



THE SPOONBILL

2

Volume XXVI, No. 7
November, 1977

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

COMING EVENTS

- Weekend Nov. 12-13 ONC Little Thicket Open House. Details were in October SPOONBILL. For new members directions are: (takes about 2 hours) north on I-45 to Willits, turn right on FM 1097, then right again on FM 150, then right again on FM 945, to 2 miles to gate on left (gate is set back from road).
- Tuesday Nov. 15 Brazosport Birders regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science on College Drive in Clute.
- Saturday Nov. 19 Brazosport Birders field trip to Bryan Beach. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Museum parking lot.
- Saturday Nov. 19 HAS regular field trip to West Harris County. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of small church on Hwy 6 just north of I-10. Look for ducks, geese, sparrows.
- Saturday Nov. 19 OG regular field trip. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Armand's Bayou Nature Center parking lot, Bay Area Blvd. 1/2 day trip, but bring lunch.
- Thursday Dec. 1 OG regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Fonde Recreation Center, Sabine at Memorial Dr. See a film on ducks and a potpourri of slides from our members. Harry Brister is coordinating, please call him at 681-6456 if you have some slides you would like to show. Please read the article immediately following this Coming Events section, and a message from Chairman Dauphin on page 6.
- Saturday Dec. 3 ONC Little Thicket Visitor's Day, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring lunch and water. Should be a good cool time to walk the trails and see if you can find some wintering warblers. Remember to send your sightings to Alfred Chandler.
- Sunday Dec. 4 OG regular field trip to West Harris County. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in front of small church on Hwy 6 just north of I-10. Look for eagles, waterfowl, and sparrows.
- Tuesday Dec. 6 Photography Group meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Bayou Manor Auditorium, 4141 South Braeswood Blvd.
- Tuesday Dec. 13 ONC regular meeting, 8:00 p.m. at the Garden Center in Hermann Park. Paul Nimmons will give the program on Christmas Counts.
- Christmas Counts to plan for:
- Saturday, Dec. 17 Houston--Compiler, Paul Nimmons, 682-3597. Details on page 4.
- Sunday, Dec. 18 Freeport--Compiler, Victor Emanuel. Vic says if you wish to go with same area leaders as last year, simply call them. If you did not go last year, or wish to change areas, call him - 528-3725. A list of area leaders with their phone numbers will be published in December SPOONBILL.
- Wednesday, Dec. 21 El Naranjo--Compiler, Ben Feltner, P.O. Box 19687, Houston 77024
- Thursday, Dec. 22 Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR--Compiler, Wayne Shifflett, 1-234-3021
- Tuesday, Dec. 27 Old River--Compiler; Jonelle Buckels, 1-576-2504, or call Frankie Daves, 1-258-2560. This Count lies northeast of Houston Count area.
- Saturday, Dec. 31 Catemacho--Compiler, Victor Emanuel, 1603 West Clay, Houston 77019
- Sunday, Jan. 1 Cypress Creek--Compiler, Tony Gallucia, PO Box SR-6381, Alpine 79830 or call (after Dec. 20) 932-9630 (Houston). This one-year-old Count includes our familiar West Harris County birding roads.

DETAILS ON DECEMBER 1st OG MEETING

Harry Brister is looking for some 10 or 15 good bird slides each from some of our birding photographers to show at our next meeting. So look through your files and pick out some favorites. If you have only one or two that you feel are of exceptional interest, we would like to see them. Call Harry and let him know you would like to share some of your slides with us.

Bob Moulton, program chairman, has some suggestions you might want to consider: "It is a foregone conclusion the Aztec Thrush has to be the unique bird picture of the year if not the decade. Yet there are countless details and questions in identification that only slides or photographs can properly document. For instance the other day I noticed that the Brown-headed Nuthatch has a contrasting light spot on the bend of its wing similar to the Orange-crowned Warbler and the Black-throated Blue Warbler. The Nuthatches were so close that it was possible to see that the light spot was formed by the three alula feathers on the "Bastard Wing". So the question in my mind is whether or not the spots on the warbler wings are the alulas or at another location. Does someone have definitive slides on that point? Perhaps not, but I am sure that you have slides that bring out points of equal interest to all the members. Also, there are many birds reported on our Houston Christmas Count that are truly difficult to tell apart. Photographs ahead of time may help us all on these identifications. Here is a partial list of the "puzzlers":

Loons--Common vs Red-throated; Cormorants--Double-crested vs Olivaceous; Ducks--Lesser vs Greater Scaup and Redhead vs Canvasback; Hawks--the Red-tailed complex, Cooper vs Sharp-shinned; Rails--Clapper, King, and Virginia; Sandpipers--Western, Semi-palmated and Least; Gulls--Franklin vs Laughing (kind of tough in winter); Hummingbirds--Anna's, Rufous, Allen's (?), Black-chinned and Ruby-throated; Wrens--House vs Winter, Marsh (Long-billed) vs Sedge (short-billed); Thrushes--Wood vs Hermit, also Swainson; Pipits--Sprague vs Water; Vireos; Confusing fall warblers such as Kentucky vs Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned vs Tennessee; Female Grosbeaks--Rosebreasted vs Black-headed; and finally the sparrows--Grasshopper, LeConte's, Henslow's, Sharp-tailed, Seaside, Clay-colored and Lincoln's. All of the above birds have been reported at least once in the past five years".

PAST EVENTS by Jim Morgan

OG Field Trip to Bolivar and High Island: On Saturday, October 15, 25 OG members and guests met at the Ferry parking lot on Bolivar Peninsula to begin what turned out to be a rewarding birding trip for the participants. After viewing one of the Brown Pelicans which have been hanging around Bolivar we set out for the Flats, except for a few who went to look at a staked-out Red-breasted Nuthatch. The Flats revealed its typical good number of birds but nothing unusual. However, in the marsh grass north of the beach Paul Jones flushed out a Short-eared Owl which was in the UTC early this year. As we moved up the Peninsula we decided to scan the beach. Just as we turned off at the Gulf Haven Pier, Dave Dauphin spotted a Peregrine Falcon, but unfortunately only he and Ted Eubanks got a real good look at the bird. Being the driver my view was limited to only seeing it race out of view over the Gulf. The bird was much too fast for the following cars to stop and have a good look. Finding nothing on the beach or over the water we moved on to High Island where we assembled at the rest area. Larry Ballard had spotted Western Kingbird on a telephone wire on Hwy 124 so a few members went to see it while the others lunched. When the full group went to look for the Kingbird after lunch it had departed. Once at the woods we split into two groups hoping to increase our chances of finding birds. I took one group to where I had lucked onto a Black-throated Gray Warbler the previous Wednesday. Luck was still running strong because the bird was to be found in the same tree where it was first seen and it was the first warbler found! This cooperative bird stayed around all afternoon and all members of the field trip were able to observe it. A few warblers and other migrants were also found in the woods but they were not unusual birds. Probably the rarest sighting of the day was my observation of Dave Dauphin babysitting a little girl so her mother could see the Black-throated Gray! The final tally of the day's sightings showed 119 species seen. Ted, David and I topped off the day with an Osprey at I-10 and Trinity River. All in all, not a bad day.

BRAZOSPORT REPORT by Sherry Collins

Our October meeting was a most interesting one with Reavis Johnson, Director of the Brazosport Center of the Arts and Sciences, and John Ray, Director of Wildlife Exhibits for the Brazosport Museum of Natural Sciences, demonstrating how to prepare a bird skin. The exhibit was a Virginia rail that had apparently been killed by flying into a stock tank. An examination of the bird revealed that the skull had been cracked. Those present were able to gather around the table for a close-up of the procedure. Mr. Johnson also told us of a new procedure for freeze-drying birds which is far superior to the taxidermy method for preparing birds. The museum is now trying to obtain

the equipment used for the freeze-drying process.

The field trip to the Dow Nature Trail showed the trail to be much improved. The deep ruts have been smoothed out, and the underbrush is beginning to grow back. Anyone planning to use the trail should drive past the parking lot down to the guard house at the entrance to the Dow plant to ask for permission.

The next meeting of the Brazosport Birders will be November 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science on College Drive in Clute. Tom Collins will present a talk on the Christmas Bird Count. November 19 we will have a field trip to Bryan Beach to see the area that has been chosen for our Beached Bird Survey. Meet at 7:30 a.m. in the Museum parking lot.

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER ADDED TO UTC CHECKLIST

How does it feel to find a bird never before recorded in the UTC area? Well, your editor broke out in a bumper crop of "goosebumps", and Ben Feltner (with whom I was lucky enough to be birding that day and who instantly identified the bird) was pretty excited himself.

We had had an interesting morning of birding at Kempner, Menard House (where a totally unexpected sight was a gorgeous Yellow-headed Parrot high in one of the trees), and one or two stops on Stewart Road, and had a nice list of 13 warblers seen, always a joy in the fall. With the owner's permission, we were birding on some private land, but had just agreed that there was more "action" in town when we saw One More Bird.

