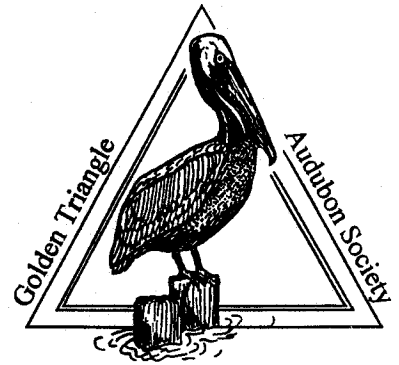


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 6 No. 11

November 2000

## Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2000  
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Your Favorite Bird Pictures  
Covered Dish Requested

We invite you to bring along your five (or more) favorite bird pictures, videos or stories. Please bring a covered dish, hors d'oeuvres or soft drinks, so we can all enjoy food and drink.

This meeting is also the Society's Annual Meeting and we will conduct elections for 2001 officers and board. As usual, the doors will be open no later than 6:30 p.m., and the proceedings will start at 7:15 p.m. approximately.

## October Membership Meeting

Dr. Jay Huner was our speaker at the membership meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2000. Dr. Huner was born and reared in Baton Rouge. He obtained his PhD at Louisiana State University in 1975 in Marine Sciences specializing in Crawfish Aquaculture. From 1975 through 1988, he taught at Southern University at Baton Rouge in the Biology Department and Agricultural School. Since 1988, Dr. Huner has been at the University of Louisiana, Lafayette where he is the Director of the Crawfish Research Center. He is also the Adjunct Professor in the College of Applied Life Sciences and Adjunct Professor at the University of Kuopio, Finland. Since 1975, he has worked with farmers concerns about birds. His presentation about *Agricultural Wetlands as Habitat for Water Birds* was very educational and interesting.

In 1975, when Dr. Huner graduated from LSU he became interested in the issue of birds and crawfish ponds. At that time there was a lot of concern among farmers about whether or not the birds they saw in their ponds were causing any problems. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Huner and his colleagues have done research to answer this question. There are several species of birds that depend on crawfish habitats for food: Wood Storks, Roseate Spoonbills, Mallards, White and White-faced Ibis, pelicans, scaup, various shorebirds, cormorants, avocets, Black-necked Stilts, gulls, geese, egrets, coots, herons, dowitchers, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, Wood Ducks and many other bird species. As you can see, crawfish ponds are clearly water-bird magnets.

There are two kinds of management scenarios for raising crawfish: raise with rice or raise them by themselves. A typical crawfish pond cycle when raised with rice would be to plant rice in April, in a new pond stock crawfish after the rice is flooded, harvest the rice, put water in the field to encourage the vegetation to grow back, then the farmer might harvest the second crop of rice but normally the system would be reflooded for the crawfish until September or October but if the system is not reflooded then the cycle would be restarted in the spring. In a permanent pond, the farmer would stock the pond in April, drain the pond in May or June, plant some type of vegetation, refill the pond and the cycle would continue over and over again.

(cont. on page 2)

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 6, No.11 Nov 2000

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

RARE BIRD ALERT AND  
SOCIETY INFORMATION  
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[http://goldtriaudubon.  
tripod.com](http://goldtriaudubon.tripod.com) (NEW!)

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Texas 77627-1292

## Calendar of Events

If you can present a program of interest to a Membership Meeting, or know of some person who can, please contact Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193.

For more information on field trips, please contact Steve Mayes, (409) 722-5807 or the trip leader.

**November 16 - Membership Meeting.** At this meeting, which is also our official annual meeting and election, we invite members to bring a few of their favorite bird slides, and a covered dish.

**Saturday November 18 - Field Trip.** Searching for sparrows. Meet near the Restrooms in the Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park at 7:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Mayes.

**Saturday November 18 - Meeting on the Texas Chenier Plain NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan.**

There will be a meeting at the Ramada Inn, Highway 73 in Port Arthur from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. to provide an opportunity for the public to share ideas and suggestions on refuge public use and management with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Texas Chenier Plan NWR Complex includes the Texas Point, McFaddin, Anahuac and Moody NWRs. Please attend and show support for the conservation mission of the refuges.

**Saturday Dec. 16 - Turkey Creek CBC.**

Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on FM420 (off US 69 seven miles north of Kountze) at 6:30 a.m. For further information, call David Baker (409) 839-2689 ext. 235.

**Saturday Dec. 30 - Beech Creek CBC.**

Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 just north of Town Bluff at 6:30 a.m. For further information, call David Baker (409) 839-2689 ext. 235.

**December 31 - Sea Rim State Park Christmas Count.**

This is the count that we sponsor. Please plan on joining us for this count. Call John Whittle (409) 722-4193 for more details. The meeting place for those not pre-assigned will be immediately north of the intersection of TX 87 and FM 3322 - the main intersection - in Sabine Pass at 7:15 a.m.

**January 18, 2001 - Membership Meeting.** David Sarkozi, President of the Ornithology Group of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston will give a presentation on "The Birds of Belize."

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Andrea Billingsley, Glen Cook and Marcelean Howell for the refreshments in October. In November, we ask everyone to bring something. For January 2001, Lynn Otto, Dean Hollingswood and Needa Reed have volunteered. In February Lou and Grady Skillern have signed up; we are now seeking volunteers for the March and April 2001.

## Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by AU has passed, please remit your contribution of \$15 to Golden Triangle Audubon Society at P.O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292. Although this contribution towards the cost of the Brown Pelican is voluntary for National Audubon Society members living in the official chapter territory, we will appreciate your support.

