



THE SPOONBILL

VOLUME XXII, NO. 2
JUNE, 1973

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

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, MAY 6, 1973

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Crane, Chairman, at 1:40 PM, following lunch under the trees at Mary Tigner's country place near Dayton. Thirty-nine people took advantage of Mary's hospitality which included coffee, cold drinks, and several kinds of dessert. The day was cloudy; a few raindrops fell; nevertheless, several birders took short hikes down toward the Trinity River and the birder-photographers zeroed in on a hummingbird and the bird feeder.

Motion was properly made, seconded and carried that the reading of the Minutes of the April Meeting be dispensed with, the Minutes having been printed in THE SPOONBILL.

Accepted as read was the Treasurer's Report for the period April 1 to April 30, 1973. It showed receipts of \$162.71, disbursements of \$14.18, and balance on hand of \$499.33.

It was reported that the Gillette's will return from Belgium in July and that Louise and Henry Hoffman asked to be remembered to their friends in the Group.

Following a discussion, it was agreed that the last issue of THE SPOONBILL which will be mailed to members whose dues are delinquent will be the July issue. It was also agreed to add the name of Mr. Brannon, of Brannon's Woods on High Island, to our courtesy mailing list for THE SPOONBILL. There is now a place for visitors to the Woods to sign their names. The list is located in the crotch of the tree in front of the old house.

A letter has been received from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department asking for the Group's help in their survey of nesting bald eagles and ospreys. Members who know of any such nests are requested to contact our Chairman for a card to be filled out and mailed.

Sarah Gordon mentioned receiving a letter from a man in Montana who has a guest ranch near the refuge where the Whistling Swans can be found. She said the ranch sounded interesting and she invited those who might be visiting Montana to get in touch with her if they would like more information about the ranch.

Helen Wolfer reported that OG now has a temporary exhibit of six posters at Stephen F. Austin State Park. The posters, prepared by one of her sisters, will hopefully be replaced next fall with a permanent exhibit from the Ornithology Group. Meanwhile those visiting the Park are invited to take a look at the exhibit.

Margaret Jones asked if the Group was satisfied with the contents of THE SPOONBILL and asked for suggestions. She also mentioned that if anyone knows of a particular spot where a special bird may be found or where real good birding may be enjoyed, they are requested to draw up a map which can then be printed in THE SPOONBILL as the Map of the Month.

Miss Crane then introduced the Officers and Chairmen for the coming year and thanked the Chairmen and Officers for the previous year for

all their help and hard work, which she said is what makes the Group a success.

Special thanks and applause were given Laura Greenbaum, Editor of THE SPOONBILL, for getting out the May issue during the busiest time of her working year, and to Margaret and T. Paul Jones for maintaining the mimeograph machine and printing up the issues of the paper the year round.

Followed by another round of applause, Miss Crane expressed the Group's appreciation to Mary Tigner for her hospitality and generosity in letting us use her place for our Spring Picnic Meeting. Miss Tigner extended an invitation to the Group to meet there again in the spring of '74.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM. Respectfully submitted, Louise Rogers.

ORNITHOLOGY GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
MAY 1, 1972 to APRIL 30, 1973

Checking Account Balance May 1, 1972		\$320.32
Receipts:		
Membership Dues	\$279.00	
Subscriptions to Spoonbill	141.00	
Sale of Field Checklists	31.25	
Sale of Aluminum	73.25	
Sale of Stationary	94.45	
Sale of Jim Lane Books	28.50	
Sale of Travelers Checklist	8.50	
Sale of Steve William Checklist	12.00	
Miscellaneous Receipts	13.15	681.10
Total Cash May 1, 1973, Plus Receipts		<u>\$1,001.42</u>
Disbursements:		
Postage - Mailing of Spoonbill	\$120.00	
Spoonbill Printing and Supplies	185.71	
Purchase of Gwen Frostic Stationary for Resale	65.00	
Gift to Armand Bayou Fund	50.00	
Gift to Little Nature Sanctuary	25.00	
Stationary & Supplies & Postage, including Printing & Mailing Roster	26.38	
L & P Photography - Jim Lane Birding Guides	27.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	3.00	
Total Disbursements		<u>502.09</u>
Total Receipts over Disbursements	\$ 179.01	
Balance on Hand May 1, 1973		<u>\$499.33</u>

Welcome to our newest member, Mrs. Claire Wartelle, 1126 Berthea St., Apt. 1, Houston, Tx. 77006.