When that dainty little thing flew in to land about 25' ahead of us, in clear view, I knew I'd never seen one like it before. Whatever it was, I had a lifer! And then Ben practically paralyzed me by quietly charging me, in tones of suppressed excitement, to "look at that bird very carefully, note every detail, remember every thing you can about it, for you may never see one like it in this area again. This is a first record for the UTC!!"

Not until the bird finally flew off, and he told me it was the Virginia's Warbler, did I realize this was the bird I had sought in vain when in Arizona last June. Never was a bird more obliging, posing for over a minute, always in full view; would that all birds were so easy for me to see! The UTC had a lifer, your editor had a lifer, and Ben had a new bird to add to his Texas list (not an easy thing to do for Ben nowadays). This little visitor was subsequently seen by Bill and Jean Harwell (photographed by Bill) and Jane Hamilton.

It is interesting to note that the Virginia's was one of three western warblers seen that day (October 12), for Ben and I had seen an Audubon's at Kempner, and Jim Morgan found a Black-throated Gray at High Island.

AROUND AND ABOUT

** A frustrating and maddening note to our October 15 OG field trip was the discovery of a dead white pelican at Bolivar Flats. Ted Eubanks ascertained the bird had been shot. No hunter does a thing like this, only an utterly irresponsible "shooter", with no appreciation of the beauty in this world around him.

** Margaret Anderson reminds us that it is time to put out your feeders for our soon-to-come winter hummers. She has had a Black-chinned since October 3, a full male, and feels it could possibly be the immature who stayed with her last winter. You can expect Black-chinned and Rufous to be our most common winter visitors, with possibly some Anna's, and maybe a Buff-bellied. The Ruby-throat is rare here in the winter. Margaret cautions us to put the feeders out from under close cover, either porch or tree branch, for hummers don't seem to care for anything directly over them when feeding. If you get a hummer you aren't sure of, call Margaret, she is our expert. And be sure to tell David Dauphin if you get an Anna's, Buff-bellied (these are unusual, some of our members would like to see them) or a really rare one. (See THE SPOONBILL May, 1976, for the editor's account of her visiting Broad-tailed hummer).

** We may have fewer ducks in this area this season, for dry conditions are producing fewer places for them to gather. Also the drought up north affected duck breeding this past season, with the total duck breeding population down about 4% from 1976. "The glaciated lake and pothole region of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Dakotas, Montana and Minnesota normally produce up to 3/4's of North America's annual duck crop. Dry conditions in these important areas forced the ducks to overfly, going farther north to breed. However, experience shows that ducks produce less successfully when they are forced from their traditional breeding grounds."--Conservation News, 9/15/77 Hale Ranch Park Site, which normally has a very large winter population of ducks, is

very dry, and Mr. Hoot, manager of the Hale Ranch for the past 35 years, says that unless we get a good amount of rain he expects many ducks to overfly.

** Last month we congratulated Debbie DeKeyzer for her photo of the Aztec Thrush, a bird she and her party of fellow birders found in Big Bend in August. Debbie tells me the sighting has been accepted, the bird has been placed on the AOU checklist, and she has learned that her photos are the only ones on record of an immature Aztec Thrush. We hope to see those slides at our December meeting.

** Did you know that in the spring of 1968 only 1123 Fulvous Whistling Ducks were counted in their traditional concentration areas in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana along the Gulf Coast? This was when the use of aldrin-treated rice seed was at a peak. However, many rice farmers began to voluntarily discontinue the use of this treated seed, and about 1970 numbers of ducks began to increase. (Aldrin treatment of rice seed was suspended by the EPA in 1974). An estimated count in late summer of 1975 of 17,000 Fulvous Whistling Ducks in the same areas is good news indeed. --gleaned from The Wilson Bulletin, June 1977

HOUSTON CHRISTMAS COUNT, December 17, 1977

The Houston Christmas Count is almost upon us. Our Christmas Count is one of the best in the nation. Last year 123 observers saw 173 species and two additional forms. We ranked 12th out of 1,170 counts in the United States and 3rd out of 67 counts in Texas. This year we are hoping for over 170 species again.

We heartily invite all birders from beginners to experts to participate. If you are interested, please contact our compiler:

Paul Nimmons, 682-3597 or Bus. phone: 224-6968

or any of the following area leaders:

Area 1	Jim Morgan	461-3080	Area 6	David Marrack	667-1397
Area 2	Bill Mealy	862-9853	Area 7	Wes & Glenn Cureton	864-1807
Area 3	Jack & Mary Gillette	626-1755	Area 8	Sarah Gordon	523-8285
Area 4	John Tveten	427-4431	Area 9	David & Jan Dauphin	722-7536
Area 5	Ted Eubanks, Jr.	661-8082	Area 10	Paul & Phyllis Nimmons	682-3597
			Area 11	Barbara Duryea	668-1979

They can give you details on exact time and place.

After the count, meet at 6:00 p.m. at Wyatt's Cafeteria, 1010 Market Street (close to the intersection of Decker Drive, Lee Drive, Texas Avenue and Market Street), Baytown.

The November 1975 SPOONBILL contains a map of the Houston Christmas Count area. Even more detailed maps can be found in 1973 editions of the SPOONBILL.

Advice: Call or write Baytown Chamber of Commerce, 422-8359, P.O. Box 330, Baytown, Texas 77520 for a map of Baytown and La Porte-Bayshore Chamber of Commerce, 471-1123, PO Box 996, LaPorte, Texas 77571 for a map of LaPorte-Bayshore.

There is a \$1.50 fee for each count participant.

We will see you on Saturday, December 17.

FRIENDS OF CAVE CREEK CANYON, READ THIS!

What is this? It's an appeal to you to write a very necessary letter to the Coronado National Forest in Arizona, asking them to protect a place you know and love -- Cave Creek Canyon, in the Chiricahua Mountains.

Facts: Cave Creek Canyon is the most diverse biotic unit in the entire National Forest system. Cave Creek Canyon is the most heavily birded place in the system, and probably the most heavily studied by research biologists. The Forest Service will soon be deciding the course of future management for this canyon. Wildlife should be the highest priority, but we need to let them know how we feel about it. It won't happen otherwise. The Coronado National Forest (which administers the Chiricahua and other mountains in southern Arizona) is doing Land Use Planning now for the entire forest --looking at all area resources, weighing their relative importance, and deciding which are to be emphasized in the future and which are of secondary importance. The types of resources involved are mining, lumber, grazing, watershed protection, wildlife, and recreation. Right now, the main local pressures on Cave Creek are for continued grazing, hunting and trapping, a paved and improved campground system, a paved trans-mountain highway, and perhaps a fishing lake.

What should be done? The Cave Creek Basin should be declared a Wildlife Habitat Management Area. This would mean that the Forest Service would agree to manage primarily for wildlife in the canyon, under a formal Management Plan that spells out in detail just what will be done and what will not be done. The South Fork should be declared a National Zoological Area. This designation, more powerful and restrictive than the above one for the basin, will serve to emphasize the uniqueness and national significance of South Fork, and it will permit the Forest Service to do anything necessary to preserve its biological values.

Here is what is needed: Write a letter to the Forest Supervisor in Tucson, and send a copy to the Douglas District Ranger in Douglas. Some important points to make, in your own words:

- 1) Point out the national significance of Cave Creek Canyon as a biological area, both for birding and research. If you come a long distance to visit it, mention this.
- 2) Ask that they designate the Cave Creek basin as a Wildlife Habitat Management Area
- 3) Ask that the South Fork be designated a National Zoological Area.
- 4) Ask that the Management Plan (which must be drawn up) emphasize the importance of managing for diversity of wildlife and especially the rarer forms such as the Trogon, the Zone-tailed Hawk, the Coati Mundi, and the Banded Rock Rattlesnake. Also mention the importance of maintaining the values and conditions that attract birders and scientists to the canyon.
- 5) Ask how they are complying with the Endangered Species Act, which requires Federal agencies to review their holdings for the presence of endangered and threatened wildlife and its habitat.
- 6) Request that they inform you of any action or proposed action regarding Cave Creek Canyon's future.

Write to:	Ken Weissenborn, Supervisor	and	Benjamin Brunner
	Coronado National Forest		Douglas District Ranger
	301 West Congress Street		1925 A. Avenue
	Tucson, Arizona 85701		Douglas, Arizona 85607

OUR CHANCES ARE VERY GOOD -- IF WE WRITE! The people in the Forest Service who will make these decisions are sympathetic and are becoming more aware of the tremendous importance of Cave Creek to birders and scientists, and of their own role in maintaining the attractiveness of the area. However, if they don't hear from anyone except a few local recreation groups, they can't make a case for managing for wildlife habitat. They need your support. Please write now!

