



# THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XXII, NO. 11  
MARCH, 1974

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

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Miss Mary A. Payne, 6118 McKinstry St., Houston, Texas 77045  
Miss Mary L. Taylor, 6118 McKinstry St., Houston, Texas 77045  
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hargrove, 2315 Shakespeare, Houston, Tx. 77025  
Mr. Woodrow Erwin, 321 E. 18th St., Houston, Texas 77008  
Mr. Warren E. Armstrong, 13403 Spreading Oak Dr., Cypress, Tx. 77429  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Stigale, 745 International Blvd. #E156,  
Houston, Texas 77024

## FEBRUARY OG FIELD TRIP - by Sarah Gordon

A group of 24 hardy birders met on February 16th to see what birds we could observe on Bolivar Peninsula. There was such a cold wind blowing that we really expected to see an arctic tern or a snowy owl fly by!!! However, when our leader, Ben Feltner, and Elric McHenry called up a number of sharp-tailed sparrows in good view in the tall grasses near the beach we forgot the cold and had an exciting time viewing these lovely little birds in such striking plumage. For some of us who had never had such good sightings it was quite a delight. There were also seaside sparrows to view and, of course, at the beach many waders including the always fun to see oystercatchers, and overhead flights of pelicans and geese.

As we directed our course of travel toward High Island the sun came out to make it such a beautiful day - not to mention the beautiful bird which was one of the first seen at Smith's Woods - a black-throated blue warbler feeding in a low bush. I believe this was a lifer for some of the group and certainly one of the few times this bird has been seen here in February. White-eyed and solitary vireos were also seen here as well as a few other warblers. Earlier in the day an ovenbird had been sighted by some Beaumont birders but our group did not find it.

The Boy Scout Woods produced a barn owl being harried by blue jays but otherwise it was rather quiet.

Thanks to Ben Feltner for leading an interesting February field trip which produced a total of 77 species listed.

## SUMMER TRIP TO RANCHE DEL CIELO -- JUNE 2 - 8

The Gorgas Science Society has announced the date of the summer trip for this year; details were in the October, 1973, issue of THE SPOONBILL of the rancho. The cost for this trip is \$160. For any information, write to:

Fred S. Webster, Jr.  
4926 Strass Drive  
Austin, Texas 78731  
Phone: (512) 451-1669

## CLEARING HOUSE, FEBRUARY, 1974

(Note: Some of the following species adjusted according to the forthcoming checklist revision.-Ed. p = + or ±