## Meeting Report *(from p.1)*

According to Dr. Huner, South Louisiana is a success story because wading bird populations are verging in the area as the direct result of the agricultural wetland complexes in the area. Although Dr. Huner's research has not yet answered the farmers question, it is his hope, "that these two natural resources - crawfish and water birds - can be sustained on into the 21st century."

This slide presentation and discussion after the program was so full of educational and interesting ideas that I had to summarize only a small portion of this program. If you were unable to attend this meeting - you really missed an excellent program!  
*Nancy Fisher*

## Hummer/bird Festival

Three of our members went to the Hummer/Bird Festival in Rockport this year in September. We left on Thursday afternoon after work and arrived around 10:00 p.m. We woke up the next morning early, and went to the lectures at the Rockport auditorium. They had many different types of lectures this year to entice bird lovers. They had the traditional hummingbird lectures about planting habitat, identifying, reporting, etc. This year they had one lecture even on one island that you can go to in order to see a hummer that only lives on that island. They had hummers of the United States and pictures of hummers from South America. Some of the different lectures, were about hawk migration, (which I really enjoyed), animals of Africa was another one done by John and Gloria Tveten and it was wonderful. One of our members went to a three hour workshop about identifying shorebirds which was super. "Last Chance Forever" spoke at the Thursday night lecture which we missed, but on Friday, we were able to see about six different birds of prey up close and personal. They were awesome! Some of which were a Golden Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Aplomodo Falcon, Great Horned Owl, a Barn Owl and several Peregrine Falcons. They were awesome!

The Rockport people graciously allowed us to visit their yards again this year. We averaged seeing between thirty and fifty Ruby-throated Hummers at each yard. Most were covered in hummer-attracting plants along with at the least ten feeders per yard. One tiny yard had at least fifty hummingbird feeders and each one had four or five hummers at it. You talk about busy! One house had the famous Nancy Newfield, (who has written a book), banding hummers. It was so exciting to see the new remote controlled hummingbird trap which catches hummers very quickly and safely. Then we watched as she banded them, weighed, measured, and released them. All the hummers at the houses which we toured were Ruby-throats except for one Rufous Hummingbird. That same house had a Buff-bellied, but we did not see it. One common characteristic of the yards with a lot of hummers, was the fact that they had a lot of water sources, such as drippers, misters, sprinklers, etc.

The Hummer-Bird Festival had wonderful shopping in about seventy bird/nature booths. They had bird books, plants, binoculars, videos, bird shirts, dresses, towels, oven mitts, jewelry, feeders, etc. There were several refuges that had booths one of which was Goose Island State Park. They now have a bird trail and a nice bird feeding station which we visited on Sunday morning.

On Sunday about 10:00 a.m., we went to the Hazel Bazemore Hawk Watch. Unfortunately we did not see many hawks. We saw two Copper Hawks and some vultures. There were 100 or more dark Ibis that flew by. On the way to the Hawk Watch, we saw a kettle of 125 White Pelicans, which was a thrill for us. We did see the usual Caracara on a fencepost as we were leaving Rockport.

When we got home, we got a note from one of the Hawk Watch leaders saying that we had left too soon. We left there at 2:00 p.m. and at 4:55 p.m., 3,000 hawks flew over.

There were a total of four of us in our group. It was a very enjoyable week-end. We laughed so hard that we cried because we were evidently all in the need for some enjoyment and what an enjoyable week-end it was! FULL OF BIRDS AND FUN PEOPLE TOO!

*Jana Whittle*

## Hummingbird Home Tour

On the last, hot, sultry day of summer, September 25th, with the temperature in the high nineties, five avid hummingbird enthusiasts traveled the byways and highways of Jefferson County in search of tiny jewels called hummingbirds. We were amply rewarded for our endurance in the heat.

At our first stop, we found a birder's haven in the backyard sanctuary of Harrison and Rose Ann Jordan. Yes, we heard and viewed approximately 20 hummers at various feeders, but we had other exciting sightings, too. Tucked in, around, and among the pines, magnolias, pecans, and oaks, we were treated to a Summer Tanager, Titmice, Chickadees, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Thrasher, and Blue Jays. The Jordan's yard is a field trip in itself! Although we wanted to stay longer, our fearless leader, Jana Whittle, commanded us onward.

On our caravan trekked to the Blythe's residence located off Tram Road. They had hummingbird feeders on almost every allowable eave space! We positioned ourselves at Feeders A, B, C, and D and estimated 30 hummingbirds feeding. It was interesting to note that these hummers were actually sharing. Each of the feeders would have one perched on each port drinking.

Since we had to pass Calder exit to go to the Steve Kuritz home, we could not resist a visit to Ms. Bessie Cornelius's home. She thinks that planting bamboo on the back edge of her yard has helped make her yard successful in attracting so many species, along with all of her many trees, and bird attracting plants. She has a lot of Mexican Turk's Cap, Shrimp Plant, and Hamelias. After observing her hummers, and as we were getting into our vehicles, she sent for us to come into her den---she had just sighted a special surprise! There at her suet feeder (about four feet from her patio doors) was a beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker.

With the promise of "tea and biscuits", we visited Steve Kuritz's home. And, yes, believe him when he tells you of the number of hummingbirds that his feeders have attracted! A real treat was the tour of his and neighboring yards that he is "naturalizing". He has an astonishing variety of bird attracting plants.

After brief separation on the freeway, all of us eventually arrived at the home of Mrs. Clubb, located off Fannett Road. Her hummers totally inhabited one of her large oak trees. She easily can brag of having over one hundred birds! The quietness and beauty of her country estate refreshed out hot, tired bodies and minds.

