



# THE SPOONBILL

2

## PROGNOSTICATIONS FROM FOLKLORE:

When man-of-war hawks fly high, 'tis a sign  
of clear sky;  
When they fly low prepare for a blow.

When the swallow buildeth low,  
You can safely reap and sow.

When the peacock loudly bawls,  
Soon we'll have both rain and squalls.

If birds in autumn grow tame,  
The winter will be cold for game.

If the November goose-bone be thick,  
So will the winter weather be;  
If the November goose-bone be thin,  
So will the winter weather be.

So long as kingfishers are sitting on their  
eggs, no storm or tempest will disturb the  
ocean.

From the Article TALES ONCE TOLD appearing  
in the Book, BIRDS IN OUR LIVES.

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REGULAR OG FIELD TRIP TO EAGLE LAKE PRAIRIE CHICKEN REFUGE, MARCH 3 - by Melba Drake  
and Sarah Gordon

Twenty-four intrepid birders were "up with the chickens" - more accurately up BEFORE the chickens - on a cold and windy Sunday morning, March 3rd, for the OG Field Trip to the Eagle Lake Prairie Chicken Refuge. The group was led by Mr. Tom Waddell, Warden, and our Field Trip Chairman, David Marrack. After meeting at 6:15 A. M. at the square in Eagle Lake, the group drove to the Refuge area. On ranch land near the Refuge numerous chickens were sighted. We were asked to stay in the cars and I dare say with the cold north wind blowing over the prairie there were few objections as the chickens approached near enough for good viewing. Unfortunately, the majority of the chickens in sight were males and they acted singularly uninspired to display without their ladies present. Only half-hearted attempts at drumming were made. Mr. Waddell showed us the boundaries of the Refuge but road conditions would not permit any traveling through the area. He told us also that ranchers in the area cooperated in protecting the birds from hunters.

After a breakfast and/or coffee break at the Sportsman Motel, Dave Marrack led the group out Highway 102 in search of Sandhill Cranes and Sandhill Cranes there were - in the hundreds! We had fine views of the cranes feeding and in flight and particularly outstanding at close range was the lovely red color of their heads. Many large flocks of geese were seen all morning. Along Highway 102, among one such large flock mid Snows, Blues and White-fronteds the Lesser and Greater Canada and Ross' goose were spotted.

The group went their separate ways back to Houston, most birding along the way back. Some of the more appealing birds that we heard of were a large group of White-crowned Sparrows and the "Brasita de fuego" - the Vermilion Flycatcher.

Those present and accounted for were: Edward and Maxine Smith, Pat Ridge and Ramona, Julia and Ewell Bradley, Tommy Barnes and James, Dan Hardy, Violet and Loyd Nelson, Johanna Grabbe, Gladys Galbreath, Louise Rogers, Sue Buck, Mary and Jack Gillette and their daughter, Cynthia, Dave Marrack, our visitors - the Franklin P. Frederick family, and your reporters, Melba and Sarah.

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A REPORT - by Bill McClure, 6215 Queenswood, Houston 77008 - dated March 11, 1968

Wallace Mebane suggested that I let you know about the following: In the woods south of Timbergrove Manor there are numerous dead Brown-headed Cowbirds and Red-winged Blackbirds. On 3-3-68 I found a dead Solitary Vireo there. The cause of death of these birds is not evident. On 3-9-68 I caught by hand an adult Cooper's Hawk and an adult Screech Owl. (They were not together). They could not fly and were being harrassed by Blue Jays. They both died within 18 hours. I skinned them and neither had evidence of injury. This may have been secondary poisoning from cowbird since the hawk had partly digested cowbird in the digestive tract. - -

We have had Oregon Juncos feeding in our yard almost daily from February 22 until yesterday. I had originally identified them as Gray-headed Juncos, but they have the pinkish-rusty streak along the sides as well as the brown back. Vesper Sparrows were feeding in the yard this weekend.

We have positively identified 86 species of birds in or over this patch of woods during the past two years.

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SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES --- or ORNITHOLOGY GROUP FIELD TRIP TO GEORGE WEST, MARCH 30 and 31  
- by Louise Hoffman.

