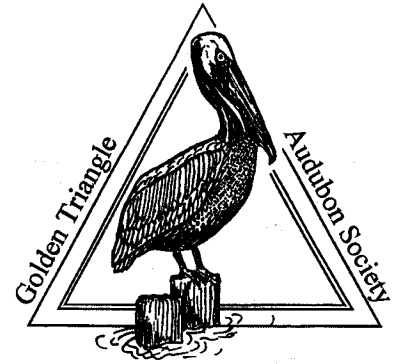


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 7 No. 2

February 2001

Membership Meeting

Thursday, February 15, 2001
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

The Sabine Pass Lighthouse

Carolyn Thibodeaux
Cameron Council on Aging

The Sabine Pass lighthouse, on the Louisiana side of the Sabine-Neches Waterway opposite but just a little south of the Sabine Pass Battleground, has had a checkered history in recent years, at one time even being owned by Lamar University. Ms. Thibodeaux will describe the current status of the lighthouse, and efforts being made to preserve and restore it.

As usual, the doors will be open no later than 6:30 p.m., but for this meeting the talk will start at 7:30 p.m. approximately.

January Membership Meeting

Although the weather on Thursday night, January 18, 2001, was cold and rainy, we were all warmed with the delicious soup and other goodies brought by Jean Hollingsworth, Lynn Otto, and Needa Reed. Thank you for bringing the great food.

John Whittle introduced our speaker David Sarkozi. David is currently chair of the Ornithology Group of Houston Outdoor Nature Club and is active in the Friends of Anahuac Refuge. He works as a computer support technician at the University of Houston. In his spare time he maintains several birding related web sites, including his own www.texasbirding.net. I think every birder has dreams of birding in Belize; David has had the good fortune to have birded Belize seven times.

Belize is the first country south of Mexico on the Caribbean Sea. There are several things that are nice about Belize: it is tropical, closer to Houston than Los Angeles (2 hour flight), and it is the only English speaking country in Central America. Belize is about 200 miles long and about 50 miles wide. Their main highways are like driving the roads of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, so travel time is usually twice as long as you would expect. Most of the birds depicted in David's slides were seen just west of Belize City towards an area called Crooked Tree Reserve, a few were taken in the foothills of the Mayan Mountains, and a very large number were taken on the Cockscomb Jaguar Preserve. The national bird of Belize is the Keel-billed Toucan. I recognized a few of the birds in David's slides; however, most of the birds shown in David's slides would be life birds for many of us: Bare-throated Tiger Heron, Chestnut-bellied Heron, Boat-billed Heron, Wood Stork, Jabiru Stork, Sungrebe, Lesser Yellow-

(continued on page 6)

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 7, No.2 Feb. 2001

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

**RARE BIRD ALERT AND
SOCIETY INFORMATION
TELEPHONE NUMBER
(409) 768-1340
<http://goldtriaudubon.tripod.com>**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS President

Ken Sztraky (768-1203)

Vice-President

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

Treasurer

Nancy Fisher (751-0119)

Recording Secretary

Jana Whittle (722-4193)

Corresponding Secretary

John Whittle (722-4193)

Directors-at-Large

Bob Collier (892-6654)

Joe Halbrook (892-3090)

John Haynes (724-6842)

Jeannie Lanclos (724-1307)

Sherrie Roden (962-7911)

Mary Stafford (962-8070)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program

Jana Whittle (722-4193)

Field Trips

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

Conservation, Publicity

Joe Halbrook (892-3090)

Membership

Volunteer needed

Education

Jeannie Lanclos (724-1307)

Newsletter Distribution

Mary Stafford (962-8070)

Newsletter Editor

John Whittle (722-4193)

3015 Nashville Ave.

Nederland, TX 77627-6749

The Brown Pelican is

published monthly except
July by the Golden Triangle
Audubon Society,
P. O. Box 1292, Nederland,
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.

Thursday Feb. 15 – Membership Meeting. See page 1.

Saturday Feb. 17 – Field Trip. Tentatively a trip to west Harris County to look for raptors and wintering sparrows. This area regularly produced eagles and hawks such as Ferruginous and White-tailed. Full details at the February Membership Meeting or contact Steve Mayes.

Saturday March 10 – Sabine Woods Work Day. Please come and help prepare Sabine Woods for Spring migration. Depending on the conditions, we will will plan to use this work day to mow the trails – those that are dry enough anyway (and how long is it since we had to say that?) – and also to continue our efforts to control the mustang grape vine. There always seems to be previously undetected trash from many years ago to deal with, and a few interior fence remains to remove. Depending on whether new tallow seedlings have leafed out or not, we may be able to deal with them on this work day. We do have additional funds for habitat improvements thanks to Chevron Phillips Chemical Company selecting the TNRCC Supplemental Environmental Project that we submitted to Texas Audubon Society for funding in lieu of paying a penalty for a violation of the air permit at their Port Arthur plant. We plan to use this both for supplies for tallow and rose control and for more bushhogging in mid to late May (ideally).

