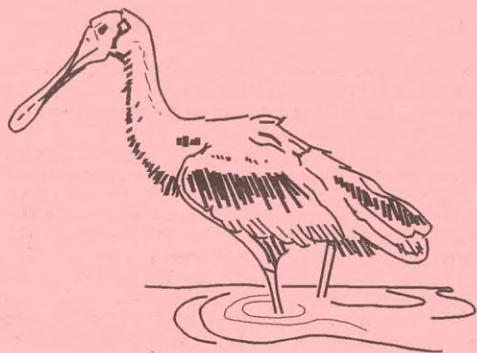


The Spoonbill



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Judith Mueller Boyce, Editor; Don Richardson, Technical Consultant

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COMING EVENTS

Monday, January 6, 1992: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. 7:30 P.M. Harris County Bayland Community Center (north side of Bissonnet just west of Hillcroft). Ed Kutac will present a program entitled, "Some Good Texas Birds with Emphasis on the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Ed has authored several books including Birder's Guide to Texas and Texas Birds: Where They Are and How to Find Them. A native Texan, Ed is a past president of the Texas Ornithological Society and the Travis Audubon Society and a past treasurer of The Nature Conservancy (Texas Chapter). He currently teaches local bird identification classes in Austin. Come on out and meet the man who wrote the books on finding birds in Texas! Learning Corner will meet at 7:00 P.M. before the meeting. Don Richardson will discuss sea ducks and identifying geese by calls.

Saturday, January 11: OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY for sparrows, hawks, ducks and geese and other wintering birds. This trip is expected to view many sparrows and cover many miles. Bring a lunch and drinks. Meet our leader, David Bradford, in the bank parking lot at 7:30 A.M. just opposite the small white church on the east side of Highway 6 just north of I-10. For more information call David Bradford, 855-2615.

Sunday, January 12: THIS OG FIELD TRIP TO WEST HARRIS COUNTY is designed to accommodate the novice birder. Slow and easy, we will spend time learning how to find and identify sparrows and other birds. Meet trip leader, David Bradford, in the bank parking lot at 7:30 A.M. opposite the little white church located on the east side of Highway 6 just north of I-10. Bring a sack lunch and the desire to learn sparrows!

Monday, February 3: ORNITHOLOGY GROUP MEETING. 7:30 P.M. Harris County Bayland Community Center. OG member, Bill Goloby, will present a program entitled, "A Passion for Purple...Martins, That Is." Bill, owner and guide of Penfeathers Tours, has actively birded the Upper Texas coast since 1966 and has led professional tours of this area since 1984. Learning Corner at 7:00 P.M.

Saturday-Monday, February 15-17: This OG/ONC FIELD TRIP TO THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY OF TEXAS takes place during the three-day President's Day weekend. We will meet our leader, Bill Tarbox, who lived in the Valley for eight years and presently lives in Houston, at the Santa Ana N.W.R. headquarters at 7:30 a.m. Bill will lead us to all the "hotspots," including Bentsen Rio Grande State Park, Falcon Recreation Area, Salineno and Falcon Dam. If you have never

birded the Valley before or have missed some of the expected birds, this is the trip for you. We plan to see Green Jay, Brown Jay, Plain Chachalaca, White-tipped Dove, Audubon's Oriole and Bronzed Cowbird. Birds we hope to see include Hook-billed Kite, Gray Hawk, Zone-tailed Hawk, Clay-colored Robin, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Green Kingfisher, Tropical Parula and Gray-crowned Yellowthroat (if the one presently at Falcon Dam lingers throughout the winter). Remember--almost any of these could show up. We will use McAllen as our headquarters. I suggest we stay in the Motel 6 (512/687-3700). However, there are numerous motels in McAllen and all fill up early. Other choices include Rodeway Inn (512/686-1586), La Quinta (512/687-1101) and Mission Inn (512/581-7451). These last three cost approximately \$45, \$65 and \$35 respectively. For the more hardy, both RV and tent camping is available at Bentson Rio Grande State Park. For more information on camping call, Cecelia Donaldson (713/649-6543). We plan to bird all day Saturday and Sunday and a half day on Monday. Sack lunches are recommended. To register for the trip or ask questions, call David Bradford at 855-2615 or Bill Tarbox at 955-2368.

NEWS BRIEFS

.....Minutes of OG December 2, 1991 meeting: Preceding the meeting Don Richardson conducted a Learning Corner session, continuing his series on duck identification.

Chairman Bob Honig opened the meeting and invited any interested member to contact him about filling the position of Membership Chairperson. Primary duties would involve providing membership services at each monthly meeting.

Treasurer Ed Lebeau reported a current asset balance of \$7300.00, and review aspects of budget years 1989, 1990 and 1991. The proposed 1992 budget will be included in the next issue of The Spoonbill and will be voted on at the January OG meeting. [The proposed 1992 budget is shown below these minutes for your consideration.] Included in the 1992 budget is \$450 for the Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project: \$150 for the OG annual contributions for 1989 and 1990 which were not made and \$150 for 1992, the last year of the project.

Field Trip Chairman, David Bradford, announced a full schedule of upcoming OG field trips.

Richard Uzar, Arch Dillard, Paula Kennedy, Bob Honig and Winnie Burkett encouraged participation in 1991 Christmas Bird Counts, particularly Houston (Baytown), Galveston, Armand Bayou, Buffalo Bayou and Attwater, respectively.

Julie D'Ablaing, Og Librarian, thanked Marion Worthington for the donation of three books to the OG

library and announced the purchase of additional books.

A handsome shell-framed mirror donated by Helen Eberspacher was displayed. It will be raffled off to raise money for the OMC.

Bob Honig's request for notable bird sightings resulted in reports of a Pomarine Jaeger at San Luis Pass and Peregrine Falcons along Bolivar Peninsula by Richard Uzar, Tundra Swans at Davis Estates Road by Norma Barnes, Great Black-backed Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull at Mustang Island by David Bradford and a first-winter California Gull at Galveston East Beach by Arch Dillard. There were additional reports of Rufous Hummingbirds in Highland Village and southwest Houston, White-winged Doves in Sharpstown and a Couch's Kingbird at Barker Reservoir.

Gail Luckner introduced the evening's speaker, Greg Lasley, who presented an informative and visually delightful program on birds of the Florida Keys and the Dry Tortugas. Of special interest was documentation of bird-eating Cattle Egrets. Patrick Baum, substituting for OG Secretary Christine Bourgeois

.....Following the November OG meeting, Winnie Burkett indicated her interest in serving the OG as Membership Secretary to Bob Honig. Winnie will assume the duties of Membership Secretary from Sara Griffing, who found it impossible to fulfill the responsibilities of the position due to her studies in graduate school. Our best wishes to Sara and to Winnie!