Who says things ain't like they used to be? In several ways they were on the George West trip. First of all, the wild flowers and brush in bloom were the loveliest they have been since that very first trip in 1955. Just think, we have been going to George West for 13 wonderful years! Furthermore, it still smells heavenly (excusing the pig pen) and there is no smog or exhaust fumes.

The other treat was a people surprise. It seemed like old times sure enough to see Carolyn Simmons botanizing away in her enthusiastic and knowledgeable way. It was good too to have Ralph Hunter join us. Isn't it good to see people you like so well and just take up right where you left off!

The dependable lark buntings were seen several times and were in rather good plumage. Only two horned owls were seen, and in that way things have worsened. Black-bellied tree ducks were a bonus and excellent views of them were had at the second lake visited.

Following is what is probably an incomplete list of the birds seen. To the best of my knowledge no master list was made, but if I have missed anything fantastic, I hope whomever saw it will turn it in to a later Spoonbill. These records are good to have.

Coot, baldpate, blue-winged teal, gadwall, pintail, ruddy shoveler, gallinule, black-bellied tree duck, great blue heron, lesser scaup, kildeer, golden plover, sora rail, pectoral sandpiper, snipe, greater yellowlegs, semipalmated sandpiper, sandhill cranes, caracara, broad-winged hawks, Harris, marsh, red-tailed, Swainson, ferruginous red-tailed hawk, black and turkey vulture, bob white and scaled quail, red-winged blackbird, lark bunting, cardinal and phrrhuloxia, cowbird, ground and mourning dove, flicker, (sp.), ash-throated flycatcher, scissor tail, blue-gray gnatcatcher (We tried to make a black-capped out of this one.), boat-tailed grackle, hummingbird (sp?), eastern and tropical kingbird, kingfisher, ruby-crowned kinglet, meadowlark (sp.), mighty dark mockingbirds, lots of accommodating roadrunners, shrike, black-throated, Cassin, chipping, clay-colored, field, lark, Lincoln, olive, Savannah, swamp, vesper, white-crowned and white-throated sparrows, curve-billed and long-billed thrasher, a maybe sage thrasher, black-crested titmouse, verdin, white-necked raven, Bell's vireo, cactus wren, myrtle warbler, white-eyed vireo, golden-fronted and ladder-backed woodpecker, orange-crowned warbler and a GOLDEN EAGLE flew right over the campers at Carrone ranch.

These were the lucky people who enjoyed the trip: Sue M. Buck, Mary Marrs, Edward and Marion Taylor, Eva and Clayton Gilman, Frank P. and Mary Belle Kokesh, Louise and Henry Hoffman, Louise Rogers, Dick Miller, Risto and Jane Lappala, Ralph Hunter, Mary Sears, Marilyn Crane, Nell Ray, Melba Drake, Sarah Gordon, Sue Harris, Alice Smith, Katrina and Bill Ladwig, Dan and Marian Washburn, Martin and Hertha Kroesche, Carolyn Simmons, and Margaret and "Andy" Anderson.

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Notes from Wallace Mebane, dated April 7, 1968

There are a pair of Brown-headed Nuthatches nesting in a dead limb of an oak tree in the parking lot on the west side of Kinkaid School. (Coming out from Houston, turn left off of Memorial Drive on Wickwood, turn right on Kincaid School Drive to the school.)

Birds are again nesting at the Rosenberg Rookery. There are a large number of Little Blue Herons and Snowy Egrets, with a few Reseate Spoonbills, Common Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons and Yellow-crowned Night Herons. Strangely enough, no Cattle Egrets and no Boat-tailed Grackles were observed.

Membership dues in the Texas Ornithological Society are \$3.00 annually. Inquiries should be addressed to: W. Russell Weil, Treasurer, 3429 Lovers Lane, Dallas, Texas 75225.

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FULVOUS TREE DUCK STUDY IN 1968 by the United States Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Victoria, Texas - submitted by Dirk Hagemeyer.

There will be a continuation of the Fulvous Tree Duck study this year to determine their exposure to pesticides. To facilitate the work we would like to have Fulvous Tree Duck sightings reported to us along with any additional information on present numbers, spring arrival dates, concentration points, nesting locations, fall departure dates and sightings of migration. We would like any of this information that can be contributed. Your cooperation will certainly be appreciated.

