



# THE SPOONBILL

THE SANDPIPER

by Celia Thaxter

VOLUME X No. 17

September 1961

Across the narrow beach we flit,  
 One little sandpiper and I;  
 And fast I gather, bit by bit,  
 The scattered driftwood bleached and dry.  
 The wild waves reach their hands for it  
 The wild wind raves, the tide runs high,  
 As up and down the beach we flit, -  
 One little sandpiper and I.

Above our heads the sullen clouds  
 Scud black and swift across the sky;  
 Like silent ghosts in misty shrouds  
 Stand out the white lighthouses high.  
 Almost as far as eye can reach  
 I see the close reefed vessels fly,  
 As fast we flit along the beach, -  
 One little sandpiper and I.

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I watch him as he skims along,  
 Uttering his sweet and mournful cry;  
 He starts not at my fitful song,  
 Or flash of fluttering drapery;  
 He has no thought of any wrong;  
 He scans me with a fearless eye.  
 Staunch friends are we, well tried and strong,  
 The little sandpiper and I.

Comrad, where wilt thou be to-night  
 When the loosed storm breaks furiously?  
 My driftwood fire will burn so bright!  
 To what warm shelter canst thou fly?  
 I do not fear for thee, though wroth  
 The tempest rushes through the sky;  
 For are we not God's children both,  
 Thou, little sandpiper, and I?

FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES: Non-members are invited on monthly field trips.

September 24 (Sunday) O. G. field trip aboard the good ship Captain Dock. EDT 8:00 a.m. Pier 18 in Galveston.

Notice: If you have made your reservation and plan to cancel, please call Jerry or Nancy Strickling at PA 3-5394 immediately. There is a waiting list of applicants who wish to fill in.

Other Notice: Please bring your own beverages for the day as there may not be any available on the boat. Also bring along plenty of bird food in the form of popcorn, bread scraps, cereal (dry), and loads of fish and meat scraps.

October 5 (Thursday) O. G. Regular Meeting at the Hospitality House on Kirby Drive. Charlie McIntire is M.C. for this program, "Vacation Roundup". Members with vacation pictures (35 mm.) please call Charlie at HO 2-4907 and let him know how many you will bring to add to the program.

October 15 (Sunday) O. G. field trip will meet at 8:00 a.m. on the LaPorte side of the Baytown Tunnel. Linda Snyder will lead us to the Anahuac-High Island area.

December 23 (Saturday) Houston Christmas Count, Harvey Patten - Chairman.

December 26, 27 and 28 (mid-week) T. O. S. Special field trip to El Salto near Antigua Morelos, Mexico.

December 31 (Sunday) Freeport Christmas Count.

Oct. 21:  
10:00 Saltillo - thru outlet  
1:00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi Folks!

The end of our first day of birding in Florida. Only 46 species including (12) Limpkin, (1) Bald Eagle, (2) Osprey, (75) White Ibis in a big V, (1) Mississippi Kite, (3) Oystercatchers in our binoculars at one time, Fish Crows, (2) Pileated Woodpeckers, etc., etc. More later.

Henry and Louise Hoffman

Mr. &amp; Mrs. Deshayes::

. . . Jerry Strickling's Christmas Count resume well done. (See July Spoonbill) - just one significant error, tho, viz., St. Marks Florida omitted (147), thus Houston No. 13 in U. S. (also, it's Bentsen, not Benson, State Park). . . .

Noel Pettingell

August 19, 1961, Lima

Dear Birdwatchers:

I just returned from three weeks in eastern Peru. We stayed at the beautiful base of the Summer Institute of Linguistics. The work that is being done by the linguists is fantastic and so very interesting. We were only able to visit a village of the Shipibo Indians. They are most interesting with designs on their faces, silver ornaments in the upper lip and other features including clothing and customs. An interesting custom is the deforming of a babies head by compressing it with a board. This "press" is put on soon after birth and slowly the head grows deformed.

So much for the Indians as the birds are even better. Dr. Whitaker took ill and so we remained on Lake Yarinacocha for over two weeks. Each day was spent busily trying to get in as much field work as possible and still try to put up four or five specimens. I soon made friends with most of the kids at the base and so I always had company on my expeditions. Our transportation was either by foot or by dugout canoe, which incidentally is as common a "toy" as a bicycle.