- Grebe, Eared:  
(34p)16,23,Cove,AKM
- Pelican, White:  
(60p)16,(500p)23,Cove,AKM;  
(80)16,Bolivar,OG
- Cormorant, Double-crested:  
(NC)16,(20p)23,Cove,AKM
- Cormorant, Olivaceous:  
(NC)16,Cove,AKM
- Anhinga:  
(7)1,Sheldon,BF&DH
- Heron, Little Blue:  
(3)13,25,(1)23,Cove,AKM
- Egret, Reddish:  
(1)23,Cove,AKM
- Nightheron, Yellow-crowned:  
(9)9,(3)23,Texas City,DH;  
(12)1,Bayou Vista,P&MJ
- Ibis, White:  
(150p)25,Cove,AKM
- Goose, White-fronted:  
(20p)22,Cove,AKM
- Goose, Snow:  
(2000p)26,Cove,AKM; (4000)23,  
between Anahuac Refuge and High  
Island,VE
- Treeduck, Fulvous:  
(1)3,near Moses Lake at Texas  
City,FC
- Duck, Mottled:  
(3p)23,(2)25,Cove,AKM
- Gadwall:  
(5p)16,(1)23,Cove,AKM
- Pintail:  
(2)16,(1000p)22,(10p)23,Cove,AKM
- Teal, Green-winged:  
(30p)23,(10p)25,Cove,AKM
- Teal, Cinnamon:  
(22)17,Warren Lake,DH
- Wigeon, American:  
(9p)16,(1)23,Cove,AKM
- Shoveler, Northern:  
(1)13,(3)23,(2)25,Cove,AKM
- Redhead:  
(1)2,Galveston,DH
- Duck, Ring-Necked:  
(3)1,Sheldon,BF&DH
- Scaup, Lesser:  
(2000p)16,(8)21,(800p)23,Cove,AKM
- Goldeneye, Common:  
(2)16,23,Cove,AKM; (1)3,pond  
behind Texas City Holiday Inn,FC
- Bufflehead:  
(22p)16,(5p)23,Cove,AKM;  
(1)16,Bolivar,BF,EM,DH
- Duck, Ruddy:  
(150p)16,(1000p)23,Cove,AKM
- Merganser, Red-breasted:  
(21p)16,(1)23,Cove,AKM;  
(15)16,Bolivar,OG
- Vulture, Turkey:  
(1)7,10,(5p)25,(6p)28,Cove,AKM
- Vulture, Black:  
(4)25,(6p)28,Cove,AKM
- Hawk, Cooper's:  
(1)3,north of Baytown,BF&DH
- Hawk, Red-tailed:  
(1)5,15,16,19,(3)7,(2)23,Cove,  
AKM; (18)23,Chambers and Galv-  
eston Counties,VE
- Hawk, Red-shouldered:  
(1)19,Cove,AKM
- Hawk, Rough-legged:  
(1)2,Galveston,DH; (1)9,flying  
south over the Houston Museum of  
Natural Science-dark form,Dr. T.  
E. Pulley,Carl H. Aiken,-see  
notes
- Eagle, Bald:  
(11)18,West Harris Co.,EM&BF
- Hawk, Marsh:  
(1)7,8,23,Cove,AKM
- Kestrel, American:  
(3p)1,(1-2)9 days,(7)7,Cove,AKM;  
(11)23,Chambers and Galveston  
Counties,VE
- Prairie Chicken, Greater:  
(11)2,Spaceland Airport,EM&DH;  
(8)3,Spaceland,FC;  
(9)22,Spaceland,BF
- Bobwhite:  
(1)20,Cove,AKM
- Rail, Clapper:  
(2)1,Galveston,P&MJ
- Rail, Sora:  
(1)16,Cove,AKM
- Coot, American:  
(3)13,(100p)16,23,Cove,AKM
- Oystercatcher, American:  
(9)2,Bolivar Mudflats,DH;  
(2)16,Bolivar,OG
- Plover, Semipalmated:  
(8)16,Bolivar,OG
- Plover, Piping:  
(20)16,Bolivar,OG;  
(10)23,Bolivar,VE
- Plover, Snowy:  
(14)16,Bolivar,OG
- Plover, American Golden:  
(11)23,Bolivar peninsula,in  
fields along highway,VE;  
(1)23,Texas City,DH
- Plover, Black-bellied:  
(1)23,Cove,AKM; (28)16,Bolivar,  
OG
- Snipe, Common:  
(1)25,Cove,AKM
- Yellowlegs, Lesser:  
(5p)23,Cove,AKM
- Dunlin:  
(350)23,Gilchrist & Bolivar,VE
- Dowitcher, Short-billed:  
(26)16,Bolivar,OG
- Godwit, Marbled:  
(1)16,Bolivar,OG
- Avocet, American:  
(30)23,Gilchrist,VE
- Skimmer, Black:  
(2000)16,Bolivar,OG;  
(450)23,Gilchrist,VE
- Dove, White-winged:  
(43)2,Galveston County Court-  
house,(1)2,Kempner Park,DH;  
(5)1,Galveston Courthouse,P&MJ