Our south county tour included the home of Billie and George Smith of Groves. Billie has been notorious for years in her consistency to have a lot of hummers. This year was not a disappointment. She has a beautiful yard done with many Hamelias, and various beautiful blooming bird-attracting plants. It is truly a hummingbird retreat.

What a wonderful way to spend the last really hot afternoon of summer in Southeast Texas.

*We thank the Jordans, Blythes, Ms. Cornelius, Steve Kuritz, Mrs. Clubb, and the Smiths for allowing us the chance to see their yards and birds. By the way, the next morning, most of the hummers had disappeared. Now there are a few stragglers, but I feel that we caught them on their last big day before the majority migrated. But keep those feeders out!*

*Sandi Cook*

## Sabine Woods Field Trip -- 21 October 2000

The Golden Triangle Audubon Society's annual Fall migration pilgrimage to Sabine Woods started with eight members gathering near the entrance on a warm October morning. Indigo Buntings were already evident in the scrubby areas near the main trail and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds zipped among the blooming Turk's Cap and Lantana. A Merlin in hunting mode over the woods was well seen by most. The group, consisting of several experienced birders along with a newcomer or two, headed into the woods to the calls of Brown Thrashers and Eastern Wood-Pewees.

The Woods seemed fairly inactive at first but things would pick up as the morning went on. An immature White-eyed Vireo was among the first birds spotted. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were abundant as they have been for some weeks now. The resident Blue Jays and Downy Woodpeckers were easily seen but more easily heard. Gray Catbirds were mostly just heard but a Black and White Warbler was much more cooperative allowing good looks for all the birders. A Northern "Yellow-shafted" Flicker, uncommon this close to the coast at any season, was very cooperative for the group.

Warblers are usually the main targets during migration trips to Sabine Woods and although not abundant, there were a fair variety to be found on this day. Many of these birds stuck to the tree tops and interiors making observation difficult but an identification was eventually made for most of the birds. The party had the opportunity to compare Fall Tennessee and Orange-crowned Warblers, separating these species is much easier in the Spring! A Nashville Warbler was well seen by most but the Black-throated Green Warbler working the top of the oaks was more difficult. Common Yellowthroats worked the weeds in the dry pond while a "Confusing Fall Warbler", probably a Pine Warbler stayed high in the trees. A female American Redstart and a beautiful male Hooded Warbler were also noted.

Raptors also made a good showing for the day. These birds are often left out when birders are speaking of migrants, but good numbers of migrating hawks pass through our area in Spring and Fall. Northern Harrier was probably the most prominent raptor of the day, seen cruising low over the fields on numerous occasions. The birders were treated to spectacular looks at a hovering White-tailed Kite, demonstrating the "kiting" hunting method it is well known for. A Cooper's Hawk made a quick flight over the woods giving a brief but good look to the group. Turkey Vultures (not truly raptors) were also well seen. A number of the birders also got looks at Ospreys in different locations after the field trip officially ended.

Certainly the best find of the day was a bird turned up hanging around a brush pile. Initially seen by only a couple of birders, the bird revealed itself as a Green-tailed Towhee. This is a western sparrow rarely seen on the upper Texas coast. The bird proved quite shy and elusive at first, as several members of the group could not get looks at the Towhee despite several attempts. Luckily, persistence paid off and a return trip (or two) to the brush pile finally convinced our rare bird to show off a little giving a long look to everyone remaining.

Some non-birds (yes, we do look at other things) were also noted on the trip. A large Cottonmouth crawling across the trail created some nervous excitement for the group, but the

snake was not in an aggressive mood and quickly found a hiding place when approached. Butterflies were abundant on the day, with migrating Monarchs very common. Some other butterflies seen included Long-tailed Skipper, Giant Swallowtail, Gulf Fritillary, Red Admiral and Common Buckeye.

The group split up at this point with some members going home and others deciding to continue the trip with a visit to the Pilot Road to Texas Point. This area is a well-known local birding spot and often produces quite a variety of sparrows in the Fall. A number of sparrows were seen including good looks at Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Seaside Sparrows but the variety was not quite as good as at Sabine Woods. The Woods had already produced Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, Chipping and White-crowned Sparrows. A few birders who visited the Point earlier in the day had reported Grasshopper Sparrow and other birds, but these could not be relocated. A pleasant surprise was the number of shorebirds seen. Long-billed Curlews were around in surprising numbers and a Whimbrel offered the opportunity to compare the two. A small flock of Short-billed Dowitchers was kind enough to call revealing their true identity and Willets and "Peeps" were easily seen. A couple of Semipalmated Plovers and a Winter plumaged Ruddy Turnstone were nice additions to our trip list.

Alas, all good things must end and so did our field trip. In the end more than eighty species of birds were reported on the day including double digit numbers of species for Warblers, Sparrows and raptors (if you count Vultures). Another successful trip! Come join us for the November field trip when we will again travel to the Sabine Pass area for our annual Sparrow Hunt Extravaganza!