BIRDING IN PANAMA with Jane and George Clayton

With the exigency of the ensuing allergy season upon us, we flew out of Houston on the evening of October 1, 1977 and arrived at Tocuman Airport, Panama, about midnight. The next morning we drove to Colon and met Dr.'s Jaime Pujals, Dodge Engleman, and Arnold Weinberg of Boston in the parking lot of the old Washington Hotel. From there we drove out to the Canal Zone, under the Gatun lock, and into an area of jungle known as the "Tiger Trail". Neither Jane nor I were in any way prepared for the profusion of birds we were to see. On the narrow trail leading into the jungle were antbirds, antwrens, antshrikes, dacnis, barbets, trogons, and motmots. A gray-headed kite perched within a few yards of us and warblers were everywhere. After a late lunch, we were off toward Fort Sherman in the Canal Zone with a stop along the way to see chestnut-headed and crested cecropia. A marsh just before Fort Sherman revealed gray-neck wood rail and there were many migrant shore birds at Fort Sherman.

The next morning at 5:45 a.m. we were again off with Pujals, Engleman, and Weinberg to the famous Achote Road. Again, an absolute plethora of birds -- semi-plumbeous hawk, caciques, fruit crow, puff birds, white hawk, grosbeaks, and an array of beautiful tanagers. Later in the morning we saw ornate hawk-eagle and short-tailed hawk flying over the jungle. In the afternoon we birded the "Skunk Hollow Road" for manakins and saw red-capped, blue-crowned, and golden-collared.

On Monday we birded the Fort Sherman-Fort San Lorenzo area with good results but a missile whistled over our heads and impacted in the jungle nearby causing a hurried exit from that spot. In the late afternoon, we met Jaime Pujals and drove to the Coco Solo marsh for the lesser kiskadee, mangrove warbler, and greater ani. After dinner we went on a potoo-hunt with good results.

On Tuesday we flew to David and drove to Volcan in the Chiriqui highlands. The following morning we birded with Dr. Carol Meyer and Dr. Arnold Weinberg at a highland lake. At noon we drove to Cerro Punta and started up the Boquete trail on foot. After a two-mile walk we met Jose Fernandez, a youngster of 19 with quite a reputation as an ornithologist. He led us a few hundred yards beyond his house and immediately pointed out a female quetzal. We then climbed a hillside and within a few minutes a beautiful male flew into a tree 50 feet in front of us and perched. We were absolutely transfixed by the bird's beauty.

The following morning we again birded with Jose Fernandez seeing black-faced solitaire, large-footed finch, volcano hummingbird, long-tailed silky flycatcher, blackbilled nightingale thrush and a number of quetzals. The following day after birding the area of the Florida Audubon Society cabin, we flew back to Panama.

The next morning we took the train from Panama to Colon where Jaime Pujals met us. He was in a state of great excitement having seen Sabine's gull at Coco Solo, a new record for the Caribbean side of the Canal Zone. We drove to Coco Solo and there was the immature Sabine's at close range -- quite a thrill! From there we went to Fort Sherman and to the S8H road deep in the jungle. The birding was again fabulous -- chestnut-mandibled toucan, many woodcreepers, parrots, spotted antwren and others. From there to Fort San Lorenzo where we saw the long-tailed tyrant, a gorgeous crowned woodnymph, thick billed euphonia, and many more. The following day we went to the Chiva-Chiva road with Mrs. Carolyn Lowe and Pujals for our final day in Panama. The Pacific side proved as exciting as the Atlantic with again many new birds. There was an array of hummingbirds including white-vented plumeleteer, black-throated mango, white-necked jacobin and longtailed and green hermit, as well as bright rumped attila, white bellied antwren, long-billed gnat wren, red-legged honeycreeper and yellow-green tyrannulet.

The following day we flew to San Jose, Costa Rica and after browsing around town, we were off to Monte Verde the following day. A two-hour drive on the Pan American highway to the north and a one and one-half hour drive of 20 miles on a very rough road took us to Pension Quetzal. In the afternoon we birded in the rain around the pension and the next morning at dawn we hiked up the trail to cloud forest preserve, about 2 miles again in heavy rain. Despite the rain we saw some birds such as black guan, black and yellow silky flycatcher, rufous-browed peppershrike, orange-billed nightingale thrush and rufous and white wren. The following day we drove down the mountain and were off to Guatemala. The first stop was Antigua and then Lake Atitlan. The gardens at the hotel were alive with hummingbirds. Early one morning we went by boat across the lake and our young guide found the flightless Atitlan grebe. In the mountains above the lake we saw blue and white mockingbird, azure-crowned jay, yellow grosbeak, and rufous-collared robin. We returned to Guatemala City with plans to go to Tikal but after a two-hour wait at the airport, our flight was cancelled because of bad weather. Despite considerable disappointment, we decided to drive to the lowlands around Rio Dulce near the Gulf and saw a number of interesting birds.

The Canal Zone has to be one of the finest birding areas we have ever seen. In addition, the members of the Panama Audubon Society are extremely helpful for those wishing to bird there. Hopefully, many can take advantage of the excellent trips offered this winter as this marvelous ecosystem may be a thing of the past in only a few years.

(There is a Merlin Birding Tour to Panama, Dec. 29-Jan. 8, leader, Ben Feltner. For information contact him at PO Box 19687, Houston, 77024 --Ed.)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Decisions made at the December 1 meeting will affect all members of the OG, and I strongly urge all of you to attend. First of all, there will be election of officers for the 1978-79 year. For a number of years a change in meeting place has been advocated by some of you, and a decision must be made before January, when a new lease must be signed for the Fonde Center should we decide to stay there. Also, it has been urged for some time that meetings be held every month instead of every other month, and a vote will be taken on that. With several more items to be brought up, this is a very important meeting. Plan to be there!

PLACES TO GO

Conditions are still so dry, many of our little ponds and sloughs that usually have a showing of some early ducks by now don't have enough water in them to be very attractive to the birds. A few good rains should put moisture in the fields, such as in West Harris County, etc. When birding West Harris County, use your map which shows side roads you may want to explore in addition to birding your usual route of Clay, Katy-Hockley Cutoff, and House-and-Hahl.

On Porter Road in West Harris County, between Clay and Stockdick roads, there is a leveed pond, Blackie Tyler's lease, that can be very interesting. There is no way to enter, you must observe from the road, which means standing on your car to get a good view.

Sparrows, ducks, and shorebirds will be of interest for the next couple of months. Start haunting the jetties in Galveston or Freeport, especially in good north wind weather, to look for jaegers and gannets. There was one Surf Scoter reported last month at the Cooling Ponds, the scoters should be returning to the surf near High Island and Gilchrist. We hope the Oldsquaw returns also.

CLEARING HOUSE October, 1977

When submitting your sightings to the C-H, please put them in checklist order, for it saves the C-H editor a great deal of time and effort. Also remember, if you make several birding trips during the month, you can send in your sightings each time if you wish.

(How to read the C-H: Species: Location (how many) date, observers)

