



THE SPOONBILL

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

COMING EVENTS

- Monday
Sep. 12
start
Continuing Education course at the Houston Arboretum: Birds in Our Lives, Bill Mealy, instructor. This is a comprehensive course which focuses on the fascinating history and literature of birds, birdwatching, man's relations with birds, and the ethics of conservation. Two field trips included. Mondays at the Arboretum, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for 6 weeks. Two sessions: Sep. 12-Oct. 17; Oct. 31-Dec. 5. \$30.
- Tuesday
Sep. 13
ONC regular meeting, 8:00 p.m. at Garden Center in Hermann Park. The program will be on whales. This is an important meeting! All members should attend to vote on our new constitution.
- Sunday
Sep. 18
OG field trip to W. Galveston Island to look for fall migrants and returning wintering birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Kempner Park.
- Saturday
Sep. 24
ONC field trip to Galveston Island State Park. Cook-out and moon watch. Meet at 4:00 p.m. Go to Park headquarters for entry permit, then cross over to picnic area, turn left at concessions building. Bring your own food; charcoal and fire building will be provided. With the aid of a full moon we should be able to see some migrants leaving the shore on their long trip south. SPOONBILL subscribers in Galveston--join us the 18th and 24th!
- Sunday
Oct. 2
*Thurs Oct 6
OG Meeting*
HAS pelagic trip on "Scat Cat" at Port Aransas. Tickets are \$20, make checks payable to HAS Tours, marked "pelagic trip" and mail to Elaine Robinson, Box 19687, Houston 77024. Send soon, though money is not refundable after Sep. 12. Meet at 6:00 a.m. at Fisherman's Wharf, #1 Tarpon St., Port Aransas.
- Tuesday
Oct. 4
Photography Group regular meeting. Program will be on Taiwan. Meet at 7:30 p.m., Bayou Manor auditorium, 4141 So. Braeswood Blvd.
- Tuesday
Oct. 11
ONC regular meeting. Note: for this meeting only, place will be Science Center, 8856 Westview in Spring Branch. Time 8:00 p.m. Robert Vines will present the program.
- Saturday
Oct. 15
OG field trip to Bolivar Peninsula. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in parking area on Bolivar side of ferry.
- Thursday
Sep. 29
Opening day of a display of nature photography by John L. Tveten which will be featured at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. The show will hang from September 29 through November 17 in the Herman Brown Auditorium, and the public is invited to attend.
- Oct. 15
to 22
Merlin Birding Tour to Palenque, Mexico. Mayan ruins and jungle trails, hundreds of tropical birds including toucans, trogons, tinamous and tanagers. For information write Merlin Birding Tours, Box 19687, Houston 77024.
- Fri. & Sat.
Oct. 28-29
Texas Fish-eating Bird Conference will be held at the Dallas Museum of Natural History. The conference will consist of technical papers, survey reports and other items. These conferences can be very interesting, especially to us on the coast. If you would like to attend, contact David Dauphin.

PAST EVENTS

The August 27 bird walk at the Arboretum was a washout. Literally!! As far from the cars as we could be when the rain came, there was nothing to do but slip and drip our way along the trail to headquarters. The birds were smart, they hid before the skies fell!

MINUTES, REGULAR MEETING, ORNITHOLOGY GROUP, August 4, 1977

The regular meeting of August 4, 1977 was called to order by Chairman David Dauphin. After an interesting program presented by Harold Flanders on the Big Bend and Chihuahuan Desert areas, a report was given by the committee chairmen.

Dr. Pat Sullivan gave the report of 135+ total present, 105 of which were visitors. Marilyn Crane reminded us of the seminar coming up on Thursday, Sept. 1, to be held at the Fonde Center at 7:30 p.m. Ben Feltner will do the honors; his topic will be: all about gulls. There were no reports from Margaret Jones or Bob Moulton. The Treasurer's report was given by David Dauphin in Mary Gillette's absence: total on hand being \$1330.00.

Ted Eubanks reported that on August 27, there will be a half-day field trip to the Arboretum. Meet at the parking lot at 8:45 a.m. On Sept. 18, there will be a half-day trip to West Galveston Island. Ted gave us the information on the HAS pelagic trip on October 2. The cost is \$20 per person and the name of the boat is the "Scat Cat". The group will leave from Port Aransas at 6:30 a.m. Checks may be made out to Houston Audubon Society Tours, marked pelagic trip, and sent to Elaine Robinson, Box 19687, Houston 77024; be sure to include name, address and phone number. Checks must be received by Sept. 15, with only room for 96. Watch in THE SPOONBILL for further information.

David Dauphin gave the rare-bird alert report of the Snail Kite found in South Texas at Alice. Jerry Baker is still collecting aluminum, and Gladys Galbraith was given thanks for an excellent job on publicity for this meeting. Chairman Dauphin reported that the Boy Scouts had contacted him about OG members helping young boys to receive merit badges on birds. If you are interested contact David. Also reported by the Chairman was the fact that Santa Fe will no longer allow us on their property to look for the Henslow Sparrows. A committee has been formed to try to secure permission to continue to go on their property.

On June 9, 1977 a hearing of the wetlands preservation program was held to determine the necessity of keeping the McFaddin Marsh in Jefferson County and Smith Marsh in Matagorda County in their natural state. This will be a very important purchase and it is every concerned person's duty to let the governor know our feelings. If this marsh land is not purchased it would mean the end of a unique waterfowl habitat. With special thanks to the Sierra Club, and the Audubon Society, to Ted and Janet Eubanks, David and Jan Dauphin and Jim Morgan for their efforts, all members are urged to attend the next hearing. It will be held Tuesday, August 16, 7:00 or 7:30 p.m., at the Jefferson County Courthouse. Government decision will be pending the outcome of this hearing.

Avis Brister was awarded a certificate of merit for serving as chairman for 1976. Jerry Baker will lead the Sept. 24 ONC field trip to West Galveston Island. All were urged to attend the ONC meeting on Sept. 13 to be held at the Hermann Park Garden Center at 8:00 p.m. At this meeting we will be voting on the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. The program will be on whales.

As a result of the fact that the present secretary, Jacqueline May, cannot complete her term, Janet Eubanks will take over as secretary. The HL&P Cooling Ponds will be closed to the public. The members voted to send a letter and certificate of appreciation to Mr. Morris, the manager of HL&P Cedar Bayou Plant, who has been very helpful in the past.

Ted Eubanks made a motion to instruct the chairman to write a letter to respective authorities about issues such as the McFaddin and Smith marshes. It was seconded and unanimously voted. Margaret Jones made a motion that Linda Snyder should be given \$50 from the OG treasure to help defray the tremendous costs of feeding the injured and ill birds she rehabilitates and cares for. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. Avis Brister asked that the members send to Jack or Mary Gillette a record of how many times they've been to and how much money they have spent at Galveston on birdwatching excursions. For purposes of conservation, the ONC and Sierra Club are trying to save the "newspaper pond" near the Galveston Daily News building as a bird sanctuary. Your information could help save it. Before adjourning Ben Feltner reported on the next Merlin Birding Tour to the Yucatan. The trip will cost \$675 round trip/hotel, and will be January 20-28, 1978. With this final report, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie May, Secretary

THE GOVERNOR'S DECISION

David Dauphin reports that Governor Briscoe denied the Fish & Wildlife Service permission to purchase McFaddin and Sea Rim marshes in Jefferson County, and Smith marsh in Matagorda County, citing county opposition as the reason, in spite of state wide support in favor of the purchases.

AROUND AND ABOUT

** As of Sept. 1, the OG has 197 members, 115 non-member subscribers, receives 15 exchange newsletters (2 from California, 1 from Oklahoma, the rest from various areas of Texas).