- Dove, Ringed Turtle:  
 (2)22, Bellaire, PJ  
 Ani, Groove-billed:  
 (1)daily, "about my home," Cove, AKM  
 Owl, Barn:  
 (2)16, High Island & Bolivar, OG;  
 (10p)17, Sharp Rd., DH;  
 (15)18, West Harris Co., EM&BF  
 Owl, Screech:  
 (1)23, University of Houston, DH  
 Owl, Great Horned:  
 (1)17, Sharp Rd., DH  
 Owl, Long-eared:  
 (1)January 18, Cove, AKM  
 Kingfisher, Belted:  
 (1)23, Cove, AKM  
 Flicker, Common:  
 (1)9, 11, 23, Cove, AKM  
 Woodpecker, Pileated:  
 (1)1, Sheldon, BF&DH  
 Woodpecker, Red-headed:  
 (2)23, White Memorial Park, VE  
 Phoebe, Eastern:  
 (2)9, Cove, AKM  
 Martin, Purple:  
 (2p)24, 26, Cove, AKM; (3)16, High  
 Island and Bolivar, OG; (1)23,  
 High Island, VE; (2)18, (3)19,  
 (9)21, (10)28, Blalock-McCall  
 Lumber Co., 1006 Evergreen Dr.,  
 SE Houston, Robert L. Mills  
 Titmouse, Tufted:  
 (1)26, Cove, AKM  
 Wren, House:  
 (2)16, High Island, OG  
 Wren, Winter:  
 (1)23, High Island, VE  
 Thrush, Hermit:  
 (2)16, High Island, OG;  
 (1)23, High Island, VE  
 Bluebird, Eastern:  
 (6)1, Sheldon, BF&DH  
 Gnatcatcher, Blue-gray:  
 (8p)23, Cove, AKM  
 Kinglet, Golden-crowned:  
 (1)10, Sheldon Reservoir, P&MJ  
 Kinglet, Ruby-crowned:  
 (2)23, Cove, AKM  
 Pipit, Water:  
 (1)16, (3)23, Cove, AKM  
 Vireo, White-eyed:  
 (4)16, High Island, OG; (3)23, High  
 Island, VE; (2)17, High Island, P&MJ
- Vireo, Solitary:  
 (2)16, High Island, OG  
 WARBLER, BLACK-THROATED BLUE:  
 (1 male)16, High Island, OG;  
 (1)17, High Island, P&MJ; (1)23,  
 High Island, VE. - see notes  
 Warbler, Yellow-rumped:  
 (3)7, 23, (4)9, (1)13, Cove, AKM;  
 (100)16, High Island & Bolivar, OG  
 Warbler, Pine:  
 (3)23, White Memorial Park, VE  
 WARBLER, PRAIRIE:  
 (1)2, Bolivar, DH; (1)16, Bolivar,  
 EM, BF, DH (same bird as Jan. 29 -  
 details in Feb. SPOONBILL)  
 Warbler, Palm:  
 (3 - 1 yellow race)1, Sheldon,  
 BF&DH; (1)2, West Galveston, DH;  
 (4)10, Sheldon, P&MJ; (1)16,  
 Bolivar, BF  
 Yellowthroat, Common:  
 (2)16, Bolivar & High Island, OG  
 Oriole, Northern (Baltimore):  
 (1)27, yard, N&JS  
 Grackle, Boat-tailed:  
 (1)2, Cove, AKM  
 TANAGER, SUMMER:  
 (1)5, yard, (details last month),  
 P&MJ  
 Grosbeak, Black-headed:  
 (3)3, Baytown, BF&DH; (2)14, (1)22,  
 yard, P&MJ; (4)23, Baytown, (1)23,  
 High Island, VE  
 Finch, Purple:  
 (1 female)23, Baytown, VE  
 Goldfinch, American:  
 (35p)9, (3)10, (2)17, Cove, AKM  
 Sparrow, Savannah:  
 (1)23, Cove, AKM  
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed:  
 (25)16, Bolivar, OG  
 Sparrow, Sharp-tailed or Seaside:  
 (1p)16, 23, Cove, AKM  
 Sparrow, Chipping:  
 (30)23, White Memorial Park, VE  
 Sparrow, White-throated:  
 (1p)23, Cove, AKM  
 Sparrow, Fox:  
 (4)10, Sheldon, P&MJ  
 Sparrow, Swamp:  
 (12)16, Bolivar & High Island, OG  
 Sparrow, Song:  
 (1)16, Bolivar, OG

#### CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

FC	Fred Collins	P&MJ	Paul & Margaret Jones
VE	Victor Emanuel	EM	Elric McHenry
BF	Ben Feltner	AKM	Arlie K. McKay
DH	Dan Hardy	N&JS	Nancy & Jerry Strickling

#### CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

Monk Parakeet: Nancy and Jerry Strickling report two of these birds around their yard in Houston.

Rough-legged Hawk: Watched for at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour circling and perched on north side of Homrighaus Rd., off 8-mile Rd. Upper tail--white with broad dark terminal band. Under tail--same except black narrower. Upper wing--light patches at base of primaries. Underwing--very striking--black wrist marks and black tips to primaries. Head was very light and contrasted sharply with heavy black lower belly. Hovered as it fed and made 5-6 unsuccessful dives at ground. --Dan Hardy

**BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER:** Mike Hoke, the bander at High Island, says this warbler has spent all winter at Smith Woods. This is apparently the first winter record for the Upper Coast. The bird works low, near ground level, and occasionally ranges into the high live oaks. Field marks: even blue black; black cheeks, throat and sides; white underparts; tiny white spot on wing. It is still there as of March 10.  
--Dan Hardy

YEAR LIST CONTEST: The following are totals as of February 28, 1974, in the Upper Coast area. Next report will be at the end of May.

Dan Hardy . . . . .164  
Ben Feltner . . . . .154  
Victor Emanuel . . . . .134

TOS SPRING MEETING IN BEAUMONT APRIL 18/21

Non-members as well as members of TOS will enjoy the opportunity to attend the meeting that will be so close to us:

Headquarters for the meeting: Ramada Inn, 1295 N. 11th St., Beaumont, Texas 77702 P. O. Box 5295 Telephone (713) 892-7722

Other recommended motels in the vicinity:

- Ridgewood Motor Hotel - 2520 Fry. (892-2310)
- Holiday Inn - 2095 N. 11th St. (892-2222)
- Rodeway Inn - 11th & Fry. (892-8111)

The manager of the Ramada Inn requests that you identify yourself as being a member of TOS when making reservations.

Schedule:

- Thursday, April 18th - Registration  
8 P.M.-Reception and cocktail party, home of Dr. William J. Graber III, 1340 Audubon Place
- Friday, April 19th - Registration & field trips  
Evening program by Roland H. Wauer & annual meeting of TOS
- Saturday, April 20th - Field trips  
Evening - banquet - speaker, Dr. Sidney Gautreau, professor of Ornithology, Clemson Univ., Clemson, S. Carolina
- Sunday, April 21st - Breakfast meeting - Texas Chapter of Nature Conservancy. All TOS members invited and urged to attend.

Field Trips: High Island, the marsh at Sabine, the whole length of Bolivar Peninsula, Anahuac Wildlife Refuge, at least one trip into the Piney Woods for Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, & Brown-headed Nuthatch. This Spring meeting coincides exactly with the peak of migration on this part of the upper Texas Gulf Coast.

EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT WHOOPERS -- BUT HAD NOBODY TO ASK - from the Audubon Outdoor Club of Corpus Christi Newsletter

Sometimes we who live in South Texas tend to be a little smug and proprietary about our most famous and well-publicized bird, the whooping crane. After all, we're neighbors, so to speak, so what could they be up to that we don't know about?