Each morning the Large-billed Terns, which are like laughing gulls, would begin the chorus. Our cabin was right on the lake front. Soon after the Tropical House Wrens, Lesser Kiskadee Flycatcher, Silver-beaked, Palm, and Blue-grey Tanagers, Orange-chinned Parakeets, Ferruginous Pygmy Owls, Various Trogons and other birds joined in. The most interesting birds were the Horned Screemers - turkey sized with huge spurs on each wing and a curved "horn" on the head. Their calls proved them to be relatively common, but I saw only two. The Indian name, Camunga, is a good onomatopoeic word for the call. The famous Hoatzin is not at Yarinacocha, but should be fairly common in other nearby lakes. Around the edge of the lake were Rufous Antpittas, Green, Ringed, Least, and Green and Rufous Kingfishers, Yellow-headed Vultures, Black-capped Mockingthrushes (having yellow-orange air sacs like a prairie chicken and used in a like manner - imagine a yellow-bellied, Black mockingbird with air sacs!), Orange-breasted Falcons, Carion Falcon (all black with bare orange head?!), Blue & white Swallows, and so many others I can't mention them. Each evening we were serenaded by Wood Rails going Koo rać, Koo rać, Koo rać, coo coo coo coo coo and Pauragues. I have not compiled a trip list, but imagine  
 rapid

it will include over 250 species.

One day on a trip out to some more undisturbed jungle, I saw many Toucans (Cuvier's and Aracari's of several kinds), Oropendulas, Yellow-rumped Caciques, Parrots and best of all - across the top of the jungle, highlighted by a sunset and the fog that was beginning to form in the late afternoon came four long-tailed birds, slowly flapping and squawking - at last I knew I was in the tropics as four Blue and gold Macaws went over. I later saw 2 Scarlet Macaws.

I came back, ready to go again, with some Amarakairi arrows, Shipibo pottery, sixty some-odd specimens and a desire to know more about eastern Peru.

John O'Neill

FREEPORT FIELD TRIP - 1961

Ella and Helen Wolfer

The Ornithology Group assembled at Lake Jackson, Sunday, August 28, for the monthly field trip. After a picnic lunch Mr. C. B. Gilman, the leader, led the group to Freeport for a bit of good birding.

Along the West Levee we observed a Marsh Hawk, Wood Peewee, and immature White Ibis. Then we recrossed the bridge, went down the East Levee where we saw a Spotted Sandpiper before we turned left and headed across the cow pasture. Comments were made about the rough road, but these were squelched by someone who exclaimed "What road? This is a cow trail."

Observations made on the shortcut were an adult and immature Yellow-crowned Night Heron, several Common Gallinules with young and a Pied-billed Grebe, apparently nesting. From the cow path we took the highway to Bryan Beach. Just before arriving on the beach, we saw Wood Ibis swinging and swaying as they were feeding in a shallow pool of water, while on the other side of the road Reddish Egret was dancing too and fro. A Clapper Rail appeared for a second, then disappeared behind a curtain of reeds, but a bit of friendly persuasion and vast determination for a good looksee (throwing sticks, no less) by Peggy Smith and the rail reappeared for an encore, scurried across the sand and back into the marsh. On the beach we saw Sanderlings dancing in and out with the tide.

After a good swim and picnic supper, we headed for home.

Birders included: Clayton and Eva Gilman, Ella and Helen Wolfer, Jack and Peggy Smith, Pat Ellis, Karen Norse, Clift and Thelma Garvin, Tony and Jean Hayday, Johanna Grabbe, Bill Harwell and Mrs. W. S. Harwell, Bob and Mabel Deshayes, Jimmy and Johnnie Murray, Alice Filkins, David Marrack, Pat Sullivan, Katrina Thompson, Mary Sears, and Mr. & Mrs. Fuat Koseoglu and Fuat's father Mr. Koseoglu (from Ankara, Turkey, visiting the U. S. for 2 months. Our visitor gave proof again that the O. G.ers can rise to any occasion. Tony and Jean Hayday and Clayton Gilman found their French to be the common language with Mr. Koseoglu.).

\* \* \* \* \*

CORRECTION: The entry in the Clearing House for the month of July under Yellow-bellied Sapsucker by Arlie McKay should have been listed after the Downy Woodpecker.

Arlie writes us that his father was in ill health this past month and that he stayed pretty close to home. It was impossible for him to consider birding around the time of the August cold front, but he believes that there must have been quite a number of extra early migrants. His comments in the clearing house after the Cattle Egret and some of the warblers would tend to confirm this observation.