**ORNITHOLOGY GROUP
BUDGET ANALYSIS
1992**

	Budget 1991	Projected 1991	Budget 1992
Revenue			
Membership dues		4000	4200
Spoonbill Subsc.		234	260
Interest		300	275
Sales (maps, chklist)		50	100
Donations		948	0
	0	5532	4835
Expenses			
Spoonbill printing	2300	2130	2200
Bulk mailing	400	460	480
Post Office box	40	0	0
Contributions	150	150	600
Library	200	150	200
Program expense	650	550	750
Misc. supplies, stamps, etc.	200	50	100
Printing (forms, lists)	100	885	100
Publicity	150	10	150
Projection equip./supplies	100	0	0
Memorials	150	0	150
Depreciation	80	0	0
Unbudgeted	0	74	0
	4520	4459	4730
Balance		1073	105

Notes:

- 1) 1992 figures are estimates.
- 2) Includes \$450 for Texas Breeding Bird Atlas Project: \$150 for the OG annual commitments in 1989 and 1990 which were inadvertently not made; and \$150 for 1992, the last year of the Atlas Project.

.....OG FIELD TRIP REPORT: JONES STATE FOREST AND HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK, November 23: On a cool morning of stiff northerly breezes, about two dozen birders met the leaders, Jim Stewart and David Bradford, at Jones State Forest. Jim guided the group beyond the locked gates into the interior where a colony of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were nesting. Jim showed us an overview of the habits of this species. After a short hike to another colony, we found the

woodpeckers were beginning to stir. The bright morning light afforded good looks at the birds. Brown Creepers and Pine Warblers were also seen at this location. We then hiked to a nearby marsh, around which we saw typical birds of the Piney Woods, including an American Kestrel and Pileated Woodpecker.

After a caravan ride to Huntsville State Park, David led us on a hike partway around Lake Raven on the Prairie Branch Trail. Birds were scarce during this segment, probably due to the gusty wind conditions. The lake had Northern Shovelers, Mallards, an American Wigeon and Wood Ducks. A kettle of Anhingas and an elusive Hairy Woodpecker were highlights of the walk.

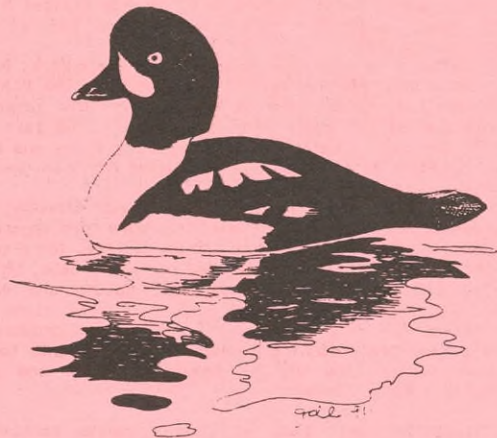
After lunch the group strolled through the campground. The wind had died and birds were more apparent. Woodpecker species were added to the day's list, for a total of eight. Other birds seen included Eastern Phoebe, White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches, Golden and Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Dark-eyed Junco. A walk along the canes beside the lake in search of Winter Wren produced a nutria and her brood sunning themselves. Many thanks to Jim and Dave for a fine day of beautiful birds and good fellowship. Karen Beekman

.....Look for this book at your favorite bookstore: Prentice Hall Press is publishing this fall, The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Birds. The volume will list the world's 9,300 bird species with 1,300 color drawings. Suggested list price is \$50.00. This book is available at The Chickadee Nature Store in Spring Branch.

.....The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) now owns five wildlife management areas (WMA) devoted to nongame wildlife: Candy Abshier WMA and Atkinson Island WMA in Galveston Bay, Old Tunnel WMA in the Hill country, Kiskadee WMA in the Rio Grande Valley and the newly acquired 38-acre tract of coastal habitat on the Laguna Madre in the Flour Bluff section of Corpus Christi. The tract includes an 8-acre freshwater pond that is used by large numbers of wintering waterfowl, especially Redheads. At least 13 other species of ducks use the pond with as many as 5,000 present at times during the winter. The area also serves songbirds, wading birds and shorebirds. The department acquired the tract in cooperation with the Texas Nature Conservancy. Ducks Unlimited and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation also contributed funds to the project under the auspices of the Gulf Coast Joint Venture of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The area will be called Redhead Pond Wildlife Management Area. It will be managed by Parks and Wildlife for appreciative (non-consumptive) uses such as birdwatching, photography, nature walks, etc. and will provide good opportunities for holders of the new conservation passport. Candy Abshier WMA and Atkinson Island in Galveston Bay provide refuge for migrants which cross the Gulf of Mexico each spring. Old Tunnel WMA in the Hill country is an old railroad tunnel where thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats make their summer home. The Kiskadee area in the Valley provides habitat for many species of birds and mammals found nowhere else in the U.S. These areas were purchased with the special Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Fund created in 1983. The fund is supported entirely by contributions and by purchases of nongame stamps. For every \$1 donated to the Nongame Fund, a matching \$3.00 is available from the federal Pittman-Robertson program for habitat acquisition. Sales of the nongame stamps have declined each year. This year the stamp features a White-tailed Hawk and is available at all TPWD offices. To order by mail, send \$5.00 to TPWD, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744.

.....The Texas Conservation Passport be obtained by sending \$25 (check or money order) to Texas Conservation Passport, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. (Be sure to provide your full name, address with zip code, driver's license number, vehicle license plate number and your birthdate.)

ARTICLES



Adult male Barrow's Goldeneye
Gail Diane Luckner

BARROW'S GOLDENEYE ON THE UTC By Gail Diane Luckner

At 8:30 on the morning of December 3, 1991, Leon Lalonde, birder and Occidental Petroleum Company employee, was making his daily inspection rounds when he sighted an unusual duck on one of the La Porte plant settling ponds. That duck turned out to be an adult male Barrow's Goldeneye, and will be only the second documented sighting of this bird in Texas.

A far north bird with limited distribution, Barrow's Goldeneye breeds in western North America from Alaska to northern California and Wyoming, wintering along coastal lowlands south to San Francisco and inland to Utah. In the east, the bird breeds in Canada and Greenland, wintering as far south as New York. Winter vagrants have been reported in the inland U.S. as far south as Colorado and Oklahoma and, rarely, in Texas.

Barrow's Goldeneye is mainly a cavity nester but, when suitable sites are not available, will nest in rock crevices or in dense vegetation on the ground. The male deserts the female when she begins brooding. Occasionally the female deserts her brood shortly after they hatch, leaving the young chicks to fend for themselves or to join a brood tended by another female.

Crustaceans are the mainstay of this bird's diet, though they also feed on mollusks, aquatic insects and some vegetation. It is speculated that the Barrow's Goldeneye wintering at the Occidental plant may be feeding heavily on crawfish which live in the river water pumped into the settling ponds.

The UTC Barrow's Goldeneye leaves the settling ponds at night and at intervals during the day, always flying towards the San Jacinto Monument, which is about one-half mile from the Occidental ponds. Presumably the bird joins the numerous waterfowl that winter in the lagoons and marshes surrounding the monument.

Although Barrow's Goldeneye has been reported in Texas several times over the past 33 years, the only confirmed sighting is of a bird shot by a hunter in November 1958. The stuffed-and-mounted specimen is extant and was formally documented in 1989. Birders should be aware that unless a bird with very rare or vagrant status is documented with thorough written description and, if possible, with photographs, it exists only for the birder who viewed it. The UTC Barrow's Goldeneye, which has been well-documented

and photographed, reminds us that amateur observers can greatly contribute to our knowledge of the status and distribution of birds in Texas. Details about very rare or vagrant birds should be forwarded to the Texas Bird Records Committee in care of Greg Lasley, 305 Loganberry Court, Austin, Texas 78745-6527.