- Loon, Common: Dow Barge Canal: (1)3,TC; Chambers Co.: (2-flying along Intercoastal Canal near High I.)16,PC
 Grebe, Eared: Mercury Dr.: (1)11,(1)22,27,(3)31,WC
 GREBE, LEAST: Chambers Co.: (2)29,A (see notes)
 Pelican Brown: Bolivar: (1)15,OG, (1)16,L&MB (prior reports)
 Cormorant, Double-crested: Freeport Marsh: (1)5,L&MB; Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; (3)29,TE,JMo; Bolivar: (1)15,OG, (8)16,L&MB; (20+)29,A; HL&P: (5)22,CP
 Cormorant, Olivaceous: Bolivar: (2)15,OG, (2)16,L&MB; HL&P: (5)22,CP; Freeport Marsh: (1)23,L&MB
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: W.Galveston: (1)3,6,14,JHa; (1)14,D&JD,SH (late birds, see prior reports)
 Heron, Green: Ft. Bend Co.: (3)8,H; Bolivar: (2)15,OG; Freeport: (1-3)all month,L&MB; Chambers Co.: (3)24,P&MJ
 Egret, Reddish Egret: Mercury Dr.: (1)1,10,WC (unusual location); Bolivar: (4)6,JHa; (1-white phase)9,D&JD, (1)10,PJ; (1)15,OG
 Night Heron, Yellow-crowned: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; HL&P: (2)22,CP; Brazoria Co.: (1)24,SC
 Bittern, American: Anahuac NWR: (1)9,A&WE; Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ; Freeport Marsh: (1)13,S&TC
 Stork, Wood: HL&P: (4)22,CP
 Ibis, White: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)18,H; (6)29,TE,MJo; Maner Lake: (6)29,L&MB; W.Galveston: (3)11,(10)17,JHa; High I.: (6)15,OG; Chambers Co.: (5)24,P&MJ
 Spoonbill, Roseate: Bolivar: (27)10,PJ; W.Galveston: (2)11,(1)17,JHa; (1)24,JMo; HL&P: (5)22,CP; Baytown: (10+)30,D&JD
 Goose, Canada: Anahuac NWR: (5)19,A&WE; W.Harris Co.: (15)23,C&SCa
 Goose, White-fronted: Chambers Co.: (12,000)9,A&WE; (100)12,JMo, (80)25,A; W.Galveston: (3)16,L&MB; HL&P: (300)22,CP; Ft. Bend Co.: (24)29,TE,JMo
 Goose, Snow: Brazoria Co.: (50+)1,S&TC; Chambers Co.: (8,000)9,A&WE, (700)12,JMo, (150)29,A; W.Galveston: (4,000)12,BF,MJ, (3)14,(1)16,L&MB; HL&P: (2,500)22,CP
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Ft. Bend Co.: (7)8,H
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: Galveston: (1)14,JHa,JD,SH (unusual location in pond on 7 1/2 Mile Road.
 Mallard: Mercury Dr.: (2)10,WC; Chambers Co.: (2)12,JMo; HL&P: (4)22,CP
 Duck, Gadwall: Anahuac NWR: (65)9,A&WE, (300)24,P&MJ; W.Harris Co.: (4)20,R; HL&P: (5)22,CP
 Pintail: Bolivar: (7)9,D&JD; Chambers Co.: (200)12,JMo, (40)25,A; W.Harris Co.,(6)20,A; HL&P: (25)22,CP; Ft. Bend Co.: (40)29,TE,JMo
 Teal, Green-winged: Baytown: (10)12,D&JD; Galveston: (4)17,JHa; W.Harris Co.: (2)20,R; HL&P: (35)22,CP; Chambers Co.: (10)24,P&MJ
 Wigeon, American: Mercury Dr.: (1)1,WC; Galveston: (4)16,JHa; HL&P: (2,000)22,CP; Chambers Co.: (500)24,P&MJ
 Shoveler, Northern: Brazoria Co.: (1)5,(7)23,L&MB, (1)13,(10+)20,S&TC; Galveston: (2)16,JHa; W.Harris Co.: (n/c)20,R; HL&P: (5)22,CP
 Duck, Wood: Ft. Bend Co.: (22)8,H, (2)29,TE,JMo
 Redhead: HL&P: (25)22,CP; W.Harris Co.: (4-3f,1 m)30,TE,P&MJ
 Duck, Ring-necked: HL&P: (15)22,CP; Mercury Dr.: (4)27,WC
 Canvasback: HL&P: (8)22,CP (see notes); Mercury Dr.: (3)27,WC (see notes)
 Scaup, Lesser: Baytown: (1)12,(10+)30,D&JD; W.Harris Co.: (5)20,R; HL&P: (10)22,CP
 Scaup (Sp): Mercury Dr.: (2)13,31,(1)22,WC
 Bufflehead: HL&P: (60)21,Fred Jones (fide CP), (4)22,CP
 Scoter, Surf: HL&P: (1)22,CP (see notes)
 Duck, Ruddy: Mercury Dr.: (5)1,(16)10,(20)15,(123)22,(100)27,(42)31,WC; Baytown: (100+)12,(300+)30,D&JD; HL&P: (200)22,CP
 MERGANSER, RED-BREADED: Bolivar: (2)19,BF (see notes)
 Kite, White-tailed: Ft. Bend Co.: (2)8,H; W.Harris Co.: (2)18,DeK,HH
 KITE, MISSISSIPPI: Houston: (1)10,PC (see notes), (1)23,MA (yard-see notes)
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: Ft. Bend Co.: (3)8,H,(1)29,TE,JMo; High I.: (4)12,W, (2)15,OG; Galveston: (2)19,BF; W.Harris Co.: (2)20,R; HL&P: (1)22,CP; Baytown: (2)all month, D&JD
 Hawk, Cooper's: High I.: (1)15,OG; Galveston: (1)19,BF; W.Harris Co.: (1)20,R
 Hawk, Red-tailed: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; W.Harris Co.: (15)20,R, (5)30,TE; Chambers Co.: (2)22,J, (4)24,P&MJ, (2)29,A; Dow Nature Trail: (1)22,BB
 Hawk, Red-shouldered: W.Galveston: (1)9,D&JD
 Hawk, Broad-winged: Houston: (450)4,DeK, (5)4,JMo(yard); Ft. Bend Co.: (7)8,H, (1)29,TE,JMo; Brazoria Co.: (5)9,S&TC; High I.: (n/c)12,HH,DeK, (1)15,OG

Hawk, Swainson's: High I.: (1)12, JMo
Hawk, Marsh: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8, H, (3)29, TE, JMo; Chambers Co.: (1)7)9, A&WE, (7)12, JMo, (3)22, J, (2)24, P&MJ, (4)29, A; W. Galveston: (1)11, JHa, (5)24, JMo; Bolivar: (1)15, OG; W. Harris Co.: (1)20, R; HL&P: (3)22, CP
Osprey: Galveston: (1)3, 11, JHa, (1)12, BF, MJ, (1)14, TE; Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8, H; Bolivar: (4)9, PM, (1)19, BF; Baytown: (1)15, OG; Bryan Beach: (1)20, S&TC; HL&P: (3)22, CP, (2) all month, Mary Jones (fide DD); (1) all month at following locations: Baytown, La-Porte, Wallisville Reservoir, Lynchburg, D&J
Falcon, Peregrine: Brazoria Co.: (1)9, 14, L&MB (see notes); High I.: (1)12, W (see notes); (1)15, OG (see notes)
Merlin: Nottingham Ranch Rd.: (1)4, Linda Snyder (fide DD), (1)9, D&J (see notes); Anahuac NWR: (2)9, A&WE (see notes); High I.: (3)12, W (see notes); Bolivar: (1)15 A&WE
Prairie Chicken, Greater: Dickinson: (8)19, BF
PHEASANT, RING-NECKED: Anahuac NWR: (1)9, A&WE (prior reports)
Crane Sandhill: High I.: (1)24, Burton Flake (no field notes) (fide PJ)
Rail, Virginia: Bolivar: (1)15, OG
Sora: W. Harris Co.: (1)20, R
Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar: (8)10, PJ, (2)15, OG, (14) Sept. 17, (6)22, WC, (10)19, BF
Plover, Piping: Bolivar: (6)6, JHa, (8)15, OG, (25)19, BF
Plover, Snowy: Bolivar: (8)15, OG, (7)19, BF; Brazoria Co.: (1)16, L&MB, (1)20, S&TC
Plover, Wilson's: Bolivar: (1)19, BF
Plover, Golden American: Texas City: (4)9, D&J; W. Galveston I.: (1)14, L&MB (see notes)
Woodcock, American: Houston: (1)29, WC (see notes)
Snipe, Common: Ft. Bend Co.: (2)8, H, (2)29, TE, JMo; Galveston: (1)14, JHa, (1)14, TE, (1)14, D&J, SH, (2)19, BF; Chambers Co.: (2)22, J, (1)24, P&MJ, (1)29, A; W. Harris Co.: (1)30, TE
Sandpiper, Solitary: W. Galveston: (1)11, JHa, (1)14, L&MB; Bolivar: (1)15, OG; Brazoria: (1)16, L&MB
Knot, Red: Bolivar: (8)9, D&J, (20+)10, PJ, (25)15, OG; Brazoria Co.: (1)20, S&TC; Chambers Co.: (12)22, J
Sandpiper, Pectoral: W. Harris Co.: (8)30, TE, P&MJ
SANDPIPER, BAIRD'S: (2)8, (1)11, JHa (no field notes)
Dunlin: Brazoria Co.: (1)12, 16, L&MB; Bolivar: (1)15, OG; W. Harris Co.: (3)30, TE, P&MJ
Dowitcher, Short-billed: Baytown: (5)12, D&J
Dowitcher, Long-billed: W. Galveston: (2)3, (1)17, JHa; Anahuac NWR: (6)9, A&WE; HL&P: (1)22, CP
Dowitcher (Sp.): Bolivar: (2)15, OG
Sandpiper, Stilt: Brazoria Co.: (1)12, 16, L&MB
Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar: (4)15, OG, (3)22, WC; Galveston: (17)19, BF
Stilt, Black-necked: Bolivar: (2)15, OG, (1)23, JHa
Phalarope, Wilson's: Baytown: (1)12, D&J (see notes)
Gull, Herring: Bolivar: (76)10, PJ, (3)15, OG; HL&P: (1)22, CP
Gull, Ring-billed: Bolivar: (64)10, PJ, (2)15, OG; HL&P: (1)22, CP
Tern, Gull-billed: Anahuac NWR: (16)9, A&WE
Tern, Common: Bolivar: (8)10, PJ, (2)15, OG; HL&P: (4)22, CP
Tern, Least: Bolivar: (1)10, PJ; Brazoria Co.: (1)12, LB
Tern, Sandwich: Bolivar: (37)10, PJ, (15)15, OG
Tern, Black: HL&P: (1)CP (no field notes)
Dove, White-winged: Freeport Municipal Park: (1)9, S&TC; W. Galveston: (1)24, JMo
DOVE, RINGED TURTLE: Bellaire: (12)31, PJ (prior reports)
Dove, Ground: W. Harris Co.: (2)30, TE; Freeport City Park: (1)4, S&TC; Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8, H, (1)8, JMo, DMa, (2)29, TE, JMo; Anahuac NWR: (2)9, A&WE; W. Galveston: (1)24, JMo, (2)25, C
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed: Ft. Bend Co.: (7)8, H; Galveston: (25+)9, D&J, (1)11, 25, JHa, (2)19, BF (see notes); High I.: (3)15, OG; Freeport City Hall: (1)23, LB (see notes)
Pearland: (1)25, 28, B&EW (yard-no field notes)
Ani, Groove-billed: Anahuac NWR: (1)9, A&WE; Kempner Park: (1)12, BF; Nottingham Ranch Road: (1)19, BF, (3)14, TE, D&J, SH, (1)15, A&WE, (1)16, J&BH, (2)30, JHa
Owl, Barn: High I.: (1)15, OG; Bolivar: (2)19, BF
Owl, Screech: HL&P: (1)22, CP; W. Harris Co.: (1)30, TE
Owl, Great Horned: Dow Nature Trail: (2)22, BB
Owl, Barred: Ft. Bend Co.: (5)8, H, (4)29, TE, JMo
Owl, Short-eared: Surfside: (1)14, LB (see notes); Bolivar: (1)15, OG (see notes)
Chuck-will's-widow: High I.: (1)15, OG, (1)29, A
Whip-poor-will: High I.: (1)9, D&J, (1)15, OG; Houston: (1)15, 27, WC (see notes)
Nighthawk, Common: Anahuac NWR: (3)9, A&WE; Brazoria Co.: (1)9, S&TC
Swift, Chimney: Baytown: (1,000+)4, D&J; Houston: (10+)5, JMo (yard), (100+)26, Noel
Pettingell (Main P.O.); Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8, H; High I., (2)15, OG
Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: High I.: (1)15, OG; Galveston: (7)19, BF
HUMMINGBIRD, BLACK-CHINNED: Houston: (1)3-31, MA (yard)
Hummingbird, Rufous: Baytown: (1)5, D&J; Lake Jackson: (1)13, SC; Bellaire: (1)23, 24, P&MJ (yard)

