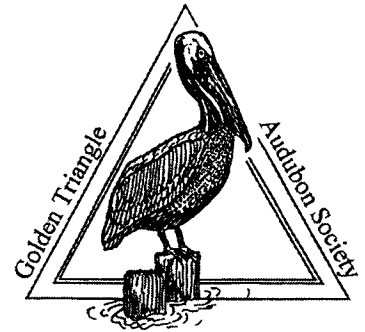


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 9 No. 10

October 2003

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2003**  
**6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Birds of California**  
**David Bradford**

David Bradford will discuss the birds of California, including some of the birds that might be seen on a pelagic trip out of Monterey Bay. He will illustrate his talk with slides.

David is a past chair of the Ornithology Group of Houston, a past board member of the Houston Audubon Society, and is Executive Vice-President of the Outdoor Nature Club. He is also a tour leader for Penfeathers Tours.

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.

## September Membership Meeting

Fred Collins of Harris County Precinct 3 Parks Department gave a talk on the Birding the Katy Prairie.

He first described Kleb Woods, a 30-acre Precinct 3 Park in Northwest Houston to which 100 acres were being added to provide a place for a Nature Center, trails, etc.

He then provided an oral tour of the Katy Prairie and its birds. Along Big Cypress Creek, there are many sycamore trees. In Bear Creek Park, one can still find Purple Finch (in February) and it is also a good place to find Rusty Blackbirds. The Prairie proper is characterized by Goldenrod, Baccharus and Blue-stem grass. In wet years depressional wetlands form. He noted that Snow Geese historically wintered in deep coastal and salt marshes, and only after 1945 started moving in to the rice agricultural areas. He also noted that Ross's Geese are now plentiful, making up perhaps 20 percent of the white geese on the Prairie.

He reported that the Katy Prairie Conservancy now owned a 22 percent undivided interest in the 6,500 acre Warren Ranch, the major wetland remaining on the Prairie, even though it was man made. Rice production on the Prairie has decreased from 120,000 acres to less than 50,000 acres. American White Pelican are no longer common, but Wilson's Snipe, Little Blue Herons and Wood Storks still are common. Also to be found on the Prairie are Bald Eagles and Short-eared Owls.

Fred remarked that it had been a good year for Northern Bobwhite, and he speculated that it probably had been a good year for Greater Prairie Chickens also. During rice harvest, it was possible to see many Yellow Rails. He noted that the large rails (King Rails, principally) and the smaller rails (Yellow, Virginia and Sora) have different habitat preferences as far as the thickness and wetness were concerned.

Also to be found on the Prairie are Common Nighthawks and Loggerhead Shrikes. Cliff Swallows, rare ten years ago, are common now. Fred gave very specific details of the habitat preferences of the various sparrows on the Prairie – especially White-crowned, Vesper and Harris Sparrow.

*John A. Whittle*

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 9, No.10 October 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

**October 15. Membership Meeting.**  
See front page for details.

**Saturday October 18. Field Trip to Sabine Woods.** A trip to look for migrating fall warblers and other neotropical migrants. Leader Steve Mayes. Meet at Sabine Woods, which is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87 at 7:30 a.m. or join the trip in progress in the woods later. There is water in the ponds this fall. There has been luxuriant growth this fall, so the grass is quite high in places, and rubber boots would be a good idea, especially if it is at all wet from previous rain or just heavy early morning dew.

**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.

### November 20. Membership Meeting and Annual Meeting

As usual we will have our annual pot luck meeting to which you are asked to bring a "covered dish" to share with others. We will also be conducting our annual elections.

### Christmas Bird Counts

**Dec. 14** – Johnson Bayou, LA

**Dec. 17** – Attwater NWR

**Dec. 20** – Turkey Creek

**Dec. 21** – Bolivar Peninsula

**Dec. 28** – Sea Rim

**Jan. 1, 2004** – Orange County.

**Jan. 3, 2004** – Beech Creek

## 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.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Sherrie Roden, Margo Holst and Jana Whittle for providing refreshments in September. Volunteers are now urgently needed for the October meeting and for all meetings in 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!