As of April 30, 1973, our membership was 119 and our subscribers were 41. We include in our Spoonbill mailing each month 18 Complimentary, Gifts, and Exchanges.

ADD A LIFER TO YOUR LIST -- FROM TEXAS

There's an interesting birding area about 15 miles east of Palestine on the west side of the Neches River; this land is a state owned forest, so you will not be trespassing on it.

In the piney woods area of the higher sandy soils some mile or so from the river, you can expect to find the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, and Acadian Flycatcher along with the Pine Warbler and Yellow-breasted Chat. Both the White-breasted and Brown-headed Nuthatches are summer residents in this habitat.

As you enter the low swampy area of the river bottom, with careful searching ten additional warblers have been observed in late June and early July. In the trees one can find the Black-and-white, Parula, American Redstart, Yellow-throated, and Prothonotary warblers;

and on the damp ground or in the low shrubs, one can locate the Louisiana Waterthrush, Swainson's, Kentucky, Yellow-throat, and Hooded warblers. Where else in Texas can you find a dozen species of warblers (perhaps all nesting) in the middle of summer? Perhaps you can add a thirteenth warbler to this list such as the Prairie Warbler which may one day be found in the open pine and shrub area of higher ground. Whatever you see, you will enjoy, but don't get lost chasing an elusive Pileated Woodpecker into the swamps of the river bottom; this is easy to do.

To get to this area, begin at Palestine Loop 256 and U.S. Highway 84. Drive east 9.3 miles to a run-down Arco service station on the left side of the road and take a left (north) on an asphalt road. Drive 2.1 miles keeping to the right until you come to a high-power line crossing the road above you. Pass under the powerline and turn right on a sandy logging road which will take you several more miles to the Neches River. You will pass several Y intersections on which it is best to bear to the right. Good birding!

--from "Woods, Wings, Water"- Dallas County Audubon Society publication

PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT NEEDS BIRD RECORDS FOR STATE PARKS

Biologist Sim Oefinger, Jr., John H. Reagan Bldg., Austin, Tx. 78701, is compiling check lists for all State Parks. Anyone having data on birds in any State Park is requested to send to Mr. Oefinger at the above address.

ONC's NATURE AND WILDLIFE FILMS TO BE SHOWN AT NEW LOCATION

For the season 1973-1974, the Nature and Wildlife films (ONC's) will be shown in the auditorium of Great Southern Insurance's building on Buffalo Speedway.

CLEARING HOUSE, MAY, 1973

Heron, Green:	Sandpiper, White-rumped:
(1)3,4,6,yard,ER&BK	(340p)13,(20)19,West Harris County, DHH
Egret, Cattle:	Sandpiper, Stilt:
(4)10,yard,ER&BK	(150p)13,(4)19,West Harris County, DHH; (13)12, Galv, P&MJ
Nightheron, Yellow-crowned:	Godwit, Hudsonian:
(1)13,yard,L&IG	(99)13,West Harris County, DHH
Bittern, Least:	Avocet, American:
(3)13, Galveston, P&MJ	(4)13,(2)19,West Harris Co., DHH
Ibis, White:	Phalarope, Wilson's:
(2)13, Galveston, P&MJ	(6)13,(2)19,West Harris Co., DHH
Treeduck, Fulvous:	Tern, Gull-billed:
(1)13,West Harris Co., DHH	(2)12, Galveston, P&MJ
Duck, Wood:	Tern, Common:
(2)7,(1)12,yard,ER&BK	(50p)12, Galveston, P&MJ
<u>SCOTER, SURF:</u>	Tern, Least:
(1)16,3 miles east of Bolivar	(200-300)12,13, Galveston, P&MJ
Jetties, Bessie Cornelius, Merry Cox, Joy Sims - see notes	Tern, Black:
<u>Hawk, Red-tailed:</u>	(50p)12,13, Galveston, P&MJ
(2)3,(1)7,yard,ER&BK	Skimmer, Black:
<u>Hawk, Broad-winged:</u>	(62)12, Galveston, P&MJ
(5)7,yard,D&DL	<u>Dove, White-winged:</u>
Bobwhite:	(1)25, Galveston County Courthouse, NP
(2)16,yard,ER&BK	Dove, Mourning:
Rail, Clapper:	(2)daily,yard,ER&BK
(2)13, Galveston, P&MJ	Dove, Inca:
Gallinule, Purple:	(2p)daily,yard,ER&BK; (1)11-15,
(1)12,Treasure Island, P&MJ	(2)16,yard,D&DL
Killdeer:	Cuckoo, Yellow-billed:
(2)13,yard,ER&BK	(1)5, High Island, (4p)13, Galveston, P&MJ
Turnstone, Ruddy:	Owl, Screech:
(150p)12,(25)13, Galveston, P&MJ	(1)7,13,29,yard,ER&BK
Sandpiper, Spotted:	Owl, Great Horned:
(2)4,yard,ER&BK	(1)8,yard,ER&BK
Knot:	Owl, Barred:
(2000)12,(60)13, Galveston between 13-mile road and Terramar on beach, P&MJ	(2)4,(1)6,16,23,yard,ER&BK