Linda writes that "birding was very dull until August 1, then the shore birds really started coming in."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CLEARING HOUSE

Numbers in parenthesis indicate the number of birds seen; other numbers indicate the day of the month. All listings are for the month of August.

Pied-billed Grebe: (1) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.  
 White Pelican: (25-200) most days, Bayshore LS.  
 D.-Cr. Cormorant: (1) 29 Cove AKM.  
 Olivaceous Cormorant: (3) 21 Scarce for 2nd year, Bayshore, LS.  
 Anhinga: (1) 4, 27, Cove, AKM.  
 Mag. Frigate Bird: (4) 26, Galv., HP.  
 Green Heron: (1) 5, 21, 27, Galv., LS; (1) 14, 25, Cove, AKM; (1) 26, Sheldon, H.P.  
 Little Blue Heron: (3) 27, Galv., LS.  
 Cattle Egret: (8) 27, Galv., LS; (175) 18, 27, 31, Cove (earliest previous record 8-22) AKM; (60) 26, Galv., HP; (17) 20, Galv. MD, BD, EV.  
 Reddish Egret: (3) 27, Galv., (1) 31, Morgan's Point, LS; (2) 26, Galv. HP.  
 Common Egret: in quantity, 3 days, San Jacinto Bay, LS.  
 Snowy Egret: in quantity, 3 days, San Jacinto Bay, LS.  
 Yellow-C. Night Heron: (1) 18, (2) 27, Cove, AKM.  
 American Bittern: (1) 26, Baytown Tunnel, HP.