## 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.

Hotels fill up quickly as regular deer season approaches so please make your reservations 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.

## New Local Hotline

New Golden Triangle Audubon telephone hotline is (409) 728-6957 or (409) 728-OWLS. This is a cell phone with voice messaging capabilities, so that the tasks associated with it can be shared!

# Coastal Texas 2020 Public Input and Scoping Document

*(Reproduced from the General Land Office Web Site)*

## Introduction

Texas has an abundance of valuable natural resources located within its coastal region. Texas beaches, bays, wetlands, marshes, estuaries, groundwater, prairies and other resources help provide for a healthy, vibrant economy and environment. However, many challenges exist in stewarding these resources to ensure their continued productivity, use and enjoyment.

We face these challenges in part because of the ever-increasing number of people who live on and travel to the Texas coast, which is considered to be one of the last great opportunities in coastal development in the United States. Millions of Texans reside in our coastal region and must have homes to live in, businesses at which to work, roads to travel on and land for recreation. Tourists flock to the Texas coast to enjoy its beaches and natural resources. International commerce and offshore oil production also make use of the Texas coast. These are just a few of the examples of the economic activities that have resulted in significant development along our coast.

The challenges presented by these many varying uses of the Texas coast should be seen as opportunities to help us practice sound stewardship of these resources. One opportunity we have is determining how to respond to the impact of erosion of Texas' beaches and bay shorelines which threatens the economy and natural resources of the state.

If Texans are truly to respond to the challenges facing us today, we must develop an innovative, comprehensive approach that combines local, state, and federal funds with private sector money, balances government regulations with market-based solutions, and educates the public about coastal issues.

That approach is Coastal Texas 2020.

## The Purpose and Process of Coastal Texas 2020

Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson developed Coastal Texas 2020 for the purpose of producing a strategic plan and report to the Texas Legislature which will lay out strategies to address the challenges we face along the Texas coast. This report might contain suggestions for legislative changes as well as proposed mechanisms and sources for securing funds to address coastal erosion. To develop the report, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) will seek input from citizens, business leaders and government officials at the local, state and federal levels.

The information used to produce the report will be sought through procedures such as this scoping document, the steering, technical and regional advisory committees, the Coastal Texas 2020 Web site, public meetings, coastal conferences and reviews of existing studies, reports and technical information.

The 34 questions presented to the public in this scoping document are designed to facilitate a discussion of the issues along the Texas coast. The responses to these questions will serve as the basis of five regional reports that will go into the final strategic plan. Please send your answers to these questions, and other comments, concerns and information to the GLO in one of the following ways:

Via e-mail: General ct2020@glo.state.tx.us  
Region 1 region1@glo.state.tx.us

Via the Web: www.coastaltexas2020.org

Via postal mail: CT 2020, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, TX  
78711-2873

All comments should be received by the General Land Office no later than December 5, 2003.

(The full document including the 34 questions can be found at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ct2020/>)

For more information on Coastal Texas 2020, please email: ct2020@glo.state.tx.us, or call 1-800-998-4GLO or 512-475-0773.

*(Public meetings are being held in each region along the coast. The meeting for Region 1 -- Jefferson and Orange Counties was held in Port Arthur on October 1. Comments may still be submitted by mail or email.)*

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## Golden Triangle Audubon Nominating Committee

Golden Triangle Audubon Society holds its elections at its Annual Meeting in November each year. This year's meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20 in the Garden Center at Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, Texas beginning at 7:00 p.m.

A Nominating Committee has been appointed to prepare a slate of candidates for officer and board positions. The members of this Committee are Steve Mayes (outgoing President), chair; Joe Halbrook and Rose Anne Jordan. Please contact any member of this committee with your suggestions or offers to help. The Nominating Committee will present its slate at the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted if accompanied by in-person or written evidence of willingness to serve.

We are always looking for someone to help run the Society. There are Committee Chair and Committee member positions available for anyone who wants to help, and is able spare the time. We would like to be much more active in local conservation issues. There are many such issues now including the proposal to widen and deepen the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel, the Highway 87 issue, the Texas Chenier Plan NWR planning process and others issues reported in this issue.