Thursday Mar. 15 – Membership Meeting. Ro Wauer will speak on the Birds of Big Bend. Ro Wauer was Superintendent of Big Bend NP for many years and wrote the definitive book on the subject. More recently, was co-author of "Birding Texas", a book describing more than 200 birding locations in Texas.

This promises to be a very interesting program.

Saturday Mar. 17 – Field Trip. Our annual pilgrimage to Bolivar Flats to look at shorebirds. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the beach, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). At that intersection, turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettilon Road. At the beach, if sand conditions permit, turn right (west) following previously successful vehicle tracks, about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. We will probably leave the vehicle barrier at about 9:00 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes later than that. It takes about 90 minutes from Beaumont to the flats (if you do not stop and bird on the way).

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Lynn Otto, Jean Hollingsworth and Needa Reed for the refreshments in January. For February, Lou and Grady Skillern and Winette and Brad Hogue have volunteered. Pat and Don Jeane have signed up for March and we are now seeking volunteers for the April and May 2001 meetings.

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. Our official chapter territory is defined by zip codes, but is basically Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties and one or two localities close to those Counties.

Bird Sightings - December 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: In December, reporting of birds picks up markedly, as Christmas Counts are conducted, and generally birders are more on the look-out, often scouting in advance of the counts themselves. In reporting Christmas Count data we usually report each sector separately, even when covered by the same observers. May of the unusual birds reported were seen on Christmas Counts and details were, for the most part, reported in the accounts published in last month's issue. Other notable sightings include Least Grebes in Cattail Marsh; a Bittern there also, in addition to the three seen on the Sea Rim Count.

LOON, Common JEF 3 reps(13)
GREBE, Least JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF 12/26(0)
 JAW
GREBE, Pied-billed JEF 13 reps(153); TYL 1 rep(7)
GREBE, Eared JEF 1 rep(10)
PELICAN, Amer. White JEF 15 reps(886); TYL 1 rep(42)
PELICAN, Brown JEF 21 reps(99)
CORMORANT, Neotropic JEF 20 reps(1038)
CORMORANT, Double-cr. JEF 15 reps(493); TYL 1 rep(58)
CORMORANT, Species JEF 2 reps(51)
ANHINGA JEF-TP 12/3(2) JAW; JEF 12/10(1)
 JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1) JAW; JEF
 12/31(8) SR08A
BITTERN, American JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1)
 JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR11; JEF 12/31(1) SR05/06; JEF-MURW
 12/31(1) SR04
HERON, Great Blue JEF 21 reps(165); TYL 1 rep(2)
EGRET, Great HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 18 reps(269); TYL 2
 reps(9)
EGRET, Snowy JEF 16 reps(205)
HERON, Little Blue JEF 9 reps(53)
HERON, Tricolored JEF 11 reps(66)
EGRET, Reddish JEF 1 rep(1)
EGRET, Cattle JEF 6 reps(10)
HERON, Green JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(1)
 JAW; JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. JEF 10 reps(127)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. JEF-MURW 12/31(9) SR04
IBIS, White JEF 13 reps(349); TYL 2 reps(9)
IBIS, White-faced JEF-TP 12/3(30) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(4)
 JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR05/06; JEF-MURW 12/31(160) SR04
IBIS, Plegadis JEF 4 reps(195)
SPOONBILL, Roseate JEF-TXPT 12/2(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(7)
 SR08; JEF 12/31(27) SR11; JEF 12/31(34) SR12; JEF
 12/31(1) SR08A; JEF-MURW 12/31(83) SR04
VULTURE, Black HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(112); TYL 2
 reps(19)
VULTURE, Turkey HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 17 reps(104); TYL 2
 reps(87)
GOOSE, White-fronted JEF 7 reps(326)
GOOSE, Snow JEF 12 reps(2772); TYL 1 rep(1)
GOOSE, Ross's JEF-SW 12/3(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(1)
 JAW; JEF 12/23(5) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1) JAW
GOOSE, Canada JEF 1 rep(3)
DUCK, Wood JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04
GADWALL JEF 10 reps(768)
WIGEON, American JEF 2 reps(4)
MALLARD JEF 6 reps(70); TYL 1 rep(1)
DUCK, Mottled JEF 10 reps(100)
TEAL, Blue-winged JEF 7 reps(449)
SHOVELER, Northern JEF 12 reps(1496)

