

N.P.



THE SPOONBILL

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August 1956

 * BARN SWALLOW *
 * Centuries ago he spied his first barn, knew *
 * he'd come home at last, made the sign of vic- *
 * tory with his tail, swept through the door on *
 * velvet wings, and went to plastering. Summer *
 * is in his form and flight -- summer the soft *
 * and lovely, summer the bright and swift. *
 * Aerialist insatiable, he even drinks on the *
 * on the wing. Without his tenancy, a barn is *
 * a tomb. - E.B.WHITE -- Nov. 1955 Ford Times *
 * *****

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FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

August 19 - Sunday Field Trip to the Freeport Area. Bring picnic lunch and meet at 8:00 a.m. on the parking lot of Weingarten's Store, 4100 Almeda. Field Trip Chairman, C. B. Gilman, has arranged for the group to explore some new birding spots in the Freeport area. There will also be an opportunity for beach-combing or surf-bathing on Fulton Beach later during the afternoon.

Sept. 1-2-3 Labor Day Trip to the Valley to visit the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge (located in Cameron County about 20 miles north east of Harlingen) and the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge located about 34 miles southwest of Harlingen on the Rio Grande River.

Mr. Milton C. Chandler (T.O.S. member who lives at San Benito) writes as follows: "A jacana has been seen in the Santa Ana this spring and summer, there are black-bellied tree ducks up there - lately a pair with ten ducklings, also chacalacas, pauraque, red-billed pigeons, white fronted dove, possibly the Alta Mira and Audubon orioles, green jay, groove billed ani, and a possibility of seeing the rose-throated becard." For more information on this trip contact - C. B. Gilman, MI 9-7716, or Jimmy Murray, UN 1-8837. (Call either number after 6 p.m.)

Fall Migration Study

Galveston Island has been selected by the Ornithology Group for a fall migration study. This area was chosen because of its accessibility and the fact that more species of shore and water birds can be found close-by in the ponds and marshes on the Western half of the island, and land birds can be found in the fields and wooded sections of this area. On the Eastern portion of the island land birds can be seen in the city parks and water birds on the jetties and along the beach.

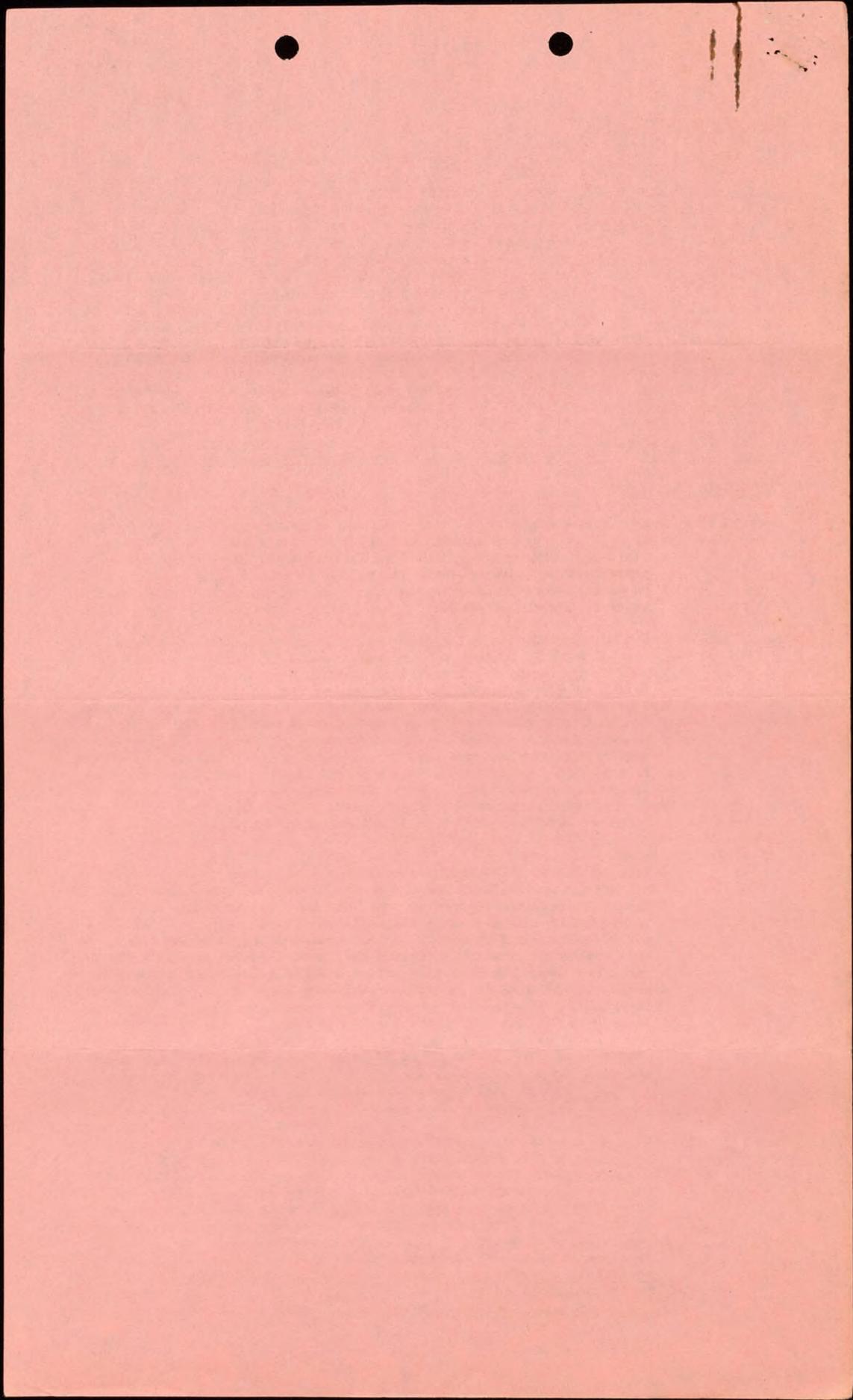
A count will be made on the island each week-end (either Saturday or Sunday) and all are invited to participate in as many trips as possible. Besides being much fun, these trips will afford an excellent opportunity for the inexperienced birder to become better acquainted with the good birding spots in Galveston and to learn to recognize the birds found there. The weekly trips will be divided as follows:-