## Bird Sightings – August 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:** I know that many of you will be wondering why the

ducks are at the top of the listing below. Well, once again the American Ornithological Union (AOU) has decreed a change in what is popularly known as "taxonomic order." Very roughly speaking, the order represents the best current estimation of the evolutionary sequence, with the "oldest" orders first and the most "recently" evolved orders at the end. The sequence of the orders, and the placements of the various genera into the orders has been changing very rapidly recently as it has become possible to do ever more sophisticated experiments with DNA. Indeed, in principle it is possible to determine the sequence of bases in the DNA of any species. But even if this were not too time consuming to contemplate, the question would still remain as to which differences in sequence between the species were the most significant, and which were merely random.

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulv</b>	JEF 2 reps(123)	<b>KILLDEER</b>	JEF 9 reps(131)
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(4) JAW; JEF 8/10(1) PW;	<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	JEF 7 reps(183)
	JEF-TP 8/21(2) JAW	<b>AVOCET, American</b>	JEF-PI 8/16(6) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(15)
<b>MALLARD</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(1) JAW		JAW; JEF-PI 8/24(37) JAW; JEF-PI 8/31(20) JAW
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	JEF 8/2(2) JAW; JEF-TP 8/2(64) JAW;	<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	JEF 4 reps(43)
	JEF 8/10(10) PW; JEF 8/11(3) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(6) JAW; JEF-	<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	JEF 5 reps(62)
	PI 8/24(9) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/31(3) JAW	<b>SANDPIPER, Solitary</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(5) JAW; JEF-TP 8/21(2)
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(1) JAW; JEF-PI 8/16(5)		JAW
	JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(3) JAW; JEF-TP 8/21(9) JAW; JEF-PI	<b>WILLET</b>	JEF 4 reps(331)
	8/24(7) JAW	<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(7) JAW; JEF 8/10(1) PW;
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(2) JAW		JEF-SRSP 8/16(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 8/16(1) JAW; JEF-PI
<b>PELICAN, Amer White</b>	JEF-PI 8/16(2) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(4)		8/21(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/24(4) JAW; JEF-PI 8/31(1) JAW
	JAW; JEF-PI 8/24(16) JAW	<b>WHIMBREL</b>	JEF-PI 8/16(1) JAW
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	JEF-SRSP 8/16(10) JAW; JEF 8/24(35)	<b>GODWIT, Marbled</b>	JEF-PI 8/16(2) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(1)
	JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/24(21) JAW; JEF 8/31(2) JAW		JAW; JEF-PI 8/31(3) JAW
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	JEF 7 reps(130)	<b>TURNSTONE, Ruddy</b>	JEF-SRSP 8/16(9) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(1)
<b>ANHINGA</b>	JEF 1 rep(2)		JAW; JEF 8/24(6) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/24(24) JAW
<b>BITTERN, Least</b>	JEF-TP 8/21(1) JAW	<b>SANDERLING</b>	JEF 3 reps(112)
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	JEF 4 reps(7)	<b>SANDPIPER, Semipalmated</b>	JEF-SRSP 8/16(2) JAW
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	JEF 10 reps(133)	<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	JEF 5 reps(946)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	JEF 9 reps(572)	<b>SANDPIPER, Peep</b>	JEF 3 reps(1400)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	JEF 9 reps(32)	<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	JEF 4 reps(520)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	JEF 8 reps(29)	<b>SANDPIPER, Pectoral</b>	JEF 3 reps(22)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 21 reps(1388); ORA	<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(17) JAW; JEF-PI 8/16(5)
