



THE SPOONBILL

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

WE HAVE A NEW RARE BIRD ALERT CHAIRMAN

David Dauphin, who has been Rare Bird Alert Chairman since the spring of 1976, has resigned. Ron Braun announces that Ted Eubanks, Jr. will receive and send out any rare bird calls for the coming year. In the past four years David has put in many hours on the telephone, and we are all deeply appreciative of his work in our behalf. He handled not only the Rare Bird Alert, but also our Unusual Bird Check, whereby observers could notify him of an unusual species currently being seen, and birders planning an outing could check with him for the latest information.

Ron Braun would like to have some of your ideas about what you believe the Rare Bird Alert should be used for: something really, really rare, such as never before seen on the UTC, or at most, once or twice, or should highly unusual and sought-after birds also be included. (David found, during his four years, that occasionally what was rare to some was not to others!)

Let Ron have your ideas, call him at 496-3108. If you want to be listed on the Rare Bird Alert in the next Roster, notify Ted Eubanks, Jr. And if you find a bird you think others should see, call Ted Eubanks, Jr.....home telephone: 694-2242. office telephone: 681-0609.

REMEMBER THE OG ALUMINUM FUND

We will be out and about this summer, and so will the can tossers. Enrich the OG treasury and beautify the scenery by collecting aluminum cans (pick up the other metal cans too, but discard them in your trash). You can take your sack to any recycling station, and then send the money to Jerry Baker, 6430 Jefferson, Houston 77023. The Reynolds plant on Gelhorn, off I-10 East will accept aluminum cans and also foil, TV trays and such in unseparated sacks. Heavier aluminum such as chairs, flower bed borders, etc., must be separated from the cans. At the current price of 30¢ a pound for aluminum (more for the heavy aluminum) we can put a sizeable bulge in our treasury.

COMING EVENT

Wednesday Regular meeting of the B.E.E.R. Group at Audubon House, E. L. Moore
June 18 Sanctuary, at 7:30 p.m.

REPORT ON ANAHUAC NWR CONSTRUCTION

Tom Steen of the Anahuac NWR office, reports that five of the eight water control structures around the efuge have been completed. These control points will enable the personnel to let water out faster from an inundated refuge after a tropical storm, or; conversely, retain water during prolonged dry spells. The retention of run-off water from surrounding areas is very important, for pumping water in is very expensive. Some of the main ditches have become clogged with water hyacinths, and a program to scour them out is underway. While, of course, there will be no tidal action into Shoveler Pond, some salt water entering the ditches will be beneficial in keeping down the hyacinths. Tom also reports they are extremely busy since they took over the McFaddin Ranch refuge management in addition to Anahuac NWR.

MAILERS ARE NEEDED

Maxine Davis would like to add some more people to her stable of Mailers, for, with vacation time here, the ranks can get a bit thin. As we have said before, this is a great way for newcomers to the Group to get acquainted in an easy, friendly atmosphere. A couple of hours a month is all it takes. Maxine's number is 723-8559.

PAST EVENTS

** OG Field Trip to Piney Woods & High Island... by Jim Morgan

Departing Beaumont at 7:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, about 30 OG members began a field trip that turned out to be successful in spite of the many miles covered in just one day. Our intended leader, Ted Eubanks, Jr., was ill and could not make the trip so yours truly filled in for Ted.

We began our birding in the piney woods of East Texas, north of Silsbee. Our goal was to find the piney woods specialties--Bachman's Sparrow, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Pine Warbler. The latter species is usually easy to find and such was the case on our trip. Similarly, numerous Brown-headed Nuthatch's were found, but the real delight was the beautiful view we had of a singing Bachman's Sparrow which stayed within eye and ear distance for more than 15 minutes. Another singing bird was heard later on. We struck out on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and I now know of 4 trips by groups or tours into this area recently who have missed this species which once was relatively easy to find around Camp Waluta and the Smart Fire Tower. Undoubtedly the reason for the present difficulty in locating this bird is due to the logging disturbance in both areas, particularly around Smart Fire Tower. The entire area to the east of the tower has been clear cut for about one mile along the road and a quarter mile or so away from the road.

Leaving the piney woods, most participants were anxious to get to High Island because of the good reports from birders who were there on the day before. We were not to be disappointed and the group found 23 species of warblers in the afternoon with good numbers of individuals in about 3 or 4 species. Particularly impressive were the 125 Magnolia Warblers and the 325 Bay-breasted Warblers. Even more impressive were the number of thrushes. I believe we witnessed one of the better pushes of this family in recent years. Working all the woods at High Island and birding up to 7:00 p.m., I counted 280 Swainson's Thrushes, 35 Gray-cheeked Thrushes and 25 Veerys. Thrushes were literally everywhere, all over the floor of the woods, in the trees, and in flocks of 10-15 at the edge of the fields bordering Scout Woods. Some of these individuals appeared to have come in that afternoon along with a late afternoon buildup of warblers.

All in all the last field trip for the OG before the summer brought good birding for all involved. Several of us even lucked out and got views of a late male Bullock's Oriole at the roadside rest area. You missed a good one, Ted!

** Report of B.E.E.R. Group Pelagic Trip - May 17... by Colin Summerhayes

We seem to be running out of enthusiasts for pelagic trips. I guess it's not too surprising. Frankly, the Gulf of Mexico (our of Galveston) is a desert as far as birds are concerned. Experience tells us that in a 12 hour trip on one of the Galveston fishing boats you may, with luck, see a gannet, or a booby, or a jaeger. Then again, you may not. In March we were lucky and got all three. In April, only a jaeger. This month we got a Magnificent Frigate Bird ("we" being a party of one--me).

The day didn't start out auspiciously. I discovered that the Party Boats people had omitted to tell me over the phone that the New Buccaneer was on charter that day. No riders. It was the Buccaneer or nothing. In the interest of research (though somewhat against my better judgement) it was the Buccaneer. The day was bright and sunny--never more than one quarter cloud cover. We left the jetty at the entrance to the ship channel with the usual Laughing Gull camp followers on the scrounge for garbage. And there, right above them, hung a female Magnificent Frigate Bird. A startling but beautiful sight--these birds seem to me quite prehistoric and menacing in outline. Then she vanished into the distance and left us tackling some large swells out of the southeast. Pretty soon people were hanging over the sides, and it wasn't long before I joined them. Well, as you can imagine, a seasick birdwatcher rapidly becomes more seasick than birdwatcher. But I did my best. Actually, there wasn't much to see. Partly that's because viewing is much more restricted from the low decks of the Buccaneer than from the nice observation platform atop the New Buccaneer. Partly it's because there just isn't much to see. Below is my list for the day. The most unusual sightings were the egrets I saw about 40-50 miles out (flying North or West), and the warbler at about 15 miles (heading Northwest). None of the birds followed us for more than a couple of miles except right at the coast and then mostly gulls.

Species: number seen, distance in statute miles ()

Frigatebird: 1 (1-2)
 Egret (sp.): 3 (40)
 Common Egret: 1 (55)
 Ring-billed Gull: 1 (5)
 Laughing Gull: (a) leaving--25(1), 10(5), 5(9), 1(14), 6(18), 1(23), 2(70)
 (b) returning--38(1), 4(10), 2(11), 1(16), 1(16), 5(25), 6(30), 1(45)
 Forster's Tern: 1 (30), 2 (40), 6 (45)
 Royal Tern: 1 (2), 1 (5), 1 (9), 1 (18) not following the ship
 Caspian Tern: 1 (1)
 Black Tern: 1 (10), 12 (40), 16 (45), 2 (60), 2 (70)
 Warbler, sp.: 1 (15)

** The Brazosport Birders had a combined monthly meeting and field trip on May 17. Matt Robinson reported a total of 62 species of birds, including 12 species of warblers were seen. The meeting was started at 7:45 a.m. at the Freeport Park Pavilion, concluded by 8:45, and the group of 11, led by Larry Ballard, were then ready to get down to the important thing...birding. The park yielded 8 species of warblers among the list of spring migrants. From the park the group went to Freeport Marsh, where they found the birding was fair considering all the people crabbing and fishing. The next stop was the late Alvah Learned's property at Bryan Beach, where they added several more warblers, plus Philadelphia Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Painted Bunting, Eastern Kingbird and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

Matt reports that the filling in of the Marsh is regrettably slowly proceeding, and it looks as though the UTC birders may lose a valuable birding spot. Can someone from the Brazosport Birders give the readers of THE SPOONBILL a rundown on the situation at the Marsh? Who owns the land? Who is doing the filling in? What has been done to alert the City of Freeport authorities of the value of the Marsh to wildlife? Can it be considered a true wetland eligible for protection? Someone down there find out just exactly what the plans for the area are, we would like to know.

