 individuals on that day. Thrushes were as numerous as the prior weekend and Empidonax Flycatchers were at their peak. The variety of birds available on this day was proved by the "Big Day Runners" who logged 185 species. Also found on the 28th were two separate Reeves, both well described and the Galveston bird was seen by many observers, some on the 29th.

Of particular interest to me was an event that happened in my yard in Houston (the Memorial area) on the 29th. A thunderstorm hit my area at 11:00 a.m. and lasted about one hour. During the storm I heard a lot of chirps, twittering, and chips coming from two large water oaks outside a window. The trees were loaded with a "mini-fallout": 10 Blackburnian Warblers, 12 Chestnut-sided Warblers and 15 Bay-breasted Warblers, plus small numbers of 3 other warbler species, a couple of Summer Tanagers, 2 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, some flycatchers and a Red-headed Woodpecker! It was the largest collection of migrants I have ever had in my yard.

When April ended, all species of vireos and warblers on the main body of the UTC Checklist had been seen and were reported to the Clearing House. Paul Jones said he thought the 284 species reported for April, 1979, topped any month ever!

In the pattern of cooperating weather, an extremely strong cold front with more rain passed through the UTC the evening of May 4th. The temperature dropped to the low 50's the morning of the 5th. David Dauphin and I went to High Island and Fred Collins and Ted Eubanks covered Galveston Island. Both parties reported an excellent variety and numbers of birds. David and I saw 21 species of warblers and 11 species were in double figures, with a high count of 80 Bay-breasted Warblers. Thrushes had obviously peaked in late April as they were down significantly in numbers. Eastern Pewees appeared to peak this weekend, as we counted 40 individuals.

Again, on Friday May 11th, another very strong, wet cold front passed through the UTC. Ted Eubanks, Jr., John Eyre and I found 400 Hudsonian Godwits in one flooded rice field near Winnie on 1-10 the following morning. Continuing on to High Island and down the coast it was evident to us that the bulk of the migration was now behind us. Passerines were significantly down in numbers from the good counts of the past 3 weeks. However, we did witness a significant push of 500 Common Nighthawks coming

In off the Gulf in flocks of 15-25 at a time. Always something of interest during migration!

As May wanes we look back on a most rewarding spring of birding on the UTC. We must not forget one thing though. A good spring for birders is not generally good for the birds. The thunderstorms, strong north winds and other weather hazards take their toll of migrants. Fred Collins found "hundreds" of dead migrants washed up on a short stretch of beach along Bolivar Peninsula on April 28th. One can speculate that literally thousands of migrants perished this spring before they ever made land-fall on the UTC.\* Thus, we must learn to appreciate that the poor springs for birders (like 1978), are necessary to continue the breeding populations required to sustain many neotropical species.

In conclusion, it truly was a spring to remember on the UTC! Hope you had a chance to witness some of it.

[\*Mabel Graham, a member from Pasadena, tells us that her son, working on an off-shore rig, has seen hundreds of gaily colored birds lose their long struggle and fall in the waters around the rig several times this spring.....just 12 miles from shore!...Ed.]

THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE "AMATEUR" TO ORNITHOLOGY by Allan R. Phillips  
(From the Colorado Field Ornithologists' Quarterly Journal, Winter 1979)

There is often a quite unwarranted diffidence among amateur birdwatchers regarding their contributions to ornithology. The only real requirement, if one wishes to contribute to the science, is a sincere interest in the birds. Science is a search for truth and understanding, which frequently implies abandoning our own preconceived ideas (as well as others') as we learn better. Theoretically, training in ornithology in a university should give one an advantage; but this is not mandatory, for the great and lesser classics that fill our libraries were practically entirely written by men untrained in zoology. If they had any training at all, it was as doctor (Coues, A.K. Fisher, Mearns, Roberts, and many others), dentist (Vaurie), or artist (Peterson). Some perhaps qualified as "professionals" by holding jobs as ornithologists, like the great Ridgway and Oberholser; but most worked for the love of science, just like Wilson and Audubon. The greatest life-history study was done by a housewife, Mrs. Margaret Morse Nice (who also wrote the first "Birds of Oklahoma"). So just who is an amateur?

This is not to say that we have no trained professional ornithologists today, or to deny their competence. But they are few and scattered. More often than not, too, the professional is burdened with administrative duties, classes, and perhaps public relations--a slave to the telephone. If he is to keep abreast of the situation, particularly regarding bird distributions and populations, and to give sound advice when called upon, the "amateur" must be his eyes and ears.

Some, but not all, of the problems we now face are obvious. All of us are well aware of urban sprawl, "developers" and bulldozers, obsessed dam-builders, tree-cutters, concrete-layers, etc., and the various chemical and physical poison advocates (the end always justifies the means). How can we preserve the brushy habitat needed by Bell's and other vireos? What is their present status? Do they raise enough vireos to maintain themselves, or only cowbirds? Professionals in wildlife conservation may monitor waterfowl, but woodpeckers, orioles, and Yellow Warblers should also concern us.

All this depends, then, on the amateur and his degree of organization. He alone has the time and interest to watch and count common birds. His lists of species and numbers will increase in value with the passage of time, especially if checked at the time by organizations like Colorado Field Ornithologists. They should be stored at a central repository like the Denver Museum of Natural History. Financing of the extra space and cabinets needed should be regarded as an investment in the future. The personal pleasures of birding are fine, but why not systematize record-keeping and thus help monitor our environment? In the long run, it is good, level-headed factual data that will help conserve our heritage.

Amateurs are also the eyes and ears of the professional in finding and turning in dead and dying birds on highways, at picture windows, etc. Kills at TV towers and cellometers pose a special problem: they are common in the east, but who knows whether they occur as far west as Colorado?...Your local museum or the Denver Museum can use these in one way or another.

[Ed. note: This article, while directed to Colorado birders, is singularly apropos to birders everywhere. THE SPOONBILL'S present-day Clearing House takes a long step

In the right direction. Your contributions to the Clearing House will be even more valuable in the future than they are today. Keeping a personal journal and/or species account record can be a fascinating extension of your birding, and next month we will reprint an article from THE WESTERN Tanager that gives you ideas how to go about that. And remember, if you find a road-killed or window-killed bird, call Randy Beavers of the Spring Branch Vines Science Center, 463-0267 (director of the Center, he is also the new vice-president of the ONC)...it may be a species he needs for their growing collection of skins and mounted specimens.

#### OG MEMBER SEES LIFER AND NESTING RECORD

Pat Warner had a fortunate conversation May 23 with three fellow birders at Indian Lodge in Ft. Davis State Park. They told her of a nesting Mountain Plover they had found that day, and the probability of it being a state record. Following their directions the next morning, she found the bird and nest (conveniently adjacent to the highway), and thanks to a casual conversation, she had her lifer. (She never learned the names of the three birders, two from Louisiana and one from New York). When she returned home and told Ted Eubanks, Jr., he called Tony Gallucci, another OG member, in Alpine. Tony was on a field trip, but when he returned and got the message, went directly to Ft. Davis, found the nest with no problem, and "shot a whole roll of film on it".

Reading in the June issue of THE PHALAROPE, Midnats newsletter, that a Mountain Plover was nesting on Pansy Espy's ranch, the Editor called Pansy to check. Pansy, the well-known birder from Ft. Davis, said the three out-of-state birders had shown her the nest on May 23. An interesting sidelight...She said three or four years ago cattle were turned into that particular field, and her daughter found a trampled nest with one egg left intact; not a Killdeer's nest, it remained a puzzle to her until now. After viewing this nest and its three eggs, she realizes that other egg was also a Mountain Plover's; she checks this nest every day, and as of June 8, the eggs had not hatched.

To emphasize the importance of finding this nest, The Bird Life of Texas lists only two breeding records in the state: Swisher Co., 20 mi. south of Canyon, and Brewster Co., Glass Mts. 10 mi. north of Marathon. So a third record for Texas and a first for Jeff Davis County has been made by non-Texas birders. With Pansy submitting a slide, also Tony, and presumably the discoverers, it will be well documented.

#### CENSUSING THE BOLIVAR FLATS

The Bird Research Group (see THE SPOONBILL, May, 1979, page 2) is presently collecting data on the avifauna of the Bolivar Flats. If you are interested in contributing to this project, please send the following data to the BRG after each trip to Bolivar Flats: observer's name, date, weather, tidal conditions, time duration of census, species including the number of each and plumage makeup. This census is being limited to the exposed tidal flats and begins at the intersection of the dump road and the Flats, and continues south to the end of the Flats. Please mail this data to the Bird Research Group, c/o Ted L. Eubanks, Jr., 4012 Childress, Houston, Texas 77005.

#### AROUND AND ABOUT

\*\* The April, 1979 SPOONBILL carried a brief mention of studies conducted at Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology on flight orientation of birds. Found in the current June, 1979 SMITHSONIAN magazine is an in-depth article on these Cornell studies of this fascinating subject, called "Probing Mysteries of How Birds Can Navigate the Skies" by David Zimmerman. One particularly intriguing study involves homing pigeons who can find their way home 95% of the time from nearly all locations; however, when released at a site called Jersey Hill, just 60 miles from Ithaca, N.Y., they become disoriented, wander confusedly, with only 40% ever finding their way to their loft, some straggling in months, even years later!

\*\* From the May, 1979 THE PHALAROPE, Midnats newsletter, we read of an example of positive action in conservation of wildlife. Mrs. Marjorie Taylor, a Midnat living in Odessa, was fearful that mowing of the campus at UTPB in Odessa would damage the home of her favorite Burrowing Owl (doubtless a pre-empted Prairie Dog home). She donated a Spanish Dagger Cactus Plant to Midland Naturalists to be planted in their name at UTPB next to the Owl's burrow. The Director of the Physical Plant at the University accepted the donation, saw that it was planted, and installed a small sign which proclaimed: "SPANISH DAGGER, Donated by Midland Naturalists, Inc. in the interest of protecting The Burrowing Owl". If you get to Odessa, look in the median on Northwest Drive in the northwestern corner of the campus for the sheltering Spanish Dagger and Mrs. Taylor's favorite owl!