- Vic Emanuel and Carl Aiken will be responsible for the count made the first week-end of each month
- Carrie Holcomb will take the second week-end
- Leeta Stilwell - the third week-end, and
- Mrs. Jerry Baker - the fourth week-end

The above members will either lead a trip or secure a substitute leader for the particular week-end assigned to them during the migration period which extends through November 30th. For more detailed information on this project - call one of the names listed above.

Anyone birding on Galveston Island, whether a member of one of the official weekly parties or not, is requested to send a list of birds, showing the estimated number of each species observed (whether migrants or residents) to the SPOONBILL editor.

(NOTE:- The editor would also like to have check-lists from other areas?)



ORNITHOLOGY GROUP REPORTSJuly 22 - Field Trip to Galveston West Beach Area - (C. B. Gilman)

Galveston Island and portions of the nearby mainland having such a variety of birds, and as areas close to the coast are much more comfortable than the woods during the summer, a repeat trip was considered as being quite worthwhile.

Eight cars containing twenty three avid bird lovers met at 61st and Broadway, Galveston at 2 p.m. and proceeded south on 61st, thence west on "S" Road to a shallow lake adjoining the golf course where we were particularly pleased to find a few gallinules, several dowitchers and a coot, the coot net being commonly found here at this season.

From this point, we visited several areas to the west where we found common and reddish egrets; great blue, little blue, black-crowned night, yellow-crowned night, and Louisiana herons; white and white-faced glossy ibis; long-billed curlews, western sandpipers; lesser yellowlegs; a great many black-necked stilts and clapper rails, besides the usual scissor tails, nighthawks, shrikes and a fine assortment of orchard orioles - adult male, first year male and female.

The group then assembled on the beach at 13-Mile Road where many enjoyed a swim in the surf, which only served to aggravate already ravenous appetites for the following picnic supper topped off by plenty of good cold watermelons.

Besides laughing and herring gulls; black, Caspian and royal terns; black skimmers and brown pelicans, many interesting specimens of sea life were found, including a good collection of olive shells.

Several stopped at the Texas City railroad crossing on the way down where large numbers of several species were observed including the seaside sparrow, a large group of spoonbills, and many cormorants. A glossy ibis seemed as interested in us as we in it, and only departed after a very close approach.

Approaching darkness called a halt to birding, so after 60 miles by automobile and one on foot, all returned to their respective homes. The following participated in this trip: Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Murray; Mr. and Mrs. Mac Ramsey; Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Haver, Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Gilman, Jerry Baker, Neel Perley, Ella Welfer, Helen Welfer, Alice Filkins, Martha Smith, Norma Oates, Harriet Hunt, Ruth Meerman, Josephine Wilkin, Alline Rizze, A. Yramategui, Mary Clark, Blanche Kirk, Leah Kirk and Mike Woods.

