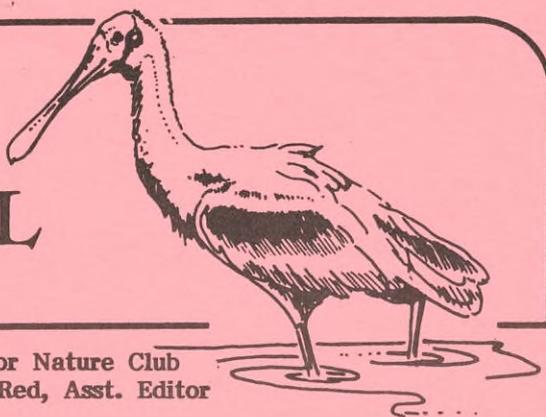


The SPOONBILL



Published by the Ornithology Group, Outdoor Nature Club
Houston, Texas, Libby Price, Editor; Ellen Red, Asst. Editor

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June-July, 1988

Coming Events

Wednesday, Aug. 3: Deadline for Spoonbill material and for Clearing House reports; send reports to Clearing House, P.O. Box 271374, Zip 77277.

Thursday, Aug. 4: Ornithology Group meeting at Bayou Manor, 4141 S. Braeswood, 7:30 p.m. Kelly Bryan of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will speak on the bird life and bird management efforts in the new, and not yet open, Kickapoo Caverns State Park and Devil's Sinkhole State Park.

Saturday, Aug. 20: Ornithology Group field trip to Bolivar Flats with David Dauphin as leader. Shorebird migration will be well under way at this time, so plan on spending half a day birding at Bolivar Flats. We'll meet at 7:30 a.m. at the parking area by the north (Bolivar end) ferry landing. Bring cold drinks and sun block.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

by Ed Rozenburg

We take it for granted at each Ornithology Group meeting at Bayou Manor that we will have the nice auditorium, stage and other facilities that help our meetings run smoothly and comfortably. It is unlikely that these would be at our disposal if it were not for Mrs. Marion Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor is our sponsor at Bayou Manor. She makes arrangements for the room and, as sponsor, must be there at each meeting. She receives the complaints from Bayou Manor residents and management if we are too noisy, stay too late or break something. Let's try to make her job as easy as possible.

Marion and her husband, Mr. E. W. Taylor are longtime members of the Ornithology Group and the Outdoor Nature Club. Unfortunately, Mr. Taylor is very ill, so they cannot participate actively in most other club activities. If you have not met Marion Taylor, make an effort to do so at the next meeting and express our appreciation for her efforts to help keep our club meetings going smoothly.

A SALUTE TO SOME SPOONBILL VOLUNTEERS

The editors of The Spoonbill would like to salute some volunteers who help get your copy into your mailbox each month. Connie Clark is the Layout Artist who takes time to fit the whole thing together from a pile of copy. She never knows when the effort has to be made, because your editors don't know either; two months of last year we had no Clearing House but kept waiting day by day until we had to publish without it. There have been times when the editor appeared on Connie's doorstep at night and sat waiting while she pasted up so that The Spoonbill could go to the printers in the morning. Connie has never let us down, and we thank her for her help and forbearance.

Peggy Milstead has been in charge of the subscription list for who knows how long. She updates a list that is never the same, deals with new members and changes of address and the times when the Post Office inexplicably returns a copy with the correct address. At dues time she updates the list until the last minute because she is so conscientious. It is an exacting job, and we thank Peggy for carrying it out so accurately, month after month, year after year, getting those labels ready.

Yetta Chapman was mailing The Spoonbill when our editorship began. Soon after, Connie Schimbor took over. Mailing means putting on labels, separating the copies by zip code and counting them out into bundles of equal weight for the bulk mailing and delivering them to the Post Office. When we inserted a dues page or other extra the mail person did it by hand to keep the printer's bill down and save the OG money. If you get your Spoonbill later than other people, blame your local Post Office, because Yetta and Connie have always mailed promptly. We thank them for their contribution.

It takes a lot of work to publish our newsletter. We could never do it without volunteers who do tedious work each month, and do it accurately and consistently.

Noel's Niche Looking Back

by Noel Pettingell

.....20 YEARS AGO/FROM JULY 1968 SPOONBILL

"AUSTIN--The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has taken the first steps to protect the vanishing Red-cockaded Woodpecker and add it to the rare and endangered species list, according to Robert G. Mauermann, deputy director of the Department. The list is compiled by the Committee on Rare and Endangered Wildlife Species, Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The list contains approximately 100 species of...birds, fish, mammals, reptiles and amphibians considered... to be...in danger of extinction.

"The plight of the small woodpecker was brought to light recently by long-time Department Wildlife Biologist Dan Lay, stationed in Nacogdoches. Lay, who has been studying the Red-cockaded Woodpecker for approximately 20 years, said the species, once fairly abundant in the southern pine forests of the United States, is becoming rare and may be doomed in East Texas because of its habitat requirements. Of the several species of woodpecker in the state, only the Red-cockaded requires a living pine vigorous enough to produce gum freely but over 80 years of age and decadent enough to have redheart disease, a fungus that softens and permeates the trees heartwood with small holes and damages the value of the wood...[and] eventually kills the tree.

"The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is zebra-backed and has a black cap. The male's red cockade is tiny, almost invisible. Similar species include the Red-bellied Woodpecker which also has a zebra back but may be distinguished by a red cap. The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is more likely to be confused with a Downy or Hairy Woodpecker but the white cheek patch is the distinguishing mark, according to Peterson's 'Field Guide to the Birds of Texas.'

"Lay, as well as ornithological publications, says the woodpecker unerringly seeks out old pines with redheart to chip out nesting sites. Once a suitable cavity has been excavated in the tree, the bird waits until sticky pine sap exudes from the wound and surrounds the entrance, then builds its nest. Lay said the sap protects the birds' nesting site from other birds and predators. 'How the bird unerringly finds a pine tree with redheart is a mystery,' Lay said. 'Man first finds redheart when the tree dies or is cut for the mill.' The bird prefers trees in a park-like surrounding, such as old stands of long-leaf pine. Seldom will the birds inhabit trees in the heavier, darker areas of a pine forest. The inability to adapt to changing habitat conditions has been listed as the underlying cause for the extinction of many species, including the Dinosaur.

"Lay said the type of trees required by the Red-cockaded Woodpecker are customarily cut by landowners and sent to the mill because of the slow growth rate and because the redheart disease will...kill the tree and make it useless as saw timber.