\*\* A note from Debbie DeKeyzer: I got a last minute job--I am working on a turtle project in Missouri, Illinois and Iowa. An environmental consulting firm is doing a study of a rare subspecies of mud turtle, the Illinois mud turtle (*Kinosternon flavescens spooneri*). Monsanto is funding the project, for this turtle--proposed as an endangered species--nests in a sandy lake area behind their Muscatine, Iowa plant. My phase of the study involves traveling around this tri-state area trying to find any isolated populations of this turtle. Its a good way to see an area of the U.S. I've never seen! Although I'm usually so busy working with turtle traps that I can't stop and bird, the avian activity is tremendous....singing warblers, lark sparrow and horned lark nests everywhere, cavorting coots, ducks and geese....and the red-headed woodpeckers, N. orioles and Indigo buntings are thick!

[Ed. note: Debbie, one of our excellent young birders, is pursuing a degree at Texas A & M in Wildlife Management.]

#### AND A GOOD TIME IS HAD BY ALL

Maxine Davis, Mailing Chairman, holds Open House one day every month for the SPOONBILL Mailers, a *simpatico* group of OG members who can get the SPOONBILL ready for the Post Office in just a few hours and have fun while doing it. Maxine has a session in the morning, when the pages are collated and stapled, and sometimes folded. The afternoon crew staples after folding, labels, and sorts into zip code bundles. Maxine says she often has to shoo away the morning crew so the afternoon bunch will have something to do! The talk and hands go equally fast, making the task light for all. Some like to come every month, some now and then, and with a long list of names, Maxine can be assured of always finding helpers. If you want to join the Mailers, give Maxine a call, 723-8559, and get your name on the list. This will be a good way for new members to get acquainted. Following is a list of Maxine's helpers, and she says if she has forgotten a name or two she is sorry!

Avis Brister	Mary Gillette	Ellen Red	Sophie Wilbanks
Ann Elston	Aileen Moulton	Johanna Grabbe	Norma Oates
Virginia Courtney	Margo Hibler	Melba Drake	Sarah Gordon
Carol Carrithers	Ann Booth	Mary Dodson	Sharon Hackleman
Katrina Ladwig	Grace Hsu	Janet Eubanks (now working full time)	

The Roster Committee will soon be swinging into high gear, under the direction this year of Barbara Darr, assisted by Betty Young and Gladys Galbreath. There will be opportunities for you to join this committee for proof-reading, maybe some typing, getting it ready for mailing, etc. It should be finished in time for the August meeting. If you have a few hours to give during July, call the Editor, 665-4197, or Barbara, 771-5417, and join in the fun.

#### PLACES TO GO

\*\* Those of you who want to see a Bronzed Cowbird just might get your wish if you search Nottingham Ranch Road, especially the end of the road area near the water.

\*\* Pleasure Island, in Jefferson County, is recommended by Mac Read as a good place to bird. Located at the north end of the high bridge over the Intercoastal Canal on Hwy 87, north of Sabine Pass, it has numerous small ponds, 10 or 12 miles of roads, and Mac says birds such as one might find at Texas City Dike.

\*\* Swainson's Warblers nesting at Bear Creek Park were seen by following these directions: After entering, drive straight back as far as you can go, turn left, proceed to the third restroom. Park and check across the road, four were seen here recently.

\*\* In the Clearing House we report only UTC observations, however, we would like to hear about birding spots in surrounding areas. Have you birded in San Antonio lately? Austin? Matagorda County? How about someplace within the reach of a tank of gas? Maybe some of our subscribers could help us out by sending in one or more of their local spots. If you have a birding experience outside the UTC you would like to share, we would like to hear about it.

\*\* Wherever you go in the UTC this summer, look for nesting evidence, downy young, fledglings, etc. When you send in your observations, be sure to note any such nesting evidence. Habitat loss is decreasing opportunities of nesting for some of our birds which formerly have nested in abundance. If you find evidence of nesting in a species which our checklist shows as a former breeder, or one we have no record of breeding, get a picture if possible.

## CLEARING HOUSE, May, 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 in this May CH, this will denote a late date, or possibly an early date. An underlined location denotes unusual location or habitat.

- Loon, Common: Galveston--(1)1,B, (2)4,J&BH, (5)5,C, (1)12,K, (1)20,(2)29,J&GC, (1)20,R&AD, (4)31,S; Brazoria Co.--(4)19,D&MR
- Grebe, Eared: Galveston--(1)3,MAU,(5)4,J&BH, (8)5,C, (1)12,N, (6)28,D&RMe; High I.--(1)5,JEy; Houston--(3)8,(5)12,(1)17,(4)28,WC (Mercury Dr.); Brazoria Co.--(1)12, (2)13,L&MB, (1)13,D&RMe
- Grebe, Pied-billed: 10 reports (1-5)
- Pelican, White: 15 reports (3-400)
- Pelican, Brown: W.Galveston--(3)13,F, (1)26,J&GC (prior reports)
- Cormorant, Double-crested: Brazoria Co.--(2)4,(25)5,(1)12,13,D&RMe; Bolivar--(2)5, FGB, (16)12,(5)20,R&AD, (1)28,JBo&FR, (1)28,J; Galveston--(1)5,C
- Cormorant, Olivaceous: 7 reports (1-10)
- Anhinga: Seabrook--(8)6,DeK; Chambers Co.--(4)12,FGB, (6)28,JEy,GH; Brazoria Co.--(1)12,N, (1)26,DW; Texas City--(1)24,Sandy Dillard
- Frigatebird, Magnificent: Galveston--(1)5,MA, (1)12,K, (1)19,26,J&GC
- Heron, Great Blue: 23 reports (1-25)
- Heron, Green: High I.--(4 adults-2 chicks in nests)12,FGB, 30 additional reports (1-15)
- Heron, Little Blue: 17 reports (1-12)
- Egret, Cattle: 25 reports (10-300)
- Egret, Reddish: Bolivar--(4)1,B, (6)4,J&BH, (1)5,FGB, (10)5,D, (6)28,JBoFR, (12)28,J; Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (6)4,J&BH, (28)5,12,20,R&AD, (18)12,E, (3)12,N, (1)14,LG, PW, (8)28,D&RMe; High I.--(4)3,J&BH; Brazoria Co.--(2)4,13,(1)19,D&RMe
- Egret, Great: 22 reports (1-60)
- Egret, Snowy: 22 reports (1-200)
- Heron, Louisiana: 24 reports (1-100)
- Night Heron, Black-crowned: Bolivar--(1)4,J&BH, (4)15,G; Galveston--(2)5,D, (1)5,TE (5)12,E, (4)12,JHa, (4)15,A, (5)28,D&RMe; LaMarque--(16)5,12,20,R&AD; Brazoria Co.--(4)13,(1)19,D&RMe; W.Harris Co.--(1)15,26,FGB
- Nigh Heron, Yellow-crowned: Chambers Co.--(1)3,J&BH; Bear Creek Park--(1)6,MAU; Galveston--(2)12,N, (1)15,A; Houston--(1)12,PM (Westbury), (3)15,JMo (yard), (1)27 PJ (Westpark),(1 on nest w/2 chicks)28,WC (White Oak Bayou); Bay Area Park--(2)24, MAU; Hunter's Creek Village--(2)29,JH
- Bittern, Least: High I.--(1)1,B, (2)3,J&BH, (3)12,JGB, (2)12,E; Chambers Co.--(1)3, J&BH; Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (1)5,J&MG, (3)13,JHa, (1)14,LG,PW, (1)19,WR, (2)20,25, R&AD, (1)28,J&GC; Bolivar--(1)5,D; Brazoria Co.--(2--1 Cory's phase)6,J&MBo (see notes)
- Bittern, American: Freeport--(1)6,J&MBo
- Ibis, White-faced: 22 reports (1-250)
- Ibis, White: 19 reports (1-65)
- Spoonbill, Roseate: 22 reports (1-60)
- Goose, White-fronted: W.Harris Co.--(2)20,BH (no field notes, (6)28,ERe (no field notes)
- Goose, Snow: W.Harris Co.--(1-blue phase)28,ERe (no field notes)
- Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: W.Harris Co.--(2)6,MAU, (14)6,(7)8,(2)15,(1)26,FGB, (25)28,ERe, (6)31,BH
- Whistling Duck, Fulvous: W.Harris Co.--(2)6,MAU, (2)6,(7)13,15,26,(3)23,FGB, (5)8, JEy, (2)14,G, (4)20,BH, (36)27,WR, (30)28,ERe, (5)31,H; Chambers Co.--(7)12,E, W. Galveston--(1)20,R&AD
- Duck, Mottled: Freeport--(1 pr. nesting)6,J&MBo; 24 additional reports (1-21)
- Duck, Gadwall: High I.--(20)3,J&BH, (30)12,E
- Pintail: W.Harris Co.--(3)28,ERe
- Teal, Blue-winged: 20 reports (1-70)
- Shoveler, Northern: W.Harris Co.--(2)6,MAU, (10)6,(4)8,FGB, (1)20,BH; Brazoria Co.--(5)4,(2)13,D&RMe; Houston--(3)28,WC (Mercury Dr.)
- Duck, Wood: Chambers Co.--(1)12,FGB; W.Harris Co.--(1)14,G
- Scaup, Lesser: Bryan Beach--(1)10,L&MB; Houston--(1)28,WC (Mercury Dr.)
- GOLDENEYE, COMMON: Bolivar--(1)12,N (see notes) (Also notes by JCG for April)
- Duck, Ruddy: High I.--(1)3,J&BH; Houston--(15)8,(9)12,17,28,WC (Mercury Dr.); Freeport March--(1)13,L&MB; W.Harris Co.--(2)28,ERe