Many reports were received from interested persons last year. About 500 Fulvous Tree Ducks were recorded along the Texas Gulf Coast through July. The only positive nesting colony to be located was at El Campo and it consisted of approximately 250 birds. There were also 3 Black-bellied Tree Ducks seen there periodically through the summer. - Edward L. Flickinger, Wildlife Research Biologist.

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HAND-TAMING WILD BIRDS AT THE FEEDER Author, Alfred G. Martin, Artist and Naturalist, published by The Bond Wheelwright Company, Porter's Landing, Freeport, Maine 04032. - A Book Review by Julia Bradley

This little "how-to" volume was brought to my attention by Wallace Mebane, who thought, as I did, that it would interest our readers. I found it a fascinating adventure into a little-known realm of American wildlife, written in a simple, direct style that can immediately be understood by a child of twelve or enjoyed by a scholar who will find enough about the taming of birds to be worth his while. There is no such thing as a naturally tame wild bird, but you can hand-feed even the most timid by following the simple, basic steps described in this remarkable book.

The author has a deep love of birds and nature in general - he also has a sense of humor and he punctuates his work with amusing anecdotes. He has been hand-taming wild birds since he was ten years old and what he passes on to us is the result of years of patient, trial and error experiences. He outlines simple rules to remember in hand-taming wild birds; the problem of visitors; natural-type bird feeders you can make; the best kinds of food; things to avoid feeding your birds; birds of prey; types of food containers; syrup mixture for hummingbirds; notes on bird identification; startling imitations; confusing, odd coloring in birds; pets left to the mercy of the woods; taking of movies of birds; getting them used to the camera; taking pictures at close hand; time patterns of wild creatures, etc. etc.

The hard-back edition is on file at the Central Library downtown. Paper-back copies can be purchased locally at different book stores - Sage on Beechnut, Foley's in Sharpstown, Book Center, 1014 Travis. A wealth of information at \$1.00!