PINTAIL, Northern JEF 7 reps(269)
TEAL, Green-winged JEF 9 reps(3624)
CANVASBACK JEF-TP 12/3(40) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1)
 JAW; JEF 12/31(4) SR12; JEF-MURW 12/31(550) SR04; TYL
 12/30(27) BCKC; TYL 12/30(50) BCKC
REDHEAD JEF-MURW 12/31(3) SR04
DUCK, Ring-necked JEF 4 reps(427); TYL 1 rep(1)
SCAUP, Greater JEF-MURW 12/31(3) SR04
SCAUP, Lesser JEF 13 reps(901); TYL 1 rep(6)
BUFFLEHEAD JEF 6 reps(80)
MERGANSER, Hooded JEF-TXPT 12/2(5) JAW; JEF-TP 12/3(2)
 JAW; JEF-TXPT 12/9(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 12/17(3) JAW; JEF-
 TP 12/23(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 12/29(2)
 JAW; JEF 12/31(7) SR05/06; JEF-MURW 12/31(29) SR04;
 JEF-PI 12/31(4) SR01 JEF-TPWR 12/31(6) SR07; TYL
 12/16(2) TCKC
MERGANSER, Red-breast. JEF 3 reps(40)
DUCK species JEF 1 rep(20)
DUCK, Ruddy JEF 10 reps(1827)
OSPREY JEF-PI 12/2(1) JAW; JEF-SW 12/2(1)
 JAW; JEF 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1)
 SR08; JEF 12/31(1) SR11; JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04; JEF-PI
 12/31(1) SR01
KITE, White-tailed JEF 15 reps(26)
HARRIER, Northern JEF 21 reps(89)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned JEF 6 reps(6)
HAWK, Cooper's JEF-TP 12/23(2) JAW; JEF-SW
 12/29(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR08; JEF-MURW 12/31(3) SR04
ACCIPITER species JEF 12/10(1) KS
HAWK, Red-shouldered HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 15 reps(26); ORA 1
 rep(2); TYL 2 reps(3)
HAWK, Red-tailed JEF 22 reps(157); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 2
 reps(5)
KESTREL, American JEF 20 reps(198); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 2
 reps(2)
MERLIN JEF-SRSP 12/29(1) JAW; JEF-SW
 12/31(1) SR08; JEF-TPWR 12/31(1) SR07
FALCON, Peregrine JEF-MURW 12/31(1) SR04; JEF-TPWR
 12/31(1) SR07
BOBWHITE, Northern JEF 1 rep(4)
RAIL, Clapper JEF 4 reps(9)
RAIL, King JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1)
 SR11; JEF 12/31(1) SR08A; JEF-MURW 12/31(3) SR04
RAIL, Virginia JEF 12/31(1) SR11; JEF 12/31(1) SR12
SORA JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(2)
 JAW
MOORHEN, Common JEF 5 reps(41); TYL 1 rep(1)
COOT, American JEF 9 reps(2008); TYL 1 rep(35)
PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 9 reps(82)
PLOVER, Snowy JEF-SRSP 12/2(10) JAW; JEF-SRSP
 12/17(23) JAW; JEF 12/29(12) JAW; JEF-SRSP 12/29(6) JAW;

JEF-SRSP 12/31(6) SR10; JEF-TPWR 12/31(3) SR07
PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF 4 reps(46)
PLOVER, Piping JEF-SRSP 12/2(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP
12/17(1) JAW; JEF 12/29(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 12/31(2) SR10;
JEF-TPWR 12/31(1) SR07
KILLDEER JEF 21 reps(211); TYL 2 reps(13)
OYSTERCATCHER, Amer. JEF 12/31(1) SR05/06
STILT, Black-necked JEF 7 reps(185)
AVOCET, American JEF 7 reps(1315)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF 9 reps(39)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 3 reps(23)
WILLET JEF 6 reps(103)
SANDPIPER, Spotted JEF-TXPT 12/2(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/3(1)
JAW; JEF-PI 12/9(2) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR10A; JEF 12/31(3)
SR05/06; JEF 12/31(1) SR08A; JEF-PI 12/31(2) SR01
WHIMBREL JEF-TPWR 12/31(11) SR07
CURLEW, Long-billed JEF 7 reps(156)
GODWIT, Marbled JEF 12/31(35) SR13; JEF 12/31(32)
SR05/06; JEF-PI 12/31(3) SR01
TURNSTONE, Ruddy JEF 2 reps(32)
KNOT, Red JEF-SRSP 12/2(4) JAW; JEF-SRSP
12/31(1) SR10
SANDERLING JEF 7 reps(249)
SANDPIPER, Western JEF 5 reps(157)
SANDPIPER, Least JEF 3 reps(133)
DUNLIN JEF 6 reps(249)
SANDPIPER, Stilt JEF-PI 12/9(20) JAW; JEF-TPWR
12/31(5) SR07
DOWITCHER, Short-billed JEF 12/24(5) KS; JEF-TPWR 12/31(66)
SR07
DOWITCHER, Long-billed JEF 3 reps(416)
DOWITCHER species JEF 2 reps(24)
SNIBE, Common JEF 4 reps(7); TYL 1 rep(11)
GULL, Laughing JEF 14 reps(1228)
GULL, Bonaparte's JEF 6 reps(22)
GULL, Ring-billed JEF 13 reps(1028)
GULL, Herring JEF 8 reps(47)
TERN, Caspian JEF 8 reps(20)
TERN, Royal JEF 7 reps(28)
TERN, Forster's JEF 14 reps(350); TYL 1 rep(21)
SKIMMER, Black JEF 3 reps(200)
DOVE, Rock HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(68)
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. JEF 12/3(3) SM; JEF 12/10(2) JAW;
JEF 12/24(2) KS; JEF 12/31(9) SR05/06; JEF-TX87 12/31(1)
SR08
DOVE, White-winged JEF-SW 12/29(30) JAW; JEF 12/31(1)
SR08; JEF 12/31(2) SR05/06; JEF 12/31(1) SR08A;
JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04
DOVE, Mourning HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 18 reps(348); TYL 2
reps(6)
DOVE, Inca HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(16); TYL 1
rep(2)
OWL, Barn JEF-SW 12/3(1) SM; JEF-PI 12/17(1)
KS; JEF-SW 12/17(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR08A; JEF-MURW
12/31(1) SR04
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern JEF 12/10(2) KS
OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 12/2(1) JAW; JEF-SW 12/3(2)
SM; JEF-SW 12/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 12/17(2) JAW; JEF
12/31(1) SR08A; JEF-SW 12/31(1) SR08
OWL, Barred JEF 12/31(1) SR13; JEF-SW 12/31(1)
SR08
OWL, Short-eared JEF 12/31(1) SR10A
OWL, Species HAI 1 rep(1)
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bell. JEF-NEDR 12/17(1) JFW
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. JEF-NEDR 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
12/9(1) JAW; JEF 12/17(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 12/20(1) JFW;
JEF-NEDR 12/22(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 12/23(1) JAW;
JEF-NEDR 12/26(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 12/29(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous HAI 12/6(1) LJW; HAI 12/14(1) LJW;
JEF-NEDR 12/26(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 12/29(1) JAW; JEF-SW

