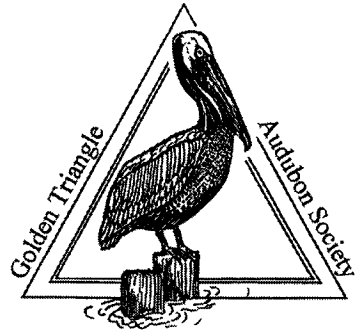


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 9 No. 5

May 2003

Membership Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2003
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Victor Emanuel

of

Victor Emanuel Nature Tours

In the seventies, Victor Emanuel founded one of the first tour companies specializing in birding tours. He also started one of the most famous Christmas Bird Counts in the nation, the Freeport, Texas count. For many years, this count led the nation in the number of species recorded, although changes in habitat and the selection by others of a count circle a little further down the coast with a similar variety of habitats has nudged Freeport out of first place. At press time, we have not received the exact title of Victor's talk.

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.

April Membership Meeting

Unfortunately, April's scheduled speaker, Sandy Komito had to leave the area the day before he was scheduled to speak. In place of Sandy's talk, the twenty members present viewed the Warblers on the National Audubon Society video guide to birds. After each species, we described the time frame for spring and fall migration through the Upper Texas Coast and the habitat preferences during passage through the area.

We thank Andrea Billingsley and Sherry Gibson for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

John A. Whittle

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 9, No.5 May 2003

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

**RARE BIRD ALERT AND
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Calendar of Events

Saturday/Sunday May 3/4. Spring Garden Tour. The Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs is seeking volunteers to staff this event. Please contact Joe Halbrook at (409) 892-3090.

Saturday May 10. North American Migration Count, Jefferson County.

This is our annual count of all the birds that we can find in Jefferson County as Migration comes to an end. Traditionally, this is International Migratory Bird Day, and coincides with the peak of migration in the northern tier of the United States. It comes as migration through Jefferson County trails off to a very few late migrating species. But, in addition, it gives us a survey of the breeding birds of the area, which are mostly still establishing territories and building nests.

We will welcome all the help that we can get, especially in the early morning hours, when bird activity is at its maximum. So we can use you even if you can only count for a few hours in the morning.

Please call John Whittle at 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H), or email whittleja@hal.lamar.edu if you can help. The earlier you call, the easier it will be to assign you to a productive area. It is extremely difficult to use volunteers other than feeder watchers who wait until the day before to call!

Thursday May 15. Membership Meeting. Speaker: Victor Emanuel of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. See page 1 for details.

Saturday May 31. Sabine Woods Work Day. As those of you who have visited Sabine Woods know, the rather wet conditions (including the four inches of rain on April 7) during the early spring have resulted in strong growth outside the woods. We plan to mow the main trails and attend to other needed maintenance including more vine cutting if conditions permit. If any of our volunteers would like to go down before this date and mow the main trails, please do so!

We will plan to start about 7:30 a.m. and conclude by about noon.

Saturday June 7 – Field Trip to Hardin County. After considerable deliberation, we have decided to stay closer to home rather than go all the way to Angelina County. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. in the shopping center parking lot on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM 92 with FM 418 in the northern part of Silsbee. From Beaumont, take Highway 96 through Lumberton and then the Business 96 exit into Silsbee. Pass through Silsbee and continue straight on FM 92 when Business 96 makes a right turn. The FM 418 intersection is about a mile north on FM 92.

We will plan to search for breeding warblers (Hooded, Prairie, Pine and Swainson's, and perhaps Northern Parula, Prothonotary and Yellow-throated) and other breeding species of the area. (Yellow-breasted Chat, Painted and Indigo Buntings, Blue Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Brown-headed Nuthatch and Acadian Flycatcher.)

Depending on the conditions and/or success or otherwise of our initial foray through the Firetower Road/Camp Waluta Road/Gore Store Road area, we may proceed to the Nature Conservancy's Sandyland Sanctuary to explore the floodplain area of Village Creek and also visit an area where Bachman's Sparrow may be nesting.

For those interested in Boykin Springs, we offer the following to help you explore the area on your own. The Boykin Springs area is well described on the Upper Texas Coast Birding Trail map, with good directions. There is a well marked and signed Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony on the right a couple of miles or so along Forest Road 313. The best chances of seeing the woodpeckers is early in the morning (but the area is about a two hour drive from Beaumont). The area surrounding the colony also has breeding Bachman's Sparrow. Brown-headed Nuthatches, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos and several warbler species can be found elsewhere along Forest Road 313.