- Merganser, Red-breasted: Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (1)13,C; High I.--(10)3,J&BH, (4)12, E; Bolivar--(1)5,FGB
- Vulture, Turkey: 14 reports (1-26)
- Vulture, Black: 3 reports (1-5)
- White-tailed Kite: Galveston--(2 adults-3 fledglings)all month, m.ob. (Nottingham Ranch Road); Pearland--(1)19,B&EW
- Kite, Swallow-tailed: High I.--(1)6,J&NS, Steve Calvers
- Kite, Mississippi: Galveston--(1)5,WR; Lake Jackson--(1)5,L&MB, (1)14,19,MRO; W. Harris Co.--(4)6,MAU; Seabrook--(1)6,DeK; Ft.Bend Co.--(6)13,K; Houston--(1)13,GH, (Piney Point)
- Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Bear Creek Park--(1)6,MAU
- Hawk, Cooper's: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe
- Accipiter, sp.--Seabrook--(2)36,DeK
- Hawk, Red-tailed: Ellington AFB--(2)15,A
- Hawk, Red-shouldered: High I.--(1)5,D; W.Galveston--(1)13,JHa; W.Harris Co.--(1)14, G; E.Harris Co.--(2)24,MAU.
- Hawk, Broad-winged: High I.--(5)5,D, (3)5,JEy; Seabrook--(55)36,DeK; W.Galveston--(1)13,JHa; Alief--(1)24,GH
- Hawk, Swainson's: Bellaire--(1)3,P&MJ,TE (yard); High I.--(1)5,D, (1)5,JEy; Houston --(1)6,MAU (SW Freeway), (1)28,WC (Homestead Road), (1)29,JEy (Westheimer Rd.); S. Harris Co.--(1)9,MAU; Brazoria Co.--(1)20,L&MB, (1)June 1,S; Ft. Bend Co.--(1) 30,S.
- HAWK, ROUGH-LEGGED: Bellaire--(1)30,DM (yard - see notes)
- Hawk, Ferruginous: W.Harris Co.--(1)26-FGB (see notes)
- Hawk, Marsh: 6 reports (1-2)
- Osprey: Bolivar--(1)5,FGB; Baytown--(1)12,MAU; W.Galveston--(1)13,JHa; Brazoria Co. --(1)26,Polly & Chili Moore
- Falcon, Peregrine: High I.--(1)12,R&AD (see notes)
- Kestrel, American: Brazoria Co.--(1)6,RMe (see notes)
- Prairie Chicken, Greater: Brazoria Co.--(7)4,D&RMe; Spaceland Airport--(12)13,K (see notes)
- PHEASANT, RING-NECKED: Anahuac NWR--(2)1,B (prior reports)
- Bobwhite: 19 reports (1-10)
- CRANE, SANDHILL: Hitchcock--(70)12,R&AD (no field notes)
- Rail, King: High I.--(4 adults & 1 chick)12,FGB; 13 additional reports (1-4)
- Rail, Clapper: 11 reports (1-20)
- Rail, Virginia: Bryan Beach--(1)12,N
- Sora: High I.--(1)1,B; Bolivar--(1)4,J&BH; Galveston--(1)5,WR
- Gallinule, Purple: High I.--(1)3,J&BH, (1)5,D; Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (1)5,C, (12) 13,JHa, (1)14,LG,PW; Brazoria Co.--(1)5,13,D&RMe, (3)13,K; W.Harris Co.--(6)31,H
- Gallinule, Common: 11 reports (1-12)
- Coot, American: 13 reports (1-50)
- Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(13)1,B, (9)4,J&BH, (2)5,D, (3)12,R&AD, (1)12,E, (2)28,J
- Plover, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(20)1,B, (5)4,J&BH, (2)5,D, (5)12,E, (2)12,N, (10) 28,J; Chambers Co.--(38)3,J&BH; Galveston--(1)10,MAU
- Plover, Piping: Bolivar--(6)1,B, (2)4,J&BH, (32)12,R&AD; Galveston--(1)5,C; High I.--(2)12,E
- Plover, Snowy: Bolivar--(2)1,B, (4)12,N; Brazoria Co.--(12)20,L&MB
- Plover, Wilson's: Brazoria Co.--(2-30 plus 4 young) all month,D&RMe; 12 additional reports (1-10)
- Killdeer: Brazoria Co.--(28 adults-1 imm.)19,D&RMe; 27 additional reports (1-60)
- Plover, Golden American: Chambers Co.--(6)1,B, (15)3,J&BH; Galveston--(2)3,MAU, (5)5,C, (5)13,F, (2)14,LG,PW; Bolivar--(2)5,FGB, (2)5,R&AD; W.Harris Co.--(125)6, (10)8,(3)13,FGB, (25)8,JEy
- Plover, Black-bellied: 16 reports (1-75)
- Turnstone, Ruddy: 19 reports (1-800)
- WOODCOCK, AMERICAN: Brazoria Co.--(1)6,RMe(see notes)
- Curllew, Long-billed: Bolivar--(3)1,B, (3)4,J&BH, (1)5,D, (13)5,R&AD, (3)19,WR; Galveston--(2)3,MAU, (3)5,C, (1)14,LG,PW, (1)15,A; Brazoria Co.--(4)4,(1)13,(2) 19,(2)20,(3)28,D&RMe
- Whimbrel: Bolivar--(3)1,B, (4)4,J&BH, (1)5,FGB, (2)5,R&AD; Brazoria Co.--(2)4,(1) 12,13,D&RMe; W.Galveston--(7)5,C, (1)5)5,D, (7)5,WR, (3)6,JEy, (8)12,E, (3)12,N, (1)14,LG,PW, (3)15,A, (1)31,S
- Sandpiper, Upland: Galveston--(2)5,C; N.Harris Co.--(2)6,MAU
- Sandpiper, Spotted: High I.--(6)1,B, (1)5,FGB, (1)5,JEy; Galveston--(2)3,MAU, (3)4, J&BH, (2)5,C, (1)5,12,20,R&AD, (1)14,LG,PW, (3)15,A; Brazoria Co.--(1)14,19,(3)13, D&RMe; Bolivar--(6)5,D, (3)12,E; W.Harris Co.--(1)6,FGB
- Sandpiper, Solitary: Chambers Co.--(1)1,B; Galveston--(2)3,MAU, (1)5,C, (1)12,N, (1)19,WR; Bolivar--(2)5,R&AD; High I.--(1)12,K; W.Harris Co.--(1)14,G; Brazoria Co.--(3)15,R
- Willet: 18 reports (1-200)

- Yellowlegs, Greater: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,6,13,19,(3)28,D&RMe, (6)15,R, (1)20,L&MB; Galveston--(3)5,C, (1)5,R&AD; Bolivar--(10)5,D, (6)12,R&AD, (4)12,E; W.Harris Co.--(1)6,FGB
- Yellowlegs, Lesser: Brazoria Co.--(4)4,(2)12,19,(1)13,D&RMe, (1)13,L&MB; Bolivar--(100)5,D, (4)5,R&AD, (10)12,E, (1)28,J; Galveston--(40)5,C, (1)15,A; High I.--(2)5,12,FGB; W.Harris Co.--(40)6,(4)8,(2)12,FGB
- Knot, Red: Bolivar--(12)1,B, (25)4,J&BH; Galveston--(15)3,MAU, (15)4,J&BH, (1)12,E, (4)12,N, (15)28,C
- Sandpiper, Pectoral: Bolivar--(8)1,B, (1)5,12,(3)20,R&AD; Chambers Co.--(5)3,J&BH; Galveston--(20)4,J&BH, (2)5,C, (4)5,D, (3)10,MAU,(5)12,E, (1)20,R&AD, (5)20,J&GC; High I.--(4)5,(3)12,FGB; W.Harris Co.--(5)6,MAU, (5)6,23,(15)8,13,26,FGB; (5)8,J&EY (5)14,G; Houston--(1)8,WC (Mercury Dr.); Brazoria Co.--(1)13,L&MB, (1)13,D&RMe
- Sandpiper, White-rumped: 18 reports (1-300)
- Sandpiper, Baird's: Bolivar--(1)1,B; Chambers Co.--(10)3,J&BH; Galveston--(5)5,C, (3)6,J&EY; High I.--(1)5,D, (1)5,J&EY; Brazoria Co.--(1)15,R
- Sandpiper, Least: Bolivar--(3)1,B, (50)12,N, (10)15,G; Chambers Co.--(2)3,J&BH; Galveston--(3)3,(25)10,MAU, (5)4,J&BH, (200)5,C; High I.--(50)5,D, (40)12,E, (3)12 FGB
- Dunlin: Bolivar--(12)1,B, (25)4,J&BH, (1)5,FGB, (50)5,D, (100)5,12,R&AD, (75)12,E, (39)12,N, (18)28,JBo,FR, (50)28,J; Galveston--(20)4,J&BH, (200)5,C, (6)10,MAU, (12)14,LG,PW, (75)15,A, (60)20,R&AD, (1)20,DW; W.Harris Co.--(15)6,FGB; Brazoria Co.--(28)15,R, (20)19,D&RMe
- Dowitcher, Short-billed: Chambers Co.--(10)3,J&BH; Brazoria Co.--(3)4,D&RMe; Bolivar--(5)5,R&AD; Galveston--(30)5,C, (9)12,N; High I.--(10)5,D.
- Dowitcher, Long-billed: Brazoria Co.--(1)2,L&MB, (6)4,(32)13,D&RMe; Chambers Co.--(250)3,J&BH; Bolivar--(2)5,(6)12,R&AD; High I.--(10)5,D, (10)12,E; W.Harris Co.--(12)6,MAU; Galveston--(3)12,N, (30)20,R&AD
- Sandpiper, Stilt: Chambers Co.--(15)1,B, (550)3,J&BH; Brazoria Co.--(4)4,19,D&RMe, (14)13,L&MB, (35)15,R; Galveston--(4)4,J&BH, (500)5,C, (50)10,MAU; High I.--(5)5, (7)12,FGB, (50)5,D, (50)5,J&EY, (250)12,E; W.Harris Co.--(2)6,MAU, (5)6,(4)8,13,FGB, (3)8,J&EY; Houston--(30)17,WC (Mercury Dr.); Bolivar--(2)28,J
- Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Chambers Co.--(1)3,J&BH; Bolivar--(6)4,J&BH, (4)5,12,R&AD (75)28,J; Galveston--(50)5,C, (15)10,MAU, (1)15,A, (64)20,R&AD; High I.--(5)5,D, (300)12,E; Brazoria Co.--(1)13,19,D&RMe,(7)15,R, (7)20,L&MB
- Sandpiper, Western: Brazoria Co.--(2)4,D&RMe, (10)15,R; Bolivar--(40)5,D, (5)12,E, (2)28,J; Galveston--(60)5,C, (50)10,MAU
- Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: W.Harris Co.--(6)6,MAU, (4)6,8,15,(90)13,FGB (see notes), (50)8,J&EY; Ft.Bend Co.--(13)13,K; Bolivar--(12)28,JBo,FR
- Godwit, Marbled: Chambers Co.--(6)1,B; Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (12)5,C, (6)12,R&AD, (2)28,J&GC; Bolivar--(2)4,J&BH, (1)5,D, (2)5,(6)20,R&AD, (1)28,J; Brazoria Co.--(1)19,D&RMe
- Godwit, Hudsonian: Chambers Co.--(12)1,B, (1)3,J&BH, (3)12,MAU, (125)12,WR, (9)J; W. Galveston--(100)5,C, (40)5,D; W.Harris Co.--(1)6,(33)8,(15)13,(2)23,FGB, (2)6,WR, (34)8,J&EY; Houston--(3)8,WC (Mercury Dr.); Winnie--(400)12,E; Galveston Co.--(1)12,D&RMe, (1)13,20,L&MB
- Sanderling: 12 reports (3-200)
- Avocet, American: Bolivar--(1,000)1,B, (600)4,J&BH, (75)5,D, (140)5,12,20,R&AD, (10)12,E, (6)12,N, (120)28,JBo,FR, (15)28,J, (40)13,S; Galveston--(4)5,C, (1)15, JHa; Brazoria Co.--(1)13,(23)19,(2)28,D&RMe, (2)15,R
- Stilt, Black-necked: Houston--(10 chicks)28,WC (Mercury Dr.); 27 additional reports
- PHALAROPE, NORTHERN: (1)April 29,D&RMe (Documented by photograph)
- Phalarope, Wilson's: High I.--(6)3,J&BH, (30)5,D, (25)5,J&EY, (6)12,FGB, (50)12,E; Bolivar--(40)5,12,R&AD; Galveston--(85)5,C, (26)5,WR, (19)10,MAU, (5)15,JHa, (12)20,R&AD, (4)20,DW; W.Harris Co.--(2)6,FGB, (2)12,MAU; Houston--(60)8,(9)12,(15)17, (3)28,WC (Mercury Dr.); Brazoria--(21)12,N, (4-)15,R
- Gull, Herring: 7 reports (1-36)
- Gull, Ring-billed: 6 reports (7-60)
- Gull, Laughing: 11 reports (25-7,500)
- Gull, Franklin's: W.Harris Co.--(2)6,FGB; Brazoria Co.--(1)20,L&MB
- Gull, Bonaparte's: Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (1)5,C
- Tern, Gull-billed: Galveston--(5)3,MAU, (1)4,J&BH, (2)12,E, (2)12,N, (2)15,A, (1)28,J; Brazoria Co.--(3)4,(1)19,D&RMe
- Tern, Forster's: 15 reports (1-300)
- Tern, Common: High Island--(3)1,B; Brazoria Co.--(4)4,(8)13,(1)19,(2)28,D&RMe; Bolivar--(10)5,12,R&AD, (1)15,G, (2)128,J; Galveston--(2)5,C, (9)12,N
- Tern, Least: 13 reports (6-500) plus 6 reports of nesting colonies
- Tern, Royal: 12 reports (1-800)
- Tern, Sandwich: 7 reports (2-20)
- Tern, Caspian: 8 reports (1-25)
- Tern, Black: 15 reports (1-70)
- Dukimmer, Black: 15 reports (1-1,500) plus 2 reports of nesting colonies
- Dove, Rock: 12 reports (3-72)