- Kingfisher, Belted: Ft. Bend Co.: (4)8,H, (2)29,TE,JMo; Chambers Co.: (6)9,A&WE, (2)12,JMo, (3)24,P&MJ, (4)29,A; Galveston: (2)11,(1)17,JHa; High l.: (5)15,OG; Houston: (1)19,JMo(yard); HL&P: (3)22,CP
- Flicker, Common (Yellow-shafted): Ft. Bend Co.: (12)8,H, (15)29,TE,JMo; Anahuac NWR: (1)9,A&WE; High l.: (1)9,D&JD, (6)12,JMo, (5)15,OG; Galveston: (2)13,14,17,JHa; Dow Nature Trail: (4)22,BB; HL&P: (2)22,CP
- Woodpecker, Red-headed: Houston: (1)8,M&JBo(Hermann Park)
- Sapsucker, Yellow-bellied: High l.: (4)12,JMo, (10)15,OG, (2)29,A; W.Galveston: (3)12,BF,MJ, (1)25,JHa; Ft. Bend Co.: (3)29,TE,JMo
- Kingbird, Western: High l.: (1)15,OG
- Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed: Ft. Bend Co.: (9)8,H; Brazoria Co.: (4)9,L&MB; Bolivar: (4)10,PJ; W.Galveston: (15)19,BF, (13)24,JMo; W.Harris Co.: (75)20,R, (10)30,TE; Mercury Dr.: (1)27,WC
- Phoebe, Eastern: Ft. Bend Co.: (5)8,H, (3)129,TE,JMo; Galveston: (1)11,14,JHa; Houston: (1-2)12,15,29,WC; High l.: (2)15,OG; W.Harris Co.: (1)20,R; Dow Nature Trail: (3)22,BB
- Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: W.Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ, (1)19,BF
- Flycatcher, Empidonax (Sp.): High l.: (1)12,JMo, (1)15,OG; Houston: (1)15,16,17,WC; W.Galveston: (2)25,C; Ft. Bend Co.: (1)29,TE,JMo (see notes)
- Pewee, Eastern: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; High l.: (2)12,JMo, (3)15,OG, (1)22,J, (1)29,A; W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ, (1)25,C; Brazoria Co.: (1)13,SC; Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; Anahuac NWR: (1)9,A&WE
- Flycatcher, Vermilion: Ft. Bend Co.: (4)8,H, (1)8,JMo&DMA, (9)29,TE,JMo; Lake Anahuac: (1)24,P&MJ; W.Harris Co.: (2)30,P&MJ; Pearland: (1 pr.)30,B&EW (yard)
- Swallow, Tree: Anahuac NWR: (5)9,A&WE; Chambers Co.: (20+)12,JMo, (2)15,OG
- Swallow, Bank: Ft. Bend Co.: (2)8,H; High l.: (1)15,OG
- Swallow, Rough-winged: Ft. Bend Co.: (20)8,H; Chambers Co.: (20+)12,JMo, (300+)15,OG; W.Galveston: (n/c)14,JHa; HL&P: (2)22,CP
- Swallow, Barn: Ft. Bend Co.: (2)8,H; Chambers Co.: (8)9,A&WE, (50+)12,JMo, (27)15,OG; Bolivar: (2)10,PJ; HL&P: (5)22,CP
- Swallow, Cliff: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; W.Galveston: (8)12,BF,MJ
- Crow, Fish: Beaumont City Dump: (4)15,L&MB
- Nuthatch, Red-breasted: High l.: (4)12,W, (1)16,PC, (1)29,A; Galveston: (1)13,14,JHa, (1)14,D&JD,SH; Freeport City Park: (1)13,S&TC; Bolivar: (1)15,OG; Houston: (1)27,DeK, (1)30,C&SCa(yard)
- Nuthatch, Brown-headed: Houston: (2)5,(1)14,(2)16,JMo(yard)
- Wren, House: High l.: (1)12,JMo; Lake Jackson: (1)13,SC
- Wren, Winter: Freeport City Park: (1)13,S&TC; W.Galveston: (1)16,JD; HL&P: (1)22,CP; Houston: (1)22,24,(2)29,30,WC; Bellaire: (1)21,MJ(yard); W.Harris Co.: (1)30,TE
- Wren, Bewick's: Bellaire: (1)16,David Marrack(yard-see notes)
- Wren, Long-billed Marsh: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H, (2)29,TE,JMo
- Wren, Sedge (Short-billed Marsh): Houston: (1)14,15,29,WC; HL&P: (1)22,CP; Chambers Co.: (1)24,P&MJ
- Catbird, Gray: Ft. Bend Co.: (5)8,H, (1)29,TE,JMo; High l.: (1)9,D&JD, (30+)12,JMo, (10)15,OG, (2)16,L&MB, (3)22,J; W.Galveston: (1)13,17,(3)25,JHa, (40)19,BF, (4)25,C; Kempner: (5)24,JMo
- Thrasher, Brown: Houston: (2)4,JMo(yard); Ft. Bend Co.: (25)8,H, (20)29,TE,JMo; Brazoria: (1)12,TE, (7)13,SC, (4)22,BB; High l.: (35+)12,JMo, (30)15,OG, (8)16,L&MB, (10)22,J, (10)24,JMo, (15)29,A; Kempner Park: (2)13,25,(1)17,JHa, (10)24,JMo; HL&P: (2)22,CP
- Robin, American: Houston: (3)2,30,(2)27,WC, (4)9,M&JBo
- Thrush, Wood: Houston: (1)8,M&JBo; High l.: (1)12,JMo, (1)16,L&MB,PC; Galveston: (4)25,JF
- Thrush, Hermit: High l.: (1)12,JMo, (1)16,L&MB,PC; Galveston: (1)16,25,JHa, (1)19,BF; Ft. Bend Co.: (3)29,TE,JMo
- Thrush, Swainson's: Kempner Park: (1)13,25,JHa, (1)24,JMo; High l.: (1)15,OG, (1)16,L&MB, (1)22,J
- Veery: Houston: (1)10,TE (see notes)
- Kinglet, Ruby-crowned: Houston: (1)3,WC, (2)5,JMo(yard); High l.: (1)12,JMo, (10)15,OG, (2)29,A; Brazoria Co.: (1)13,S&TC; HL&P: (3)22,CP; Ft. Bend Co.: (40)29,TE,JMo
- Pipit, Water: Ft. Bend Co.: (2)29,TE,JMo
- Vireo, White-eyed: High l.: (3)12,JMo, (4)15,OG; Kempner Park: (2)24,JMo, (1)25,JHa
- Vireo, Yellow-throated: High l.: (1)15,OG
- Vireo, Solitary: High l.: (1)16,D&JD; Ft. Bend Co.: (1)29,TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.: (1)30,TE
- Vireo, Red-eyed: W.Galveston: (1)9,D&JD, (1)12,BF,MJ, (1)14,25,JHa, (2)25,C; High l.: (3)12,JMo, (2)15,OG; Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Vireo, Philadelphia: High l.: (1)12,W; W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ, (2)13,JHa
- Warbler, Black-and-white: High l.: (10)12,JMo, (10)15,OG, (1)16,L&MB; W.Galveston: (5)12,BF,MJ, (1)17,25,JHa, (6)19,BF, (1)25,C; Freeport City Park: (1)23,L&MB; Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Warbler, Worm-eating: High l.: (2)12,W (see notes)
- Warbler, Blue-winged: High l.: (3)12,W
- Warbler, Tennessee: High l.: (1)12,W, (6)15,OG, (1)16,L&MB; W.Galveston: (4)12,BF,MJ, (5)24,JMo; (1)25,C; HL&P: (1)22,CP; Kempner Park: (30+)24,JMo, (2)24,(1)25,JHa; W.Harris Co.: (1)30,TE

