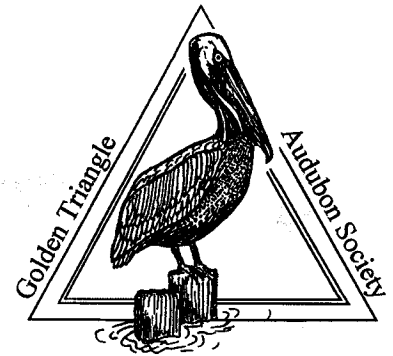


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 7 No. 12

December 2001

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count Sunday December 30, 2001 Meet in Sabine Pass at 7:15 a.m.

at the intersection of Texas 87 and FM3322 in Sabine Pass. This is where Highway 87 turns to the right (west) towards Sea Rim.

Countdown dinner at 6:00 p.m., location to be confirmed.

Please contact John Whittle 409-722-4193 (H), 409-880-8276 (W) or whittleja@hal.lamar.edu; or Robert Hurt 409-724-2202 (H) or rtuit@msn.com and let us know you plan to attend.

Orange Christmas Bird Count Tuesday January 1, 2002 Meet in Orange at 7:15 a.m.

at the Conner Service Station at the intersection of Highway 105 and FM1442.

Please contact Ken Sztraky 409-768-1203 (H) or kens@ih2000.net

Please join us for what we hope will be two enjoyable birding days. All are invited, even if you are not an experienced birder or are only able to bird for part of the day. Feeder watchers are welcome to participate. Let us know in advance and we will find a suitable group for you to join. We normally bird in groups of three or four, with at least one experienced birder in each group. The more pairs of eyes in a group, the more birds will be seen.

Other local counts which will welcome your participation include the Bolivar Peninsula Count on December 23 (contact Bill Graber 409-866-5452), the Turkey Creek Count (in the Big Thicket north of Kountze) on December 15 (contact Merle King, Big Thicket NP at 409-839-2689 ext 233) and the Beech Creek Count (in the Steinhagen Lake area) on January 5 (contact Merle King).

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 7, No.12 Dec. 2001

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

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

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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.

Sunday December 30 – Sea Rim Christmas Bird Count. This is the count we sponsor! See opposite page.

Tuesday January 1, 2002 – Orange Christmas Bird Count. See opposite page.

Thursday January 17, 2002 – Membership Meeting. Chester Moore, outdoor columnist for the *Orange Leader* and *Port Arthur News* will present a program on investigating reports of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

Saturday January 19, 2002 – Field Trip to Cattail Marsh. Meet in the parking lot at Cattail Marsh at 7:30 a.m. This trip will focus on waterfowl. Leaders John Haynes and Steve Mayes. Check next month to see if we have been able to arrange for the bus; if not, there may be two or three miles of walking to take full advantage of this trip.

Thursday February 21, 2002— Membership Meeting. Jace Stansbury of Nederland will give a presentation on Purple Martins.

Saturday February 23, 2002 (tentative) – Field Trip to West Harris County. Following last year's extremely successful trip, we plan to visit the area again. This area includes the Katy Prairie, and is good for raptors, sparrows and (if conditions are right) waterfowl. See future issues of the *Brown Pelican* for more details.

Saturday March 23, 2002 – Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. Meet at the vehicle barrier at 8:30 a.m. Further details in later issues.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. Traditionally in November, we all bring something, so please do so if you can. We need volunteers for next year's meetings. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate! If you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 as soon as possible. Please help if you can!

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.

New Officers for 2002

The following officers and directors were elected at the Annual Meeting in November, and take office January 1, 2002:

President: Steve Mayes

Vice-President: John Haynes

Treasurer: Don Jeane

Recording Secretary: John Whittle

Corresponding Secty: Jana Whittle

Directors-at-large: Bob Collier, Joe Halbrook, Jeannie Lanclos, Sherry Roden, Mary Stafford, Ken Sztraky.

The Society can also put other volunteers to work! Please offer to help.

Nearby Christmas Bird Counts

Don't forget the Sea Rim State Park CBC, sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society on Sunday 30 December 2001. Those not pre-assigned, meet at 7:15 a.m. at the main intersection in Sabine Pass, where Highway 87 turns right (west) and FM3322 continues straight ahead. Normally, we meet just a little north of the intersection on the east side of the road. Contact John Whittle, whittleja@hal.lamar.edu, or 409-722-4193 for further information.