- Dove, White-winged: Galveston--(3-5)all month, JHa, (3)12,N, (5)24,R&AD  
Dove, Mourning: 24 reports (2-100)  
DOVE, RINGED TURTLE: Bellaire--(1)3,15,(2)14,P&MJ, (2)23,PJ(5th & Grand Lake);  
Houston--(1)27,JW (yard)  
Dove, Ground: Galveston--(1)12,N  
Dove, Inca: 15 reports (1-60)  
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 34 reports (1-50)  
Cuckoo, Black-billed: Algoa--(1)5,DW; Brazoria Co.--(1)5,D&RMe; Chambers Co.--(1)5,FGB; Galveston--(1)5,D, (4)5,12,R&AD, (1)5,C, (3)12,E, (1)19,WR; High I.--(1)5,D, (1)12,E; W.Harris Co.--(1)6,FGB; E.Harris Co.--(1)24,MAU  
ANI, GROOVE-BILLED: Texas City--(1)25,Sandy Dillard (no field notes)  
Owl, Barn: Bolivar--(1)5,D, (1)12,R&AD, (1)12,E; Brazoria Co.--(1)5,C  
Owl, Screech: Chambers Co.--(1)5,FGB; Houston--(1 adult-1 young)9, 10, LG, PW (South-hampton); Algoa--(1 adult-1 chick)12-27,DW (see notes)  
Owl, Great Horned: Brazoria Co.--(1)5,C  
Owl, Barred: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe  
Chuck-will's-widow: Galveston--(1)5,C, (1)5,R&AD; High I.--(1)5,D; Houston--(1)7 WC (White Oak Bayou); W.Harris Co.--(1)14,G  
WHIP-POOR-WILL: Algoa--(1)1,DW (no field notes); High I.--(1)12,N (see notes)  
Nighthawk, Common: 28 reports (1-500)  
Nighthawk, Lesser: Bryan Beach--(1)2,R (see notes); W.Galveston--(1)5,MA (see notes)  
Swift, Chimney: Bellaire--(adults & brood)all month,DM (house); plus 13 additional reports (1-40)  
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: High I.--(8)1,B, (3)5,FGB, (3)12,N; Houston--(2)1-16, MAU (yard), (1-3)1-16,JMo (yard), (1)20-23,WC (White Oak Bayou); Bolivar--(2)5,D, (3)12,E; Galveston--(1)5,C, (2)5,12,20,R&AD, (1)15,A; Brazoria Co.--(1)7-12, D&RMe, (2)24,MRO, (1)26,PM; Algoa--(1)12,19,DW; Bellaire--(1)14,15,P&MJ (yard)  
Kingfisher, Belted: Bolivar--(1)5,FGB; Brazoria Co.--(1)5,12,D&RMe, (1)26,DW; Galveston--(2)5,C, (1)12,N; High I.--(1)5,D, (2)12,E  
Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Chambers Co.--(1)3,J&BH; Houston--(2)19,26,WR (Blvds.), (1)22,WC (Ella Blvd.)  
Woodpecker, Pileated: 9 reports (1-4)  
Woodpecker, Red-bellied: Houston--(2 adults-1 young)all month,JMo (yard); Bellaire --(1-nesting)7,PJ (1st & Evergreen); plus 9 additional reports (1-6)  
Woodpecker, Red-headed: Houston--(2)all month,J&BH (yard; Chambers Co.--(4)3,J&BH, (1)5,(5)12,FGB, (1)5,D, (2)28,JEy; Galveston--(1)13,F  
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: High I.--(1)5,FGB, (1)5,D, (1)12,E; Galveston--(1)12, R&AD  
Woodpecker, Downy: Bellaire--(1 pair with young)nest excavation started April 22, 2 young, male and female, left nest June 8, P&MJ (yard); 7 additional reports (1-6)  
Kingbird, Eastern: 30 reports (1-100)  
Kingbird, Western: Galveston--(3)5,C, (1)5,D, (1)5,WR, (1)20,R&AD; W.Harris Co.--(1)14,G, (1)23,JEy (see notes), (1)26,28,FGB  
Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 31 reports (1-100)  
Flycatcher, Great-crested: 19 reports (1-8)  
Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: Galveston--(1)5,C, (1)28,F; High I.--(1)5,FGB; Bryan Beach--(1)12,N, (1)15,L&MB; Bellaire--(1)19,24,PJ (yard); E.Harris Co.--(1)24,MAU; Houston--(2)26,WR (Blvds.); Bolivar--(5)28,J  
Flycatcher, Acadian: Bear Creek Park--(3)6,MAU; Bryan Beach--(1)12,N, (1)15,L&MB; High I.--(2)12,E; Bolivar--(1)28,J  
Flycatcher, Willow (1-Traill's)5,C (no field notes); High I.--(7)5,12,R&AD (no field notes); Bryan Beach--(1-Traill's)12,N (no field notes)  
Flycatcher, Least: High I.--(2)12,R&AD (no field notes)  
Flycatcher, Empidonax sp.: 11 reports (1-30)  
Pewee, Eastern: 20 reports (1-40)  
Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Galveston--(1)5,C, (1)14, LG, PW; Lake Jackson--(1)5, MRO; High I.--(2)12,E; Houston--(1)23,WC (White Oak Bayou); Bolivar--(3)28,J  
Lark, Horned: 12 reports (1-16)  
Swallow, Tree: High I.--(3)1,B, (8)3,J&BH, (3)5,D; Galveston--(3)4,J&BH, (5)5,C, (1)5,12,20,R&AD, (4)12,N; Brazoria Co.--(1)5,4,D&RMe; W.Harris Co.--(2)13,FGB  
Swallow, Bank: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,(1)13,19,D&RMe; Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (2)5,C, (1)5,12,20,R&AD; High I.--(1)3,J&BH, (5)5,D, (2)12,E  
Swallow, Rough-winged: Brazoria Co.--(1)5,4,(1)20,D&RMe; Bolivar--(2)5,D; Galveston--(2)5,C, (2)5,20,R&AD, (4)15,A; High I.--(2)12,FGB  
Swallow, Barn: 27 reports (1-12,000)  
Swallow, Cliff: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe; Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (2)5,C, (1)5,J&GC; High I.--(3)5,D, (6)5,JEy, (1)12,E; LaMarque--(2)5,R&AD; W.Harris Co.--(1)13, FGB; Pearland--(1)24,25,30,B&EW (see notes)  
Martin, Purple: 18 reports (2-200)  
Jay, Blue: 20 reports (2-32)  
Crow, Common: 12 reports (2-15)  
Chickadee, Carolina: 10 reports (1-10) plus 1 nesting report  
Titmouse, Tufted: 8 reports (1-8) plus 1 nesting report

- Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Houston--(2 adults-1 fledgling)1-16, JMo (yard); Chambers Co.--(7)5, FGB
- Wren, Carolina: 8 reports (1-12)
- Mockingbird: 21 reports (1-60)
- Catbird, Gray: Bellaire--(2)1, (1)2-7, P&MJ (yard); Brazoria Co.--(31)4,3,6, L&MB, (1)4, 12, (8)5, (6)6, D&RMe, (5)12, N; High I.--(100)6, B, (8)3, J&BH, (6)5, FGB, (50)5, D, (40)5, JEy, (2)12, MAu, (40)12, E; Galveston--(3)3, MAu, (10)4, J&BH, (7)5, C, (36)5, 12, R&AD, (2)15, A; Algoa--(1)5, DW, Chambers Co.--(2)5, FGB; W.Harris Co.--(4)6, FGB
- Thrasher, Brown: High I.--(1)3, J&BH, (1)5, FGB, (1)5, D, (2)5, R&AD; Galveston--(1)4, J&BH; W.Harris Co.--(1)6, FGB; Houston--(1)12, WC (White Oak Bayou)
- THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: Nottingham Ranch Rd.--(1)12, E (prior reports)
- Robin, American: Houston--(1)all month, JW; Galveston--(2)5, C; High I.--(1)12, MAU
- Thrush, Wood: Houston--(1)all month, J&BH (yard); Bellaire--(1)1, 28, P&MJ (yard); High I.--(3)1, B, (1)3, J&BH, (2)5, D, (2)5, JEy; Galveston--(3)5, C, (5)13, JHa; Brazoria Co.--(1)6, D&RMe; Bolivar--(1)28, J
- Thrush, Swainson's: Bellaire--(2)1-3, 13-15, (1)4-6, P&MJ (yard); High I.--(20)1, B, (1)3, J&BH, (10)5, (2)12, FGB, (10)5, D, (30)5, 12, 20, R&AD, (10)5, JEy, (1)12, MAU, (5)12, E; Galveston--(2)4, J&BH, (40)5, C, (5)13, JHa, (4)15, A, (1)20, R&AD, (1)28, J&GC; Brazoria Co.--(1)5, (2)6, D&RMe; Chambers Co.--(3)5, FGB; W.Harris Co.--(4)6, FGB, (1)20, BH; Houston--(1)17, 22, 24, (2)19, 20, 31, WC (White Oak Bayou); E.Harris Co.--(1)24, MAU; Bolivar--(2)28, J
- Thrush, Gray-cheeked: Brazoria Co.--(1)3, 5, L&MB, (1)12, N; High I.--(3)5, D, (2)5, R&AD, (2)5, JEy, (2)12, E; Galveston--(1)28, J&GC
- Veery: Bellaire--(1)1-3, P&MJ (yard); Brazoria Co.--(2)1, (1)5, 13, L&MB, (1)4, (2)6, D&RMe; High I.--(4)1, B, (4)5, D, (2)5, JEy, (1)12, MAU, (3)12, E; Houston--(1)4, 10, WC (White Oak Bayou); Galveston--(3)5, C, (1)15, A
- Bluebird, Eastern: Lake Jackson--(2)18, MRo, (1)26, L&MB
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: High I.--(1)5, D; Dow Nature Trail--(1)12, N; W.Harris Co.--(1)14, G
- Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: W.Harris Co.--(1)6, FGB
- Waxwing, Cedar: Bellaire--(9)1, (20)3, (8)6, P&MJ (yard); Houston--(7)4, WC (White Oak Bayou); Galveston--(10)12, E, (15)20, R&AD
- Shrike, Loggerhead: 21 reports (1-50) plus 1 nesting report
- Starling: 13 reports (4-200)
- Vireo, White-eyed: 15 reports (1-15)
- Vireo, Yellow-throated: High I.--(1)1, B, (2)5, FGB, (1)12, E; Chambers Co.--(1)3, J&BH, (1 adult & 2 young)28, JEy, GH
- Vireo, Solitary: High I.--(1)5, D, (1)5, R&AD
- Vireo, Red-eyed: High I.--(1)1, B, (10)5, FGB, (20)5, D, (1)12, MAU, (10)12, E, (1)12, N; Chambers Co.--(1)13, J&BH; Galveston--(1)4, J&BH, (30)5, C, (6)5, 12, R&AD, (3)13, JHa, (9)15, A; Brazoria Co.--(1)6, L&MB; Houston--(1)7, MAU; Bellaire--(1)14, 22, P&MJ (yard); W.Harris Co.--(1)14, G, (1)26, FGB; Algoa--(3)15, DW; Bolivar--(30)28, J
- Vireo, Philadelphia: Galveston--(1)5, C, (22)12, 20, R&AD, (2)15, A; High I.--(1)5, (5)12, FGB, (2)5, D, (2)5, JEy, (3)12, MAU, (15)12, E; Lake Jackson--(1)12, MRo; W.Harris Co.--(1)20, BH; Bolivar--(1)28, J
- Vireo, Warbling: High I.--(2)1, B (no field notes); Galveston--(1)5, D (see notes); W.Harris Co.--(2)6, FGB (no field notes)
- Warbler, Black-and-white: 24 reports (1-60)
- Warbler, Prothonotary: Ft. Bend Co.--(2)24, MA; Lake Jackson--(1)26, L&MB
- Warbler, Swainson's: Bear Creek Park--(1)6, MAU, (5)26, MA, Norma Oates; E.Harris Co.--(2)24, MAU
- Warbler, Worm-eating: High I.--(3)5, D; Lake Jackson--(1)12, MRo
- Warbler, Golden-winged: Houston--(1)4, WC (White Oak Bayou); Galveston--(1)5, C, (1)5, D; W.Harris Co.--(1)6, FGB
- Warbler, Blue-winged: Houston--(1)1, 4, WC (White Oak Bayou); Galveston--(2)5, C, (1)5, D; High I.--(2)5, FGB, (2)5, D, (1)5, JEy
- Warbler, Tennessee: Bellaire--(1)6, P&MJ (yard); High I.--(3)1, B, (50)5, D, (40)5, 12, R&AD, (7)5, JEy, (3)12, E; Brazoria Co.--(3)5, D&RMe; Galveston--(15)5, C, (1)14, LG, PW; Houston--(10)5, (2)19, 22, WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)28, Ere (yard); W.Harris Co.--(1)6, FGB, (2)14, G; E. Harris Co.--(3)24, MAU
- Warbler, Nashville: Brazoria Co.--(1)3, L&MB; W.Harris Co.--(2)6, FGB; Galveston--(1)15, MA; High I.--(6)12, R&AD, (2)12, N
- Warbler, Northern Parula: Lake Jackson--(1)4, MRo, (5)26, L&MB; High I.--(1)12, MAU; E.Harris Co.--(5)24, MAU; Chambers Co.--(2)28, JEy, GH
- Warbler, Yellow: Brazoria Co.--(1)1, 2, 5, L&MB, (1)2, D&RMe; High I.--(2)1, B, (2)3, J&BH, (1)5, FGB, (20)5, D, (10)5, JEy, (1)12, MAU, (3)12, E; Galveston--(125)5, C, (2)5, R&AD, (12)15, A, (1)28, J&GC; Houston--(1)5, PM (yard); W.Harris Co.--(4)6, FGB
- Warbler, Magnolia: Brazoria Co.--(1)1, 2, L&MB, (1)6, D&RMe; High I.--(2)1, B, (1)3, J&BH, (20)5, (15)12, FGB, (40)5, D, (1)5, R&AD, (3)12, MAU, (35)12, E, (2)12, N; Galveston--(2)4, J&BH, (20)5, C, (60)5, 12, R&AD, (1)14, LG, PW, (6)15, A; Chambers Co.--(8)5, FGB; W.Harris Co.--(17)6, R&GC, (3)20, BH; Houston--(2)9, 14, (1)15, JMo (yard), (1)20, 23, 31, WC (White Oak Bayou), (3)26, Ere (yard), (1)26, WR (Blvds.); Bellaire--(1)14, P&MJ (yard); E.Harris Co.--(3)24, MAU