August 2 - O. G. Meeting in Hermann Park - (Thelma Smith)

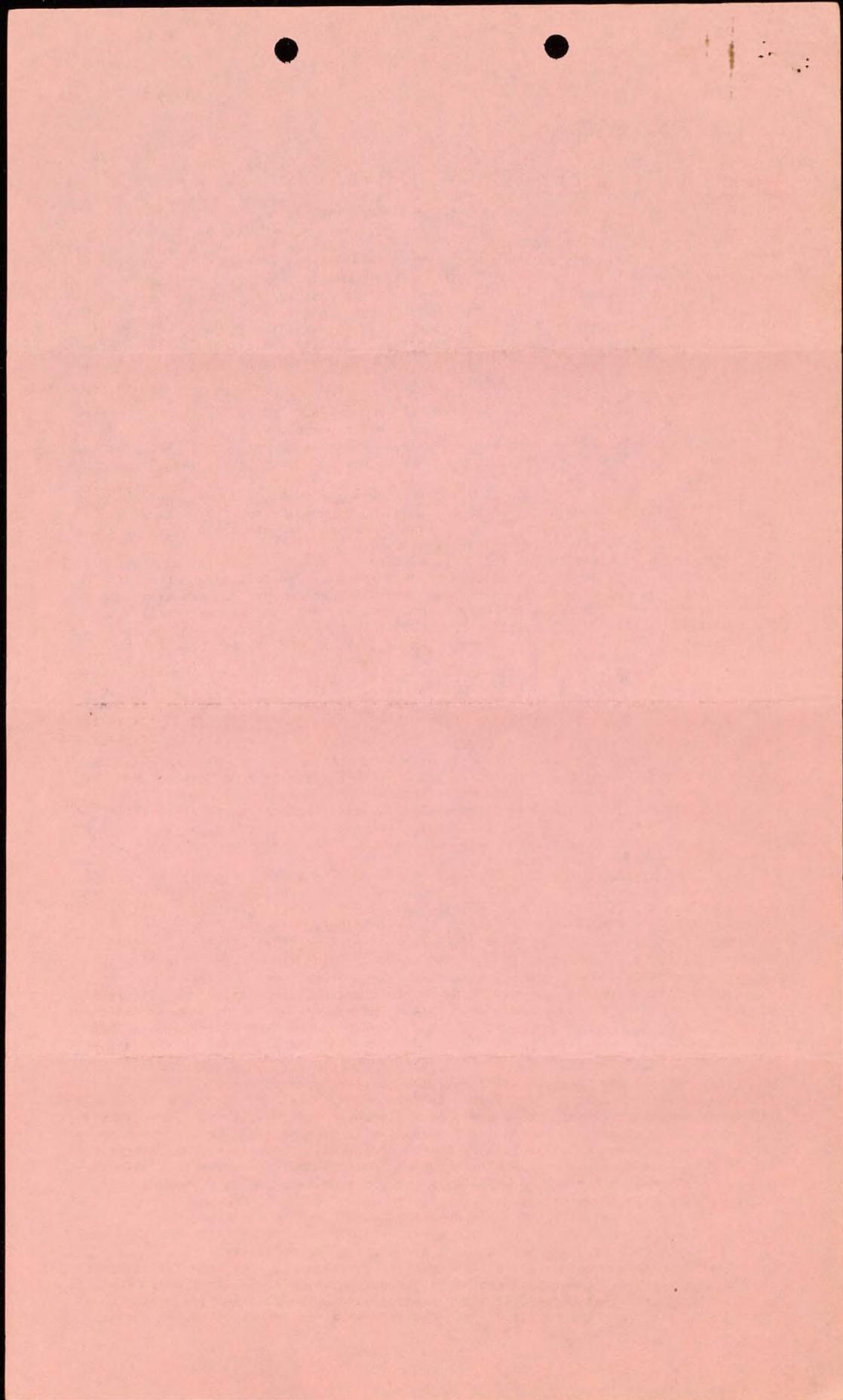
Following a picnic supper, Jimmy Murray, Chairman of the O.G.'s called the meeting to order. He introduced Renald Fowler, a new junior member and John O'Neill, a guest. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted as read. Jimmy announced the appointment of Jerry Baker, Chairman of the Calling Committee and Ella Welfer and Mrs. Rita Mattel to serve with her. Leeta Stilwell who was named Chairman of the Program Committee, briefly outlined plans for the fall meetings. Since picnic meetings are so popular, October will feature a picnic supper at Jimmy's with the playing of two special records from Josephine Wilkin's collection and color slides if time permits. Details of other meetings will be announced later; anyone who has ideas for a meeting program should call Leeta (MA 3-8671). Neel Perley was appointed Chairman of the Christmas Count Committee.

Mr. C. B. Gilman, Field Trip Chairman, announced the August trip will be to Freeport where he has arranged for the O.G.'s to go into a new and very promising birding area. The October trip will be to the Battleground, Tunnel and Cove area; November's trip to Sheldon, and December's trip will be the Christmas Count.

Carrie Holcomb presented a resolution regarding a sanctuary within the city limits which is to be presented to the Outdoor Nature Club for presentation to the proper city official. This was passed unanimously. Norma Oates outlined a project for securing more detailed information on the fall migration. Meeting was adjourned.