** Banding on Bolivar -- 1980

On April 12 and 13 Barry Hinderstein's banding team set up their nets on the Sun Oil Lease on Bolivar Peninsula. The purposes of the project include: 1) monitoring migrants coming off the Gulf which seek cover in the salt cedars, 2) determining temporal patterns, if any, of species and species groups, 3) to determine if the patterns at this point on the Upper Texas Coast are the same as others, e.g. Galveston.

This project was originally suggested by Fred Collins and while ours is the only team working at the project now we look forward to other banders joining us in the future. We were aided by numerous skilled hands this year, including Carol Mayer, Jim Massey, Betsy Massey, Carro Hinderstein, Lara Hinderstein, Nikko Hinderstein, George Regmund, Wally Gardner, Cindy Glenn, Fred Collins and Ted Eubanks.

The following table summarizes this year's and last year's banding. In 1979 we banded only one day, April 22.

<u>Species</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1979</u>
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	1	White-eyed Vireo	1	4
Acadian Flycatcher	2	4	Red-eyed Vireo	4	2
Eastern Wood Pewee	2	1	Warbling Vireo	1	0
Tree Swallow	1	0	Black & White Warbler	1	4
Rough-winged Swallow	1	0	Swainson's Warbler	1	0
Barn Swallow	1	0	Worm-eating Warbler	1	0
House Wren	1	0	Blue-winged Warbler	4	0
Mockingbird	3	0	Tennessee Warbler	15	7
Catbird	0	6	Yellow Warbler	4	2
Brown Thrasher	1	0	Magnolia Warbler	0	1
Wood Thrush	1	1	Yellow-rumped Warbler	1	1
Swainson's Thrush	0	2	Black-throated Green Warbler	4	3
Gray-cheeked Thrush	0	1	Cerulean Warbler	1	0
Veery	0	1	Ovenbird	1	0
Loggerhead Shrike	0	1	Northern Waterthrush	9	1

Kentucky Warbler	3	1	Cardinal	2	1
Common Yellowthroat	26	0	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	0	5
Hooded Warbler	5	3	Blue Grosbeak	2	2
American Redstart	1	0	Indigo Bunting	46	31
Red-winged Blackbird	1	1	Painted Bunting	11	4
Orchard Oriole	10	0	Grasshopper Sparrow	1	0
Northern Oriole	3	6	Lincoln's Sparrow	4	0
Summer Tanager	2	1	Swamp Sparrow	3	0
			Total Individuals	181	101
			Total Species	38	29

Ruby-throated hummingbirds in net, not banded: 1979=11, 1980=1

--Barry Hinderstein

** Bluebird Boxes in Brazoria County

Rev. and Mrs. Eldon Reed (Mary) live in Angleton, and are SPOONBILL subscribers. Following is a note from Mary to the Outdoor Nature Club, which we thought would be of interest to the OG birders. It is dated April 8, 1980.

"I am a non-resident member of the ONC, but due to time and distance do not get to participate actively as I would like to. However, after reading your recent issue of the bulletin under "Nature Trail" I thought you might be interested to know that my husband is making a Brazoria County Trail for bluebirds all by himself. He has made and mounted in selected spots around the northwest end of the county, 12 bluebird boxes and gotten friends to make and mount 12 others since October 1979. Also in the other parts of the state he has made and put up 8 others. (Total of 32 boxes). At least 3 have bluebirds building or scouting. One nest was completely built and observed daily, then taken over by sparrows. We are doing what we can to save the bluebirds and are members of the Bluebird Society. Always an interested birder,
Mary Reed "

HISTORY OF THE LITTLE THICKET NATURE SANCTUARY....Part 3

[We continue with our history of the Sanctuary as it was written by ONC members in 1962. The Club voted in June 1950 to buy the land offered by Joe Heiser.]

Many members have contributed to the descriptions of the Sanctuary, giving their impressions on first visiting the site.

Access to the property could be gained in several ways. There was a deeply rutted, worn-out road leading from Highway 945 beside an abandoned negro cemetery, adjoining James Ellisor's property, that was still used for hauling barrels of water from a spring-fed tributary of Winter's Bayou during times of drought. (Farther down this stream flowing southward was a baptismal pool that served the Mt. Moriah colored church, which suggested the name "Little Jordan" for the stream). An old wagon trail that had served as a logging road, passing Wilbur Reed's place was overgrown and almost obliterated. Across a corner of property belonging to Alden and Beulah Denson ingress and egress off Highway 945 was permitted. This entrance came to be used almost exclusively and was marked with a "Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary" sign.

Upon entering the tract an amazing devastation was evident. Stumps of great trees, some recently cut and others showing only the highly resistant pitch-core, or "lighter" pines were everywhere. Farther in a tremendous saw-dust pile showed the extent of the logging that had stripped the native forest.

Standing lonely in magnificent beauty in the midst of this scarred landscape was a centuries old Southern Magnolia. This tree was affectionately called "El Presidente" in honor of Dr. Selle, first president of the Outdoor Nature Club, naturalist, author and spokesman for conservation.

Along the streams in more inaccessible areas was much unspoiled beauty. Great oaks, maples, holly and linden sheltered an undergrowth of amazing variety of shrubs and ferns. American beech, claimed no farther west, were another link to the vegetation of the Big Thicket of East Texas.

On King's Hill were the remains of two brick fireplaces that heated the large two-story house where John T. King and his wife lived until it was destroyed by fire.

Cattle hides that remained unsold, littered the hill, Mr. King's felt hat, his Branding Irons, numerous snuff bottles, two grinding stones from the old grist mill and a keg of square nails; all attested to a way of pioneer life. Nearby was an old well and evidence of search for gold, long "known" to have been buried by Mr. King who had no faith in the American banking system. Surrounding the hill were furrows in open fields where corn, sweet potatoes and peanuts had been grown.

All in all it was truly fascinating area that needed to be explored along foot-trails for one to experience the romance of the past, the richness of plant and animal life, and the possibilities of future worth and enjoyment.

BIRDING IN VENEZUELA with Colin Summerhayes

Some of us get lucky once in awhile; I've often envied those who managed to find the time to go birding in Mexico in the winter. This time I was the lucky one. My company sent me to Venezuela for a week in April. And I was able to tack on a few days of vacation to look for Neotropical birds.

I was helped by the Venezuelan Audubon Society (Sociedad Conservacionista Audubon de Venezuela) in Caracas (Apartado No. 80450), especially by Mary Lou Goodwin (phone 91-38-13, or 572-8485). She gave me a copy of 'Birding in Venezuela' (now on file with the OG), a manuscript that does the same for Venezuela as Tveten and Lane do for the Texas coast. The other essential ingredient to successful birding, was the new 'Guide to the Birds of Venezuela' by de Schauensee and Phelps (Princeton University Press, 1978), one of the most beautifully illustrated field guides ever published.

As you might expect, I started rather slowly. When every bird is new, and when you are not used to the field guide, it takes awhile to find out what it is that you're looking at. The problem was a bit more tricky than it sounds, as there are no range maps - only written descriptions of ranges that refer to the map inside the back cover. As time went on, I became more familiar with the book, and with the local and common birds, so things went more smoothly. And I had another stroke of luck - one of my first birding trips was spent helping with an Audubon Society census of the birds of a new city park, Caricuao Park, under the supervision of one of Venezuela's best birders, Allan Altman of the Universidad Simon Bolivar (I have to tell you that the Director of the park, part of which is a zoo, is an Aggie....Dr. Carlos Rivero Blanco).

With only 7 days to spare, and various commitments, I could not stray too far from Caracas. But, even in the city there's lots of good birding. I started in the Botanical Gardens. There I managed to root out 34 different species, including common birds like Grayish Saltators, Saffron Finches, Dark-backed Goldfinches, etc., not forgetting the noisy Great Kiskadees (and a two-toed sloth that I found hanging upside-down in a tree). Among the unusual birds were the curious-looking Barred Antshrike, and a magnificent Striped Owl. It was in the park that I first saw the huge mass of sticks that forms the nest of the Thornbird. An "old friend" was the Northern Waterthrush.

