



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XLV, No. 10

February, 1966

* Greasy kid stuff is nothing new in the bird world. The *
* oil gland is a small nipple-tipped structure hidden under *
* soft feathers at the root of the tail. Under stimulation *
* by the bill, it secretes fatty acid, fat and wax. *
* Shape and amount of secretion vary with the species. *
* As many as eight openings may be bunched around it, creat- *
* ing a brush for easier distribution. The gland reaches *
* its maximum size in aquatic birds and is reduced or non- *
* existent in quail and hummingbirds. *
* A bird preens upon awakening, or after a dip in a pud- *
* dle or following a refreshing dust bath. The bird's prob- *
* ing bill releases the oily substance and the bird liberally *
* anoints head and beak with it. Meticulously it is spread *
* over every feather, loose ones being pulled out and rumped *
* plumage smoothed. *
* Deprived of this structure, a bird would not survive *
* long in the wild. The protective coating insulates and *
* streamlines it for flight. Even the bill benefits; without *
* secretion it would become dry and scaly. *
* "Built-in Dry Cleaning," Texas Game and Fish *
* (back cover, Vol. XXI, No. 5, May, 1963) *

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

COMING EVENTS

- March 8 (Tuesday) Regular ONC meeting in the Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive, 8 PM. Dr. Dewitt C. Vansiclen will present his topic, "Houston on the Brazos."
- March 16 (Wednesday) Audubon Wildlife Film: "Wildlife of the Eastern Woodlands." Houston Home Builders Assn. Auditorium, 2710 W. Alabama, at 8 PM.
- March 19, 20 (Saturday and Sunday) ONC field trip to George West, Texas, led by Clayton Gilman. Make your reservations at the Buenos Noches Motel on Rt. 59 in George West, and don't miss this great opportunity to see many different species of birds. Meet both days at the Buenos Noches Motel at 8 AM. We hope to see the Olive-backed Warbler, which highlighted last year's trip, many other interesting birds, as well as many wild flowers, and even some snakes! Mr. Gilman says that the Ferguson Restaurant in George West is a good place to eat. This trip is a "must" for all birders.
- March 26 (Saturday) OG field trip to the Galveston area, led by Joyce Wildenthal, with the able assistance of Charlotte Johnson. Meet at Kempner Park in Galveston at 8 AM. Kempner Park is on "O" St. 1/2 block east of 29th St., next to the Hutching Estate. This should be a very "birdy" trip because of the migration season and the choice locality.
- February 27(Sunday) Operation Conservation--Save the birds in Waller. See announcement on p. 2.
- April 1, 2, 3 (Friday thru Sunday) TOS Spring Meeting at Galveston. See details on p. 3.

WINTER VISITORS by John Tveten

On January 15 Gloria and I had the thrill of seeing a lifer, Anna's Hummingbird, thanks to the bird call. While a number of us were watching the male, another Hummingbird joined it in a large tree. I only saw another bird of apparently the same size, but others who got a better look at it felt it was a female Anna's. Is it possible that a pair is breeding here? I photographed

the male, although not approaching too close for fear of scaring him away from other birders. The slides are back, and happily I got one shot which clearly shows the red color on both throat and crown. This should supply the "further confirmation by capture or photography" which Peterson states is necessary to substantiate the Texas sight records.

The miserable weather we have been having has not had all bad consequences. On January 22 after a bitter "Norther" we saw several good birds at the Texas City Dike. The best prize was a female Surf Scoter which we watched for some time, often as close as 20 feet, and also photographed. The bird stayed near the dike and when left alone would actually swim up to the rocks. Then when approached it would "run" out about 50 feet and move down the dike a short distance. We also saw a Common Merganser and lovely albino Ring-billed Gull the same day. However, none of these birds could be located the next day.

On the 29th we saw a California Gull at the dike. I understand this bird, or another, had previously been seen by Linda Snyder. Large numbers of Ribbon Fish, apparently killed by the cold, had washed up in the shallows and were providing a feast for the Gulls and Pelicans. We had a good opportunity to compare the Gull with his more piebald companions. We also photographed the antics of the Pelicans at a distance of about 50 feet, an opportunity not often gotten so easily.

MALE ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD by Charlotte Johnson and Margaret Anderson

On January 12, 1966 while birding in Fondren woods, we saw a male Anna's Hummingbird. We watched it for thirty minutes and then called Nancy Strickling. She joined us and also identified the bird. This hummingbird was larger than a Ruby-throated, with all the underparts washed with green. The throat and top of the head were a rosy-red (not mercurochrome red). The throat was edged by a white streak at the back. He had a small white area back of the eye. Both the throat and the top of the head appeared black until the light struck them in such a way as to change the color. The back was a rich dark green and the wings were a dark purplish-dusky. The tail was slightly notched. The bill was almost straight with a very slight downward curve. He was quite noisy, often uttering a grating "ztiki-ztiki" sound. He customarily perched in the top of a bare tree, flew out to catch an insect, and returned to the same perch. He was also belligerent, chasing kinglets. We observed him for two hours, hung a feeder with red sugar water for him, and returned home to put him on "Rare Bird Call."