CLEARING HOUSE

- June 13 - (Omitted from last Speenbill) Vic Emanuel on a trip through Hermann Park saw Summer tanagers, Yellow-billed cuckoos, Crested flycatchers, Yellow-crowned night herons, Parula and Hooded warblers.
- July 8 - Several Prothonotary warblers, four Black-and-white warblers, numerous white ibis, Snowy and Common egrets, Acadian flycatchers and about 40 wood ibis were seen at Palmer Lake by Armand Yramategui, Vic Emanuel, Carl Aiken.
- July 15 - Fifteen immature Little blue heron and several immature white ibis were observed in the Lake Houston area by Carrie Holcomb and Ruth Meerman.
- July 21 - In the Juliff area many cardinals were seen feeding young, immature buntings and orchard orioles were also numerous. NCO and Ruth Meerman.
- July 21 - Helen and Ella Welfer reported a pair of Loggerhead shrikes nested in a Red-bud tree in their yard and are now feeding two nestlings.
- July 21 - Mrs. Jerry Baker reported the following birds in her yard at 6430 Jefferson Drive - a red-bellied woodpecker, mourning doves, common grackles, cardinals, titmice, chickadees, killdeer (heard) chimney swifts, martins, Carolina wren, jays and mockingbirds. She reports a female ruby-throated humming-



bird has been feeding on night-blooming jasmine for about three weeks. At least two pairs of robins nested in her neighborhood this spring and have visited her yard regularly for water.

- July 21 - Jimmy Murray reported the wood thrush still singing in his neighborhood - he first heard them about April 25th.
- July 21 - Mrs. Jesse Haver sighted three wood ibis near Columbus.
- July 26 - An immature black-crowned night heron remained in the back yard of the C. B. Gilman's from 5 p.m. until dark.
- July 26 - In a marshy field near West Bay Fishing Camp in Galveston the following birds were seen - 30 yellow-crown night herons, several black-crown night herons (including many immatures), 100 or more white ibis, many common and snowy egrets, 1 green heron, 1 little blue and several great blue herons. Hundreds of sanderlings were seen on the beach.
- July 27 - Screech owl and Ruby-throated hummingbird noted at 3010 Prespect, by Neel Perley. (Comment - U.G.C. Check-list 2nd edition shows Ruby-throat to be "LM6R"; 3rd edition should read: "LM5SV6WV" i.e. casual summer visitant, rare winter visitant)

Purple Martins

The gathering of martins (150 or more) at the corner of University Blvd. and Merriamside, reported in the July SPOONBILL by NCO, left on July 10th after gathering in the area every evening for at least six days. None have been seen in the neighborhood since. Darris Massingill reported martins near her home had also gone by July 10th. However, martins were seen in Galveston on July 26, Jerry Baker reported them in her neighborhood on July 21 and they were seen flying over the lake in Herman Park on August 2.

MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Tom Daniel, 1916 Elmen St. - July 7

Mrs. Daniel and I have just returned from a trip to northern New Mexico and southern Colorado, including Mesa Verde. Some of the more interesting birds seen were: Bullock's oriole (nesting) and mountain bluebird at Philment Scout Ranch; white-breasted nuthatch at Red River Pass; black-throated gray warbler and violet-green swallow at Mesa Verde; Cassin's purple finch (nesting) east of Montrose; cliff swallow, in Gunnison River Canyon; Audubon's warbler at Monarch Pass, elevation 11,300 feet; the robins were everywhere, and were always singing. Other birds included magpies and Brewer's and red-winged blackbirds and ravens.

Connie Hagar, Rockport, Texas - July 16 - The "speons" and wood ibis are very numerous here now, Guy Emerson and John Baker have been down and enjoyed them. Today a spotted sandpiper showed up to join least sandpiper and ringed plovers, so I guess fall is on the way * * * * *

OFF THE PRESS

Boy's Job Done - Spoonbills to Fly - (Houston Chronicle, July 29)

Young Eddie Geaslin of Baytown, two months ago found two separate spoonbill nestlings on an island in Scott's Bay. Nearby was the dead mother bird. Eddie took the birds home, and has fed them twice daily since. Nature lovers thought he was working for a lost cause - that the birds surely would die as it is not easy to raise a spoonbill in domesticity. Eddie persisted and now it went be long before the birds take off.

Medley - (Newsweek, July 30, 1956)

Unlike most animals golden-winged and blue-winged warblers are notable for intermingling. They sometimes produce a hybrid, the Brewster warbler, often seen in eastern U.S. but never in Canada. Last week, the Audubon Society of Canada announced a rare ornithological event: A color movie, filmed 30 miles north of Terrace, showing a female golden-winged and a male blue-winged warbler feeding four six-days-old Brewsters.