The cooperation and generosity of Occidental Chemical Corporation has allowed many birders to share in this historic sighting. As of this writing, the Barrow's Goldeneye continues to grace the Occidental settling ponds-- you may still have the opportunity to observe a very beautiful, very special Texas bird.

NOEL'S NICHE LOOKING BACK

By Noel Pettingell
20 YEARS AGO/FROM DECEMBER 1971 SPOONBILL

LETTER FROM FRANK KOKESH

With no dinner obligations on Thanksgiving Day, Mary Belle and I finally got off on a birding trip. At Galveston County Park we saw a Brown Creeper, which made the day for us. These once common birds have gotten very scarce in recent years in our observation.

Texas City Dike yielded no Lesser Black-backed Gull. So far, it hasn't been seen this season. The only birds of interest were several Marbled Godwits. Oh yes, the Long-billed Curlews feeding in numbers on the slopes of the new levee were good, too.

We are fascinated by that huge, vertical, power operated gate in the levee at the entrance to Moses Lake. The idea, it seems, is that if a hurricane is headed this way, the gate is dropped to keep the tide out. However, if a 100-year or 50-year or perhaps a 25-year storm comes in, the tide will slosh over the levee somewhat like if it wasn't there. With heavy rains on the mainland, said mainland gets thoroughly flooded. It is to be hoped that when the storm abates, the gate can be raised to let the flood out. So, finally, the levee and gate serve the purpose of protecting against the all too frequent 10-foot tides which would reach many homes in the low lying [areas], still sinking parts of Texas City.

We had good service on beer and pizza at Shakey's Thanksgiving evening. We were the only ones there.

CLEARING HOUSE

November, 1991
Editors: Phyllis and Tony Frank

A total of 200 species were reported in November, including 26 species of waterfowl including Tundra Swan, 18 species of raptors, and 18 species of sparrows excluding the longspurs. The "Harlan's" hawk along Clay Rd. is back for the twelfth winter. Peregrine Falcons were noted at High Island and at Bolivar Flats. As a quick perusal of the CH will show, many interesting sights were reported this month. The Hooded Mergansers are back at the San Jacinto Battleground SP. Late Purple Martins were reported. Henslow's Sparrow appeared again this winter. Last winter had the first UTC records since the early 1980s. A new early date was reported for Fox Sparrow. And a late/early? Bronzed Cowbird was noted.

Many thanks to everyone who submitted reports. As always early reports will be appreciated, but they are due by January 3rd. The CH format remains the same this month. The listing uses the following format: bird name, early late dates, reports/total and summary by county or detailed listing. The format of the county summary is as follows: county designation - number of reports/number of birds. The detailed listing format is as follows: county-(number of birds) day, observer code. Very rare birds are underlined. Birds with no previous record on date or vagrant status appear in bold. Please remember to submit notes on all those good birds. And with all the reminders completed - on to the birds.

Loon, Common 20-20 1/23 GA-TCD(23)20, GL
 Grebe, Pied-bill 3-30 16/143 U-1/4 BR-1/42 CH-6/65
 FB-3/9 GA-2/13 HA-2/6 JE-1/4
 Grebe, Eared 20-20 1/1 GA-TCD(1)20, GL
 Pelican, Amer Wht 1-30 22/2016 U-1/130 BR-1/24 CH-5/397
 GA-6/1165 HA-6/183 JE-2/97 WA-1/20
 Pelican, Brown 3-28 6/102 U-1/40 GA-5/62
 Corm, Dbl-crested 1-30 21/1218 U-1/8 BR-1/8 CH-3/21
 CO-1/30 FB-2/3 GA-5/68 HA-7/1073 JE-1/7
 1-23 7/275 U-1/6 CH-1/5 GA-3/47
 HA-2/217
 Anhinga 3-26 5/7 BR-1/1 CH-2/4 FB-1/1 GA-1/1
 Bittern, American 16-30 3/3 CH-(1)16, RUF; CH-(1)23, RU;
 FB-BB(1)30, BBT
 Heron, Great Blue 1-30 27/164 U-5/62 BR-1/4 CH-5/18
 FB-4/9 GA-6/29 HA-4/39 JE-2/3
 Egret, Great 1-30 29/363 U-5/98 BR-1/3 CH-7/93
 FB-4/36 GA-4/69 HA-6/56 JE-2/8
 Egret, Snowy 1-30 22/232 U-1/6 BR-1/2 CH-4/62
 FB-2/3 GA-5/66 HA-7/44 JE-2/49
 Heron, Little Blu 1-30 12/30 U-1/5 BR-1/2 CH-4/7
 FB-3/8 GA-1/3 HA-2/5
 Heron, Tricolored 3-30 10/29 U-1/4 BR-1/1 CH-3/11
 FB-3/7 GA-1/2 HA-1/4
 Egret, Reddish 1-23 3/4 BR-BW(1)3, WP; GA-(2)23, RU;
 HA-SJ(1)1, GL
 Egret, Cattle 2-30 13/427 U-4/185 BR-1/25 CH-2/72
 FB-1/50 HA-3/55 JE-1/5 WA-1/35
 Nt-Heron, Blk-crn 1-24 12/236 U-1/2 BR-1/6 CH-2/5
 GA-1/1 HA-7/222
 Nt-Heron, Yel-crn 5-30 3/9 CH-2/8 FB-1/1
 Ibis, White 1-30 16/692 U-1/75 BR-1/37 CH-4/415
 FB-4/46 GA-2/10 HA-2/19 JE-2/90
 Ibis, White-faced 2-30 16/634 U-1/30 BR-1/127 CH-4/228
 FB-2/11 GA-1/7 HA-4/166 JE-2/45
 WA-1/20
 plegadis, sp. 9-24 2/580 HA-2/580
 Spoonbill, Roseat 3-30 6/53 BR-1/31 CH-2/4 GA-1/12
 HA-1/1 JE-1/5
 Whsl-Duck, Fulvs 3-30 2/51 HA-(5)3, RUF; JE-(1)30, JJW
 Whsl-Duck, Blk-bd 2-30 7/7272 FB-3/6100 HA-4/1172
 Swan, Tundra 5-26 1/1 CH-(1)5-26, GL
 Goose, Gr Wht-frn 2-30 17/22661 U-5/10020 CH-5/281
 FB-3/140 GA-1/120 HA-3/12100
 Goose, Snow 1-30 22/300348 U-5/132000 BR-1/52
 CH-6/45275 FB-3/1116 GA-2/1010
 HA-5/120895
 Goose, Ross' 3-30 4/8 U-(2)24, X; CH-AW(3)30, JJW;
 HA-(2)3, RUF; HA-(1)9, M
 Goose, Canada 3-30 8/4543 U-1/500 CH-2/4 FB-1/4
 HA-4/4035
 Duck, Wood 2-18 4/15 U-1/9 HA-2/5 WA-1/1
 Teal, Green-wing 2-30 16/43289 U-5/38030 BR-1/31
 CH-4/132 FB-1/34 HA-4/5056 JE-1/6
 Duck, Mottled 1-30 15/285 U-2/16 BR-1/11 CH-5/160
 GA-1/4 HA-4/63 JE-2/31
 Mallard 1-30 10/107 U-2/36 CH-2/46 FB-2/9
 GA-1/4 HA-3/12
 Pintail, Northern 3-30 12/6686 U-2/512 CH-4/197
 FB-2/77 HA-4/5900
 Teal, Blue-winged 3-30 11/317 U-1/10 BR-1/104 CH-2/21
 FB-4/159 GA-1/8 JE-2/15