Additional sightings:

- January 13-- Peggy Smith and Jane Robinson
- January 15-- Mr. and Mrs. Jack Smith, Mr. and Mrs. John Tveten, Mr. and Mrs. Elric McHenry, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Feltner, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Petit. Photographs were made by Ben Feltner and John Tveten.
- January 22-- Norma Gates, Thelma Smith, Margaret Anderson.
- January 29-- Norma Gates photographed him.

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS COUNT- JANUARY 2, 1966 by Harvey L. Patten, Compiler

For the second consecutive year, adverse weather conditions were responsible for field parties getting a late start; nevertheless, 65 people tallied 168 species by the end of the day. This ties the second highest Houston count obtained in 1962. This year's species count should have been 169; however, the compiler inadvertently omitted the Black Tern observed by Armand Yramategui. Apologies are in order. The tern is listed below in the area exclusives but not in the total species count. Following is a list of exclusives by area and then the statistical data. For a complete list of participants, consult the Audubon Field Notes, April, 1966.

Exclusives:

- Area 1- Wood Duck, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Slate-colored Junco, Turkey Vulture, Hairy Woodpecker
- Area 2- Purple Finch, Red-headed Woodpecker, Upland Plover, Whimbrel, Magnolia Warbler
- Area 3- Hooded Merganser
- Area 4- None
- Area 5- American Bittern, Barn Owl, Pine Siskin, Fish Crow, Common Loon, Grasshopper Sparrow, Palm Warbler
- Area 6- Long-billed Curlew, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Sprague's Pipit, Dunlin, Peregrine Falcon, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Harlan's Hawk, Wilson's Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler
- Area 7- Long-billed Dowitcher, Reddish Egret, White-faced Ibis, Ground Dove, Horned Grebe, Brown Pelican
- Area 8- Anhinga, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Fox Sparrow, Black Tern
- Area 9- Horned Lark, Franklin's Gull
- Area 10- Rusty Blackbird, Winter Wren

(Count by areas: See Clearing House)

URGENT! URGENT! YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Want a chance to help in saving many herons, egrets, and ibis? Then come on up to Cypress at Kitzmann's Place at 1:30 PM on Sunday, February 27. From there we shall proceed to the birds' rookery in a private yard near Waller. The owner has put up with these birds for years; however, because

the droppings of the birds are causing disease, he is threatening to take drastic measures to get rid of the birds. Because we do not want these birds destroyed, it is up to us conservationists to discourage the birds from nesting there and to encourage them to choose a more desirable location. Therefore, bring a long pole (such as an old fishing pole) and heavy wire (a coat hanger will do), which can be fashioned into a hook. We need to break down the existing nests. Then the Fish and Wildlife people will use noisemakers later to induce the birds to move to a more desirable area. Thank you for YOUR cooperation!

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT...

WHAT? Annual Spring Meeting of the T.O.S. (naturally!)

WHERE? Galvez Hotel. Make your own reservations (hotel is in Galveston).

WHEN? Friday thru Sunday, April 1, 2, 3, 1966

Land Field Trips--Harvey Patten, Chairman.

Pelagic Trip aboard "Captain Doc"--Nancy Strickling, Chairman.

Cost: \$5 (\$1 reservation) Saturday, April 2, 1966. Mail reservations to Nancy Strickling, 5118 W. Bellfort, Houston, Texas 77035. Reservation fee refunded if weather cancels trip.

Bay Trip aboard "Captain Doc"--Nancy Strickling, Chairman.

Cost: \$3 (\$1 reservation also) Sunday morning, April 3, 1966. Reservations same as for Pelagic Trip.

Dinner--Saturday night at Galvez Hotel. Reservations in the March 15, 1966 T.O.S. Newsletter. Come one, come all! This should be the greatest collection of birders since the Audubon Convention.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP by Betty Williams

(Saturday, January 29-- "Cinco Ranch and Environs")

The "polar bear" contingent of the Ornithology Group girded itself against the biting winds and sub-freezing temperatures and went about the serious business of birding. The seven "hearties" consisted of Peg and Jack Smith, F. Richard Miller, Hardin Craig Jr., Chris Jordan and me and our leader, Harvey Patten.