12/31(1) SR08
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf/Allen's JEF-NEDR 12/22(1) JAW
KINGFISHER, Belted HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 15 reps(37)
WOODPECKER, Red-head. ORA 12/3(1) KS
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 12 reps(27); ORA 1
rep(4); TYL 2 reps(9)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell. HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(16); TYL 2
reps(7)
WOODPECKER, Downy HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 14 reps(41); ORA 1
rep(1); TYL 2 reps(11)
FLICKER, Northern JEF 11 reps(23); TYL 2 reps(4)
WOODPECKER, Pileated HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(3); TYL 2
reps(11)
PHOEBE, Eastern HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 19 reps(173); ORA 1
rep(1); TYL 2 reps(11)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1)
JAW
FLYCATCHER, Ash-thr. JEF 12/31(1) SR08A
KINGBIRD, Western JEF-SW 12/3(1) SM
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail. JEF-SW 12/2(2) JAW; JEF-SW 12/3(1)
SM
SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 22 reps(194); ORA 1 rep(2); TYL 1
rep(1)
VIREO, White-eyed JEF-PI 12/31(1) SR02
VIREO, Blue-headed HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(9); TYL 2
reps(2)
JAY, Blue HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 13 reps(97); ORA 1
rep(2); TYL 2 reps(10)
CROW, American HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 1 rep(4); TYL 2
reps(60)
CROW, Fish JEF-TP 12/26(10) JAW
CROW, species JEF 2 reps(3)
SWALLOW, Tree JEF 12 reps(364)
SWALLOW, Barn JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW
CHICKADEE, Carolina HAI 3 reps(22); JEF 7 reps(21); ORA 1
rep(4); TYL 2 reps(19)
TITMOUSE, Tufted HAI 2 reps(19); JEF 2 reps(4); TYL 2
reps(23)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed TYL 12/16(3) TCKC
CREEPER, Brown HAI-SNDY 12/3(1) KS; JEF-SW 12/3(1)
SM; JEF 12/24(1) KS; JEF 12/31(3) SR08A; JEF-SW 12/31(1)
SR08
WREN, Carolina JEF 3 reps(3); TYL 2 reps(7)
WREN, House HAI-SNDY 12/3(3) KS; JEF-SW 12/2(2)
JAW; JEF-SRSP 12/3(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW
12/9(1) JAW; JEF 12/10(5) KS; JEF-SW 12/17(1) JAW; JEF-TP
12/23(3) JAW; JEF 12/24(2) KS; JEF-TP 12/26(1) JAW JEF
12/31(3) SR08A; ORA 12/10(1) KS
WREN, Winter TYL 12/16(1) TCKC
WREN, Sedge JEF-SW 12/2(3) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(1)
JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(3) JAW; JEF 12/31(3) SR10A; JEF
12/31(18) SR11; JEF 12/31(6) SR12; JEF 12/31(2) SR05/06;
JEF-MURW 12/31(3) SR04
WREN, Marsh JEF-TP 12/3(7) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(1)
JAW; JEF 12/31(5) SR10A; JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04;
JEF-SRSP 12/31(1) SR10
KINGLET, Golden-crowned HAI-SNDY 12/3(10) KS; JEF-SW
12/2(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 12/3(2) SM; JEF-SW 12/3(4) SM;
JEF-SW 12/9(5) JAW; JEF 12/10(1) KS; JEF-SW 12/17(7)
JAW; JEF-SW 12/29(3) JAW; JEF 12/31(2) SR08; JEF
12/31(4) SR08A TYL 12/16(2) TCKC; TYL 12/30(2) BCKC
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned HAI 3 reps(16); JEF 17 reps(150); ORA
1 rep(6); TYL 2 reps(20)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 11 reps(67)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern HAI 2 reps(16); JEF 9 reps(45); TYL 2
reps(70)
THRUSH, Hermit HAI-SNDY 12/3(5) KS; JEF-SW 12/2(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 12/3(2) SM; JEF 12/10(3) KS; JEF-SW 12/17(5)
JAW; JEF 12/24(2) KS; JEF 12/31(3) SR08; JEF 12/31(13)
SR08A; JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04; JEF-PI 12/31(1) SR02