Teal, Cinnamon 3-24 2/8 CO-AT(6)24, X; HA-(2)3, RUF
 Shoveler, Northern 2-30 20/23141 U-5/16950 BR-1/1929
 CH-6/234 FB-1/2 GA-1/20 HA-4/3956
 JE-2/50
 Gadwall 2-30 19/984 U-4/350 BR-1/33 CH-5/60
 FB-2/58 GA-1/6 HA-5/476 JE-1/1
 Wigeon, American 2-30 10/530 U-2/85 BR-1/38 CH-3/89
 HA-4/318
 Canvasback 2-30 5/35 CH-(1)23, RU; CH-(11)26, GL;
 CH-AW(1)30, JJW; HA-(20)2, M; HA-WHC(2)24, M
 13-13 1/1 HA-SJ(1)13, GL
 Redhead 3-30 5/38 U-(2)24, X; BR-BW(15)3, WP;
 CH-(7)5, GL; FB-BB(2)30, BBT; HA-WHC(12)24, M
 Duck, Ring-necked 3-3 2/17 U-(15)3, X; BR-BW(2)3, WP
 Scaup, Greater 1-30 15/644 U-1/25 BR-1/10 CH-4/111
 Scaup, Lesser FB-1/2 GA-4/393 HA-4/103
 Bufflehead 24-24 1/12 HA-WL(12)24, M
 Merganser, Hooded 1-13 3/102 BR-BW(1)3, WP; HA-SJ(50)1, GL;
 HA-SJ(51)13, GL
 Merganser, Red-br 20-28 3/55 GA-3/55
 Duck, Ruddy 2-30 9/102 U-1/50 BR-1/1 CH-2/2
 FB-1/1 HA-3/42 WA-1/6
 Vulture, Black 1-30 12/114 U-2/3 CH-3/14 FB-2/82
 HA-3/10 JE-1/3 WA-1/2
 Vulture, Turkey 2-30 21/974 U-4/630 CH-6/40 FB-4/204
 HA-4/89 JE-3/11
 Osprey 1-13 3/4 U-1/1 HA-2/3
 Kite, Blk-shouldr 2-28 10/31 U-1/6 BR-1/3 CH-1/5
 GA-4/12 HA-2/2 JE-1/3
 Eagle, Bald 3-24 3/4 U-(2)24, X; HA-(1)3, RUF;
 HA-WHC(1)24, RU
 Harrier, Northern 1-30 27/332 U-5/164 BR-1/9 CH-6/53
 FB-4/10 GA-4/26 HA-5/66 JE-2/4
 Hawk, Sharp-shin 2-30 8/84 U-1/75 CH-1/1 GA-1/1
 HA-2/3 JE-1/1 WA-2/3
 Hawk, Cooper's 1-30 9/20 U-2/13 CH-2/2 HA-4/4 WA-1/1
 accipiter, sp. 3-30 3/52 U-1/50 FB-1/1 WA-1/1
 Hawk, Red-shouldr 2-30 13/23 U-1/1 CH-3/5 FB-3/6
 HA-3/4 WA-3/7
 Hawk, Broad-wingd 3-5 2/101 U-(100)3, X; CH-(1)5, GL
 Hawk, Swainson's 3-3 1/50 U-(50)3, X
 Hawk, White-taild 3-24 5/6 BR-1/1 CO-1/1 HA-2/3 WA-1/1
 Hawk, Red-tailed 1-30 28/587 U-5/325 BR-1/4 CH-6/79
 FB-4/22 GA-4/27 HA-6/112 JE-2/18
 Hawk, Ferruginous 3-24 2/4 U-(2)3, X; CO-AT(2)24, X
 Caracara, Crested 2-24 6/18 BR-1/2 CO-1/5 HA-2/7 WA-2/4
 Kestrel, American 1-30 29/477 U-5/258 BR-1/5 CH-6/50
 FB-3/16 GA-6/48 HA-6/92 JE-2/8
 Merlin 3-3 1/3 U-(3)3, X
 Falcon, Peregrine 16-22 3/5 CH-(2)16, RUF; CH-(2)22, GL;
 GA-(1)16, RUF
 Bobwhite, Northern 3-24 3/101 U-2/100 WA-1/1
 Rail, Clapper 3-16 2/2 U-(1)3, X; GA-(1)16, RUF
 Rail, King 9-9 1/1 HA-(1)9, M
 Moorhen, Common 3-30 10/310 U-2/21 BR-1/60 CH-3/87
 FB-3/132 JE-1/10
 Coot, American 2-30 13/3101 U-3/100 BR-1/1770
 CH-5/368 FB-2/821 JE-2/42
 Crane, Sandhill 3-30 4/234 BR-1/104 FB-1/8 HA-1/120
 WA-1/2
 Plover, Blk-belli 1-28 10/274 U-1/75 BR-1/1 GA-5/190
 HA-2/7 WA-1/1
 Plover, Snowy 3-3 1/5 U-(5)3, X
 Plover, Wilson's 3-28 2/2 U-(1)3, X; GA-(1)28, JJW
 Plover, Semipalm 3-28 5/46 U-1/8 CH-1/9 GA-2/26
 HA-1/3
 Plover, Piping 3-28 4/51 U-1/14 GA-3/37
 Killdeer 1-30 24/1204 U-5/895 CH-5/49
 FB-2/46 GA-4/43 HA-6/90 JE-2/81
 Oystercatcher, Am 3-30 6/28 U-1/11 CH-1/1 GA-4/16
 Stilt, Black-neck 3-28 5/45 U-1/8 BR-1/8 CH-1/4
 GA-1/21 JE-1/4
 Avocet, American 1-28 10/2018 U-1/50 GA-4/1715
 HA-3/227 WA-2/26
 Yellowlegs, Great 1-30 18/197 U-3/22 CH-2/34 GA-4/39
 HA-5/70 JE-2/6 WA-2/26