** The OG roster has been mailed. Please check your name, address and telephone number when you receive your copy, and inform Margaret Jones, 665-4197, of any error. On the page listing exchanges, please insert the word Texas between the Tulsa newsletter address and the Brazos Ornithological Society address.

** Nancy Strickling sent us a clipping from a recent Brownwood, Texas newspaper which recounts one of the mysteries of the bird world: finding a bird which just shouldn't be where it is found. "Texas wildlife experts are trying to figure out how a rare, colorful bird discovered in a Brownwood driveway wandered hundreds of miles away from its Latin home. The spotted rail, which stood in stark contrast to sun-parched West Texas with its green beak, red legs and silver spots on its dark plumage, died as Howard Payne University scientists tried to determine its origins. Only one other spotted rail has been seen in North America, said Dr. Ed Roth, a Howard Payne professor. The normally secretive creature, a notoriously weak flyer, inhabits moist areas along rivers in Central and South America and Cuba, he said!"

** Brandt Mannchen sent us some more notes on the Medical Center Red-headed Woodpeckers he has been monitoring. On Aug. 8 he found (and rescued from two "Homo Sapiens") a fledgling that was making what appeared to be cries of distress and attempting to fly without much success. He placed it in a tree, and noted that the young bird appeared to be molting its baby feathers as small tufts of down came off when he picked it up. It did however, have the adults' distinctive white wing feather and the back of its' head was beginning to turn a rusty color. The next day he watched an adult chase an immature, barely giving it time to alight on a tree limb before diving at it. After each display the adult would sit in a tree limb and call. Brandt wonders about the reason for this behavior. Did the adult simply want the territory to himself? Was he trying to force the immature to start feeding for itself? Or was he trying to help develop it into a strong flyer. We would like to hear some theories from you experts on bird behavior, so send a note to the editor or call 665-4197.

** 2,100 wading bird nestlings were banded and flagged during May, June and July 1977 in an effort to learn movement patterns, migration timetables and marsh habitat utilization of a number of species. Included in the banding were great blue herons, great egrets, snowy egrets, roseate spoonbills, Louisiana herons, black-crowned night herons, white-faced ibis and reddish egrets. Banding site was spoil islands near Port Aransas. John Smith, biologist of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, said the birds normally work their way north from the coast as far as Central Texas before the cold winds of winter send them south to Central and South America.

Biologists of the TP&WD need help in tracing the movements of these birds. Anyone seeing a long-legged wading bird with a colored flag on its leg should report it to Bill Brownlee, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, Texas 78744. The report should include date and location of the sighting (county, distance and direction to nearest town); color of the flag; which leg carried the flag; species or description of the bird; apparent condition of the bird and description of birds the banded one was associating with. If a banded bird is found dead the metal band should be removed and sent in with the report.

MOST MEMORABLE LIFER

Last month the editor asked the readers to reminisce in THE SPOONBILL about the circumstances which made some bird their most memorable lifer. Wes Cureton and Sherry Collins responded with following accounts of their frustrations, chuckles, and eventual success in finding that lifer.

Sherry Collins: From the time I had first seen the Swallow-tailed Kite in Audubon's The Birds of America, I had longed to see one. In May, 1975, Tom came back from a trip taking brush to the city dump to tell me he had seen one. I rushed over, was almost drowned in a sudden thunderstorm, but failed to see it. During the next two weeks it seemed as if every friend who knew I was a birder called to ask me what the beautiful black and white bird was that they had seen gliding over their house. I spent that time in frantic wild goose (kite?) chases but to no avail. I became so obsessed with the search that one night I sat bolt upright in bed, pointed my finger, and yelled "There it is!" Naturally, Tom was a little startled, and I sheepishly admitted I had been dreaming about the kite. It was only a few days later when a neighbor only six houses from me called to ask what the strange bird was that was over her yard. I grabbed my binoculars, ran down the street, and there, gliding above the

trees was the swallow-tailed kite. It flew directly over my head, only 30 or so feet high, circled, and flew off. I have seen one several times since then but the thrill is still as great as at the first sighting. I agree with the description in the Audubon book. It is "one of the most exquisite creatures alive".

Wes Cureton: Ordinarily I do not go to a great deal of trouble to see a new bird, but for the red-billed pigeon I did, even if unintentionally. In late June, 1974, the manager at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge advised me to look for the pigeon in the moss-hung trees along Owl Trail, but my search there was fruitless. Several times during my return to the headquarters I heard a loud, slow, mournful drone, something like the noise made by blowing across the mouth of a bottle. I left the trail to find out whether or not this noise was the pigeon's coo, but found nothing (I know now that I was hearing the white-fronted dove).

Well, on to headquarters--but where was the trail? Oh, right here...no, over there. Suddenly I found myself surrounded by walls of vegetation, and in the deep, eery shade each tree was indistinguishable from all the others. On the verge of panic, I plowed off through the tangled vines, dense thickets, and piles of dead brush. Everything, it seemed, had stickers, some long and sharp like spikes, others tiny and curved like a cat's claw. Not knowing what to do except follow the sun as my compass, I began a twisted trek toward the refuge's main road, all the way worrying about such things as nightfall, rattlesnakes, and lack of water.

I then climbed a tall mesquite in order to look for some sign of civilization, but saw nothing to raise my hopes. Even though the refuge is less than 2,000 acres in size, I felt as truly stranded as the heroes of the survival sagas I had seen on television. After a period of rest and humble prayer under the mesquite, my spirits began to raise somewhat, however, and I began to look on my dilemma as something of a challenge. Was I being tested?

Soon a source of moisture presented itself in the form of the granjeno, a kind of hackberry whose spines were among those impeding my escape. Our Gulf Coast hackberries are edible, I knew, and I had noticed a chachalaca eating some of these fleshy orange fruits. I tried some, and they were juicy and delicious. Euell Gibbons would have been proud. If absolutely necessary I could eat some of the many grasshoppers flitting all around.

Then I decided to try again to find the original trail; it had to be there somewhere. The brush was so thick that sometimes I had to crawl, my binoculars knocking against my chest. I passed by mounds of sticks that seemed to be some mammal's burrow, and a Harris' Hawk flew off the nest, but I didn't even stop to investigate, so anxious was I to extricate myself from this wild and frightening domain.

Finally, shirt tattered and arms bloodied, I came upon a trail--not the original one, but a trail nonetheless--which led me to headquarters. I felt too foolish to tell the refuge manager what had happened.

After drinking some water and resting, the memory of my fear already fading, I drove to Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, where I met some local birdwatchers. As we strolled through the campground in the cool of the evening, they quite casually pointed out a Columba Flavirostris flying overhead. The pigeon perched atop a dead tree, and I watched him at leisure.

MOUNTAIN BIRDING with Gladys Galbreath

In August a group of 28 led by Dr. Pulley, Carl Akin, Sherman Pease and John Tveten climbed through and over Rocky Mountain National Park. Our first sightings were beautiful Mountain Blue Birds which streaked through campgrounds. Also Rufous and Broadtailed Hummingbirds were busy at feeders.

We bussed to high elevations on Trail Ridge Road, and at each overlook were greeted by many noisy, observant and greedy Clark's Nutcrackers. Peanuts were their "thing", and they would alight on outstretched hands, to hold on until nuts had vanished. This was a delightful experience as never did they pick the hand in lieu of a nut. Too, these Nutcrackers know the uniforms of bus drivers, preferring their outstretched hands to others. The Gray and Stellar's Jays were about, too, but were not show-offs. Various species of small squirrels vied for hand-outs, resulting in quite a show of greed. Fun!

The hikers, at about 12,000 feet, were fortunate as they saw about 20 Ptarmigan (the rock that moves). John shot a roll of film, and I understand one chick tried to hide in his pant leg. Others shot this scene! This find made exciting reports to those who lagged behind.