The following species were recorded by the trip leader:  
Pelican, American White (25), Brown (10); Cormorant, Neotropic (10), Double-crested(2); Great Blue Heron(7); Great Egret(3); Snowy Egret(2); Tricolored Heron(1); Night-Heron, Black-crowned (1); Yellow-crowned (1); White Ibis(15); Vulture, Black (2), Turkey (5); Osprey(1); White-tailed Kite(1); Northern Harrier(5); Cooper's Hawk(1); Sharp-shinned Hawk(1); American Kestrel(2); Merlin(1); Clapper/King Rail (heard only-4); Black-bellied Plover(1); Semipalmated Plover(2); Killdeer(6); Lesser Yellowlegs(1); Willet(15); Whimbrel(1); Long-billed Curlew(10); Ruddy Turnstone(1); Western Sandpiper(2); Least Sandpiper(4); Short-billed Dowitcher(5); Laughing Gull(15); Ring-billed Gull(1); Caspian Tern(1); Forster's Tern(6); Mourning Dove(10); Ruby-throated Hummingbird(15); Belted Kingfisher(2); Downy Woodpecker(4); "Yellow-shafted" Flicker(2); Eastern Wood-Pewee(2); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher(1); Empidonax sp.(1); Eastern Phoebe(1); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher(1); Loggerhead Shrike(3); White-eyed Vireo(1); Blue Jay(6); Tree Swallow(10); House Wren(2); Sedge Wren(4); Ruby-crowned Kinglet(4); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher(12); Gray Catbird(2); Northern Mockingbird(5); Brown Thrasher(5); European Starling(2); Warbler, Tennessee(1), Orange-crowned(2), Nashville(1), Northern Parula(2), Black-throated Green(1), Pine(?) (1), Black and White(4), American Redstart(3), Common Yellowthroat(5), Hooded(1); Summer Tanager(1); Green-tailed Towhee(1); Sparrow, Chipping(2), Nelson's Sharp-tailed(3), Seaside(2), Song(2), Lincoln's(4), Swamp(6), White-crowned(3); Northern Cardinal(4); Rose-breasted Grosbeak(1); Indigo Bunting(25); Dickcissel(2); Red-winged Blackbird(50); Boat-tailed Grackle(3); Great-tailed Grackle(15); Brown-headed Cowbird(10); House Sparrow(3).

*Steve Mayes*

## Bird Sightings - September 2000

**Coverage:** Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, Tyler, Jasper, Newton, Angelina, San Augustine and Sabine counties. **Send Reports to:** John Whittle, 3015 Nashville Avenue, Nederland, Texas 77627-6749 by the 10th of the month after or e-mail to whittleja@hal.lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8276 or fax to (409) 880-8270. For "very rare" birds, please submit a brief account of your sighting, including a description of the bird (unless unmistakable), brief details of what it was doing, and where it was seen (if on publicly accessible property). **Format:** "Common" to "abundant" birds are shown in the

fashion "JEF 4 reps(25)" which means four reports in Jefferson County totaling 25 birds. Less than "common", as "JEF-SW 7/5(2) ABC", which means seen in Jefferson County (JEF) at Sabine Woods (SW) on the 5th of July, two (2) birds, reported by observer "ABC".

**Commentary:** More "early" warblers were seen in September, with several early Nashville and Orange-crowned Warblers. Early Chipping and White-throated Sparrows were noted also. Late in the month, two leucistic (white) Hummingbirds were seen for a few days in Sour Lake by Larry and Jane Wilson.

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| GREBE, Least   | JEF-TP 9/17(1) BCP                   |
| GREBE, Pied-billed                                       | ANG 2 reps(16); JEF 1 rep(32)        |
| PELICAN, Amer. White                                     | ANG 1 rep(7); JEF 1 rep(200)         |
| PELICAN, Brown   | JEF-TXPT 9/16(7) MC09; JEF-SRSP      |
| 9/30(2) JAW  |                                      |
| CORMORANT, Neotropic                                     | JEF 10 reps(83)                      |
| CORMORANT, Dble-crest.                                   | JEF-TP 9/16(3) MC05; JEF-SRSP        |
| 9/30(5) JAW  |                                      |
| ANHINGA  | ANG 2 reps(41); JEF 3 reps(230)      |
| BITTERN, Least   | JEF-TP 9/17(1) BCP                   |
| HERON, Great Blue  | ANG 1 rep(34); JEF 13 reps(40)       |
| EGRET, Great   | ANG 1 rep(51); JEF 19 reps(212)      |
| EGRET, Snowy   | ANG 2 reps(11); JEF 16 reps(156)     |
| HERON, Little Blue                                       | ANG 1 rep(5); JEF 8 reps(14)         |
| HERON, Tricolored  | JEF 6 reps(20)                       |
| EGRET, Cattle  | ANG 1 rep(16); JEF 17 reps(2879)     |
| HERON, Green   | ANG 9/2(6) BGP; JEF 9/12(1) LJW; JEF |
| 9/16(3) MC01; JEF 9/16(1) MC03; JEF 9/16(1) MC07; JEF-SW |                                      |
| 9/16(1) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(17) MC05; ORA 9/24(1) KS       |                                      |
| NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.                                   | ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(9)          |
| NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.                                  | ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)           |
| IBIS, White  | ANG 1 rep(22); JEF 15 reps(271)      |
| IBIS, White-faced  | JEF 8 reps(98)                       |
| IBIS, Plegadis   | JEF 3 reps(50)                       |
| SPOONBILL, Roseate                                       | JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-PI 9/16(216)  |
| MC09; JEF-SW 9/17(7) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(2) JAW             |                                      |
| STORK, Wood  | ANG 9/19(3) DW; JEF-PI 9/16(1) MC09  |
| VULTURE, Black   | JEF 8 reps(72)                       |
| VULTURE, Turkey  | ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 18 reps(105)       |
| DUCK, Wood   | ANG 9/2(78) BGP; JEF-TP 9/16(2)      |
| MC05   |                                      |
| DUCK, Mottled  | JEF 9/16(5) MC01; JEF-TP 9/16(14)    |
| MC05   |                                      |
| TEAL, Blue-winged  | ANG 1 rep(43); JEF 4 reps(93)        |
| SHOVELER, Northern                                       | JEF 9/16(1) MC03; JEF-PI 9/16(175)   |
| MC09; JEF-TP 9/16(2) MC05                                |                                      |
| PINTAIL, Northern  | JEF-SRSP 9/30(1) JAW                 |
| DUCK species   | JEF 1 rep(18)                        |
| OSPREY   | JEF-TX87 9/4(1) KS; JEF 9/16(1)      |
| MC03; JEF-PI 9/16(1) MC06; JEF-TP 9/16(1) MC05           |                                      |
| KITE, White-tailed                                       | JEF 5 reps(7)                        |
| KITE, Mississippi  | ANG 9/2(1) BGP; JEF-TP 9/16(4) MC05  |
| HARRIER, Northern  | JEF 9/16(1) MC01; JEF 9/30(2) JAW;   |
| JEF-SW 9/30(2) JAW                                       |                                      |
| HAWK, Sharp-shinned                                      | JEF-TP 9/16(1) MC05; JEF 9/30(1)     |
| JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW                                  |                                      |
| HAWK, Cooper's   | JEF-TP 9/16(2) MC05; JEF 9/17(1)     |
| JAW; JEF-TP 9/17(1) BCP                                  |                                      |
| HAWK, Red-shouldered                                     | ANG 2 reps(4); JEF 9 reps(20)        |
| HAWK, Broad-winged                                       | ANG 9/19(1) DW; JEF 9/16(5) MC03;    |
| JEF-SW 9/16(150) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(1750) MC05; JEF       |                                      |
| 9/24(1) JAW  |                                      |
| HAWK, Swainson's   | JEF 3 reps(3)                        |
| HAWK, Red-tailed   | ANG 9/2(1) BGP; JEF 9/16(1) MC03;    |
| JEF 9/21(2) LJW  |                                      |