One option after exploring Boykin Springs is to proceed south to Jasper and then west on US 190 to the Walnut Ridge unit of Martin Dies State Park, where there are breeding warblers.

Spring Migration Review

(We normally wait until the July/August or September issue to present our review of Spring Migration. That review has normally -- and will this year -- present tables of the dates and numbers of migrants. This year has provided the best birding in many years, and here we provide a narrative summary and first impressions of the season.)

The Spring migration season got an early start this year. As early as March 6, on a day with strong northerly winds, a good number of Yellow-throated Warblers and Northern Parulas were found at Sabine Woods. [Sabine Woods is in Jefferson County, 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass.] An early Red-eyed Vireo and one Hooded Warbler were also seen. Two days later, there were all the same warbler species, plus Louisiana Waterthrushes and White-eyed Vireos. Black-and-white Warblers were seen on both days, although some do winter in the area. By March 14, the first Worm-eating Warbler was seen, as well as augmented numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers. A very early Wood Thrush was also noted.

The weekend of March 21-23 was described by our observers as having moderate activity. Black-throated Green and Nashville Warblers were added to the season's list. Even on this early date, an Indigo Bunting was found as were the season's first Eastern Kingbirds. Also on this weekend, a *Myiarchus* flycatcher at the Willows at Sea Rim State Park was determined to be an Ash-throated Flycatcher.

A check of the coast on March 26 produced few birds, but did include a very early Warbling Vireo and a Prothonotary Warbler. In the past few years, we have often seen a strong push of male Prothonotary Warblers late in March or very early in April. This year, however, the males trickled through until mid to late April.

A taste of the season to come occurred the weekend of March 27-30. Large numbers of migrants arrived at Sabine Woods and the Willows on March 27. Then a cold front came through on March 28 and continued south into the Gulf, bringing prolonged strong northerly winds behind it, holding both new arrivals and any previous arrivals that had not moved northward earlier. Hooded Warblers -- almost all males -- were present in incredible numbers, estimated at 125 or more. White-eyed Vireos, Northern Parulas (mostly females) and Kentucky Warblers were easy to find. A total of 18 or 19 warbler species was recorded. This included Swainson's Warblers at both Sabine Pass and the Willows. Normally at this early date, almost all of the and waterthrushes would be Louisiana

Waterthrushes, but on this occasion, there were good numbers of well marked Northern Waterthrushes. We were surprised to find a male Blackburnian Warbler at the Willows on March 28. A Warbling Vireo was also seen at the Willows, the first of an unusually large number of this species (or have we got better at identifying them?).

In addition to the neotropical migrants, shorebird migration was active, with American Golden Plovers, Upland Sandpipers and even a Buff-bellied Sandpiper were along the shore of the Bolivar Peninsula on March 29.

The strong north winds held the migrants in the coastal areas through March 30. The first Summer Tanagers were seen, while Yellow-throated Vireos were quite common. Hermit Thrushes were still around, but one Swainson's Thrush was well seen, and several Wood Thrushes were noted.

In the absence of any significant migrant activity on the coast on April 3, 4 and 5, many of our observers headed elsewhere on April 5. Cultivation of rice in west Jefferson County has diminished greatly. Possibly, however, those few fields that do have the shallow water favored by shorebirds attract greater concentrations of these species. A field on Lawhon Road had Golden Plover, a couple of Whimbrel, Pectoral Sandpipers and a lot of Dunlin. Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park usually has at least one cell with a water level attractive to shorebirds, and on this day there were Wilson's Phalaropes, a lot of Solitary Sandpipers, several Stilt Sandpipers as well as the normal species.

April 6 was also a slow day and it was a struggle to find 12 species of warbler. One interesting find was a Prairie Warbler at the Willows; not where the species would be expected, but later in the month, another of this species stayed for many days in the salt cedars and mulberry trees just west of the Willows, along with at least one Palm Warbler.

On Monday April 7, in the early to mid afternoon, an intense line of thunderstorms passed through the coast, dropping four inches of rain on Sabine Woods. The weather forced down all migrants as they crossed the coast, and both the Willows and Sea Rim were alive with birds. Incredibly, there were still large numbers of Hooded Warblers (split about evenly between males and females). Both waterthrushes were well represented using every part of the woods, as water was standing everywhere. Blue-winged Warblers (finally) were present in numbers, and Worm-eating Warblers were easy to find.