Many other birds were seen, but Clark's Nutcrackers stole the attention, being such hams. Never missed a nut--what eyes! Saw a few elusive Pikas, and beautifully colored yellow and brown weasel, but only the dams of the engineering beavers.

Dirk Hagemeyer, who now lives in Estes Park, picked Linda Snyder and me up Friday. His home is in a secluded area adjoining an acreage of Ponderosa Pines and other beautiful trees of the area. Three feeders are located near the breakfast room so we watched Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, Pygmy and White-breasted Nuthatches, Cassin's Finchs, and White-crowned Sparrows. All seemed to eat well as the ground was carpeted with sunflower hulls. I was intrigued by a beautiful black Heber Squirrel that held its plumpy tail aloft as it casually strolled about.

A perfect ending to a wonderful mountain vacation!

BRAZOSPORT REPORT by Sherry Collins

Sponsibility - Sept. 1977

The first meeting of the fall for the Brazosport Birders will be Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science on College Drive. Our program will come from the membership. Many of our group took birding vacations this summer, and they will be sharing their experiences. Participation in the Beached Bird Survey will also be discussed.

Sept. 17 we will have a field trip to the new Lake Jackson City Park. This park has just been purchased and is completely undeveloped at this time. It lies along the Brazos River, one end being adjacent to the site of what was the Dow Nature Trail. It should have some interesting habitat and hopefully will fill some of the void left by the loss of the Trail. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the corner of Oak Drive and Hwy 332 at the Fire Station parking lot.

(The editor failed to include this field trip in Coming Events. We are all invited to participate in this field trip, which should be an interesting one. In fact, we could plan a double-header that weekend: Brazosport trip on Saturday, OG trip on Sunday!)

PLACES TO GO

** This is the time to look for migrating warblers. Last year's Clearing House for September sightings reported 24 warblers seen. Leader of places was of course High Island. But is that because everyone goes there to bird, neglecting other spots? City Hall in Houston was good the last couple of days that month, according to the C-H.

** The beaches anywhere along the coast, especially Bolivar Flats, Galveston's South Jetties, Surfside and Quintana Jetties. With the unsettled weather we've been having out in the Gulf, there is no telling what you might turn up. Keep your eye out for Sooty Terns: the only tern that is black above, white below, black cap with white forehead, black bill and feet; the immature is dark sooty, above and below, back and wings flecked with white; slightly larger than Forster's Tern, and much larger than the Black Tern. Masked Boobies have already been seen on Bolivar Flats once recently, you may find others. If you find something really rare, remember to report it to David Dauphin as soon as possible.

** A place that was quite fruitful last fall was the Dredge Disposal area between Jacinto City and Galena Park. Have you checked it out lately? Take Mercury Road exit from I-10 (just east of 610 Loop Intersection), go south one mile, the road rises and runs along a dike. Lots of traffic, so look for a pull-out before stopping. This area is good for wading birds, and later, for ducks.

** While at the beach watch for a possible Peregrine Falcon. While some winter in Texas, others migrate during the fall with the heaviest migration occurring in October. Near a crow in size, the peregrine has long pointed wings, narrow tail, and quick "rowing" wingbeats; the size and heavy "sideburns" help identify it.

** Ducks will start returning this month. Check your favorite pond, lake, or surf, to spot early arrivals.

RARE BIRD ALERT and Unusual Bird Exchange

David Dauphin reports that the only rare bird reported was the Snail (Everglades) Kite seen down at Alice Texas. There have been no unusual bird reports except the Wilson's Phalaropes seen at the Rice Mill Pond the 10th, 11th, and the 19th of last month. Please call David Dauphin if you see a bird you think is a bit unusual, for there may be many of our members who would like to see it.

CLEARING HOUSE August, 1977

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

- Pelican, White: Brazoria Co., (2) July 24, OH; Chambers Co., (50+) July & August, D&JD.
 Pelican, Brown: Bolivar, (1) 21, M&JR (see notes); (2) 21, B (see notes); (1) 27, D&JD (see notes); (1) 28, TE (see notes).
 Booby, Blue-faced: Bolivar, (4) 27, DD (see notes) 13-MI. RD. (BEACH)
 GANNET: Freeport Jetties, (1) 28, H (see notes). ✓ E. OF SEA ISLE
 Frigatebird, Magnificent: W. Galveston, (1) July 23, (1) 6, NP, (2) 14, D&JD; Bolivar, (3) 20, TE&JMo, (3) 21, B, (2) 28, H, (2) 31, A. (IMMATURE BIRDS)
 Bittern, Least: W. Galveston, (1) 31, A.
 Bittern, American: Chambers Co., (1) 21, B.
 Stork, Wood: High I., (2) 6, DD&TE; Wallisville, (4) 6, P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co., (5) 7, J&BH; Brazoria Co., (15) 13, OH; W. Harris Co., (3) 13, P&MJ; Chambers Co., (22) 20, TE&JMo, (5) 20, OH
 Goose, Canada: Warren Lake, (1) 17, J&KMo (previously reported).
 Whistling Duck, Black-bellied: Ft. Bend Co., (12-2 ducklings) 17, J&KMo, (21 adults-18 ducklings) 28, H; Maner Lake, (8) 28, H.
 Whistling Duck, Fulvous: W. Harris Co., (2) 1, PJ, (2) 9, DMA.
 Mallard: Rice Mill Pond, (1) 13, DD&TE (see notes).
 Teal, Blue-winged: High I., (1) 6, P&MJ; Rice Mill Pond, (1) 11, P&MJ; Maner Lake, (3) 28, H.
 Duck, Wood: Ft. Bend Co., (6) 28, H.
 Duck, Ruddy: Baytown Tunnel, (8) 6, P&MJ.
 Kite, White-tailed: Ft. Bend Co., (8) 17, J&KMo.
 Kite, Mississippi: Ft. Bend Co., (2) 8, PJ, (2) 13, P&MJ, (1) 13, (2) 14, OH, (4) 17, J&KMo, (2) 28, H; Houston, (10-12) 12, MJ, (1) 15, OH, (6) 17, (2) 18, (5) 21, (1) 22, (9) 23, (1) 30, JMo (Memorial Area), (1-2) 22, 26, 28, WC (Ella Blvd), (10-20) all month, TE, (90-100) 30, MA (yard, W. University); W. Harris Co., (1) 8, (2) 22, JH, (1) 13, DD&TE, (6) 17, J&KMo, (1) 19, DMA, (1-3) 26-30, J&BH; Lake Jackson (1-3) all summer (nested) T&SC.
 Hawk, Sharp-shinned: High I., (3) 21, B (see notes).
 Hawk, Red-tailed: Ft. Bend Co., (1) 7, J&BH, (1) 13, P&MJ; Green's Bayou, (1) 13, D&JD; High I., (1) 21, B.
 Hawk, Broad-winged: W. Harris Co., (1) 8, JH (no field notes), (6) 13, DD&TE (see notes), (1) 19, DMA; High I., (1) 15, WC (see notes), (1) 23, M&JR; Houston, (1) 23, MA, yard.
 Hawk, Swainson's: Baytown, (1) July-August, D&JD, (see notes); W. Harris Co., (2) 13, DD&TE, (1) 17, J&KMo, (3) 20, TE&JMo; Bolivar, (2) 20, TE&JMo.
 PHEASANT, RING-NECKED: Anahuac NWR, (1) 20, TE&JMo (previously reported).
 Oystercatcher, American: Bolivar, (1) 6, DD&TE, (9) 6, (10) 25, P&MJ, (3) 20, TE&JMo, (1) 28, TE; W. Galveston, (2) 23, DMA, (2) 31, A.
 Plover, Semipalmated: Bolivar, (25+) 6, DD&TE, (n/c) 6, P&MJ, (10) 20, TE&JMo, (5) 28, TE.
 Plover, Piping: Bolivar, (n/c) 6, P&MJ, (10+) 6, DD&TE, (5+) 14, D&JD, (25) 20, TE&JMo, (30+) 28, TE; Freeport, (1) 7, J&BH; Chambers Co., (1) 20, OH.
 Plover, Snowy: Bolivar, (5+) 6, DD&TE, (1) 20, TE&JMo, (5) 28, TE.
 Turnstone, Ruddy: Bolivar, (7) 6, P&MJ, (20+) 14, D&JD, (30) 20, TE&JMo, (20) 28, TE; Freeport, (n/c) 7, J&BH, (100) 21, OH, (7) 28, H; W. Galveston, (1) 20, OH.
 Curlew, Long-billed: Bolivar, (n/c) 6, PJ, (10+) 14, D&JD, (4) 20, TE&JMo, (15) 28, TE; Chambers Co., (1) 20, OH; Freeport, (1) 21, OH.
 Whimbrel: Bolivar, (2) 6, P&MJ (previously reported), (10+) 6, DD&TE, (2) 14, D&JD (see notes), (1) 21, M&JR (see notes).
 Sandpiper, Upland: Chambers Co., (5) 20, TE&JMo.
 Sandpiper, Spotted: Brazoria Co., (2) 14, OH; Rice Mill Pond, (1) 19, TE; Anahuac, (2) 20, OH, (1) 20, TE&JMo; High I., (1) 21, B; Ft. Bend Co., (5) 28, H.
 Sandpiper, Solitary: Maner Lake, (1) 7, J&BH.
 Yellowlegs, Greater: Rice Ponds, (5) 11, P&MJ; W. Galveston, (4) 20, OH, (2) 23, DMA.
 Yellowlegs, Lesser: Brazoria Co., (4) 14, OH; W. Galveston, (2) 20, OH; Ft. Bend Co., (1) 28, H.
 Knot, Red: Bolivar, (8) 20, TE&JMo, (1) 28, TE; Crystal Beach, (8) 21, M&JR.
 Sandpiper, Pectoral: Chambers Co., (2) 6, P&MJ, (10) 20, TE&JMo; W. Harris, (25+) 7, TE, Jr. & Sr. (65) 17, J&KMo; Rice Mill Pond, (1) 10, M, (2) 11, P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co., (3) 28, H.
 SANDPIPER, WHITE-RUMPED: High I., (1) 6, P&MJ (see notes).
 Sandpiper, Least: Bolivar, (n/c) 6, PJ, (5+) 14, D&JD, (15) 20, TE&JMo; Rice Mill Ponds, (20) 11, P&MJ; Anahuac, (5) 20, TE&JMo; W. Galveston, (1) 26, H.
 Dunlin: Freeport, (1) 14, OH; Bolivar, (2) 28, TE.
 Dowitcher, Short-billed: Bolivar, (25+) 6, DD&TE, (5) 20, TE&JMo, (10) 28, TE.
 Dowitcher, Long-billed: Rice Mill Pond, (5) 19, TE; Anahuac, (30) 20, TE&JMo.
 Dowitcher, species: Bolivar, (n/c) 6, PJ, Rice Mill Ponds, (40) 11, P&MJ; W. Galveston, (10) 28, H.
 Sandpiper, Stilt: Rice Mill Ponds, (1) 10, MA, MJ, NO, (2) 11, P&MJ, (15+) 13, DD&TE, (40+) 19, TE; Chambers Co., (25) 20, TE&JMo.
 Sandpiper, Semipalmated: Bolivar, (n/c) PJ, (20) 20, TE&JM; Anahuac, (10) 20, TE&JMo; Ft. Bend Co., (1) 28, H.
 Sandpiper, Western: Bolivar, (n/c) 6, PJ.