Giant Bird flies over Houston - (Houston Press, August 2, 1956)

This article told of a large South American Condor which had been shipped to this country by a dealer. As its cage was being cleaned "it flew through the door and swooped away." This happened on the northern outskirts of Houston and the bird was seen later by two amazed housewives in the Belfort Park area who estimated its wingspread as 16 ft. When told a condor was loose in Houston, Robert Vines (director of Museum of Natural History) said excitedly, "Why, that's the largest flying bird in the world - usually with an 11-foot wingspan."

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Helen (nee McMullen) and Ross Burns are the proud parents of a baby son, Linus Ross, born June 27th. Helen and Ross, with young Linus, are moving to Baton Rouge, La. very soon, and are already making inquiries about bird clubs down Louisiana way.



Faint, illegible text covering the majority of the page, likely bleed-through from the reverse side.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary Bird List

The following bird list contains 171 species^o which represent observations at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary. Please check this list and if you have seen any bird at the Sanctuary that is not listed below, notify Carl Aiken, MO 5-4693.

* (KNOWN BREEDERS (46)) * SUSPECTED BREEDERS (19) NP HAS NOTED AT SANCTUARY (39)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| American bittern | Little blue heron | Swainson's thrush |
| Brewer's blackbird | Yel.-crowned night heron | * Wood thrush |
| Redwing blackbird | * Ruby-throated hummingbird | * Tufted titmouse |
| Rusty blackbird | NP * Blue jay | NP * Eastern towhee |
| NP * Eastern bluebird | Slate-colored junco | [Spotted towhee] ADD. SUBSP. |
| * Bobwhite | * Killdeer | Veery |
| NP * Indigo bunting | * Eastern kingbird | Bell's vireo |
| NP * Painted bunting | Golden-crowned kinglet | Philadelphia vireo |
| NP * Cardinal | Ruby-crowned kinglet | NP * Red-eyed vireo |
| * Catbird | NP * Purple martin | Solitary vireo |
| NP * Carolina Chickadee | * Eastern meadowlark | Warbling vireo |
| NP * Chuck-will's-widow | Western meadowlark | NP * White-eyed vireo |
| American ceet | NP * Mockingbird | NP * Yellow-throated vireo |
| NP * Common cowbird | NP * Common nighthawk | NP * Black vulture |
| Brown creeper | * Brown-headed nuthatch | NP * Turkey vulture |
| NP * Common crow | * White-breasted nuthatch | Bay-breasted warbler |
| NP * Fish crow | Baltimore oriole | Black-and-white warbler |
| Black-billed cuckoo | * Orchard oriole | Blackburnian warbler |
| NP * Yellow-billed cuckoo | Barn owl | Black-throated green warbler |
| Dickcissel | * Barred owl | Blue-winged warbler |
| Ground dove | Burrowing owl | Canada warbler |
| NP * Mourning dove | Horned owl | Cerulean warbler |
| Rock dove | NP * Screech owl | NP * Yellow-breasted chat |
| Pintail duck | * Eastern wood pewee | Chestnut-sided warbler |
| Fulvous tree duck | Eastern phoebe | Golden-winged warbler |
| Wood duck | Water pipit | NP * Hooded warbler |
| Common egret | * Roadrunner | NP * Kentucky warbler |
| Snowy egret | American robin | Magnolia warbler |
| Purple finch | Spotted sandpiper | Myrtle warbler |
| Yellow-shafted flicker | Yellow-bellied sapsucker | Orange-crowned warbler |
| Red-shafted flicker | * Loggerhead shrike | Ovebird |
| Acadian flycatcher | Pine siskin | * Parula warbler |
| NP * Great Crested flycatcher | * Bachman's sparrow | Pileolated warbler |
| Olive-sided flycatcher | * Chipping sparrow | NP * Pine warbler |
| Scissor-tail flycatcher | Field sparrow | Prothonotary warbler |
| NP * Blue-gray gnatcatcher | Fox sparrow | American redstart |
| American goldfinch | Harris' sparrow | NP * Swainson's warbler |
| Blue goose | House sparrow | Tennessee warbler |
| Canada goose | NP * Lark sparrow | Worm-eating warbler |
| Snow goose | Lincoln's sparrow | Yellow warbler |
| White-fronted goose | Savannah sparrow | Yellowthroat |
| Common grackle | Song sparrow | * Yellow-throated warbler |
| NP * Blue grosbeak | Swamp sparrow | Louisiana waterthrush |
| Rose-breasted grosbeak | Vesper sparrow | Cedar waxwing |
| Laughing gull | White-crowned sparrow | Whip-poor-will |
| Ring-billed gull | NP White-throated sparrow | American woodcock |
| Broad-winged hawk | Bank swallow | NP * Downy woodpecker |
| * Cooper's hawk | Barn swallow | NP * Hairy woodpecker |
| Marsh hawk | Cliff swallow | NP * Pileated woodpecker |
| Pigeon hawk | Rough-winged swallow | NP * Red-bellied woodpecker |
| NP * Red-shouldered hawk | Tree swallow | * Red-cockaded woodpecker |
| Red-tailed hawk | * Chimney swift | * Red-headed woodpecker |
| * Sharp-shinned hawk | Scarlet tanager | Bewick's wren |
| Sparrow hawk | NP * Summer tanager | NP * Carolina wren |
| Swainson's hawk | * Brown thrasher | * House wren |
| Great blue heron | Gray-cheeked thrush | Winter wren |
| Green heron | Hermit thrush | Sedge wren |