- Nighthawk, Common:
(1)20,yard,ER&BK;(6)1,yard,P&MJ
- Swift, Chimney:
(6p)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated:
(3)5,(1)8,yard,ER&BK
- Flicker, Yellow-shafted:
(1)28,yard,ER&BK;(1)9,yard,D&DL
- Woodpecker, Pileated:
(1)4,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,9,18,yard,
D&DL
- Woodpecker, Red-bellied:
(2p)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Woodpecker, Downy:
(2p)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Flycatcher, Great Crested:
(1p)daily,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,2,
yard, D&DL
- Flycatcher, Empidonax sp.:
(5p)3,(1)7,8,24,yard,ER&BK;
(1)18,yard,D&DL
- Wood Pewee, Eastern:
(1)12,yard,L&IG;(1)1,17,yard,
P&MJ
- Flycatcher, Olive-sided:
(1)5,High Island,RJ,DHH,P&MJ
- Swallow, Barn:
(3p)3,yard,ER&BK
- Martin, Purple:
(4p)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Jay, Blue:
(NC)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Crow, Common:
(4p)daily,BK&ER
- Chickadee, Carolina:
(NC)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Titmouse, Tufted:
(NC)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Wren, Carolina:
(6p)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Mockingbird:
(1)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Catbird:
(1)14,yard,ER&BK;(2p)1,(1)2,11,
yard,D&DL;(1-5)1-4,yard,P&MJ
- Thrasher, Brown:
(1)4,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,8,12,
(2)2,yard,D&DL
- Thrush, Wood:
(2p)daily,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,
yard, P&MJ
- Thrush, Swainson's:
(1)5 days,yard,ER&BK;(1)9,
yard,D&DL;(1-3)1-8,yard,P&MJ
- Thrush, Gray-cheeked:
(1)4,18,yard,P&MJ
- Veery:
(1)1,2,yard,D&DL
- Waxwing, Cedar:
(5)4,yard,ER&BK;(20p)1,(10p)13,
yard,D&DL
- Vireo, White-eyed:
(1p)15-28,yard,ER&BK;(1)15,
yard,D&DL
- VIREO, SOLITARY:
(1)7,yard(SE Houston),NP - see
notes
- Vireo, Red-eyed:
(4p)3,(1)7-9,yard,D&DL;
(6p)13,Galveston,P&MJ
- Vireo, Philadelphia:
(1)5,High Island,P&MJ
- Vireo, Warbling:
(5p)5,(10)7,(1)8,(3)16,yard,ER&BK
- Warbler, Black-and-white:
(1)1,yard,D&DL
- Warbler, Worm-eating:
(1)1,yard,D&DL
- Warbler, Golden-winged:
(2)14,yard,ER&BK
- Warbler, Tennessee:
(2)3,yard,ER&BK;(1-5)1-7,yard,
P&MJ
- Warbler, Yellow:
(1)3,4,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,yard,
(1)5,High Island,(1)13,Galv,P&MJ
- Warbler, Magnolia:
(5p)3,(1)4,7,8,yard,ER&BK;(1p)1,
2,9,yard,D&DL;(1)23,yard,P&MJ
- Warbler, Black-throated Green:
(1)1,2,yard,D&DL
- Warbler, Cerulean:
(1)4,yard,P&MJ
- Warbler, Blackburnian:
(1-2)3,4,7,8,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,8,
yard,D&DL
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided:
(5p)3,(1)4,7,8,yard,ER&BK;
(2)1,yard,D&DL
- Warbler, Bay-breasted:
(1)4,yard,ER&BK;(1)1,(3)2,yard,
D&DL
- Warbler, Blackpoll:
(1)1,yard,(3)5,High Island,P&MJ
- Ovenbird:
(1)7,yard,D&DL;(2)6,City Hall,
P&MJ
- Waterthrush, Northern:
(1)1,2,yard,D&DL;(1)5,High
Island,P&MJ
- Waterthrush species:
(1)6,City Hall,P&MJ
- MOURNING:
(1)12,Houston City Hall, DHH -
see notes
- Yellowthroat:
(1)4,yard,ER&BK
- Warbler, Canada:
(1)7,yard,D&DL;(1)13,yard,L&IG
- Redstart, American:
(5p)3,(1)4,8,yard,ER&BK
- Bobolink:
(5)5,entrance road to Anahuac
Refuge - all males - RJ & DHH
- Oriole, Orchard:
(3)2,yard,D&DL;(1)12,yard,L&IG
- Oriole, Baltimore:
(6p)1,(4p)2,(5p)14,yard,D&DL;
(16)1,yard,P&MJ
- Grackle, Common:
(NC)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Cowbird, Brown-headed:
(2p)daily,ER&BK
- Tanager, Scarlet:
(1)7,8,yard,ER&BK;(3)5,High
Island,RJ & DHH
- Tanager, Summer:
(1)16-18,yard,ER&BK;(2)1,2,
yard,D&DL
- Cardinal:
(8p)daily,yard,ER&BK
- Grosbeak, Rose-breasted:
(1)7,8,yard,ER&BK;(8p)1,
(2)2,8,11,(5p)7,yard,D&DL;(13)1,
(2)8,yard,(2)13,Galv,P&MJ
- Grosbeak, Blue:
(1)1,yard,D&DL