This year, Ken Sztraky is reactivating the Orange CBC, last held in 1979. The count will be held on Tuesday 1 January 2002. The center of the count circle has been moved to 30.0741 N 93.9050 W to include Bridge City, Bailey's Fish Camp, Bessie Heights Marsh, most of Pinehurst, the fringe of Rose City, Claiborne West Park and other wooded areas of Orange County. Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Conner Service Station at the corner of Highway 105 and Highway 1442. Everybody is welcome to help, whether for half a day or all day. Feeder watchers may also participate. Contact Ken Sztraky at kens@ih2000.net or at home 409-768-1203 for further information.

San Bernard NWR CBC - Friday 14 December 2001. Ron Weeks: igarapet@BRAZOSPORT.CC.TX.US.

Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC - Friday 14 December, 2001. Contact: Steven W. Cardiff, (225) 578-9289 or scardif@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu

Turkey Creek CBC - Saturday 15 December 2001. Meet at the new Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center located on FM 420 approximately 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 a.m. Contact: Merle King (Big Thicket NP) at (409) 839-2689 x 233.

Houston CBC - Saturday, 15 December 2001. Contact P. D. Hulce, (713) 863-1142, pdhulce@io.com

(Sabine NWR CBC - Saturday 15 December 2001. Contact: Marty Guidry, guidrym@home.com.

Freeport CBC - Sunday 16 December 2001. Contacts: Dick Peake 409) B744-4301 rpeake1@excite.com (Houston/Galveston area); Tom Collins (979) 297-3954 thcollins@orbitworld.net (Brazosport area).

Johnsons Bayou CBC - Sunday 16 December 2001. Contact: Steven W. Cardiff, (225) 578-9289 (W), scardif@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu.

Mad Island Marsh CBC - Monday 17 December 2001. Contact: Brent Ortego at Brent.Ortego@tpwd.state.tx.us or Mark Dumesnil at mdumesnil@tnc.org.

olivar CBC - Sunday, 23 December 2001. Contact Bill Graber (409) 866-5452.

Cypress Creek Count (Katy Prairie) CBC - Tuesday 1 January 2002. Contact: Fred Collins fcndc@JUNO.COM

Beech Creek CBC - Saturday 5 January 2002. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Town Bluff Dam Picnic area located on FM 92 just north of FM 1746. Time: 6:30 a.m. for registration and team assignments. Contact: Merle King (Big Thicket NP) at (409) 839-2689 x 233.

November Membership Meeting

David Bradford was our speaker at the November membership meeting. David has served as chairman of the Ornithology Group of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston and as vice-president of programs for the Houston Audubon Society. He is presently serving as executive vice president of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston and until recently was the Upper Texas Coast Subregional Editor for *North American Birds*. He is an active member of the ABA and TOS. He has been leading tours to West Texas and out-of-state for *Penfeathers Tours* since 1989.

David has birded Southeastern Arizona several times on his own and by leading birding tours. According to David, Southeastern Arizona is a unique place because it is located near the Mexican border; therefore, you have the possibilities of the Mexican strays. There is a diverse habitat: lush riparian habitat near the rivers, Sonoran Desert, and within the Sonoran Desert there are large continuous mountain ranges sometimes referred to as "sky islands". All of these habitats are available within a short period of time and distance.

David introduced us to the birds of Southeastern Arizona through a slide program he had prepared based on the tours he has led there. The tour typically begins in Tucson for one night, then to Portal for three nights in the Chiricahua Mountains, then to Sierra Vista for two nights in the Huachuca Mountains and finally to Santa Rita Lodge for the last three nights in the Santa Rita Mountains. Essentially, the tour moves from one "sky island" to another "sky island" hitting the desert in between.

The first time David went to Southeastern Arizona, he added a hundred lifers to his list. Among the sought after birds of the area are: Golden Eagle, Prairie Falcon, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Arizona Woodpecker, Elegant Trogon, Ruddy Ground-Dove, Magnificent Hummingbird, Lucifer Hummingbird, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Broad-billed Hummingbird, Blue-throated Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird, Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Berylline Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Allen's Hummingbird, Plain-capped Starthroat, Common Poorwill, Buff-collared Nightjar, White-throated Swift, Spotted Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, Rose-throated Becard, Thick-billed Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Buff-breasted Flycatcher, Greater Pewee, Mexican Jay, Steller's Jay, Hutton's Vireo, Rock Wren, Bridled Titmouse, Juniper Titmouse, Pygmy Nuthatch, Mexican Chickadee, Mountain Chickadee, Crissal Thrasher, Le Conte's Thrasher, Bendire's Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Grace's Warbler, Olive Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Painted Redstart, Evening Grosbeak, Red Crossbill, Yellow-eyed Junco, Abert's Towhee, Cassin's Sparrow, Botteri's Sparrow, Rufous-winged Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow, and Five-striped Sparrow. As you can see, if you have never birded Southeastern Arizona, you could increase your life birds tremendously.