ORA 12/3(1) KS; ORA 12/10(1) KS; TYL 12/16(3) TCKC; TYL 12/30(1) BCKC

ROBIN, American HAI 2 reps(901); JEF 20 reps(397); ORA 1 rep(60); TYL 4 rep(140)

CATBIRD, Gray JEF-SW 12/2(2) JAW; JEF-SW 12/3(3) SM; JEF 12/10(1) KS; JEF-SW 12/17(2) JAW; JEF 12/24(1) KS; JEF-SW 12/29(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR05/06; JEF 12/31(2) SR08A; JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04; JEF-PI 12/31(1) SR01 JEF-PI 12/31(1) SR02; TYL 12/30(2) BCKC

MOCKINGBIRD, Northern HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 18 reps(133); ORA 1 rep(4); TYL 2 reps(12)

THRASHER, Brown HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(75); ORA 2 reps(4); TYL 1 rep(3)

STARLING, European HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(1158)

PIPIT, American JEF 12 reps(122)

WAXWING, Cedar JEF 4 reps(49); TYL 1 rep(2)

WARBLER, Tennessee JEF 12/10(1) KS

WARBLER, Orange-crown. JEF 17 reps(129); ORA 1 rep(4); TYL 2 reps(6)

WARBLER, Yellow-rumped HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 22 reps(671); ORA 1 rep(12); TYL 2 reps(54)

WARBLER, Y-r (Audubon's) JEF-PI 12/9(1) JAW

WARBLER, Pine JEF 8 reps(67); TYL 2 reps(26)

WARBLER, Palm JEF-TP 12/3(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF 12/24(1) KS; JEF-TP 12/26(1) JAW; JEF-MURW 12/31(2) SR04; JEF-SW 12/31(1) SR08

YELLOWTHROAT, Com. JEF 13 reps(55)

WARBLER, Wilson's JEF-SW 12/2(1) JAW; JEF-SW 12/9(1) JAW; JEF 12/10(1) KS

TANAGER, Summer JEF-SW 12/3(1) SM

TOWHEE, Green-tailed JEF-SW 12/31(1) SR08

TOWHEE, Eastern JEF-SW 12/29(1) JAW; JEF-SW 12/31(1) SR08

SPARROW, Chipping HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 5 reps(67); ORA 1 rep(6); TYL 2 reps(73)

SPARROW, Field JEF-SW 12/2(10) JAW; JEF-SW 12/3(3) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(5) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(7) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(9) JAW

SPARROW, Vesper JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(2) JAW

SPARROW, Savannah JEF 19 reps(518)

SPARROW, Grasshopper JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF-SW 12/31(1) SR08

SPARROW, LeConte's JEF-TP 12/26(3) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR12; JEF-TPWR 12/31(2) SR07

SPARROW, Nelson's S-tail. JEF 4 reps(10)

SPARROW, Sharp-tailed JEF 1 rep(1)

SPARROW, Seaside JEF 6 reps(16)

SPARROW, Fox JEF-SW 12/17(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR08A

SPARROW, Song JEF 15 reps(148); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 1 rep(4)

SPARROW, Lincoln's JEF-SW 12/2(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(1) JAW; JEF 12/24(1) KS; JEF-TP 12/26(3) JAW; JEF-SW 12/29(1) JAW; JEF 12/31(1) SR08A; JEF-SW 12/31(4) SR08; TYL 12/30(1) BCKC

SPARROW, Swamp JEF 17 reps(256); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 1 rep(10)

SPARROW, White-throated HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 14 reps(160); TYL 2 reps(38)

SPARROW, White-crowned JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/23(10) JAW; JEF-TP 12/26(4) JAW; JEF 12/31(6) SR08; JEF-MURW 12/31(3) SR04; JEF-PI 12/31(2) SR01

JUNCO, Dark-eyed HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(8); TYL 1 rep(1)