	4 reps(23)		JAW; JEF-TX87 8/31(2) JAW
<b>HERON, Green</b>	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(36)	<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	JEF-PI 8/16(22) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(4)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.</b>	JEF 2 reps(2)		JAW; JEF-PI 8/24(1) JAW; JEF-PI 8/31(20) JAW
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.</b>	JEF 3 reps(20)	<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(9)
<b>IBIS, White</b>	JEF 5 reps(27); ORA 1 rep(2)	<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	JEF 1 rep(17)
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	JEF 4 reps(30)	<b>PHALAROPE, Wilson's</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(1) JAW
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	JEF 6 reps(27)	<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	JEF 7 reps(1712)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	JEF 8/10(1) PW; JEF 8/11(1) JAW; JEF-	<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b>	JEF 3 reps(72)
	PI 8/16(50) JAW; JEF-PI 8/21(4) JAW; JEF-PI 8/24(45) JAW;	<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	JEF 4 reps(12)
	JEF-PI 8/31(20) JAW	<b>TERN, Royal</b>	JEF 2 reps(109)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(9); ORA 2	<b>TERN, Sandwich</b>	JEF 2 reps(3)
	reps(3); TYL 1 rep(8)	<b>TERN, Common</b>	JEF 8/21(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/24(1)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	JEF 7 reps(72); ORA 2 reps(3); TYL 1		JAW
	rep(5)	<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	JEF 6 reps(625)
<b>OSPREY</b>	JEF 8/29(1) JAW	<b>TERN, Least</b>	JEF 5 reps(504)
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b>	JEF 8/1(1) JAW	<b>TERN, Black</b>	JEF 6 reps(2088)
<b>ACCIPITER species</b>	JEF 8/21(1) JAW	<b>SKIMMER, Black</b>	JEF 5 reps(227)
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	JEF 2 reps(2)	<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	JEF 10 reps(78); TYL 1 rep(3)
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	JEF 8/10(1) PW; JEF-TX87 8/21(1)	<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.</b>	JEF 8/1(16) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/1(1)
	JAW; JEF 8/25(1) JAW; JEF 8/30(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(1)		JAW; JEF 8/3(6) JAW; JEF 8/4(9) JAW; JEF 8/6(3) JAW; JEF
	JAW		8/7(4) JAW; JEF 8/8(1) JAW; JEF 8/10(6) PW; JEF 8/11(1)
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	JEF 8/1(1) JAW; JEF 8/2(1) JAW; JEF-		JAW; JEF 8/12(3) JAW; JEF 8/13(3) JAW; JEF 8/15(20) JAW;
	NEDR 8/21(1) JAW; JEF 8/31(1) JAW		JEF-TX87 8/16(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 8/16(2) JAW; JEF 8/17(14)
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	JEF 8/17(1) JAW		JAW; JEF 8/19(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/21(10) JAW; JEF-TX87
<b>GALLINULE, Purple</b>	JEF-TP 8/2(2) JAW; JEF 8/10(6) PW;		8/24(2) JAW; JEF 8/25(1) JAW; JEF 8/28(1) JAW; JEF 8/29(2)
	JEF-TP 8/21(2) JAW		JAW
<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	JEF 6 reps(97)	<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	JEF 20 reps(188)
<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	JEF 4 reps(454)	<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	JEF 27 reps(273); ORA 4 reps(11); TYL
<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	JEF-SRSP 8/16(2) JAW; JEF 8/24(1)		1 rep(1)
	JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/24(11) JAW	<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	JEF 10 reps(23); ORA 2 reps(2)
<b>PLOVER, Wilson's</b>	JEF 3 reps(19)	<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	JEF 5 reps(6)
<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	JEF-PI 8/16(1) JAW	<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	JEF 8/10(1) PW; JEF-SW 8/10(1) SM;
<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	JEF-SRSP 8/24(3) JAW		JEF-SW 8/16(2) MHW; JEF-SW 8/21(1) JAW