By the following day, the Willows were all but devoid of birds, but about 18 species of Warbler were recorded at Sabine Woods. The Willows have been unusually productive this season, perhaps because there is more water than for several years back. There is a tendency for birds to move out of the Willows quicker than they do from Sabine Woods. Reports from later in that week suggested that many birds had stayed in Sabine Woods, but some had moved on by April 10.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Andrea Billingsley and Sherry Gibson for providing refreshments in April. Volunteers are now urgently needed for May 2003 and for the fall meetings from August 2003 onwards. 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!

"Good" finds included Cerulean Warblers, and large numbers of Kentucky Warblers were seen. The Willows were still surprisingly active.

The strong north winds finally subsided after April 10, but Sabine Woods remained surprisingly active. By this time, the "inch worms" were at their peak, munching preferentially on hackberry leaves, and providing such a feast for the birds that it is perhaps not surprising that they stayed. Many species we are used to seeing much nearer the ground – especially Prothonotary Warblers – did not hesitate to go up to the tops of the hackberry trees to enjoy the abundance. Normally, most migrants are silent as they pass through, a few species such as White-eye Vireo excepted. At this time, however, Prothonotary, Blue-winged and Tennessee Warblers were unusually vocal.

This was the weekend when the larger birds started to come through, and by April 11, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Baltimore Orioles, Wood and Swainson's Thrushes and Yellow-billed Cuckoos were present in numbers. Shorebirds were largely unchanged as to species from the previous weekend, except that 14 Upland Sandpipers along Boyt Road west of Beaumont was an unusual find for this area. And Northern Gannets were found in large numbers, mostly by birders searching for a Surf-bird seen along the washed out section of Highway 87 between Sea Rim and High Island.

Despite southerly winds, the birding at Sabine Woods was reasonably good April 17/18/19, with many Painted Buntings and Scarlet Tanagers around. Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos were unusually easy to find, something that continued on and off for the rest of the month.

On April 20, a thunderstorm line ahead of a cold front passed through the area. Fifteen species of warbler were seen in the hour or so after the rain stopped. These included a Golden-winged Warbler, and some Chestnut-sided Warblers and American Redstarts. A Black-billed Cuckoo that remained in the area for three days was enjoyed by many.

The front itself passed through Sunday night, bringing northerly winds. April 21 and 22 were incredibly good birding days. Twenty-nine species of warbler were reported on April 21, while one of our regular observers reported seeing 27 warbler species in five hours on the afternoon of April 22. Incredibly enough, once again, Hooded Warblers apparently outnumbered others.

The number of birds had decreased by April 23 and 24, although observers who spent all day in the field still reported over 20 warbler species. We have a report of large numbers of warbler sized birds arriving over the coast on April 25. Some were Indigo Buntings, other were warblers with yellow on them.

April 26 and 27 were reasonably active days, if somewhat anticlimactic after earlier in the week. There were some diversions, including some rice fields with large numbers of shorebirds. Three or four fields contained a total of more than a thousand Whimbrel, along with large numbers of Lesser and Greater Yellowlegs and smaller numbers of Golden and Black-bellied Plovers. Several Yellow-headed Blackbirds were also noted.

The rest of April saw slow birding, enlivened only by a Brewster's (hybrid) Warbler on April 26. One has to feel that the majority of the Bay-breasted and probably many Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers remain to pass through. We

know that most of the Canada Warblers and Mourning Warblers are still south of us.

It is perhaps presumptuous to analyze the season before it is over, but here are our impressions. Among the Vireos, we have seen better than average numbers of Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos, perhaps fewer than normal Red-eyed Vireos, and normal numbers of other Vireos.

Blue-winged Warblers came through in excellent numbers a little later than usual. Golden-winged Warblers – seemingly all males – were also (relatively) numerous. We probably saw more Nashville Warblers -- this species is a circum-Gulf migrant – than in any recent spring season. (The species is much more common in the fall.) Unless there are many left to come, Yellow Warblers are reduced in number. No Cape May Warblers have yet been confirmed in Jefferson County this spring, and reports of Black-throated Blue Warblers (females) are second hand at best. Black-throated Green Warblers have made a comeback after several down years. Yellow-throated Warblers have passed through throughout most of March and all of April, belying the normal wisdom that this is an "early" migrant. The species' penchant for staying for long period in the same tree does make it easier to find. Blackpoll Warblers have not been easy to find (although there is still time). Cerulean Warblers have occurred several times in multiples. American Redstarts so far are down quite drastically, but time will tell if there are more to come. Ovenbirds have also been very scarce this year. Yellow-breasted Chats are always difficult to see, but easy to hear. They may not have been quite as common as usual this year.