ALL
CRAPS →

- Godwit, Marbled: Bolivar, (8)6, P&MJ, (10+)6, DD&TE, (10+)14, D&JD, (2)18, WC, (8)20, TE& JMo, (5)21, M&JR, (8)23, DMa, (5)28, TE (previously reported).
- Avocet, American: Galveston, (1)31, A; Anahuac, (1)20, TE&JMo; Maner Lake, (2)28, H.
- Phalarope, Wilson's: Rice Mill Ponds, (3)10, MA, MJ, NO, (4)11, P&MJ, (2)19, TE.
- Gull, Herring: Bolivar, (1)26, P&MJ; Galveston, (4)31, A.
- Gull, Ring-billed: Bolivar, (6)6, P&MJ, (10+)14, D&JD, (15)20, TE&JMo; Galveston, (25+)31, A
- Skimmer, Black: (300--downy chicks, juvenile & adults)7, J&BH.
- Tern, Common: Bolivar, (1)14, D&JD, (1)28, TE; Brazoria Co., (1)21, OH, (1)28, H.
- DOVE, RINGED TURTLE: Bellaire, (1-5) all month, P&MJ (previously reported).
- Dove, White-winged: W. Galveston, (4)20, OH, (2)31, A.
- Roadrunner: N. Harris Co., (1)6, T&SC (see notes)
- Owl, Barn: Bolivar, (1)6, DD&TE.
- Hummingbird, Ruby-throated: Ft. Bend Co., (6)13, P&MJ; Bolivar, (1)20, OH; Houston, (2) all month, JMo, yard; W. Galveston, (1)28, H.
- Hummingbird, Rufous: Houston, (1)27, 28, NS (yard).
- Kingfisher, Belted: High I., (1)6, P&MJ, (1)20, TE&JMo, (2)21, B; S.E. Houston, (1)6, NP; Brazoria Co., (1)13, 21, OH; W. Harris Co., (1)13, P&MJ; Ft. Bend Co., (2)17, J&KMo, (3)28, H; Chambers Co., (1)20, TE&JMo.
- Phoebe, Eastern: High I., (1)20, TE&JMo (see notes).
- Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied: Kempner Park, (2)20, OH; High I., (2)21, B, (3)20, TE&JMo.
- Flycatcher, Willow (Traill's): High I., (2)21, B; W. Galveston, (1)28, H, (heard voice).
- Flycatcher, Empidonax sp.: High I., (1)6, P&MJ, (3)20, TE&JMo; Ft. Bend Co., (1)17, J&KMo, (2)28, H; W. Galveston, (1)28, H.
- Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Galveston, (1)20, OH, (1)28, H; Brazoria Co., (1)21, OH; High I., (15)20, TE&JMo, (12+)21, B; Bolivar, (13)20, TE&JMo, (16)21, B (see notes); Maner Lake, (1)28, H.
- Swallow, Tree: Chambers Co., (4)6, P&MJ, (10)20, TE&JMo; Bolivar, (200)20, OH; Ft. Bend Co. (5)28, H; Brazoria Co., (100)28, H; W. Galveston, (2)31, A.
- Swallow, Bank: Anahuac, (10)20, TE&JMo; Bolivar, (4,000+)28, TE; Brazoria Co., (200)28, H; Ft. Bend Co., (300)28, H; W. Galveston, (4)31, A.
- Swallow, Rough-winged: Anahuac, (20)20, OH, (10)20, TE&JMo; Ft. Bend Co., (28)29, H; Brazoria Co., (50)28, H.
- Swallow, Cliff: W. Galveston, (5)28, H.
- Swallow, sp.: (150)22, MA, yard.
- Wren, Long-billed Marsh: W. Galveston, (1)28, H.
- Thrasher, Brown: White Oak Bayou, (1)12, 13, WC (see notes); Ft. Bend Co., (1)28, H (see notes).
- THRASHER, CURVE-BILLED: W. Galveston, (1)23, DMa (previously reported).
- Robin, American: White Oak Bayou, (2)12, 13, WC; Kempner Park, (3)20, TE&JMo.
- Warbler, Black-and-white: High I., (4)6, P&MJ, (25+)6, DD&TE, (2)14, 17, D&JD, (25)20, TE& JMo, (10)21, B; Ft. Bend Co., (2)28, H; W. Galveston, (1)28, H.
- Warbler, Prothonotary: High I., (4)14, (2)21, D&JD, (2)15, WC, (1)20, TE&JMo, (4)21, B; Ft. Bend Co., (1)17, J&KMo, (45)28, H; W. Galveston, (1)28, H.
- Warbler, Swainson's: High I., (1)27, D&JD.
- Warbler, Worm-eating: High I., (1)27, D&JD.
- Warbler, Blue-winged: Bolivar, (1)20, TE&JMo; High I., (3)21, B, (3)27, D&JD; Ft. Bend Co., (3)28, H.
- WARBLER, ORANGE-CROWNED: High I., (2)21, B (see notes)
- Warbler, Yellow: High I., (2)6, 14, 27, D&JD, (1)6, MJ, (1)20, TE&JMo, (10)21, B; Ft. Bend Co. (8)28, H; Bolivar, (5)28, TE.
- Warbler, Black-throated Green: Ft. Bend Co., (1)28, H; High I., (1)20, TE&JMo, (1)27, D&JD; Houston, (1)27, JMo, (Memorial Park).
- Warbler, Blackburnian: High I., (1)14, 27, D&JD.
- Warbler, Yellow-throated: High I., (1)14, (5)27, D&JD, (2)20, TE&JMo.
- Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Ft. Bend Co., (1)28, H (see notes)
- Ovenbird: High I., (1)20, TE&JMo (see notes), (2)21, B (see notes).
- Waterthrush, Northern: High I., (2)15, WC, (1)20, TE&JMo, (1)21, B, (2)27, D&JD; Ft. Bend Co., (3)28, H.
- Waterthrush, Louisiana: White Oak Bayou, (1)12, WC (see notes); High I., (2)21, B, (1)27, D&JD; Ft. Bend Co., (2)28, H.
- Warbler, Mourning: Ft. Bend Co., (1)28, H.
- Chat, Yellow-breasted: High I., (1)21, B; Ft. Bend Co., (3)28, H.
- Warbler, Wilson's: High I., (4)21, B (see notes), (1)27, D&JD.
- Warbler, Canada: High I., (1)6, (10+)27, D&JD, (30)20, TE&JMo, (8)21, B; Houston, (1)21, JMo (yard), (1)23, MA, (yard); Bolivar, (1)28, TE; Ft. Bend Co., (2)28, H; Kempner Park, (1)28, H.
- Redstart, American: High I., (1)6, P&MJ (no field notes), (2)6, DD&TE, (3)14, 27, D&JD (see notes)
- Oriole, Northern (Baltimore): High I., (1)20, TE&JMo; Ft. Bend Co., (4)28, H; W. Galveston, (2)28, H.
- Grosbeak, Blue: W. Harris Co., (1)1, PJ; Anahuac, (7)28, H.
- Bunting, Indigo: Ft. Bend Co., (14)28, H; High I., (2)20, TE&JMo.
- SPARROW, SHARP-TAILED: E. Galveston, (1)31, A (see notes).
- Sparrow, Seaside: Anahuac, (8)20, TE&JMo.