- Warbler, Cape May: Galveston--(1)3,MAU; High I.--(1)5,FGB, (3)5,D, (1)5,JEy
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue: High I.--(1)12,N (no field notes); Galveston--(1)13, JHa (see notes), (1 female)15,A (see notes)
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped: High I.--(1)5,D
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: Brazoria Co.--(1)15,L&MB; High I.--(1)1,B, (4)3,J&BH, (10)5,FGB, (20)5,D, (7)5,12,R&AD, (30)5,JEy, (1)12,MAU, (15)12,E; Galveston--(5)5, C; W.Harris Co.--(4)6,FGB, (2)20,BH; Houston--(1)10,12,19,22,31,WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)26,ERE (yard); Bolivar--(3)28,J
- Warbler, Cerulean: Galveston--(1)5,R&AD, (1)6,MAU; High I.--(2)5,FGB
- Warbler, Blackburnian: Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (1)5,C; Brazoria Co.--(2)5,LB, (1)12, N; High I.--(2)5,(1)12,FGB, (25)5,D, (48)5,12,R&AD, (20)5,JEy, (5)12,E; Houston--(1)9,JMo (yard, (1)12,BH (Blvds.), (1)20,22,WC (White Oak Bayou), (2)25,GH (yard), (1)26,ERE (yard), (1)26,WR (Blvds.); W.Harris Co.--(6)14,G, (2)20,BH; E.Harris Co.--(3)24,MAU; Bolivar--(1)28,JBo,FR, (1)28,J; Chambers Co.--(1)28,JEy,GH
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: Brazoria Co.--(1)6,D&RMe
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (3)5,C, (1)28,J&GC; Chambers Co.--(1)5,FGB; High I.--(8)5,FGB, (15)5,D, (20)5,12,R&AD, (4)5,JEy, (1)12,MAU, (3)12,E; Brazoria Co.--(2)6,L&MB, (1)6,D&RMe, (1)12,N; W.Harris Co.--(1)6,8,FGB, (1)14,G, (1)20,J&BH; Houston--(1)19,20,22,WC (White Oak Bayou), (1)26,ERE (yard), (1)26,WR (Blvds.); Bolivar--(1)28,J
- Warbler, Bay-breasted: High I.--(5)6,B, (7)3,J&BH, (15)5,12,FGB, (80)5,D, (50)5,12, R&AD, (60)5,JEy, (12)12,MAU, (50)12,E, (5)12,N; Brazoria Co.--(1)2,(5)6,L&MB, (2)5, (3)6,(1)12,13,D&RMe; Galveston--(4)4,J&BH, (10)5,C, (10)13,(1)14,JHa, (1)14,LG,PW; Chambers Co.--(8)5,FGB; Algoa--(2)14,DW; W.Harris Co.--(4)14,G; Houston--(1)19,(2)23,WC (White Oak Bayou), (2)25,GH (yard)
- Blackpoll: Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (1)4,J&BH, (3)12,N, (1)15,A; High I.--(1)12,MAU
- Warbler, Pine: Chambers Co.--(2)4,J&BH, (1)5,FGB, (1)28,JEy,GH; Bolivar--(2)28,J
- Warbler, Palm: Galveston--(1)15,A
- Ovenbird: High I.--(3)1,B, (1)5,FGB, (20)5,D, (12)5,JEy; Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (2)5,C, (10)5,D, (5)5,R&AD; Bellaire--(1)5,P&MJ (yard); Brazoria Co.--(1)5,L&MB, (1)6,RMe
- Waterthrush, Northern: High I.--(1)1,B, (2)5,FGB, (7)5,D, (17)5,12,R&AD, (2)5,JEy, (1)12,MAU, (1)12,E; Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (2)4,J&BH, (2)5,C; Brazoria Co.--(1)5, D&RMe, (4)6,J&MBo
- Waterthrush, Louisiana: High I.--(1)1,B (no field notes)
- Warbler, Kentucky: High I.--(1)3,J&BH, (1)5,FGB, (1)5,D, (1)5,JEy; Lake Jackson--(1)4,MRO; Galveston--(1)13,JHa
- Warbler, Mourning: High I.--(1)12,E; Houston--(1)26,28,ERE (yard); W.Galveston--(1)28,J&GC; Bellaire--(1)30,LG (yard)
- Yellowthroat, Common: 13 reports (1-10)
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: Bellaire--(1)6,P&MJ (yard); Galveston--(1)5,D, (1)12,N
- Warbler, Hooded: High I.--(1)1,B, (2)5,FGB, (5)5,D, (3)5,R&AD, (2)5,JEy; Galveston --(2)4,J&BH, (2)5,C; Bellaire--(1)30,LB (yard)
- Warbler, Wilson's: Galveston--(4)5,R&AD; W.Harris Co.--(7)6,FGB; Brazoria Co.--(1)13,L&MB
- Warbler, Canada: High I.--(5)5,D, (4)5,JEy; Houston--(1)5,19,20,23,29,WC (White Oak Bayou), (2)26,ERE (yard); W.Harris Co.--(1)6,MAU, (6)6,FGB, (1)20,BH; W.Galveston--(2)13,JHa; Bellaire--(2)14,(1)31,P&MJ (yard); E.Harris Co.--(3)24,MAU; Bolivar--(1)28,J
- Redstart, American: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,2,5,L&MB, (1)5,12,(2)6,D&RMe; High I.--(5)1 B, (3)3,J&BH, (30)5,(15)12,FGB, (60)5,D, (4)12,MAU, (75)12,E, (8)12,N; Galveston--(3)4,J&BH, (30)5,C; (23)5,12,20,R&AD, (3)13,JHa, (1)14,LG,PW, (1)15,A; W.Harris Co.--(15)6,FGB, (1)20,BH; Houston--(2)10,(1)14,JMo (yard), (1)22,WC (White Oak Bayou); E.Harris Co.--(2)24,MAU; Bolivar--(1)28,J
- Sparrow, House: 14 reports (10-200)
- Bobolink: Brazoria Co.--(2)5,C; W.Galveston--(25)5,(2)12,J&GC, (25)5,D, (9)5,WR, (7)12,E
- Meadowlark, Eastern: 23 reports (1-200)
- Blackbird, Yellow-headed: W.Galveston--(1)April 29,J&GC
- Blackbird, Red-winged: 19 reports (1-500)
- Oriole, Orchard: 11 reports (1-40)
- Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): Bellaire--(1)1,3,14,P&MJ (yard); High I.--(10)1,B, (4)3,J&BH, (4)5,FGB, (15)5,D, (40)5,12,R&AD, (2)5,JEy; Galveston--(4)4,J&BH, (50)5,C, (1)12,N, (1)14,LG,PW; Algoa--(1)5,DW; Chambers Co.--(3)5,FGB; W.Harris Co.--(1)20,BH
- Blackbird, Brewer's: W.Harris Co.--(1)4,G
- Grackle, Boat-tailed: High I.--(2)5,D, (6)12,E; Brazoria Co.--(1)12,N; Galveston--(2)15,G; Bolivar--(2)28,J
- Grackle, Great-tailed: 18 reports (1-200)
- Grackle, Common: 15 reports (1-100) plus 1 nesting report
- Cowbird, Brown-headed: 17 reports (1-40)
- COWBIRD, BRONZED: W.Galveston--(1)5,12,14,JMo,m.obs. (see notes)
- Tanager, Western: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,D&RMe; W.Galveston--(1)12,J&NS

Tanager, Scarlet: High I.--(2)1,B, (3)3,J&BH, (2)5,FGB, (15)5,D, (8)5,R&AD, (6)5, JEy, (5)12,E, (1)12,N; Galveston--(1)3,MAU, (1)4,J&BH, (3)5,C, (2)13,JHa; Brazoria Co.--(1)5,(2)6,L&MB, (1)5,6,D&RMe, (1)12,MRO; Houston--(1)10,JMo (yard), (1)26,WR (Blvds.)

Tanager, Summer: Bellaire--(1)1,5,6,P&MJ (yard); High I.--(5)1,B, (8)5,FGB, (25)5,D, (3)5,R&AD, (8)5,JEy, (1)12,E; Chambers Co.--(1)3,J&BH, (1)28,GH; Brazoria Co.--(2)4,(1)6,13,D&RMe, (1)12,N; Galveston--(6)5,C; W.Harris Co.--(1)14,G

Cardinal: Bellaire--(1 pair nesting second time this year)all month, DM (yard); 25 additional reports (1-40)plus 1 additional nesting report

Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: Bellaire--(8)1,2,(4)3,(8)5,(1)6,(2)7,P&MJ (yard); High I.--(10)1,B, (10)3,J&BH, (6)5,FGB, (25)5,D, (30)5,12,R&AD, (20)5,JEy, (15)12,E; Galveston--(1)4,J&BH, (60)5,C, (20)13,JHa, (4)15,A; Brazoria Co.--(3)5,L&MB, (1)13,D&RMe; W.Harris Co.--(1)6,FGB; Houston--(1)9,JMo (yard), (1)12,WC (White Oak Bayou)

Grosbeak, Blue: Brazoria Co.--(3)6,L&MB, (1)4,(2)13,D&RMe, (2)12,N; High I.--(1)3, J&BH, (2)5,FGB, (8)5,D; Galveston--(2)4,J&BH, (75)5,C, (5)5,R&AD, (6)12,E; W.Harris Co.--(4)6,FGB

Bunting, Indigo: 24 reports (1-500)

Bunting, Painted: 15 reports (1-5)

Dickcissel: 23 reports (1-200)

Goldfinch, American: Bellaire--(1)1,(3)4,(5)6,P&MJ (yard)

Sparrow, Savannah: Brazoria Co.--(1)4,13,D&RMe; Bolivar--(5)5,12,R&AD; Chambers Co.--(1)5,D; Galveston--(5)5,C

Sparrow, Grasshopper: Brazoria Co.--(1-singing)20,D&RMe (see notes)

Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: High I.--(2)12,E

Sparrow, Seaside: High I.--(2)1,B, (2)3,J&BH, (5)12,FGB, (10)12,E; Brazoria Co.--(4)6,L&MB; Bolivar--(5)28,J

Sparrow, Lark: Galveston--(1)15,A

Sparrow, Chipping: Galveston--(4)12,N

Sparrow, White-crowned: High I.--(1)5,FGB

Sparrow, Lincoln's: Brazoria Co.--(2)15,R

SPARROW, SONG: Galveston--(3)12,N (no field notes)

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS, May 1979

MA--Margaret Anderson; MAU--Dr. Michael J. Austin; L&MB--Larry & Martha Ballard; FGB--Florence G. Bennett; J&MBo--Janice & Mary Bourgeois; J&GC--Jane & George Clayton; WC--Wesley Cureton; DeK--Debbie DeKeyser; R&AD--Ruth, Archer & Sandy Dillard; TE--Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.; JEy--John Eyre; LG--Linda Graetz; JHa--party of John & Jane Hamilton and Allen Mueller; J&BH--Jean & Bill Harwell; GH--George Howe; P&MJ--T. Paul & Margaret Jones; DM--David Marrack; D&RMe--Don & Ruthie Melton; PM--Peggy Milstead; JMo--Jim Morgan; FR--Frances Rauer; ERe--Ellen Red; WR--Will Risser; MRO--Matti Robinson; J&NS--Jerry & Nancy Strickling; PW--Pat Warner; JW--Josephine Wilkin; B&EW--Bob & Edith Willman; DW--Diane Wise; A--party of MA,PJ; B--party of Ann Booth J&BH; C--party of Fred Collins, TE; D--party of David Dauphin, JMo; E--party of TE, JEy,Jmo; F--party of J&GC, J&NS; G--party of Tony Gallucci & Ajay Revels; H--party of Ann & Ray Booth, J&BH; J--party of Janet, Cory and Ted Eubanks, Jr.; K--party of Holly Hobart, Sara Kerr, Mark Witmer; N--party of L&MB, Joyce Norman; R--party of L&MB, Dorothy Ross; S--party of Holly Hobart, Doug Slack, Bruce Thompson

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES, May, 1979

Least Bittern: This was a small-sized bittern, very colorful in flight; wings orange, back and crown black. We found one Least Bittern dead on road, and could compare the color difference with the one seen in flight; color pattern was similar, but wing-patch on Cory was decidedly chestnut-red as compared to buff patch of the dead one. We saw one other Least Bittern in flight with bright wing patch, but viewing time was short as it took cover in brush at marsh edge. ....Janice Bourgeois

Common Goldeneye: Seen at Bolivar, across Hwy 87 from old Lighthouse; time of day--noon; light conditions--dark and rainy; water calm close to shore. Seen for one minute or less at 100 yards with binocs and zoom spotting scope. Observers very familiar with this species, have seen 10's of thousands in Minnesota. Barrow's Goldeneye eliminated (not even thought of really) by shape of white patch behind bill. Diving duck seen close to shore. When put binoculars on it could see it was obvious Goldeneye shape and the white patch on the head between the eye and bill was clearly visible. Back was steel grey (like female) and although there were white markings showing on the wing coverts they did not have the clear pattern of an adult male. Bird was probably an immature male. ....Janet C. Green

Heavy sea duck diving beneath the surface of the water. White round spot before eye. Blackish head, dark back, white breast and sides, short dark bill. Observed at range of about 50' in light overcast; observed by all members of the party with binoculars. ....Larry Ballard

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK: Sitting on patio urgently finishing a repair before the rain came. Looked up at the trees bending in gusts of wind, saw long winged long tailed big buteo come round tree over garage and between pecan tree and house at about 20', flying slowly, good view of form underside only. Easily saw dark feathers of thighs and up chest going paler. Dark "wrists" and darker inner of front-1/2 of wings. White tail with broad very dark band near tip. Wrong shape and size for Broadwing. Dark on lower chest/abdomen and thighs was against Swainson's Hawk. I believe bird perched in big live oak just to south of house. The wind and rain were the beginnings of one substantial thunderstorm. ...David Marrack

Ferruginous Hawk: Near Warren Lake observed a buteo I believe to be a dark phase Ferruginous Hawk. Dark head and body, white flight feathers with dark wing linings. Upper surface of wings dark. Tail light from underneath and top of tail was white at basal half and rest of tail to end was rufous. Bird hovered on three occasions and a couple times went into fast dive. Seen with binocs.