David plans to lead more tours to Southeast Arizona and can be reached at P.O. Box 38157, Houston, Texas 77238, tel. (281) 445-1187; email pfcompany@aol.com.

Nancy Fisher and John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Southwestern Louisiana

November 17, 2001

The November field trip of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society was a return to southwestern Louisiana. It had been several years since such a trip was organized for the group and almost a dozen birders arrived at the visitor center on I-10 just across the state line, eager for what might be found. A brief look around the park-like area produced a few of the first birds of the trip including Great Egret, Blue Jay and Yellow-rumped Warbler. But this area was not our primary destinations so the group headed out to explore the back roads of the area.

The first leg of the trip saw the birders travel down Louisiana 108 and along Johnny Breaux and Gray Roads. Several Red-tailed Hawks were noted as they looked out over the fields from prominent perches. The first of several Northern Harriers of the day was also seen. It was noted that there seem to be larger than normal proportion of adult male Harriers around for so early in the season. A stop by one of our group of birders alerted the rest of the group to a number of Eastern Bluebirds perched in a snag. Savannah Sparrows and Mourning Doves were among the other birds found in the area.

Moving on to Fabacher Road, Gum Cove Road and Charlie Moss Road the group stopped whenever birds were seen and a prominent stands of trees. Past experience (mostly provided by John Whittle along with well-marked maps) has shown some interesting birds show up in these little patches of woods with Nuthatches, Creepers and unusual sparrows being just a few of the possibilities in these areas. Unfortunately, we turned up no rarities on this date but that is not to say that no good birds were found. A group of American Robins, perhaps newly arrived winter visitors, made their presence known vocally and then visually. Carolina Chickadees and a Tufted Titmouse were less cooperative but were nevertheless seen by most of the group as various members tried their hand at "pishing" the birds in. John Haynes' Eastern Screech-Owl imitation was also employed to try to bring the birds in. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen by these methods and a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker also turned up.

Sparrows and raptors were two of the main targets for this trip so special attention was made to try and locate these birds. A lack of strong arctic cold fronts so far this fall has left many of our winter birds still lingering further north. Although good numbers of raptors are around, sparrows and other song birds have been in short supply. Still, some sparrows were seen. A Vesper Sparrow perched up for a couple of the birders but fled as the rest of the group approached. Better luck was had with Song Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows as they proved easier to see. Brushy areas along one dead end road gave many looks at White-crowned Sparrows and great looks at three cooperative Palm Warblers. These birds are one of the few species of warbler that regularly winter on the gulf coast in numbers but they can still often be hard to find. They prefer brushy areas, usually near water and can often be recognized by their prominent "tail-pumping" behavior.

After cruising the back roads, the group turned toward Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. This location (especially the paved nature trail) is a great place to see water birds of all kinds including herons, rails and ducks. Although the numbers

of these birds were not what they have been on some past trips, there was still plenty to see for this field trip. Eastern Phoebe was one of the most common birds of the day and they appeared at the refuge in good numbers. Belted Kingfishers perched on the power lines every few hundred yards and Osprey and Peregrine Falcon were seen by some or all participants. There were very few ducks seen from the nature trail but Blue-winged Teal were prominent and a few Gadwall were noted. An American Bittern was flushed from the reeds. A Great Blue Heron stood vigil in the middle of the pond and several Marsh Wrens were heard (and briefly seen) around the edges. Good looks were had a normally shy Clapper Rail and Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen from the observation tower. Besides birds, several American Alligators and Swamp Rabbits were also seen.

Heading home from Louisiana along the beach road, more birds were noted. Sanderlings and Brown Pelicans were seen along the beach. White-tailed Kites were seen perched and hovering over the fields while Ibis and Spoonbills flew in the distance.