Turning to the larger birds, Gray Catbirds, after a slow start have come through in the usual large numbers. Of the thrushes, Swainson's have been common and in good numbers, while Wood Thrushes have not ever been as numerous as usual.

Cuckoos may not have been quite as common as they have been in recent years, but Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Summer and Scarlet Tanager populations seem in good shape. We do have some concerns over Blue Grosbeaks, and, to a lesser extent, Indigo Buntings, both of which appear to be down.

It is probably far too early to be analyzing flycatchers, but Acadian Flycatchers seemed numerous in early April while large numbers of Eastern Wood-Pewees arrived later in the month.

Most species of shorebirds seem to have passed through in normal to somewhat elevated numbers, except perhaps for American Golden-Plovers, which may be down somewhat.

We would not normally consider discussing sparrows in an account such as this. However, we were fascinated to find – on the road to the Pilot Station, or actually where the Pilot Station used to be – in late April, two or three Savannah Sparrows apparently of a different race than those we are accustomed to seeing in winter. We were more surprised to find them accompanied by three Chipping Sparrows and two Vesper Sparrows. Perhaps we should not have been surprised as sparrows migrate!

Compiled from reports by Gerald Duhon, John Haynes, Steve Mayes, and Art Mackinnon, Patrick Walther and John Whittle along with posts by various contributors to the TEXBIRDS listserv.

Bird Sightings – March 2003

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: This report represents the first installment of our reports on the Spring Migration Season of 2003. Many observers have contributed to these reports. The observers cited were not necessarily the only ones to see the bird. During migration, two or more of our observers may bird together for a period, then split up. There is an almost unavoidable bias towards the compiler of this list, as it is all but impractical to keep track of brief joint birding. We thank our contributing observers nonetheless. All their names are recorded at the end of the list.

GREBE, Pied-billed JEF 2 reps(6); TYL 1 rep(2)
GANNET, Northern JEF 3/12(1) AM
PELICAN, Amer. White JEF 7 reps(163)
PELICAN, Brown JEF-PI 3/4(1) LW; JEF-SRSP 3/6(16) AM; JEF-TX87 3/8(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/9(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/15(8) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/16(3) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic JEF 6 reps(44)
CORMORANT, Double-crested JEF 3 reps(31)
CORMORANT, Species JEF 3 reps(30)
ANHINGA JEF 1 rep(2)
HERON, Great Blue HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 4 reps(5)
EGRET, Great JEF 7 reps(45)
EGRET, Snowy JEF 11 reps(38)
HERON, Little Blue JEF 5 reps(22)
HERON, Tricolored JEF 5 reps(48)
EGRET, Cattle JEF 7 reps(36)
HERON, Green HAI 3/2(1) KS; JEF-TP 3/9(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/28(14) JJW; JEF-SRSP 3/30(3) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(5) MW
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned JEF 1 rep(1)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW; JEF 3/29(8) FTBF; JEF 3/30(1) MW; JEF-TX87 3/30(2) MW
IBIS, White-faced JEF-SW 3/6(3) AM
IBIS, Plegadis JEF-TX87 3/8(30) JAW; JEF 3/9(200) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(4) JAW; JEF-TP 3/9(100) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(15) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/16(100) JAW; JEF-SW 3/28(20) JJW; JEF-SRSP 3/30(3) MW
SPOONBILL, Roseate JEF-PI 3/4(1) LW
VULTURE, Black HAI 1 rep(5); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 4 reps(27)
VULTURE, Turkey HAI 3 reps(18); JEF 5 reps(40)
DUCK, Wood JEF-TP 3/9(4) JAW; ORA 3/9(2) KS
GADWALL JEF 2 reps(107)
DUCK, Mottled HAI 3/15(2) AM; JEF-MCFW 3/8(5) JAW; JEF-TP 3/9(2) JAW; JEF-TP 3/9(6) SM; JEF 3/30(1) MW
TEAL, Blue-winged JEF 8 reps(1075)
SHOVELER, Northern JEF 3 reps(617)
PINTAIL, Northern JEF 2 reps(5)
TEAL, Green-winged JEF 2 reps(300); ORA 1 rep(6)
CANVASBACK JEF-MCFW 3/8(2) JAW; JEF-TP 3/9(2) SM
DUCK, Ring-necked JEF 2 reps(200)
SCAUP, Greater JEF-TP 3/9(3) JAW
SCAUP, Lesser JEF 3 reps(160)
BUFFLEHEAD JEF 1 rep(6)
MERGANSEER, Hooded JEF-TXPT 3/4(2) HM
DUCK, Ruddy JEF 2 reps(13)
OSPREY JEF-PI 3/4(4) LW; JEF 3/9(1) JAW; JEF 3/9(1) SM; JEF-TX87 3/9(2) JAW; JEF 3/12(1) AM; JEF-TX87 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-TX87 3/30(1) MW
KITE, Swallow-tailed NEW 3/29(4) MA; ORA 3/6(1) KS
KITE, White-tailed JEF 3 reps(5)
HARRIER, Northern JEF 4 reps(10)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned JEF 3/6(1) AM; JEF-NEDR 3/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW
HAWK, Cooper's JEF 3/7(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(1) SM
HAWK, Red-shouldered HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 1 rep(1)