*WARBLER, NASHVILLE: High I., (2)21, B (see notes) PP. 9 & 11

▶ KINGLET, RUBY-CROWNED: AUG. 6, 1977 (SEE PP. 9 & 10)

▶ PIPIT, WATER: AUG. 6, 1977 (SEE P. 9)

MA--Margaret Anderson; T&SC--Tom & Sherry Collins; WC--Wesley Cureton; D&JD--David & Jan Dauphin; TE--Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.; J&BH--Jean & Bill Harwell; OH--Oscar N. Hibler, Jr.; P&MJ--T. Paul & Margaret Jones; DMa--David Matson; J&KMo--Jim & Kevin Morgan; NP--Noel Pettingell; M&JR--Mac & Jean Read; NS--Nancy Strickling; A--party of MA, P&MJ, NO & NS; B--party of P&MJ, Norma Oates; H--party of DD, TE, JMo; M--party of MA, MJ, Norma Oates.

CLEARING HOUSE NOTES - August 1977

Pelican, Brown: Single pelican seen feeding off mud flat with gulls. Bird never flew more than a short distance, suggesting injury or clipped wings. Approximately 100 m with 25x scope in good light. --Mac Read

Two large dark birds with white necks held very erect, with long dark bills as long as the necks and held down against them. While observing them, one bird flew app. 1/4 mile, the other lifted off and flew app. 150 yards. Photograph of this second one showed no apparent clipping of wings, plus a yellow tag on one leg. --Margaret Jones.

One bird seen sitting on wet sand near grass at 75 yards with 10x50 binocs in good light. Very large bulky, grayish bird with dark bill. Neck and crown were getting light. --David Dauphin

Dark pelican observed perched on pilings near North Jetty off of Bolivar Flats; bird was apparently in winter plumage, with a dusky white crown and neck instead of the characteristic chestnut-brown. The pilings on which the pelican sat drying himself were easily from 8-10 feet above the water, so, unless the bird was a good climber, he was free flying. Pelican observed for 45 minutes, from 2-300 yards, in excellent light, with a 20x scope. --Ted L. Eubanks, Jr.

Editors' note: Dr. Hinderstein reported Sep. 4 seeing a Brown Pelican on the piling of the Bolivar ferry slip, wearing a bright yellow plastic leg tag. We did some checking (we had by then gotten back Paul's slides, showing the tag). We found that Ken Beggs, of Sea-a-rama, had tagged their Florida imports, and was delighted to hear that some had been sighted. Most of these birds, crippled or unwilling to fly for unknown reasons, are potential flyers, and are kept in an open area, free to go as they wish. Several weeks ago, two took off, one subsequently returned, and that would appear to explain our Bolivar birds.

Booby, Blue-faced:

Four adults seen in good light from 5-50 yards with binocs, at times. Birds were not on beach before a heavy thunderstorm, but were seen perched on beach near rough surf, immediately after the storm. When we drove near them, they flew a short distance away. Very heavy and large birds with near 6 foot wingspans. All feathering white except for tail, flight feathers, and small area at base of bill, which were black. Tail was pointed. Heavy, large bill was yellow, as were feet. Base of bill was reddish. --David Dauphin

GANNET: This very large white bird with black, squared-off, wing tips was observed in the presence of numerous gulls and terns following a shrimp boat into Freeport. This bird was much larger than any of the gulls or terns including several Royal Terns. The bird stooped in typical Gannet fashion into the ocean and disappeared from my sight. This sighting was made with 8.5x44 binoculars at about 500 yards. About 5 minutes later David Dauphin observed what was apparently the same individual at about the same distance. David observed the bird with a B&L 15x-60x scope and agreed that it was a Gannet. The weather conditions surrounding this sighting included the presence of a tropical wave in the Gulf and thunderstorms were visible over the ocean (Hurricane Anita formed two days later). This observer has seen numerous Gannets on several occasions in the North Sea. Dave has observed this species on the UTC during winter months. --Jim Morgan

Mallard: One drake seen in poor light at 100 yards with 15-60x teles. Green head, very light sides, dark above, black rump. May have been dom., but they have never before been seen at this location. --David Dauphin

ALL PASSES →

Hawk, Sharp-shinned: A small accipiter seen perched in a tree near Smith's Woods at High Island. Flat head brownish, but turning dark. Front of bird was white with brown streaking. Tail was long and squared off, with white and black banding and a wide terminal band. Two more of the same birds were seen perched and flying at Boy Scout Woods later in the day by all three observers in the party. --T. Paul Jones

Hawk, Broad-winged: Very much smaller than accompanying Swainson's Hawk, birds were flushed from trees as we drove up, and then began to kettle above us. Short, round

wings were light, except for dark-tipped primaries. Tails were broadly barred. All birds seen from below. --David Dauphin

Small buteo with broad black and white bands on tail. Primaries edged with dark. Perched in oak, then flew and circled above. 7x50 binocs. 30 yards. --Wesley Cureton

Hawk Swainson's: Dark primaries, dark breastband; light throat, body, upper wing linings. Light tail with fine barring and dark terminal band. Good light. --David Dauphin

Whimbrel: Brown birds with striped crowns, long decurved bills. Grayer and smaller than Long-billed Curlews nearby, paler below. Good light, no binocs. --David D.