"But the woodpecker's plight has not fallen on deaf ears. Meetings between the Department personnel and the U.S. Forest Service has secured a de-

gree of protection for such trees in four national forests in Texas consisting of 657,000 acres. John Courtenay of Lufkin, Supervisor of the Texas National Forests, says saving such trees in the national forests fits very well in the Service's program of wise multiple use of forestlands and that this program has already been added to their operation manuals. 'It's a small thing to protect an inhabited tree or one that is desirable for the endangered woodpecker,' he said. 'I've seen eight of the trees and four of the birds.' Courtenay says the service plans to locate and map inhabited trees as well as those which would make suitable habitat and preserve them for future use of the woodpecker.

--From the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department NEWS LETTER dated 5-8-68."

BRAZORIA NWR - SUMMER WEEKENDS

Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge has added additional "open house" weekends to this year's schedule. The first weekend of every month, not just October through May, will be an "open house" weekend, when birders can visit the refuge between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. without previous arrangement. This refuge offers interesting birds all year. It is most generous of them to add these extra weekends. Take County Road 227 off FM 523 between Angleton and Freeport to reach the refuge.

SPECIAL REQUEST - OWL PELLETS

by Bill McClure

I have an interest in examining owl pellets for the purpose of determining the animals used as food by owls and the ranges of the animals that are preyed upon by owls. It is requested that anyone who encounters or is aware of owl roosts and is willing to collect pellets for this effort please contact me. This can be on a periodic or one-time basis for this long-term project. Thanks. Bill McClure, 6218 Doliver, Houston TX 77057. Office phone 875-1400, home 781-1639.

PROGRAM AND ALUMINUM CHAIRMEN NEEDED

The Ornithology Group resumes its monthly meetings starting in August. Ed Rozenburg, our new Ornithology Group Chairman has set up some programs for the coming year, but he needs a Program Chairman to fill out the schedule. Here is your chance to set up some programs you have been wishing for. Also, anyone who has taken slides of birds on a vacation trip and would like to present a program, let the Chairman know.

We need an Aluminum Chairman as well. Aluminum is now bringing a good price, and this addition to our treasury is very important. It can provide our donation to the Breeding Bird Atlas for the year, for example. MEMBERS: Collect your drink cans and bring them to the August meeting.

Volunteers for the chairmanships please contact Ed Rozenburg at the August meeting or at 481-4695.

NATIONAL HIGHS FOR THE 87TH CBC compiled by Brent Ortego

A total of 621 listed forms (594 species plus 1 hybrid and 26 infraforms) was accepted for the National High (NH) summary of the 87th Christmas Bird Count (CBC) results (*Am. Birds* 41:579-1307) for the 49 non-tropical states and Canada. [A National High is the highest number of birds of a single species seen in one count circle.]

California led everybody with 143 NH's. TEXAS followed with a distant 98. Florida had 91, Arizona 65 and Louisiana 43. These five states produced 72% of the NH's.

The top NH-producing count circle was Santa Barbara, CA with 16. Sabine, LA and FREEPORT, TX, followed closely with 14 each, and Atascosa Highlands and Elfrida, AZ had 12 each. New CBC areas made a big splash. COASTAL TIP, TX led the group with 7. It was followed by Arcata, CA, Buenos Aires, AZ and Catahoula, LA with 4 each.

Texas CBC's earning NH's were Freeport 14, Anzalduas-Bentsen 11, Santa Ana 9, Coastal Tip 7, Attwater and Brownsville 6 each, Laguna Atascosa 5, Cypress Creek 4, Houston and San Antonio 3, Bastrop, Burnet County, Corpus Christi, Galveston, Kingsville, La Sal Vieja, Nacogdoches and Welder 2 each, Aransas, Armand Bayou, Balmorhea, Beech Creek, Bell County, Boerne, Chisos Mts., Comstock, Corpus Christi (FB), Davis Mts., Del Rio, Falcon Dam, Lubbock Co., Muleshoe, New Braunfels, Palmetto, Palo Pinto, San Angelo, Stanton, Victoria and Waco 1 each.

SUMMARY: (Bold Name = New CBC Species; number = all-time high count) Artic/Pacific Loon - 6 (Galveston), Least Grebe - 40 (Santa Ana), Masked Booby - 1 (Freeport), Reddish Egret - 80 (Coastal Tip), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron - **180** (Coastal Tip), Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - **1,100** (Cypress Creek), Snow Goose (white form) - 111,500 (Cypress Creek), Snow Goose (blue form) - 40,100 (Cypress Creek), Redhead - 25,314 (Laguna Atascosa), Hook-billed Kite - 2 (Santa Ana), Com. Black Hawk - 1 (Santa Ana), Gray Hawk - 2 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Red-shouldered Hawk - 99 (Freeport), White-tailed Hawk - 17 (Attwater), Zone-tailed Hawk - 1 (Bastrop, Corpus Christi [FB]), Crested Caracara - 94 (Palmetto), Aplomado Falcon - **1** (Laguna Atascosa), Plain Chachalaca - 169 (Santa Ana), Greater Prairie-Chicken - 111 (Attwater), Yellow Rail - **25** (Freeport), Sandhill Crane - 17,200 (Muleshoe), Whooping Crane - 53 (Aransas), Piping Plover - 71 (Galveston), Lesser Yellowlegs - 240 (Freeport), Solitary Sandpiper - 2 (Coastal Tip), Pectoral Sandpiper - 2 (Laguna Atascosa), Ruff - **1** (San Antonio), Long-billed Dowitcher - 1,736 (Laguna Atascosa), Com. Snipe - 888 (Attwater), Wilson's Phalarope - 2 (San Antonio and Stanton), Red-necked Phalarope - 1 (Coastal Tip), Franklin's Gull - 126 (Bell County), Gull-billed Tern - 341 (Brownsville), Com. Tern - 70 (Houston), Forster's Tern - 1,150 (Freeport), Least Tern - **22** (Coastal Tip), Black Skimmer - 1,482 (Freeport), White-winged Dove - 164 (Kingsville), Mourning Dove - 4,583 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), White-tipped Dove - 66 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Green Parakeet - **42** (Santa Ana), White-crowned Parrot - **3** (Brownsville), Yellow-billed Cuckoo - 1 (Santa Ana), Groove-billed Ani - 64 (Galveston), Lesser Nighthawk - 1 (Coastal Tip and La Sal Vieja), Com. Parakeet - 12 (Anzalduas-Bent-