At the other end of Caracas is the Parque del Este. It's much more open, less wooded, and with more people than the Botanical Gardens. In fact, most of it is a zoo. I saw much the same birds there, and was thrilled to see several beautiful black and yellow Oriole Blackbirds as well as a Yellow-headed Caracara. Another common city bird there was the Scaled Dove - much like our Inca Dove. The ponds in the park are good for egrets, including our Common Egret, Snowy Egret, and Cattle Egret, the last two nesting together in a mixed colony on an island in one of the ponds.

The city lies in a narrow valley between well-forested mountain ranges, which probably accounts in part for the variety of birdlife in the parks. The northern edge of Caracas is bounded by a huge national park, Avila Park. When the cable car is working, one can ride to the top of the range that forms this park, and walk down admiring the birds of the different mountain zones. In the absence of the cable car, you can explore the park by 4-wheel, with a permit from the park headquarters in the Parque del Este.

West of town is the new Caricuao Park, most of which is wild and undeveloped. While on the Audubon census of this park, in a morning's birding, I saw another 36 species.

most of them different from the city birds.

Perhaps the best birding, for me, was in the mountains west of town. The entire coast range west of Caracas is one huge national park, Henri Pittier National Park, better known to birders as Rancho Grande. There are two roads over the top and down to the sea. Both are mountain roads, lots of curves, and few places to stop. The Ocumare Road (west) is the best paved, widest, and best for parking spots (including, at the pass, the Biological Station, well worth a visit to bird in the grounds). But the Choroní road (east) has the least traffic (both are bad on weekends). Start very early, if you intend to bird the area. It's best to drive to the nearby city of Maracay and stay the night, so as to get an early start. There are lots of very nice, cheap hotels, like the Hotel Pipo on the Choroní road). The birds tend to become inactive by noon, though you can be lucky and find flocks in the afternoon.

On the road up from Maracay, you can expect to hear the raucous calls of the Rufous-Vented Chacalaca, and may get to see one if you quietly investigate the roadside shrubbery. You'll see dozens of Parakeets of different types, and probably flocks of Red-billed Parrots. It it's nesting time, as it was when I was there, you'll see suspended over the road the delicately woven nests of the Russet-backed Oropendolas (and may wonder, as I did, how such a large bird can dive into such a small nest without the whole thing tumbling to the ground).

The trick is to stop your car whenever you hear birds. They forage through the canopy in flocks. If you don't stop when you hear them, you may drive from one official stopping place to another and find just quietness. The flocks tend to move through a particular spot in about 10-20 minutes, though some may stay for much longer. And those flocks can be quite a sight...all sorts of brightly colored little birds mixed up together.

When you get to the coast, you enter another realm from the cloud forest. Above you soar Magnificent Frigate Birds and Brown Pelicans. In the grass by the roadside forage seedeaters and Black-faced Grassquits. My trips to Rancho Grande gave me 44 new species, not bad for a beginner without local knowledge.

A good coastal trip, if you're prepared to drive a bit, is to the mud flats of Chichiriviche, about 300 km west of Caracas. This is much touted as being the haunt of Flamingoes, though I missed them. The tide was out and there weren't many birds about when I reached Chichiriviche. But I did see a great many herons and egrets. The coast road leading to the village is great for birds, all the way from the town of Morón. Frigate Birds were everywhere, seemingly just like the Laughing Gulls on our coast, being especially common near the town dumps. There were lots of different hawks. Waders were surprisingly few, all that I saw was the Southern Lapwing. But I missed visiting the nearby Morocoy National Park and Cuare Wildlife Refuge where waders may be more abundant.

That was the extent of my birding experience. I saw 117 different identifiable species, of which 100 were new to me (the rest I'd seen in the U.S.). The country has excellent roads, and gasoline is ridiculously cheap (about 20 cents a gallon). The people are friendly, and the water is good in the main cities. You'll have no problem finding birds, even in the city, and the scenery is enjoyable too; it's a land of great topographic contrast (at least, it is where I was; in the southeast it gets to be pretty flat on the plains (llanos). For variety, you can draw upon the Andes in the Southwest; Lake Maracaibo (good for Flamingos) in the northwest; the coast ranges, around Caracas; the beautiful east coast beaches (east to Trinidad); the cave-dwelling Guachero's, birds that find their way by radar, like bats, in the Trinidad part of the coast; and then there are the llanos and the mesas, or Tepuis, that rise from them (each with different birds in the life zones at different altitudes); last, but not least, there's the Amazon jungle area in the deep south. Good hunting.

[Ed. note: In order to fit Colin's travel guide of Venezuela into one issue (rather than divide it into two parts) I omitted numerous lists of birds found in the various parts of the country he visited. If you are planning a trip to Venezuela, and are interested in where to find certain birds, call Colin at 977-9139].

EDITOR'S COMMENT: I want to thank all who have contributed to the pages of THE SPOONBILL since I've been editor. The articles you have written, or clippings you have sent in, ideas you have given....all have made this newsletter interesting to read as well as edit. If you have not yet shared with us a birding experience you have enjoyed, take the time to do so soon. The Editor and the readers will thank you.

THE LEARNING CORNER

The Difference Between Southern and Northern Bald Eagles.....by John Smith

There are no major morphological differences between the southern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus l. leucocephalus*) and the northern bald eagle (*Haliaeetus l. alascanus*). Until recently, they were afforded separate protection--the southern bald eagle as endangered and the northern under the lesser protection of the Bald Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Now however, protection for bald eagles varies according to where they are found. In Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Oregon, and Washington both subspecies are protected as threatened while in those states, but are considered endangered when in any of the other 43 conterminous states. This two-level protection based on geography is necessary on the one hand because of the large number of northern bald eagles which breed and winter in the northern areas. Southern bald eagles, some of which travel in spring as far as the northern areas, are few in number and tend to be widely dispersed. On the other hand, federal regulations regarding bald eagle status were changed in 1978 because the northern birds are difficult to identify, being only slightly larger than their southern cousins, and thus, not distinguishable except when in the hand and with a tape measure.

Before the change in regulations, law enforcement involving bald eagles was complicated since only the southern subspecies was classified as endangered. Yet, significant numbers of northern bald eagles winter in Texas and are easily confused with the approximately 50 southern bald eagles in the state during the same general time period. Only the southern bald eagles, however, are seen in association with any of the seven known, active bald eagle nests in Texas.

In one respect, it is unfortunate that legal de-emphasis of subspecific designations had to be made. The northern birds nest in the spring and go south with their young for the winter, while the southern birds nest in the fall and winter and disperse widely for the summer. This difference makes it necessary to continue separate subspecies management practices, regardless of the legal lumping made mostly to facilitate law enforcement protective efforts. The southern bald eagle continues to be the subspecies of our greatest concern because of its low population numbers.

A note of interest: the seven bald eagle nests in Texas produced seven young this year. However, three of those seven nests failed (two did not have eggs and the other was abandoned due to development). So really four nests produced the seven young. One nest in Brazoria County produced three again this year for the second year in a row. Six young for one pair in two years isn't bad.....certainly it is a record in recent times.

[We are indebted to John Smith for the above explanation of southern vs northern bald eagles. As a Wildlife Non-Game Biologist with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, he has done a great deal of research on the southern bald eagle in our region of Texas. Many OG'ers have seen young on one of the Brazoria County nests monitored by John.....this is the one easily noted from well-traveled Hwy 35, west of Angleton. This is on Bar X property, and can be seen by going one mile west of the west entrance to the Rest Area at Bailey's Prairie, parking on the shoulder, and looking south. The ponderous nest is easily seen, but binocs or scope is necessary to check for young. We will be eagerly awaiting the first report this fall of another brood for our Brazoria bald eagles. --Ed.]

A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE

An international effort to determine the migratory habits of shore birds is sending the Canadian Wildlife Service to the Lone Star State for assistance. Any interested Texas bird watcher can help by spotting birds and keeping a record of the sightings. There is a catch, though. You are looking for birds that have been banded or color marked. The Canadian Wildlife Service has been busy tagging birds in their nesting sites with light-blue leg bands or yellow and orange feather dyes since 1974. By recording the sightings of Texas bird watchers, it will be possible to map migratory routes.

Where possible, try to record details like species, location, the date, the color marking, and where the bird is marked. Keep a record of the numbers and other species that are in the marked bird's company. Your efforts will assist in identifying critical estuarine areas the birds need for seasonal habitat.

Interested bird watchers should contact Dr. R. I. G. Morrison, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1725 Woodward Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1G-3Z6.