CLEARING HOUSE, March, 1968

- Common Loon: (2) 16, Galveston, HP; (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Eared Grebe: (44) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Pied-billed Grebe: (45) 16, Galveston, HP; (1-8) 5 days, Cove area, AKM.  
 White Pelican: (6-50) 5 days, (500+) 21, (75+) 26, Cove area, AKM; (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Double-crested Cormorant: (10+) 26, (20+) 31, Cove area, AKM.  
 Anhinga: (10) 23, Massey's Pond, Cedar Bayou, M&RM.  
 Green Heron: (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Little Blue Heron: (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 16, Galveston, HP.  
 Cattle Egret: (4) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (7) 22, (5) 23, etc. Cove area, AKM.  
 Least Bittern: (1) 23, Anahuac Refuge, M&RM.  
 American Bittern: (1) 16, Galveston, HP.  
 White-faced Ibis: (1) 4, (3) 7, Cove area, AKM.  
 White Ibis: (100) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Roseate Spoonbill: (1) 16, Galveston, HP; (70+) 2, (1-7) 4 days, Cove area, AKM.  
 White-fronted Goose: (6) 1, (155) 7, (75+) 12, 33 and 60 migrating 13 and 24, Cove area AKM.  
 Snow and Blue Goose: (These, not White-fronts were common in February.) (10,000+) 5, 7, 12, (migrating), 12, 13, 15 (present) 6 more days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Mallard Duck: (1) 3, Cove area, AKM.  
 Mottled Duck: (1-6) 8 days, (8) 30, Cove area, AKM; (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Gadwall: (7) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (400+) 22, 10 other days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Pintail: (common) to 12th, (2) 23, Cove area, AKM.  
 Green-winged Teal: (1,000+) 7, 19 more days, Cove area, AKM; (18) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Blue-winged Teal: (5?) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (200+) 22, 14 more days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Cinnamon Teal: (1) 3, 4, Cove area, AKM.  
 American Widgeon: (200+) 5, 11 more days, Cove area, AKM; (35) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Shoveler: (85) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1,000+) 30, 16 more days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Canvasback: (1-11) 2, 3, 5, (25) 22, Cove area, AKM.  
 Lesser Scaup: (50-100) 21, 31, 4 more days, Cove area, AKM; (35) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Common Goldeneye: (7) 21, (2) 26, Cove area, AKM.  
 Ruddy Duck: (200+) on Lawrence Marsh throughout, observed 4 days (50-200); (37) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Red-breasted Merganser: (22) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 23, Galveston, M&RM  
 Turkey Vulture: (2) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM.  
 Black Vulture: (25) 7, 23, (1) 30, Cove area, AKM.  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk: (1) 15, in yard, Baytown, NB.  
 Red-tailed Hawk: (a dark one) to 26th, in same area since 1961, Cove area, AKM.  
 Harlan's Hawk: (1 seen every year since 1962), 2, 7, 9, 13, latest before March 11, Cove area, AKM.  
 Red-shouldered Hawk: (1) 22, Cove area, AKM; (1) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM.  
 Broad-winged Hawk: (1) 24, Addicks Dam, M&RM; (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 SWAINSON'S HAWK: (1) 26, Cove area, AKM.  
 FERRUGINOUS HAWK: (1) 2, Warren Ranch Lake area near Hockley Salt Mine, seen perching in a tree and flying, HP.  
 Marsh Hawk: (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; Less than ever before, this is not true of the southwest, mid-Cedar Bayou part of area, 12 days, (23) 26, (1-4) outside U. S. Steel construction area, Cove area AKM.  
 Sparrow Hawk: (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 King Rail: (1) 24, Anahuac Refuge, E&JB.  
 Clapper Rail: (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 16, Galveston, HP; (1) 24, Anahuac Refuge, E&JB.  
 Virginia Rail: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 24, Anahuac Refuge, E&JB.  
 Sora Rail: (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 23, Anahuac Refuge, M&RM; (1) 24, Anahuac Refuge, E&JB; (1) 16, Galveston, HP.  
 YELLOW RAIL: (1) 24, Anahuac Refuge, E&JB. See Clearing House Notes.  
 Common Gallinule: (4) 16, Galveston, HP; (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 American Coot: (1,500+) 5, 22, in Wolf Reservoir, (1) 2, 21, (25+ migrating) 30, Cove Area, AKM  
 Snowy Plover: (1) 23, North Jetty, Bolivar Pt. M&RM.  
 American Golden Plover: (511) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (100's) 23, 24, Anahuac area, Katy area, M&RM; 13 days, (200+) 22, (300+) 23, Cove area, AKM; (200) 16, Galveston, HP.  
 Black-bellied Plover: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 30, 31, Cove area, AKM.  
 Ruddy Turnstone: (1) 16, Galveston, HP; (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Common Snipe: (3) 16, Galveston, HP; (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (60+) 1, (21) 31, (1-7) 9 days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Long-billed Curlew: (75+) 12, (1-10) 5 days, Cove area, AKM; (35) 16, Galveston, HP.