sen), Com. Poorwill - 1 (Boerne), Buff-bellied Hummingbird - 1, Black-chinned Hummingbird - 2 (Freeport), Broad-tailed Hummingbird - 2 (Freeport), Ringed Kingfisher - 12 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Green Kingfisher - 10 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Golden-fronted Woodpecker - 145 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), E. Wood-Pewee - 1 (Lubbock County), W. Wood-Pewee - **1** (Armand Bayou), Willow Flycatcher - **1** (Del Rio), E. Phoebe - 450 (Freeport), Brown-crested Flycatcher - 1 (Welder), Great Kiskadee - 89 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Couch's Kingbird - 5 (Brownsville), E. Kingbird - 1 (Beech Creek), Rose-throated Becard - 1 (Santa Ana), Barn Swallow - 12 (Attwater), Green Jay - 196 (Santa Ana), Brown Jay - 8 (Falcon Dam), Mexican Crow - 120 (Brownsville), Chihuahuan Raven - 878 (Brownsville), Tufted (Black-crested) Titmouse - 248 (Burnet County), Sedge Wren - 402 (Freeport), Ruby-crowned Kinglet - 1,782 (Freeport), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher - 468 (Freeport), E. Bluebird - 754 (Bastrop), Wood Thrush - 1 (Waco), Clay-colored Robin - 2 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Brown Thrasher - 80 (Nacogdoches), Long-billed Thrasher - 88 (Welder), Sprague's Pipit - 42 (Attwater), Cedar Waxwing - 4,007 (Palo Pinto), Loggerhead Shrike - 274 (Cypress Creek), Bell's Vireo - 1 (Corpus Christi), Magnolia Warbler - 1 (Houston), Black-throated Green Warbler - 12 (Victoria), Wilson's Warbler - 14 (Freeport), Blue Grosbeak - 1 (Houston), Varied Bunting - **1** (Chisos Mts.), Olive Sparrow - 38 (Laguna Atascosa), Botteri's Sparrow - 1 (Coastal Tip), Clay-colored Sparrow - 74 (Davis Mts.), Lark Bunting - 4,625 (Midland), Savannah Sparrow - 2,446 (Attwater), Baird's Sparrow - 2 (Balmorhea and Comstock), Le Conte's Sparrow - 106 (Nacogdoches), Lincoln's Sparrow - 350 (San Angelo), McCown's Longspur - 830 (New Braunfels), E. Meadowlark - 926 (La Sal Vieja), Great-tailed Grackle - 17,396 (San Antonio), Bronzed Cowbird - 4,466 (Kingsville), Hooded Oriole - 2 (Anzalduas-Bentsen), Altamira Oriole - 8 (Santa Ana), Audubon's Oriole - 2 (Anzalduas-Bentsen).

FINAL REPORT ON WISE OWLS

Diane Wise has sent in the final word on the nesting owls whose ups and downs The Spoonbill has reported. The late nesting of the Screech Owls, whose first attempt was foiled by a squirrel, has ended in failure. Two eggs were laid, but only one tiny chick hatched. Whether it was taken by a predator or died naturally is unknown; it disappeared near the end of June.

The large Barn Owl chick, however, which Diane had treated for ants, "thrived magnificently," she says. It finally left the box on June 14.

BIRDERS NEEDED TO GIVE NATURE PROGRAMS

Birders who want to share their knowledge of birds and birding are needed to help the Education Committee of the Outdoor Nature Club present nature programs to schoolchildren and adults. Presentations with slides are already prepared for the speaker, but those who have been giving them find that the many questions about birds and birding exceed their knowledge. Expertise from birders is needed to satisfy this curiosity. Most presentations are given in the daytime. For more information call Debbie Cooper at 784-7644 after 5 p.m.

Clearing House - MAY, 1988

May Editor - Wally Gardner

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings made on the upper Texas Coast. How to read the CH: County, <Optional Location Code> - (how many) date, observers. Common, widely distributed species on the UTC during the reported month are listed as follows: number of reports, (lowest # - highest #; total # of individuals seen). Noteworthy sightings will be underlined, capitalized, or both, according to their status. Birds with very rare, vagrant, accidental or no status on the Checklist at the date of sighting require details. Sightings needing details but submitted without them will not be included in the regular clearing house. All observations affecting the species status on the current UTC Checklist must be accepted by the Checklist Committee. Documentation is a must for consideration by the committee. - WRG

Loon, Common: H-(3)7,DM
Grebe, Pied-billed: 5 reports (1-21;33)
Pelican, American White: G,BF-(16)7,DM
Cormorant, Double-crested: G-(5)7,DM
Cormorant, Olivaceous: G-(35)7,DM
Cormorant, sp.: F-(1)7,TBH
Anhinga: 6 reports (1-20;52)
Frigatebird, Magnificent: G,HI-(2)1,DR
Bittern, Least: C-(2)21,MM; (1)21,OG
Heron, Great Blue: 8 reports (1-12;33)
Egret, Great: 16 reports (1-20;102)
Egret, Snowy: 10 reports
Heron, Little Blue: 12 reports (1-50;179)
Heron, Tricolored: 11 reports (1-10;38)
Egret, Reddish: G,BF-(2)7,DM
Egret, Cattle: 16 reports (4-800;3240)
Heron, Green-backed: 14 reports (1-20;79)
Night-Heron, Black-crowned: 9 reports (1-14;34)
Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned: 14 reports (1-25;76)
Ibis, White: 12 reports (1-100;291)
Ibis, White-faced: 6 reports (1-40;65)
Ibis, Glossy: G-(1)8,JM (notes, ed.)
Spoonbill, Roseate: 9 reports (2-6;39)
Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: C-(50)21,OG; C,AW-(180)21,MM;
U-(50)7,T;
H,WHC-(900)1,TMM; W-(30)21,RT
Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: G-(1)5,DR;
F,BB-(15)22,HRO; (10)28,HA; (50)7,TBH; W-(60)21,RT;
H,WHC-(550)1,TMM; F-(2)22,RT
Goose, Greater White-fronted: W-(1)1,TMM
Goose, Snow: W-(1)1,TMM; H,WHC-(6)1,TMM
(Goose,Blue): F-(1)7,TBH
Goose, Canada: W-(1)1,TMM
Duck, Wood: 5 reports (1-6;19)
Teal, Green-winged: W-(1)1,TMM
Duck, Mottled: 9 reports (2-240;121)
Mallard: H,WHC-(3)1,TMM
Pintail, Northern: W-(2)1,TMM
Teal, Blue-winged: 5 reports (3-60;93)
Teal, Cinnamon: H,WHC-(1)1,TMM (notes not received, ed)
Shoveler, Northern: C-(1)21,OG; F-(4)7,TBH;
H,WHC-(55)1,TMM
Gadwall: H-(2)1,TMM
Vulture, Black: 7 reports (1-11;30)
Vulture, Turkey: 11 reports (1-33;98)
vulture, sp.: F,BB-(10)7,TBH
Osprey: J-(1)21,SG
Kite, Black-shouldered: G-(2)29,LP; U-(1)7,T
Kite, Mississippi: F-(1)29,WG; H,WHC-(13)1,TMM;
H-(1)7,PM; F,BB-(2)7,TBH; W-(1)21,RT
Harrier, Northern: G-(1)29,LP
Hawk, Sharp-shinned: W-(2)1,TMM
Hawk, Red-shouldered: 7 reports (1-3;13)
Hawk, Swainson's: 9 reports (1-10;21)
Hawk, Red-tailed: H,WHC-(3)1,TMM; W-(2)21,RT
(Hawk, Harlan's): W-(1)1,TMM (notes, ed)
Falcon, Peregrine: H,WHC-(1)1,TMM
Bobwhite, Northern: 7 reports (2-25;66)
Rail, Clapper: G-(1)1,DR
Rail, King: 6 reports (1-5;18)
Sora: G-(1)1,DR
Gallinule, Purple: 7 reports (9-40;131)
Moorhen, Common: 10 reports (10-250;625)
Coot, American: 11 reports (2-200;578)
Plover, Black-bellied: C-(3)7,T; (15)21,MM; G,BF-
(25)7,DM
Golden-Plover, Lesser: H,WHC-(12)1,TMM; C-(3)7,T
Plover, Wilson's: G,BF-(2)7,DM

