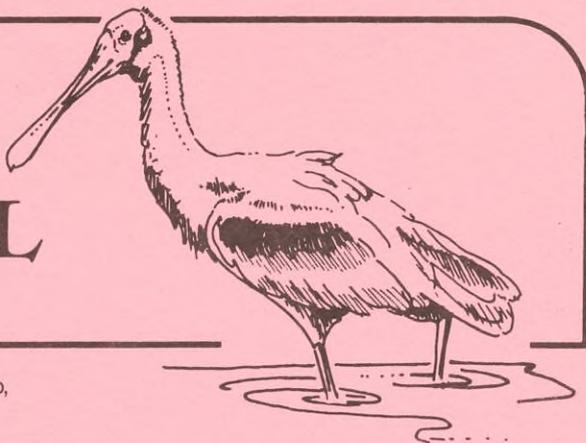


# The SPOONBILL



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## Coming Events

WEDNESDAY  
JULY 11, 1984

Piney Woods Wildlife  
Society Meeting  
Ted Eubanks will give  
a talk on shore birds.  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Location: North Harris  
County College, Room A-126  
Academic Bldg.  
2700 W. W. Thorne Drive

## TROPICAL TEXAS TOUR

On November 30 - December 4, Peregrine Tours will run a Tropical Texas bus trip for the O.G. The trip will first stop at Rockport to ride the Whooping Crane boat and see Aransas National Wildlife Refuge's most famous winter visitors. Then we will hit all the birding hot spots of the Valley-Falcon Dam, Bentsen State Park and Santa Ana and Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuges. This is the same itinerary as our regular Tropical Texas Tour but because we are taking a bus load of folks, we can offer it for \$325, more than \$100 less than our regular tour when you figure in transportation. This price includes everything except food. And you will get a free Peregrine T-shirt! Like the other group trips we have organized, we intend this to be an O.G. trip, and are announcing it first to O.G. members, hoping that the O.G. will fill the bus. Later we will advertise it to other Houston birders. So don't delay! If you would like to have a great time in the Valley with a great bunch of people and see some great birds, make your plans now! Save your place by sending a \$50 deposit to Peregrine Tours, P. O. Box 3062, Houston, TX 77253, or call us at 441-1220 and we will send you a complete itinerary.

## NATURALIST TO LEAD TOUR OF MEXICO TROPICAL FOREST

Nature lovers throughout Texas will have a chance August 19-25 to visit the northernmost cloud forest in America with two of the state's leading naturalists serving as their guides.

Dr. Marshall C. Johnston of the University of Texas, at Austin, and Eric Lautzenheiser, of the Armand Bayou Nature Center, in Houston, will conduct daily trips through five major vegetation zones in the Sierra Madre Oriental de Guatemala mountains near Tamaulipas, Mexico.

The remote Rancho del Cielo, a biological field station located at 3,800 feet, will serve as the base for the group, which will hike through an area ranging from 1,100 feet to more than 6,000 feet in elevation.

The cloud forest boasts a remarkable variety of plant life, including bromeliads, orchids, ferns, tropical oaks and magnolias, cacti, beech, spruce and many other species. Birdwatchers and photographers will have a chance to see such exotic Mexican birds as the black-headed nightingale-thrush, the rufescent tinamou, the singing quail, the mountain trogon, the blue-crowned motmot, the military macaw and the bumble-bee hummingbird.

Larger mammals in the area include black bear, coati, jaguar, puma and brocket deer.

The tour, which includes transportation from Brownsville, Texas and meals and sleeping accommodations at the Rancho del Cielo, will cost \$550 a person and can earn participants three hours of college credit from the University of Houston. Sponsoring bodies are the Gorgas Science Society of Texas Southmost College, in Brownsville and the Armand Bayou Nature Center.

Reservations may be made by writing to Eric Lautzenheiser at the Armand Bayou Nature Center, P. O. Box 58828, Houston, TX 77258 or phoning him at 713-474-2551.