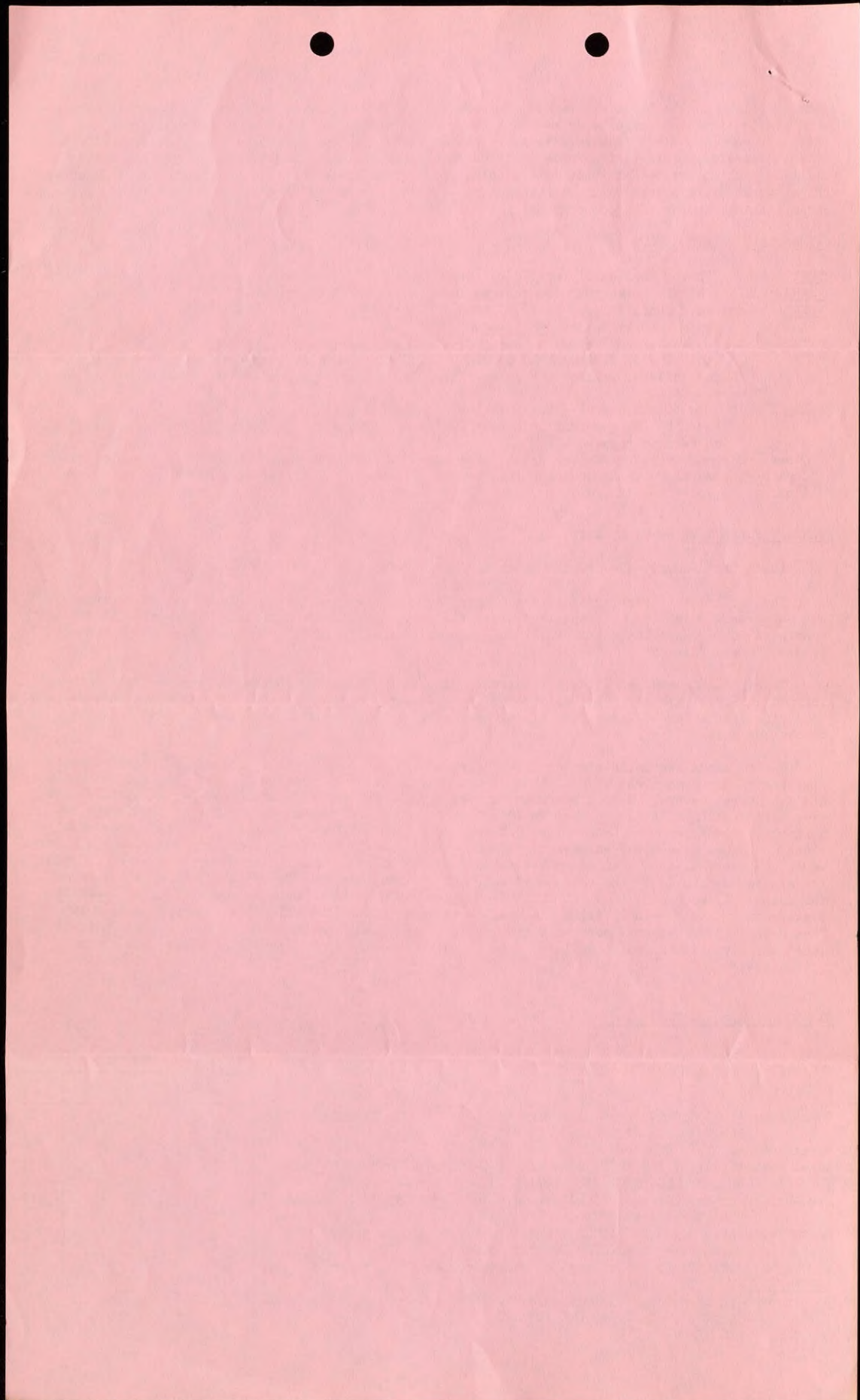
Cinco Ranch seemed bursting with birds. Cardinals, Thrashers, Mockers, Pine Warblers, Orange-crowned Warblers, a beautifully-colored Solitary Warbler, Eastern Phoebe by the dozen, and one deceiving little female Vermillion Flycatcher, whom we thought, at first glance, might be a Says Phoebe-- no sale!

In the woods Peg Smith started flushing Woodcocks and we all had a good look. The bird would fly up high and come right down so that we actually observed him on the ground. Harvey, meanwhile, had discovered several Harris Sparrows in good plumage and we all dashed over for a look. We did even more dashing after lunch when we took to the open plains around Katy. The afternoon yielded a flock of twenty or more Long-billed Curlews, a lovely field of "rising and falling" geese, mostly Blues and Snows with a few White-fronted, and several lonely Cattle Egrets along the roadside. Harvey found the real coup when he spotted a Bald Eagle soaring high in the clear blue sky. Through the glasses we could see the white head and tail. Harvey was able to see the yellow beak through the scope. As we headed back to "Cinco," we picked up some Lark Sparrows and a flock of Sandhill Cranes-- about forty. In spite of the weather we were able to list 67 different species seen by "the seven"! Other species seen were nine kinds of sparrows, one Caracara, a Ring-billed Gull, "a lake" which yielded Gadwall, Mallard, Pintail, Shoveler, Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, and a Pied-billed Grebe.

CLEARING HOUSE, JANUARY, 1966

Houston Christmas Count
by area (Part I)

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Comm Loon: (30-50)26,29 Tex City Dike LS; (6)8, (50)22, (20)23, (30)29 Tex CityDike JLT, GAT.					1	1
Horned Grebe: (1)12 Bayshore LS.						2
Eared Grebe: (2)1, (7)7,(37)16 Cove AKM; (10-100)most days, (400)12 Bayshore LS; (200)22, (100)23,29 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						317
Pied-billed grebe: 10 days, (66+)1,31 Cove AKM. (5-25)15,31 AnahuacLS; (30)15 Freeport BBW.	7		2		2	48
White Pelican: 6 days (100)16 Cove AKM; (10-100)most days, (1000)10 Bayshore, (2000)26,29 Tex City Dk. LS; (100)29 Tex City Dk. JLT GAT; (6)25 TexCity Dk. WM LM; (40)15 Freeport BBW.					5	620
<u>BROWN PELICAN:</u> Double-crested cormorant: (3-10)5 days Cove AKM; (20-100)26,29 Tex City Dk; (30)29 Tex City Dk. JLT GAT.	1		9		10	67