Yellowlegs, Less 2-30 10/86 U-3/33 BR-1/2 CH-1/13
 GA-2/7 HA-1/3 JE-1/3 WA-1/25
 Willet 1-28 8/487 U-1/15 GA-5/466 HA-2/6
 Sandpiper, Spotted 1-20 4/4 U-(1)3,X; GA-TCD(1)20,GL;
 HA-SJ(1)1,GL; HA-SJ(1)13,GL
Whimbrel 28-28 1/3 GA-(3)28,JJW
 Curlew, Long-bill 2-30 14/168 U-1/5 BR-1/1 CH-2/6
 FB-1/1 GA-5/63 HA-1/25 WA-3/67
 Godwit, Marbled 3-28 5/159 U-1/20 BR-1/1 GA-3/138
 Turnstone, Ruddy 3-28 5/31 U-1/6 GA-4/25
 Knot, Red 28-28 1/5 GA-BF(5)28,JJW
 Sanderling 3-28 6/894 U-1/100 GA-5/794
 Sandpiper, Western 1-30 15/3891 U-1/6 GA-4/1369
 HA-5/2005 JE-2/51 WA-3/460
 Sandpiper, Least 3-30 8/227 U-2/6 GA-1/6 HA-2/90
 JE-2/110 WA-1/15
 Dunlin 3-28 8/3127 U-3/2103 GA-3/212
 HA-1/800 WA-1/12
 peep, sp. 3-3 1/60 BR-1/60
Sandpiper, Stilt 28-28 1/1 GA-(1)28,JJW
 Dowitcher, S-bill 16-30 6/611 CH-1/2 GA-3/59 JE-2/550
 Dowitcher, L-bill 2-30 10/12699 U-3/6325 CH-1/4
 HA-3/6310 JE-1/10 WA-2/50
 dowitcher, sp. 3-3 1/40 BR-1/40
 Snipe, Common 5-30 4/10 CH-2/2 HA-1/2 JE-1/6
 Gull, Laughing 1-28 11/9511 U-1/1500 BR-1/63
 CH-1/3 GA-6/7836 HA-2/109
 Gull, Franklin's 2-23 5/152 GA-TCD(1)20,GL; GA-(2)23,RU;
 HA-WHC(60)2,M; HA-WL(85)9,M; WA-(4)2,M
 20-23 2/2 GA-TCD(1)20,GL; GA-(1)23,RU
 Gull, Bonaparte's 3-30 14/742 U-1/100 CH-2/16 FB-1/3
 Gull, Ring-billed GA-5/580 HA-3/39 JE-2/4
 Gull, Herring 3-28 5/183 U-1/12 GA-4/171
 Tern, Gull-billed 3-3 1/1 U-(1)3,X
 Tern, Caspian 1-30 8/81 U-1/10 FB-1/1 GA-5/66
 HA-1/4
 Tern, Royal 3-28 6/898 U-1/600 GA-5/298
 Tern, Sandwich 3-23 4/24 U-1/10 GA-3/14
 Tern, Common 1-28 7/14 U-1/2 GA-5/10 HA-1/2
 Tern, Forster's 1-28 10/370 U-1/80 CH-2/14 GA-5/257
 HA-2/19
 Skimmer, Black 16-28 5/535 GA-5/535
 Dove, Rock 1-30 14/386 U-4/89 FB-1/6 GA-4/171
 HA-4/84 JE-1/36
 Dove, Mourning 1-30 23/469 U-3/120 CH-4/59 FB-3/138
 GA-4/23 HA-6/70 JE-3/59
 Dove, Inca 3-28 4/12 HA-2/9 JE-2/3
 Ground-Dove, Comm 2-24 2/5 WA-(4)2,M; WA-(1)24,X
 Ani, Groove-billed 9-9 1/2 WA-(2)9,M
 Owl, Barn 9-9 1/1 HA-WHC(1)9,M
 Screech-Owl, East 9-24 3/3 U-1/1 WA-2/2
 Owl, Great Horned 3-30 5/7 U-2/2 FB-2/2 HA-1/3
 nighthawk, sp. 18-18 1/1 HA-(1)18,PG
 Hummer, Rufous 2-2 1/1 HA-(1)2,M
 Kingfisher, Belted 1-28 17/39 U-1/2 CH-5/9 FB-1/2
 GA-4/7 HA-6/19
 Wdpecker, Red-head 16-24 2/2 CH-(1)16,RUF; WA-(1)24,X
 Wdpecker, Red-bell 1-30 15/35 U-1/1 CH-3/3 FB-3/19
 HA-4/6 JE-1/2 WA-3/4
 Sapsucker, Yel-bell 3-30 9/22 U-2/8 CH-2/3 FB-2/3
 HA-1/1 JE-1/1 WA-1/6
 Wdpecker, Downy 2-30 10/16 U-1/2 FB-3/7 HA-3/4
 JE-1/1 WA-2/2
 Wdpecker, Hairy 5-5 1/1 CH-(1)5,GL
 Flicker, Northern 3-30 8/26 U-2/15 CH-2/3 FB-1/1
 HA-3/7
 Wdpecker, Pileated 3-30 5/5 CH-2/2 FB-2/2 HA-1/1
 empidonax, sp. 30-30 1/1 FB-BB(1)30,BBT
 Phoebe, Eastern 3-30 22/170 U-4/92 CH-6/33 FB-3/23
 GA-1/1 HA-5/16 JE-3/5
 Flycatcher, Ss-tail 2-24 8/15 U-(1)3,X; CH-(1)5,GL;
 FB-(3)3,BT; GA-(5)22,GL; HA-WHC(1)2,M;
 HA-WHC(1)9,M; HA-WHC(1)24,M; WA-(2)9,M
 22-24 3/15 GA-2/14 WA-1/1
 Lark, Horned 11-11 1/7 HA-(7)11,GL
 Martin, Purple 1-30 8/584 U-1/500 CH-2/4 GA-2/35
 Swallow, Tree HA-1/3 JE-1/12 WA-1/30
 Swallow, N R-wing 1-20 6/25 U-1/12 CH-1/5 FB-1/4
 GA-1/2 HA-2/2
 Swallow, Barn 1-22 9/187 U-2/135 CH-2/8 GA-1/1
 HA-3/8 WA-1/35
 Jay, Blue 3-30 15/89 U-4/51 CH-3/8 FB-1/6
 GA-1/1 HA-4/19 JE-2/4
 Crow, American 3-30 16/654 U-4/296 CH-4/28 FB-4/271
 HA-3/47 JE-1/12
 Chickadee, Carol 2-30 13/179 U-1/3 CH-3/16 FB-3/81
 HA-2/29 JE-2/13 WA-2/37
 Titmouse, Tufted 3-30 9/76 U-1/3 CH-1/4 FB-3/46
 HA-2/13 JE-1/4 WA-1/6
 Creeper, Brown 9-30 4/4 FB-BB(1)16,DR; FB-BB(1)30,BBT;
 HA-(1)10,DB; WA-(1)9,M
 Wren, Carolina 3-30 6/31 CH-1/3 FB-3/25 HA-1/2
 WA-1/1
 Wren, Bewick's 2-24 6/17 CO-1/3 HA-2/2 WA-3/12
 Wren, House 3-30 13/53 U-4/35 CH-3/6 FB-3/4
 HA-3/8
 Wren, Winter 3-30 5/6 CH-(1)26,GL; FB-BB(2)3,BT;
 FB-BB(1)30,BBT; HA-WHC(1)9,M; WA-(1)9,M
 Wren, Sedge 2-26 5/20 U-1/8 CH-1/1 HA-3/11
 Wren, Marsh 3-10 2/7 HA-(3)3,RUF; HA-(4)10,DB
 Kinglet, Gold-crn 2-16 4/9 FB-BB(4)16,DR; HA-(3)3,RUF;
 WA-(1)2,M; WA-(1)9,M
 Kinglet, Ruby-crn 3-30 16/273 U-4/122 CH-4/25 FB-3/59
 HA-4/62 JE-1/5
 Gnatcatcher, Blu-gra 2-30 13/66 U-1/1 CH-3/3 FB-3/27
 HA-2/6 JE-1/2 WA-3/27
 Bluebird, Eastern 9-28 8/109 U-1/6 CH-2/8 HA-2/4
 JE-1/6 WA-2/85
 Thrush, Hermit 2-30 13/53 U-2/6 CH-2/3 FB-3/20
 HA-3/3 WA-3/21
 Robin, American 2-30 8/723 U-3/313 CH-1/1 FB-1/7
 HA-3/402
 Catbird, Gray 15-24 2/2 HA-(1)15,DB; WA-(1)24,M
 Mockingbird, N 1-30 24/216 U-5/120 CH-4/11 FB-4/13
 GA-2/8 HA-6/55 JE-3/9
Thrasher, Sage 15-15 1/1 HA-(1)15,DB
 Thrasher, Brown 2-24 6/17 FB-2/4 HA-1/2 WA-3/11
 Pipit, American 3-28 3/76 U-1/10 HA-1/65 JE-1/1
 Waxwing, Cedar 24-24 1/10 HA-WHC(10)24,M
 Shrike, Loggerhed 1-30 27/251 U-5/83 BR-1/2 CH-6/36
 FB-4/31 GA-2/18 HA-6/56 JE-3/25
 Starling, Euro 2-30 24/472 U-5/1700 CH-4/601
 FB-4/728 GA-4/303 HA-4/490 JE-3/350
 Vireo, Solitary 2-30 3/4 FB-BB(2)16,DR; FB-BB(1)30,BBT;
 WA-(1)2,M
 Warb, Orange-crn 2-30 12/91 U-4/40 CH-1/1 FB-3/40
 HA-2/5 JE-1/3 WA-1/2
 Warb, Nashville 2-2 1/1 WA-(1)2,M
 Warb, Yellow-rump 2-30 17/416 U-2/100 CH-4/35 FB-3/224
 GA-1/1 HA-3/21 JE-3/29 WA-1/6
 Warb, Pine 9-28 3/9 CH-(2)16,RUF; JE-(6)28,BBT;
 WA-(1)9,M
 Warb, Palm 5-5 1/2 CH-(2)5,GL
 Yellowthroat, Com 2-30 4/14 FB-1/2 HA-2/6 WA-1/6
 Warb, Wilson's 16-30 3/4 FB-BB(1)16,DR; FB-BB(2)30,BBT;
 HA-WHC(1)24,M
 Cardinal, Northrn 1-30 19/347 U-5/206 CH-4/8 FB-4/96
 HA-5/30 JE-1/7
 Bunting, Indigo 5-5 1/2 CH-(2)5,GL
 Dickcissel 2-2 1/1 HA-WHC(1)2,M
 Towhee, Rufus-side 9-24 2/2 HA-WHC(1)9,M; WA-(1)24,M
 Sparrow, Chipping 2-28 7/128 U-2/60 CH-1/1 HA-2/52
 JE-1/11 WA-1/4
 Sparrow, Field 9-30 6/45 U-2/18 FB-1/1 HA-1/4
 WA-2/22
 Sparrow, Vesper 2-24 7/224 U-2/163 CH-1/15 HA-3/38
 WA-1/8
 Sparrow, Lark 24-24 1/3 WA-(3)24,X
 Sparrow, Savannah 2-30 20/1062 U-4/725 BR-1/16
 CH-5/105 FB-1/22 GA-1/5 HA-6/182
 JE-2/7
Sparrow, Henslows 3-26 2/2 U-(1)3,X; CH-(1)26,GL

