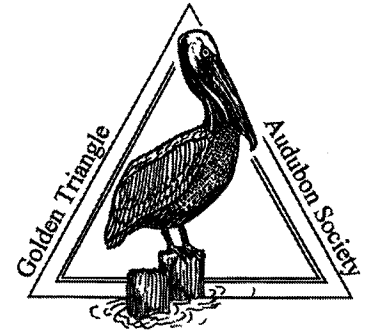


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 9 No. 9

September 2003

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 18, 2003**  
**6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Fred Collins**  
**Harris County Precinct 3 Parks Department**

Our speaker, Fred Collins, is a former president of the Houston Audubon Society and the former director of the Discovery Nature Center at Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire, Texas. He is passionate about birding and the Katy Prairie and is a renowned field-trip leader. He owns land in the Prairie on Repka Road in Waller County. He is the compiler of the Cypress Creek/Katy Prairie Christmas Bird Count. In this program, Fred will combine his two passions and give us an historical perspective on the Katy Prairie and some of the birds that need this valuable habitat for survival. His program will include a slide presentation. Fred now works with the Harris County Precinct 3 Parks system to help develop and manage parks in Northwest Harris County.

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.

## **August Membership Meeting**

Mike Hoke, Executive Director of the Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center gave a very informative talk of the past, present and future plans for the property. Shangri-La, situated within the city limits of Orange, Texas, Shangri La is a 250 acre private reserve bequeathed by Nelda C. Stark to the Stark Foundation. H. J. Lutchter Stark began work on Shangri La in 1942 and the gardens first opened to the public in 1946. In the mid 1950s, the garden was heavily damaged by a hard freeze. The area was closed to the public and maintained on a very limited scale. Shangri La is a very unique ecosystem possessing not only wetlands, but a mixed deciduous forest, cypress tupelo swamp, and a large lake that attracts ducks and migratory birds.

The Stark Foundation is moving forward with plans to restore the botanical gardens and create a nature center for study and research. Educational programs will be created and made available to area schools. Projected time to design and implement the programs is four years.

We thank Kathi Orgeron and Jeannie Lanclos for providing the refreshments for the meeting.

*John A. Whittle*

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 9, No.9 September 2003

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

RARE BIRD ALERT AND  
SOCIETY INFORMATION  
TELEPHONE NUMBER  
(409) 728-6957 (728-OWLS)

[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

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## Calendar of Events

**September 6. Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza, Lake Jackson, Texas.** From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory at 103 W. Highway 332 in Lake Jackson. Heading south on Highway 288, turn right (west) onto FM2004. Continue to the second traffic light (TX 332) and turn right (west). Just before you reach the bridge over Buffalo Camp Bayou, turn left onto a semi paved road and look for the signs.

**September 11-14. Hummer/Bird Celebration, Rockport, Texas.** Call 1-800-826-6441, visit [www.rockport-fulton.org](http://www.rockport-fulton.org) or email [visitor@lrockport.org](mailto:visitor@lrockport.org).

**Thursday September 18. Membership Meeting.** Speaker will be Fred Collins on Birding the Katy Prairie. See page 1 for details.

**Saturday September 20 – Fall Migration Count.** As usual we will be conducting a county-wide migration count in Jefferson county. We will welcome any assistance, even if it is just for a few hours in the early morning. Contact John Whittle (409-722-4193) as far in advance of the day as possible for more details or to indicate your participation.

**Saturday September 28 – Field trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch.** To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After about 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it past the access road for Anahuac NWR until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left on a shell/limestone oilfield road, bearing left again to the parking area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. Your leaders will be there by 8:30 a.m., but join us when you can.

Broad-winged Hawk migration typically peaks around the 25th-26th-27th of September in southeast Texas, but the exact timing is dependent on weather conditions along the routes the

hawks take. Generally, Broad-winged Hawks do not lift off in the mornings until 9 or even 10 a.m. (They wait for thermals to develop.) Sharp-shinned Hawks, on the other hand are early risers, not relying so much on thermals, and may start passing the Hawk Watch site as early as 7 a.m.

**Saturday October 4. Sabine Woods Work Day.** We will start about 7:30 a.m., and usually these work days do not run much beyond noon. Sabine Woods is located on Highway 87 about 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass, on the north side of the highway just beyond the Petroleum Helicopters Base, and is across Highway 87 from Texas Point NWR near its western boundary. We will try to provide least refreshment, but bring water and insect repellent. Also bring gloves, heavy duty pruning tools, machetes. We can use riding mowers, probably one chain saw and one or two push mowers for areas heavier equipment cannot reach.