CLEARING HOUSE, May, 1980

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. Sightings made outside this area are not included in the CH. 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 parenthesis, i.e. (1-42). If any of these species is reported in unusual habitat or numbers that will be noted separately. You will note some dates underlined, this will denote a late date, or possibly an early date. An underlined location denotes unusual location or habitat.

- Loon, Common: Virginia Point--(1)4,P
 Grebe, Eared: Chambers Co.--(1)1,CSu
 Grebe, Pied-billed: High Is.--(3)1, (2)3, (3)9, (5)17, M. Obs.; Galveston--(1)3, (6)6, (2)15, (5)17, (2 adult, 3 young) 20, m. obs.; Chambers Co--(2)9,SCa.
 Pelican, White: Bolivar--(5)1,JMo, (2)4,CSu, (3)9,E; Sabine Pass--(3)9,E; Chambers Co.--(3)11,CSu.
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: High Is.--(1)1,JMo; Galveston--(2)10,CSu, (7)17,E; Chambers Co.--(8)11,CSu, (1)26,MAu; Bolivar--(1)17,E.
 Anhinga: Hale Ranch--(1)26,P&MJ
 Great Blue Heron: 17 reports (1-20)
 Heron, Green: 25 reports (1-75)
 Heron, Little Blue: 8 reports (1-4)
 Egret, Cattle: 15 reports (2-300)
 Egret, Reddish: High Is.--(6)1,JMo, (1)9,E; Galveston--(1)3, (1)10, (1)17, (2)18, (5)20, (3)25, m.obs.; Bolivar--(6)4,H, (2)4,CSu; Virginia Point--(1)4,MAU.
 Egret, Great: 24 reports (1-80)
 Egret, Snowy: 22 reports (2-150)
 Heron, Louisiana: 16 reports (1-50)
 Night Heron, Black-crowned: 15 reports (1-31)
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: Bellaire--(1)all month,DM, (2-12)March 5-May 15,LG (see notes), (2)4,P&MJ; Galveston--(1)3,EM, (1)10,CSu; Chambers Co.--(2)1,CSu; E. Harris Co.--(4)21,MAU.
 Bittern, Least: Galveston--(k)3,G&JC; Stafford--(1)9,DM; Bolivar--(1)17,E; Chambers Co.--(1)17,E, (1)26,MAU.
 Bittern, American: Galveston--(2)3,G&JC, (1)3,EM, (1)18,MAU.
 Ibis, White-faced: 19 reports (2-30)
 Ibis, White: 11 reports (2-100)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 20 reports (1-31)
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: W. Harris Co.--(10)12,BG; Freeport Marsh--(3)17,B; Ft. Bend Co.--(2)26,P&MJ
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Freeport Marsh--(4)17,MRO; Chambers Co.--(5)17,SCa, (2)26,MAU.
 Duck, Mottled: 15 reports (2-25)
 Duck, Gadwall: High Is.--(5)9,E
 Teal, Blue-winged: 16 reports (2-40), (last date:26th)
 Shoveler, Northern: High Is.--(5)1,JMo, (1)9,E; Galveston--(2)2,L&MB, (3)25,CSu; Chambers Co.--(1)4,CSu, (3)26,MAU.; Brazoria Co.--(1)17,B, (1)17,MRO.
 Duck, Wood: Chambers Co.--(3)17,E.
 Canvasback: Chambers Co.--(1)26,MAU (see notes)
 Scaup, Lesser: Galveston--(5)4,P, (2)17,E.
 SCOTER COMMON: Bolivar--(1)23,D&LF (see notes)
 Merganser, Red-breasted: Surfside--(1)23,MRO (see notes)
 Vulture, Turkey: 7 reports (1-16)
 Vulture, Black: 4 reports (1-2)
 Kite, White-tailed: Galveston--(1)3,EM, (1)6,(2)15,(2 adult, 4 imm.)20,JHa; Hale Ranch--(4)26,P&MJ.
 Kite, Mississippi: Lake Jackson--(2)4,(1)17,L&MB, (1)22,MRO; Bellaire--(2)8,P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co.--(3)26,P&MJ (apparently nesting)
 Hawk, Red-tailed: W. Harris Co.--(1)Apr. 30,MAU; Anahuac NWR--(1)1,G&JC, (3)6, B&EW.
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: White Memorial Pk--(1)9,17,E; W. Harris Co.--(2)12,BG; Hale Ranch--(12, including 1 very young fledgling)26,P&MJ.
 Hawk, Broad-winged: High Is.--(1)17,E
 Hawk, Swainson's: Dickinson--(1)April 28,EM; High Is.--(1)3,J&BH, (1)3,OG
 Hawk, White-tailed: Ft. Bend Co.--(1)2,6,17,DM (no field notes)
 Hawk, Marsh: Galveston--(1)1,JMo, (3)17,E; Pearland--(1)1,B&EW; Bolivar--(1)4,MAU N. Harris Co.--(1)14,DM.
 Osprey: Bolivar--(1)2,L&MB, (1)4,H, (1)17,E, (1)26,D&LF; Galveston--(1)3,G&JC.
 Falcon, Peregrine: White Oak Bayou--(1)5,WC (see notes)

Kestrel, American: W. Harris Co.--(1)April 30,MAU.
 Prairie Chicken, Greater: Dickinson--(2)April 27,EM.
 Pheasant, Ring-necked: Anahuac NWR--(1)I,JMo.
 Bobwhite: 13 reports (1-9)
 Rail, King: 11 reports (1-6)
 Rail, Clapper: 9 reports (1-10)
 Sora: High Is.--(1)I,JMo; Brazoria Co.--(1)4,LB; Galveston--(2)6,(1)18,MAU,
 (1)10,LB.
 Gallinule, Purple: Galveston--(1)4,P, (2)10,CSu, (1)18,MAU; Anahuac NWR--(4)9,E,
 (4)26,MAU.
 Gallinule, Common: 10 reports (1-10)
 Coot, American: 6 reports (2-100)
 Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar--(1)4,H, (3)17,E
 Plover, Semipalmated: Bolivar--(40)1,JMo, (150)4,CSu; High Is.--(1)8,SCa;
 Anahuac NWR--(2)9,E.
 Plover, Piping: Bolivar--(50)4,CSu.
 Plover, Wilson's: Bolivar--(2)1,JMo, (2)17,E; Galveston--(1)10,SCu.
 Killdeer: Pearland--(1 female, 1 chick)2,B&EW; 18 additional reports (1-55)
 Plover, Golden American: Chambers Co.--(75)1,(15)3,(1)6,(10)9,m.obs.; Jefferson
 Co.--(10)9,E.
 Plover, Black-bellied: 14 reports (1-200)
 Turnstone, Ruddy: 17 reports (3-75)
 Curlew, Long-billed: Galveston--(3)1,JMo, (1)25,CSu.; Brazoria Co.--(20)10,CSu;
 Bolivar--(1)17,E
 Whimbrel: Dickinson--(2)April 28,EM; Galveston--(2)1,(5)3,(3)6,(5)6,(5)10,(2)17,
 m.obs.; Bolivar--(2)4,H.
 Sandpiper, Upland: Chambers Co.--(6)1,JMo, (2)7,SCa; Galveston--(1)3,EM, (2)6,
 MAU, (1)6,JHa.
 Sandpiper, Spotted: Chambers Co.--(3)1,B&EW, (20)9,(1)17,E; High Is.--(2)1,JMo,
 (3)8,SCa; Galveston--(2)6,MAU, (1)10,CSu; W. Harris Co.--(2)12,BG
 Willett: 16 reports (2-100)
 Yellowlegs, Greater: Chambers Co.--(1)7,SCa, (20)9,E
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: Chambers Co.--(150)1,(300)3,(6)4,(4)7,(1)9,(5)17,(2)17,
 (5)26,m.obs.; Galveston--(24)3,EM, (4)6,(1)15,JHa,(1)10,CSu; High Is.--(2)8,SCa.
 Knot, Red: Bolivar--(150)1,JMo,(3)17,E; Galveston--(2)3,EM, (2)10,CSu.
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,2,L&MB; Chambers Co.--(25)1,(50)7,(4)8,
 (25)17,(1)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(7)3,EM; W. Harris Co.--(4)12,BG
 Sandpiper, White-rumped: Brazoria Co.--(5)4,L&MB; High Is.--(4)7,SCa; Chambers
 Co.--(200)9,(20)16,(1,200)17,(180)17,(8)26,m.obs.; Galveston--(1)18,MAU;
 W. Harris Co.--(30)12,BG
 Sandpiper, Baird's: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,L&MB; Galveston--(2)2,L&MB,(1)4,MAU,(1)4,P.
 Sandpiper, Least: Chambers Co.--(15)1,JMo, (60)9,E; Galveston--(30)3,(2)4,(1)10,
 (1)17,m.obs.
 Dunlin: 9 reports (4-10,000)
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Galveston--(3)2,L&MB, (16)3,EM; High Is.--(1)9,E
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: Brazoria Co.--(2)2,L&MB; Chambers Co.--(1,000)3,OG,
 (2)4,CSu, (1)9,(2)17,E
 Dowitcher, Species: Bolivar--(10)4,CSu; Winnie--(20)7,SCa; High Is.--(1)8,SCa;
 Brazoria Co.--(30)10,CSu.; W. Harris Co.--(1)12,BG
 Sandpiper, Stilt: Brazoria Co.--(1)2,MB; Chambers Co.--(400)9,(600)17,E, (165)
 17,SCa.
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Galveston--(20)3,EM; High Is.--(1)8,SCa; Chambers Co.--
 (600)17,E, (3)17,SCa.
 Sandpiper, Western: Bolivar--(100)1,JMo, (50)4,CSu, (20)17,E; High Island--(10)8,
 SCa; Anahuac NWR--(200)9,E, (3)26,MAU; Winnie--(10)17,SCa.
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: Chambers' Co.--(40)1,JMo; W. Harris Co.--(20)12,BG
 Godwit, Marbled: Galveston--(6)17,E; Winnie--(1)17,SCa
 Godwit, Hudsonian: Chambers Co.--(25)1,(3)4,(12)7,(40)9,(50)11,(2)13,(2)17,m.obs.;
 Brazoria Co.--(1)2,MB; Jefferson Co.--(30)9,E; W. Harris Co.--(2)12,BG; Gal-
 veston--(2)18,MAU
 Sanderling: 12 reports (1-3,000)
 Avocet, American: Anahuac NWR--(3)1,B&EW, (35)9,E; High Is.--(3)1,JMo; Galves-
 ton--(30)25,CSu.
 Stilt, Black-necked: 15 reports (1-50)
 Phalarope, Wilson's: Chambers Co.--(80)1,(4)4,(1)4,(200)9,(3)17,m.obs.; Galves-
 ton--(40)1,JMo, (1)3,EM; Brazoria Co.--(1)4,L&MB
 Gull, Herring: 3 reports (1-2)
 Gull, Ring-billed: 7 reports (1-20)
 Gull, Laughing: 21 reports (1-3,000)
 Gull, Franklin's: Galveston--(1)2,G&JC
 Tern, Gull-billed: Galveston--(3)6,JHa, (1)17,E; Freeport--(2)17,MRo
 Tern, Forster's: 13 reports (1-300)