CARDINAL, Northern HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 16 reps(127); TYL 2 reps(48)

BUNTING, Indigo JEF-SW 12/2(3) JAW; JEF-SW 12/17(3) JAW

BLACKBIRD, Red-winged JEF 19 reps(1800); TYL 1 rep(23)

MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 12 reps(53); TYL 1 rep(6)

MEADOWLARK species JEF 6 reps(25)

GRACKLE, Common HAI 2 reps(21); JEF 9 reps(549); TYL 1 rep(1)

GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 12 reps(169)

GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 12 reps(642)

COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 10 reps(76)

BLACKBIRD species JEF 1 rep(75)

GOLDFINCH, American HAI 3 reps(14); JEF 13 reps(149); ORA 2 reps(10); TYL 2 reps(68)

SPARROW, House HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 4 reps(38)

Number of Species 190
Number of Individuals 40022

County Abbreviations:

HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange; TYL - Tyler

Location Codes:

MURW - J. D. Murphree WMA; NEDR - Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SNDY - Nature Conservancy Sandyland Sanctuary; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TPWR - Texas Point NWR; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point.

Observer Abbreviations:

BCKC - Beech Creek CBC; JAW - John Whittle; JFW - Jana Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; LJW - Larry and Jane Wilson; SM - Steve Mayes; SR01 Sea Rim CBC Area 1; SR02 Sea Rim CBC Area 2; SR04 - Sea Rim CBC Area 4; SR05/06 Sea Rim CBC Area 5 and 6; SR07 Sea Rim CBC Area 7; SR08 Sea Rim CBC Area 8; SR08A - Sea Rim CBC Area 8A; SR10 Sea Rim CBC Area 10; SR10A Sea Rim CBC Area 10A; SR11 Sea Rim CBC Area 11; SR12 Sea Rim CBC Area 12; SR13 Sea Rim CBC Area 13; TCKC - Turkey Creek CBC

Notes on Very Rare Species

Whimbrel – 31 Dec. 2000 – Sea Rim CBC

As reported last month, eleven Whimbrels along the beach of Texas Point NWR were a surprise find. The birds were in the company of Long-billed Curlews allowing easy comparison of size. In addition, the Whimbrels has the characteristic shorter, blunter bill, all dark, and prominent crown stripe. There was no hint of cinnamon on the Whimbrels at all.

Stilt Sandpiper – 9 and 31 Dec. 2000 – John Whittle and Sea Rim CBC

To find a number (20 or more) Stilt Sandpipers lingering on Pleasure Island in early December was perhaps not unexpected. The five birds seen in the mud flats within Texas Point NWR on The Christmas Count were definitely late. They were with dowitchers, allowing their smaller overall body size to be easily seen. Bills were shorter than dowitcher bills, although still relatively long and without noticeable droop. The long legs also aided in the identification.

Buff-bellied Hummingbird – 17 Dec. 2000 – Jana Whittle

Unfortunately visiting feeders in Nederland for only one day was a Buff-bellied Hummingbird identified by its large size and green underparts.

Black-chinned Hummingbird – Dec. 2000 – John and Jana Whittle

A full male Black-chinned Hummingbird was seen at feeders in Nederland from mid November through at least to late

January 2001. Usually very difficult to see, the purple of the upper part of the gorget has been seen on several occasions.

Ash-throated Flycatcher – 31 Dec. 2000 – Sea Rim CBC

As noted last month., this was seen on the Sea Rim Christmas Count on private property.

Green-tailed Towhee – 31 Dec. 2000 – Sea Rim CBC

Perhaps the same bird as was seen on the October Field Trip was the Green-tailed Towhee seen in Sabine Woods. The bird was in the westernmost of the three main sections of the woods, in the thick underbrush on the south side. The bird had a dark olive-green back, green tint on tail, was pale underneath. The crown gave a hint of red color.

Omissions last Month

Patrick Walther of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge was kind enough to report on some interesting birds on the refuge in late November. We apologize for mislaying the following sightings reports, which should have been included in last month's report.

20 Nov 2000 -- Burrowing Owl on McFaddin, north of abandoned oil facility on beach, Peregrine Falcon (1), Virginia Rails (4), Sora (1) in marsh

21 Nov. 2000 -- Barn Owls (5), Short eared Owl (1) in marsh south of Star Lake, Virginia Rail (2), King Rail (1), American Avocets (14), American Bitterns (2), Black-crowned Night-Herons (7), White winged Dove (2), Mourning Doves (several), White-tailed Kite (2), American Kestrel (7), Merlin (1), Osprey (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1)

30 Nov. 2000 -- Short eared Owl (2), Barn Owl (1), Virginia Rails (5), King Rail (1), Curlews, species unknown (2).

Bird Alerts

January is not a month in which we expect to have much to report beyond the unusual species found during the Christmas Counts. This month breaks that "tradition" somewhat.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the field trip to Cattail Marsh was rewarded with several good birds. Declared the best bird by most participants was the female or immature male Vermilion Flycatcher hiding round the back (east) edge of the marsh. (This incidentally, was where the Least Grebes were seen in December, although we have no reports recently.) American Bitterns have been seen on nearly every trip to Cattail Marsh in the last two months. They may flush from any area of thick reeds, suggesting that there are probably several birds there. The Dark-eyed Junco with distinct pink on its sides also seen on the field trip suggested that it might have at least some "Pink-sided" Junco in its recent lineage.