CLEARING HOUSE, March, 1968

- Upland Plover: (1) 23, (equal to earliest ever), Cove area, AKM; (2) 23, near Old and Lost River, Interstate 10, M&RM.
- Spotted Sandpiper: (2) 30, (5) 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Solitary Sandpiper: (2) 31, Cove area, AKM; (1) 23, Anahuac Refuge, M&RM.
- Willet: (1) 26, (14) 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Greater Yellowlegs: (1-5) 5 days, Cove area, AKM.
- Lesser Yellowlegs: (1-12) 12 days, (125+) 30, 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Pectoral Sandpiper: (1) 15, (5+) 30, 31, Cove area, AKM; (10-12) 10, Katy area, M&RM; (1) 16, Galveston, HP.
- Least Sandpiper: (nc) 4 days, Cove area, AKM.
- Dowitcher: (150+ sp.) 12 and 5 other days, Cove area, AKM.
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper: (1) 22, Cove area, AKM.
- Marbled Godwit: (1) 16, Galveston, HP.
- American Avocet: (20) 23, Bolivar Pt., M&RM.
- Black-necked Stilt: (2) 23, north of Galveston Causeway, (3) 24, Warren Ranch north of Katy, M&RM; (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (3) 16, Galveston, HP; (2) 24, Stewart Road, Galveston, LM&WM.
- Bonaparte's Gull: (12) 21, Cove area, AKM.
- Gull-billed Tern: (7) 16, Galveston, HP; (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Forster's Tern: (4) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Common Tern: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- LEAST TERN: (7) 16, along north shore of East Bay, DH; (dozens) 23, Bolivar Pt., M&RM.
- Royal Tern: (22) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Sandwich Tern: (5) 16, South Jetty, Galveston, VE.
- Caspian Tern: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Inca Dove: (6) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (2) 24, Kempner Park, Galveston, WM&LM; (2) almost every day, 11926 Broken Baugh, Houston, M&RM.
- ROADRUNNER: (1) 24, Clay Road, M&RM.
- Great Horned Owl: (1) 16, Cove area, AKM.
- Barred Owl: (1) 31, Cove, AKM.
- Short-eared Owl: (2) 22, Harvey Patten; (6) 23, Nell Ray, Sarah Gordon, Melba Drake, Margaret Anderson, Harvey Patten; (4) 24, Dave Marrack, Nell Ray, Sarah Gordon, Melba Drake, Tommy Barnes, Pat Sullivan, Mary Sears, Harvey Patten; (2) 25, Louise and Henry Hoffman, Harvey Patten; (2) 26, Harven Patten; (2) 27, Harvey Patten; (1) 30, Harvey Patten. All observations Hiram Clark Road, Houston. Original sighting sent in to Rare Bird Alert by Harvey Patten.
- Chimney Swift: (2) 25, near Sears on South Main, Houston, NP; (2) 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Hummingbird sp.: (1) 30, Cove area, AKM.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: (1) male, 17-28, (1) female, 29-31, 11926 Broken Baugh, Houston M&RM.
- Rufous Hummingbird: (1) female, all month, 11926 Broken Baugh, Houston, M&RM.
- Belted Kingfisher: (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 4, 5, 7, Cove area, AKM.
- Yellow-shafted Flicker: (7) 29, (1-5) 12 days, Cove, AKM; (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A", (1) 17, Bear Creek Park, (2) 24, Kempner Park, Galveston, WM&LM.
- Pileated Woodpecker: (2) 25, Cove area, AKM.
- Red-bellied Woodpecker: (4) 1, (2) 2, (1) 5, 16, 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: (2) 1, (1) 15, 21, Cove area, AKM.
- Eastern Kingbird: (1) 31, Cove area, AKM; (2) 16, entrance to Anahuac Refuge, DH.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: (1) 16, center island of US #10 near Trinity River crossing, DH; (2) 23, near Spring Creek Park, WM&LM; (5-7) 24, Katy area, M&RM; (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (2) 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Great-crested Flycatcher: (1) 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Eastern Phoebe: (1) 1, 7, (3) 2, (2) 12, Cove area, AKM.
- Horned Lark: (5) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Tree Swallow: (1-20) 13, 15, 19, 21, 26, Cove area, AKM; (10-12) 23, Anahuac Refuge, M&RM.
- Bank Swallow: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Rough-winged Swallow: (1) 26, Cove area, AKM.
- Barn Swallow: (1) 3, (5) 31, Cove area, AKM.
- Common Crow: (5) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM.
- Tufted Titmouse: (2) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM; (1) 1, 15, Cove area, AKM.
- House Wren: (1) 7, Cove area, AKM.
- Carolina Wren: (1-2) 2, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 30, Cove area, AKM.
- Brown Thrasher: (4) 22, Galveston, Party "A".
- Robin: (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (2) 24, Kempner Park, Galveston, WM&LM; (40+) 5, (1-12) 11 days, (last 2) 24, Cove area, AKM.
- Hermit Thrush: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 2, Cove, AKM.
- Eastern Bluebird: (1) 10, Cove, AKM; (1) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM.