**November 5-9. Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, Harlingen, Texas.** Call 1-800-531-7746 or visit [www.rgvbirdfest.com](http://www.rgvbirdfest.com) for information.

### Tentative future Field Trip Schedule.

**Oct. 18 – Sabine Woods - late migrants**

**Nov. 22 – to be determined.**

**Dec. 28 – Sea Rim CBC**

**Jan. 1, 2004 – Orange CBC.**

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Kathi Orgeron and Jeannie Lanclos for providing refreshments in August. Volunteers are now urgently needed for the September meeting and subsequent meetings onwards into 2004. 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, 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.

## Southwest Region Nominee for National Audubon Society Board

Nine of the thirty-six National Audubon Society (NAS) directors are nominated in elections held in the nine Audubon regions in the United States. The term of office of an NAS director is three years, and the terms of the regional nominees are staggered so that three regions hold elections each year.

The Southwest Region (Texas and Louisiana) held its election this year. The nominees were John A. Whittle, nominated by Golden Triangle Audubon Society, and Robert A. (Bob) Thomas, nominated by Orleans Audubon in Louisiana. The first ballot in early July resulted in a tie, so a run-off was necessary. In the run-off in mid-August, John Whittle was elected with 19 votes to Bob Thomas' 15 votes.

In accordance with NAS Bylaws, John Whittle's name will be placed in nomination for the election to be conducted at the Annual Meeting of NAS to be held in Cincinnati on December 6. NAS members will receive a proxy form from NAS in advance of this meeting. However, a group "Take Back Audubon," headed by former NAS Regionally Nominated Director Charles Bragg, intends to offer a competing slate of candidates in this election, although it is likely that this

group will also include the elected regional nominees in its slate. Details of the goals of this group can be found at <http://home.att.net/~cgbraggjr/tba/>

## Texas Gulf Coast Bluebird Symposium August 9, 2003

Golden Triangle Audubon Society and the Texas Bluebird Society held a successful symposium in the Tyrrell Park Garden Center with approximately 35 attendees.

The first event was a demonstration of rapid bluebird box assembly – under a minute. Keith Kridler, Vice President of Texas Bluebird Society gave a presentation touching of all aspects of bluebird box location, care, and protection from predators. A silent auction of donated items was held to raise money for the Texas Bluebird Society. Golden Triangle Audubon thanks the Texas Bluebird Society for a generous contribution in respect of our participation.

Charles Post was responsible for most of the local arrangements, while Texas Bluebird Society President Pauline Tom handled arrangements in the Austin Office.

## The Second Statewide Annual Meeting of Audubon Texas October 9th - 12th, 2003 The Y.O. Ranch Kerrville, Texas

Audubon Texas will hold its second annual statewide meeting at the Y.O. Ranch in Kerrville. Our event is open to Audubon members and chapters, birding clubs and conservation organizations, as well as individuals interested in birds, wildlife, and the environment. The theme this year will be conservation.

A small block of rooms have been reserved. Hotels fill up quickly so please make your reservations early and directly with the Y.O. Ranch at (830) 257-4440. Reservation requests must be made on or before 7 A.M. September 9, 2003 to receive the group rate. See [www.tx.audubon.org](http://www.tx.audubon.org) for more details.

## Audubon Adventures

I'm happy to announce that Golden Triangle Audubon is supporting *Audubon Adventures* in some area schools for school year 2002-2003. In May, I got in touch with Nederland and Port Neches-Groves fourth grade teachers and made arrangements to get *Audubon Adventures* into the Nederland fourth grade classes.

Participating in this program will be Helena Park Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Hillcrest Elementary and Langham Elementary. Eighteen teachers in these schools be introducing this great program to their students. This will help teachers accomplish some important curriculum goals: meet science standards, meet language arts standards, integrate science with literacy, engage students' natural curiosity about the world with hands-on learning and critical thinking challenges, and evaluate what and how students are learning. The four topics for the 2003-2004 Audubon Adventures are: Grasslands; Nature in your Neighborhood (schoolyards, backyards, parks); Forests (coniferous); and Water, wildlife and people. By examining different ecological settings, students deepen their understanding of the natural world no matter where they live.