Sparrow, Le Conte 2-30 7/41 CH-2/2 CO-1/20 HA-4/19
 Sparrow, Shp-tail 5-5 1/1 CH-(1)5, GL
 Sparrow, Seaside 28-28 1/2 GA-(2)28, JJW
 Sparrow, Fox 9-24 4/12 U-(6)24, X; HA-WHC(1)9, M;
 WA-(2)9, M; WA-(3)24, M
 Sparrow, Song 2-26 11/59 U-5/48 CH-2/4 HA-4/7
 Sparrow, Lincolns 2-30 9/238 U-4/205 CH-1/2 HA-4/31
 Sparrow, Swamp 2-30 12/122 U-4/91 CH-2/6 FB-2/2
 HA-4/23
 Sparrow, Wht-thrt 2-30 13/267 U-5/203 CH-2/8 FB-3/26
 HA-3/30
 Sparrow, Wht-crn 2-24 8/164 U-5/121 HA-3/43
 Sparrow, Harris' 24-26 3/12 U-(4)24, X; HA-WHC(7)24, M;
 HA-(1)26, GL
 Junco, Dark-eyed 9-24 2/2 HA-WHC(1)24, M; WA-(1)9, M
 Longspur, Lapland 24-24 1/145 WA-(145)24, M
 Blackbird, Red-wg 2-30 21/76183 U-5/56250 BR-1/200
 CH-4/1666 FB-4/2244 GA-1/92 HA-3/505
 JE-3/15226
 Meadowlark, East 1-30 24/434 U-6/207 BR-1/49 CH-4/20
 FB-3/15 GA-2/10 HA-6/124 JE-2/9
 Meadowlark, West 9-9 1/1 WA-(1)9, M
 meadowlark, sp. 2-24 3/250 U-3/250
 Blackbird, Brewer 24-24 1/100 U-(100)24, X
 Grackle, Gr-tail 2-30 16/1432 U-2/65 BR-1/3 CH-1/85
 FB-1/100 GA-2/212 HA-6/826 JE-3/141
 Grackle, Bt-tail 3-30 4/56 U-1/2 CH-1/8 FB-1/16
 GA-1/30
 Grackle, Common 2-30 15/11727 U-2/1050 CH-1/1000
 FB-4/391 HA-3/5275 JE-2/111 WA-3/3900
 Cowbird, Bronzed 1-1 1/1 HA-(1)1, PDH
 Cowbird, Brn-head 2-30 15/105834 U-3/100300 CH-3/127
 FB-2/314 GA-1/26 HA-5/5056 JE-1/11
 blackbird, sp. 9-24 3/381000 U-1/6000 CH-1/250000
 HA-1/125000
 Finch, House 20-25 1/3 HA-(3)20-25, GL
 Siskin, Pine 2-2 1/2 WA-(2)2, M
 Goldfinch, Amer 1-28 5/106 U-2/73 CH-1/16 HA-1/8 JE-1/9
 Sparrow, House 1-30 8/301 U-4/166 HA-2/90 JE-2/45

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS: 1054061

3 species were reported without notes: Empidonax sp., Dickcissel, and Lapland Longspur. Notes are required for birds that are very rare, vagrant, or have no previous record on that date or are new to the checklist area.