# Noel's Niche Looking Back

. . . Ten Years Ago This Month  
from June 1974 Spoonbill

"Clearing House Notes - Bachman's Sparrow: On July 22, 1972, Paul and Phyllis Nimmons found two Bachman's Sparrow near Russ Clapper's house in Chambers County. Just east of the intersection of FM 562 and FM 1985 is a road that veers off of FM 1985. About .8 mile down it is the location of the sparrow. Sparrow singing there at 8:15 a.m. on May 2, 1984. It was singing from the tip of a pine branch. The song is a slow trill with a lower introductory whistle, and variously with trills and whistles on different pitches. Visually, the bird is nondescript long-tailed and clear-breasted. Bachman's Sparrows were formerly recorded around Lake Houston. But in recent years none have been reported. This sighting seems to represent a rediscovery of the bird in the UTC area. - Dan Hardy"

. . . Twenty Years Ago This Month  
from June 1964 Spoonbill

"New Tanager Genus from Peru  
John O'Neill, O.G. member who will begin graduate work in ornithology at L.S.U. this year, on a collecting trip to Peru last summer, brought back a tanager skin which turned out to be not only a new species but a new genus as well. It has been 34 years since a new genus or species has been discovered in the family Thraupidae. O'Neill and Dr. George Lowery of L.S.U. have named the bird Orange throated Tanager, *Wetmorethraupis sterrhopteron*."

. . . Thirty Years Ago This Month  
from June 1954 Spoonbill

"EXTRA EXTRA  
HOUSTON'S SPRING ROUDUP TOP IN NATION  
Outlists Rio Grande and D.V.O.C.

Houston, Texas, June 14 - A determined group of 58 birders in some 21 parties defied wind and rain last May 2 in order to hang up a new local record of 230 species recorded in a single day. This was 9 more than last year's record of 221 species, 2 more than the Lower Rio Grande Valley's 228 set on April 25 this year (by 31 observers in 11 parties), and 4 more than the Delaware Valley's 226 species on May 16 (by 61 observers in 14 parties).

Last year the Upper Gulf Coast Area finished third in the Nation, topped by the Rio Grande's all-time record count of 244 species and the D.V.O.C.'s list of 230. Next year the Upper Gulf Coast Area will try to make it two in a row by enlisting the aid of an even greater "Army of Bird Watchers". Their Goal: 240 species (plus) in '55!"

\*\*\* For The Record

From 1977 to 1984 (as of May 13) George and Jane Clayton have recorded a total of 230 species each from their beach house at Sea Isle (3722 Concho Key at West Bay) on West Galveston Island. As far as I know, this is a U.S. record for a locality of this size - 120 by 75 feet...

Another yard record is held by Margaret Anderson who has accumulated a list of 178 species at 2913 Amherst in West University Place (SW Houston area) from Jan. 1, 1962 to May 10, 1984. I know of no other inland U.S. location measuring 125 by 50 feet from which this many species has been observed....

## Clearing House - May, 1984

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH: Species: Location--(how many)date,observers. Those common species which can be easily identified and are widely distributed in the UTC will also be listed, followed by the number of reports, with the lowest and highest number of individuals seen in parentheses, i.e. (1-40). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. All observations reported below must be accepted by the Checklist Committee (Ben Feltner, Jim Morgan and Noel Pettingell) before they are considered valid and included in the next checklist. Sightings lacking details, when required, will not be included in the Clearing House. Submitters who forget details should send their notes to a member of the Checklist Committee.

Loon, Common: 3 reports (1-2)  
Grebe, Eared: 6 reports (1-12)  
Grebe, Pied-billed: 15 reports (1-88)  
Pelican, American White: 7 reports (1-200)  
Cormorant, Double-crested: 16 reports (1-22)  
Cormorant, Olivaceous: 11 reports (1-11)  
Anhinga: 8 reports (1-40)  
Frigatebird, Magnificent: 2 reports (1 each)  
Heron, Great Blue: 38 reports (1-51)  
Heron, Green-backed: 24 reports (1-12)  
Heron, Little Blue: 18 reports (1-60)  
Egret, Cattle: 39 reports (1-500)  
Egret, Reddish: 29 reports (1-12)  
Egret, Great: 43 reports (1-150)  
Egret, Snowy: 43 reports (1-450)  
Heron, Tricolored: 37 reports (1-20)  
Night-Heron, Black-crowned: 16 reports (1-70)  
Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned: 13 reports (1-20)  
Bittern, Least: 10 reports (1-7)  
Bittern, American: 4 reports (1-2)  
Ibis, White-faced: 17 reports (1-200)  
Ibis, White: 28 reports (1-200)  
Spoonbill, Roseate: 38 reports (1-41)  
Goose, Snow: 2 reports (2 each)  
Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: West Harris Co.--  
(129)1, Mike Austin.  
Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: 8 reports (1-50)  
Duck, Mottled: 30 reports (1-90)  
Gadwall: 5 reports (1-4)  
Teal, Blue-winged: 24 reports (1-36)  
Wigeon, American: 3 reports (1 each)  
Shoveler, Northern: 12 reports (1-39)  
Duck, Wood: 4 reports (1-19)  
Scaup, Lesser: 4 reports (1 each)  
Duck, Ruddy: 6 reports (1-15)  
Merganser, Red-breasted: 3 reports (1 each)  
Vulture, Turkey: 23 reports (1-53); West Galveston--  
(2)3, A (unusual location, ed.).  
Vulture, Black: 10 reports (1-8)  
Kite, Black-shouldered: 7 reports (1-4) (nesting in Chambers, Galveston counties, ed.).