	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Olivaceous Cormorants (4)31 Anahuac Ref LS.						5
Anhinga: (1)14 Buckhorn Lake SBG.						1
Great Blue Heron:(1)15 Freeport BW.						1
Green Heron: (1)9 Anahuac Ref, JLT GAT. (1)16 Sheldon JLT.	4	6	8	2	8	193
Little Blue Heron: (1-2)15 Anahuac Ref LS; (2)23 Galveston JLT GAT					2	12
Cattle Egrets: (23)1, (2)15, (6)31 Cove AKM; (50)15 Katy JLT GAT.		20	8		1	54
Reddish Egrets:						1
Common Egrets: (15)15 Freeport BW.		2	40	3	45	245
Snowy Egrets:	1	4	17		21	193
Louisiana Heron: (20)15 Freeport BW.			11		16	117
Black-crowned Night Herons: (53)1, (2)2,7 (4)16 Cove AKM; (100)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT.			2		4	336
Yellow-crowned Night Herons (1-2)15 Anahuac Ref LS.						1
American Bitterns: (1)1 Cove AKM.					1	1
White-faced Ibis: 5 days, (500)1 (200)5 Cove AKM; (300)15,31 Anahuac Ref. LS;(300)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT, (24)15 Freeport BW.						1
White Ibis: (25)1 Cove AKM; (4)15 Anahuac Ref LS.						9
Roseate Spoonbill: 8 days, (80)1 Cove AKM; (18)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT.						9
Canada Goose: (10)31 Anahuac Ref LS. (500)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT, (30)16 Sheldon JLT.	5	113		25		143
White-fronted Goose: (3)1, (6)2, (15)16,19, (5)31 Cove AKM; (300-500)15,31 Anahuac Ref. LS; (2000)16 Sheldon JLT.				5		20
Snow Goose: (1000-2000)15,31 Anahuac Refuge LS.	400	525	315	90	100	2114
Blue Goose:}	83	355	96	100	50	378
Fulvous Tree Duck: (5)23 Galveston JLT, GAT.						
Mallard: 17 days (28)1, (40)18 Cove AKM; (NC)15,31 Anahuac Refuge LS; (6)14 Sheldon SBG; (6)9 Anahuac Refuge JLT, GAT; (30)16 Sheldon JLT	1	11	1			29
Black Duck: (2)9 Anahuac Refuge JLT, GAT.						
Mottled Duck: 16 days (67)1, (24)31 Cove. AKM; (NC)15,31 Anahuac Refuge LS						24
Gadwall: 13 days (2000+)1 (300)31 Cove AKM; (50-100)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (50)14 Sheldon SBG.	165		60			360
Pintail: 19 days (215)1 (200)25 Cove AKM; (100-300)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (8)15 Freeport BW.		2	100	3	5	307
Green-winged Teal: 19 days, (6100)1 Cove AKM; (50-100)15,31 Anahuac LS.				3		107
Blue-winged Teal: (50-100)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (12)15 Freeport BW.				4		40
Cinnamon Teal: (14) 15, (1)31 Anahuac Ref LS.						
American Widgeon: 14 days, (100)15,26 Cove AKM; (15)15 Anahuac Ref LS; (100)14 Sheldon SBG; (1)15 Freeport BW.			3			17
Shoveller: 15 days, (23)1 (30-50)9,16,19 Cove AKM. (1000)12 Bayshore LS; (11)15 Freeport BW.				1	6	3074
Wood Duck: (6)9 (9)16 Cove AKM; (4)14 Duessen Park SBG.	7					7
Redhead: (1-2)15,31 Anahuac Ref, (1-2)26,29 Texas City LS.						
Ring-necked Duck: (6)1 Cove AKM; (4-10)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (8)14 Sheldon SBG; (200)16 Sheldon JLT; (2)15 Freeport BW.			15		2	19
Canvasback: (4-10)7,11,26 (104)1 (1000)15 (300)31 Cove AKM. (8-12)daily Bayshore LS. (6)15 Freeport BW.					50	205
Greater Scaup: (10)29 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						
Lesser Scaup: 13 days (150)16 Cove AKM; (10-100)most days Bayshore (nc). 15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (18)15 Freeport BW.	1		25		500	12473
Common Goldeneye: (4-16)2,7,16,26 Cove AKM; (1)23 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						62
Bufflehead: (1)1, (10-25)7,16,26 Cove AKM; (25)16 Sheldon JLT; (1)29 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						16
Surf Scoters: (1)22 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						
Ruddy Duck: (105)1 (20)15 (71+)31 Cove AKM; (3000)12 Bayshore (4-12)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (200)22 Texas City Dk JLT GAT.				15	5	5050
Hooded Merganser: (5)16 Sheldon JLT;			1			1
Common Merganser: (1)22 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						
Red-breasted Merganser: (1)26 (12)29 Texas City Dk LS; (5)22,23 (25)29 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						42
Turkey Vulture:						2
Black Vulture: (7)9 (1)31 Cove AKM.						
Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1)18 Cove AKM; (1)7 Bayshore LS.	1					1
Cooper's Hawk: (1)2,9 Cove AKM; (1)14 Sheldon SBG.	1					2
Red-tailed Hawk: (2-6)15,31 Anahuac Ref (nc)26,29 Tex City LS.	6	5	9	3	3	56
Harlan's Hawk: (1)2,6 Cove AKM.						1
Red-shouldered Hawk: 13 days (5)9 (3)26 Cove AKM; (1)14 Sheldon SBG.	7	2	1	2	1	19
Bald Eagle: (1 imm)14 Sheldon SBG.						
Marsh Hawk: (6-12)15,31 Anahuac Ref (2-6)26,29 Tex City Dk LS;	5	9	3	2	1	25
Osprey: (1)14 Buckhorn Lake SBG.						
Peregrin Falcon: (1)15 Anahuac Ref LS.						1
Sparrow Hawk:	11	7	13	6	14	121
Greater Prairie Chickens: (9)23 Kemah Dick. Hwy WM LM; (11)30 Clay Rd. MM RM.						