**NIGHTHAWK, Common** JEF 7 reps(13)  
**SWIFT, Chimney** JEF 8 reps(44)  
**HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.** HAI 1 rep(20); JEF 20 reps(49); ORA 4  
reps(14)  
**HUMMINGBIRD species** JEF 8/31(1) JAW  
**KINGFISHER, Belted** JEF 8/10(1) PW; JEF-TX87 8/16(1)  
JAW; JEF-TP 8/21(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/24(2) JAW  
**WOODPECKER, Red-head.** ORA 8/20(1) SBE; ORA 8/22(1) SBE;  
ORA 8/25(2) SBE; ORA 8/31(1) SBE  
**WOODPECKER, Red-bellied** JEF 3 reps(5); ORA 4 reps(7); TYL 1  
rep(1)  
**WOODPECKER, Downy** JEF 4 reps(11); ORA 2 reps(2)  
**FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided** JEF-SW 8/10(1) DV; JEF-SW 8/10(1)  
SM; JEF-SW 8/24(1) JAW  
**WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell.** JEF-SW 8/24(1) JAW  
**FLYCATCHER, Traill's** JEF-SRSP 8/10(3) DV; JEF 8/25(1)  
JAW; JEF-SW 8/31(1) JAW  
**EMPIDONAX species** JEF 1 rep(4)  
**FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested** HAI 8/20(1) KS; JEF 8/10(1) PW; JEF  
8/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/16(6) MHW; JEF-SW 8/21(2) JAW;  
JEF-SW 8/31(2) JAW  
**KINGBIRD, Eastern** JEF 11 reps(95)  
**FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.** JEF 5 reps(15); TYL 1 rep(1)  
**SHRIKE, Loggerhead** JEF 11 reps(76)  
**VIREO, White-eyed** JEF 3 reps(4)  
**VIREO, Red-eyed** JEF 3 reps(6)  
**JAY, Blue** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 20 reps(52); ORA 3  
reps(8)  
**CROW, American** JEF 2 reps(2)  
**CROW, Fish** JEF-TP 8/2(2) JAW; JEF 8/12(1) JAW;  
JEF-TX87 8/24(1) JAW; JEF 8/25(2) JAW  
**CROW, species** HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 12 reps(39); TYL 1  
rep(1)  
**MARTIN, Purple** JEF 6 reps(5075)  
**SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing.** JEF-TP 8/21(4) JAW  
**SWALLOW, Cliff** JEF-TP 8/21(1) JAW  
**SWALLOW, Barn** JEF 14 reps(142)  
**CHICKADEE, Carolina** JEF 7 reps(10); ORA 4 reps(5)  
**TITMOUSE, Tufted** ORA 3 reps(5)  
**WREN, Carolina** JEF 6 reps(10)  
**GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray** JEF 7 reps(70); ORA 3 reps(3)  
**BLUEBIRD, Eastern** HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 1 rep(1)  
**ROBIN, American** JEF-NEDR 8/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR  
8/2(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/5(2) JAW;  
JEF-NEDR 8/6(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/10(3) PW; JEF-NEDR  
8/12(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/15(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/17(1)  
JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/21(1) JAW; JEF-  
NEDR 8/26(2) JAW  
**MOCKINGBIRD, Northern** JEF 15 reps(195); ORA 3 reps(7); TYL 1  
rep(1)  
**STARLING, European** JEF 13 reps(841)  
**WARBLER, Blue-winged** JEF-SW 8/10(3) SM; JEF-SW 8/16(10)  
MHW; JEF-SW 8/30(3) JAW; JEF-SW 8/31(1) JAW  
**WARBLER, Nashville** JEF-SW 8/21(1) JAW  
**PARULA, Northern** JEF 2 reps(2)  
**WARBLER, Yellow** HAI 8/17(1) KS; HAI 8/20(1) KS; JEF-  
SW 8/10(5) SM; JEF-SW 8/16(2) MHW; JEF-SW 8/21(2)  
JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/31(4) JAW  
**WARBLER, Yellow-throated** JEF-SW 8/16(1) MHW  
**WARBLER, Pine** ORA 1 rep(1)  
**WARBLER, Prairie** JEF-SW 8/16(1) MHW; JEF-SW 8/31(1)  
JAW  
**WARBLER, Cerulean** JEF-BMT 8/22(1) HJ  
**WARBLER, Black-and-white** JEF 5 reps(19)  
**REDSTART, American** JEF-SW 8/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/24(1)  
JAW  
**WARBLER, Prothonotary** JEF 2 reps(21)  
**WARBLER, Worm-eating** JEF-SW 8/16(1) MHW; JEF-SW 8/24(1)  
JAW  
**OVENBIRD** JEF-SRSP 8/10(1) DV; JEF-SW 8/16(1)  
MHW  
**WARBLER, Kentucky** JEF-SW 8/31(1) JAW  
**WARBLER, Mourning** JEF-SW 8/24(1) JAW  
**YELLOWTHROAT, Common** JEF 3 reps(8)