|   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| KESTREL, American   | JEF 11 reps(55)                     |
| MERLIN  | JEF 9/16(1) MC09                    |
| RAIL, Clapper   | JEF 2 reps(3)                       |
| MOORHEN, Common   | JEF 5 reps(30)                      |
| COOT, American  | JEF 2 reps(6)                       |
| PLOVER, Black-bellied                                     | JEF 3 reps(225)                     |
| PLOVER, Snowy   | JEF-SRSP 9/16(21) MC11; JEF-SRSP    |
| 9/30(2) JAW   |                                     |
| PLOVER, Semipalmated                                      | JEF 2 reps(9)                       |
| PLOVER, Piping  | JEF 2 reps(10)                      |
| KILLDEER  | ANG 1 rep(8); JEF 10 reps(83)       |
| STILT, Black-necked                                       | JEF 3 reps(51)                      |
| AVOCET, American  | JEF 1 rep(200)                      |
| YELLOWLEGS, Greater                                       | JEF 1 rep(1)                        |
| YELLOWLEGS, Lesser  | JEF 1 rep(2)                        |
| SANDPIPER, Solitary                                       | ANG 9/19(1) DW; JEF-TP 9/16(1) MC05 |
| WILLET  | JEF 4 reps(516)                     |
| SANDPIPER, Spotted  | ANG 9/2(1) BGP; JEF-TP 9/16(2) MC05 |
| SANDPIPER, Upland   | ANG 9/19(1) DW; JEF 9/16(30) MC03   |
| CURLEW, Long-billed                                       | JEF 2 reps(2)                       |
| GODWIT, Marbled   | JEF-PI 9/16(8) MC09                 |
| TURNSTONE, Ruddy  | JEF 2 reps(26)                      |
| KNOT, Red   | JEF-SRSP 9/30(5) JAW                |
| SANDERLING  | JEF 2 reps(89)                      |
| SANDPIPER, Western  | JEF 3 reps(508)                     |
| SANDPIPER, Peep   | JEF 1 rep(2500)                     |
| SANDPIPER, Least  | JEF 2 reps(75)                      |
| SANDPIPER, Baird's  | JEF-PI 9/16(2) MC09                 |
| SANDPIPER, Pectoral                                       | JEF 1 rep(4)                        |
| SANDPIPER, Stilt  | JEF-PI 9/16(3) MC09                 |
| SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted                                  | ANG 9/19(1) DW                      |
| DOWITCHER, Short-billed                                   | JEF 1 rep(35)                       |
| DOWITCHER species   | JEF 1 rep(35)                       |
| PHALAROPE, Wilson's                                       | JEF-TP 9/16(7) MC05                 |
| GULL, Laughing  | JEF 9 reps(1304)                    |
| GULL, Ring-billed   | JEF-PI 9/16(2) MC09; JEF-SRSP       |
| 9/16(5) MC11; JEF-SRSP 9/30(2) JAW                        |                                     |
| GULL, Herring   | JEF-SRSP 9/30(2) JAW                |
| TERN, Gull-billed   | JEF-TXPT 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-PI 9/16(2) |
| MC09; JEF-SRSP 9/30(1) JAW                                |                                     |
| TERN, Caspian   | JEF 3 reps(201)                     |
| TERN, Royal   | JEF 2 reps(252)                     |
| TERN, Sandwich  | JEF 2 reps(3)                       |
| TERN, Common  | JEF-SRSP 9/16(1) MC11               |
| TERN, Forster's   | JEF 9 reps(244)                     |
| TERN, Least   | JEF 1 rep(30)                       |
| TERN, Black   | JEF 4 reps(78)                      |
| SKIMMER, Black  | JEF 1 rep(250)                      |
| DOVE, Rock  | ANG 1 rep(100); JEF 8 reps(86)      |
| COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.                                     | JEF 9/4(15) JAW; JEF 9/16(3) MC01;  |
| JEF 9/16(2) MC02; JEF 9/16(1) MC04; JEF 9/16(2) MC07; JEF |                                     |
| 9/24(6) JAW   |                                     |
| DOVE, White-winged  | JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ                   |
| DOVE, Mourning  | ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 26 reps(444)      |
| DOVE, Inca  | ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 4   |

reps(13)