Just about everything, according to David Blankinship, National Audubon Society Wildlife Biologist, who presented the club's January program on the Society's Whooping Crane Research Program. After an hour and a half of expert commentary and some magnificent slides, the large audience found it hadn't really known a great deal about the cranes after all. Mr. Blankinship explained that his intensive 3-year study was undertaken because the previous and definitive study by Robert Porter Allen, made in the 1940's, didn't take into account the radical changes in the birds and their habitat since then. The cranes have doubled in number, their wintering habitat altered, surrounding industrial and agricultural areas have boomed, and oil field development and drilling increased. Now, barges and pleasure boats jam the Intracoastal Waterway which slices through the middle of the cranes' wintering grounds at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. In addition, each new manager at the Refuge brought a new approach to whooping crane management; old ways were discarded and new methods tried. Clearly, a

new study of the feeding, mating and territorial habits of the birds was needed to sort out the conflicting views and practices.

Blankinship, who began his study in September of 1970, took the most basic approach to the science of bird study: he has spent most of his working time watching the birds at close range. Whooping cranes are one of the few birds to establish territories outside of breeding and nesting time. Normally, he said, and showed slides to prove it, whoopers defend their family group territories with menacing displays of their great wings, scarlet head skin drawn back, and lunging advances toward the intruder. The crane may clap its wings together with a sharp report to emphasize the point. Blankinship says the practice of large grain baits on the Refuge, now stopped, seems to have caused a change in the territorial defense, for several family groups will share in the grain feeding which they will not do under normal feeding conditions. The grain poses a far more serious threat than territorial habit changes. Ducks, geese, sandhill cranes, and some mammals also share the grain bait, contaminating it with droppings and parasites which are a source of serious fowl disorders.

Strictly through long hours of observation from boat or blind, Blankinship has discovered the natural food preferences of whooping cranes. The old method of examining the crops of dead birds was obviated by the rarity of the species. He says the gourmet delight of whoopers is the blue crab. The birds pull off the legs and eat them first, then swallow the body whole, shell and all, after removing the claws, which they eat last. That sounds like pass-the-Alka Seltzer-time to humans, but for whoopers, not nearly so tough to digest as their next gustatorial preference, unshelled clams. Blankinship brought several species of clams of the size the cranes eat and it is incredible to think of a bird swallowing them whole. They seem to prefer whole angel wings three or four inches long, razor clams, and a couple of species of ark-type clams with extremely heavy shells. He said the whoopers have a powerful grinding system, for their droppings disclose only dime-size pieces of shell. Fiddler crabs and small shrimp are relished also. When high salinity makes crabs scarce, and clams and shrimp are hard to find, the birds will eat acorns, snakes, fruits of sea plants, and some crops. Blankinship has studied the habitat of the cranes through core samples of the mud in which they feed, and net samples of surrounding waters. Right now, and for the past two or three years, conditions are optimum and food plentiful due to abundant fresh water. He can only speculate on how adverse conditions might affect the birds.

Population fluctuations of the whoopers are hard to explain, as for example, this year's net loss of three birds. Sixteen nests were counted with eggs in Wood Buffalo Refuge in Canada where the birds raise their young. Only one youngster survived to come south. Nesting failures are extremely high; only one chick may hatch out of as many as four eggs, and even then, only one of half a dozen chicks may survive to make the 2,500 mile flight south. But the loss each year seems to be in young, non-mating birds who disappear from the area where the mature birds nest. The area is so vast that it is not possible to keep track of all the birds. It is known, however, that each nine to eleven years, there is a population drop of eight to twelve birds, followed by a period of small annual gains.

Blankinship's slides were magnificent, a perfect opportunity to observe while listening to details one might otherwise overlook. The posture of the mature birds is almost militarily erect; the rusty colored immatures, nearly as large as their five-foot tall parents, arch their necks forward and carry their bodies more horizontally. Males and females are almost impossible to tell apart except that males are just a bit larger, and females have a two-note call to the males' one. The mating dances were beautiful to see, a primitive and ordered display of courtship and pairing off. Copulation takes place in the air, apparently away from the Refuge, for Blankinship said it had never been observed.