Kite, Mississippi: 3 reports (1 each)  
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 8 reports (1-4)  
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 13 reports (1-5)  
 Hawk, Swainson's: 8 reports (1-10)  
 Harrier, Northern: 20 reports (1-12)  
 Osprey: 4 reports (1-2)  
Falcon, Peregrine: Chambers Co.--(1)5, Jim Morgan & Randy Pinkston (see notes, ed.).  
 Bobwhite, Northern: 16 reports (1-20)  
 Rail, King: 17 reports (1-12)  
 Rail, Clapper: 17 reports (1-30)  
 Sora: 3 reports (1 each)  
 Gallinule, Purple: 18 reports (1-25)  
 Moorhen, Common: 25 reports (1-60)  
 Coot, American: 29 reports (1-200)  
 Oystercatcher, American: 2 reports (1-2)  
 Plover, Semipalmated: 25 reports (1-76)  
 Plover, Piping: 4 reports (1-3)  
 Plover, Snowy: 3 reports (1 each)  
 Plover, Wilson's: 10 reports (1-12)  
 Killdeer: 36 reports (1-200)  
 Golden-Plover, Lesser: 15 reports (1-400).  
 Plover, Black-bellied: 28 reports (1-101)  
 Turnstone, Ruddy: 29 reports (1-125)  
 Curlew, Long-billed: 12 reports (1-20)  
 Whimbrel: 15 reports (1-20)  
 Sandpiper, Upland: 9 reports (1-25)  
 Sandpiper, Spotted: 13 reports (1-3)  
 Sandpiper, Solitary: 8 reports (1-2)  
 Willet: 32 reports (1-70)  
 Yellowlegs, Greater: 20 reports (1-20)  
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: 28 reports (1-115).  
 Knot, Red: 9 reports (1-13)  
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: 9 reports (1-18)  
 Sandpiper, White-rumped: 13 reports (1-300)  
 Sandpiper, Baird's: 8 reports (1-20)  
 Sandpiper, Least: 18 reports (1-70)  
SANDPIPER, CURLEW: Bolivar--(1)1-8, m.ob. (previously reported, ed.).  
 Dunlin: 33 reports (1-800).  
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: 9 reports (1-200)  
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: 18 reports (1-165)  
 Sandpiper, Stilt: 16 reports (1-30)  
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: 8 reports (1-5)  
 Sandpiper, Western: 16 reports (1-150)  
 Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: 4 reports (1-250)  
 Godwit, Marbled: 11 reports (1-25)  
 Godwit, Hudsonian: 13 reports (1-250)  
 Sanderling: 25 reports (1-300)  
 Avocet, American: 12 reports (1-500)  
 Stilt, Black-necked: 37 reports (1-150)  
 Phalarope, Wilson's: 15 reports (1-20)  
 Gull, Herring: 14 reports (1-30)  
 Gull, Ring-billed: 20 reports (1-61)  
 Gull, Laughing: 35 reports (1-1500)  
 Gull, Franklin's: 4 reports (1-4)  
 Tern, Gull-billed: 9 reports (1-2)  
 Tern, Forster's: 26 reports (1-40)  
 Tern, Common: 13 reports (1-60)  
 Tern, Least: 28 reports (1-150)  
 Tern, Royal: 26 reports (1-250)  
 Tern, Sandwich: 4 reports (1-6)  
 Tern, Caspian: 15 reports (1-33)  
 Tern, Black: 26 reports (1-40)  
 Skimmer, Black: 24 reports (1-300)  
 Dove, Rock: 25 reports (1-1000)  
 Dove, White-winged: 33 reports (1-10) (Galv., Cham., Har. Cos., ed.).  
 Dove, Mourning: 52 reports (1-110)  
 Turtle-Dove, Ringed: Bellaire--(1-6) all month, m.ob.; W. Chambers Co.--(1-4) all month, m.ob.  
 Ground-Dove, Common: 4 reports (1-3)  
 Dove, Inca: 18 reports (1-100)  
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 34 reports (1-45)  
 Cuckoo, Black-billed: 5 reports (1-2) (see late bird notes, ed.)  
 Barn-Owl, Common: 4 reports (1-2).  
 Screech-Owl, Eastern: 3 reports (1 each). (Drastic decline of all owls since last winter - ed.)  
 Owl, Great Horned: 3 reports (1 each).  
 Owl, Barred: 4 reports (1-5)  
 Nighthawk, Common: 33 reports (1-20)  
 Swift, Chimney: 25 reports (1-500)  
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 21 reports (1-6)  
 Kingfisher, Belted: 8 reports (1-10)  
 Flicker, Northern: 4 reports (1-2)  
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 15 reports (1-8)  
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 19 reports (1-16)  
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: 10 reports (1-11)  
 Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: 4 reports (1 each)  
 Woodpecker, Downy: 14 reports (1-10)  
ELAENIA, GREENISH: High Island--(1)20-22, Jim Morgan, Linda Feltner (see notes, ed.).  