CUCKOO, Yellow-billed ANG 2 reps(3); JEF 4 reps(4)

ANI, Groove-billed JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW

SCREECH-OWL, Eastern ANG 9/2(2) BGP

OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 9/3(1) KS; JEF 9/16(1) MC07;  
JEF 9/24(2) KS; JEF-SW 9/24(1) KS

OWL, Barred HAI 9/6(1) LJW; JEF 9/16(1) MC03

NIGHTHAWK, Common JEF 2 reps(2)

WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(3)  
KS; JEF-SW 9/4(3) KS; JEF-SW 9/16(2) MC10; JEF-SW  
9/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/24(1) KS

WHIP-POOR-WILL, JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(1)  
KS; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW

SWIFT, Chimney ANG 1 rep(31); JEF 9 reps(199); ORA 1  
rep(11)

HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 2 reps(11); JEF 17  
reps(283); ORA 2 reps(40)

HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail. JEF-NEDR 9/1(1) JAW

HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous HAI 9/6(1) LJW; HAI 9/7(1) LJW; HAI  
9/7(1) LJW; HAI 9/7(1) LJW

HUMMINGBIRD species HAI 9/27(2) LJW; JEF 9/3(1) JAW;  
JEF-TX87 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/4(1) JAW;  
JEF 9/16(2) MC03

KINGFISHER, Belted ANG 1 rep(3); JEF 10 reps(14); ORA 1  
rep(1)

WOODPECKER, Red-head. ANG 9/2(1) BGP; ANG 9/19(2) DW; JEF  
9/16(2) MC03; JEF-TP 9/16(1) MC05

WOODPECKER, Red-bell. ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(25); ORA 1  
rep(1)

WOODPECKER, Downy ANG 2 reps(6); JEF 14 reps(30)

FLICKER, N. (Red-shafted) JEF-NEDR 9/2(1) JAW

WOODPECKER, Pileated ANG 2 reps(6); JEF 3 reps(7); ORA 1  
rep(1)

FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided ANG 9/2(1) BGP; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ;  
JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/4(1) KS

WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern ANG 2 reps(7); JEF 13 reps(42)

FLYCATCHER, Yell-bellied JEF-SW 9/1(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/3(2)  
JAW; JEF 9/15(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/16(2) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(1)  
MC05

FLYCATCHER, Acadian ANG 9/2(3) BGP; JEF-SW 9/4(1) KS

FLYCATCHER, Alder JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW

FLYCATCHER, Willow JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW

FLYCATCHER, Traill's JEF-SW 9/3(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/16(2)  
MC10; JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW

FLYCATCHER, Least JEF 15 reps(69)

EMPIDONAX species JEF 10 reps(24)

PHOEBE, Eastern JEF 9/16(6) MC03

PHOEBE, Say's JEF 9/17(1) JAW

FLYCATCHER, Vermilion JEF 9/16(1) MC01; JEF 9/17(1) JAW

FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 11 reps(32)

KINGBIRD, Western JEF 9/16(2) MC02; JEF-SRSP 9/16(1)  
MC11

KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF 20 reps(145)

FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail. ANG 2 reps(32); JEF 14 reps(71)

SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 23 reps(211)

VIREO, White-eyed ANG 1 rep(13); JEF 10 reps(28)

VIREO, Yellow-throated ANG 1 rep(3)

VIREO, Blue-headed JEF-SW 9/17(2) JAW

VIREO, Red-eyed JEF 10 reps(13)

JAY, Blue ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 18  
reps(155)

CROW, American ANG 1 rep(6); JEF 7 reps(47)

CROW, Fish JEF-TXPT 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/16(1)  
MC01; JEF 9/16(2) MC03; JEF 9/16(12) MC04; JEF 9/16(3)  
MC09; JEF-TP 9/16(9) MC05

CROW, species JEF 3 reps(16)

MARTIN, Purple JEF 9/3(1000) JAW; JEF 9/16(1000)  
MC06

SWALLOW, Tree JEF 5 reps(74)

SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing. ANG 2 reps(2); JEF 2 reps(18)

SWALLOW, Bank JEF 2 reps(13)

SWALLOW, Cliff ANG 9/19(2) DW; JEF-TXPT 9/3(3)  
JAW

SWALLOW, Barn ANG 1 rep(18); JEF 18 reps(397)

CHICKADEE, Carolina ANG 1 rep(18); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6  
reps(26); ORA 1 rep(2)

TITMOUSE, Tufted ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1  
rep(1)

WREN, Carolina ANG 1 rep(17); HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 4  
reps(18)

KINGLET, Ruby-crowned JEF-SW 9/16(1) MC10

GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray ANG 1 rep(15); JEF 20 reps(177)

BLUEBIRD, Eastern ANG 1 rep(6); JEF 1 rep(2)