HAWK, Broad-winged JEF-TXPT 3/4(1) LW
HAWK, Swainson's JEF 3/21(1) AM; JEF 3/23(1) SM
HAWK, Red-tailed HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 12 reps(50)
CARACARA, Crested JEF 3/7(1) AM; JEF 3/9(1) JAW
KESTREL, American JEF 5 reps(18)
MERLIN JEF 3/9(1) SM
BOBWHITE, Northern HAI 1 rep(2)
RAIL, Clapper JEF 1 rep(2)
RAIL, Virginia JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW
GALLINULE, Purple JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW
MOORHEN, Common JEF 4 reps(19)
COOT, American JEF 2 reps(770)
CRANE, Sandhill JEF 3/4(53) GD
PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 3 reps(44)
GOLDEN-PLOVER, American JEF 3/29(25) FTBF
PLOVER, Snowy JEF 3/12(60) AM
PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF 1 rep(2)
PLOVER, Piping JEF 2 reps(16)
KILLDEER HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 5 reps(16)
STILT, Black-necked JEF 2 reps(120)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF 1 rep(4)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 2 reps(5)
WILLET JEF 1 rep(26)
SANDPIPER, Spotted JEF-TP 3/9(2) SM
SANDPIPER, Upland JEF 3/29(20) FTBF
CURLEW, Long-billed JEF 1 rep(7)
TURNSTONE, Ruddy JEF 2 reps(8)
SANDERLING JEF 2 reps(674)
SANDPIPER, Western JEF 1 rep(8)
SANDPIPER, Least JEF 2 reps(68)
DUNLIN JEF 1 rep(1050)
DOWITCHER, Long-billed JEF 1 rep(200)
DOWITCHER species JEF 1 rep(200)
GULL, Laughing JEF 11 reps(224)
GULL, Bonaparte's JEF 3 reps(292)
GULL, Ring-billed JEF 10 reps(395)
GULL, Herring JEF 5 reps(14)
TERN, Caspian JEF 4 reps(16)
TERN, Royal JEF 1 rep(4)
TERN, Forster's JEF 3 reps(56)
DOVE, Rock JEF 7 reps(87)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian JEF 3/3(1) JAW; JEF 3/4(1) JAW; JEF 3/5(1) JAW; JEF 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/9(1) JAW; JEF 3/10(5) JAW; JEF 3/12(2) JAW; JEF 3/15(1) JAW; JEF 3/17(2) JAW; JEF 3/18(2) JAW; JEF 3/19(1) JAW; JEF 3/20(2) JAW; JEF 3/28(2) JJW; JEF 3/29(2) FTBF; JEF 3/31(1) JAW
DOVE, White-winged JEF-NEDR 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/7(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/8(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/12(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/13(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/17(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(1) JAW
DOVE, Mourning HAI 2 reps(16); JEF 20 reps(191)
DOVE, Inca HAI 1 rep(1)
OWL, Barn JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(1) SM
OWL, Great Horned JEF 3/4(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/4(1) HM; JEF-SW 3/6(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(2) SM