Tern, Common: Bolivar--(20)1,JMo; Galveston--(1)6,JHa
 Tern, Least: 13 reports (2-200)
 Tern, Royal: 8 reports (10-1,800)
 Tern, Sandwich: 5 reports (2-200)
 Tern, Caspian: 4 reports (1-5)
 Tern, Black: 11 reports (1-25)
 Skimmer, Black: 14 reports (1-100)
 Dove, Rock: 6 reports (10-30)
 Dove, White-winged: Galveston--(4)all month,JHa, (1)3,EM, (2)4,MAu; High Is.--(1)17,E.
 Dove, Mourning: 22 reports (1-95)
 Dove, Ringed Turtle: Bellaire--(8-10) all month, P&MJ
 Dove, Ground: Galveston Is. St. Pk--(1)18,MAu
 Dove, Inca: 7 reports (2-12)
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 24 reports (1-50)
 Cuckoo, Black-billed: High Is.--(1)3,SCa, (2)17,E; Galveston--(1)4,MAu, (3)9,TBF, LR; Sabine Pass--(5)9,E; White Oak Bayou--(1)11,17,WC
 Owl, Barn: Almeda--(3-4 young)5,DM; High Is.--(1)9,17,E; Sabine Pass--(1)9,E
 Owl, Screech: Algoa--(1)1-24,DM (see notes); W. Harris Co.--(2 young-not flying)13,DM; Houston--(1)17,E
 Owl, Barred: Bear Creek Park--(1)April30,MAu; High Is.--(1)17,E; Hale Ranch--(1)26,P&MJ
 Chuck-will's-widow: High Is.--(1)1,JMo; Sheldon Res.--(3)4,P; Houston--(1)5,NP; Sea Rim St. Pk--(1)9,E; E. Harris Co.--(1)25,MAu.
 Nighthawk, Common: 21 reports (1-80)
 Nighthawk, Lesser: Galveston--(1)2,G&JC, (1)20,JHa (Prior reports)
 Swift, Chimney: 17 reports (1-10)
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 21 reports (1-35)(last date: 25th)
 Kingfisher, Belted: Chambers Co.--(1)3,OG
 Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Houston--(1)all month,WC
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 3 reports (1-3)
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 8 reports (1-8)
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: Chambers Co.--(3)1,B&EW, (2)9,(4)17,E; Galveston--(1)3,EM
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: Galveston--(1)2,G&JC; High Is.--(1)9,SCa.
 Woodpecker, Downy: Bellaire--(2)all month,DM,(collecting food for young in last 10 days), 10 additional reports (1-4)
 Kingbird, Eastern: 26 reports (1-140)
 Kingbird, Western: Brazoria Co.--(2)1,L&MB; Galveston--(2)1,JMo,(1)4,P,(1)6,MAu,(3)9,TBF,LR
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 15 reports (1-50)
 Flycatcher, Great-crested: 16 reports (1-8)
 Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: Brazoria Co.--(2)1,L&MB, (1)17,B, (1)17,MRo; Galveston--(1)6,MAu, (1)17,E; High Is.--(1)17,E.
 Flycatcher, Acadian: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,L&MB; High Is.--(1)3,SCa, (6)17,E; Seabrook--(1)4,P; Galveston--(6)9,TBF,LR, (1)17,E; Sabine Pass--(2)9,E; White Memorial Pk--(2)9,E; Hale Ranch--(1)26,P&MJ
 Flycatcher, Willow: Hale Ranch--(1-heard)26,P&MJ
 Flycatcher, Least: High Is.--(2)9,E; Sabine Pass--(2)9,E
 empidonax, sp.: 14 reports (1-40)
 Pewee, Eastern: 22 reports (1-75)
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: High Is.--(1)3,OG,(1)9,(2)17,E; Sabine Pass--(1)9,E; W. Harris Co.--(1)12,BG; White Oak Bayou--(1)13,WC.
 Lark, Horned: Bolivar--(2)1,JMo; Galveston--(2)3,EM,(1)6,MAu
 Swallow, Tree: Chambers Co.--(50)1,(50)3,(50)9,(5)17,m.obs.; High Is.--(6)2,(20)3,(2)17,SCa; Galveston--(12)3,EM,(20)10,CSu; W. Harris Co.--(3)12,BG
 Swallow, Barn: Chambers Co.--(100)1,JMo; Galveston--(2)3,EM,(15)17,E,(1)18,MAu
 Swallow, Rough-winged: Galveston--(2)3,EM,(2)10,CSu,(10)15,JHa
 Swallow, Barn: 10 reports (4-550)
 Swallow, Cliff: Galveston--(8)3,EM; Ft. Bend Co.--(8)26,P&MJ
 Martin, Purple: 24 reports (1-75)
 Jay, Blue: Bellaire--(1 fledgling)11,(2 fledglings)23,24,P&MJ, 14 additional reports (1-24)
 Crow, Common: Hale Ranch--(20, including many young)26,P&MJ; 8 additional reports (2-40)
 Chickadee, Carolina: White Memorial Pk--(20 w/young)17,E; 6 additional reports (3-50)
 Titmouse, Tufted: White Memorial Pk--(30 w/young)17,E; 4 additional reports (6-20)
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Deussen Pk--(8)4,P; Houston--(2)26,JMo
 Wren, House: Sheldon Res.--(1)4,P (see notes)
 Wren, Carolina: Lake Jackson--(3)13,L&MB (young bird being fed by parents); N. Harris Co.--(1 building nest)3,DM; 8 additional reports (2-25)
 Mockingbird: Bellaire--(1 fledgling)11,P&MJ; 22 additional reports (1-30)