- Wood Ibis: (27) 4, (8) 5, (10) 7, (3) 8, 17, (25) 11, (12) 15, (4) 19, (1) 20, 23, Bayshore, LS; 10 days w/ (181) 14, Cove, AKM; (11) 22, Trinity R. Delta, HP.
- White-faced Ibis: (50) 4, (18) 5, (12) 8, (27) 27, Galv. LS, CS; 6 days w/ (35), Cove, AKM; (8) 22, Trinity River Delta, HP; (30) 20, Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- White Ibis: (25) 15, (18) 27, Galv. LS; 11 days w/ (30) 15, 17, Cove AKM; (30) 22, Trinity River Delta, HP; (25) 20, Galv., MD, BD, EV.
- Roseate Spoonbill: (2) 1, (1) 4, 5, 7, 23, (10) 10, (6) 19, Bayshore LS; 7 days w/ (13) 31 Cove AKM; (35) 22 Trinity River Delta HP; (15) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- Snow Goose: (3) 4 Cove AKM.
- Mallard: (1) 4 Cove AKM
- Mottled Duck: (1) 27 Galv. LS; 6 days w/ (20) 4 Cove AKM.
- Pintail: (3) 4, (1) 29 Cove AKM.
- Blue-winged Teal: (2) 27 Dupont Pond LS; (3) 4, 29, 30, (15) 27 Cove AKM.
- Wood Duck: (5) 27, (4) 29 Cove AKM; (4) 26 Sheldon HP.
- Lesser Scaup: (4) 27 Galv. LS; (3) 26 Galv. HP; (4) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- Turkey Vulture: 9 days, Cove AKM.
- Black Vulture: (3) 27 Hwy 146 near Shore Acres LS; 5 days, Cove AKM.
- Red-shouldered Hawk: (1) 7, 27 Bayshore LS; (2) 5, (1) 10, 14, 31 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Lake Hou. Pkwy., (1) 26 Seabrook HP.
- Broad-winged Hawk: (1) 27 Galv. LS, CS.
- Swainson's Hawk: (1) 17 Bayshore, LS; (2. changing food in flight) 3 Cove, (2) 22 Baytown AKM; (1) 23 So. Main St. HP.
- White-tailed Hawk: (1) 17 Pasadena LS.
- Caracara: (1) 20 Richmond HP.
- King Rail: (1) 14, 27 Cove AKM.
- Clapper Rail: (2) throughout summer Bayshore, (2) 27 Galv. LS; (1) 5 Cove AKM; (1) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- Purple Gallinule: (1) 26 Highland Res. HP.
- Common Gallinule: (2 + 5 chicks) 27 Galv. LS; (2 w/ 5 young) 26 Galv. HP; (2w/10 chicks) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- American Coot: (1) 2 through 9 Dupont Pond LS; (1) 26 Galv. HP.
- Semipalmated Plover: (1) 2, (5) 5, (1) 20, Bayshore LS; (5) 27 Galv., LS, CS.
- Piping Plover: (3) 27 Galv. LS, CS; (4) 26 Galv. HP.
- Wilson's Plover: (1) 27 Galv. LS, CS.
- Black-bellied Plover: (5) 27 Galv. LS, CS; (3) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- Ruddy Turnstone: (25) 27 Galv. LS, CS.
- Long-billed Gull: (23) 27 Galv. LS, CS; (20) 26 Galv. HP; (14) 20 Galv. MD, BD, EV.
- Whimbrel: (1) 26 Galv. HP.
- Upland Plover: (26) 3, (1) 4, 31, (7) 5, (2) 7 Cove AKM; (5) 5, (8) 23, (3) 25 Hiram Clarke Rd; (2) 26 Galv. HP.
- Spotted Sandpiper: (1-3) daily Bayshore LS; 8 days w/ (7) 4 Cove AKM; (1) 22 Trinity River Delta, (1) 26 Sheldon HP; (1) 20 Galv MD, BD, EV.
- Solitary Sandpiper: (1) 4, 10, 29 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Sheldon HP.
- Willet: (4) 5, (6) 7 Cove AKM.
- Greater Yellowlegs: (1) 4, 7, 13, 19 Bayshore LS; (15) 4 Cove AKM.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: 16 days w/ (75) 7 Bayshore LS; (75) 4, (1) 5, 15 (40) 18, (25) 27 Cove AKM.
- Pectoral Sandpiper: 7 days w/ (27) 27 Bayshore LS; (100) 4, (50) 18, (30) 27, (1) 29 Cove AKM.
- Least Sandpiper: 6 days w/ (75) 4 Cove AKM.
- Short-billed Dowitcher: (1) 4, (2) 29 Cove AKM; (4) 26 Galv. HP.
- Dowitcher species: 14 days w/ (100) 7, 9 Bayshore LS; (3) 4, (7) 18, (30) 27, (12) 29 Cove AKM.
- Long-billed Dowitcher: (nc) 5 Cove AKM.
- Stilt Sandpiper: Most days w/ (500) 12 Bayshore LS; (4) 5 Cove AKM.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper: (nc) 5 Cove AKM.
- Western Sandpiper: (1) 4, (nc) 5 Cove AKM.
- Marbled Godwit: (1) 26 Galv. HP.
- Sanderling: 6 days w/ (10) 7 Bayshore LS.
- American Avocet: daily w/ (300) 18, 19, 23 Bayshore LS.
- Wilson's Phalarope: 10 days w/ (75) 11 Bayshore LS.
- Herring Gull: (2) 27 Galv. LS.
- Gull-billed Tern: (1) 2, (2) 20 Bayshore LS.
- Forster's Tern: (300) 22 Trinity Bay HP.
- Common Tern: (5) 26 Galv HP.
- Sandwich Tern: (30) 22 Trinity Bay HP.
- Caspian Tern: (2) 22 Trinity River Delta HP
- Black Tern: (500) 27 Galv. LS; 16 days w/ (50) 4, (40) 5 Cove AKM; (100) 22 Trinity Bay HP.