**WARBLER, Hooded** JEF 3 reps(4)  
**WARBLER, Canada** JEF-SW 8/10(1) SM; JEF-SW 8/21(1)  
JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JAW  
**CHAT, Yellow-breasted** JEF-SW 8/16(1) HM; JEF-SW 8/24(1)  
JAW  
**SPARROW, Lark** JEF 8/10(1) PW  
**SPARROW, Seaside** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**CARDINAL, Northern** JEF 15 reps(60); ORA 4 reps(27); TYL 1  
rep(1)  
**BUNTING, Painted** JEF-TP 8/2(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/10(2)  
SM; JEF-SW 8/16(5) MHW; JEF-SW 8/21(3) JAW  
**DICKCISSEL** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**BLACKBIRD, Red-winged** JEF 6 reps(102)  
**MEADOWLARK, Eastern** JEF 3 reps(5)  
**MEADOWLARK species** JEF 4 reps(40)  
**GRACKLE, Common** JEF 10 reps(52); ORA 2 reps(14)  
**GRACKLE, Boat-tailed** JEF 4 reps(64)  
**GRACKLE, Great-tailed** JEF 18 reps(193)  
**COWBIRD, Brown-headed** JEF 1 rep(10)  
**ORIOLE, Orchard** JEF 4 reps(18)  
**FINCH, House** JEF-NEDR 8/2(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR  
8/10(2) PW; JEF-NEDR 8/14(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/15(1) JAW;  
JEF-NEDR 8/17(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/21(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR  
8/27(1) JAW  
**SPARROW, House** JEF 18 reps(142); ORA 4 reps(18)  
  
**Number of Species** 142  
**Number of Individuals** 21482

#### County Abbreviations:

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

#### Location Codes:

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

#### Observer Abbreviations

DV - Don Verser; HJ - Harrison Jordan; HM - John Haynes and Steve  
Mayes; JAW - John Whittle; JJW - John and Jana Whittle; KS - Ken  
Sztraky; MHW - Steve Mayes, John Haynes, John Whittle; PW - Royce  
Pendergast, John Whittle; SBE - Sheri Berthard; SM - Steve Mayes.

## Bird Alerts

Fall migration continues, even though many of the species have already passed through. The peak of hawk migration has passed without any sightings of really large kettles of Broad-winged Hawks this year at the Smith Point Hawk Watch, although there has been a good variety of raptors on most days.

The migration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds is winding down, and we await the arrival of the winter species such as Rufous Hummingbirds.

Passerine migration was steady through most of September, but the stable pleasant weather at the end of September and beginning of October has apparently facilitated the departure of many birds. However, good numbers of warbler species were reported throughout September.

Our wintering species have begun to arrive, and the first Ruby-crowned Kinglets were noted late in September. The first few American Kestrels have arrived, and Belted Kingfishers seem to have arrived in very high numbers. Red-tailed Hawks are still scarce, although one or two have been noted.

One Clay-colored Sparrow was reported on September 27 on Texas Point Road, but it is too early to expect many sparrows.

# USFWS Migratory Bird Program Draft Strategic Plan

*(Condensed from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Website <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mbstratplan/mbstratplan.htm>)*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in collaboration with its partners, is embarking upon a strategic planning effort to recommit to its migratory bird trust responsibilities and set a course for migratory bird conservation over the next decade. We need your help and input to guide our conservation efforts, so please take the time to [email or] fill-out the form [on the web site given] below.