...Florence G. Bennett

Peregrine Falcon: Bird wheeling over south side of Smith's Woods, low then gaining altitude. "Sideburns" definite with binocs. Size of crow or pigeon. Falcon silhouette. Bird well-known to us, no doubts. Good view of it. ...Archer Dillard

American Kestrel: Small Hawk with two very distinctive whiskers on side of face. Observed sitting on telephone line along side of road. ...Ruthie Melton

Greater Prairie Chicken: Wayne Shifflett, manager of Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, recently told the SPOONBILL Editor that the Spaceland Air Park Prairie Chickens, no longer considered a viable flock, will be trapped and moved. We will miss seeing them boom on the runways, but it is good that the dwindling flock will get a new lease on life in a more protected area. The developers of the property are financing the removal of the birds, Wayne reports.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK: Bird was about the size of Bobwhite except chunkier. Flew up about 10' in front of me and flew off to my right at about 5'. I plainly saw solid rusty belly, long bill and white mark on face. Had short neck and tail, wide rounded wings that made a metallic sound as he flew. He flew zigzag away and lit in the undergrowth at the edge of the woods. Observed in wet open woods near Halls Bayou north of Hwy 2004 on private land in good light. ....Ruthie Melton

Buff-breasted Sandpiper: Among 70 Buff-breasted Sandpipers feeding in one dry field of short rice, observed one bird standing in an upright position with wings held high over its head. Wings were turned slightly inward. Three birds were facing him at a distance of 1 1/2 feet from him; they appeared to be mesmerized by him. As he turned a few steps in one direction (with wings held high), the three birds would also move to remain directly in front of him. The only place I could find which mentioned this behavior was Pough's Water Birds, which says it is a courtship posture. ....Florence G. Bennett

Screech Owl: Discovered when I investigated repeated attacks accompanied with loud squawks by mockingbird. Adult is in crotch of small tallow tree, and chick is in flicker house about 15' away. Both tallow tree and house are on edge of wooded area of pines and tallows. Adult was seen feeding what appeared to be a dragonfly to chick during the day. Mockingbird, sometimes aided by a shrike, attacks adult each evening about 6:30; also swoops at chick if it is peeking out.

....Diane Wise

WHIP-POOR-WILL: Bird looked to be a female, brown colored, dark throat (blackish looking), buffy tail patches, rounded wings, not as large as Chuck-will's-widow, about the size of a nighthawk. Flushed in the woods three times by the party.

....Larry Ballard

Lesser Nighthawk: Buffier looking than two nearby Common Nighthawks, smaller, with the white stripe much nearer the tip of the wing. It did not call although the Common Nighthawks were calling. Range about 25 to 50 yards, initially seen around 4:30 p.m. and observed for approximately 10 minutes with binocs in good light.

....Larry Ballard

Small buffy bird perched in grass. When flushed white in wing very near end of wings. ....Margaret Anderson

Western Kingbird: Westhollow Res. Center, Westheimer & Hwy 6, area near where they have bred in previous years. One bird seen on only one occasion. ....John Eyre

Cliff Swallow: Observed for 2 minutes at 30' with binocs, 7 a.m., good light. Sitting on wire with our martins in yard. Neck was rusty-red, very distinct white area above bill, smaller than martin, larger than sparrow. Saw again next day, and observed rusty color on rump this time. Saw again on 30th, seems to like our martins. ....Bob & Edith Willman

Warbling Vireo: Relatively heavy bill; gray upperparts and wings; whitish underparts; light colored lores and whitish but faint superciliary stripe. Seen at 15-20 ft. for 30 seconds in excellent light with binocs. ....Jim Morgan

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Small gray backed warbler sitting on weeds at edge of tamarisk grove. White line over eye, when it flew to cover, white patch in wing could be seen; grayish yellow underparts. Disappeared into dense tamarisk, and couldn't be seen, but movement was noted. Bright sunny day. ....Paul Jones

Black sides, face and throat, dark above; seen at about 15' for 45 seconds in good light with binocs. ....Jane Hamilton

BRONZED COWBIRD: One male; overall color was black; noticeable ruff on nape of neck. Bright red eye clearly seen. Slightly larger than Brown-headed cowbird. Seen in area where previously seen by others in April. Seen at 60' with binocs in excellent light .....Jim Morgan

First spotted this bird sitting on a wire next to the road. Bird was all black in appearance (very glossy), with a short tail and a distinct red eye. Also had thick grey bill, like a brown-headed cowbird's only perhaps slightly larger. We noticed the back of the neck to appear unusually thick. Saw bird in good light for about 1/2 minute. ....Linda Graetz

Grasshopper Sparrow: Brown striped backed sparrow, oversized head and neck. Threw head back when singing his insect-like buzz preceded by a couple of short notes. Unstreaked underparts - pale buffy breast, yellow mark between eye and bill seen very clearly with scope. Very light median stripe, observed by both observers 10-15 minutes in excellent light. ....Ruthie Melton

#### SPECIAL REPORTS

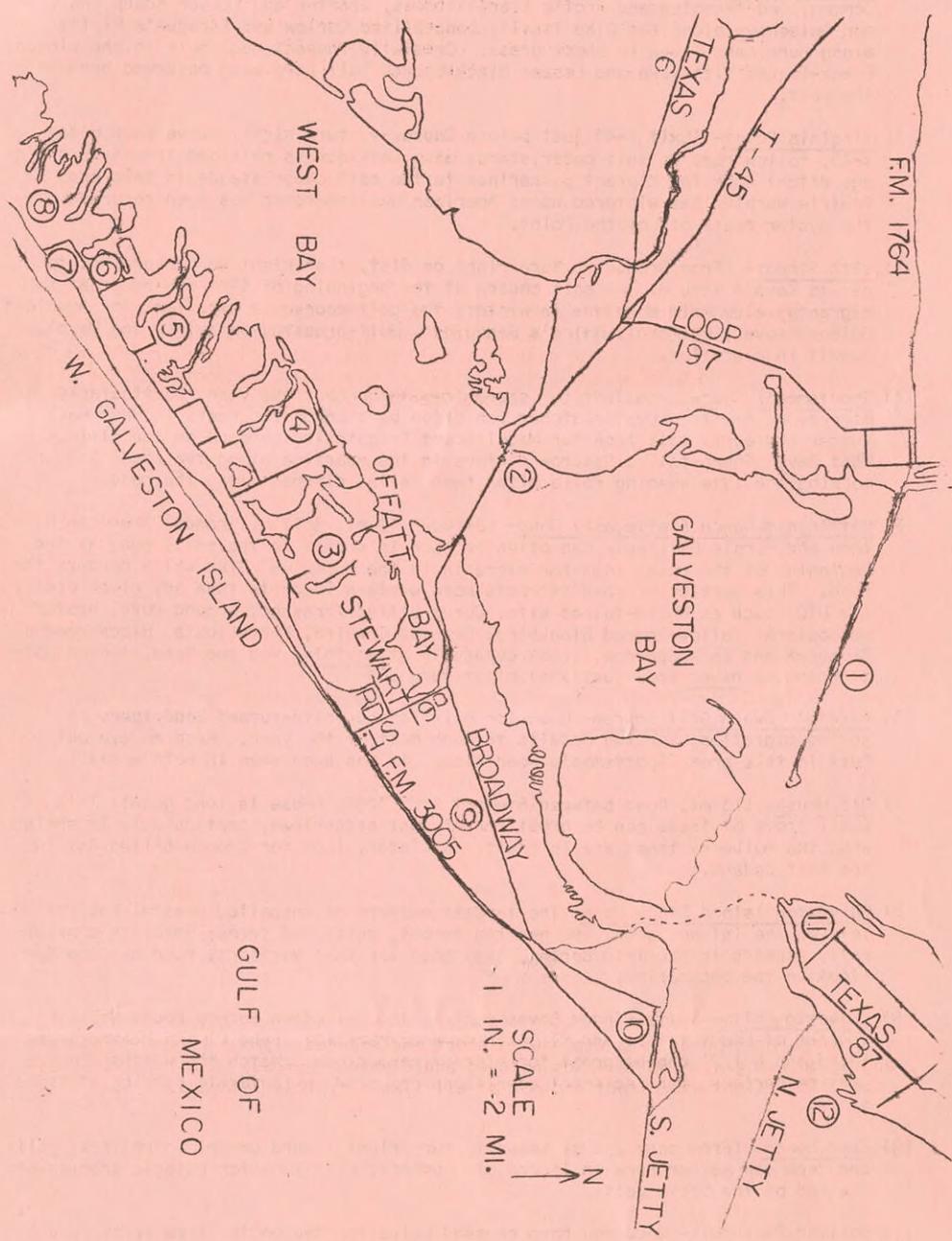
STREAKED FLYCATCHER: W. Galveston--(1)13,J&GC,J&NS.  
On Sunday 13 May 1979 at about 5:30 p.m. Dr. George and Jane Clayton and Nancy and I were driving on Stewart Road on W. Galveston Island. Nancy spotted an "odd" bird sitting on the top wire of the fence paralleling the north side of the road. This was about 400 yards west of the San Luis Pass bridge near Rooster Collins Fishing Camp. We four studied the bird in perfect light for 8-10 minutes with our binocs and a B&L 60mm zoom scope from a distance of about 100 feet. The bird seemed lethargic (tired) and like most migrants unwary. After 8-10 minutes it flew to the power line above the fence and two spans to the east. We observed it for 3-4 minutes more. It then flew to the ground about 75 feet inside the fence. We lost the bird in a large flock of Starlings and the western sun. We did not find the bird again after much searching.