o INCL. SPOTTED TOWHEE

ADDITIONAL SPECIES

- 1-BL.-CR. NIGHT HERON
- 2-BELTED KINGFISHER
- 3-BLUE-WINGED TEAL
- 4-NOWATERTHRUSH

*** DUES ***

Ferty-seven of our ninety-two members have already sent in their dues for the fiscal year - MAY 1, 1956 THROUGH APRIL 30, 1957. If the other forty-five members will send either \$1, or a check for that amount payable to the Ornithology Group, to Thelma H. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, 2148 Harold, Apt. 11, Houston 6, Texas, we want mention the word "DUES" again until next year!



FOOTNOTES ON MAY 6 UPPER GULF COAST ROUNDUP - (Noel Perley)

CORRECTIONS - July 1956 SPOONBILL

- Page 5 - "SUMMARY: (recorded by parties 9, 10 and 14)" -- should read: "(recorded by parties 9, 10 and 13)"
- Page 6 - Party No. 7: "1 a.m. - 7 p.m." -- should read: "1 a.m. - 7:30 p.m."
- Page 7 - "HAWK, Swainson's (Party #15)" -- should read: "(Party #14)"
 Party No. 6; Exclusive Species "2" - Should read - "3"
 "TURKEY, Wild (Party #14)" -- should read: "(Party #13)"
 "CRANE, Whooping (Party #14)" -- should read: "(Party #13)"
- Page 8 - FLYCATCHER, Acadian
 Party #1 recorded an Empidonax: Acadian species?
- Page 9 - BLACKBIRD, Brewer's - Party #6 "x" -- should read: "E"
 GOLDFINCH, Am. (Party #15) -- should read: "(Also Party #14)"
 "EXCLUSIVE SPECIES, 1956: - 66" -- should read: "67"
- SPECIES RECORDED IN 1956 ROUNDUP ONLY
- WILD TURKEY (#14) -- should be (#13)
 WHOOPING CRANE (#14) -- should be (#13)

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON MAY 6 1956 U.G.C. ROUNDUP (Omitted from July Spoonbill)