Single Whimbrel seen feeding in marsh between shore and highway; large size, short down-curved bill and black and white stripes on crown; seen in excellent light, 25 m with 9x binoculars. (reported last month) --Mac Read

SANDPIPER, WHITE-RUMPED: Small peep observed in short flights several times--white rump and dark tail clearly observed from 40' to 60'. --Margaret Jones

Godwit, Marbled: Mottled brown above, finely barred below, with long, thin, upturned bills. Seen feeding and roosting at 20-100 yards with 15-60x teles. In good light. --David Dauphin

Large brown shorebirds with reddish, upturned beak. 30x scope, 100 yards. --Wesley Cureton

These were large, reddish brown mottled birds with long upturned bills. Seen by both observers with both binocs and 20-45x scopes. --Jim Morgan

Brownish colored sandpipers with upturned bills, larger than nearby Willets; 150-200 x through 25x scope in excellent light. --Mac Read

Roadrunner: Thin, long-legged, long tailed bird, heavily streaked with a bushy crest. Walking along the access road along I-45. --Sherry Collins

Phoebe, Eastern: Olive gray above and whitish below. No eye-ring or wing bars. Slightly smaller than the many Olive-sided Flycatchers seen in same area. The Phoebe stayed closer to the woods than the Olive-sided, the latter preferring high dead snags. Seen twice by both observers for a total of 4 minutes with 8.5x44 and 10x50 binocs. --Jim Morgan

Flycatcher, Olive-sided: Notes are being provided because both observers agreed that the total of 28 individuals was quite unusual on the UTC. Fifteen of these birds were found in High Island within a circle of 1000 yards radius. The other 13 birds were observed near large oleanders and trees on Bolivar peninsula. The following day, about the same number of these stately flycatchers were observed by Paul and Margaret Jones and Norma Oates in the same areas. --Jim Morgan
(Note: Where 16 of these birds were seen on the 21st at the Bolivar spot, none could be found there two days later. --MJ)

Thrasher, Brown: A red "mockingbird" with speckled white breast. Plumage extremely worn, head almost bare. Had crippled foot. 7x50, 20 ft. --Wesley Cureton

A large rufous bird with breast streaks, long tail and yellow eye. Seen by David Dauphin with 10x50 binoc. --Jim Morgan

KINGLET, RUBY-CROWNED: Very light below, olive above, notched tail, white eye ring. Flashed red top knot while being "pished" at 5 feet in good light. --David Dauphin

PIPIP, WATER: A flock of five sparrow sized birds seen on the sand near the vegetation at Bolivar Flats. They were longer and thinner than the Horned Larks nearby. The bills seemed longer than those of the Larks. When the pipits flew the white outer tail feathers could be readily seen. Observation of these birds through binoculars revealed the lack of the "horns," yellow eye band and black throat band of the larks. The white eyeline of the pipits was discernable. --T. Paul Jones

WARBLER, ORNAGE-CROWNED: Somewhat drab olive color, except for dingy yellowish underparts extending up under the tail and yellowish tint to the upper tail coverts; a faint streaking on sides. All three observers watched for several minutes, using binoculars. (A very early occurrence of this species). --T. Paul Jones (SEE ALSO P. 10)

VASHVILLE, WARBLER: Blue-gray head and back, white eye ring, no wingbars and a bright yellow chin and breast. --T. Paul Jones (SEE ALSO P. 11)

Warbler, Chestnut-sided: Adult plumage male - yellow crown, chestnut sides, olive back and black around eye. Seen by David Dauphin with 10x50 Binocs. --Jim Morgan

Ovenbird: Plain back, streaked below, white eye ring, orange with dark stripes on head. Both birds seen walking along edge of pond. --T. Paul Jones

Seen by both observers, this bird was olive-backed with streaked underparts. Light orange crown was outlined by dark stripes. Full eye-ring. Bird stayed on the ground and on fallen logs. Seen for two minutes with 8.5x44 and 10x50 binocs. This observer saw this species also in mid-August last year at High Island. --Jim Morgan

Waterthrush, Louisiana: Like thrush in appearance, like spotted sandpiper in behavior. Distinguished from northern by white eyeline, unstreaked throat, pink legs, and tawny color on flank. 7x50, 15 ft., deep shade. --Wesley Cureton

Both Northern and Louisiana were in same area for good comparison. Clear throat and white eyeline contrasted well with the Northern's streaked throat and buffy eyeline. --T. Paul Jones

Warbler, Wilson's: Olive backs, yellow underparts, solid colored tails and rather large black eyes in a yellow face, no wingbars. --T. Paul Jones

Redstart, American: All birds were females. Olive-brown above, white below. Yellow patches on wings and tails, constantly flashing. Good light with 10x50 binocs. --David Dauphin

SPARROW, SHARP-TAILED: Two small sparrows observed flitting into a low shrub in marsh alongside road leading from Iveston's East Seawall to the Islander East Condominium. One bird perched facing us in good view, the other was partially obscured by the shrub. Distance: about 120 feet. Tawny breast with little streaking, white belly; some tawny color on face, no distinct triangular mark noted, but buffy superciliary eye line extended well back to nape. No median stripe seen. (The second bird, partially seen, had the same breast and belly colors, but upper head was not visible before it went to ground). Because immature Seaside Sparrows sometimes show similar color, all five observers checked carefully with binocs and some with scope, and ruled out the Seaside because of the very visible superciliary eye line. --Margaret Jones, Party A

NEW EARLY FALL ARRIVAL DATES in the UTC from the July and August Clearing House:

Species	Previous early date	New early date
Cannet	September 20, 1952	August 28, 1977
Sharp-shinned Hawk	August 29, 1941	August 21, 1977
→ Ruby-crowned Kinglet	August 23, 1959 (SPOONBILL - 7/59)	August 6, 1977 (TBF - SEPT. 7, 1973)
Orange-crowned Warbler	September 12, 1953	August 21, 1977
Chestnut-sided Warbler	August 27, 1962	July 2, 1977
Wilson's Warbler	August 29, 1967	August 21, 1977
Canada Warbler	August 8, 1948	August 6, 1977 ← AUG. 5, 1961 BY
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	September 25, 1949	August 31, 1977 A.K. MORGAN (COVE)

AN EXERCISE IN WORKING "CONFUSING FALL WARBLERS" by T. Paul Jones (Aug. 21)

When Margaret and I heard from Ted Eubanks, Jr. that 28 Olive-sided Flycatchers and many species of warblers had been seen at High Island on the 20th, we collected Norma Oates early the next morning and hied for High Island!

We started finding the Olive-sideds almost at once, and as we approached the back of Smith Woods, we began to see warblers flitting about. Yellows and Canadas seemed in almost every part of the tree canopy. Black-and-whites, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and hummingbirds were in much of the same area, as well as some Blue-wings. As we moved toward the reservoir, we found a number of "confusing fall warblers" working in an area of brushy growth and small trees; having them grouped in the same area, fairly low, helped us in sorting them out. We could easily identify the young Yellows by the overall yellow coloring and yellow marks in the tail, the female Hoodeds by the white sides of the tail; the female Wilson's were a bit more difficult to identify, but a combination of yellow face, yellow underparts, olive back and solid colored tail did the trick. And we all agreed that two drab olive birds, with yellowish underparts extending up under the tail and a yellowish tint to the upper tail coverts could only be Orange-crowned Warblers (very early ones).