 Kingbird, Eastern: 33 reports (1-100)  
Kingbird, Tropical/Couch,s: High Island--(1)6, Larry White (see notes, ed.)  
 Kingbird, Western: 13 reports (1-4)  
KINGBIRD, CASSIN'S: Galveston Bay--(1)12, George Howe (see notes, ed.).  
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 32 reports (1-70)  
 Flycatcher, Great Crested: 12 reports (1-10)  
 Empidonax, species: 6 reports (1-5)  
 Pewee, Eastern: 19 reports (1-65)  
 Flycatcher, Olive-sided: 5 reports (1-3)  
 Lark, Horned: 5 reports (1-12)  
 Swallow, Tree: 9 reports (1-20)  
 Swallow, Bank: 7 reports (1-55)  
 Swallow, Rough-winged: 7 reports (1-30)  
 Swallow, Barn: 33 reports (1-150)  
 Swallow, Cliff: 3 reports (2-5)  
 Martin, Purple: 47 reports (1-150)  
 Jay, Blue: 31 reports (1-50)  
 Crow, American: 31 reports (1-65)  
 Chickadee, Carolina: 23 reports (1-60).  
 Titmouse, Tufted: 16 reports (1-60).  
 Nuthatch, Brown-headed: 5 reports (1-6)  
 Wren, House: 3 reports (1-2)  
 Wren, Carolina: 17 reports (1-44).  
 Wren, Marsh: 4 reports (1-3).  
 Wren, Sedge: 4 reports (1 each)  
 Mockingbird, Northern: 44 reports (1-107).  
 Catbird, Gray: 25 reports (1-25).  
 Thrasher, Brown: 6 reports (1-3)  
 Robin, American: 4 reports (1-2) (nesting at Galveston..ed.)  
 Thrush, Wood: 5 reports (1-2)  
 Thrush, Swainson's: 15 reports (1-35)  
 Thrush, Gray-cheeked: 7 reports (1-5)  
 Veery: 17 reports (1-8)  
 Bluebird, Eastern: 8 reports (1-10)  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray: 6 reports (1-8)  
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: 5 reports (1-6)  
 Waxwing, Cedar: 14 reports (1-250).  
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 29 reports (1-25)  
 Starling, European: 36 reports (1-200)  
 Vireo, White-eyed: 14 reports (1-16)  
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: 7 reports (1-4)  
VIREO, YUCATAN: Bolivar--(1)1-31, m.ob. (previously reported, ed.).  
 Vireo, Red-eyed: 16 reports (1-75).  
 Vireo, Philadelphia: 4 reports (1-2)  
 Vireo, Warbling: 5 reports (1 each).  
 Warbler, Black-and-white: 16 reports (1-25).  
 Warbler, Prothonotary: 9 reports (1-6) (nesting in Ft. Bend, Chambers Cos., ed.).  
 Warbler, Swainson's: 8 reports (1-5) (nesting in Chambers Co., ed.).  
 Warbler, Worm-eating: 4 reports (1-2)  
 Warbler, Tennessee: 13 reports (1-23)  
 Warbler, Nashville: 4 reports (1 each)  
 Parula, Northern: 9 reports (1-20)  
 Warbler, Yellow: 22 reports (1-50).  
 Warbler, Magnolia: 25 reports (1-60).  
 Warbler, Cape May: 5 reports (1-2)  
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped: 13 reports (1-5)  
 Warbler, Black-throated Green: 19 reports (1-12)  
 Warbler, Cerulean: High Island--(1)8, Jim Morgan (see notes, ed.). 4 reports (1 each).  
 Warbler, Blackburnian: 16 reports (1-25)  
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: 5 reports (1-4)  
 Warbler, Chestnut-sided: 19 reports (1-9)  
 Warbler, Bay-breasted: 16 reports (1-75).  
 Warbler, Blackpoll: 8 reports (1-20)  
 Warbler, Pine: 7 reports (1-10)  
 Ovenbird: 13 reports (1-8)  
 Waterthrush, Northern: 16 reports (1-5)  
 Warbler, Mourning: High Island--(1)8, Jim Morgan  
 Yellowthroat, Common: 20 reports (1-20)  
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: 6 reports (1-2)  
 Warbler, Hooded: 8 reports (1-3)  
 Warbler, Wilson's: 5 reports (1 each)  
 Warbler, Canada: 9 reports (1-15)  
 Redstart, American: 24 reports (1-75).  
 Sparrow, House: 34 reports (1-150)  
 Boblink: 7 reports (1-3)  
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 42 reports (1-86)  
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 41 reports (1-1000)  
 Oriole, Orchard: 16 reports (1-30)  
 Oriole, Northern: 22 reports (1-11)  
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 24 reports (1-300).  
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 36 reports (1-500)  
 Grackle, Common: 24 reports (1-150)  
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 30 reports (1-100)  
 Tanager, Western: 4 reports (1-2); High Island--(3)8, Jim Morgan (see notes, ed.)