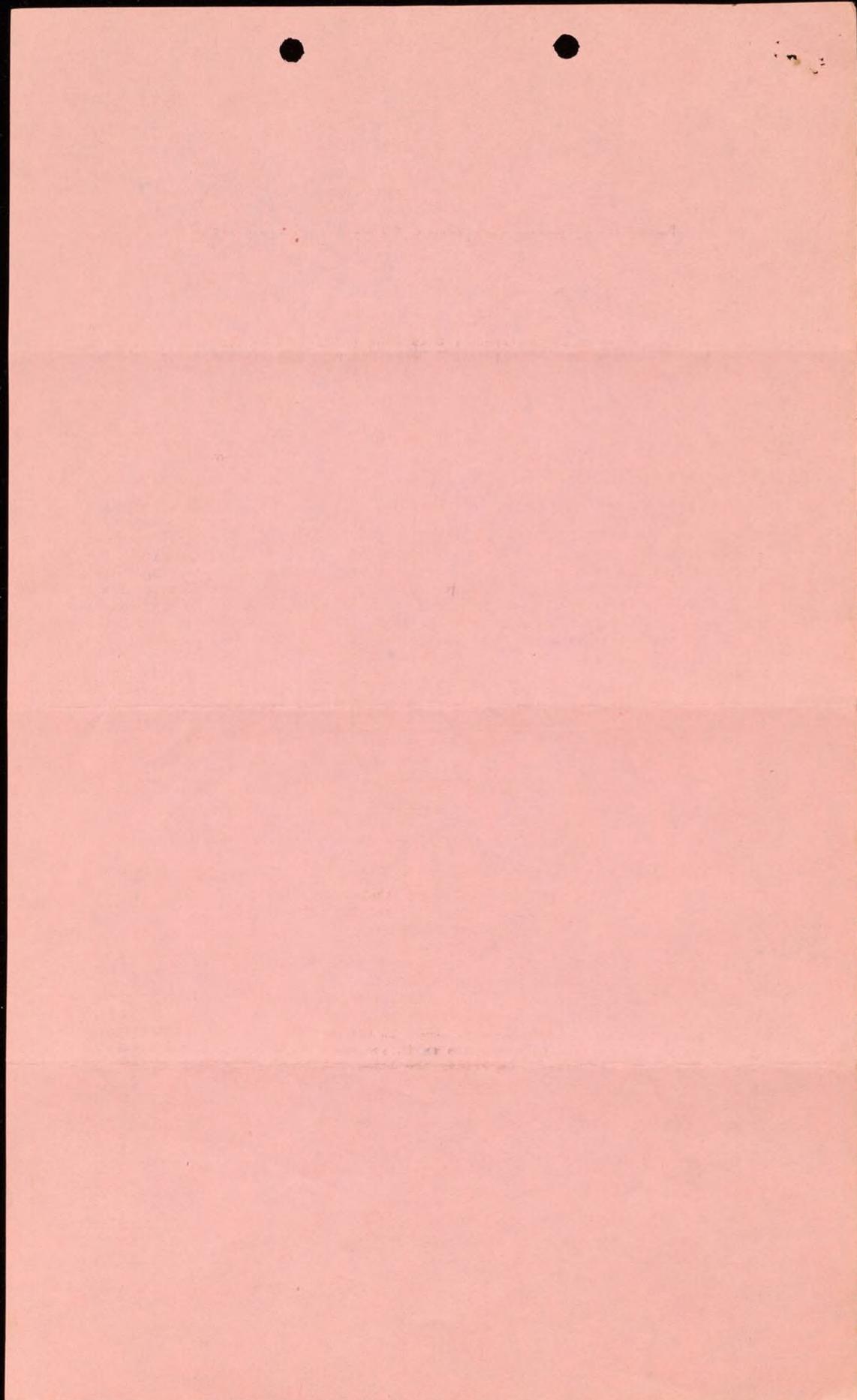
- Philadelphia Vireo - Recorded by no less than three widely-separated parties this year. Considered a rare migrant in the upper Gulf Coast area, it was missed completely last year, while in both 1954 and 1953 Roundups only one party recorded it. Edward H. Forbush wrote as follows in his "Natural History of the Birds of E. and Central N. America" (1939): "The ordinary observer who goes a-birding chiefly at week-ends and on holidays will not be likely to identify this bird satisfactorily more than three or four times in a lifetime-at least that has been my experience."
- Chuck-will's-widow and Chat recorded by but one of the 14 parties this year. Last year no less than five parties recorded each of these species.
- Black-cr. night heron recorded by only two parties this year, as compared to 6 in '55. The Whooping Cranes (now North America's rarest bird - only 27 feral birds left), lingered long enough at Aransas Refuge for Julian Howard to record them for the roundup. (Usually the cranes have all gone north by May)
- The Red Phalarope at Rockport is apparently Connie Hagar's (and the Central and U.G.C.'s) second record (first - Oct. 5 and 6, 1952).

1956 U.S. SPRING BIRD COUNTS
 Compiled by Noel Perley, Ornithology Group of Outdoor
 Nature Club, Houston, Texas

I. ROUNDUPS (Note: All species totals for both types of counts exclude Rock Dove)

Rank (By No. Species) & Organi- zation	Total Species and Date	Y E A R 1 9 5 6						No. Years Count Held	All Time Record Species List & Date
		Territory Covered		Extent in Air Mi.		Number Obs- ers & Parties	High- est Party List		
		Locality	N - S	E - W	Max. Dis- tance				
1 (DVOC)	241 (May 13)	E. Pa., S. N.J., E. Del., SE Md.	200	80	200	74-19	192	24	241
2 (U.G.C.)	239, 234 (May 6)	SE Texas (Houston - Rockport Areas)	188 175	125 168	208	48-14	147	4	239 5-6-56
3 (LRGV)	230 (Apr. 15)	Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas	51	102	102	14-44	154	?	244 4-19-53
4 (S. Cal.)	228 (Apr. 29)	SW Cal., E. of Los Angeles	100	Mile Diameter Circle	100	21-9	149	1	228 4-29-56
5 (M.O.S.)	226(?) (May 5)	Maryland (State-wide)	85 (?)	130 (?)	155 (?)	? -20	150 (?)	9	226(?) 5-5-56(?)
6 (Fla.)	168 (Apr. 14)	NW Florida Coast (St. Marks & vicinity)	23	35	37	12-5	122	3	172 4-19-54
7 (Ala.)	165 (Apr. 21)	SW Alabama Coast (Mobile Bay)	35	37	37 (?)	8-3	118	1	165 4-21-56
8 (N.C.)	125 (Apr. 28)	N. Central North Carolina (Greensboro)	15 Mi. Circle	Diam.	15	34-16	101	12	132 5-5-51