- Warbler, Orange-crowned: High I.: (1)12,JMo; W.Galveston: (1)25,C; Ft. Bend Co.: (8)29, TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.: (10)30,TE
- Warbler, Nashville: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ; Freeport City Park: (2)12,(3)13,S&TC; High I.: (3)12,W, (1)15,OG; W.Harris Co.: (1)30,TE
- WARBLER, VIRGINIA'S: W. Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ (see notes), (1)13,J&BH,JHa (see notes)
- Warbler, Northern Parula: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; High I.: (4)12,W, (1)15,OG; W.Galveston: (4)12,BF,MJ, (2)13,J&BH, (1)25,C; Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Warbler, Magnolia: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; High I.: (6)12,W, (6)15,OG; W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ, (1)17,JHa, (2)19,BF, (2)25,C; Houston: (1)18,J&BH(yard); Freeport City Park: (1)23,L&MB; Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Warbler, Black-throated Blue: W. Galveston: (1)14,JHa
- WARBLER, CAPE MAY: Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo (see notes), (1)24,25,JHa (see notes), (1)25,C (no field notes) (This is a first fall record in the UTC; there are two winter records, both in late December. --CH Editor)
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle): Kempner Park: (2)13,JHa; High I.: (1)29,A
- Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Audubon's): W.Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ, (1)13,J&BH
- Warbler, Black-throated Gray: High I.: (1)12,JMo, et al (see notes), (1)15,OG
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: W.Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ, (1)14,JHa, (1)19,BF, (1)25,C; High I.: (6)12,W, (5)15,OG, (1)29,A; HL&P: (1)22,CP
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: High I.: (1)12,W, (1)16,L&MB
- Warbler, Bay-breasted: Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Warbler, Prairie: High I.: (2)9,D&JD (see notes)
- Warbler, Palm: W.Galveston: (3)12,BF,MJ, (1)16,DD,PJ, (1)25,C; HL&P: (1)22,CP
- Ovenbird: Houston: (1)11,WC; High I.: (2)12,W, (1)22,WC; Galveston: (1)13,JHa
- Warbler, Mourning: High I.: (1)16,LB
- Warbler, Hooded: High I.: (8)12,W; W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ; Houston: (1)25,J&BH(yard)
- Warbler, Wilson's: Houston: (1)14,19,JMo(yard), (1-3)4-30,WC; Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H, (26)29,TE,JMo; High I.: (4)12,JMo; Brazoria Co.: (1-5)12,13,S&TC; W.Galveston: (5)12,BF,MJ, (1)13,JHa, (2)19,BF; Anahuac NWR: (1)24,P&MJ
- Warbler, Canada: High I.: (5)12,W; Galveston: (1)19,BF
- Redstart, American: Houston: (1)3,18,21,24,(2)14,16,23,WC; Ft. Bend Co.: (2)8,H; W. Galveston: (16)12,BF,MJ, (1)14,25,JHa, (1)14,D&JD,SH, (7)19,BF, (2)25,C; High I.: (25+)12,W, (5)15,OG, (1)22,J, (1)24,JMo; Kempner Park: (1)24,JMo
- Meadowlark, Western: W.Galveston: (1)24,JMo (see notes)
- Black-bird, Yellow-headed: (4)9,Ron Braun of Austin (fide DD); W.Harris Co.: (1)30, P&MJ (see notes)
- Oriole, Orchard: High I.: (1)15,OG
- Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): High I.: (3)15,OG
- Tanager, Scarlet: Houston: (1)5,10,JMo(yard); W.Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ; High I.: (1)15,OG
- Tanager, Summer: Houston: (1)4,9,JMo(yard); Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,H; Galveston: (2)12,BF, MJ, (1)13,(2)25,JHa; High I.: (6)12,W, (6)15,OG; Dow Nature Trail, (2)22,BB
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted: Houston: (1-2)10-23,WC; W.Galveston: (1)9,D&JD, (2)12,BF,MJ; High I.: (1)12,JMo, (1)15,OG
- Grosbeak, Black-headed: Nottingham Ranch Road: (2)14,TE, (1)16,D&JD,MJ, (1)19,BF, (1)25,C
- Grosbeak, Blue: W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ
- Bunting, Indigo: Ft. Bend Co.: (2)8,H, (1)29,TE,JMo; Houston: (1)9,JMo(yard); W.Galveston: (20)12,BF,MJ; High I.: (30+)12,JMo, (3)15,OG; Brazoria Co.: (2)13,SC, (7)22,BB; W.Harris Co.: (1)20,R
- Bunting, Painted: W.Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ, (1)14,TE; High I.: (2)12,JMo, (1)15,OG
- Tickcissel: Brazoria Co.: (1)12,TC,LB; W.Galveston: (1)12,BF,MJ; Houston: (2)17,WC
- Finch, Purple: Freeport City Park: (1)23,LB (see notes)
- Cowhee, Eastern: Houston: (1 heard)27,WC
- Sparrow, Savannah: Anahuac NWR: (20)9,A&WE; Houston: (1)16,29,WC; Galveston: (7)19,BF; W.Harris Co.: (9)20,R, (30)30,TE; HL&P: (5)22,CP; High I.: (5)29,A; Ft. Bend Co.: (3)29,TE,JMo
- Sparrow, Grasshopper: W.Galveston: (1)12,BF; W.Harris Co.: (1)30,P&MJ
- Sparrow, Seaside: Bolivar: (3)15,OG
- Sparrow, Vesper: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)29,TE,JMo
- Sparrow, Lark: Ft. Bend Co.: (1)8,JMo&DMa; W.Galveston: (3)11,JHa, (3)19,BF, (1)24,JMo, (4)25,C
- Junco, Dark-eyed (slate-colored): Houston: (1)16,Ellen Red (Rice U. - see notes)
- Sparrow, Chipping: W.Galveston: (1)19,BF; Houston: (3)29,WC
- Sparrow, White-crowned: W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ, (1)14,TE, (1)17,JHa, (7)19,BF, (4)25,C; High I.: (4)15,OG; W.Harris Co.: (1)20,R, (2)30,TE; Houston: (1)21,29,WC; (All early birds, but Oct. 8, 1950 is earliest UTC record. --CH Editor)
- Sparrow, White-throated: Houston: (1)27,(2)29,WC; Ft. Bend Co.: (5)29,TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.: (5)30,TE
- Sparrow, Lincoln's: Houston: (4)9,(1)15,(3)16,WC; Brazoria Co.: (1)12,TC; W.Galveston: (2)12,BF,MJ; W.Harris Co.: (2)20,R, (3)30,TE; Anahuac NWR: (2)24,P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co.: (8)29,TE,JMo
- Sparrow, Swamp: Houston: (1)16,WC; W.Harris Co.: (1)20,R, (10)30,TE; HL&P: (10)22,CP; Anahuac NWR: (1)24,P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co.: (32)29,TE,JMo
- Sparrow, Song: HL&P: (3)22,CP; Ft. Bend Co.: (4)29,TE,JMo; W.Harris Co.: (1)30,TE

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS: MA-Margaret Anderson; L&MB-Larry & Martha Ballard; M&JBo-Mary & Janice Bourgeois; C&SCa-Chuck & Suzi Campbell; S&TC-Sherry & Tom Collins; P&WC-Penny & Wesley Cureton; D&JD-David, Jan & Stephanie Dauphin; DeK-Debbie DeKeyzer; A&WE-Ann & Willard Elston; T&JE-Ted, Jr. & Janet Eubanks; BF-T. Ben Feltner; SH-Sharon Hackleman; JHa-Jane Hamilton; J&BH-Jean & Bill Harwell; HH-Holly Hobart; P&MJ-T. Paul & Margaret Jones; DMa-David Matson; PM-Polly Moore; JMo-Jim Morgan; B&EW-Bob & Edith Willman; A-party of MA, P&MJ; BB-Brazosport Birders field trip; C-party of MA, Virginia Courtney, MJ & Norma Oates; CP-party of Richard & Maxine Davis, D&JD, A&WE, TE, Oscar Hibler, P&MJ, JMo, Bob & Aileen Moulton, Elric McHenry and Bob Norris; H-party of Mary Ann Chapman, Marilyn Crane, DD, TE, BH, Bob Hollingsworth, P&MJ, DMa, JMo, Dick Pratt; J-party of DD, TE, JMo; OG-Ornithology Group field trip (25 observers); R-party of MA, Virginia Courtney, MJ, Ellen Red; W-party of DeK, HH, JMo, David & Mimi Hoppe Wolf.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