OWL, Barred	JEF-TP 3/27(3) JAW	KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	HAI 4 reps(14); JEF 7 reps(59); TYL 1 rep(2)
SWIFT, Chimney	HAI-SNDY 3/27(15) AM; JEF- NEDR 3/27(4) JAW; JEF-TP 3/27(6) JAW; JEF-SW 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(1) JAW	GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	JEF 12 reps(62)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated	HAI 3/9(1) KS; HAI 3/16(1) KS; JEF-BMT 3/14(1) RAJ; JEF-NEDR 3/15(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/16(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/17(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/18(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/19(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/20(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/23(1) SM; JEF-NEDR 3/27(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/30(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(1) JAW	BLUEBIRD, Eastern	HAI 4 reps(15); JEF 2 reps(3)
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chinned	JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JFW	THRUSH, Swainson's	JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW
HUMMINGBIRD, Archilochus	JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JFW	THRUSH, Hermit	JEF-SW 3/4(3) HM; JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(3) SM; JEF-SW 3/14(1) DL; JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SW 3/30(2) MW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/30(1) MW	THRUSH, Wood	JEF-SW 3/14(1) HD; JEF-SW 3/27(7) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(1) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(4) MW
KINGFISHER, Belted	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(23)	ROBIN, American	JEF 19 reps(216)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	HAI-SNDY 3/27(1) AM; JEF-TX87 3/23(1) SM	CATBIRD, Gray	HAI 3/15(2) AM
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	HAI 3 reps(10); JEF 6 reps(8); ORA 1 rep(2); TYL 1 rep(1)	MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	HAI 2 reps(6); JEF 14 reps(53)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	JEF 4 reps(6)	THRASHER, Brown	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(37)
WOODPECKER, Downy	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 13 reps(23); ORA 1 rep(2)	STARLING, European	JEF 16 reps(265)
WOODPECKER, Hairy	TYL 3/30(1) MA	PIBIT, American	JEF 2 reps(171)
FLICKER, Northern	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 2 reps(2); TYL 1 rep(1)	WAXWING, Cedar	HAI 2 reps(208); JEF 5 reps(66); ORA 1 rep(80)
WOODPECKER, Pileated	HAI 2 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(1)	WARBLER, Blue-winged	JEF 3/21(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(2) DQ
PHOEBE, Eastern	JEF 10 reps(18)	WARBLER, Tennessee	JEF-SW 3/27(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(2) MW
FLYCATCHER, Ash-throated	JEF-SRSP 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 3/23(1) SM	WARBLER, Orange-crowned	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(17)
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	JEF 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/30(3) MW	WARBLER, Nashville	JEF-SRSP 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/27(1) JHH
KINGBIRD, Eastern	HAI-SNDY 3/27(1) AM; JAS 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/30(4) MW	PARULA, Northern	HAI 3/23(6) KS; HAI-SNDY 3/27(2) AM; HAI 3/30(3) KS; JEF-SW 3/6(16) AM; JEF-SW 3/8(8) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(20) SM; JEF-TP 3/9(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/13(6) GD; JEF-SW 3/14(6) DL; JEF-SW 3/14(10) HD; JEF-SW 3/15(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/16(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/21(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(2) SM; JEF- SRSP 3/22(4) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(2) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(3) JJW; JEF-SW 3/28(9) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(40) DQ; JEF-SRSP 3/30(2) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(50) MW; ORA 3/9(1) KS; TYL-MDSP 3/9(1) KS; TYL 3/30(5) MA
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH	WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	HAI 1 rep(60); JEF 27 reps(617)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	JEF 10 reps(31)	WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/27(1) JHH
VIREO, White-eyed	HAI 4 reps(12); JEF 14 reps(185)	WARBLER, Blackburnian	JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW
VIREO, Yellow-throated	JEF-SW 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/27(10) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/28(5) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(1) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(4) MW; TYL 3/30(5) MA	WARBLER, Yellow-throated	HAI-SNDY 3/27(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(2) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/14(1) DL; JEF- SW 3/14(3) HD; JEF-SW 3/27(5) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(8) DQ; JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(4) MW; TYL-MDSP 3/9(1) KS; TYL 3/30(5) MA
VIREO, Blue-headed	JEF 3 reps(5)	WARBLER, Pine	HAI 2 reps(27); JEF 4 reps(6)
VIREO, Warbling	JEF-SRSP 3/26(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/27(1) JHH	WARBLER, Palm	JEF-SRSP 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/23(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/31(0) JCO
VIREO, Philadelphia	JEF-SW 3/28(1) JJW	WARBLER, Black-and-white	JEF-SW 3/6(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/8(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(6) SM; JEF-SW 3/13(10) GD; JEF-SW 3/14(8) DL; JEF-SW 3/14(5) HD; JEF- SW 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF 3/21(4) SM; JEF- SW 3/21(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/28(3) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(20) DQ; JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(10) MW
VIREO, Red-eyed	HAI-SNDY 3/27(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/6(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/23(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW	WARBLER, Prothonotary	JEF-SW 3/23(3) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/26(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/27(11) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(6) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(8) MW
JAY, Blue	HAI 3 reps(16); JEF 17 reps(49)	WARBLER, Worm-eating	JEF-SRSP 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 3/26(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/27(20) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SW 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(4) MW
CROW, American	HAI 3 reps(21); JAS 1 rep(3)	WARBLER, Swainson's	JEF-SRSP 3/27(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW
CROW, Fish	HAI 3/15(2) AM; JEF-TP 3/9(7) JAW; JEF 3/27(1) JAW	OVENBIRD	JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW
CROW, species	JEF 7 reps(17)	WATERTHRUSH, Northern	JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(2) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(3) MW
MARTIN, Purple	HAI 3 reps(18); JEF 9 reps(50)	WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	JEF-SW 3/2(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/9(3) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/13(3) GD; JEF-SW 3/14(1) DL; JEF-SW 3/14(1) HD; JEF-SRSP 3/16(1) JAW; JEF 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF- SW 3/27(12) JHH; JEF-SW 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(10) DQ; JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(4) MW
SWALLOW, Tree	JEF 9 reps(965)		
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged	JEF-SW 3/30(2) MW		
SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff	JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW		
SWALLOW, Barn	JEF 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/8(1) JAW; JEF 3/9(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/15(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SRSP 3/30(10) MW		
CHICKADEE, Carolina	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 1 rep(2); TYL 1 rep(9)		
TITMOUSE, Tufted	TYL 1 rep(6)		
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	HAI-SNDY 3/22(2) PDH; HAI- SNDY 3/27(2) AM		
WREN, Carolina	HAI 2 reps(13); JEF 3 reps(4)		
WREN, House	JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW		
WREN, Winter	HAI 3/15(1) AM; TYL 3/30(3) MA		
WREN, Marsh	JEF-MCFW 3/8(5) JAW		
KINGLET, Golden-crowned	HAI 3/15(1) AM; HAI 3/30(1) KS; JEF-SW 3/2(4) GD; JEF-SW 3/4(4) HM; JEF-TXPT 3/4(1) LW; JEF-SW 3/6(16) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(6) SM; JEF-SW 3/14(3) DL; JEF-SW 3/14(3) HD; JEF-SW 3/15(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/16(4) JAW; JEF 3/21(3) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(7) AM; JEF-SW 3/22(3) SM; ORA 3/9(6) KS; TYL-MDSP 3/9(5) KS		