Killdeer: 12 reports (1-60;236)
Oystercatcher, American: G,BF-(2)7,DM
Stilt, Black-necked: 9 reports (2-65;2751)
Avocet, American: G,BF-(125)7,DM
Yellowlegs, Greater: G-(4)1,DR; H,WHC-(2)1,TMM
Yellowlegs, Lesser: 6 reports (1-140;207)
Sandpiper, Solitary: G-(1)7,DM
Willet: 4 reports (2-50;64)
Sandpiper, Spotted: 6 reports (1-5;17)
Whimbrel: C-(6)7,T; G-(2)7,DM; C-(1)21,MM
Curlew, Long-billed: G-(1)7,DM; C-(2)7,T; H,WHC-
(4)1,TMM
Godwit, Hudsonian: C-(60)7,T
Godwit, Marbled: G,BF-(20)7,DM
Turnstone, Ruddy: C-(150)21,MM; (15)7,T; G-(110)7,DM
Sanderling: G,BF-(100)7,DM
Sandpiper, Semipalmated: G-(5)7,DM
Sandpiper, Western: G,BF-(65)7,DM
Sandpiper, Least: C-(4)7,T; G-(15)7,DM; H,WHC-(15)1,TMM
Sandpiper, White-rumped: C-(140)21,MM; (100)7,DM
Sandpiper, Baird's: C-(1)7,T
Sandpiper, Pectoral: G-(1)7,DM; C-(30)7,T; (30)21,MM;
W-(48)1,TMM
Dunlin: C-(100)7,T; C-(90)21,MM; G-(40)7,DMM; H,WHC-
(80)1,TMM
Sandpiper, Stilt: G-(8)7,DM; C-(1)21,MM; (75)7,T
Sandpiper, Buff-breasted: H,WHC-(60)1,TMM
Dowitcher, Short-billed: G,BF-(25)7,DM
Dowitcher, Long-billed: C-(150)7,T; W-(150)1,TMM
Phalarope, Wilson's: C-(12)21,MM; G-(92)7,DM; H,WHC-
(125)1,TMM
Gull, Laughing: 5 reports (1-600;670)
Gull, Franklin's: W-(1)1,TMM
Gull, Ring-billed: G-(2)7,DM
Gull, Herring: G-(10)7,DM
Tern, Gull-billed: C-(1)7,T
Tern, Caspian: G,BF-(25)7,DM; C-(1)7,T
Tern, Royal: G,BF-(90)7,DM
Tern, Sandwich: G,BF-(45)7,DM
Tern, Common: G,BF-(80)7,DM
Tern, Forster's: 5 reports (1-30;43)
Tern, Least: F,BB-(1)7,TBH; G-(120)7,DM
Tern, Black: 4 reports (1-4;12)
Skimmer, Black: G-(1)7,T; G,BF-(20)7,DM
Dove, Rock: 8 reports (6-40;137)
Dove, Mourning: 15 reports (1-82;352)
Dove, Inca: 8 reports (1-10;39)
Parakeet, Monk: H-(3)14,PM
Cuckoo, Black-billed: G,HI-(1)7,DM; (2)21,DM; H,AB-
(1)8,DM
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 13 reports (1-10;38)
Screech-Owl, Eastern: C-(1)21,OG
Owl, Barred: 4 reports (1-2;5)
Nighthawk, Common: 9 reports (1-30;100)
Swift, Chimney: 17 reports (1-200;427)
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: 6 reports (1-20;39)
Kingfisher, Belted: G,HI-(2)21,MM; H-(1)29,SG
Woodpecker, Red-headed: H-(2)8,SG; C-(2)7,T
Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 16 reports (1-30;86)
Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: G-(2)1,DR
Woodpecker, Downy: 12 reports (1-6;32)
Woodpecker, Pileated: 8 reports (1-6;24)
Flycatcher, Olive-sided: G,HI-(6)21,MM; H-(1)8,SG
Wood-Pewee, Eastern: 10 reports (1-55;125)
Flycatcher, Acadian: 9 reports (1-10;30)
Flycatcher, "Traill's": G-(1)7,T; G,HI-(1)21,MM
empidonax, sp.: H,HA-(1)8,CC; G,HI-(40)21,MM
Flycatcher, Great-crested: 7 reports (1-40;55)
Kingbird, Eastern: 15 reports (1-180;495)
Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 11 reports (1-240;318)
Lark, Horned: G-(3)7,DM
Martin, Purple: 14 reports (2-30;142)
Swallow, Tree: G-(10)1,DR; F,BB-(2)7,TBH
Swallow, Northern Rough-winged: G-(1)1,DR
Swallow, Bank: C-(1)21,MM
Swallow, Barn: 11 reports (8-400;1136)
Jay, Blue: 17 reports (1-20;113)
Crow, American: 15 reports (1-50;214)
Chickadee, Carolina: 15 reports (1-100;233)
Titmouse, Tufted: 11 reports (2-250;146)
Nuthatch, Brown-headed: C-(6)21,OG
Wren, Carolina: 16 reports (1-20;80)
Wren, Marsh: C-(15)21,OG; C,AW-(5)21,MM; G-(10)1,DR
Kinglet, Ruby-Crowned: F,BB-(2)7,TBH
Veery: G-(6)7,T; G,HI-(12)1,DR; (25)7,DM; (8)5,MM
Thrush, Gray-cheeked: G,HI-(18)1,DR; (18)7,DM; G-(4)7,T
Thrush, Swainson's: 5 reports (1-20;53)
Thrush, Wood: G-(4)7,T; G,HI-(3)1,DR; H-(1)3,SG
Robin, American: J-(1)21,SG
Catbird, Gray: 7 reports (1-70;135)