Tanager, Scarlet: 13 reports (1-5)  
Tanager, Summer: 13 reports (1-5)  
Cardinal, Northern: 38 reports (1-150).  
Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: 15 reports (1-37)  
Grosbeak, Black-headed: Brazoria Co.--(1)5, Carolyn Dill (see notes, ed.)  
Grosbeak, Blue: 6 reports (1-10)  
Bunting, Indigo: 19 reports (1-30)  
Bunting, Painted: 29 reports (1-12)  
Dickcissel: 26 reports (1-434).  
Sparrow, Savannah: 13 reports (1-20)  
Sparrow, Seaside: 5 reports (1-4)  
Sparrow, Lark: 4 reports (1-2)  
Junco, Dark-eyed: Jefferson Co.--(1)5, Jim Morgan & Randy Pinkston (see notes, ed.)  
Sparrow, Chipping: Jefferson Co.--(1)5, Jim Morgan & Randy Pinkston (see notes, ed.)  
Sparrow, Lincoln's: 3 reports (1-2)

#### CONTRIBUTORS - MAY, 1984

A(Jane Hamilton); B(Linda Graetz, Linda Walsh); Mike Austin; Mike Magruder; Ed Rozenburg; Kenneth Parkes; Greg Lasley; George Howe; Jim Morgan; Linda Feltner;  
Larry White; Randy Pinkston; Bob Behrstock; John Hamilton; Diane Cabiness; Peter Vennema; Martha Micks; Faye Humphrey; Katy Willis; Carolyn Kilian; Jan Canian; Gloria Saylor; Mary Ann Chapman; Emory Froelich; Ron & Marcia Braun; Tracy Wear; Ted & Virginia Eubanks; David, Jan, & Stephanie Dauphin; Marilyn Crane; Ellen Red; Gene Heitzman; Valerie Middaugh; Mary & Ted Eubanks, Sr.; Beth Wehner; D.D. Underwood; Ann & J.R. Wanger; George & Celeste Hinds; Richard Uzar; Jean & Bill Harwell; George & Charlene Wilson; S.E. Perkins; Noel Pettingill; Dorothy & Sheriton Burr; Pat & Jimmy Swarte; Elnora Trott; Doris & W.L.D. Winship; Phyllis Yochem; Pauline & Ronald Sauls; Lillian Andrews; Marie & Jack Fleming; Mary & Eldon Reed; Gaile & Warren Hardwick; Helen & Phillip Williams; Warren Preuss; Jim Renfro; Tom Taroni; Ken Bashaw; Bob & Edith Willman; Carolyn Dill; Austin Evans; Al & Beverly Clarke; Tom & Sherry Collins; Therry Azzarello; Bob Honig; Sharon & James Boatright; Janice Austin; Charles, Velia & Christopher Easley; Norm Barrett; Mark Johnston; Grace Cherry; Jay Perry; Dee Ross Oke; Joann Thompson; U.S. Coast Guard - Galveston; and very special thanks to David Matson for his help in compiling this Clearinghouse.