The outlook for the cranes' survival into the future is cautiously optimistic, and it is hoped that an increase in the number of birds can be made through several approaches, including better management practices and hatching of "stolen" eggs. Blankinship is hopeful that

a National Audubon Society team might assist Canadian observers in the near future to study nesting and brooding to see if anything can be done to increase numbers of young hatched, and numbers of young who survive the fall flight to Texas.

FROM WOODS, WINGS, WATER; DALLAS COUNTY ADUDUBON SOCIETY

The North American Nest Record Card Program at the Laboratory of Ornithology of Cornell University provides a center for the collection, analysis, and distribution of data on the breeding biology of birds. Cards are sent to observers who complete one card for each active nest found. We like to organize the collection of data through Regional Centers and hope that your organization would be prepared to take part in this Program. The completed cards are edited and filed in our data bank for the use of any researchers. Additionally, we use the information on nesting success as an environmental monitoring device.

--David Peakall, Ph.D.  
Senior Research Associate  
North American Nest-Record Card Program  
Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology  
159 Sapsucker Woods Road  
Ithaca, New York 14850

Also in WOODS, WINGS, WATER was a reprint from the Cornell Lab on slides of birds wanted: if you have an original you would be willing to donate, the SPOONBILL editor has the list of the birds wanted. Only originals can be used satisfactorily for duplication. Please label each slide with your name as the photographer, the place and date taken and any other descriptive information which seems pertinent or interesting. Be sure to send an accompanying statement for our file, granting the Laboratory permission to make duplicates for sale or to reproduce for publication. If you wish to place any restrictions on use, please stipulate this clearly to avoid any misunderstanding. The original slides become the property of the Laboratory. With your permission, slides not incorporated into the permanent file are made available to the many graduate students and serious laymen who use the Laboratory's information resources. We encourage donors to extend this option.

The slide collection is for your use - for illustrating talks or written articles, for teaching, or simply for your own enjoyment. We will be happy to send you a list of the selection available. The address is the one above on Sapsucker Woods Road in Ithaca.

FROM MARJORIE ADAMS' "BIRD WORLD"

Two birds have shown up which are rare enough in the U.S. to be reported here. A Rufous-backed Robin seems to be a regular near Yuma, Ariz. It is at a small park at the bridge at the Imperial Dam on the Colorado River. A date palm (to the left of the restrooms) has many dried dates on it, and the robin feeds on them in company with other robins. Be there at dawn, as the bird is shy and spooks from people, dogs, etc., later in the day, and is hard to find among the hundreds of other robins.

The other great rarity is a Bar-tailed Godwit about 30 miles north of San Francisco. Go Highway 2 north to Stinson Beach. Go just through town and turn left at Elwood's Restaurant. Go about one mile to a new housing development, Seacliff Estates. You'll come to a locked gate. Make a sharp right at the gate and go about a half mile to the bay. The bird, a young male, feeds on the sand spit at water's edge. Apparently staying for winter.

Keep a lookout in south Texas for Phainopeplas. Gerry Green of Victoria reports three on a farm near Kenedy where they also had been sighted in 1972.

A gratifying number of birders have volunteered to report for the State-wide Bird Alert. If you can help scout and report, if you are a stay-at-home who can relay messages, or if you are a ham radio operator, please get in touch with me through the Austin American-Statesman or at 706 Wayside Drive, Austin, Tex. 78703. We hope to get the thing working sometime in the spring. Write now.