	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Bobwhite: (15)30,31 Sharpstown Industrial Park WM LM.	7	62			2	169
Sandhill Crane: (100)15 Katy JLT GAT.						
King Rail: (1)1 Cove AKM; (1)15 Anahuac Ref LS; (2)15 Freeport BBW.					7	7
Clapper Rail: (1)7,16 Cove AKM; (10)15 Anahuac Ref LS; (2)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT; (4)15 Freeport BBW.					6	24
Sora: (1)15 Anahuac Ref LS; (1)15 Freeport BBW.						3
Common Gallinule: (3)23,27 Cove AKM; (5-15)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (2)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT. (3)15 Freeport BBW.						
Coot: 5 days (3500)1 (3000)31 Cove AKM. (100+)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS. (1200)15 Freeport BBW.			2		2	37
Semipalmated Plover: (1)16 (8)26 Cove AKM.						
Piping Plover: (1)23 Galveston JLT GAT.						
Killdeer:	28	17	15	110	175	762
Black-bellied Plover: (1-6)7,16,24,26 Cove AKM.						9
Ruddy Turnstone: (2)7 (8)26 Cove AKM; (1)23 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						
American Woodcock:	4		1		3	9
Common Snipe: (1)7 Cove AKM; (2)15 Anahuac Ref LS.		2			1	4
Long-billed Curlew: 7 days (150)1 (100)9 Cove AKM; (170)15 Anahuac R. LS.						82
Whimbrel:		5				5
Upland Plover:		8				8
Spotted Sandpiper: (1-2)most days Bayshore LS; (1)16 Sheldon JLT; (1)23 Galveston JLT GAT.			3		7	24
Willet: (10)7 (4)26 Cove AKM; (5-10)26,29 Tex City Dk LS.					4	11
Greater Yellowlegs: (7)1 (2)9,26 (3)24 Cove AKM; (1-2)15,31 Anahuac R. LS.				1		20
Lesser Yellowlegs: 7 days (100)14 Cove AKM; (50)15 (5)31 Anahuac Ref LS.						56
Least Sandpiper: (30)15 Anahuac Ref LS.						202
Dunlins: (1000+)15 (50)31 Anahuac Ref LS.						1000
Dowitcher(sp): (4)31 Anahuac Ref LS;						209
Dowitcher, Short-billed:						55
Dowitcher, Long-billed:						112
Semipalmated Sandpiper: (300)15 Anahuac Ref LS.					2	808
Western Sandpiper: (200)15 Anahuac Ref LS.						750
Marbled Godwit: (5)22,23 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						
Sanderling: (3)7,16 (17)26 Cove AKM; (100+)26 Tex City Dk (nc)30 Galveston LS.						49
American Avocets: (90)7 (4)26 Cove AKM; (1)15 Anahuac (nc)30 Galveston LS; (6)23 Galveston JLT GAT.						82
Herring Gull: 6 days (17)26 Cove AKM.				5	5	92
CALIFORNIA GULL: (1 adult)26 Texas City Dike LS; (1)29 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						
Ring-billed Gull: (1 albino)22 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.	8	51	20	5	1650	5386
Laughing Gull:					200	331
Franklin's Gull:						1
Bonaparte's Gull: (2)2 Cove AKM; (20)29 Tex City Dk LS; (400)29 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.					1	10
Gull-billed Tern: (2)22 Tex City Dk JLT GAT;			5			7
Forster's Tern:			3		25	1177
Common Tern: (1)22 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						128
Royal Tern:					1	68
Caspian Tern:	1		5		4	142
Black Skimmer: (1)26 Cove AKM; (11)22 Tex City Dk JLT GAT.						360
White-winged Dove: (1)6,7 Cove AKM.						
Mourning Dove:	14	43	28	32	28	424
Ground Dove:						22
Groove-billed Ani: (5)2 (2)16 Cove AKM.						8
Barn Owl: (2)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT.					1	1
Screech Owl:					1	9
Great Horned Owl: (1)15 Katy JLT GAT.	1					4
Barred Owl: (2)1 (1)2,5,10,11 Cove AKM.	2	1	2		2	7
Short-eared Owl: (3)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT.						
Ruby-throated Hummingbirds: (1)24 (2)25 (1)28, 11926 Brokem Bough, Hou. MM.						
ANNA'S HUMMINGBIRD: (2?)15 Houston JLT GAT; (1)15 Fondren Woods WM LM; (1)14 Fondren Woods BBW; (1 male)11 Fondren Woods CJ MA NS; (1)15 Fondren Woods RM.						
Rufous Hummingbird: (1)15 (1)27 (1)29 Yard MM.						
Belted Kingfisher: (1-2)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (2)23 Galveston JLT GAT; (2)15 Freeport BBW.	4	4	2		4	23
Yellow-shafted Flicker: (1-5)15 days Cove AKM; (1-2)daily Bayshore LS.	27	11	8	7	11	149
Pileated Woodpecker: (2)16 Sheldon JLT;	5			1		7
Red-bellied Woodpecker:	15	9	2	7	3	71
Red-headed Woodpecker:		1				1
Hairy Woodpecker:	1					7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (1-4)17 days Cove AKM.	9	1	7	2	6	37