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - MAY, 1984

Species: GREENISH ELAENIA  
Observers: Jim Morgan and Linda Feltner  
Time of day: 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Length of sighting: Approx. 3 hrs., off-and-on  
Weather: Cloudy, then partly cloudy; warm  
Light conditions: Fair to excellent  
Distance: 6 inches to 60 ft.  
Optical equipment: 10x40, 8x40 binocs; naked eye  
Habitat: Coastal Hackberry/Hercules Club motte  
Voice: Scolded in response to Ferruginous Pygmy Owl call  
Size: 138mm (measured)  
Behavior: Flycatching and perching from 6-15 ft., always under the canopy.  
Measurements: Length, 138mm; Wing, 64.4mm; Exposed culmen, 11.7mm; Tarsus, 18.7mm; Tail, 58.5mm; Width at base of bill 4.9mm; Nostris, 6.6mm.  
Description: Crown medium charcoal gray with some olive tones at rear and bright lemon-gold yellow patch (concealed at times); nape grayish to olive; back bright olive green; rump olive green, less bright than back; tail brownish with outer retrices olive-greenish brown and central retrices medium brown with rufous tones; wings olive green with primaries edged bright light green and upper wing coverts brownish olive, NO wing bars; lores dark; superciliary whitish, more prominent, in front of eye, coming to meet white eyelids; auriculars grayish with extension of dark eye-line and some white flecks; rictal bristles evident; chin light gray; throat gray; breast gray and streaked olive at demarcation with belly; belly medium lemon yellow; undertail coverts lemon yellow; axillaries medium lemon yellow; under wing coverts medium lemon yellow; eye color dark - pupil black, iris dark reddish brown; legs black; bill basically black - upper mandible concolor, lower mandible horn color over basal quarter. (Bird was netted, banded,

measured, photographed, sketched, & released, A NEW NORTH AMERICAN RECORD --ed.) Full details of discovery and photographs to be published elsewhere.--Jim Morgan and Linda Feltner

GREENISH ELAENIA - A medium size flycatcher, longer tailed than an Empidonax, generally dark overall. During a fairly short observation ca. 30 sec. I noted an olive back gray hind crown, ashy forecrown, white loreal area, rounded not crested head, and a fine dark line through the eye extending to slightly behind the orbit. The belly was yellow, not a dense chrome yellow but a yellow wash. The breast very pale gray. There was no trace of pale edging on the upper wing (greater primary) coverts or wing bars. There were pale greenish yellow edges to the primaries. The legs were dark. Bill was dark. Throat was dull whitish. Pupil dark. There was a chestnut tinge to the dark tail and a fairly extensive ashy forecrown.--Bob Behrstock.

Couch's/Tropical Kingbird: Seen with 10x40 binoculars in good light. The bird had a definite notch in the end of the tail, and the tail feathers were all approximately the same color - dull grayish green. No white was seen on the outer tail feathers either while perched or in flight. The head and throat were a lighter gray color with the belly and chest bright yellow. The bill on this bird appeared to be considerably bigger than that of the Western Kingbird. The yellow on the underside did extend quite far up onto the chest. The overall size of this bird did appear to be slightly larger than the Western Kingbird.--Larry White

Chipping Sparrow: Bright rusty crown, white superciliary, black eye line and dark eye. Side of face grayish-white going onto nape to form a collar. Basically plain grayish-white underparts.