As darkness began to fall, the few remaining birders had to give up on adding any new birds to the days list but the spark for winter birding had been lit and all hoped for a few more cold fronts to bring in the birds for the ultimate in winter birding – The Christmas Bird Count! Hope to see you all for the Sea Rim and Orange counts!

The following birds were recorded:

Pied-billed Grebe (3); American White Pelican (26); Brown Pelican (2); Neotropic Cormorant (14); Double-crested Cormorant (2); American Bittern (1); Great Blue Heron (4); Great Egret (15); Snowy Egret (24); Little Blue Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (1); Black-crowned Night-Heron (2); White Ibis (9); *Plegadis* species Ibis (14); Roseate Spoonbill (5); Turkey Vulture (2); Greater White-fronted Goose (10); Gadwall (5); Blue-winged Teal (25); Osprey (4); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (1); Sharp-shinned Hawk (3); Red-tailed Hawk (32); American Kestrel (11); Peregrine Falcon (1); Clapper Rail (2); Common Moorhen (37); Black-bellied Plover (2); Killdeer (49); Sanderling (10); Common Snipe (1); Laughing Gull (206); Forster's Tern (2); Eurasian Collared-Dove (4); Mourning Dove (31); Belted Kingfisher (24); Red-bellied Woodpecker (4); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2); Northern Flicker (4); Eastern Phoebe (10); Loggerhead Shrike (7); Blue Jay (1); American Crow (6); Tree Swallow (58); Carolina Chickadee (4); Tufted Titmouse (1); Carolina Wren (1); House Wren (2); Marsh Wren (3); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Eastern Bluebird (5); American Robin (4); Gray Catbird (1); Northern Mockingbird (9); Brown Thrasher (1); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (56); Palm Warbler (3); Common Yellowthroat (2); Vesper Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (13); Song Sparrow (1); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (2); White-throated Sparrow (6); White-crowned Sparrow (30); Northern Cardinal (8); Red-winged Blackbird (26); Eastern Meadowlark (1); Common Grackle (3); Boat-tailed Grackle (1); Great-tailed Grackle (20); House Sparrow (3). 74 species total.

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings - October 2001

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: October marks the transition from fall migration to winter resident birding, although it is often November before the full complement of sparrows and waterfowl reach our area. This seems especially true this year, as there have not been any significant arctic cold fronts to help push the birds south. Groove-billed Anis were seen in Sabine Woods again, and another Bell's Vireo was reported. On the more mundane, no one reported any House Sparrows during the month. However, we doubt that they really all have left us!

GREBE, Pied-billed JEF 3 reps(15)
 PELICAN, Amer. White JEF 5 reps(427)
 PELICAN, Brown JEF-SRSP 10/7(25) KS; JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) MW
 CORMORANT, Neotropic JEF 10/6(7) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/6(1) JAW; JEF 10/14(28) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF 10/27(5) MW; JEF-TX87 10/27(10) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(6) MW
 CORMORANT, Double-crested JEF 10/7(1) KS; JEF-TX87 10/14(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) MW
 CORMORANT, Species JEF-TX87 10/7(1) JAW
 ANHINGA JEF 2 reps(2)
 HERON, Great Blue JEF 5 reps(33)
 EGRET, Great JEF 7 reps(141)
 EGRET, Snowy JEF 8 reps(378)
 HERON, Little Blue JEF 4 reps(5)
 HERON, Tricolored JEF 7 reps(29)
 EGRET, Cattle JEF 7 reps(173)
 HERON, Green JEF 10/7(1) KS; JEF-TX87 10/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/27(1) MW
 NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. JEF 2 reps(2)
 IBIS, White JEF 4 reps(155)
 IBIS, White-faced JEF-TP 10/28(50) JAW
 IBIS, Plegadis JEF 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/7(7) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/7(18) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TX87 10/27(6) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TP 10/28(58) JAW
 SPOONBILL, Roseate JEF-SRSP 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/6(5) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/6(5) JAW; JEF 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/14(1) JAW; JEF-TP 10/28(110) JAW
 STORK, Wood ORA 10/7(22) KS
 VULTURE, Black JEF 5 reps(9)
 VULTURE, Turkey JEF 10 reps(58)
 GOOSE, White-fronted JEF-SW 10/6(445) JAW; JEF-SW 10/7(30) JAW; JEF 10/14(60) KS; JEF-SW 10/27(410) MW
 GOOSE, Snow JEF-SRSP 10/27(100) MW; JEF-SW 10/27(2445) MW; JEF-TX87 10/27(325) MW
 GOOSE, Ross's JEF-SW 10/27(3) MW; JEF-TX87 10/27(2) MW
 GADWALL JEF-TP 10/28(500) JAW
 WIGEON, American JEF-TP 10/28(4) JAW
 MALLARD JEF-TP 10/28(8) JAW
 DUCK, Mottled JEF 10/7(12) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/14(7) JAW; JEF 10/28(5) JAW; JEF-TP 10/28(12) JAW
 TEAL, Blue-winged JEF 3 reps(2020)
 SHOVELER, Northern JEF 4 reps(1123)
 PINTAIL, Northern JEF 3 reps(76)
 TEAL, Green-winged JEF 2 reps(205)
 DUCK, Ring-necked JEF-TP 10/21(8) SM; JEF-TP 10/28(28) JAW
 SCAUP, Lesser JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
 DUCK species JEF 1 rep(60)
 DUCK, Ruddy JEF-TP 10/21(20) SM; JEF-TP 10/28(25) JAW
 OSPREY JEF-TX87 10/7(2) KS; JEF 10/14(4) GD; JEF-TX87 10/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-TP 10/21(2) SM; JEF-TX87 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TXPT