In the same patch of growth we found an empidonax moving in the rattle beans and low willows. He flitted around and would alight long enough for us to get good observations of his coloring: brown on back and head, breast and belly pale gray, throat white. No olive coloration could be discerned. We felt sure coloration and habitat

plus a loud, sharp "twit" call denoted the Willow (Traill's) Flycatcher rather than the Acadian with its usual yellowish wash, olive back and soft "peet" call.

We saw a Nashville Warbler before we left Smith Woods, and were greeted by another when we went in Scout Woods. Near a little pond on the eastern edge of the woods we found both waterthrushes. We could see the streaked chin of the Northern and the clear chin of the Louisiana; also the buffy eyeline of the Northern could be compared with the white eyeline of the Louisiana nearby. While observing the waterthrushes, two Ovenbirds tiptoed into view, to be joined by a Kentucky Warbler coming to bathe, a Prothonotary and several Hoodeds. The Canadas and Black-and-White were working in the same area while a Chat engaged in his peculiar whistles and calls.

By the time we reached Bolivar Flats on our way home, we had seen many Olive-sided Flycatchers (16 lined up on one stretch of power line near Bolivar), 14 species of warblers, and our day had a spectacular ending when we found, not one, but two Brown Pelicans floating in the water just a few yards out from the edge of the beach. Margaret was very excited with these pelicans as they were "lifers" for her. (See notes on the pelicans on page 8).

SUMMARY OF ABUNDANT AND FAIRLY COMMON BIRDS FOR SUMMER, 1977:

The following chart shows the sighting reports received from observers in the UTC to the C-H during the months of June, July and August of the species listed. Also shown is a tabulation of the opinions of some experienced birders as to the normality of occurrence of the listed species during this summer, 1977. These birds are indicated as being abundant or fairly common during this period by the latest UTC Checklist.

Species	Number of Observers Reporting Nesting Activity	Number of Sighting Reports Submitted to CH			Opinion of Normality of Occurrence by Seasoned Observers		
		June	July	Aug.	+Nor.	Nor.	-Nor.
Pied-billed Grebe	2	4	2	3		4	1
Olivaceous Cormorant		4	3	4	1	5	
Anhinga	2	9	6	5	2	3	
Great Blue Heron	3	8	7	7		6	
Green Heron	3	7	7	7	1	5	
Little Blue Heron	5	8	7	7	1	4	
Cattle Egret	2	9	6	7	2	4	
Reddish Egret	1	8	6	6		6	
Louisiana Heron	3	9	6	7		6	
Black-crowned Night Heron	3	4	2	4	1	4	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron	4	8	6	6		3	2
White-faced Ibis	1	5	3	4	1	5	
White Ibis	4	10	7	5	1	5	
Roseate Spoonbill	2	9	6	6		4	1
Mottled Duck	3	4	3	5	1	5	
Turkey Vulture		8	6	6		5	
Black Vulture		7	5	5	2	3	
Red-shouldered Hawk		6	5	6		4	1
Marsh Hawk X	1	2	1	1			4
Bobwhite	1	3	3	6		5	
King Rail	1	2	2	4		4	
Clapper Rail	1	1	4	2		5	
Common Gallinule	5	6	1	5	2	3	
American Coot	1	4	3	3	1	3	1
Wilson's Plover	3	3	3	4		3	1
Killdeer	3	5	5	7	1	5	
Black-bellied Plover		3	3	4		5	1
Willet	3	3	3	4		6	
Sanderling		4	3	4		5	
Black-necked Stilt	4	5	4	8	1	4	
Laughing Gull		6	3	4	3	3	
Gull-billed Tern	1	2	2	1	1	4	
Forster's Tern		4	3	4		6	
Least Tern	5	5	3	4		5	1
Royal Tern	1	5	4	3	1	5	
Sandwich Tern	1	4	4	3		5	
Caspian Tern		4	3	2		3	3
Black Tern	1	3	5	6		6	
Black Skimmer	5	4	3	2	1	5	

Species	Number of Observers Reporting Nesting Activity	Number of Sighting Reports Submitted to CH			Opinion of Normality of Occurrence by Seasoned Observers		
		June	July	Aug.	+Nor.	Nor.	-Nor.
Rock Dove	1	4	3	4	2	4	
Mourning Dove	4	6	4	7		6	
Inca Dove	2	4	3	4	2	3	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	3	11	6	5	3	2	
Barred Owl X	4	4	4	4		3	1
Common Nighthawk	2	7	4	5	1	5	
Chimney Swift	1	6	2	2	1	4	1
Pileated Woodpecker	1	7	6	4		4	1
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	9	6	5		5	1
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	4	1	3	1	4	
Downy Woodpecker	3	6	4	4		5	1
Eastern Kingbird	5	10	4	7	1	4	
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	5	6	6	5		4	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	4	8	4	6	1	3	
Acadian Flycatcher	1	6	3	2	1	3	1
Eastern Pewee X		2	1	2		4	
Horned Lark	2	1	4	3		5	1
Barn Swallow	2	2	2	6		5	
Purple Martin	5	4	3	6		4	1
Blue Jay	6	3	3	5	1	4	1
Common Crow	1	8	6	5		5	1
Carolina Chickadee	4	7	6	4		5	1
Tufted Titmouse	4	7	5	5		5	1
Carolina Wren	3	5	6	5		2	3
Mockingbird	2	8	5	7		6	
Wood Thrush		4	1	None		5	
Eastern Bluebird	2	6	3	1	3	3	
Loggerhead Shrike	3	4	6	8	1	5	
White-eyed Vireo	3	6	4	3	1	4	
Yellow-throated Vireo	2	None	1	None		2	1
Red-eyed Vireo		5	3	4	1	4	
Northern Parula	3	5	3	2		5	
Pine Warbler	1	1	None	None		4	
Kentucky Warbler	1	None	None	3		4	
Hooded Warbler	3	5	1	3	1	4	
Common Yellowthroat	1	5	3	5		5	1
House Sparrow	3	5	4	5	3	3	
Eastern Meadowlark	1	8	6	5		5	
Red-winged Blackbird	3	7	5	6	1	4	
Orchard Oriole	3	2	1	5		4	1
Boat-tailed Grackle	2	4	2	1	1	3	
Great-tailed Grackle	3	5	4	5	1	5	
Common Grackle	1	3	3	5		5	
Brown-headed Cowbird	4	5	3	4	2	3	
Summer Tanager	3	5	3	2	1	4	
Cardinal	5	8	5	7	2	4	
Painted Bunting	3	6	5	4	1	2	
Dickcissel	1	3	2	2		3	1
Henslow's Sparrow X		1	None	None			1

The majority of observers reporting indicated that the birds with an X after the name should be reported in the month Clearing House listing. Thus, future reports on these should be submitted by number, date and location. They are: Marsh Hawk, Barred Owl, Eastern Pewee and Henslow's Sparrow. In addition, as announced in the Spring 1977 Summary the following birds are in the same category: Wood Duck, American Oystercatcher, White-winged Dove, Barn Owl, and Screech Owl.