Bunting, Indigo:
 (4p)3,7,yard,ER&BK;
 (10p)1,2,yard,D&DL
 Dickcissel:
 (1)7,yard,D&DL

Towhee, Rufous-sided:
 (1)2,yard,D&DL
 Sparrow, White-throated:
 (2)1,yard,P&MJ

CLEARING HOUSE CONTRIBUTORS

L&IG	Laura & Irv Greenbaum	BK	Barbara Kendrick
DHH	Dan H. Hardy	D&DL	Dorothy & David Lefkovits
RJ	Robert Johnson	NP	Noel Pettingell
P&MJ	Paul & Margaret Jones	ER	Elaine Robinson

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES

SURF SCOTER: May 16, about 3 miles east of Bolivar Jetties. We observed it for about an hour during which time it came within 50 feet of the shore. It was in the company of two Scaup. We took this to be young male. There was an indistinct white patch on the back of the head but did not have the white forehead patch. The bill was in good color having a square black patch on side near base margined behind by red, above by orange and in front and below by a patch of white ridge and region around nostril red. Eye white. The back, chest, tail and wings were black or brownish black. For the most part the bird appeared a dark brownish black. Merry Cox took a good many pictures. Observed by Joy Sims, Merry Cox, Bessie Cornelius. ---Bessie Cornelius

SOLITARY VIREO: Present in yard area (7146 Ilex) over half an hour. All field marks clearly seen in good light, viz., white eye-rings, blue-gray head, white underparts, white wing-bars. --Noel Pettingell

MOURNING WARBLER: In hedges around edge of City Hall. Acted like a Yellowthroat. Yellow body, no wing-bars, gray hood around head, black on chest, no white around eye. --Dan Hardy

NAMES FOR REFERENCE:

Chairman: Miss Marilyn Crane, 3601 Allen Pky., #214,
 Houston 77019 522-6393

Treasurer: Miss Melba Drake, 1746 Wroxtton Court,
 Houston 77005 522-8285

Spoonbill: Mrs. Irving (Laura) Greenbaum, 5615 Portal Dr.,
 Houston 77035 721-1310

Clearing-House: Mr. Dan H. Hardy, 10215 Chatterton,
 Houston 77043 468-2748

Rare Bird Alert: Mrs. L. W. (Margaret) Anderson, 2913 Amherst,
 Houston 77005 668-6405

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