Mockingbird, Northern: 15 reports (2-36;177)
 Thrasher, Brown: H,AB-(1)8,DM; G,HI-(1)1,DR; (2)7,DM;
 (2)21,DM
 Waxwing, Cedar: 5 reports (2-150;242)
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 14 reports (2-18;97)
 Starling, European: 12 reports (5-100;380)
 Vireo, White-eyed: 10 reports (1-12;53)
 Vireo, Yellow-throated: 6 reports (1-2;8)
 Vireo, Warbling: G,HI-(1)1,DR; H-(1)8,SG
 Vireo, Philadelphia: H,AB-(4)8,DM; H-(2)8,SG; G,HI-
 (6)1,DR; (6)7,DM; (4)21,MM
 Vireo, Red-eyed: 10 reports (2-254;311)
 Warbler, Blue-winged: G,HI-(1)1,DR
 Warbler, Golden-winged: G,HI-(2)1,DR; (3)7,DR
 Warbler, Tennessee: 7 reports (1-16;38)
 Parula, Northern: 9 reports (1-8;34)
 Warbler, Yellow: 9 reports (1-20;62)
 Warbler, Chestnut-sided: 7 reports (1-52;82)
 Warbler, Magnolia: 8 reports (1-38;94)
 Warbler, Black-throated-green: G,HI-(4)7,DM; (5)8,DM;
 (16)1,DR; F-(1),RT; H,AB-(20)8,DM;
 Warbler, Blackburnian: 8 reports (1-42;70)
 Warbler, Yellow-throated: F,BB-(1)7,TBH
 Warbler, Pine: 7 reports (1-25;46)
 Warbler, Bay-Breasted: 8 reports (1-35;84)
 Warbler, Cerulean: G,HI-(1)1,DR; H-(1)8,DM
 Warbler, Black & White: 7 reports (1-19;46)
 Redstart, American: 10 reports (1-22;89)
 Warbler, Prothonotary: 4 reports (3-12;24)
 Warbler, Worm-Eating: G,HI-(1)7,DM
 Warbler, Swainson's: H-(3)30,SG
 Ovenbird: 6 reports (1-12;38)
 Waterthrush, Northern: G,HI-(2)1,DR; (3)7,DM; (2)21,MM;
 G-(2)7,T; H,AB-(2)8,DM
 Waterthrush, Louisiana: G,HI-(1)7,DM (no notes
 received, ed)
 Warbler, Kentucky: H,AB-(2)8,DM; G,HI-(1)7,DM
 Warbler, Mourning: G,HI-(2)7,DM
 Yellowthroat, Common: 8 reports (1-16;44)
 Warbler, Hooded: 7 reports (1-10;25)
 Warbler, Canada: G,HI-(3)7,DM; (5)21,MM; H-(1)8,SG;
 (2)12,DM; W-(1)21,RT
 Chat, Yellow-breasted: H-(1)8,SG
 Tanager, Summer: 8 reports (1-6;21)
 Tanager, Scarlet: G,HI-(1)1,DR; (1)7,DM; (1)21,MM; H-
 (1)8,WG; (1)12,DM
 Cardinal, Northern: 16 reports (2-60;305)
 Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: 5 reports (1-14;27)
 Grosbeak, Blue: 4 reports (1-8;12)
 Bunting, Indigo: 10 reports (1-35;125)
 Bunting, Painted: 8 reports (1-5;26)
 Dickcissel: 8 reports (1-100;1310)
 Sparrow, Savannah: H,WHC-(3)1,TMM
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed: 6,BF-(6)7,DM
 Sparrow, White-throated: H,WHC-(1)1,TMM
 Sparrow, White-crowned: H,WHC-(10)1,TMM
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 14 reports (5-500;1427)
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 10 reports (2-75;253)
 Blackbird, Brewer's: G-(4)1,DR
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 14 reports (7-200;586)
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 6 reports (8-200;383)
 Grackle, Common: 7 reports (2-100;179)
 Cowbird, Bronzed: G,HI-(1)7,DM
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 8 reports (2-125;348)
 Oriole, Orchard: 5 reports (2-13;31)
 Oriole, Northern: 5 reports (1-30;41)
 Sparrow, House: 16 reports (1-40;264)

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - MAY, 1988

GLOSSY IBIS 5/8/88 Jim Morgan
 Location: Galveston Island - on Anderson Way (8 mile
 Rd) at first intersection. Observers: JM; also present
 - Kelly Bryan, Greg Lasly, Chuck sexton. TOD: 0820 on
 8May88. Seen for 20-30 min in good to very good light
 at 20-40 meters. Optics: 10x40 Zeiss and 22x bushnell
 scope. Habitat: Grassy Marsh Pond. Did not hear. Same
 size as about 30 White-faced Ibis nearby. Vigorously
 feeding with occasional stopping to preen. Several
 times birds came to an erect posture and remained
 motionless for 3-10 sec.

Bird was a typical ibis - large, long legged and with
 long decurved bill; color mainly maroon-chestnut with
 iridescence of bronze, green and purple on folded
 wings; facial skin slaty-gray outlined above and below
 by sky-blue skin; no white feathering about face;
 facial blue skin came back to eye but did not go behind
 eye; in addition, the blue on top and on bottom
 appeared to "pinch in" in front of the eye; iris dark;

legs were olive greenish-gray with contrasting red
 knees; bill color not noticeably different from White-
 faced.

All nearby White-faced Ibis had red facial skin
 surrounded by white (feathering) which in all cases
 came around the eye. Leg color on all White-faced was
 pinkish-red and in proper light the iris could be seen
 as red. Even when the birds took flight, circled and
 set back down, the Glossy Ibis could immediately and
 easily be picked out on facial pattern alone - This was
 very strikingly different.