THE FUN OF A YEAR'S LIST by the editor

Last February I talked about listing, yard, year, life etc. When I started this year's birding, a goal of 300 birds seen in the UTC Checklist area seemed a good, if far-away one. Well, I saw my 299th bird on June 12! Wouldn't you think the goal was at hand? Uh, uh. It was August 6th before a Wood Ibis gave me that coveted goal. As of this first week of September, the list stands at 305, Margaret Anderson is right at that figure, Ted Eubanks has 295. Do any of you members or subscribers keep a year's list of birds seen in the UTC? Send in your total to date, let's see how many of you are close to or have surpassed 300. We live in a great birding area!

IN SEARCH OF THE JACKPINE WARBLER by The Collins

When our neighbors ask us what we did on our vacation, we simply say we drove 5000 miles in two weeks to see a bird. This usually confirms our neighbors' belief in the Collins' insanity, but whoever said birding is a sane pastime? Surely anyone who would stomp through an Upper Peninsula Michigan bog, while being dined upon by mosquitoes and deer flies, is nuts.

Our journey took us through 11 states and gave us a trip list of 135 species--16 lifers for Tom, 19 for Sherry, 30 for Greg, who broke 300.

The first stop on our trip was in St. Louis to see the European tree sparrow. This bird is not as easy to locate as one might think. In fact, had it not been for Jerry and Nancy Strickling's help, I'm sure we would have missed it. The only reliable place to find the ETS is the street where the Strickling's formerly lived. Their neighbors, the Wehlings, said they were quite accustomed to having birders tromp through their yard. We found one male after looking for 2 hours.

From St. Louis we headed north to Michigan in search of our trip bird--the Kirtland Warbler. There are two places in Michigan to see this endangered warbler, Mio and Grayling. We chose Grayling. As we arrived a cool front blew through, dropping the temperature to about 55. The only way to get into the Kirtland warbler area is to be escorted by a Michigan Department of Natural Resources employee. This year 219 pairs have been counted. The cowbird has parasitized the Kirtlands into near extinction, and man's control of forest fires has slowed the growth of the small jackpine (5-15 feet) necessary for its breeding. Our guide led us to an area some 10 miles from Grayling where we found 3 males. This bird is not shy and came within 5 feet of us.

We were given permission to stay in the area to look for a black-backed 3-toed woodpecker. It took Greg 15 minutes to find it for us. It was a male and a definite bonus bird. A small flock of ruffed grouse helped to make it a great day.

From Grayling we went into the Michigan Upper Peninsula and camped in a park next to a lake. In our campsite we found a "fee-bee-o" flycatcher nesting. Whippoorwills lulled us to sleep. Robins, veeries and wood thrush drove us out of bed in the morning. A loon in one lake gave several calls. My general impression of the U.P. is that the sun never sets and it rains constantly. We were rained out three out of four days and saw very few birds.

While heading west to Minnesota we picked up mourning warblers, black ducks, evening grosbeaks, white-winged crossbills, and "chebek-chebek-chebek" flycatchers. At Seney NWR we learned that a four year recurring bird malaria had killed 90% of the Canada goose goslings.

In Ashland, Wisconsin we happened upon 8 mute swans on Lake Superior. We found from local birders that these were wild birds and countable--one more bonus.

The best Minnesota could produce for us was a Krider's form of the red-tailed hawk. This bird had a totally white tail--quite beautiful. We were also pleased to find both red-necked and Western grebes on a small lake in southern Minnesota.

Our timing was poor but because of a work project we couldn't leave earlier. The best time to visit this area is during spring migration or early June at the latest. Nevertheless, we still had a good trip and saw some beautiful country.

Editor's note: Sherry's account of her vacation was delightful. Do any more of you want to share some vacation anecdotes with us? We would like to read about searching for birds, here or there, fun or frustration. Share with us!

PLEASE ADD THESE NEW MEMBERS TO THE ROSTER

Miss Janice Bourgeois, 2215 Shakespeare, Houston 77030	668-9559
John Hendrick, 14101 Misty Meadow, Houston 77079	493-2535
Mrs. R.E. Milstead, 10810 Burdine, Houston 77035	729-0433
Merle Rockett, 11810 Chimney Rock #108, Houston 77035	721-3548
A.K. Stoley, 10635 Inwood, Houston 77057	781-1372

A PEREGRINE CAN BE ANYWHERE!

Earlier in this issue you were reminded to look for an occasional Peregrine Falcon when you go to the beach. Just before this page got mimeographed, Ted Eubanks, Jr. called in great excitement to tell of seeing a Peregrine fly 30' overhead while he was standing in the little park on Allen Parkway just east of Jefferson Davis Hosp. He said his father saw one chasing a Pileated Woodpecker (!) at Jones Forest last week near the pond and picnic area. So don't wait to go to the beach, just look up!

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

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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

SUMMARY OF REPORT FOR SUMMER QUARTER COMMON BIRDS - REPORT FORM

The birds listed here are those indicated on the checklist as "Abundant" or "Fairly Common" in the UTC during the months of June, July and August.

Indicate in the space beside each bird what your opinion of its frequency has been for the above months this year. Also, mark an X by the name of any species you think should be included in the regular monthly listing of the Clearing House.

In the column under "Nesting" please show those birds you have observed engaged in nesting activity such as mating, sitting on nest, feeding young and fledglings near nesting sites.

Please return this completed form to the Clearing House Editor by September 5, 1977 for the quarterly report on these birds.

Species	Nesting	Above Normal	Normal	Below Normal
Grebe, Pied-billed				
Cormorant, Olivaceous				
Anhinga				
Heron, Great Blue				
Heron, Green				
Heron, Little Blue				
Egret, Cattle				
Egret, Reddish				
Egret, Great				
Egret, Snowy				
Heron, Louisiana				
Night Heron, Black-crowned				
Night Heron, Yellow-crowned				
Ibis, White-faced				
Ibis, White				
Spoonbill, Roseate				
Duck, Mottled				
Vulture, Turkey				
Vulture, Black				
Hawk, Red-shouldered				
Hawk, Marsh				
Bobwhite				
Rail, King				
Rail, Clapper				
Gallinule, Common				
Coot, American				
Plover, Wilson's				
Killdeer				
Plover, Black-bellied				
Willet				
Sanderling				

Species	Nesting	Above Normal	Normal	Below Normal
Stilt, Black-necked				
Gull, Laughing				
Tern, Gull-billed				
Tern, Forster's				
Tern, Least				
Tern, Royal				
Tern, Sandwich				
Tern, Caspian				
Tern, Black				
Skimmer, Black				
Dove, Rock				
Dove, Mourning				
Dove, Inca				
Cuckoo, Yellow-billed				
Owl, Barred				
Nighthawk, Common				
Swift, Chimney				
Woodpecker, Pileated				
Woodpecker, Red-bellied				
Woodpecker, Red-headed				
Woodpecker, Downy				
Kingbird, Eastern				
Flycatcher, Scissor-tailed				
Flycatcher, Great Crested				
Flycatcher, Acadian				
Pewee, Eastern				
Lark, Horned				
Swallow, Barn				
Martin, Purple				
Jay, Blue				
Crow, Common				
Chickadee, Carolina				
Titmouse, Tufted				
Wren, Carolina				
Mockingbird				
Thrush, Wood				
Bluebird, Eastern				
Shrike, Loggerhead				

Species	Nesting	Above Normal	Normal	Below Normal
Vireo, White-eyed				
Vireo, Yellow-throated				
Vireo, Red-eyed				
Parula, Northern				
Warbler, Pine				
Warbler, Kentucky				
Warbler, Hooded				
Yellowthroat, Common				
Sparrow, House				
Meadowlar , Eastern				
Blackbird, Red-winged				
Oriole, Orchard				
Grackle, Boat-tailed				
Grackle, Great-tailed				
Grackle, Common				
Cowbird, Brown-headed				
Tanager, Summer				
Cardinal				
Bunting, Painted				
Dickcissel				
Sparrow, Henslow's				

List any sightings you have for August below, if you wish (In regular C-H format.

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