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Downy Woodpecker: (2)1 (1)2 Cove AKM; (1)15 Katy JLT GAT;						
Wied's Flycatcher: (see Clearing House Notes)	3		3			12
Eastern Shrike: (1-4)16 days Cove AKM; (1)4,5,6,14 Bayshore LS.	15	22	4	5	20	114
<u>Olive-sided Flycatcher:</u>						1
Vermilion Flycatcher: (1 or 2)8 days, (5)1 (3)9,31 Cove AKM; (1)14 Deussen Park SBG; (1)31 Cinco Ranch CJ MA.	1				1	15
Horned Lark: (5-10)15,31 Anahuac Ref, (nc)26,29 Tex City Dk, (nc)30 Gal- veston LS; (10)23 Tex City Dk WM LM.						4
Tree Swallows (100)31 Anahuac Ref LS.						
Rough-winged Swallows (1)9 Cove AKM.						
<u>Purple Martins:</u> (1)29 Texas City LS.						
Blue Jay:	3	7	6	8	42	205
Common Crow:	28	28	3	9	15	118
Fish Crow:					1	1
Carolina Chickadee:	68	76	28	21	26	294
Tufted Titmouse: (1)16 Cove AKM.	24	3	11	8	19	98
Red-breasted Nuthatch: (1)31 Bunker Hill MM.						
Brown-headed Nuthatch:						1
Brown Creeper: (1)2 (2)16 Cove AKM; (1)23 Galveston County Pk JLT GAT.						4
House Wren: (1)1,5,11,16,24,27 Cove AKM; (6)16 Highlands-Sheldon JLT.	8				4	58
Winter Wrens (1)22,25,26,31 Cove AKM; (1)15 Katy JLT GAT; (1)16 High- lands JLT.						1
Bewick's Wren: (1)5,7 Cove AKM.						
Carolina Wren: (1)22 Fondren Woods WM; (1)15 Freeport BBW.	8	10	2	5	27	121
Long-billed Marsh Wren: (4)1 (1)7 Cove AKM.					8	11
Short-billed Marsh Wren: (3)1 (1)7 Cove AKM; (1-2)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (15)16 Highlands JLT.					1	9
Mockingbird:	39	26	27	19	140	622
Catbird: (2)1 Cove AKM.	4				2	11
Brown Thrasher: (1-2)daily Bayshore LS. (1)22 Fondren Woods WM.	9	9	2	6	20	136
Robins: 10 days (100)9 (400)26 Cove AKM; (10-50)most days Bayshore LS.	37	6		5	653	1245
Hermit Thrush: (1)1,2,6,9 (2)16 Cove AKM.	3	4			5	24
Eastern Bluebird: (4)15 (6)31 Cove AKM; (2-8)15,31 Anahuac Area LS; (50+)14 Duessen Park SBG.	8	6	72			87
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: (1-2)most days Bayshore LS; (5)15 Freeport BBW.			3	6	8	248
Golden-crowned Kinglet: (5)9 (1)1, 16,18 Cove AKM.	2	2			5	34
Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (1-2)most days Bayshore LS; (2) Fondren Woods WM.	15	46	8	12	39	354
Water Pipit: 10 days (40)1 Cove AKM; (5-10)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS.					10	282
Sprague's Pipit: (1)1 (3)2 Cove AKM.						12
Cedar Waxwing: (10-25)16,18,25,29 (150)26 Cove AKM; (2)15 Fondren Woods WM LM; (1)23 inside U-Tot-Em Store 7200 Bellaire WM LM.					50	174
Loggerhead Shrike:	35	16	25	32	45	263
Solitary Vireo: (1)4,5 Bayshore LS.			1		1	5
<u>Black-and-white Warbler:</u> (1)9 Cove AKM.						1
Orange-crowned Warbler: (1-2)7 days (5)9 Cove AKM; (1-2)most days Bay- shore LS.	10		4	12	8	107
Myrtle Warbler: (1-10)11 days Cove AKM; (1-5)most days Bayshore LS; (1) daily 7106 Mobud WM LM; (12)14 Fondren Woods, (32)15 Freeport BBW.	7	35	18	1	24	294
<u>Magnolia Warbler:</u>		2				2
Pine Warbler: (1-10)8 days Cove AKM.	40	2	11		5	89
Palm Warbler: (1)31 Cove AKM.					1	1
Yellowthroats: (3)15 Anahuac Ref LS; (6)16 Highlands JLT; (7)15 Freept.BBW.	6				2	25
Wilson's Warbler: (1)16 Highlands JLT; (1)18,20 Baytown GAT.						1
House Sparrow:	300	34	105	25	350	1000
Eastern Meadowlark:	94	127	160	50	81	909
Red-winged Blackbird:	1036	10M	110	100	210	13507
<u>Baltimore Oriole:</u> (1)14 Lake Houston SBG.						4
Rusty Blackbird: (6)23 Galv Co Pk JLT GAT.						
Brewer's Blackbird: (200)31 Anahuac Ref LS.	158	12	182	770	25	1372
Boat-tailed Grackle:	50	23		10	550	737
Common Grackle:	270	53	7	20	320	950
Brown-headed Cowbird: (10)23 7106 Mobud LM WM.	8		20		15	1151
Cardinal:	80	63	15	24	111	705
<u>Rose-breasted Grosbeak:</u> (4)11, 5325 Hidalgo JW. (see Notes)						
<u>Black-headed Grosbeak:</u> (1)1,6 (2)30 Cove AKM.						
<u>Dickcissel:</u> (2)27 Baytown NB. (see Notes)						
Purple Finch: (1)9,16 Cove AKM; (1)15 Houston JLT GAT; (3)24, 1364 Chim- ney Rock CJ; (1)31 Bunker Hill MM.				1		1
Pine Siskin: (3)31 Bunker Hill MM.					1	1
American Goldfinch: (1-150)23 days (300)9 Cove AKM; (25-50)most days Bayshore LS; (5)22 Fondren Woods WM.						
Rufous-sided Towhee:	2				1	6
Savannah Sparrows: (10-50)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (4)15 Freeport BBW.	14	4	3		2	115