- Catbird, Gray: Bellaire--(11)1-5, P&MJ, (1)4, LG; High Is.--(25)1, (60)2, (6)2, (50)3, (30)3, (12)4, (6)4, (140)9, (15)9, (1)11, (45)17, (8)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(10)3, (8)6, (6)9, (3)10, (3)15, (2)17, m.obs.; Brazoria Co.--(3)3, MRo, (8)4, L&MB; Sabine Pass--(40)9, E; White Oak Bayou--(1-2)16, 17, WC.
- Trasher, Brown: Bellaire--(1)1, P&MJ, (2)4, DM; High Is.--(1)1, JMo, (1)2, Sca; Galveston--(1)3, EM; W. Harris Co.--(3)12, BG
- Robin, American: Galveston--(2)3, EM, (1)4, MAU, (3)17, E; Houston--(1)17, E
- Thrush, Wood: High Is.--(2)1, (2)2, (10)3, (3)3, (3)4, (8)9, (1)17, (1)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(1)3, EM, (10)12, TBF, LR; W. Harris Co.--(1)12, BG; Hale Ranch--(1)26, P&MJ.
- Thrush, Swainson's: High Is.--(6)1, (25)2, (18)2, (280)3, (70)3, (25)4, (1)4, (80)9, (30)9, (60)17, (20)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(6)3, (7)4, (6)6, (350)9, (6)10, (3)15, (20)17, m.obs.; Bellaire--(1)4, LG, (1-3)4-21, P&MJ; Brazoria Co.--(2)3, (4)17, MRo, (2)4, L&MB; Houston--(2)4, LG, (1)16, 17, 24, WC; Sabine Pass--(120)9, E; W. Harris Co.--(3)12, BG.
- Thrush, Gray-cheeked: High Is.--(3)1, (3)2, (35)3, (4)3, (2)3, (8)4, (1)4, (2)9, (2)9, (1)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(6)3, EM, (40)TBF, LR, (1)17, E; Bellaire--(1)4-14, P&MJ; Brazoria Co.--(1)17, B
- Veery: High Is.--(1)1, (25)3, (7)3, (10)4, (3)4, (1)4, (5)9, (2)9, (3)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(1)3, EM, (1)6, MAU, (125)9, TBF, LR; Brazoria Co.--(1)4, L&MB; Bellaire--(2)5 (1)10-14, P&MJ; Sabine Pass--(25)9, E
- Bluebird, Eastern: Lake Jackson--(2)20, MRo; Hale Ranch--(1)26, P&MJ
- Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: High Is.--(2)3, Sca, (3)3, OG, (2)17, E; Hale Ranch--(1)26, P&MJ
- Pipit, Water: Galveston--(1)3, G&JC
- Waxwing, Cedar: Bellaire--(4-3)11-12, P&MJ; Houston--(6)4, LG, (20)14, MAC; High Is.--(1)9, Sca, (10)9, (60)17, E; Sabine Pass--(10)9, E; Bolivar--(10)17, E
- Shrike, Loggerhead: 13 reports (1-30)
- Starling: 12 reports (1-230)
- Vireo, White-eyed: 16 reports (1-30)
- Vireo, Yellow-throated: High Is.--(1)2, Sca, (1)3, OG, (1)4, MAU; Galveston--(1)9, TBF, LR; Sabine Pass--(1)9, E; White Memorial Pk.--(2)9, E
- Vireo, Solitary: Bolivar--(1)17, E
- Vireo, Red-eyed: 21 reports (1-200)
- Vireo, Philadelphia: High Is.--(2)2, (1)3, (1)4, (1)9, (2)17, (4)17, m.obs.; Galveston--(2)6, (1)20, JHa, (20)9, TBF, LR; Brazoria Co.--(1)17, B, (1)17, MRo; Sabine Pass--(1)9, E.
- Vireo, Warbling: Houston--(1)1, BH, (2)4, 17, WC; High Is.--(6)2, (1)2, (1)3, (1)9, (1)17, m.obs.; Sabine Pass--(1)9, E
- Warbler, Black & White: 22 reports (1-40)
- Warbler, Prothonotary: High Is.--(1)3, OG; White Memorial Pk.--(1)17, E; Hale Ranch--(1)26, P&MJ
- Warbler, Swainson's: White Memorial Pk.--(2)9, (1)17, E; High Is.--(1)17, E; E. Harris Co.--(1)25, MAU
- Warbler, Worm-eating: High Is.--(1)4, CSu
- Warbler, Golden-winged: Galveston--(2)3, EM; High Is.--(1)3, OG; White Oak Bayou--(1)3, 4, WC
- Warbler, Blue-winged: High Is.--(2)2, Sca, (1)3, H, (4)3, OG; Galveston--(2)3, EM; White Oak Bayou--(1)4, WC
- Warbler, Brewster's: High Is.--(1)4, MAU (see notes)
- Warbler, Tennessee: 24 reports (1-70)
- Warbler, Nashville: High Is.--(1)3, H, (1)3, OG; Bellaire--(1)4, 6, P&MJ; Brazoria Co.--(1)17, B, (1)17, MRo
- Warbler, Northern Parula: 9 reports (1-15)
- Warbler, Yellow: Galveston--(1)1, JMo, (2)3, EM, (20)9, TBF, LR; High Is.--(2)2, (1)2, (3)3, (3)3, (1)4, (2)9, (5)17, m.obs.; Sabine Pass--(35)9, E; Bolivar--(1)17, E; Brazoria Co.--(1)17, B, (1)17, MRo
- Warbler, Magnolia: High Is.--(3)1, (1)2, (8)2, (3)2, (125)3, (35)3, (8)3, (12)4, (10)4, (30)9, (18)9, (2)11, (150)17, (25)17, m.obs.; Brazoria Co.--(2)3, (6)17, MRo, (3)17, B; Galveston--(15)3, (1)4, (3)6, (700)9, (1)10, (1)15, (1)16, (15)17, (1)18, m.obs.; Bellaire--(2)4, (1)16, 23, P&MJ; Houston--(6)4, LG, (1)15, 16, (2)17, WC; Sabine Pass--(35)9, E; W. Harris Co.--(1)12, BG
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue: High Is.--(1)9, E, (1)9, 11, Sca (see notes)
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: High Is.--(3)1, (3)2, (3)2, (10)3, (5)3, (2)4, (2)9, (1)9, (6)17, m.obs.; Bellaire--(1)4, LG, (1)9, P&MJ; Houston--(2)4, LG, (1)16, 17, WC; Sabine Pass--(2)9, E; Brazoria Co.--(1)17, B, (1)17, MRo; Galveston--(1)17, E, (1)20, JHa
- E. Harris Co.--(1)21, MAU
- Warbler, Cerulean: High Is.--(1)3, H, (1)3, OG
- Warbler, Blackburnian: High Is.--(3)2, (2)2, (5)3, (3)3, (2)3, (20)9, (1)9, (35)17, (3)17, m.obs.; Bellaire--(1)4, LG; Houston--(1)4, (2)16, (1)17, (1)21, m.obs.; Galveston--(6)9, (1)10, (1)16, (6)17, m.obs.; Sabine Pass--(15)9, E; W. Harris Co.--(1)12, BG
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: Lake Charlotte--(1)4, H
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided: High Is.--(1)1, (4)2, (3)2, (28)3, (6)3, (4)3, (3)4, (1)4, (1)9, (6)17, (4)17, m.obs.; Bellaire--(1)2-4, P&MJ, (n/c)4, LG; Galveston--(1)3, (40)9, (1)17