WARBLER, Kentucky	JEF-SW 3/27(16) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(8) DQ; JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(15) MW
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 11 reps(31)
WARBLER, Hooded	HAI-SNDY 3/27(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/6(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/13(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/14(1) DL; JEF-SW 3/14(1) HD; JEF-SW 3/16(2) JAW; JEF 3/21(4) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(5) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/26(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/27(120) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(11) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(120) DQ; JEF-SRSP 3/30(4) MW; JEF-SW 3/30(125) MW; TYL 3/30(5) MA
WARBLER, Wilson's	JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW
TANAGER, Summer	JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/28(3) JJW
TOWHEE, Spotted	JEF-SW 3/9(3) JAW
TOWHEE, Eastern	HAI 3/12(1) KS; HAI 3/15(1) AM; HAI 3/16(2) KS; HAI 3/19(2) KS; HAI 3/23(1) KS; JEF-SW 3/13(2) GD; JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/26(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) MW; ORA 3/9(1) KS; TYL-MDSP 3/9(1) KS
SPARROW, Bachman's	HAI-SNDY 3/22(1) PDH; HAI-SNDY 3/27(1) AM
SPARROW, Chipping	HAI 2 reps(42)
SPARROW, Field	HAI 3/15(4) AM
SPARROW, Vesper	HAI 3/15(1) AM
SPARROW, Lark	JEF-SW 3/22(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM
SPARROW, Savannah	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 4 reps(86)
SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-tail.	JEF 1 rep(3)
SPARROW, Seaside	JEF 1 rep(5)
SPARROW, Song	JEF 3 reps(6)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	JEF-SW 3/6(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JAW; JEF 3/21(2) SM; JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(3) MW
SPARROW, Swamp	JEF 4 reps(16)
SPARROW, White-throated	HAI 2 reps(35); JEF 9 reps(54)
SPARROW, White-crowned	JEF-TP 3/9(4) JAW
CARDINAL, Northern	HAI 2 reps(26); JEF 9 reps(29)
GROSBEAK, Blue	JEF-SW 3/27(2) JHH
BUNTING, Indigo	JEF 3/21(2) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/22(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/27(8) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(3) JJW; JEF-SW 3/28(5) JJW; JEF-SW 3/29(1) DQ; JEF-SW 3/30(3) MW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 8 reps(219)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	HAI 1 rep(19); JEF 3 reps(6)
MEADOWLARK, Western	JEF-TXPT 3/4(1) LW
MEADOWLARK species	JEF 3 reps(6)
GRACKLE, Common	HAI 1 rep(60); JEF 10 reps(140)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 6 reps(71)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	HAI 1 rep(20); JEF 15 reps(169)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	HAI 1 rep(16); JEF 1 rep(1)
ORIOLE, Orchard	JEF-SW 3/27(15) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/28(2) JJW; JEF-SW 3/30(3) MW
FINCH, House	JEF-NEDR 3/15(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW
GOLDFINCH, American	JEF 2 reps(14)
SPARROW, House	HAI 2 reps(14); JEF 5 reps(30)
Number of Species	195
Number of Individuals	14430