COMING EVENTS:

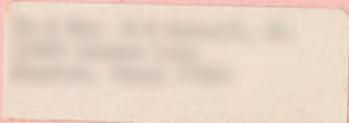
- Sunday  
March 30 OG Field Trip to Galveston led by Margaret Anderson. Meet at 8 A.M. at Kempner Park. We will search for the Eskimo Curlew, among other birds. Bring lunch and insect repellent.
- Tuesday  
April 2 Regular Photography Group meeting - 7:30 P.M., Bayou Manor Auditorium. Mrs. David Lefkovits, who does her own processing, will display some of her work and will talk on "Black and White Photography."
- Thursday  
April 4 Regular OG Meeting - 7:30 P.M., Downtown Recreation Center. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gillette will present a program of the Birds of Belgium & Holland.
- Saturday  
April 6 ONC Field Trip to the Houston Arboretum at Memorial Park led by Mrs. Barbara Duryea. Meet at 8:30 A.M. in the parking lot by the Aline McAshan Botannical Hall on Woodway close to Post Oak.
- Sat. & Sun.  
April 6 & 7 Audubon Field Trip to the Austin Area led by Barbara Ribble and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Eakens of Austin. On Sat. meet at 9:30 A.M. at the Texas Medical Assoc. parking lot at 19th St. and North Lamar. We will go out to the Cat Mt. area to look for the Black Capped Vireo and other western birds. (Bring lunch). On Sun. meet at 6:45 A.M. at the same place as on Sat. We will go to the Travis Audubon Sanctuary near Lake Travis to look for the Golden Cheeked Warbler. Make your own motel reservation for Sat. night. For more information, call Jim Beaty, 668-8822.
- Apr.18/21 TOS Spring Meeting (see first part of SPOONBILL)
- Saturday  
April 27 Audubon Field Trip (note change of date) led by Steve Williams. Meet at 8 A.M. at the East end of the Seawall in Galveston. We will be going to Bolivar and High Island. Bring lunch.
- Saturday  
April 27 OG Field Trip to High Island led by Victor Emanuel. It will be an all-day field trip to High Island (warblers et al), Sabine Pass (bobolinks) and Bolivar (shorebirds.) Meet at the roadside park on Highway 124 at High Island at 8 A.M.
- Sat. & Sun.  
May 4 & 5 ONC Field Trip by bus to Old Jefferson entitled "Jefferson Antiquities." It will be led by Clayton Gilman; for details contact him at Rt. 2 - Box 164-B, Willis, Tx. 77378.
- Saturday  
May 4 Audubon Field Trip led by Nance and Raymond Mc David. Details in next SPOONBILL.
- Sunday  
May 19 Annual Spring Picnic at Mary Tigner's farm near Dayton. Mary says come as early as you like and stay as late as you can. Drinks and dessert will be complimentary. We will eat about 1 P.M. Don't forget your chair. Directions are as follows: Coming down highway 90 East, turn left at the third red light, go two blocks, cross railroad, immediately turn right, which is F.M. 1008. Clock your speedometer for nine miles, all black top road, there will be a sign saying "Tig'S", turn right down a dirt road, veer slightly to the left, pass one trailer home on the left, follow the lane, come to aluminum gate with a no trespassing sign, (gate will be open), you can now see my home, white roof, rock chimney, rock front, with brown western cedar siding. Park in the field.

NOTICE: Mr. Wright, Manager of Sheldon Reservoir, has opened a restricted area to birders. The first time, go to headquarters, and talk to him for directions (if you don't know where it is); after that just go on back there. He is also planning to put up blinds.



*Mary 74*

OUTDOOR NATURE CLUB  
(ORNITHOLOGY GROUP)  
1746 WROXTON COURT  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77005  
Return Postage Guaranteed



NAMES FOR REFERENCE:

- Chairman: Miss Marilyn Crane, 3601 Allen Parkway, #214  
Houston, 77019 522-6393
- Treasurer: Miss Melba Drake, 1746 Wroxton Court,  
Houston 77005 522-8285
- Spoonbill: Mrs. Irving (Laura) Greenbaum, 5615 Portal Dr.,  
Houston 77035 721-1310
- Clearing-House: Mr. Dan Hardy, 10215 Chatterton,  
Houston 77043 468-2748
- Rare Bird Alert: Mrs. L.W. (Margaret) Anderson, 2913 Amherst,  
Houston 77005 668-6405