	1	2	3	4	5	Tot
Grasshopper Sparrow: (1)16 Highlands JLT.					1	1
Leconte's Sparrow: (5)1 (2)2 (3)8 (6)18 Cove AKM; (2)16 Highlands JLT.					1	5
Henslow's Sparrows: (1)2,14,19 Cove AKM.					1	5
Sharp-tailed Sparrow: (5)1 Cove AKM.		3				
Seaside Sparrow: (3)1,7 (5)16 (1)26 Cove AKM; (5-25)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (2)9 Anahuac Ref JLT GAT.				6	31	49
Vesper Sparrow: (6)2 Cove AKM.					1	39
Slate-colored Junco:	12	5	5			12
Chipping Sparrow: (30)14 Duessen Pk SEB; (2)16 Highlands JLT.					5	10
Field Sparrow: (1)1,9,16 (9)2 Cove AKM.					3	34
Harris' Sparrow: (2)30 Clay Rd (10 mi W of Houston) MM RM.						15
White-crowned Sparrow: (12)15 Katy JLT GAT.						900
White-throated Sparrow: (5-10)daily Bayshore LS.	71	4	26	10	49	1
Fox Sparrow: (2 or 3)1 Cove AKM; (2)15 Katy JLT GAT.						77
Lincoln's Sparrow: (1)1,13,25,26,(3)9 Cove AKM.	5		1	6	5	58
Swamp Sparrow: (1-2)2,8,9,18,31 (5-11)13,30 Cove AKM; (2-5)15,31 Anahuac Ref LS; (16)15 Freeport BEW.	8			7	2	
Song Sparrow: (4)1 (1)26 Cove AKM; (1-33)daily Bayshore LS.	2	1		2	1	24

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES:

Just for the record, here are dates and details on some birds of particular note recently:

American Oystercatcher: (5)Nov 27,1965, Galveston, Snyder, Marrack and party.

Pyrrhuloxia: (1)Dec 13,1965, Cincoc Ranch, Snyder and Anderson. This bird was a sub-adult male—a good grey with wispy, rose-red crest, red on wings and tail, but not much on front.

Short, ivory-colored bill, chirping notes very different from Cardinal's "dink".

Baltimore Oriole: Sub-adult male with head not fully black and with narrow wing-bars.

Cinnamon Teal: Ten of these were good males. I didn't bother to look for more females.

California Gull: Adult a little larger than Ring-billed, had yellow bill with red spot on mandible, green legs. Understand this same bird, probably, was seen by John Tveten the following weekend.

Olivaceous Cormorant: Small cormorants — one was in good breeding plumage with white border on throat pouch and a tuft of white feathers on side of head.

Wied's Flycatcher (see below)

Linda Snyder

On Wied's Flycatcher

(1)1,6,7,18 Cove AKM. This may be an Ash-throated Flycatcher as its head did not appear more bushy and it is shy like the one Ash-throated I have seen. The larger appearance of the bird and its bill are not dependable field marks. I base my diagnosis on one point: its throat was not whiter than its breast.