THRUSH, Swainson's JEF-SW 9/17(3) JAW

THRUSH, Wood JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW

ROBIN, American ANG 9/2(3) BGP; JEF-NEDR 9/4(3)  
JAW; JEF 9/16(23) MC03; JEF-NEDR 9/17(3) JAW

CATBIRD, Gray JEF-SW 9/30(2) JAW

MOCKINGBIRD, Northern ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 23  
reps(311)

THRASHER, Brown ANG 9/2(3) BGP; JEF-SW 9/1(1) DV;  
JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/4(1) KS; JEF 9/16(1) MC03;  
JEF-SW 9/16(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/17(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/24(3)  
KS; JEF-SW 9/30(15) JAW

STARLING, European ANG 1 rep(6); JEF 14 reps(436)

WARBLER, Blue-winged JEF-SRSP 9/1(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/1(1)  
DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(3)  
KS; JEF-SW 9/4(2) KS; JEF-SW 9/16(1) MC10; JEF-SW  
9/17(1) JAW

WARBLER, Tennessee ANG 9/2(2) BGP; JEF 9/15(1) GD;  
JEF-SW 9/17(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW

WARBLER, Orange-crown. JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1)  
JAW

WARBLER, Nashville JEF-SW 9/1(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/3(2)  
JAW; JEF-SW 9/10(3) KS; JEF 9/15(10) GD; JEF 9/16(1)  
MC03; JEF-SW 9/16(3) MC10; JEF-SW 9/17(3) JAW; JEF-SW  
9/24(2) KS; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW

WARBLER, Virginia's JEF-SW 9/4(1) RBA

PARULA, Northern ANG 1 rep(7); JEF 4 reps(6)

WARBLER, Yellow ANG 1 rep(4); JEF 11 reps(52)

WARBLER, Chestnut-sided JEF-SW 9/17(8) JAW; JEF-SW 9/17(2)  
KS

WARBLER, Magnolia JEF 9/15(3) GD; JEF-SW 9/17(5) JAW;  
JEF-SW 9/17(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW

WARBLER, Black-thr. Blue JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/17(1)  
KS

WARBLER, Black-thr. Grn. JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(3)  
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/4(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/10(2)  
KS; JEF 9/15(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW

WARBLER, Blackburnian JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW

WARBLER, Yellow-throated JEF-SRSP 9/1(1) DV

WARBLER, Pine ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(5)

WARBLER, Prairie JEF-SW 9/1(3) DV; JEF-SW 9/10(5)  
KS; JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW

WARBLER, Bay-breasted JEF 9/15(1) GD

WARBLER, Black-and-wh. ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(81)

REDSTART, American JEF 14 reps(28)

WARBLER, Prothonotary JEF-SW 9/10(1) KS; JEF-TP 9/16(2)  
MC05

WARBLER, Worm-eating JEF-SW 9/1(4) DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1)  
DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(2) KS; JEF-SW 9/4(1)  
KS

OVENBIRD JEF-SRSP 9/1(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/1(5)  
DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(3)  
KS; JEF-SW 9/4(2) KS; JEF 9/15(2) GD; JEF-SW 9/16(1)  
MC10; JEF-SW 9/17(7) JAW; JEF-SW 9/17(3) KS; JEF-SW  
9/30(2) JAW

WATERTHRUSH, Northern ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(20)

WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana ANG 9/2(1) BGP

WARBLER, Kentucky ANG 9/2(1) BGP; JEF 9/16(1) MC07

**WARBLER, Mourning** JEF-SW 9/1(5) DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(6) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(5) KS; JEF-SW 9/4(3) KS; JEF 9/15(2) GD; JEF-SW 9/16(1) MC10; JEF-SW 9/17(2) JAW

**YELLOWTHROAT, Com.** ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(29)

**WARBLER, Hooded** ANG 2 reps(2); JEF 13 reps(51)

**WARBLER, Wilson's** JEF 9/15(1) GD; JEF 9/16(1) MC03; JEF 9/16(1) MC07; JEF-SW 9/16(10) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(3) MC05; JEF-SW 9/17(15) JAW; JEF-SW 9/17(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/30(10) JAW

**WARBLER, Canada** JEF-SRSP 9/1(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/1(7) DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(10) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(12) KS; JEF-SW 9/4(12) KS; JEF-SW 9/10(1) KS; JEF 9/15(2) GD; JEF 9/16(2) MC03; JEF-SW 9/16(1) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(2) MC05 JEF-SW 9/17(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/17(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/24(1) KS

**CHAT, Yellow-breasted** JEF-SW 9/1(2) DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(4) KS; JEF-SW 9/4(6) KS; JEF 9/15(1) GD; JEF 9/16(2) MC03; JEF 9/16(2) MC07; JEF-SW 9/16(9) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/17(10) JAW JEF-SW 9/17(3) KS

**TANAGER, Summer** ANG 2 reps(3); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(8)

**TANAGER, Scarlet** JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ

**SPARROW, Chipping** JEF-TXPT 9/3(1) JAW

**SPARROW, Lark** JEF 9/16(3) MC01; JEF-TP 9/16(2) MC05

**SPARROW, Seaside** JEF 1 rep(1)

**SPARROW, White-throated** JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW

**CARDINAL, Northern** ANG 1 rep(5); HAI 2 reps(11); JEF 15 reps(157)

**GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted** JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ

**GROSBEAK, Black-headed** ANG 9/2(1) BGP

**GROSBEAK, Blue** ANG 9/2(1) BGP; JEF-SRSP 9/1(2) DV; JEF-SW 9/1(3) DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(3) KS; JEF 9/16(1) MC01; JEF-SW 9/16(1) MC10; JEF 9/21(6) LJW