I am very excited about this program and am still trying to get in touch with PN-G grade schools to get this into their curriculum this year. I will keep you posted on our adventures.

If you wish to sponsor Audubon Adventures in a classroom, it is necessary that the teacher and principal (and in some school districts, other administrators) approve and agree to the use of the material. The cost for a classroom set (up to 32 students) is \$35 plus \$6.50 for shipping for a total of \$41.50. Individual sets for use in a home school environment are available for somewhat less. In either case, contact me at (409) 724-1307.

*Jeannie Lanolos*

## Stop Press

**New Golden Triangle Audubon telephone hotline is (409) 728-6957 or (409) 728-OWLS.**

## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – August 23, 2003

August. In Southeast Texas that word conjures up images of sweltering heat and swarms of mosquitoes. Few people would have nice things to say about August (maybe a few exhausted parents) except of course for birders. By August, shorebird migration is well under way and the migration of other birds, such as hawks and warblers is in its beginning stages. Knowing this, more than a half dozen birders traveled to one of the best migrant hotspots on the upper Texas coast or anywhere else: Bolivar Flats.

For the unfortunate birders who have never visited Bolivar Flats, it is an area of sandy beaches, mudflats and salt marsh protected as a bird sanctuary by the Houston Audubon Society. This parcel of land attracts huge throngs of shorebirds, gulls, pelicans, avocets and other birds every year. A birder can walk the Flats and see dozens of species in a short time. Want a place to compare the small plovers so that you can learn to distinguish them? There may be nowhere better than Bolivar, where Piping, Snowy, Wilson's and Semipalmated Plovers all abound, for accomplishing this task.

Starting from the parking area out onto the Flats, birding started immediately. Several Long-billed Curlews worked various portions of the beach while a Clapper Rail called from the marsh grass beyond. A Horned Lark was spotted on the beach but refused to sit still while everyone got a good view through the scopes. Larks seen later in the day were a bit more cooperative. Laughing Gulls wheeled overhead while Snowy Egrets and a Reddish Egret danced in the surf.

Examining the first flock of gulls and terns revealed most of the usual suspects: Laughing Gull, Caspian Tern, lots of Royal Terns mixed with a few Sandwich Terns. Looking on the outskirts of the flock of larger terns, smaller terns were noticed. Forster's Terns were the most numerous but several Common Terns, with bold, dark carpal bars, also loafed nearby. Other flocks would include many of the same birds along with Ring-billed Gulls. Further from the larger gulls and terns, dozens of Least Terns along with some Black Terns also roosted on the beach. The Black Terns ranged in plumage from a near full breeding plumage black to the more mottled, paler winter plumage. In the distance a flock of Black Skimmers got up from the beach to mill around a bit before settling back down.

Shorebirds are probably the "stars" of the Bolivar Flats experience and there was no small supply of them on this day. Noisy Willets, always easy to find, made their presence known while Sanderlings worked the wet sand near the waterline. In a small pool near the vegetation line, a Least and a Western Sandpiper were compared. More Long-billed Curlews staked the beach and the grassy areas while Marbled Godwits stuck to the shallow water. The group got great scope views of a beautiful Ruddy Turnstone but could not find any Red Knots (you can't win them all). Wilson's Plovers were easily spotted, indeed, for a while it was difficult to locate any other plover! The Wilson's seemed to run into view anytime a scope was pointed anywhere. Piping Plovers were abundant, always good to see with an endangered species. Two color-banded individuals were noticed although more of these marked plover (part of population studies on their Canadian breeding

grounds) were likely around as they have been seen in recent weeks. Soon, Semipalmated Plovers also started to appear showing many similarities to the Piping Plovers but easily separated by their much darker backs. Snowy Plovers proved more elusive but eventually a couple were located for (quick) studies as they scurried about on whatever business Snowy Plovers have. Larger Black-bellied Plovers were also seen, showing all manner of plumages. American Oystercatchers were also easily seen on the day, which is not always the case here.

Many other interesting sites were noted on the Flats during the trip and on the walk back to the cars. Brown Pelicans, once very rare, were abundant while White Pelicans were absent. A sharp eyed observer found a Magnificent Frigatebird soaring very high in the clouds. Twice, clouds of birds lifted up from the Flats indicating some nearby threat and both times the threat turned out to be a raptor. First was an Osprey soaring overhead, seemingly on its way to Galveston. The second was a Northern Harrier quartering over the marsh near the Flats. A Western Pygmy-Blue, one of the world's smallest butterflies, was found flitting among the beach vegetation and allowed close study.