The purposes of a Fish and Wildlife Service Strategic Plan for Migratory Bird Conservation are to:

- Provide a clear and widely understood long-term vision to guide migratory bird conservation;
- Provide direction to redefine the Service's leadership role in migratory bird conservation;
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Service in relation to the many partner organizations and agencies also committed to the conservation of migratory birds throughout their ranges;
- Enhance opportunities to embed migratory bird conservation activities within other Service programs; and
- Facilitate the organization of a coalition of committed partners who will cooperatively advance migratory bird conservation

The Service is keenly aware that effective management of migratory birds depends upon the collective efforts of many individuals, organizations, agencies, and nations. That is why it is absolutely essential that the Service develop its migratory bird strategic plan in consultation with the many partners and constituents who share an interest in, responsibility for, and active involvement in migratory bird conservation. A Steering Committee comprised of Service employees has produced a draft strategic plan for your review and input. We are soliciting comments from a broad audience, including all Service employees and numerous partners and constituents, to gain insights from a variety of vantage points. Your input is

important to us! So please let us know your views and recommendations on this draft strategic plan. Your comments will be compiled by a team of reviewers and brought to the attention of the Steering Committee. Please note that we will not be able to address every recommendation in the final plan nor will we be able to respond individually to every commentor. The Steering Committee will report on the results of this consultation to a diverse set of partners at a Migratory Bird Conservation Forum to be held in January 2004. The Forum will provide an opportunity for the Service and its partners to refine and focus outstanding issues on the strategic plan and gain consensus on priority actions.

To download a pdf file of the strategic plan entitled A Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds, go to <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mbstratplan/mbstratplan.pdf>. A summary overview of the draft strategic plan is available at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mbstratplan/overview.htm>

To submit comments: Fill out and submit the form at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mbstratplan/mbstratplan.htm> or send to [mbstratplan@fws.gov](mailto:mbstratplan@fws.gov) or by mail to Migratory Bird Strategic Plan Steering Committee, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, ms-4075, Arlington, VA 22203. All comments must be postmarked by October 10, 2003 to be considered.

You are requested to include in your comments answers to the following questions:

1. What do you consider to be the highest priorities for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in migratory bird conservation?
2. Are the Program Goals adequate and comprehensive? Do any need to be altered or re-stated? Are there additional goals that need to be added?
3. Are the Implementation Strategies adequate and comprehensive? Do any need to be altered or restated? Do any additional strategies need to be added? Which strategies do you consider to be the highest priority?

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*The Chapter has received a request from the 'Take Back Audubon' movement to print the following article and proxy form. The Board of Directors has reviewed this article and the other material on the movement's web site, knows of no factual inaccuracies, and has voted to print the article and proxy form here, so that members can be informed of the movement's goals and enabled to make up their own minds on the merits of the case.*

## 'Take Back Audubon' Group Seeks Proxies

As many Auduboners are aware, the National Audubon Society has made changes in its relationship with local Chapters that have significantly impacted Chapter finances, and the role of the Audubon grassroots in our organization.

In 2000, the NAS Board of Directors changed the long-standing policy of sharing membership dues with Chapters. Under the new policy that will be fully implemented this year,

the dues share will drop to near zero for most Chapters. This loss of revenue has forced Chapters to cut back on newsletters and to reduce their conservation and education activities—the most effective activism in all of Audubon.

In 2001, the NAS Board enacted a new Chapter Policy over the written objections of 74 Chapters and over 88 Chapter leaders who signed on to a letter urging the Board to

reconsider this policy. The letter asked NAS to engage in a true dialogue over this document and to seek a policy "that meets the needs of ALL of Audubon, including Chapters." At the 2002 Annual Meeting, the NAS leadership voted down resolutions brought by Chapter members to reform the governance of NAS by providing for access to information, competitive elections, and a greater voice for Audubon members and Chapters.

In addition, National Audubon has embarked on a major effort to establish hundreds of Audubon Centers, which many Chapter leaders fear will ultimately replace Chapters by draining funds and volunteers from local conservation work. A number of Chapters have already had serious conflicts with NAS over this issue.