Brown back, streaked with black and brown wings with two faint white wing bars. Dark, notched tail. Dark conical bill.--Jim Morgan & Randy Pinkston

Dark-eyed Junco: Very dark slate gray head, back, wings, chin, throat and upper breast. Lower breast and belly white. Central tail feathers black, outer tail feathers white. Conical shaped, light pinkish colored bill. This bird was of the "slate-colored" race.--Jim Morgan & Randy Pinkston

Peregrine Falcon: Black crown and nape, fading into dark bluish-gray back. Black "moustache" coming down onto side of face. Lighter color underneath with faint barring across breast and belly. Sharply pointed wings, robust chest and extremely sharply pointed wings noted.--Jim Morgan & Randy Pinkston

CASSIN'S KINGBIRD: Seen on Redfish Reef in Galveston Bay about 2:30pm, Saturday May 12, 1984, in excellent light from 30-100 ft. with no scope or binoculars. Fairly dark olive-gray backed Kingbird with uniformly medium gray head seen perched on exposed dead tree limb. As I carefully moved closer to the bird along the oyster shell shore the bird would fly ahead of me 50-100 ft. away. As it landed, the uniformly dark tail fanned showing no white side edges, no white or light tip, and no fork or notch. As the bird turned its head to see me, it showed a very light throat above a medium grey breast. I was finally able to view the bird broadside. The belly yellow was not particularly bright. I thought the bird's rounder head shape and de-emphasized beak (relative to my conception of a "typical" Kingbird's head shape & beak) to be as significant for field marks as the lack of white in the tail, the tail shape, and the light throat.--George Howe

Black-billed Cuckoo: Two individuals, one seen by Ted Eubanks, Jr., the other by Jim Morgan and Ron Braun. Eubank's bird was perched. He saw red eye ring, and less contrasting tail pattern, and black bill. The other individual was in flight - 15ft. to 50ft. before disappearing - and showed all black bill and no rufous in wings. Seen in excellent light. This record should be checked for late spring date. --Jim Morgan

Golden-winged Warbler: Female bird. Basically gray above and white below with charcoal colored bib and ear patch, golden-yellow forehead and yellow wing patch. Seen for one minute with binocs at 20ft. in good light. --Jim Morgan

Cerulean Warbler: Female bird. Bluish gray in appearance above but with greenish tones to upper back and crown. Faint eye-line, dusky ear patch and two very distinct white wing bars on darker bluish wings. Underparts a dull whitish with a faint dusky streaking on upper breast and on sides. Seen well for 20 seconds to 30 seconds at 20-30 ft. with binocs in good light. --Jim Morgan

Western Tanager: All males, some brighter and more distinct than the others. Red face and head fading away at nape. Black back and wings, the latter with two wing bars. The upper bar yellowish. Mainly bright yellow below and tail all black. Bill medium sized. Seen very well in all 3 cases, all in excellent light for up to one minute per observation. Seen by naked eye and binocs at distances of 10-60 ft. Very distinctive, unmistakable individuals. --Jim Morgan

Black-headed Grosbeak: Female--larger than Dickcissel. Noted thick grosbeak bill. Black crown and whiskers. Single white wingbar. Slightly notched, unmarked brown tail. Streaks on belly. Yellow wing linings. --Carolyn Dill

The following birds were submitted without sufficient details; and, contributors should submit notes to a member of the checklist committee:

Acadian Flycatcher: Galveston--(1)8, Jim Morgan  
Willow (Traill's) Flycatcher: Galveston--(2)8, Jim Morgan

Least Flycatcher: Galveston--(1)8, Jim Morgan  
Least Flycatcher: Friendswood--(1)9, Mike Austin  
Canvasback, Redhead, White-tailed Hawk, Virginia Rail, Common Snipe, Rufous Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Fish Crow, House Wren, Orange-crowned Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Rusty Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, AUDUBON'S ORIOLE, Bronzed Cowbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow: 1984 Texas Spring Roundup - UTC Counties, May 5, David Matson, compiler.

## OUTER CIRCLE - May, 1984

Many thanks to David Matson this month for providing data from the statewide Spring Roundup conducted May 5. Most information is from that occasion. This information will be given first, and other info afterwards. On the Big Day in Wharton Co. were (A) Dottie Leslie, Angus Brown, Bill & Cindy Ziegenhals; Matagorda Co (B) Bob Behrstock, David Matson, Gloria Saylor); Montgomery Co (C) Gary Clark, Linda Cook; Orange Co (D) Mr & Mrs M.H. High, Jr.