Eventually, the birding on the Flats ended and most chose to head home at this point. Some continued onto such locations as Rollover Pass, Yacht Basin Road and the sanctuaries of High Island. Terrific looks were had at these places at such species as Magnificent Frigatebird, Mottled Duck, Belted Kingfisher, Olive-sided Flycatcher and Louisiana Waterthrush. The last remaining birder was bid goodbye for the day by the scolding calls of a Carolina Wren and the indignant chirping of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird, but no complaints could be given by that birder. Another great day of birding at Bolivar topped off with a few great songbirds, we can only pity birders in other parts of the country that cannot experience this wonder. We, however, can bird there again and again.

The following birds were recorded on the trip by the trip leader: Pied-billed Grebe (1), Brown Pelican (249), Neotropic Cormorant (41), Magnificent Frigatebird (3), Great Blue Heron (10), Great Egret (26), Snowy Egret (42), Little Blue Heron (2), Tricolored Heron (6), Reddish Egret (24), Cattle Egret (250), Green Heron (1), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (2), White Ibis (4), Turkey Vulture (8), Mottled Duck (1), Blue-winged Teal (12), Osprey (1), Northern Harrier (1), Broad-winged Hawk (1), Clapper Rail (5), Common Moorhen (3), Black-bellied Plover (20), Snowy Plover (2), Wilson's Plover (40), Semipalmated Plover (45), Piping Plover (65), Killdeer (2), American Oystercatcher (10), Black-necked Stilt (2), Willet (48), Spotted Sandpiper (1), Long-billed Curlew (30), Marbled Godwit (10), Ruddy Turnstone (10), Sanderling (52), Western Sandpiper (31), Least Sandpiper (10), Laughing Gull (133), Ring-billed Gull (3), Caspian Tern (20), Royal Tern (250), Sandwich Tern (40), Common Tern (15), Forster's Tern (90), Least Tern (60), Black Tern (28), Black Skimmer (60), Rock Dove (25), Eurasian Collared-Dove (1), Mourning Dove (53), Inca Dove (2), Common Nighthawk (4), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (7), Belted Kingfisher (1), Olive-sided Flycatcher (2), Least Flycatcher (1), Eastern Kingbird (1), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1), Loggerhead Shrike (3), White-eyed Vireo (1), Red-eyed Vireo (2), Blue Jay (10), Horned Lark (3), Barn Swallow (40), Carolina Wren (2), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (10), Gray Catbird (1), Northern Mockingbird (5), European Starling (30), Louisiana Waterthrush (1), Northern Cardinal (32), Red-winged Blackbird (10), Eastern Meadowlark (1), Boat-tailed Grackle (21), Great-tailed Grackle (28), Orchard Oriole (11), House Sparrow (30).

## Bird Sightings – July 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: July is always the slowest month as far as reports are

concerned. However, there are always interesting birds to observe. Increasingly, Swallow-tailed Kites are to be found, although the largest concentrations are in Liberty County, which is outside the area we report on. The beginnings of fall shorebird migration are also evident.

Once again, we use this space to provide our "bird alert" section. Songbird migration is already under way, with small numbers of a fairly good variety of warblers and other species passing through. One interesting phenomenon has been that most of the birds have been traveling throughout Sabine Woods in a highly mobile but very compact mixed species flock. Perhaps this has been more evident because very few warblers that normally forage on the ground or at low level have been seen so far. Flycatchers are usually present, but in relatively small numbers so far.