- Warbler, Chestnut-sided - Continued: Galveston--(1)20,m.obs.; Houston--(2)4, LG, (1)16,17,WC; Sabine Pass--(9)9,E; W. Harris Co.--(2)12,BG
- Warbler, Bay-breasted: High Is.--(3)1,(1)2,(8)2,(325)3,(100)3,(20)4,(18)4,(25)9,(14)9,(3)10,(1)11,(175)17,(20)17,m.obs.; Belleaire--(1)3,4,P&MJ,(n/c)4, LG; Galveston--(3)3,(250)9,(12)10,(2)15,(4)16,(25)17,m.obs.; Houston--(6-8)4, LG,(1)16,(3)17,WC; Sabine Pass--(50)9,E; Brazoria Co.--(1)17,B,(4)17,MRO
- Warbler, Blackpoll: High Is.--(1)3,SCa,(1)3,OG,(1)4,MAU; Galveston--(15)9,TBF,LR.
- Warbler, Pine: White Memorial Pk--(1)9,(5)17,E,(1)11,CSu
- Ovenbird: High Is.--(4)1,(25)2,(1)3,(8)3,(1)3,(10)9,(4)9,(8)17,(2)17,m.obs.; Brazoria Co.--(1)3,(2)17,MRO,(1)17,B; Galveston--(6)3,(6)9,(1)15,(2)16,(5)17,(1)20,m.obs.; Sabine Pass--(3)9,E; White Oak Bayou--(2)17,WC
- Waterthrush, Northern: High Is.--(1)1,(1)2,(14)3,(2)3,(2)4,(2)4,(4)9,(1)11,(2)17,m.obs.; Galveston--(1)6,MAU,(2)9,TBF,LR; Sabine Pass--(5)9,E
- Warbler, Kentucky: High Is.--(1)1,(3)2,(6)3,(4)3,(3)4,(1)9,m.obs.; Galveston--(1)3,EM,(3)9,TBF,LR.
- Warbler, Mourning: White Oak Bayou--(1)16,WC
- Yellowthroat, Common: 21 reports (1-25)
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: High Is.--(1)1,JMo,(1)3,H,(1)3,OG,(1)9,E; Belleaire--(1)4,P&MJ; Dickinson--(2)4,EM; Sabine Pass--(1)9,E
- Warbler, Hooded: Galveston--(1)3,EM,(3)9,TBF,LR; High Is.--(7)3,(6)3,(2)3,(5)2,(1)4,m.obs.; Belleaire--(1)4, LG,(1)4,P&MJ; Sabine Pass--(1)9,E; White Memorial Pk.--(1)9,E; W. Harris Co.--(4)12,BG; Hale Ranch--(5)26,P&MJ
- Warbler, Wilson's: High Is.--(1)3,OG,(1)17,E
- Warbler, Canada: High Is.--(3)1,(1)3,(1)4,(1)4,(2)9,m.obs.; Houston--(1)4, LG,(1)16,(2)17,WC,(2)21,J&BH; Belleaire--(1)9,P&MJ; Brazoria Co.--(2)17,B,(1)17,MRO
- Redstart, American: High Is.--(4)2,(3)2,(60)3,(12)3,(6)3,(6)4,(65)9,(6)9,(2)11,(200)17,(14)17,m.obs.; Brazoria Co.--(2)3,(1)17,MRO,(2)17,B; Galveston--(3)3,(20)9,(2)10,(4)15,(3)16,(25)17,(2)20,m.obs.; Belleaire--(1)9,12,14,16,P&MJ; Sabine Pass--(1)9,E; White Oak Bayou--(1)16,(3)17,WC
- Sparrow, House: 10 reports (6-150)
- Bobolink: Galveston--(1)1,JMo
- Meadowlark, Eastern: 15 reports (3-100)
- Blackbird, Yellow-headed: Brazoria Co.--(3)11,B&EW; Galveston--(3)1,G&JC,(1)1,JMo
- Blackbird, Red-winged: 17 reports (3-600)
- Oriole, Orchard: Anahuac NWR--(3)1,B&EW; Brazoria Co.--(1)11,L&MB; High Is.--(5)1,JMo,(1)2,SCa; Galveston--(1)3,(10)10,(3)15,(1)17,(3)18,(5)20,(2)24,m.obs.; Sabine Pass--(2)9,E
- Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): Belleaire--(1-5)11-8,P&MJ; Brazoria Co.--(9)1,L&MB; Galveston--(15)1,(4)3,(8)6,(1)10,(2)20,m.obs.; High Is.--(8)2,(1)3,SCa,(2)4,MAU,(1-Bullock's)3,OG,(see notes); Lake Charlotte--(2)4,H; Sea Rim St. Pk.--(20)9,E
- Grackle, Boat-tailed: 11 reports (2-150)
- Grackle, Great-tailed: 11 reports (2-50)
- Grackle, Common: 7 reports (1-20)
- Cowbird, Brown-headed: 10 reports (5-70)
- Tanager, Scarlet: Brazoria Co.--(1)1,(5)2,(2)4,L&MB; High Is.--(3)1,(8)2,(2)2,(10)3,(6)3,(5)3,(7)4,(6)4,(25)9,m.obs.; Belleaire--(1)3,P&MJ; Galveston--(1)3,EM,(1)4,MAU,(2)6,JHa
- Tanager, Summer: 14 reports (1-15)
- Cardinal: 17 reports (1-50)
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: Belleaire--(1-8)11-13,P&MJ,(1)6, LG; Brazoria Co.--(2)1,2,(8)4,L&MB,(1)2,17,MRO; High Is.--(15)1,(40)2,(40)3,(6)4,(6)4,(40)9,(4)9,(1)17,m.obs.; Galveston--(20)3,EM,(2)15,20,JHa,(1)17,E; Houston--(1)4, LG
- Grosbeak, Blue: Galveston--(2)1,(1)3,(2)6,(2)15,(1)17,m.obs.; High Is.--(4)2,(1)3,SCa,(4)3,H; Brazoria Co.--(2)4,L&MB; Sabine Pass--(5)19,E
- Bunting, Indigo: 20 reports (1-100)
- Bunting, Painted: 16 reports (1-18)
- Dickcissel: 12 reports (1-12)
- Goldfinch, American: Belleaire--(12)2,(n/c)3,(6)4,(2)25,P&MJ
- Sparrow, Savannah: Chambers Co.--(5)1,JMo,(10)9,E; Galveston--(1)6,JHa
- Sparrow, Seaside: High Is.--(1)8,SCa; Galveston--(3)10,CSu,(1)18,MAU
- Sparrow, Lark: Brazoria Co.--(4)1,L&MB
- Sparrow, Chipping: Galveston--(1)3,EM; Belleaire--(1)4, LG
- Sparrow, White-crowned: Galveston--(1)1,JMo
- Sparrow, Lincoln's: Algoa--(1)1,3,DW; Galveston--(3)3,EM
- Sparrow, Song: Anahuac NWR--(3)1,B&EW

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS, May 1980

MAU--Mike Austin; L&MB--Larry & Martha Ballard; SCa--Steve & Sandra Calver; MAC--Mary Ann Chapman; G&JC--George & Jane Clayton; WC--Wesley Cureton; TBF--T. Ben Felner; D&LF--David & Linda Ferry; LG--Linda Graetz; BG--Bernd Gravenstein; JHa--John & Jane Hamilton; J&BH--Jean & Bill Harwell; P&MJ--T. Paul & Margaret Jones;

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS - Continued:- - DM--David Marrack; EM--Elric McHenry; JMo--Jim Morgan; NP--Noel Pettingell; LR--Linda Roach; MRO--Matt Robinson; CSU--Colin Summerhayes; B&EW--Bob & Edith Willman; DW--Diane Wise; B--Brazosport Birders Field Trip, fide LB; E--Party of Ted L. Eubanks, Jr. & JMo; H--Party of Ann & Ray Booth, J&BH; OG--Ornithology Group Field Trip, fide JMo; P--Party of NP, Steve Williams.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES, May 1980

Yellow-crowned Night Heron: On March 25 I discovered two YCNH building a nest high in a tree on a lot of Magnolia St. in Bellaire. One heron was in full adult plumage, the other heron, though approx. the same size as the one in full plumage, was not. Plumage was brown and streaky like that of an immature. I checked the nest about once a week after that and saw no sign of the birds. Last I had checked was around April 16th and I didn't look again until Sunday, May 4th when much to my surprise I saw a YCNH standing on the nest and could see the movement of one baby heron. On Monday, May 5, I returned and saw one adult heron and could see two babies' heads moving around (so far this was through binoculars.) On Tuesday, May 6, I went to the lot a little later than usual, at 6:30, and went with another observer. In all we saw 7-8 adult yellow crowned night herons, one immature, 3 babies in the nest and discovered one nest that looked like it was in the process of being built, an adult seemed to be working on it. As we were leaving the lot (we watched them all through the spotting scope for about 1/2 hour) we looked at the nest from another view, and found yet a third nest, this one being complete and having an adult YCNH sitting on it. The baby yellow-crowns in the first nest are very downy, but are getting up. Saw one standing on the top ridge of the nest so were able to tell shape and size. An adult stood by the nest with the babies the entire time we were there. Another adult stood on a branch that was somewhat in the open, half-way between the nest with the babies and the nest that was being built. This adult, the adults with the nests and the immature stayed in place the entire time we were watching. About 5 other adults were in the trees when we arrived, and after moving about for awhile, they all took off at one point probably in search for dinner.
 May 15: Returned to observe nest. Four young seen: two standing, two sitting up facing an adult heron. I'm sure this is the total number of young. Not quite ready to fly - have streaking on the throat. Adult seen sitting on a second nest* couldn't find a third nest this time.
 --Linda Graetz