CLEARING HOUSE, March, 1968

Ruby-crowned Kinglet: (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Water Pipit: (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (75+) 10, (1-5) 5 days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Cedar Waxwing: (28+) 7, 10, Cove, AKM.  
 White-eyed Vireo: (5) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (3) 23, Turtle Bayou, Interstate 10, (1) 24, Bear Creek Park, M&RM.  
 Yellow-throated Vireo: (1) 24, Josey Ranch near Cypress, M&RM; (1) 24, Kempner Park, Galveston, WM&LM; (3) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 20, in yard, Baytown, NB.  
 Solitary Vireo: (1) 23, Turtle Bayou, Interstate 10, M&RM; (1) 15, Cove area, AKM.  
 RED-EYED VIREO: (1) 31, Cove area, AKM.  
 Black and White Warbler: (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 11, 11926 Broken Baugh, Houston M&RM.  
 Orange-crowned Warbler: (2) 1, (1) 2 and 15, Cove area, AKM.  
 Parula Warbler: (1) 15, 22, Cove area, AKM; (2) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (4-5) 23, Turtle Bayou, (3) 24, Bear Creek Park, M&RM.  
 Myrtle Warbler: (9) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (10) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM; (30) 15, (1-7) 9 days, Cove area, AKM.  
 Audubon's Warbler: (1) 17, yard, Baytown, NB.  
 Yellow-throated Warbler: (1) 24, Kempner Park, Galveston, WM&LM; (1) 23, Turtle Bayou, M&RM.  
 Palm Warbler: (3) 24, Bear Creek Park, M&RM; (1) 2, (3) 22, Cove, AKM.  
 Yellowthroat: (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A"; (1) 22, Cove area, AKM.  
 Hooded Warbler: (1) 31, Cove area, AKM.  
 Rusty Blackbird: (3) 2, Bear Creek Park, HP.  
 Brown-headed Cowbird: (1) 12, seen flying around entire second floor inside Main Postoffice downtown Houston, NP.!!!  
 Summer Tanager: (1) 31, Cove area, AKM.  
 American Goldfinch: (20+) 1, Cove area, AKM.  
 Savannah Sparrow: (5) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 Henslow's Sparrow: (2) 2, Cove area, AKM.  
 Vesper Sparrow: (1) 3, 22, (2) 5, Cove area, AKM.  
 Lark Sparrow: (1) 24, Brazos River Bottom, M&RM; (1) 22, Galveston, Party "A".  
 SLATE-COLORED JUNCO: (3) 24, Bear Creek Park, M&RM; (9) 1, Cove area, AKM.  
 Field Sparrow: (15+) 2, (7+) 9, Cove area, AKM.  
 White-crowned Sparrow: (20+) 2, (1) 7, Cove area, AKM; (8) 24, Clay Road, M&RM.  
 White-throated Sparrow: (4) 17, Bear Creek Park, WM&LM.  
 Lincoln's Sparrow: (1) 7, Cove area, AKM.  
 Swamp Sparrow: (1) 2, 21, Cove area, AKM.  
 Song Sparrow: (3) 1, 2, 7, (1) 5, 21, Cove area, AKM.

Contributors to Clearing House:

Party "A"	Margaret Anderson, Norma Oates, Louise and Henry Hoffman.
NB	Nettie Busby.
E&JB	Ewell and Julia Bradley.
VE	Victor Emanuel.
DH	Dirk Hagemeyer.
AKM	Arlie K. McKay.
M&RM	Mary Ann and Robert Moore.
WM&LM	Wallace Mebane and Lyvonda Mebane.
HP	Harvey Patten.
NP	Noel Pettingell.

Clearing House Notes:

David Marrack reports that he saw 15 Broadwinged Hawks flying over his residence at 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, on the 26th of March.

A rail good time was had by the Eds, Sunday, March 24th, at Anahuac Refuge, where we saw all five rails listed on the Refuge Bird List! - This remarkable achievement for us, of course, was due to the kind hospitality of Fred Abshier. Since business was dull that afternoon and we had seen only the Yellow Rail <sup>previously</sup> in the meadow, he volunteered to take us on a second trip in his jeep complete with flushing apparatus. We had spent three hours on a previous date stalking and finally flushing the Yellow Rail, but luck was with us on this second trip and Fred flushed not only the Yellow but also the Virginia and Sora, all within a period of approximately forty-five minutes. We stayed until almost dusk and, following his instructions, saw the King Rail in the "windmill" area and the Clapper Rail on the same road coming back. The Clapper, a short distance away from us across a ditch filled with water, was most cooperative. He was so absorbed in the business of finding a goodie for his evening repast that he (or she ? ) took no notice of us and we took advantage of the situation and studied the bird for about fifteen minutes.