A Glossy Ibis was reported from this location by Bill
 Grabner and others on 6May88 and seen again on 7May88
 by several observers including Bryan, Lasley and
 Sexton. According to Lasley, the bird he observed on
 7th differed in size and intensity of color on the
 facial (blue) skin. On 8May88, while still observing
 the Glossy Ibis described above, two other birders
 appeared and said they had seen a Glossy further down
 the road. It is clearly possible that there were two
 (or more) individuals in the area.

The Glossy Ibis was just recently accepted by the
 Texas Bird Records Committee based on two records which
 included photographs and confirmation of photos and
 details by Doug Pratt and Ken Kaufman. One of these
 records was from the UTC on 21April87 by a Field Guides
 Tour led by John Rowlett. More recently, a Glossy Ibis
 has been seen and photographed at Anahuac (John Arvin,
 Ted Eubanks, Jr., m.ob.) and Eubanks, et al, located two
 more in Chambers County on 1May88. Possibly, Glossy
 Ibis have "pushed" into the UTC this year in small
 numbers, but just as likely, observers are being more
 aware and carefully looking at dark ibis flocks.

RED-TAILED HAWK (Harlan's Form) 5/1/88 Rob
 Thacker

Observed by Rob Thacker, Tom Michael and Derek
 Muschalek in East Waller County on May1. Our initial
 impression was that of a Northern Harrier except that
 the Hawk was soaring and not near the ground. The base
 of the tail was very white. The tail had a white,
 pinkish color ending with a very dark tip to the tail.
 Bird was very dark black colored overall. Bird was a
 buteo shaped hawk. Wings had very dark black color in
 the forewing or patagial area extending out to the
 underwing coverts and carpal area, with the center or
 trailing edge of the wings having a mottled gray color.
 The head was dark black. Breast was a very mottled
 black and white color. This dark buteo was observed
 soaring and then it hovered several times and proceeded
 to dive straight to the ground. After a few minutes the
 bird flew up and away with a soaring buteo type flight.
 Main impression was of a very dark buteo with a white
 base to the tail extending to a dark tail tip. Bird
 observed about 10 min in excellent light.

CLEARING HOUSE CODES - MAY, 1988

County	Location
B = Brazoria	AB=Armand Bayou
C = Chambers	AW=Anahuac
F = Ft. Bend	BB=Brazos Bend SP
G = Galveston	BF=Bolivar Flats
H = Harris	HA=Houston Arboretum
J = Jefferson	HI=High Island
W = Waller	SB=San Bernard NWR
U = Upper Texas Coast	WHC=West Harris County

Observer

CC - Caroline Callery
 DM - Derek Muschalek
 DR - Don Richardson
 HA - Bob Honig, Therry Azzarello
 HRO - Honig, Robin Rabinowitz, Richard Orr, Kathy
 Wallace
 JM - Jim Morgan
 LP - Libby Price
 MM - DM, Mark Magruder
 OG - Ornithology Group, DR
 PM - Peggy Milstead
 RT - Rob Thacker
 SG - Steve Gast
 T - Texas Ornithological Society (TOS), Jim Morgan
 TBH - TOS, Honig
 TMM - RT, Tim Michael, DM
 WG - Wally Gardner

(continued on page 7)

Clearing House - JUNE, 1988

June Editors - Rene and Andrew Franks

During June, 1988, only 109 species were reported. Relatively few reports were received, although several prolific listers sent multiple reports. Thanks to all who contributed. Most reports were of coastal and marsh species. The majority were from Brazoria County, but Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris and Jefferson counties were also represented. A note concerning location codes: the county should be included in sightings where possible, but the location code is optional. While we are happy to hear exactly where you birded, we are attempting to use a standard list of locations where many OG members bird. Therefore, we cannot include a code for every spot. If you did not happen to be in one of the common birding spots, we will list only a county code. If several requests are received for a new location code, we will try to include it, keeping in mind that we want to keep the list as short as possible. Suggestions and comments on the Clearing House are welcome if politely worded.

The Clearing House is a monthly record of bird sightings on the Upper Texas Coast. How to read the report: County, Location- (No. of birds) Date, Observer; or No. of reports (Highest to lowest No. of birds) First and last date reported. Clearing House reports should be submitted on the official form, which can be obtained from the OG at no cost. Sightings of birds with vagrant, accidental or no status on the checklist are underlined or capitalized or both. Notes are printed for these birds. Notes are required for birds with very rare species as well. All observations affecting the species' status on the current UTC Checklist must be accepted by the Checklist Committee. These sightings must be well documented for consideration.

Grebe, Pied-billed: F, BB-(1)15, JMC; B-(3)25, PR
 Pelican, American White: G-(5)06, JMC
Cormorant, Double-crested: B, BW-(2)4, PMT; B-(1)12, PR
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: 2 reports (1-30) 6-25
 Anhinga: 4 reports (3-20) 7-25
 Bittern, Least: B, BW-(2)4, PMT
 Heron, Great Blue: 9 reports (3-19) 4-25
 Egret, Great: 10 reports (4-40) 4-26
 Egret, Snowy: 9 reports (1-400) 4-26
 Heron, Little Blue: 10 reports (6-27) 4-26
 Heron, Tricolored: 11 reports (1-130) 4-26
 Egret, Reddish: 2 reports (3-4) 4-6
 Egret, Cattle: 11 reports (25-500) 4-26
 Heron, Green-backed: 10 reports (1-7) 4-26
 Night-Heron, Black-crowned: 5 reports (1-10) 6-18
 Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned: 11 reports (1-40) 6-29
 Ibis, White: 11 reports (2-100) 4-26
 Ibis, White-faced: 7 reports (1-69) 4-18
IBIS, GLOSSY: B, BW-(1)4, PMT (notes)
 Spoonbill, Roseate: 4 reports (1-75) 4-23
 Stork, Wood: B, BW-(1)4, PMT; H-(20)15, JF
 Whistling-Duck, Fulvous: G-(1)19, LP; J-(4)26, JB
 Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied: B-(9)12, PR;