A Say's Phoebe was seen in west Jefferson County on Mason Road, just east of its intersection with Thompson Road on 15 January and again on 20 January. The bird was comparatively tame, as members of the species often are, and was flycatching from the fence wires in the vicinity. Look for the dark brown upper tail surfaces and the rusty underparts.

A good find at Cattail Marsh on 27 January was a Couch's Kingbird. This, bird, which was missing one or two

central tail feathers, was located where the power line crosses the levee on the west side of the marsh. (On entering the marsh, turn right and walk about 1/2 mile along the levee.) The bird responded readily and vigorously to 15 seconds of taped Couch's Kingbird call. Note, however, that the bird was not relocated on the afternoon of the following day.

Birding Workshops Sponsored by Big Thicket Loop Partners

Beginning, Adult Elective and Children's birding classes will be offered this spring. The REGISTRATION FEE for adults is \$45.00 and the fee for children 12 and under is \$20.00. Included in the fee are four MEALS, REFRESHMENTS, INSTRUCTOR'S STIPENDS, FIELD TRIPS and the possibility of winning one of the DOOR PRIZES!

Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Dates are as follows: February 24, March 10, March 24 and April 7.

For MORE INFORMATION or to REGISTER, contact David Baker @ (409) 839-2689 x 235 or Dave_Baker@nps.gov.

January Meeting (cont. from page 1)

headed Vulture, Snail Kite, Black-collared Hawk, Roadside Hawk, Laughing Falcon, Great Black Hawk, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Plain Chachalaca, Great Curassow, Grey-necked Wood Rail, Limpkin, Northern Jacana, Blue Ground-Dove, Red-ored Parrot, Mealy Parrot, Scarlet Macaw, Toucan, Squirrel Cuckoo, Groove-billed Ani, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin, Mangrove Swallow, Violaceous Trogon, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Green Kingfisher, American Pygmy Kingfisher, White-necked Puffbird, Rufous-tailed Jacamar, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Plain Xenops, Tawny-winged Woodcreeper, Tropical Pewee, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Vermilion Flycatcher, Social Flycatcher, Tropical Kingbird, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Masked Tityra, Tropical Mockingbird, White-collared Manakin, Red-capped Manakin, Yucatan Jay, Spot-bellied Wren, Southern House Wren, Rufous-browed Pepper-Shrike, Masked or Golden-hooded Tanager, Scarlet-rumped Tanager, Blue-gray Tanager, Blue-throated Euphonia, Mangrove Warbler, White-collared Seedeater, Black-cowled Oriole, Hooded Oriole, and Montezuma's Oropendola. As the sun sets over the lagoon, all wonderful adventures must come to an end.

Thank you David for your very interesting and funny stories, species and tourist information, and wonderful slides. I have read many articles about birding Belize and have dreamed about birding there one day; David's slide presentation has heightened that desire even more. Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 15, 2001. Hope to see you there!

Nancy Fisher

Field Trip to Cattail Marsh – January 20, 2001

More than a dozen birders gathered in the Cattail Marsh parking lot in Tyrrell Park waiting for the beginning of the January field trip. A slightly tardy trip leader did not deter the group as they spent time with great scope views of a beautiful, perched Red-shouldered Hawk. Tyrrell Park must surely be one of the best places anywhere to see this species, as good looks can be had at these raptors at any time of year. With the arrival of the leader and other latecomers, the trip began in earnest. First order of business was sparrow hunting in the parking lot and surrounding areas. Savannah Sparrows were by far the most common (as expected) but Swamp Sparrow was seen by many and Chipping Sparrow by some. The usual Loggerhead Shrike and Eastern Phoebe were easily found in the parking lot area along with a brief look at a Hermit Thrush.

Heading into the marsh, the birders gave thanks that there was little wind, as not only does this make birding difficult but with sub-freezing temperatures already, strong winds could have made for a most unpleasant day. The birders trudged through the cold and settled upon a group of dark ibis. Scanning the flock with spotting scopes revealed no obvious Glossy's so the birds were marked as all White-faced Ibis. Though, the White-faced is by far the more common of the two in this area, a careful search among ibis flocks will sometimes reveal the pale facial skin of a Glossy Ibis – but, not today! Other obvious birds included American Coot and Pied-billed Grebe. The grebes were also closely examined as some seemed to have quite small bills but alas, the hoped for Least Grebe did not materialize either.