Canvasback: A lone male in a water impoundment on the west side of highway 124 about a half mile north of the junction of FM 1985. White back and flanks, black chest, maroon head and neck and sloping profile. Watched it for 1-2 minutes at a distance of 150 yds. with a zoom telescope. The bird was so far out of season I made sure I wasn't watching a decoy someone had left behind. -- Mike Austin

COMMON (BLACK) SCOTER: Subject was noticed about 200 yds. offshore at Crystal Beach on the Bolivar Peninsula and was pursued by a single observer in a small inflatable plastic boat to within 30 yards, where it was observed by eye. The bird was an all-black duck with an orange knob on the proximal upper bill, no white around the eye or on the head, and no white in the wings when flushed for several yards. The tail was held in a cocked position. These details were noted by the second observer onshore with 10 x 50 binoculars. The time of day was 2:30 pm with bright sunlight. The bird was observed slowly moving farther out to sea over a period of 1/2 hour.
 --David Ferry

Red-breasted Merganser: A green headed, rusty breasted adult male merganser. The "tuft" feathers on the head were visible. The bird was swimming and diving in the surf at about 3 ft.
 --Matt Robinson

Peregrine Falcon: Flying low over trees. First thought to be Mississippi kite. Had broad but tapered wings and tail narrower at tip than at rump. Some barring on tail. Upper breast light, rest of underparts dark. Strong dark bar on face. Seen for about 30 seconds with 7 x 50 binoculars at 7:30 am. -- Wesley Cureton

Screech Owl: Seen daily at twilight from April 4-May 24. Sometimes would hang half-way out of flicker house on very hot days. Blue jays, starlings, and mockingbirds sometimes clustered near and sounded alarms. On May 25 we didn't see her at all. Early on the 26th I saw a starling enter the house with no problem. I went out, opened the front door to the house, and found one very dirty egg which I checked in my "Field Guide to Bird's Nests". I left the nest undisturbed. We don't know what happened. At no time did we ever see two owls as we did last year. Also last year's owl was here until June 19. I remember that someone was working on a study of screech owls and thought this might be useful. --Diane Wise

House Wren : Seen in brushy area along Garrett Rd. near Fauna (NW Sheldon Reservoir). Plain brownish back and no eye stripe. --Steve Williams

Brewster's Warbler: Seen in dense undergrowth in Smith Woods. Watched on two occasions for a total of perhaps 20 seconds, once from about 10 feet away. Yellow crown, breast splotch and wing bars. Prominent black eye-line. Gray above, white below. --Mike Austin

Black-throated Blue Warbler: Male bird; bluish-gray underparts; black cheeks, throat, sides and flanks; remainder of underparts white; white wing-spot on lower folded wing. Discovered by Norma Oates and seen by four other observers in good light as close as 15 ft. with binocs for periods of 15-20 seconds during several viewing times. --Jim Morgan

Typo!
Original Notes
Say upperparts

Black-throated Blue Warbler: (Seen by both of us and several others) A bright male - blue above - white below except for black throat and sides. --Steve & Sandra Calver

Northern Oriole (Bullock's): Male bird; like Baltimore Oriole but with orange cheeks, black eye-line and orange superciliary line. From viewing angle, the larger white wing patch was not visible. Seen by two observers at distances of 40-70 ft. in very good light with binocs for several viewing periods of 5-10 seconds. --Jim Morgan

SPECIAL REPORT TO THE CLEARING HOUSE, May 1980

GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER: W. University Place--(1)1,MAC

On about May 1, on my early morning walk in West University, I heard a call that I was sure was Golden-cheeked Warbler song. I had no binoculars but tried to track down the singing bird and all I could find was a warbler with yellow cheeks which, had I not heard the call, I would have guessed was a Black-throated Green Warbler. I feel certain that it was a Golden-Cheeked. I called Margaret Anderson about this warbler. She said she would go over to the location. --Mary Ann Chapman

Comment by CH Ed: Margaret Anderson also called me and Pat Warner. All of us went at once to the location. Only warbler species that could be found were many Tennessee's (some singing) and one Hooded, which sang one time. We checked an area of about two blocks around the intersection. Time: 7:30-8:00 AM.

Follow-up on THAYER'S GULL: Greg Lasley sent slides of the bird he and Bret Whitney identified as a Thayer's Gull April 23, at Bolivar Flats, to Keith Arnold, who in turn, sent them to Dr. Joe Jehl in California. Following is Greg's note to the Clearing House Editor:

"I got back word from Keith Arnold from A&M. A little disappointing I'm afraid. This is part of Dr. Jehl's response...I can't see any good reason why it is not a Thayer's. Certainly it is not Iceland, but it could be a small Glaucous-winged Gull. Glaucous-winged is of course un-recorded in Texas. Due to the difficulty in identifying gulls in late April, and Dr. Jehl being unable to positively confirm the ID, the record will not be documented. Our field notes, and Dr. Jehl's letter will be submitted to the TOS Bird records committee as a sight record however, and I feel they will be accepted. Perhaps our Thayer's Gull (of which we are still positive on the ID) will be worthy of hypothetical status on the UTC".

Addenda to the Clearing House, May 1980: (Extracted from report received after June 3 from Ruth and Arch Dillard):

- Loon, Common: Galveston Is.St.Pk.--(1)18
- Teal, Cinnamon: Galveston--(2)18
- Rail, Virginia: Galveston--(1)18
- Godwit, Marbled: Galveston--(6)18
- Ani, Groove-billed: Kempner Park--(3)4

[Comment from the CH Editor: The Dillard's report was among several received after the deadline, and after the Clearing House had been compiled and turned over to this month's Typer, Barbara Darr. We are sorry those observations could not be included

in this Clearing House. Please send in your sightings as early as possible so they can be recorded. The above extractions from the Dillard's report were made because four of them were additional species for the month's list, and the fifth, the Marbled Godwit, had a significant date.]

A NOTE FROM THE SPOONBILL EDITOR:

When you receive this issue of THE SPOONBILL, I will be in Great Britain with the Merlin Birding Tour group. (I thought June would never get here!).

When I return, I will be changing jobs, and my time will become even more limited. I have enjoyed being Editor, and would like to continue, if possible. Several times in the past few months, Barbara Darr has come to my assistance by typing the CH, for which I am very grateful. Marian Firestone will join her as a Typer next month, but with a difference....she will type the stencils for the entire SPOONBILL. In the next few months we will endeavor to discover if it is feasible for me to continue as Editor with all of the stencils being done by a Typer. I hope so. However, we will need several Typers to rotate the duty, so that no one person is called on every month. So please step forward and volunteer to join THE SPOONBILL staff. And don't be afraid of stencils....Corrective Fluid is the greatest!

All of you can help by remembering THE SPOONBILL deadline, the 25th of each month, for announcements, articles, items of interest, etc.

And if you can't type, join the Mailers....call Maxine Davis, 723-8559. By doing so, you'll be treating yourself to a couple of hours each month of easy, friendly, fun.

Sincerely, Margaret Jones

RECOMMENDED READING

The current (March 1980) American Birds was just received, and the Editor heartily recommends two articles:

- 1) A method for separating juvenal and first-winter Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) and Common Gulls (*Larus canus*). This is recommended, not because we on the UTC would have this particular separation problem, but because we can learn a great deal about the Ring-billed Gull, and because the article points out how extremely difficult is the ID on some first and second year gulls because of size variation and less-than-all-inclusive illustrations in field guides.
- 2) Pelagic birds of the northern Gulf of Mexico. This is a preliminary summary of distribution and abundance with comments on field identification. This is certainly recommended for those who are taking part in the on-going pelagic trips of the Bird Research Group, and should encourage others to do so. Lack of exciting finds each and every month should not obscure the ultimate reason for the trips. To quote from the article: "Birders are only beginning to explore the Gulf. More than a decade of observations in the region will be required before we begin to understand the occurrence and distribution of these species."

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Send bird records for Clearing House before 3rd of month to: <u>Paul Jones</u> , 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
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