Archie K. McKay

(1)7 Cove AKM LS. McKay showed me his bird and I agreed with his identification. This bird was as large (or possibly a little larger) as a crested, but had all black bill, light throat. Yellow underneath and rufous on wings and tail. It stayed up high in trees and was calling "pur-eet".

Linda Snyder

I observed 139 species in January; 215 in 31 yrs; White-winged Dove and Rough-winged Swallow were added. 128 species in first half; 131 in 1960; 199 in 31 years; Three were added: the dove, swallow and Harlan's Hawk. 117 species in last half; 141 in 1964; 199 in 31 years, 1 added: Palm Warbler.

Archie K. McKay

On January 27, I saw a female dickcissel feeding with house sparrows in my yard in Baytown. The chestnut shoulder patch had caught my attention. The head was quite gray, and there was a faint tinge of yellow in the eyebrow stripe. Very soon afterward the male came to the feeder, and the two remained together, eating sunflower seeds, for perhaps an half hour. The male had the same chestnut shoulder patch and gray head, bright yellow breast, with small, irregular area of black in the center.

Nettie Busby

On Wednesday, January 11, in the afternoon, I identified four Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in my yard feeding on the ground. They flew to the fence where on one I noted the rose color on the breast and also under the chin as shown in the fall plumage for the male in Audubon Land Bird Guide by R. H. Pough, Plate 38. From the fence they flew to the ground and fed for sometime.

Joyce Wildenthal

The Cedar Waxwing flew into the U-Tot-Em Store on Saturday night and stayed there all day Sunday perched on a wire about 7 feet from the floor without moving, while customers went in and out of the store. It flew out Monday morning.

Wallace Mebane

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

AKM	Archie K. McKay	WM	Wallace Mebane	SBG	LS, NB, Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Groce
LS	Linda Snyder	LM	Lyvonda Mebane	BBW	Bill and Betty Wright
MM	Mary Ann Moore	JLT	John Tveten	MA	Margaret Anderson
RM	R. B. Moore	GAT	Gloria Tveten	NS	Nancy Strickling
NB	Nettie Busby	CJ	Charlotte Johnson	JW	Joyce Wildenthal

EDITOR'S NOTE ON CLEARING HOUSE

As of this month we have adopted the following system of underlining and capitalizing unusual sightings:

- Out of Season: Bird name and date underlined.
- Unusual Numbers: Bird name and number underlined.
- # 6 or # 7 in Williams: Underlined bird name.
- Accidental or not listed in Williams: Bird name Capitalized and Underlined.


From time to time, in the opinion of the co-editors the status of a bird may have changed since the publication of Williams Checklist so as to warrant a departure from this system. (example: Brown Pelican.)

Next month we will break down the Houston Christmas Count by Areas 6-10.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS

Volunteers are needed to man the Prairie Chicken Booth which is now open in the Livestock Building at the Astrodome (Feb. 23- March 6). Volunteers are needed for the following periods: Evenings- 7:45 PM-10 PM. Saturdays- 2 PM. 4:30 PM, 7:45 PM-10 PM. Sundays 1:30 PM- 3:30 PM, 6:30-10 PM. If you can help at one or more of these times, call Nancy Strickling (PA 3-5394) or Joanne Jackson (CA 8-6435--Texas Prairie Chicken Committee).

WELCOME to the following new members and subscribers:

- Mrs. Marjorie Adams (subscriber), PO Box 21,  Texas 78767
- Mr. H.T. Fielding (member) 4141 S. Braeswood, Houston, Texas 77025 (MO 6-2651)
- Mrs. Sue Harris (member) 6810 Piccadilly, Houston, Texas 77017 (MI 9-8743)
- Mrs. Dewitt T. Johnson (subscriber) 5249 Wren Ave. #245, El Paso, Texas 79924
- Mrs. Myrtle A. Phillips (member) 236 W. 22nd, Houston, Texas 77008. (UN 2-1902)

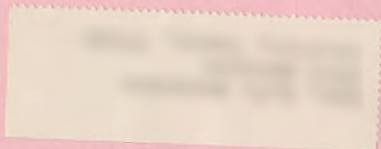
Changed Address: Miss Thelma Smith, c/o Mary A. Carnes, 44 N. Broadway, White Plains, New York

We extend heartly congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ladwig (nee Katrina Thompson) on their recent marriage. The Ladwigs now reside at 4200 Mt. Vernon, Houston 77006. (JA 3-8675).

OFFICERS:

- Chairman: Harvey Patten 4723 Trail Lake Lane, Houston, Texas 77045
- Secretary: Mrs. Bill Ladwig (Katrina) 4200 Mt. Vernon, Houston, 77006
- Treasurer: Miss Ella Wolfer 3707 Reveille Road, Houston, Texas 77017
- Field Trip Chairmen: Mrs. R.P. Williams (Betty) 5122 Brae Burn, Bellaire, 77101
- Program Chairman: Dr. Pat Sullivan 5353 Institute Lane, #23 Houston 77005
- Co-editors of The Spoonbills: Bill and Betty Wright, 6734 Neff, Houston 77036

CORRECTION to OG Roster: Miss Melba Drake is a member, not a subscriber.



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