10/27(1) MW
 KITE, White-tailed JEF 3 reps(9)
 HARRIER, Northern JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF 10/7(2) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(2) JAW; JEF 10/14(5) KS; JEF-SW 10/14(3) GD; JEF-TX87 10/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF 10/27(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) MW; JEF-TX87 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(4) MW; JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
 HAWK, Sharp-shinned JEF 5 reps(9)
 HAWK, Cooper's JEF 4 reps(5)
 HAWK, Red-shouldered JEF 4 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)
 HAWK, Broad-winged JEF 1 rep(9)
 HAWK, Red-tailed JEF 6 reps(17)
 KESTREL, American JEF 6 reps(17)
 MERLIN JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/14(1) GD; JEF-SW 10/27(1) MW
 RAIL, Clapper JEF 1 rep(4)
 MOORHEN, Common JEF 2 reps(10)
 COOT, American JEF 2 reps(1550)
 PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 4 reps(17)
 PLOVER, Snowy JEF-SRSP 10/27(2) MW
 PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF 1 rep(4)
 PLOVER, Piping JEF-SRSP 10/14(1) KS
 KILLDEER JEF 4 reps(57)
 STILT, Black-necked JEF 5 reps(254)
 AVOCET, American JEF 2 reps(30)
 YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF 5 reps(25)
 YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 5 reps(90)
 SANDPIPER, Solitary JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/14(2) GD; JEF-TP 10/21(2) SM
 WILLET JEF 4 reps(15)
 SANDPIPER, Spotted JEF-TP 10/21(1) SM; JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
 TURNSTONE, Ruddy JEF 1 rep(2)
 SANDERLING JEF 3 reps(74)
 SANDPIPER, Semipalmated JEF-TXPT 10/14(6) GD
 SANDPIPER, Western JEF 3 reps(23)
 SANDPIPER, Least JEF 3 reps(563)
 DUNLIN JEF-TP 10/28(4) JAW
 SANDPIPER, Stilt JEF-TP 10/21(12) SM
 DOWITCHER, Short-billed JEF-SRSP 10/14(5) KS
 DOWITCHER, Long-billed JEF 2 reps(410)
 SNIPE, Common JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
 GULL, Laughing JEF 8 reps(750)
 GULL, Franklin's JEF-TP 10/28(4) JAW
 GULL, Ring-billed JEF 1 rep(3)
 GULL, Herring JEF 1 rep(1)
 TERN, Caspian JEF 5 reps(29)
 TERN, Royal JEF 3 reps(31)
 TERN, Forster's JEF 6 reps(41)
 SKIMMER, Black JEF 1 rep(1)
 DOVE, Rock JEF 5 reps(42)
 DOVE, White-winged JEF-NEDR 10/6(4) JAW; JEF 10/14(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/14(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/14(3) GD; JEF-NEDR 10/27(50) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) MW; JEF-SW 10/27(23) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) MW
 DOVE, Mourning JEF 11 reps(258)
 DOVE, Inca JEF 1 rep(1)
 GROUND-DOVE, Common JEF-SRSP 10/14(1) KS
 CUCKOO, Yellow-billed JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW

10/7(1) JAW
ANI, Groove-billed JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW
OWL, Barn JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
OWL, Great Horned JEF 10/7(1) KS; JEF 10/14(1) KS
NIGHTHAWK, Common JEF 10/3(1) KS; JEF 10/17(1) KS
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- JEF-SW 10/6(7) JAW; JEF-SW
10/7(1) JAW
SWIFT, Chimney JEF-NEDR 10/2(3) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. JEF 10/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(2)
JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/3(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/5(1) JAW;
JEF-NEDR 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/6(35) JAW; JEF-SW
10/7(25) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/9(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/14(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 10/14(4) JAW JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
HUMMINGBIRD species JEF-TX87 10/14(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT
10/27(1) MW
KINGFISHER, Belted HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(23)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied JEF 10/14(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/14(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
WOODPECKER, Downy JEF 5 reps(12)
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided JEF 10/7(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(1) GD
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern JEF 7 reps(13)
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell. JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Acadian JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN
FLYCATCHER, Traill's JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN
FLYCATCHER, Least JEF-SW 10/7(2) JAW; JEF-SW
10/20(1) FTSW
EMPIDONAX species JEF-SRSP 10/6(1) JAW; JEF 10/7(1)
KS; JEF-SW 10/14(1) GD; JEF-SW 10/14(1) JAW
PHOEBE, Eastern JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW 10/6(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW; JEF 10/14(6) KS; JEF-SW
10/14(2) GD; JEF-SW 10/20(5) FTSW; JEF-TP 10/21(5) SM;
JEF-SW 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TX87 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TXPT
10/27(1) MW JEF 10/28(4) JAW; JEF-TP 10/28(10) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion JEF-SRSP 10/7(1) GD
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW 10/7(0)
JAW
KINGBIRD, Western JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) MW
KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF 10/2(3)
JAW; JEF-TX87 10/6(6) JAW; JEF 10/7(28) KS; JEF-SW
10/7(10) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/7(22) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/7(56)
KS; JEF 10/14(1) JAW; JEF 10/14(34) KS; JEF-SRSP
10/14(40) JAW JEF-TX87 10/14(100) GD; JEF-TX87
10/14(63) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/14(45) KS; JEF-SW 10/20(3)
FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(5) MW; JEF-SW 10/27(1) MW
SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 9 reps(61)
VIREO, White-eyed JEF 7 reps(31)
VIREO, Bell's JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN
VIREO, Yellow-throated JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW
10/20(1) FTSW
VIREO, Blue-headed JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF 10/7(1) KS;
JEF-SW 10/7(2) JAW
VIREO, Warbling JEF 10/7(1) KS
VIREO, Philadelphia JEF-SRSP 10/7(3) GD
VIREO, Red-eyed JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW
JAY, Blue JEF 8 reps(43)
CROW, Fish JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
CROW, species JEF 1 rep(1)
SWALLOW, Tree JEF 5 reps(183)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged JEF 5 reps(65)
SWALLOW, Cliff JEF 10/14(4) KS
SWALLOW, Barn JEF 2 reps(9)
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted JEF 10/14(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/14(1)
GD; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) MW
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed HAI 10/14(1) KS
WREN, Carolina JEF 4 reps(6)
WREN, House JEF 10/7(2) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(3)
JAW; JEF 10/14(3) KS; JEF-SW 10/20(4) FTSW; JEF-SRSP
10/27(2) MW; JEF-SW 10/27(2) MW
WREN, Marsh JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
KINGLET, Golden-crowned JEF-SW 10/14(1) GD
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW 10/6(3)
JAW; JEF 10/7(4) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(10) JAW; JEF-TX87
10/7(1) KS; JEF-BMT 10/9(3) MH; JEF 10/14(5) KS; JEF-SW
10/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(6) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/27(4)
MW JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) MW; JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW

GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 9 reps(57)
THRUSH, Swainson's JEF-SW 10/7(1) GD
THRUSH, Hermit JEF-SW 10/14(3) GD; JEF-TXPT
10/27(1) MW
ROBIN, American JEF-NEDR 10/5(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
10/7(2) JAW; JEF 10/9(12) JAW
CATBIRD, Gray JEF 8 reps(40)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern JEF 10 reps(57)
THRASHER, Brown JEF 6 reps(43)
STARLING, European JEF 7 reps(167)
WARBLER, Tennessee JEF 5 reps(16)
WARBLER, Orange-crowned JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW 10/6(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW; JEF 10/14(7) KS; JEF-SW
10/14(1) GD
WARBLER, Nashville JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF 10/7(3) KS;
JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW; JEF 10/14(8) KS; JEF-SW 10/14(3)
GD; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) MW
PARULA, Northern JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW 10/6(1)
JAW; JEF 10/7(2) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(2) JAW; JEF-SW
10/14(2) GD; JEF-SW 10/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(2)
FTSW
WARBLER, Yellow JEF-BMT 10/9(1) MH; JEF-SW
10/14(1) GD
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided JEF 2 reps(2)
WARBLER, Magnolia JEF 6 reps(9)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-SW
10/14(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) MW
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green JEF 8 reps(14)
WARBLER, Pine JEF 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Palm JEF-SRSP 10/7(2) GD; JEF-SRSP
10/7(1) KS
WARBLER, Black-and-white JEF 6 reps(14)
REDSTART, American JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN; JEF-SW 10/6(3)
JAW; JEF 10/7(2) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(4) JAW; JEF-BMT
10/9(2) MH; JEF-SW 10/14(3) GD; JEF-SW 10/14(1) JAW;
JEF-SW 10/20(5) FTSW
OVENBIRD JEF-SW 10/6(2) GD; JEF-SW 10/7(1)
JAW
WATERTHRUSH, Northern JEF-SW 10/7(2) GD; JEF-SW
10/20(1) FTSW
WARBLER, Mourning JEF-SW 10/7(1) JAW
YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 7 reps(32)
WARBLER, Hooded JEF-SW 10/6(1) GD; JEF 10/7(1) KS;
JEF-SRSP 10/7(3) GD
WARBLER, Wilson's JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW
10/7(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/14(1) GD; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
WARBLER, Canada JEF-SRSP 10/7(2) GD
CHAT, Yellow-breasted JEF 10/7(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/7(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
TANAGER, Summer JEF 3 reps(3)
TANAGER, Scarlet JEF-SW 10/1(1) BN
SPARROW, Field JEF-TXPT 10/27(2) MW
SPARROW, Lark JEF-SRSP 10/7(2) KS
SPARROW, Savannah JEF-SRSP 10/14(1) KS; JEF-TXPT
10/14(4) GD; JEF-TP 10/21(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 10/27(2) MW;
JEF-TX87 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TP 10/28(1) JAW
SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-t. JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) MW
SPARROW, Seaside JEF 1 rep(30)
SPARROW, Lincoln's JEF 10/7(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/20(2)
FTSW; JEF-SW 10/27(2) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(2) MW
SPARROW, Swamp JEF-SRSP 10/7(2) KS; JEF-SW
10/20(1) FTSW; JEF 10/27(1) MW; JEF-SW 10/27(2) MW;
JEF-TXPT 10/27(2) MW
SPARROW, White-throated JEF-TXPT 10/27(3) MW
SPARROW, White-crowned JEF-SW 10/27(1) MW; JEF-TXPT
10/27(1) MW
CARDINAL, Northern JEF 5 reps(13)
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted JEF-SW 10/7(2) JAW
GROSBEAK, Blue JEF-SW 10/6(4) GD; JEF 10/7(4) KS;
JEF 10/14(4) KS; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
BUNTING, Indigo JEF 8 reps(108)
BUNTING, Painted JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW
10/7(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/14(6) GD; JEF-SW 10/14(2) JAW;
JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW
DICKCISSEL JEF 10/7(1) KS
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged JEF 7 reps(158)

MEADOWLARK species	JEF 3 reps(8)
GRACKLE, Common	JEF 5 reps(277)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 5 reps(176)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 8 reps(225)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	JEF 3 reps(23)
ORIOLE, Baltimore	JEF-SW 10/7(5) JAW; JEF-SW
10/20(1) FTSW	

Number of Species 179
 Number of Individuals 17036

County Abbreviations:
 HAI - Hardin; JEF- Jefferson; ORA - Orange

Location Codes:
 BMT - Beaumont; NEDR - Nederland; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park;
 SW - Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 -
 Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP; TXPT - Road to Pilot
 Station at Texas Point