Sparrows were one of the targets of this annual trip as a number of species are possible in the area of Cattail Marsh. A flock of Savannah Sparrows was constantly flushed in front of the group as they walked along the levee road. A Vesper Sparrow was a nice, though somewhat expected find, in this little flock. Normally considered a bird of drier habitats, Vesper Sparrows have been seen several times recently at this site. Dark-eyed Juncos, not usually easy to find south of I-10, were seen mixed with the other sparrows. The first one seen was of the "Slate-colored" variety typical of the Juncos normally seen in the area. The second Junco, displayed many characteristics of the "Pink-sided" race more typical of north and west Texas, so this was a nice find. White-crowned and Song Sparrows were also found on the day.

Waterfowl are the main target of the Cattail Marsh trip and they were evident on this day, though perhaps in smaller numbers than previous trips. The reason for the smaller numbers were not clear but many birds were apparently hidden in areas not visited by the group, as brief glimpses of birds in flight hinted. Despite below average numbers seen, the variety of waterfowl was good. Several Mallards were seen in flight, highlighting a winter unusually rich in this sometimes elusive species. Gadwall and Northern Shoveler were present in good numbers, while Blue-winged Teal were also seen. Green-winged Teal were mostly seen from a distance though a few were more cooperative. Cinnamon Teal, uncommon but regular winter visitors to the marsh, could not be located on this day. Ruddy Ducks were abundant and Ring-necked Ducks made a good showing while a small group of

Canvasbacks was also appreciated. One likely Greater Scaup was picked out from the multitude of Lessers. The most common of the waterfowl were certainly the Snow Geese as wave after wave flew overhead throughout the day. Several Ross's Geese were well seen among the many Snows.

More than just water birds were being sought on this trip and luckily, some good ones were found. Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and American Kestrels represented the Raptors while good looks at Sora and brief looks at Virginia Rail gave a good showing for the Rails. Pileated Woodpecker was well seen by the group, always a great bird to watch, while American Robins seemed to be everywhere. Warblers seen included Yellow-rumped, Orange-crowned and Common Yellowthroat but the sought after Palm Warblers were not found. Shy Marsh Wrens were coaxed out into the open with a little "pishing" while American Goldfinch were much more obvious. The best bird of the day was seen on the back side of the marsh past the pump station: a Vermillion Flycatcher! Though this species has been seen several times in this area in recent weeks, it was still great to find it for the trip and the whole group got great views of this bird.

All trips must end, but with birding trips the walk back to the car can sometimes provide one last, good bird to end the day. This day was no different as a few new species were recorded in the last stages of the trip. An American Pipit was heard as it zipped overhead, White-throated Sparrows fed on the ground among some small trees, and the remaining group was treated to an elusive American Bittern kicked up near the levee. These final birds were the last rewards for a cold but enjoyable winter day birding in Southeast Texas. Come join us for our next trip coming in February!

The following birds were recorded on the trip:

CORMORANT, Neotropic (1); CORMORANT, Double-crested (10); BITTERN, American (1); HERON, Gt. Blue (2); EGRET, Great (5); EGRET, Snowy (10); HERON, Little Blue (1); HERON, Tricolored (2); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (12); IBIS, White (23); IBIS, White-faced (80); IBIS, *Plegadis* (20); VULTURE, Black (10); VULTURE, Turkey (1); GOOSE, Snow (1100); GOOSE, Ross's (14); GADWALL (50); MALLARD (20); TEAL, Blue-winged (50); SHOVELER, Northern (50); TEAL, Green-winged (500); CANVASBACK (10); DUCK, Ring-necked (20); SCAUP, Greater (1); SCAUP, Lesser (15); DUCK, Ruddy (75); HARRIER, Northern (3); HAWK, Red-shouldered (2); HAWK, Red-tailed (3); KESTREL, American (3); RAIL, Virginia (2); SORA (3); KILLDEER (2); GULL, Laughing (50); GULL, Ring-billed (10); DOVE, Mourning (5); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (1); WOODPECKER, Pileated (2); PHOEBE, Eastern (10); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (1); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (3); JAY, Blue (1); CROW, Fish (4); SWALLOW, Tree (25); CHICKADEE, Carolina (2); WREN, Carolina (2); WREN, Marsh (3); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (6); THRUSH, Hermit (1); ROBIN, American (25); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (1); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (10); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (15); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (3); SPARROW, Chipping (1); SPARROW, Vesper (1); SPARROW, Savannah (5); SPARROW, Song (15); SPARROW, Swamp (15); SPARROW, White-throat (10); SPARROW, White-crown (3); SPARROW, White-crowned (2); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (1); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (Pink-sided) (1); CARDINAL, Northern (4); CARDINAL, Northern (3); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (75); GRACKLE, Common (1); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (2); GOLDFINCH, Amer. (9).

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, TX 77627-1292. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from: _____

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon 7XCH8W25

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To subscribe to the Brown Pelican, please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year. Members with addresses within our official territory are asked to contribute \$15 also if they are able.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

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://www.texasbirding.net>. 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

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 12
Groves, Texas