<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b> 7/19(4) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(7) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	JEF 3 reps(49)
<b>ANHINGA</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>BITTERN, Least</b> 7/27(2) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(3) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	JEF 5 reps(5)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	JEF 10 reps(58)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	JEF 9 reps(165)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	JEF 5 reps(89)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	JEF 4 reps(11)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	JEF 15 reps(822)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	JEF 5 reps(33)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.</b>	JEF 8 reps(16)
<b>IBIS, White</b>	JEF 3 reps(44)
<b>IBIS, Glossy</b>	JEF-TP 7/13(1) JAW
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	JEF 4 reps(26)
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	JEF 5 reps(95)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b> JAW; JEF 7/27(1) JAW	JEF 7/12(2) JAW; JEF-TP 7/13(1)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	JEF 4 reps(84)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	JEF 6 reps(13)
<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous</b>	JEF 3 reps(10)
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	JEF-TP 7/27(2) JAW
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b> JAW; JEF 7/19(12) JAW; JEF 7/26(4) MW; JEF 7/27(1) JAW; JEF-TP 7/27(1) JAW	JEF 7/12(1) JAW; JEF-TP 7/13(6)
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b> JEF 7/30(4) JAW	JAS 7/26(1) BP; JEF 7/21(1) AM;
<b>KITE, Mississippi</b>	JEF-BMT 7/29(1) HJ
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	JEF 3 reps(4)
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b> JEF 7/17(1) JAW; JEF 7/27(1) JAW	JEF 7/7(1) JAW; JEF 7/8(1) JAW;
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b> JEF 7/31(1) JAW	JEF 7/3(1) JAW; JEF 7/14(1) JAW;
<b>GALLINULE, Purple</b> MW; JEF 7/27(1) JAW; JEF-TP 7/27(2) JAW	JEF-TP 7/19(3) JAW; JEF 7/26(7)
<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	JEF 4 reps(61)
<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	JEF-TP 7/19(1) JAW
<b>KILLDEER</b>	JEF 7 reps(152)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	JEF 4 reps(278)
<b>AVOCET, American</b> 7/19(4) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(10) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b> 7/19(4) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(6) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b> 7/19(1) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(31) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b> 7/27(3) JAW	JEF-TP 7/19(3) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b> 7/27(9) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(1) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b> 7/19(100) JAW; JEF-TP 7/27(200) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(225) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b> 7/19(1) JAW; JEF-TP 7/27(1) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(1) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	JEF-TP 7/13(2) JAW
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	JEF 4 reps(72)
<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	JEF 3 reps(11)
<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	JEF 3 reps(23)
<b>TERN, Least</b>	JEF 4 reps(88)
<b>TERN, Black</b>	JEF 3 reps(139)
<b>DOVE, Rock</b>	JEF 10 reps(42)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	JEF 13 reps(39)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	JEF 22 reps(166)

<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	JEF 24 reps(265)
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	JEF 8 reps(13)
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	JEF 3 reps(4)
<b>NIGHTHAWK, Common</b>	JEF 2 reps(5)
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	JEF 14 reps(32)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr</b> NEDR 7/14(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/15(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/21(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/25(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/28(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/29(2) JAW	JEF-NEDR 7/13(1) JAW;
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	JEF 7/5(1) SM
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	JEF 6 reps(7)
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b> NEDR 7/27(1) JAW	JEF-NEDR 7/26(1) MW; JEF-
<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b>	JEF 6 reps(87)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed</b>	JEF 5 reps(21)
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	JEF 9 reps(68)
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	JEF 13 reps(32)
<b>CROW, Fish</b> JAW; JEF-TP 7/19(1) JAW; JEF-TP 7/27(1) JAW	JEF 7/12(2) JAW; JEF-TP 7/13(2)
<b>CROW, species</b>	JEF 12 reps(30)
<b>MARTIN, Purple</b>	JEF 11 reps(20206)
<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	JEF 16 reps(202)
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	JEF 6 reps(9)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	JEF 3 reps(7)
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	JEF 17 reps(32)
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	JEF 18 reps(214)
<b>STARLING, European</b>	JEF 13 reps(140)
<b>WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana</b>	JEF-BMT 7/24(1) CLL
<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	JEF 9 reps(27)
<b>BUNTING, Indigo</b>	JEF-TP 7/27(4) JAW
<b>BUNTING, Painted</b> 7/19(3) JAW	JEF-TP 7/13(2) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>DICKCISSEL</b>	JEF 2 reps(6)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	JEF 7 reps(97)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	JEF 6 reps(27)
<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	JEF 4 reps(30)
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	JEF 16 reps(113)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	JEF 3 reps(75)
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	JEF 20 reps(183)
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	JEF 3 reps(12)
<b>FINCH, House</b> 7/6(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/13(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/15(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/19(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/20(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/25(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/26(3) MW; JEF-NEDR 7/27(2) JAW	JEF-NEDR 7/4(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	JEF 20 reps(123)

Number of Species 86  
Number of Individuals 25410

County Abbreviations:  
JAS – Jasper; JEF – Jefferson

Location Codes:  
BMT – Beaumont; NEDR – Nederland; TP – Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh

Observer Abbreviations  
AM - Art Mackinnon; BP - Brandon Pope; CLL - Carol Lynn Loker; HJ - Harrison Jordan; JAW - John Whittle; JAW - John and Jana Whittle; MW - Steve Mayes and John Whittle; SM - Steve Mayes

# Spring 2003 Migration Summary

Once again, we present, largely in tabular form, a summary of the sightings of passerine neotropical migrants. The methodology employed was as follows. We considered four "locations": Sabine Woods, the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, and points elsewhere along Texas 87 west of Sabine Pass. If there were multiple reports for any given location on any given day, the highest count for each species submitted by any of the observers was used. The counts for each of the four locations were added to determine the total of that

species reported on that day. There were many more reports from Sabine Woods than for any other sites.

The following observers submitted reports for multiple days: Eric Carpenter, Howard Davis, Gerald Duhon John Haynes, Art MacKinnon; Steve Mayes, and John and Jana Whittle. Others whose reports were used were Jane Coleman, Sandy Komito Dwayne Litteer, Don Quaintance, Ken Sztraky, Don Verser, and Tex Wells. Our apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

We now have data for each year since 1996

compiled under the same procedure. While it would be certainly not be valid to try to use the data to determine overall trends in neotropical songbird migrant numbers – the vagaries of weather conditions make that almost impossible to do based on observations at the coast – there may be interesting information on the relative abundance of species which normally migrate in the same time window. It may be possible to detect if any species are tending to migrate earlier. Copies of all previous years compilations are available from the editor on request.

## Spring 2003 Migration - Coast of Jefferson County - Cuckoos, Nightjars, Hummingbirds, Thrushes, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings

Date	MARCH											APRIL											MAY											GRAND TOT																																																															
	6	9	14	16	21	22	23	27	28	29	30	MAR TOT	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	AP1 TOT	16	18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27		29	30	AP2 TOT	2	3	4	7	11	12	18	24	26	31	MAY TOT																																																	
CUCKOO, Black-billed																																																																																																	
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed																1		2	1	2	5	11							1	1			4	6				1	27																																																										
SWIFT, Chimney									1								70					70																																																																											
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.							1				1	2											34	4	5																																																																								
VEERY																																																																																																	
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked																							1																																																																										
THRUSH, Swainson's											1	1											20	9	9	10	5	15	8	1	1	48	17	1	4																																																														
THRUSH, Hermit	1	1	3				2	1		2	10											4																																																																											
THRUSH, Wood			1				7	1	1	4	14											25	2	1	2	1	12	6	3																																																																				
CATBIRD, Gray																						2																																																																											
THRASHER, Brown	4	1		10							10	26	1									33	1	6	4			2	8	2	4	5	4	2																																																															
TANAGER, Summer							2	3				5											42																																																																										
TANAGER, Scarlet																							5																																																																										
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted																							1																																																																										
GROSBEAK, Blue																							1																																																																										
BUNTING, Indigo					1	1		8	8	1	3	22	3	1	6	60							106	1	18	25	7	7	24	6	24	48	61	4	6	231	20	58	7	1	2																																																								
BUNTING, Painted																							3																																																																										

Not included in the table are a Chuck-Will's-Widow on 26 April, a Black-chinned Hummingbird on 21 April, and a Western Tanager on 27 April.

## Spring 2003 Migration - Coast of Jefferson County - Flycatchers

Date	MARCH											APRIL											MAY											GRAND TOT																								
	6	9	14	15	16	22	23	27	30	MAR TOT	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	AP1 TOT	16	18	19	20	21	22	24	25	26	27	29	30	AP2 TOT		2	3	4	7	11	18	24	26	31	MAY TOT														
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern																							8																																			
FLYCATCHER, Acadian																							22																																			
FLYCATCHER, Traill's																							3	2																																		
FLYCATCHER, Least																																																										
EMPIDONAX species																							1	1																																		
PHOEBE, Eastern	2	2	1	2	3					3	13																																															
FLYCATCHER, Gt Crested										3	3												12																																			
KINGBIRD, Western																																																										
KINGBIRD, Eastern																																																										
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed																																																										

Not included in the table are an Ash-throated Flycatcher on 22/23 March and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers on 27 April (1) and 26 May (1).





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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 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.

<b>Golden Triangle</b>	<b>(409) 728-6957</b>
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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