Observer Abbreviations:
 BN -; FTSW - Field Trip to Sabine Woods; GD - Gerald Duhon; JAW -
 John Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; MH - Margo Holst; MW - Steve Mayes
 and John Whittle; SM - Steve Mayes

Details of Very Rare Species

Bell's Vireo – 01 October 2001 – Brook Nicotra and Laura Botton. Seen in the early afternoon in the main part of Sabine Woods near the small pond. There was a small flock of birds, including a White-eyed Vireo, Black-throated Green Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, and Gnatcatchers in the same area. We were initially not sure which vireo it was, as we had only a glimpse and saw wing bars. We then saw it again. It was small, and had difficult-to-see white lores, faint wing-bars and a yellow vent and undertail coverts, with a white throat and chest. The olive-green of the back was evident in the sun. The bird was quite active, though we did not see it get any insects.

Bird Alerts

Wintering hummingbirds are becoming more common-place. We have heard of numerous *Selasphorus* hummingbirds, probably almost all Rufous, in the Golden Triangle area. Carol Lynn Loker had a very cooperative full male Calliope Hummingbird in her year for much of November. It was still being seen sporadically early in December. Royce Pendergast reported a Buff-bellied feeding on her cigar plant in Orange.

Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park in Beaumont has been by far the best place for those wanting to look at lots of Ducks. The numbers there are far greater than elsewhere. Unfortunately, it has usually involved long walks to reach the cells the ducks like. Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback and Greater Scaup have all be noted there. Although there are still some sparrows around, they are not as numerous as in past years. The city has cleared almost all the levees of all trees and mowed the banks of the levees. While it was clearly necessary to control the tallows before they got out of control, we would have liked the opportunity to educate the city on the difference between a tallow (bad) and a willow (good)! Also, if the mowing of the sides of the levees could have been done in the late spring, it would have achieved the presumed goal of control of woody plants yet allowed the weedy plants which provide the sparrows' winter food to grow.

On the coast, after a reasonably good early part of the winter season, sparrows have been less numerous both on the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point and in Sabine Woods, although the sparrow habitat in the northern part of the Woods seems superb to us.

The south impoundment at Pleasure Island fills up with water when it rains and then slowly drains. As a result when there is exposed mud, which has been underwater for some period of time, it is usually very attractive to shorebirds. There were hundreds of American Avocets and numerous other species there until it rained at the end of November. As (and if) the water level falls, it should become attractive to them again. Common Loons were first noted there on the Sabine Lake side of the levee road on December 9.

Winter Hummerland

(From: *TEXBIRDS*, December 06, 2001)

I have been studying winter hummingbirds near Raisin in Victoria County for a decade. Partly through improved management of Craig Zalk's and my property, survival of past wintering hummers and an overall increase in wintering birds, the numbers are much greater than in 1992 when I started. In the early 90's ten hummingbirds over-wintering in the yard was considered a high number and something special. Last winter Craig and I, caught and banded 53 hummers of eight species at least twice. Since November 1st of this year we have already captured 62 with 21 being caught at least twice. At least 15 of these birds are returnees from last winter!

Aside from doing a little bragging about this property, the real reason for sending this post is to alert you there are lots of hummers near the Coast and to provide you a species ratio within various difficult to separate groups (mainly *Selasphorus* and *Archilochus*).

The most abundant species this winter appears to be Rufous with 24 captured to date. Last year there were less than a dozen and it was second in abundance. Can be difficult to separate from Allen's and Broad-tail. Identify with caution.

Buff-bellied 18. This is down from the 28 from last year. Easy to identify.

Broad-tailed 8. This is an amazing number. The most I have had before has been two. Can be confused with Rufous and Allens. Identify with caution.

Black-chinned 7. This is about the normal number at the house. Can be confused with the less abundant Ruby-throat, but with care longer bill, deeper tail pumping and generally longer wing will help separate species.

Allen's 3. This is not unusual. It is one more than last year, but this a little below the normal ratio of about seven Rufous to one Allen's. Difficult to separate from Rufous in the field.

Ruby-throat 2. Usually the least abundant, except for species not found. Regularly found but usually in much lower numbers than Black-chinned. Although Black-chinned is the expected *Archilochus* in winter, Ruby-throateds are possible so ID *Archilochus* with caution. Very few Ruby-throateds attempting to over-winter survive.

Brent Ortego, Raisin, Texas

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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://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
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