**BUNTING, Indigo** ANG 2 reps(10); JEF 11 reps(65)

**BUNTING, Painted** JEF-SW 9/1(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/2(1) DPJ; JEF-SW 9/3(7) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(6) KS; JEF-SW 9/10(10) KS; JEF-SW 9/16(1) MC10; JEF-TP 9/16(3) MC05; JEF-SW 9/24(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/30(3) JAW

**DICKCISSEL** JEF 5 reps(26)

**BLACKBIRD, Red-winged** ANG 1 rep(12); JEF 11 reps(286)

**MEADOWLARK, Eastern** JEF 4 reps(10)

**MEADOWLARK species** JEF 1 rep(6)

**GRACKLE, Common** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(195)

**GRACKLE, Boat-tailed** JEF 8 reps(108)

**GRACKLE, Great-tailed** JEF 16 reps(383)

**COWBIRD, Brown-headed** JEF 6 reps(61)

**ORIOLE, Orchard** JEF 8 reps(52)

**ORIOLE, Baltimore** JEF 16 reps(108)

**FINCH, House** JEF-NEDR 9/1(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/2(2) JAW; JEF 9/16(8) MC03; JEF 9/16(3) MC07

**SPARROW, House** HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 8 reps(248)

**Number of Species** 199

**Number of Individuals** 2276

**County Abbreviations:**

ANG - Angelina; HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

**Location Codes:**

MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point

**Observer Abbreviations:**

BCP - Nick Block, John Chandler, Tim Perkins; BGP - Nancy Bird, Louis Debetaz, Georgette Guernsey, Charles Kent; DPJ - Don and Pat Jeane; DV - Don Verser; DW - Louis Debetaz and Jack Windsor; GD -

Gerald Duhon; JAW - John Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; LJW - Larry and Jane Wilson; MC01, MC02, MC04 - Migration Count, Area 1, 2, 4 (Steve Mayes); MC03 - Area 3 (Rose Ann Jordan and group), MC05 - Area 5 (John Haynes); MC06, MC08, MC09, MC10, MC11, MC12 - Area 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 (John Whittle); MC07 - Area 7 (Ken Sztraky); RBA - Texas Rare Bird Alert.

## Notes on Very Rare Species

**Broad-tailed Hummingbird -- 1 Sep. 2000 -- John Whittle**  
A Broad-tailed Hummingbird, with a large tail with obvious rufous color and a buff wash along the flanks, was seen at a feeder in Nederland.

**Virginia's Warbler (possible) -- 4 Sep. 2000 -- Texas Rare Bird Alert**

A possible Virginia's Warbler was reported as having been seen at Sabine Woods. No further details are known.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler -- 17 Sep. 2000 - Multiple Observers**

A very early but very cooperative male Black-throated Blue Warbler, the first of several this fall, was seen in Sabine Woods.

## Bird Alerts

In October, a good number of Ospreys have been seen, mostly along and adjacent to the Sabine-Neches Waterway south of Port Arthur.

During the fall, the south impoundment of Pleasure Island has provided mud-flat and shallow water habitat for thousands of shorebirds. Good looks at the near birds can be obtained from the top of the levee along the east edge of the impoundment. In mid October, there were literally thousands of American Avocets, thousands of Western Sandpipers, many hundreds of Willets, along with smaller numbers of Semi-palmated Plovers, Stilt Sandpipers, and Black-necked Stilts. Sixty or more Marbled Godwits, a species not commonly seen in the area are present, and there were good numbers of Black Skimmers along with Caspian and Forster's Terns, and over a hundred Gull-billed Terns. This area holds the largest concentration of shorebirds seen in Jefferson County in recent years. A number of Long-billed Curlews is frequenting the marshes around Texas Point.

Hummingbirds reported include Black-chinned, perhaps two separate birds, in Nederland along with an immature male Calliope. Rufous Hummingbirds have also been seen in October to add to those reported in September.

A Green-tailed Towhee seen at Sabine Woods on the field trip on October 21 has not been reported since, although a nice male Spotted Towhee is apparently already resident in the usual towhee location just to the right of the main entrance path as it enters the woods.

## White Hummingbirds in Sour Lake

Larry and Jane Wilson were fortunate to have had two white hummingbirds visit their feeders for a few days in late September (27 to 29). They were not true albinos since they had dark eyes, and some buff color on the back and rump. They were either Ruby-throated or Black-chinned Hummingbirds, possibly the latter. As with most white birds, they looked larger, but the photographs suggest that this is an illusion. Three of the photographs may be viewed at <http://hometown.aol.com/janafw/WhHum.html>.



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## RARE BIRD ALERTS

Below is a listing of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for nearby areas. Transcriptions of some current tapes are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/hoturls.html>

Detailed information (maps and text) on birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast is also available on the Web at <http://texasbirding.simplenet.com>.

This includes all the Jefferson County hotspots published in early issues.

### Golden Triangle (409) 768-1340

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Texas (Houston)     | (713) 369-9673 |
| Abilene             | (915) 691-8981 |
| Austin              | (512) 926-8751 |
| Ft. Worth (N. Cent) | (817) 329-1930 |
| Lubbock             | (806) 797-6690 |
| N. E. Texas         | (903) 839-4804 |
| Rio Grande Valley   | (210) 969-2731 |
| San Antonio         | (210) 308-6788 |
| Waco                | (254) 299-8175 |
| Louisiana           | (504) 768-9874 |

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