LEAST GREBE: Small dark gray birds; little black bill; yellow eye, "chopped off rear end", light gray in color (no white in rump). Good light, distance about 175 yards, binoculars and scope used by all three observers. (These birds were discovered by Merry Cox of Orange, who said the owner of the property (Catfish Farm, on Hwy 124) told her they had been there about a month). --Margaret Jones

Canvasback: Large duck, whitish sides, blackish breast and undertail, rusty red head, sloping all dark bill. Head shape triangular, neck very erect. Females grayer than accompanying males, but head still had pale rusty tinge. --Paul Jones

The two drakes had light grayish sides and back, black breast, brick-red neck and head, and distinctive sloping forehead and beak. Female was the same size and shape, but brownish. In company with ruddy ducks and ringnecks. 300 yards, 32X telescope, full sun. --Wesley Cureton

Surf Scoter: Black duck with thick bill "faired" into head. White spot on forehead and back of head, bill had variegated look with yellow and white showing on the bill. No white visible in plumage except head spots. Bird flew off while being observed and flew rapidly and low over the water surface, still showing only black in plumage. A very early occurrence of this species. --Paul Jones

RED-BREADED MERGANSER: Two ducks smaller than nearby Herry Gulls. Pretty uniformly gray, head warm reddish-brown and shaggy crested; color of head suffused with gray of back. Bill: very fine, reddish and pointed. Bold white wing patches and speculum seen in both bird while sitting and in flight. Distance about 40 yards, watched at rest and in flight for about one minute with 30X Balescope and 8x10 binoculars. Bright overhead sunlight. --Ben Feltner (A new early record for this species in the UTC. Records indicate Oct. 29, 1941 as earliest prior date in fall. --CH Editor)

MISSISSIPPI KITE: Penny Cureton reported seeing this kite and gave me the following details: small, uniformly grayish hawk with pointed wings and wide, wedge-shaped tail. Wings and tail seemed darker than the rest of the body. Soared overhead, flapping only a few times. Even though she had no binoculars with her, she identified the species immediately, having seen it a number of times during August and September of this and other years. --Wesley Cureton (Previous late fall dates: Dec. 26, 1948, Baytown and Nov. 25, 1950, Houston --CH Editor)

Peregrine Falcon: Standing on telephone post on Brazoria County Road 23; Large falcon--black with blue back, single black notch below eye, white throat, gray barred chest, black tail. Observed in good light at a distance of 25 ft. about 4:45 p.m. --Larry Ballard

Sighted on road to Galveston at Surfside bridge, flying at a height of about 20 feet. Description as above. Also, noted the bird seemed to be about 16" long. --Larry B.

Large falcon, at least twice the length and wingspan of Kestrel with much heavier body. Pointed wings, dark brown above, streaked below and lightly barred tail. Very conspicuous lobe (moustache) on side of face. Flight strong with deep rowing wing beats and intermittent gliding. Seen for 3 minutes as close as 50 feet to 100 yards in excellent light with 8.5 x 44 binocs. --Jim Morgan

Black moustache clearly seen. Large size, long pointed wings and gray-brown upper body color. Seen at 100 feet to 500 yards with 10x50 binocs for 2 minutes. Seen clearly by two observers. --Jim Morgan

Merlin: Bird seen in flight with 10x50 binocs in good light. Very non-descript slate-gray falcon with long, pointed wings, large black-banded tail, heavily streaked below. --David Dauphin

Merlin: Two birds, persistently perched in the small trees beyond the old cow barn on the Teal Slough Road. Larger than the kestrel - lacking the facial sideburn pattern, had long tail with bars - loud scream while circling grove then back to same perch.

--Ann Elston

Small falcon, pointed wings, brown above, streaked below and distinctly barred tail. No distinguishing facial markings. Seen at distances of 20 feet to 100 feet for 30 seconds in excellent light with 8.5x44 binocs. --Jim Morgan

American Golden Plover: Observed at Galveston Island State Park standing on a small dune near beach. Bird was in winter plumage: head, tan with dark cap, tannish speckled chest and belly, black legs, brown chain pattern to plumage. Observed at about 11 yards in fairly good light at 6 p.m. with 8x50 and 10x50 binocs. --Larry Ballard

American Woodcock: Except for orange tail feathers seen as the bird flew away from me, I saw so little of the actual bird that I must base this identification upon size, habitat, and behavior. The bird was a little larger than a killdeer. Twice during the day I scared it from the same area in a riparian woodland along White Oak Bayou where two of the birds were seen regularly last winter. The bird flew explosively from the ground with the familiar whistling of the wings. --Wesley Cureton

Wilson's Phalarope: Bird seen swimming at 20 yards; 10x50 binocs; good light; light on face; dark eye spot; gray above and on wings, with darker wingtips; white below; dark, stiletto-like sharp bill. --David Dauphin

Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Location: 33rd and Ursaline streets in a large post oak about 40 ft. above the ground. Both birds exhibited long graduated tails with large white spots on the underside. Reddish bloom in the primaries noted on both birds as well as yellow lower mandibles. Distance about 45 ft. with 8x40 binoculars in slightly overcast light. Observed for about 40 seconds. One bird later heard to call. (Late occurrence). --Ben Felner

Observed sitting in a tree for about 4 minutes. Lower mandible yellow, white breast, large spots on tail. Seen at a range of 20 ft. in light overcast light at 5:15 p.m. with 8x50 binoculars. --Larry Ballard

Short-eared Owl: Flushed out of the grass in the marshy grass of Bolivar Flats (while trying to "walk-up" rails). Long pointed wings with black and buffy pattern at bend. Flight was irregular in beat. Kept low above grass tops and alit at a farther distance on small bush. With binoculars I was able to see the brownish eye circles, and as I approached the bird it flushed again and the wide black patch on the fore part of the underwing could be seen. Bird would not let me approach closer than 15 to 20 yards without flying off in a lazy manner to another perch, from which it seemed to be observing my actions. --Paul Jones

Flying low over salt grass, flight pattern somewhat similar to Marsh Hawk. Brown barred tail, black, brown and white wing tips. Heavy short head, brown and white head with small black beak. Range 20 yards in good light at 5:10 p.m. --Larry Ballard

Whip-poor-will: Flew out of the woods along White Oak Bayou and directly over my head at about 7 p.m., clearly showing a goatsucker's profile. Slightly larger than a blue jay, thus too small for a chuck-will's-widow. Looked heavier and broader-winged than a nighthawk. Too dark to see the actual markings. A minute earlier I had heard nearby some muffled purps that could have been this bird's call. --Wesley Cureton

Veery: This bird was a window kill, which has been preserved as a specimen by Randy Beavers. I found it near the Post Oak area shortly after it had apparently flown in to a window. Very brownish overall coloring. Faint spotting on upper breast, but not a washed look as on the Swainson's. --Ted Eubanks, Jr.

Bewick's Wren: This wren has returned to the same clump of bushes in my yard for several years. --David Marrack

Empidonas Flycatcher: Small flycatcher, basically gray above, yellowish underneath from throat to undertail coverts. Whitish to possible yellow eye-ring. Strong white wing bars. Raised and lowered tail. General appearance suggestive of Yellow-bellied species but voice uttered was a fast "wheep, wheep, wheep", closer to, but not quite like, a Willow's call if put together in a series. Details do not seem conclusive enough for definitive identification. --Ted Eubanks, Jr.

Worm-eating Warbler: Buffy breast, buff-olive back and wings, no wing bars. Black stripes on buffy crown. Seen for 5 minutes in excellent light with 8.5x44 binocs. --Jim Morgan

VIRGINIA'S WARBLER:Location: Hamilton Kennel property bayside of West Galveston.Size: Slightly smaller than common yellowthroat.Description: Upperpart, including top and sides of head, nape and back, clear gray. Lores whitish. Eye ring, strong and whitish. Underparts clear off-white. Upper chest washed with suffused light yellow. Crissum, conspicuous light yellow. Rump, slightly duller shade of the same basic color. Beak and legs horn colored. Shape of beak fine and pointed similar to that of Northern Parula.Voice: Not heard.Behavior: Somewhat fidgety, but rather unconcerned about human presence. The bird first appeared to the observers from the East in flight and was marked to land in a clump of rattlebean bushes next to a barbed wire fence about 25 feet from where we stood. There it perched for about 15 seconds before hopping onto the top strand of the barbed-wire fence, where it posed in assorted positions for about 45 seconds before returning to the shrubs. From that point it again returned to the fence briefly and then flew across the road in front of us to perch on the lowest strand of a telephone line about 16 feet above the ground and 60 feet away. From that point it disappeared in flight toward the WNW. It was seen to fly into a line of salt cedars where it was subsequently found the next day.Total duration of observation: about 1 1/2 minutesClosest distance: 25 feet.Light: Bright overhead sun directly on the bird.Optical equipment: 8x40 binoculars

This constitutes the first record for the species on the U.T.C. I am familiar with the bird from travels in the Southwest and I have seen it on a number of occasions in Arizona and New Mexico where it is fairly common on hot oak-juniper hillsides. Failure to observe a chestnut crown-patch is not critical to the bird's identification, as this is often hidden. Both Margaret Jones and I agree on the identification of the bird. --T. Ben Feltner