In response to these actions by NAS, a grassroots organization, 'Take Back Audubon' (TBA) has sprung up, whose mission is "to restore a true partnership between the independent Chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect Chapters." To date, 43 Audubon Chapters and over 100 Chapter leaders have endorsed Take Back Audubon.

Presently, TBA is engaged in an effort to elect an alternate slate of candidates to the NAS Board of Directors at this year's Annual Meeting on Dec. 6, 2003. They are seeking proxies from Audubon members to bring to the meeting to vote for this slate, and to support resolutions that will be presented to democratize Audubon and to restore the Chapter dues share. The TBA slate is made up of Chapter leaders that will give Audubon members a choice, by offering candidates that will stand up for the interests of local Chapters. The candidates are:

- Charles Bragg, Santa Monica Bay Audubon Soc. (CA); (310) 454-9662; cbraggjr@worldnet.att.net;
- Marsha Cannon, Madison Audubon Soc. (WI); (608) 251-1276; mpcannon@charter.net
- John Gallagher, Clark County Audubon Soc. (OH); (937) 323-0782; jfg4@msn.com
- Andrew Mason, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Soc. (NY); (607) 652-2162; AndyMason@earthling.net
- Cary Meister, Yuma Audubon Soc. (AZ); (928) 782-3552; cwm4@mindspring.com
- Pat Rasmussen, Leavenworth Audubon Adopt-a-Forest (WA); (509) 548-7640; patr@crcwnet.com
- Darrel Whipple, Willapa Hills Audubon Soc. (OR); (503) 556-9838; dwhipple@columbia-center.org
- Jennifer Wilson-Pines, North Shore Audubon Soc. (NY); (516) 767-3454; jwpines@juno.com

In addition, TBA is endorsing this year's regionally-nominated Chapter candidates:

- Ione Werthman, Audubon Soc. of Omaha (NE)
- John Whittle, Golden Triangle Audubon Soc. (TX)
- Steven Zimmerman, Juneau Audubon Society (AK)

Biographies of the candidates, copies of the proposed resolutions, and background information on Take Back Audubon can be found at [www.smbas.org/tba](http://www.smbas.org/tba).

A Take Back Audubon proxy form can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. To support this Audubon Chapter effort, complete the form and return to the address listed by **November 30, 2003**. Members are also asked *not* to return the NAS proxy that will be arriving in a few weeks.

For further information, please visit the TBA web site (above), or contact any of the TBA candidates.

## PROXY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, the undersigned, a member of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., do hereby constitute and appoint Marsha Cannon, John F. Gallagher, Andrew L. Mason, and Darrel K. Whipple, and each of them, with full power of substitution, my attorneys and agents for me and in my name, place and stead, to vote as my proxy the number of votes I should be able to cast if then personally present at the Annual Meeting of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC., to be held in Erlanger, Ky., on Saturday, December 6, 2003, or at such other place and time as said Annual Meeting may be held, and at any adjourned meeting thereof as follows:

- (a.) For the election of directors for the terms expiring in 2006, or until their successors are elected; and
- (b.) In their discretion, for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ Two Thousand and Three.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
(must be signed to be valid)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print name)

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING PROXY

1. Insert date of signing.
2. Print name exactly as membership is carried and shown on your magazine label. You must be a National Audubon Soc. member in good standing, as of Oct. 17, 2003 in order to vote.
3. Proxy to be signed by person in whose name membership is carried. If carried in two names or as Mr. & Mrs., either party can sign.
4. Show current address and zip code.
5. SIGN ONLY ONE PROXY FORM. DO NOT SIGN ANY OTHER PROXY FORM YOU MIGHT RECEIVE. HOWEVER, IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED A PROXY FORM, THIS FORM WILL SUPERSEDE ANY EARLIER FORM.
6. Return signed proxy form by **NOVEMBER 30** to: John F. Gallagher, 121 Larchmont Road, Springfield, Ohio 45503.



## NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

### Membership Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gift from: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon 7XCH8W25

## *Brown Pelican* SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

## RARE BIRD ALERTS

Below is a listing of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for nearby areas. Transcriptions of some current tapes are available on the World Wide Web 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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