The telephone number for Dick Miller given on the Rare Bird Alert list is incorrect. It should be SU 1-1747.

Reminder: Please send in your annual Ornithology Group dues (\$2.00 for members of the Outdoor Nature Club, \$3.00 for non-member subscribers) to Miss Sarah Gordon, 1747 Wroxtton Court, Houston, Texas 77005. Make checks payable to: "Ornithology Group."

The Editors ask that everyone send in their material for the May Spoonbill as early in the month as possible, since we are going on vacation the latter half of May. Our mailers, Melba Drake and Nell Ray will be on vacation at that time also, and Pat Ridge has volunteered to take over their task and mail out the Spoonbill. THANK YOU PAT!

Welcome to the following new member: Gwen B. Smith, P. O. Box 17192, Houston, Texas 77031, telephone RI 7-3000, Ext. 587 o: 588.

COMING EVENTS:

- April 28  
Sunday The Annual Spring Roundup (Big Day Run). You may go anywhere you wish within a 75 mile radius of the Harris County Courthouse. Rare and unusual birds must be substantiated by complete description of observation including exact location and names of observers. Include route covered, hours spent in the field, car miles, foot miles, and names of those in party. As soon as possible, send your list of species (numbers of individuals optional), in AOU order to Dr. David Marrack, 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, Texas 77401. -- David Marrack reports that on April 12 he observed a BARN OWL by the Prudential Building, Fannin and Holcombe. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of this species, please notify Noel Pettingell, either by telephone, WA 1-2274, during the hours 10:00 A. M. to 2:00 P. M., or by postcard addressed to 7146 Ilex, Houston, Texas 77017. That BARN OWL CRITTER has to be located to augment the list!
- May 1  
Monday Special Benefit Show, Home Builders Auditorium, 2710 W. Alabama, 8:00 P. M. Two Walt Disney, color-sound productions will be shown: BEAVER VALLEY and WHITE WILDERNESS. Both are outstanding films and will be enjoyed alike by children and adults. All contributions will serve the dual purpose of presenting excellent nature films and of benefiting The Little Thicket Shelter and Museum which is in the process of construction.
- May 12  
Sunday Regular OG Field Trip. Leader: Steve Williams. Meet <sup>7:45 A M</sup> outside Boyd's Colonial Restaurant, Rosharon, State Highway 288. Hope to see late waders and warblers.
- May 14  
Tuesday Annual ONC business meeting and installation of officers, Garden Center, 1500 Hermann Drive in Hermann Park, 8:00 P. M.  
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- June 2  
Sunday Regular OG Field Trip. Leader: L. A. M. Barnette. Details in next Spoonbill.
- Thursday  
June 6 Annual OG Picnic in Memorial Park. Details in next Spoonbill.  
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- Saturday  
May 18 Regular ONC Field Trip to Palmetto State Park. Leaders: Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Paris. Details in next Nature Notes.

OFFICERS:

Chairman: Mr. Richard Miller, 10023 Sugar Hill, Houston, Texas 77042.  
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Wallace C. Mebane, Jr., 7106 Mobud, Houston, Texas 77036.  
Secretary: Mrs. Bill (Katrina) Ladwig, 4200 Mt. Vernon, Houston, Texas 77006.  
Treasurer: Miss Sarah Gordon, 1746 Wroxtton Court, Houston, Texas 77005.  
Field Trip Chairman: Dr. David Marrack, 420 Mulberry Lane, Bellaire, Texas 77401.  
Program Chairman: Mrs. Daniel T. (Marian) Washburn, 2101 59th St., Galveston, Texas.  
Co-Editors of Mr. and Mrs. Ewell C. (Julia) Bradley, #3 Briarway, Houston, Texas  
The Spoonbill: 77027.



Outdoor Nature Club  
(Ornithology Group)  
1746 Wroxtan Court  
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