Hared Grebe: (6) B; Anhinga (1) C;  
Fulvous Wh. Duck: (2)A, (4) B;  
Black-bellied Wh Duck: (2) B  
Blackshouldered Kite: (5)A, (1)B;  
Mississippi Kite: (8)A, (1)B; N. Harrier (1)A, (1)B; Broad-winged Hawk: (1) A, B, C, D; Swainson's Hawk: (1) A, B;  
White-tailed Hawk: (1)B; Red-tailed Hawk: (1)C; Caracara: (2)B; Amer. Kestrel: (1)A (also on 20th, 1 at Lake Bonanza, Diane Cabiness); Ring-necked Pheasant: (1)A; Purple Gallinule: (15)B; Lesser Golden Plover: (100)A, (20)B; Whimbrel (15)B; Hudsonian Godwit: (25)A, (20) B, also WH (14) 4 Steve & Bev Williams;

White-rumped Sandpiper: (20)B;  
Baird's Sandpiper: WH (5) 4, S&B Williams; Pectoral Sandpiper: (5)B;  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper: (17)B; Wilson's Phalarope: (150)B; Franklin's Gull: WH (35) 4 S & B Williams; Greater Roadrunner: C (1); Lesser Nighthawk: (1)B. See Notes; Red-cockaded Woodpecker: (4)C; Western Kingbird: (2) A; Acadian Flycatcher: (1)B, (7)C;  
Tree Swallow: (1)B, (4)D; Rough-winged Swallow: (20)A; Cliff Swallow: (30)B; Brown-headed Nuthatch: (5)C; Marsh Wren: (1)D; Swainson's Thrush: (1)C; Hermit Thrush (2)C; American Robin: (2)A, (1)D; Catbird: (5)B, (1)C; Solitary Vireo: (2)C; Warbling Vireo: (1)C; Tennessee Warbler: (1)B; N. Parula (1)C; Yellow Warbler: (3)A, (2)B; Magnolia Warbler: (1)B, (1)C; Black-thr. Green Warbler: (1)B; Bay-breasted Warbler: (1)A; Black-&-white Warbler: (1)A, (1)C; Amer. Redstart: (1)C, (2)B; Prothonotary Warbler: (3)C; Swainson's Warbler: (2)C; Ovenbird: (1)B; Com. Yellowthroat: (15)B; Hooded Warbler: (2)C; Canada Warbler: (1)C; PRAIRIE WARBLER: HARDIN Co. (2) 18 (see notes); Yellow-breasted Chat: (1)A, (1)C; (8) MA 18 F;  
Scarlet Tanager: (1)D; WESTERN TANAGER: (1)C (see notes); Rose-breasted Grosbeak: (2)B; Indigo Bunting: (12) B, (2)C, MONTGOMERY Co. (12) 8 (D. Cabiness); Rufous-sided Towhee: (1)C (late observation); Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1)B (late observation); Orchard Oriole: (10) B; Fine Siskin: (6)D; MO (25) till 3d (D. Cabiness); Evening Grosbeak: MO Lake Bonanza (10) till 3d. This unprecedented flock was the most ever and latest ever seen at once in se. Texas, to my knowledge--Ed. (D. Cabiness); American Goldfinch: (2)C.

### Notes:

Lesser Nighthawk: Bob Behrstock & David Matson repeatedly flushed it from stream side vegetation. It always stayed low and had white quite near the wing-tips. Seen well.

PRAIRIE WARBLER: Mike Austin reports possible breeding by a pair. The bird seen had yellow underneath, sang repeatedly, and had diagnostic face pattern. There are almost no breeding records in Texas. The bird was seen in Hardin Co., near the Polk Co line.  
WESTERN TANAGER: Gary Clark & Linda Cook got a close look at an adult male with orange head, black back, yellow wingbars etc.

There were 169 species and 6490 individuals seen in the four counties reported by David Matson from the OC area. There were 125 species from MA, 80 from MO, 69 from WH, and 46 from OR. I think everybody did great! Let's do it again next year. Steve

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Send bird records for Outer Circle before 3rd of month to: Steve Williams Houston Baptist University 7502 Fondren Rd. Houston 77074 781-9333

Send requests for OG information, check-lists, maps to Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst Houston 77096 723-8559

## A WORD OF THANKS

To Don and Lee Richardson for their tireless efforts as chairman of the O.G. (Don) and publisher of the Spoonbill (Lee). Their outstanding work has been greatly appreciated by all our members.....

and to Nelson Sapp and the other people involved with the Sun Oil Field property on Bolivor for their generosity and cooperation in allowing hundreds of birders to enjoy one of the UTC's more exciting moments, the nation's first sighting of a Yucatan Vireo.

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