LIST OF OBSERVER CODES: Bill & Bryan Tarbox(BBT); Bill Tarbox(BT); David Bradford(DB); Don & Lee Richardson(DR); Gail Diane Luckner(GL); John & Jana Whittle(JJW); Jim Morgan(M); ML & Ellen Owens(MO); Noel Pettingell(NP); P.D. Hulce(PDH); Peter Gottschling, Jan & Mike Austin(PG); Richard Uzar(RU); Richard Uzar, Joe Farrell(RUF); Richard Uzar, Sara Griffing(RUG); Warren Pruess(WP); P.D. Hulce, Don Francis(X)

LIST OF LOCATION CODES: Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR(AT); Anahuac NWR(AW); Brazos Bend St. Park(BB); Bolivar Flats(BF); Brazoria NWR(BW); Challenger 7 Park(CH7); Galveston Island East Beach(EB); San Jacinto Monument(SJ); Texas City Dike(TCD); West Harris County(WHC); Warren Lake(WL)

LIST OF COUNTY CODES: Brazoria(BR); Chambers(CH); Colorado(CO); Fort Bend(FB); Harris(HA); Galveston(GA); Jefferson(JE); Upper Texas Coast(U); Waller(WA)

Tundra Swan - Gail Luckner November 5, 1991

An immature swan was sighted at 9:35 am swimming, feeding and preening among a mixed flock of winter waterfowl in a freshwater marsh in Chambers county (private property). Observed over a period of about 30 minutes at varying distances between 100 feet and 150 feet with 10X42 binoculars and 30X scope in excellent light. A large, heavy-bodied, long-necked water bird, nearly twice the size of Greater White-fronted Geese seen nearby. The bird was light brownish-gray overall with whitish flanks, primaries,

and tail; head and back of neck slightly darker. When the bird raised its wings, the entire underwing surface was white. Face was whitish with faint whitish eye ring; no black on face; eyes were black. The head was rounded. Dull pink bill, slightly concave, with black tip and black saw-edge. Base of bill was light pink and nostrils were black. The bird raised its head briefly and the lower mandible was observed to be light pink. This feature was not visible when the bird was viewed from other angles. While swimming, the bird held its neck straight with no kink or curve. The legs and feet were not seen. The bird did not vocalize. Head and bill shape and facial pattern eliminate Trumpeter Swan. Facial pattern and posture eliminates Mute Swan. A swan was seen at this same location on November 12, 19 and 26.

Hooded Merganser - Gail Luckner November 1, 1991

Fifty small mergansers were seen at San Jacinto Battleground SP including 19 adult males and 31 females and immatures. Observed in excellent light at a distance of about 100 feet with 10X42 binoculars and 30X scope. Field marks of the adult male: Small, thin, dark bill; yellow eye; black face and neck; diagnostic puffy black crest with fan-shaped white patch; rusty brown flanks; white breast with two vertical black bars on the sides.

Note: Fifty one were documented by Gail Luckner and Frank Peace on November 13, 1991.

Whimbrel - John and Jana Whittle November 28, 1991

Observed at 2:30 pm for about 2 minutes from 15 to 20 yards using a scope at about 30X in excellent light conditions in the marsh along Yacht Basin Rd. Smallish curlew, perhaps a little smaller than nearby mostly young Long-billed Curlews. Grayish brown above with prominent striped crown (white stripe between two dark stripes). There was no trace of cinnamon coloration (but the nearby young Long-billed Curlews showed very little cinnamon when viewed on the ground). The bill length was approximately 2 1/2 times the head width, of nearly uniform thickness to the tip, downcurved along outer 1/3 of length. The bill was all dark gray. The legs were gray. About five, mainly young Long-billed Curlews were in the same general area. Comparison of bill length, shape, thickness and color and direct comparison of head pattern left us no doubt the bird was a Whimbrel.

Stilt Sandpiper - John and Jana Whittle November 28, 1991

Observed at 1:05 pm for about 12 minutes from 15 to 20 yards using a scope at 40X in excellent light. Bird was in oilfield/marsh west of High Island. Shorebird, similar in body size to nearby Dunlins, but longer legs. At rest, the wings extended almost exactly to the tip of the tail. Bird exhibited no strong markings, being largely a pale gray above and white below. Very uniform gray upper back; brownish gray primaries and secondaries (as seen while standing). The wing feathers had lighter feather edgings, but not nearly as noticeable as the nearby Dunlins. Gray crown; white stripe just above eye and darker (but not very dark) line through the eye. The throat and upper breast had extensive gray streaks, medium in size and only slightly darker than the white base color. The area behind the cheek, but forward of the wing and above the level of the scapulars, stood out in this particular bird because the feathers were all white with no gray areas or streaks. While the bird was bathing, the rump was determined to be whitish. The tail edges and terminal area were essentially the same color as the primaries. The bill was dark black, very slightly longer than the bills of nearby Dunlins, but otherwise similar in thickness and taper. The bill appeared, however, to curve downwards only in the last 1/8 of its length, rather than the outer 1/2 for the Dunlins. The legs were clearly yellow, only slightly less prominently yellow than the Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in the same area. The legs were noticeably longer than the legs of the Dunlins, with the additional length all being below the knee. Dunlins, Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and

Short-billed Dowitchers were available nearby for direct comparison. The leg color and length eliminated Dunlin; the bill taper, length, and the smaller body size and general coloration eliminated Dowitchers. The body size was obviously significantly smaller than the Lesser Yellowlegs.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - Gail Luckner November 22, 1991
In Galveston county at 12:46 pm, five Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen perched on a utility wire along Texas 87 about 2 miles southwest of Rollover Pass. Observed in excellent light at a distance of about 35 feet with 10X42 binoculars for approximately three minutes. The five birds were essentially identical. A very light gray flycatcher with whitish breast; pink flanks, belly, and undertail coverts; black wings and uppertail coverts with diagnostic long streaming, deeply forked black and white tail.

Purple Martin - Gail Luckner November 11, 1991
In east Harris county at 8:30 am, seven large, dark swallows were seen flying from southeast to northwest in the company of one Tree Swallow and four Northern Rough-winged Swallows. Observed in very good light at distances from 25 feet to 150 feet with 10X42 binoculars. Two of the swallows in question appeared black overall. The remaining five appeared black with blotchy dark gray breasts and bellies. All had short, dark bills, broad at the base when viewed from below; forked tails; long, pointed, roughly triangular wings and were approximately one third larger than the companion Tree and Rough-winged Swallows. The birds did not vocalize. Irregular flap-and-glide flight style. The birds were observed flight-feeding. Size and plumage eliminate all other North American swallows. Forked tail, bill shape and behavior eliminate European Starling.

Sage Thrasher - David Bradford November 11, 1991
At 10 meters with 10X50 Nikon binoculars the bird showed a uniform brownish gray back and two distinct white wingbars. The entire front was heavily streaked/spotted with these markings reduced on the throat creating a whitish throat patch that was outlined by a dark whisker line. The markings were absent on the undertail coverts. The bill was short and straight like that of a Mockingbird. When the bird flew there were no large white wing patches, but white could be seen at the tip of the tail. I observed the bird for about three minutes in adequate light.