County Abbreviations:

HAI -- Hardin; JAS -- Jasper; JEF -- Jefferson; NEW -- Newton; ORA -- Orange; TYL -- Tyler

Location Codes:

BMT -- Beaumont; MCFW -- McFaddin NWR; MDSP -- Martin Dies State Park; NEDR -- Nederland; PI -- Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SNDY -- Nature Conservancy Sandlyland Sanctuary; 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:

AM -- Art -- Mackinnon; DL -- Dwayne Litteer; DQ -- Don Quaintance; FTBF -- Field Trip to Bolivar Flats; GD -- Gerald Duhon; HD -- Howard Davis; HM -- John Haynes and Steve Mayes; JAW -- John Whittle;

JCO -- Jane Coleman; JFW -- Jana Whittle; JHH -- John H. Haynes; JJW -- John and Jana Whittle; KS -- Ken Sztraky; LW -- Jeannie Lanclos, Jana Whittle; MA -- Mike Austin; MW -- Steve Mayes and John Whittle; PDH -- P. D. Hulce; RAJ -- Rose Ann Jordan; SM -- Steve Mayes

Notes on Very Rare Species

Ash-throated Flycatcher – 22, 23 March 2003 – Gerald Duhon and Steve Mayes. The bird was very pale pearly white underneath on upper breast, grading gradually into a very pale washed out yellow on lower underparts, perhaps a bit brighter than the typical Ash-throated, but nowhere near the look of Great-crested. Flycatcher. The bird had a (relatively) small all-dark bill, upper and lower mandible, with perhaps just a very small bit of pale gray right where the bill meets the face. The bird was close to the boardwalk, and did a lot of preening. The rufous in the tail feathers did not extend all the way to the tip. The feathers were clearly bordered at the terminus by a dark, dusky brown color. The tertials and secondaries did not have the bright white, highly contrasty edgings typical of a Great Crested, but were instead a muted, off white color. [Gerald Duhon]

It was very pale and seemed small billed. I did not get a look at the underside of the tail which would be more diagnostic but most things point to Ash-throated. One troubling point, there was a small pale area on the lower mandible at the base which would suggest Great Crested. I do not know if any other *Myiarchus* show this feature. If it was Great Crested it was very washed out on the throat and belly and was definitely on the small size. [Steve Mayes]

Volunteer Urgently Needed

Ken Sztraky has looked after our telephone answering machine for more than seven years, but has moved to Silsbee. Is there a volunteer in Vidor or anywhere else in the triangle who would like to provide service to our members? We use the recording to provide information as well as receive messages. Most of the information would reach the volunteer by email. It is possible that we will change from a landline to a cell phone line, which we hope would permit the task to be shared by several members and carried out from anywhere in the Triangle. To volunteer, contact any Board member -- see panel opposite for numbers.

Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by AU has passed, or there is no other date, 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.

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Brown Pelican

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

RARE BIRD ALERTS

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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.

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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.

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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 on Siler's Birding on the Net at <http://birdingonthe.net/hotmail.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	Out of service
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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