F, BB-(1)15, JMC; B-4(25), PR
 Duck, Wood: B-(5)12, PR; B-(12)25, PR
 Duck, Mottled: 5 reports (2-35) 4-26
 Teal, Blue-winged: B, BW-(2)4, PMT; G-(1)6, JMC;
 B-(1)25, PR
 Scaup, Lesser: B-(1)25, PR
 Duck, Ruddy: G-(3)18, LP
 Vulture, Black: 5 reports (1-58) 6-25
 Vulture, Turkey: 7 reports (1-22) 4-26
Osprey: B-(1)12, PR; H-(1)15, JF (No notes, ed.)
 Kite, Black-shouldered: B-(2)25, PR
Kite, Mississippian: B-(1)12, PR; H-(1)22, PM (No notes
 for either sighting, ed.)
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: 8 reports (1-9) 6-26
 Hawk, Swainson's: G-(1)18, LP
 Hawk, Red-tailed: 4 reports B-(1)12, MA; B-(1)12, PR;
 B-(3)25, PR; F, BB-(3)15, JMC
 Caracara, Crested: B, BW-(2)4, PMT
 Bobwhite, Northern: 8 reports (1-75) 4-26
 Rail, King: 3 reports (1-3) 12-26
 Gallinule, Purple: B, BW-(15)4, PMT; G-(2)6, JMC
 Moorhen, Common: 8 reports (1-50) 4-25
 Coot, American: 5 reports (9-125) 4-25
 GOLDEN-PLOVER, LESSER: G-(1)6, JMC (notes)
 Plover, Wilson's: 2 reports (1-2) 4-18
 Killdeer: 9 reports (3-56) 4-26
 Stilt, Black-necked: 4 reports (3-60) 6-26
 Avocet, American: G-(75)18, LP

Willet: 3 reports (2-25) 4-18
Sandpiper, Spotted: G-(1)6, JMC
 Curlew, Long-billed: B, BW-(1)4, PMT; G-(1)6, JMC
 Gull, Laughing: 7 reports (7-100) 4-25
 Tern, Caspian: 4 reports (1-10) 4-19
 Tern, Royal: G-(20)6, JMC
 Tern, Forster's: 5 reports (3-30) 4-25
 Tern, Least: 2 reports (2-12) 4-12
 Tern, Black: 2 reports (10-35) 4-19
 Skimmer, Black: 3 reports (1-33) 4-23
 Dove, Rock: 9 reports (2-50) 6-26
 Dove, Mourning: 13 reports (1-88) 1-30
 Dove, Inca: 7 reports (2-9) 7-29
 Parakeet, Monk: H-(3)2, PM
 Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: 6 reports (1-10) 12-26
 Owl, Barred: B-(1)12, PR; H-(1)15, JF
 Nighthawk, Common: 5 reports (1-18) 4-19
 Swift, Chimney: 4 reports (2-33) 12-25
 Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: B-(1)25, PR
 Kingfisher, Belted: F-(1)18, JMC; F-(1)26, JMC
 Woodpecker, Red-headed: H-(2)26, JF; J-(3)18, JB
 J-(1)26, JB
 Woodpecker, Red-bellied: 9 reports (1-12) 7-29
 Woodpecker, Downy: 5 reports (1-4) 6-26
Woodpecker, Hairy: F, BB-(1)6, JMC
 Woodpecker, Pileated: 6 reports (1-6) 12-26
 Flycatcher, Acadian: J-(1)18, JB; J-(1)26, JB
 Flycatcher, Great Crested: 3 reports (1-2) 12-25
 Kingbird, Eastern: 8 reports (2-12) 4-26
 Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: 10 reports (1-12) 4-26
 Lark, Horned: B, BW-(1)4, PMT
 Martin, Purple: 11 reports (1-1500) 12-26
 Swallow, Barn: 3 reports (1-3) 4-15
 Jay, Blue: 10 reports (2-30) 1-30
 Crow, American: 9 reports (2-42) 6-25
 Crow, Fish: J-(6)18, JB
 Chickadee, Carolina: 9 reports (2-14) 1-30
 Titmouse, Tufted: 7 reports (5-35) 7-26
 Wren, Carolina: 10 reports (1-10) 1-30
 Bluebird, Eastern: 3 reports (2-3) 12-25
 Robin, American: H-(1)15, JF
 Mockingbird, Northern: 14 reports (2-112) 1-30
 Shrike, Loggerhead: 10 reports (1-29) 4-26
 Starling, European: 9 reports (1-172) 1-30
 Vireo, White-eyed: 4 reports (1-8) 12-25
 Vireo, Red-eyed: J-(1)18, JB; J-(3)26, JB
 Warbler, Pine: J-(3)18, JB; J-(3)26, JB
 Warbler, Prothonotary: F, BB-(1)7, JMC
 Warbler, Swainson's: J-(1)18, JB
 Yellowthroat, Common: B-(2)12, MA; G-(12)18, LP
 Tanager, Summer: J-(1)6, JB
 Cardinal, Northern: 11 reports (2-36) 1-30
 Bunting, Indigo: B-(1)25, PR
 Bunting, Painted: 7 reports (1-5) 7-26
 Dickcissel: 4 reports (5-15) 12-26
 Blackbird, Red-winged: 10 reports (15-100) 4-26
 Meadowlark, Eastern: 10 reports (1-101) 4-26
 Grackle, Great-tailed: 8 reports (4-79) 2-29
 Grackle, Boat-tailed: 3 reports (9-30) 4-15
 Grackle, Common: 6 reports (1-27) 12-29
 Cowbird, Brown-headed: 5 reports (5-9) 12-26
 Oriole, Orchard: B, BW-(1)4, PMT; J-(2)26, JB
 Sparrow, House: 7 reports (1-80) 12-29

CONTRIBUTORS FOR JUNE:

GJA = Grace and John Anthony MA = Mike Austin
 JB = John Buckman JF = Joe Farrell
 JMC = John McGeogh PM = Peggy Milstead
 LP = Libby Price PR = Warren Pruess, Jim Renfro
 PMT = Warren Pruess, Ellen Michaels, Tom Taroni

NOTICE

The Clearing House Editors for April were Lynn Aldrich and Peter Gottschling. Since the editors are taking turns each month, we will print the month's CH Editor with the Clearing House each month from now on.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - JUNE, 1988

IBIS, GLOSSY

06/04/88

(No previous records for June)

Observers: Warren Pruess, Ellen Michaels,
Tom Taroni

Time of Day: 11:00-11:30 A.M., 2:45-3:15 A.M.

Length of Sighting: About 1 hour.

Weather: Overcast, Warm, 10-15 mph south wind

Light condition: Cloudy/bright with occasional full sunlight.

Distance: 50-125 yards

Optical equipment: 10x50, 8x40 binocs, 40X, 25X scopes

Habitat: Freshwater marsh pond (Olney Pond, Brazoria NWR)

Size: Slightly smaller than White Ibis nearby.