Henslow's Sparrow - Gail Luckner November 26, 1991
Sighted at 10:31 am in lowland prairie (private property) in Chambers county. Observed sporadically through grass and brush for between 5 and 20 seconds at a time over a total period of about 20 minutes at varying distances between 10 feet and 50 feet with 10X42 binoculars in good light. A small, bright, relatively large-headed sparrow. Very flat forehead which, when viewed from the side, seemed to merge in a nearly straight line into a large, thick, dull brown bill. Head, face and nape were basically olive. Boldly striped crown-median stripe olive, side stripes uniformly black and thick, extending to, but not onto the nape. Bright olive supercilium and lores. Black eye; narrow whitish eye ring; thin black eye line. Olive auriculars, the back of which were bordered with a thin irregular black line merging at an angle into a thin, black upper malar streak. The total effect was of a squarish ear patch. A black lower malar streak bordered an unmarked whitish throat. The back of the nape was not seen. The breast was buffy, finely streaked with dark brown; the streaks becoming slightly thicker towards the sides of the breast. Unmarked whitish belly; light buffy flanks, streaked with dark brown to the undertail coverts. The undertail coverts were not seen. The legs and feet seemed to be a dull-pinkish brown. The rusty back was clearly striped with black and white which appeared to extend onto the scapulars and to the rump; the rump was not seen. The uppertail coverts were bright rust; the tail was not seen. Primaries and secondaries were unmarked bright rust. When flushed, the bird uttered a short, soft, almost inaudible

"sic". The bird would flush from the grass into low brush, never perching more than 24 inches above the ground, where it would remain quite still. It would then drop straight down into the brush and disappear. When flushed again, it would flush from a spot 10 to 20 feet away from spot where disappeared.

Henslow's Sparrow - P. D. Hulce November 3, 1991
Dark sparrow with rusty wings and back. Repeatedly flushed from prairie at Candy Abshier WMA. Olive head, erratic flight, twisted tail as it flew. Seen farther east than birds in Feb and Mar 1991.

Fox Sparrow - Jim Morgan November 9, 1991
Large sparrow. Gray head with rufous on ear patch; rufous rump and tail; splotchy rufous spotting on whitish underparts; dark rufous triangular marks on flanks; mainly rufous wings. Conical bi-colored bill with lower mandible yellowish. Gave characteristic "click" or dull clicking "chip" note. Two locations.

Bronzed Cowbird - P.D. Hulce November 1, 1991
Male bird seen with grackles and House Sparrows. Shiny blue-black body with black wings. Bright red eye. Prominent neck ruff. Seen from 30 to 40 feet with 10X40 binoculars. No records for first three weeks of November.

House Finch - Gail Luckner November 20, 1991
In east Harris county at 3:50 pm, three female House Finches were seen feeding at two hanging feeders. Observed in good light at a distance of 15 feet to 20 feet with 10X42 binoculars for approximately 10 minutes. The three birds were essentially identical. Slender, drab grayish-brown bird, lighter-bodies and slightly smaller than House Sparrow. Head, face, and back lightly and finely streaked with dark gray-brown; indistinct gray-brown ear patch. Black eye; dull brown conical bill. Buffy-brown throat, breast, belly and flanks, and whitish undertail coverts, all heavily streaked with dark gray-brown. Uniformly dark gray-brown wings with narrow buffy wingbars; flight feathers and upper wing coverts very narrowly edged with buff. Unmarked dark gray-brown tail; two of the birds had squarish tails; the tail of the third appeared slightly notched. Dull brown legs and feet. The birds did not vocalize. Slight build, overall lack of contrast, and particularly the lack of discernible facial pattern eliminate Purple Finch. Although reference materials indicate a notched tail in Purple Finch and a squarish tail in House Finch, I have frequently observed the slightly notched tail in House Finch.

Pine Siskin - Jim Morgan November 2, 1991
Two individuals feeding on seed pods along Dusek Rd. in Waller county. Profusely streaked small finches with yellow in flight feathers and at base of short, notched tail. Rather petite conical bill. Seen at 20-25 feet with 10X40 binoculars for 20 to 30 seconds in excellent light.

CONTACTS

- SEND CLEARING HOUSE bird sightings to: Clearing House, (OG), P.O. Box 271374, Houston 77277.
- TEXAS RARE BIRD ALERT TAPE, sponsored by Houston Audubon Society, 992-2757.
- SEND SPOONBILL MATERIAL to Editor, Judy Boyce, 5546 Aspen, Houston 77081, Home: 668-5359 Work: 771-2432 Fax: 713/771-2433 Monday-Friday, business hours.
- OG MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION, dues, subscriptions and address changes. Edward J. Lebeau, Jr., 5459 Beechnut, Houston, Texas 77096 (713) 664-4900. Annual dues \$15. Non-member Spoonbill subscriptions \$13.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

This past Thanksgiving week, while in New York visiting my parents, I had the pleasure of spending a morning of birdwatching with Paul Keim, President of the Brooklyn Bird Club (BBC). As we watched the waterfowl and songbirds in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, Paul made an interesting proposal: an exchange program that would allow members of both the OG and the BBC to visit new areas, see different birds, and meet other birders -- all at minimal expense.

Here's the concept: A group of OG members will spend a week birding various hot spots in the New York City area, with members of the BBC leading each day's excursion. During that week, the OG members will be housed at homes of BBC members, who will also provide transportation for the field trips. Then, some time later, the roles of the two groups will be reversed with the BBC visiting Texas. By eliminating lodging, car rental and tour leader costs, each club can have the opportunity for an organized trip, but at a cost much less than that of a professional natural history tour company.

To maximize the number of species not normally seen in Texas, our initial thoughts are to have a Houston group visit New York in the winter, when northern species are at their southernmost extremes. Conversely the BBC would visit Texas in the spring.

Most of the best winter birding spots in the New York City area are close to the water, but they provide the opportunity to see upland species as well. Among the noteworthy sites are: Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, a pocket of wonderful habitat within the city that concentrates many bird species into a relatively small

area (believe it or not, I saw my lifer White-Fronted Goose and Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Jamaica Bay during winter visits before I moved to Texas); Breezy Point in Brooklyn where one can find Purple Sandpiper and possibly all three Scoters; the south shore of Long Island where Snowy Owls generally turn up; and the eastern end of Long Island for Common and King Eider, Thick-billed Murre and the possibility of other pelagics (e.g., alcids and shearwaters).

What other species does the New York City area in winter have to offer Texas birders? SURE THING OR PRETTY DEFINITE: Horned and Red-necked Grebe, Great Cormorant, Mute Swan, Brant, Black Duck, Greater Scaup, Harlequin Duck, Greater Black-backed Gull, wintering Peregrine Falcon, American Tree Sparrow and Snow Bunting. LIKELY/GOOD CHANCE: Oldsquaw, Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Goshawk, Rough-legged Hawk, Long-eared and Saw-whet Owls, Black-capped Chickadee. POSSIBLE: Red-throated Loon, Glossy Ibis, Barrow's Goldeneye, Eurasian Widgeon, Black-legged Kittiwake, Gyrfalcon, Northern Shrike, and Common Redpoll.

Sound interesting? There are details to work out, but if plans coalesce, the exchange program may be implemented in early 1993. Of course, its success depends on finding volunteers within each group to lead field trips and house and drive the visiting birders, but I don't expect that to be a problem. If the exchange program is successful, it might be the start of a network of exchanges between bird clubs in widely scattered parts of the country. Stay tuned for future announcements. Bob Honig (665-6963)

P.S. Among the birds reported in the New York City area during Thanksgiving week and the first week of December 1991: five Red-necked Grebes, one Dovekie, one Razorbill, an unidentified Shearwater, Tundra Swans, Eurasian Widgeon, over 100 Common Eiders, 15 King Eiders, eight Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, one Black-headed Gull, one Lesser Black-backed Gull, a Goshawk, 4-6 Snowy Owls, Northern Shrike, and Common Redpolls.

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