Bird sat on barbed wire fence not more than 15 feet from me for several minutes--small grey bird--noted yellow on breast, white eye ring and yellow rump and under tail coverts. --Jane Hamilton

CAPE MAY WARBLER: Found foraging in oak tree on Ave. "0" side of Kempner Park. Found it at 8:30 a.m. and relocated it twice later. Total viewing time of 30 minutes allowed collection of following details: Brown back and crown, faintly streaked with black. Brown cheek patch completely outlined in yellow. This patch not as chestnut as a spring plumaged male. No eye-ring. Rich yellow throat and chest. Heavy black streaking on chest and sides with streaking originating nearly on the throat. White belly and undertail coverts. White underside of tail outlined, or edged, in black. Dark brown upperside of tail. Rich yellow-orange rump color. Strong white wing patch on brown wings. Black legs. Very aggressive bird, chased out all other warblers entering "his tree". Seen at distances of 15 to 50 feet with 8.5x44 binocs. Called Jane Hamilton who came to see the bird with her husband, John. Seen also on following day by at least 6 more observers

Black-throated Gray Warbler: Seen foraging in large oak tree. Immediately, I knew what this bird wasn't. It had gray back, gray wings with two white wing bars, dark charcoal crown and white and black facial striping. The black facial stripe ran through the eye and widened behind the eye. Very distinct yellow spot in front of the eye. Dark gray-black on sides of throat. Rest of throat white with a tinge of gray-black directly under bill. Black side stripes on otherwise white underparts (breast, belly and undertail coverts). Underside of tail mostly white. Black legs. After viewing this bird for 10 minutes in excellent light at distances of 20 to 50 feet with 8.5x44 binocs I noted all details and went to get Holly Hobart, Debbie DeKeyser, David Wolf and Mimi Hoppe (who were birding in Smith Woods) so they could see the bird. All four of these observers saw this bird real well and during these observations the bird voiced a buzzy note and a "chit" type of note as well. Also, this bird was easily relocated the following Saturday for the OG field trip and Alma Barrera and gang from Austin. At least 40 observers finally saw this bird, the details of which imply the sex to be female. --Jim Morgan

Prairie Warbler: Good light at 10 feet. Wagged tails; yellow below with dark streaked sides, olive above and on wings, light wingbars, yellow and black face streaks.

--David Dauphin

Western Meadowlark: Found three singing meadowlarks in a field off Nottingham Ranch Road. Two birds definitely sang as Easterns, the third bird had a very different, clear, two syllabled song, loud and musical and not slurred. Conclusion: western species. --Jim Morgan

Yellow-headed Blackbird: Observed in weeds at edge of farm and near pond among cowbirds and grackles. Field marks noted: Light ochre head, black tail and belly, dull yellow throat and breast, a few white streaks at mid belly. Seen in good morning light with binoculars. --Paul Jones

Purple Finch: Observed at range 25 ft. on low branch of tree after I had flushed him from grass. Purplish red head and chest, white belly, brown wings, reddish purple rump and back, brown tail, brownish patch on face below the eye. Seen at 5:28 p.m. with binoculars. --Larry Ballard

Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco: White beak, dark head and chest, white belly, sitting quietly in tree. --Ellen Red

ROSTER ADDITIONS

New members:

Ms. Carol Bookout, 13322 Quiet Wood Court, Houston 77038	448-8860
Richard Eshbaugh, 14218 East Cypress Forest Dr., Houston 77070	468-4885
Mr. & Mrs. P.D. Sadler (Louise), 1402 So. Post Oak Rd. #55, Houston 77056	629-5607
Dr. John A. Trochet, 7605 Phoenix #654, Houston 77030	797-9127

New subscribers:

Tony Gallucci, P.O. Box SR-6381, Alpine, Texas 79830	
Robert Norris, 122 Caldwell Dr., Baytown 77520	424-5605
Mrs. Fred H. (Anne) Speers, 6016 Crystal Forest, Conroe 77302	1-264-1503
John E. Sunder, 2602 Rae Dell, Austin, Texas 78704	

OF OWLS AND CALLS by David Marrack

Many of us have used calls of various kinds, hopefully to stimulate birds to be seen. Some of these are specific for one species. The calling of Screech Owls has quite a following. Many members have seen and photographed Screech Owls at 420 Mulberry, their pleasure being encouraged by mice handout.

Other Owl species haunt, or hunt, Bellaire. A Great Horned Owl has been in the South east area of Bellaire for some years. I've seen it on the Boulevard several times in the middle of the night. Barn Owls come along the HL&P easement occasionally.

In September, I was aware of more frequent glimpses of a large bird, presumed raptor, at early dusk around the far end of the garden. A Mississippi Kite was in the area regularly at the time but I was not sure all the "flashes" were him. Later I felt sure the elusive visitor was an owl, but which? Then one evening in October, my daughter saw the bird land in a tree when we were at the far end of the garden and with a little moving, I could see a Barred Owl silhouetted against the western twilight sky. A mouse offering was made and soon accepted and thus began a game to get the bird feeding from my hand. Mice also attracted two cats and for awhile there was a predator battle till I fixed a cat-proof system.

At the moment this owl will come to calls, collect mice and is tame enough to sit whilst we watch each other at 18 feet with lots of lights on. I have got closer but nowhere near the mouse-in-hand delivery stage as I have done with Screech Owls.

Interestingly, my local Screech Owls have stayed out of sight, to date, during these dining sessions.

Anybody interested in a good look at a Barred Owl can come by on a quiet night and we'll try for a mouse dinner and a view. Call 667-1397.

A SHORT "REFRESHER" COURSE ON BARRED OWLS

Identification: This big gray-brown owl with its short tail looks chunky. It is a round-headed, hornless owl with enormous blackish eyes in grayish facial disks lined with narrow brown concentric rings. The bill is yellowish. Its face has the curious appearance of being almost submerged in the collar formed by the barring of the feathers of the head, neck, and upper breast. It is grayish brown above, liberally barred--the wings also spotted--with white; mainly whitish below with numerous brown bars across the breast and bold brown stripes down belly, sides and flanks. The average length is about 20 inches, wingspan, 3 3/4 feet, and average weight is about 1 3/4 lbs

Range: East of Rockies from Newfoundland, s. Quebec, n. Ontario, and n. Alberta south to Florida and the Gulf Coast through Mexico to Honduras. It is an abundant species through most of its range.

Habitats and habits: The barred owl prefers deep riverbottom woodlands and swamps, moving into more open country to hunt, mostly at night, though it is frequently active in the later part of the afternoon and may call almost any time of day. It perches in trees during the day, and, if approached, often calmly remains perched (unlike the great horned) and stares back at the observer with big dark eyes. An imitated call can often bring the owl near, and even mouse-like squeaks on the back of one's hand can lure one close, for the bird is notably curious.

In flight its wings seem short and rounded but broad, with a slow wingbeat. The flight is strong, silent, and buoyant as the bird easily sails with surprising skill through dense forest. It is not particularly swift and has rather small, weak feet for a raptor. Mild by comparison with the great horned, it seldom attacks large prey, feeding chiefly on mice, small mammals, frogs, crayfish, insects, and any small bird it is lucky enough to catch.

Voice: This owl is a noisy one, and his call is easy to imitate (he will usually answer a call, and often will come near). The call is a series of 8 hoots on an even pitch in 2 groups of 4, the last part of the second group prolonged at a lower pitch: *hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo hoo-hoo-hoo-hoo-aw* (closing *aw* is typical). This is usually translated as: *Who cooks for you, who cooks for you-all?* It also has a repertoire of various chuckles, grunts and laughs.

Nesting: Common to uncommon in the eastern half of the state, it becomes rare to Abilene, and only a casual visitor to Lubbock or down to Brownsville. In Texas, it breeds from late January to late June (eggs, Feb. 2 to June 4), from sea level to 3,600 feet. This owl prefers hollows in trees and has been known to accept a "bird box". When a suitable tree cavity is not available it takes over the open stick nest of a large bird like a hawk or crow, or makes use of an old squirrel's nest, preferably in an evergreen tree.

We are indebted to BIRD LIFE OF TEXAS--Oberholser-kincaid, and AUDUBON LAND BIRD GUIDE--Pough, for the above information. Now let's go see David's mixed-up mouse moocher that thinks Bellaire is a deep swampy woodlands!

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP
(Outdoor Nature Club)
c/o Mrs. Richard Davis
10602 Cedarhurst
Houston, Texas 77096
(RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED)

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Houston, Texas
Permit No. 1063



Names for Reference:

Chairman: David Dauphin, 2300 Taft #165, Baytown, Texas 77520	422-7536
Treasurer: Mary Gillette, 5027 Longmont, Houston, Texas 77056	626-1755
SPOONBILL: Margaret Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Clearing House: T. Paul Jones, 4902 Fern, Bellaire, Texas 77401	665-4197
Rare Bird & Unusual Bird Alert: David Dauphin	422-7536
Change of address: Maxine Davis, 10602 Cedarhurst, Houston, Texas 77096	723-8559