The four of us describe the bird as follows: size about 8-9" as compared to a Red-winged Blackbird that was perched some 3' from it on the fence. The top of the head was dusky and streaked; the forehead, supercilliaris and malar were yellowish with a sooty mask thru the eye. The mandible was large, dark and flycatcher in shape. The upper parts had dark streaks with a yellowish-buff background. The underparts had a whitish throat with whiskers, the upper chest had a grayish background and the remainder of the underparts were narrowly dark streaked on a pale yellowish background. The wings were short and rounded without bars and had rufous edging on remiges. The tail was notched and cinnamon-rufous. The legs were fuscous. The flight was direct and not at all like a typical *Tyrannus*.

We did not find the bird again on the 13th and also searched fruitlessly on the morning of the 14th of May. We had noticed that May 13 and 14 were "flycatcher" days. We had seen, earlier, large flocks of Eastern Kingbirds on the 13th (14 in our glasses at one time) plus several (3) Western Kingbirds. We counted 25 Eastern Kingbirds, one Western Kingbird and one Scissor-tail within 1/4 mile of the original sighting.

We researched our own libraries and narrowed the identification down to two species of birds. We then called the LSU Museum and talked with Dr. John P. O'Neill. We read to him our field notes of description over the phone. He asked some detailed questions and then said, "From what you say it is one of two birds--either a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*, or Streaked Flycatcher, *M. maculatus*." (This quote in no way implicates Dr. O'Neill in a sight observation). These had been our conclusions also. After examining bird skins we four feel we have seen a Streaked Flycatcher. We use as a major basis the plumage description of Emmet R. Blake in his Birds of Mexico e.g. "yellowish forehead, supercilliaris and malar; chin area whitish; the breast, flanks and crissum light yellow with dusky streaks, the upper parts dark streaks on a yellowish background...

GOOD BIRDING "SPOTS" IN THE GALVESTON AREA



Map prepared by Ron Braun, key by Ted Eubanks, Jr. for THE SPOONBILL, June, 1979  
 Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club, Houston, Texas

## KEY TO MAP OF GALVESTON AREA

- 1) Texas City Dike- This is an excellent area for waterfowl in the winter; look for Common, Red-throated and Arctic (rare!) Loons, Greater and Lesser Scaup and Common Goldeneye along the Dike itself; Long-billed Curlew and Sprague's Pipits along hurricane levee in short grass. Carefully inspect each gull in the winter; Black-legged Kittiwake and Lesser Black-backed Gull have been observed here in the past.
- 2) Virginia Point- (Exit I-45 just before Causeway, turn right, curve back under I-45, follow road to salt cedar stand; also walk across railroad tracks to drainage ditch) Look for migrant passerines in the salt cedar stands in this area; Prairie Warbler has wintered here; American Oystercatcher has been recorded on the oyster reefs off of the Point.
- 3) 99th Street- (From Broadway, turn right on 61st, then right on Stewart Rd. to get to Keys 3 thru 8) The salt cedars at the beginning of 99th can be great for migrants, also Palm Warblers in winter; the golf course is excellent for American Golden Plover, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Marbled Godwit in migration.
- 4) Sportsman's Road- Excellent for shorebirds throughout the year, particularly in migration; American Oystercatcher can often be seen on the reefs in West Bay; in summer and early fall look for Magnificent Frigatebird perched on the pilings in West Bay; Sharp-tailed Sparrow winters in the spartina along the road; in early morning and late evening rails often feed in the ditches along the road.
- 5) Nottingham Ranch (Settegast) Road- (Between 10 mi. & 11 mi. roads) American Bittern and Purple Gallinule can often be seen in season in the small pond at the beginning of the road; look for migrants in the Hercules' Club which borders the road. This particular road attracts more western vagrants than any given area in the UTC, such as White-tailed Kite, Curve-billed Thrasher, Ground Dove, Western Meadowlark, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Bronzed Cowbird, Pyrrhuloxia, Black-headed Grosbeak and Lark Sparrow. Look carefully at anything you see here, for on Nottingham you never know just what might turn up!
- 6) Pirate's Beach Golf Course- Good for Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers in spring migration; Marbled Godwits through most of the year. Keep an eye out for Ruff in this area (Sportsman's Road also, it has been seen in both areas.)
- 7) Old House- (13 mi. Road between Stewart & FM 3005, house is long gone!) This small grove of trees can be great for migrant passerines, particularly in spring when the mulberry trees are in fruit; in winter, look for Groove-billed Ani in the salt cedars.
- 8) Galveston Island State Park- The largest example of unspoiled coastal habitat left on the Island; great for nesting herons, gulls and terns; Bobolink consistently appears in the late spring, also good for late warblers, such as Cape May (look in the baccharis).
- 9) Galveston City- White-winged Doves nest at the Galveston County Court House (corner of Moody (21st) and H); both Kempner Park (27th and O) and Menard House (33rd and N 1/2) can be great for migrant passerines. Watch the weather in migration periods, for inclement conditions can produce fantastic birding at these spots.
- 10) East Beach- (From east end of Seawall, turn right toward beach) Shorebirds, gulls and tern can gather here in incredible numbers; also look for pelagic species off the end of the South Jetty.
- 11) Bolivar Peninsula- Once you have crossed Galveston Bay on the free ferry, you are on Bolivar Peninsula. If you continue down Hwy 87, you will eventually reach High Island (look for upcoming map).
- 12) Bolivar Flats- The premier shorebirding spot in Texas is Bolivar Flats, located at the tip of Bolivar Peninsula. To reach this area turn right on the Bolivar Dump road which is approximately 4 miles from the ferry at the intersection of Hwy 87 and FM 2612; proceed to beach, turn right. All but two of the shorebird species presently listed on the main body of the UTC Checklist have been recorded here (a total of 37 species!). This area is also good for Horned Lark all year, and Sharp-tailed Sparrow in the winter (look in the spartina). Glaucous Gull has been seen several years near the dump.

...and rufous in the wings and tail." Whereas the Sulphur-bellied has a "whitish forehead, Supercillaries and malar area; the crown, back and scapulars are pale olive and buff with dusky streaks." The wings of the Sulphur-bellied are dusky and edged with yellow (not rufous). The streaking on the underpart of the Sulphur bellied are broader and heavier than the "narrow streaks" of the Streaked. Dr. Blake does point out that the lower mandible of the Streaked is paler than that of the Sulphur-bellied. We did not observe this in the field. The flight of the bird as previously mentioned was not, to us, like a flycatcher. Dr. Clayton and Jane researched this and they quote from "Birds of Costa Rica, Distribution and Ecology" by Paul Slud: "Usually the Streaked Flycatcher is low....under 30 feet... It looks about slowly and patiently like a Becard...It sallies little but from time to time makes short fluttery dashes not much more than leaps, somewhat awkwardly in the heavy-bodied manner of the ant-shrike." We had noticed that the bird's flight was not as a typical flycatcher. To quote Slud further: "The Streaked differs from the Sulphur-bellied (in action) which is so to speak a free living, exciteable, impulsive bird."

In conclusion there are four persons who are reasonably certain they have seen a Streaked Flycatcher on Galveston Island on 13 May 1979. ....Jerry Strickling

Additional comments from the CH Editor: On May 15, MA&PJ went to this location and observed a "flycatcher shaped" bird sitting on the wires between two poles. Ma noted that it was a rufous colored bird and had a short tail. With a very short look at it through a spotting scope she could see some streaking in the plumage. PJ did not get a look with the scope, but noted with binocs that it was a rich, rufous brown, had a blunt head silhouette with a thick bill as compared to nearby cuckoos on same wire. The bird flew to the ground very quickly after we saw it, so the brief view was inconclusive; however both observers were convinced that it was a flycatcher type. Light was excellent and sun behind us. Bird did not reappear within an hour. On May 16 Norma Oates and Virginia Courtney observed what appeared to them to be a "flycatcher shaped" bird at the same location, but due to hazy atmospheric conditions could not note the details of the bird. No other reports have been made to the CH of this sighting.

LARK BUNTING: (1)6, J. Tom Glasscock.

Seen in flight at 10 to 50 yards, 10x40 binocs in good light. A solid black bird with large, flashy white wing patches; rapid, steady wingbeats. Have observed in South Dakota. ....J. Tom Glasscock

SPOONBILL EDITOR'S COMMENT: According to our UTC Checklist, many migrants and lingering winter residents leave this area sometime during May. In order to reflect this as clearly as possible, the CH Editor detailed the sighting reports more fully than usual. This made for a long CH, but an interesting one. If you will note, most reports were from the first and second weekends of the month, with the 12th shown as the last date for many species. There was a smattering from the third weekend, and a little flurry of very late sightings on the fourth weekend. While this would lead one to believe that many species completely left this area by the middle of the month, the Checklist indicates some linger all month in decreasing frequency and occurrence. Did many of them really leave earlier than usual, or did many of you put away your binocs thinking migration was over by the middle of the month? An interesting point to ponder!

#### IMPORTANT! RARE BIRD ALERT LISTING

If you wish your name to be placed on, or continue to be placed on, the Rare Bird Alert, it is important that you return this form to:

David Dauphin  
7315 Cottonwood Dr.  
Baytown, Texas 77521

Please place my name on the Rare Bird Alert.  
(Please print)

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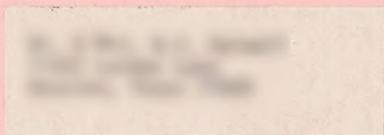
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Send material for THE SPOONBILL by 25th of month to: Margaret Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to: T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
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