- Black Skimmer: (2) 4, (1) 27, 29 Cove AKM; (4) 22 Trinity River Delta HP.  
 Barn Owl: (1) 21 Bayshore LS; (2) 4, (1) 29 Cove AKM.  
 Screech Owl: (1-2) most days Bayshore LS; (1) 15 days Cove AKM.  
 Great Horned Owl: (1) 11 days Cove AKM.  
 Barred Owl: (1) 26 Lake Hou. Pkwy. HP.  
 Chuck-will's widow: (1 dead on road) 21 Cedar Bayou LS; (1) 5, 22, 26, 27, (2) 29 Cove AKM.  
 Whip-poor-will: (1) 26 Lake Hou. Pkwy. HP.  
 Chimney Swift: (young in nest) 5 Cove AKM.  
 Ruby-thr. Hummingbird: (1-4) most days Bayshore LS; 11 days w/(4) 20 Cove AKM; (2) 22 Anahuac HP; (1-3) most days, Houston, MD, BD.  
Rufous Hummingbird: (1) 21, 23 Morgan's Point, LS, CS.  
 Belted Kingfisher: (2) 27, (1) 29 Bayshore LS; (1) 27, 31 Cove AKM; (1) 22 Trinity River Delta HP.  
 Pileated Woodpecker: (1) 6 days Bayshore LS; (1) 27 Cove AKM.  
 Red-headed Woodpecker: (1) 7, 8, 15 Cove AKM.  
 Downy Woodpecker: (1) most days, Bayshore LS; (1) 21 Cove AKM.  
 Eastern Kingbird: (2) 19, 21 Bayshore, (11) 27 Galv. LS; 13 days w/ (6) 31 Cove AKM.  
Western Kingbird: (1) 27 Galv. LS, CS.  
 Great Crested Flycatcher: (1) 7, 8, 21, 30 Bayshore LS; (3) 5, (2) 26, 31, (1) 28 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Lake Hou. Pkwy. HP.  
 Empidonax Flycatcher: (1) 9, 19, 25 Bayshore LS; 9 days w/(60) 5 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Galv. HP.  
 Acadian Flycatcher: (1 dead) 5 Cove AKM.  
 Traill's Flycatcher: (1) 22 Bayshore LS.  
 Wood Pewee: (1) 17, (7) 21, (1) 22, (2) 27, (1) 31 Bayshore LS; (1) 10, 15, 18, 21, 24 Cove AKM.  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher: (1) 15, 18, (7) 21, (1) 27, 31 Bayshore LS; (1) 18, 29, (2) 22, 28 Cove AKM.  
 Horned Lark: (6) 27 Galv. LS.  
 Swallow, Tree: 6 days w/(100) 17 Bayshore LS; (30-40) 22 Trinity River Delta HP.  
 Bank Swallow: (3) 21, (2) 27 Bayshore LS; (40-50) 22 Trinity River Delta HP.  
 Rough-winged Swallow: (5) 21 Bayshore LS; (10-20) 26 Highland Res. HP.  
 Barn Swallow (2-100) most days, Bayshore LS; (70-80) 22 Trinity River Delta HP.  
 Cliff Swallow: (25) 21, (2) 22, (5) 27 Bayshore LS; (15) 26 Highland Res. HP.  
 Purple Martin: (5) 16 Bayshore LS.  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (1) 19, 21, 23 Bayshore LS.  
 Starling: (25) 26 Roamin Ranch HP.  
 White-eyed Vireo: (1) 5, 21 Bayshore LS.  
 Black-and-white Warbler: (1) 17 Bayshore LS.  
 Prothonotary: (1) 29 Cove AKM.  
 Blue-winged Warbler: (1) 5 Cove AKM.  
 Parula Warbler: (1) 19 Bayshore LS.  
 Yellow Warbler: (1) 19, 21 Bayshore; (2) 27 Galv. LS; 13 days w/(10) 21, (20) 27 Cove AKM.  
 Magnolia Warbler: (1) 21 earliest record by 21 days, Cove AKM.  
 B.-thr. Green Warbler: (1) 5 earliest record by 6 days, Cove AKM.  
 Pine Warbler: (6) 26 Baytown HP.  
 Prairie Warbler: (1) 24, 31 Cove AKM.  
 Northern Waterthrush: (2) 29 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Sheldon HP.  
 Mourning Warbler: (1) 23, early record, Cove AKM.  
 Yellowthroat: (1) 27 Galv. LS.  
 Yellow-br. Chat: 6 days w/(4) 21 Bayshore LS; (1) 27 Cove AKM.  
 Wilson's Warbler: (1) 27, early record, Cove, AKM.  
 Canada Warbler: (3) 30 Bayshore LS; (1) 18 Cove AKM.  
 American Redstart: (1) 5 early record, (1) 7 Cove AKM.  
 Orchard Oriole: 9 days w/(6) 5, 17 Bayshore LS; 14 days w/(125) 5 Cove AKM.  
Baltimore Oriole: (1) 28 Bayshore LS.  
 Indigo Bunting: (1) 14, 15, 27 Bayshore LS.  
 Dickcissel: (1) 7 Bayshore LS.  
 Seaside Sparrow: (1) 5, 31 Cove AKM; (4) 26 Galv. HP.  
 Lark Sparrow: (5) 5, (1) 24, (6) 31 Cove AKM; (1) 26 Highland Res. HP.  
 Bachman's Sparrow: (1) 26 Lake Hou. Pkwy. HP.

CREDITS:

AKM	Arlie McKay	MD	Mabel Deshayes
LS	Linda Snyder	BD	Bob Deshayes
CS	Clinton Snyder	EV	Elmo Valdes
HP	Harvey Patten		

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