Behavior: Almost constantly feeding by walking around in grass which obstructed legs and lower body parts. Head and bill lowered into marsh grass and then raised repeatedly.

Description: Among small group of dark adult-plumaged ibis, one exhibited narrow band of light blue bordering upper mandible and facial area. The light blue border appeared discontinuous where it extended behind the eyes. It continued again from below the eyes and extended towards the bottom of the lower mandible. The eyes were dark in a dark gray face and lore area. This individual flew in a circle over the marsh briefly, allowing observation of rearward extended legs which appeared gray in 40X scope at about 75 yards.

Similar species eliminated: All adult White-faced Ibises and this individual exhibited same coppery-brown plumage on head, neck and breast and similar iridescent blue-green to violet and purple wing plumage. The White-faced Ibis adults exhibited broader, white, continuous border around entire bill and facial area, including the eyes. The White-faced adults differed also in the red facial area extending to the eyes which appeared redder than the dark-eyed adult's eyes. Leg colors of White-faced adults were not observed long enough in sufficient light to make comparisons. No difference in color of downcurved bills discerned between the adult dark ibises observed.

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER

06/06/88

Observed by John McGeough

(No records for first week in June.)

The plover was observed with 10x40 binocs for 10 minutes. The bird was feeding in a marshy area at the entrance to 8 mile road on the left side of the road. The bird was in breeding plumage. Light was coming over the back of the observer.

Legs- Black
Belly- Black
Throat/chin- Black
Auricular area- Black

Crown-Brown/golden-flecked
Eye- Black
Mandibles- Black, thin
Distinct white stripe extending from breast sides to supercilium, describing an "S".

Rump/mantle/nape- Obvious golden/brownish flecked appearance.

Undertail coverts- Black

Similar species eliminated: Total black underparts, distinct gold cast, crown color and small bill size compared to head eliminates Black-bellied Plover.

OTHER NOTES SUBMITTED: Only the notes which result in changes to the checklist have been printed due to space considerations. However, notes for the following rare or very rare species were also submitted. We would like to thank all contributors for taking the time to complete the necessary notes.

Double-crested Cormorant (Very rare)

Warren Pruess & Jim Renfro, 6/12/88

Scaup species Warren Pruess & Jim Renfro, 6/25/88
(This female bird has been listed in the database as Lesser Scaup since there are no records for Greater in the summer.)

Red-tailed Hawk (Rare)

Mike Austin, 6/12/88

(Mike notes that the nearest nest he knows of is 100 miles northwest of the site in Brazoria county where this immature bird was observed.)

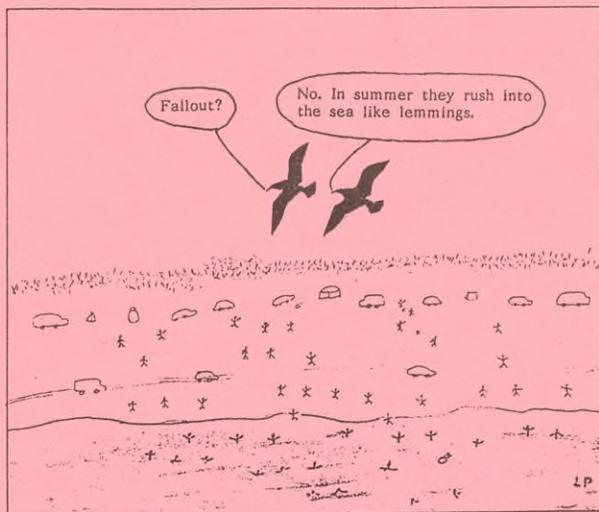
Osprey (Very rare) Warren Pruess & Jim Renfro, 6/12/88
Spotted Sandpiper (Very rare) John McGeough, 6/06/88
(Sportsman's Road, Galveston Island)
Hairy Woodpecker (Very rare) John McGeough, 6/07/88
(Brazos Bend State Park)
White-faced Ibis Grace & John Anthony, 6/06/88
(Although common on the UTC, it is not common in a bird bath in the Art Museum area, where this bird was seen.)

(continued from page 5)

County codes must be included. Location codes are optional. When submitting forms, only that information which changes need be indicated after each species (i.e. date, observer can be indicated at top of form only.) Boundaries are: BF-Hwy 87 to Gulf: beach access rd. to N.Jetty. HI-Intracoastal Waterway to beach; 1 mile each way on Hwy 87. SLP=starts 1 mile NE of toll bridge, then to end of point. TCD=Dike, seawall, shore and ponds west of seawall. WHC=U.S. 290 south to I-10; Hwy 6 west to Harris Co. line. Birds seen in one trip in all or many counties can be designated UTC.

FALL BEACH CLEANUP DATE SEPTEMBER 24

The Center for Environmental Education has set the date for the Coastal Cleanup on September 24. Mark your calendar and plan to be there. More information will be printed in the August Spoonbill.



BOOK REVIEW - The Birder's Handbook: A Field Guide to the Natural History of North American Birds, by Paul R. Ehrlich, David S. Dobkin and Darryl Wheye (Simon & Schuster, 1988) by Wanda Smith

Have you ever wished you knew more about certain birds, but shunned the thought of consulting scholarly journals or wading through hefty coffee-table books to satisfy your curiosity? The Birder's Handbook is for you. Just off the press, this book is the perfect supplement to your field guide, and is compact enough (about 6x9 inches) to be added to your traveling library.

The book provides information on behavior, habitat, nesting, food preferences, conservation status, etc. for each of the 646 North American species nesting north of Mexico. Also included in the 785-page book are short essays which range in content from bird biology to bird biologists, and from threatened birds to threats to birds. The book is arranged in taxonomic order with the bird information on all left-hand pages and essays on the right-hand pages. It is easy to read and contains many cross-references so you don't miss any details. There is also a 64-page bibliography in case you want to read more on any subject. The Birder's Handbook is a must for your birding library, especially at the reasonable price of \$14.95. It is available at The Chickadee and area book stores.

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SEND bird sightings for Clearing House to:
Clearing House (OG), P.O. Box 271374, Houston
TX 77277.

RARE Bird Alert Tape, sponsored by Piney Woods
Wildlife Society: 821-2846.

SEND material for Spoonbill to Editor, Libby Price,
3715 Sunset, Houston 77005, 665-1159.

SEND dues, subscriptions and address changes to
Jerry Patrick, 814 St. Francis, Houston 77079.
Members' annual dues: \$15 (ONC \$5, OG \$10).
Spoonbill subscriptions for non-members: \$13.

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