ERROR
(NOT
RECORDED
5-6-56)



II PARTY COUNTS

Y E A R 1 9 5 6

Rank (By No. Species), Group, & Date	Total Species	Route Followed	Car Mi.	Max. Extent (Air Mi.)	No. Ob- ser- vers	Leader and Others in Party (No. of Species in parentheses)	All Time Record Species List & Date
(1) DVOC May 13	192 (189 by at least 2 obs.)	King of Prussia (near Norristown) SE Pa.- Wilmington, Del. City - (DEL.) Milford-Rahoboth Beach- Ocean City, SE Md.	435	127	4	Dave Cutler (186*) Herb Cutler (183) Harry Mathews (184) John Aull (177)	208 (U.S. Record) 5-11-52
(2) Urner Club May 13	178 (177 by at least 2 obs.)	Gt. Swamp-Troy Meadows Boonton (NE N.J.)- Bound Brook-Beach Haven-Oceanville- Manahawkin (SE N.J.)	200 5 on foot 5 Beach Buggy	123	11	Robert C. Conn R. S. Thorsell Ed Stearns (176) (et al)	178 May 13, 1956
(3) MOS-May 12	161	Ocean City area, SE Maryland	?	15 ?	?	?	168 5-8-48
(4) LRGV Apr. 15	154	San Benito-Rio Hondo Laguna Atascosa Refuge (Cameron Co., S. Tex.)	112	20	2	Luther C. Goldman C.E. Hudson, Jr.	170 Apr. 23 1943
(5) S. Cal. Apr. 29	149	SW Calif., East of Los Angeles	?	?	?	?	187** Apr. 30 1952
(6) UGC (145) May 6	147 (146 by at least 2 obs.)	Houston-Sheldon Res. LaPorte-Seabrook- Kemah-Galveston Isle. (Harris & Galv. Co. SE Tex.)	170 7 on foot 1/2 by boat	51	4	Noel Perley (146) Vic Emanuel (146) (144) Carl Aiken (144) David Safley	164 Apr. 21 1950
(7) St. Marks, Fla. Apr. 21	145	St. Marks Light-Wakulla Spr Shell Pt.-Alligator Point (Wakulla & Franklin Cos. W. Fla.)	120	25	4	Karl Zerbe Marion Zerbe Ben & Sylvia Berkowitz	145 4-21-56
(8) E. Mass.-May 20	134	E. Massachusetts	?	?	?	?	161 5-23-48
(9) SE Mass. May 19	133	Quincy-Hanson-Milton Quincy-Hingham- Scituate-Marshfield	150	22	5	Robert P. Fox (125) (et al)	?
(10) SW Ala. Apr. 21	118	Mobile Bay area	100	37 ?	3	Burt L. Monroe, Jr. F. M. Weston (Weston) Lovett Williams	?
(11) N.C.-Apr. 28	101	Greensboro & vicinity (Guilford Co. N.C.)	145 5 on foot	10	2	Thomas E. Street Larry A. Crawford, Jr.	106 4-30-55

Notes:- *One less than Robert P. Fox's national record of 187 species at Rockport, Texas April 25, 1953.

**Arnold Small - 184 species; Howard L. Cogswell - 175.

Abbreviations: DVOC - Delaware Valley Ornithological Club
MOS - Maryland Ornithological Society
LRGV - Lower Rio Grande Valley
UGC - Upper Gulf Coast

Black Friday for Whoopers - (Life - July 23, 1956)

At New Orleans' Audubon Park Zoo early last week the youngster born to Crip and Jo the park's two whooping cranes had reached the gawky age of six weeks, stood 33 1/2 inches high and weighed a healthy 4-3/4 pounds. Then it was noticed that the chick was having difficulty breathing and as the week wore on it seemed to weaken, assumed a squatting position and dropped its wings. On Friday the 13th, the third crane born in captivity was found dead of a lung infection common to barnyard fowl.

Miss Bess Smith, 2501 North Stiles, Oklahoma City, Okla. had the following report from Julian Howard, Arkansas Refuge, Austwell:- The young of 1955, single, weaned by parents and left behind this spring on Matagorda Island, was located on the refuge July 2. It has begun to lose its rusty plumage and has become much whiter."

The crippled adult whooper in the San Antonio zoo is apparently doing all right."

OFFICERS OF ORNITHOLOGY GROUP

Chairman - Mr. James F. Murray, 6032 Glen Cove, Houston 7, Texas
Secretary-Treasurer - Miss Thelma H. Smith, 2148 Harold, Apt. 11, Houston
Field Trip Chairman - Mr. C. B. Gilman, Rt. 1, Box 175, Houston, Texas
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