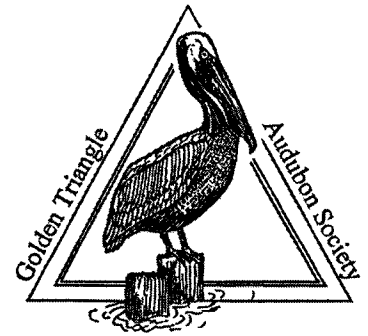


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 10 No. 4

April 2004

Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2004
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
Sandy Komito

Mr. Komito holds the #1 and #2 American Birding Association positions on seeing the most species of birds in North America in a single calendar year. In 1987, he saw 721 species. His latest ABA record (in 1998) for one year is 748 species. His ABA life list has at least 848 birds. He has authored two books about his two big years. One of his books is "I Came, I Saw, I Counted." Recently a book titled "The Big Year: a Tale of Man, Nature, and Fowl Obsession" was written using some excerpts out of his two books. This book is about three birders who all were successful in seeing more than 700 birds.

His talk will be about his Big Year in 1998 which set the present 748 bird record. He had originally claimed 745 and waited for nearly three years for the various state bird record committees and ABA to approve four additional birds he had sighted. They ended up approving three of them. Some brief highlights include his traveling 275,000 miles during the year and birding at least 270 days of that year.

He plans to talk also about things that personally affected himself and his family as well as how he managed to accomplish what he did. He will also show slides of a few of the rarer birds he encountered during the year.

Mr. Komito often comes to our area to bird during spring migration. He has been very helpful to many of our birders and has sighted many uncommon species in our area. Please come and hear Mr. Komito speak about how he achieved his 'big year.'

Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7:15 p.m. The public is invited.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 10, No.4 April 2004

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Spring 2004 Yellow Rail Walks.

March 21 (Sun.) 7:00 AM

March 27 (Sat.) 7:00 AM & 4:00 PM

April 4 (Sun.) 7:00 AM & 4:00 PM

April 10 (Sat.) 7:00 AM & 4:00 PM

April 17 (Sat.) 7:00 AM

April 24 (Sat.) 7:00 AM

All tours begin at the Visitor Information Station at Anahuac NWR. To reach the Visitor Information Station, proceed south from Winnie on Highway 124 (towards High Island). After about 10 miles, turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed about 10 miles to the well marked access road to the left (south). The Information Station is about 3 miles down this limestone and shell road.

Participants should wear waterproof boots (rubber boots are best). Also recommended are binoculars, insect repellent, and drinking water!

For more information, please contact the Refuge at 409-267-3337.

April 1 through 4. Featherfest, Galveston. Contact Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council, tel. 409-945-6302 or 888-GAL-ISLE, or log on to www.galvestonfeatherfest.com

April 3 through 4. Attwater's Prairie Chicken Festival, Eagle Lake. Contact Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR at 979-234-3021.

Thursday April 15. Membership Meeting. Sandy Komito will be the featured speaker. See page 1 for details.

Saturday April 17. Sea Rim SP Bird Walk. Jointly sponsored by Sea Rim State Park and Golden Triangle Audubon. Meet at Park HQ at 7:30 AM. Easy walking (or driving) to the boardwalk at Willows. Later, drive to Sabine Woods to continue birding for those who wish. Easy walking on the boardwalks at both locations. This field trip is especially suited for not-very-experienced birders, and those who are unable to walk over rougher ground.

Sea Rim State Park is on Highway 87, 10 miles west of Sabine Pass.

April 17 through 25. The Great Texas Birding Classic. Log on to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc/ for more details. The Kick-off event is a Community Birding Event in Tyrrell Park, Beaumont from 4:00-8:30 PM on Saturday April 17. The UTC and Big Sit tournament day is Sunday April 18.

April 23, 24 and 25. Birding in the Big Thicket festival, Kountze, Texas. For program and further information, go to www.kountzecoc.org or call the Kountze Chamber of Commerce (409) 246-3413 or toll free at (866) 456-8689 or email Lauraallums@sbcglobal.net

April 24-25. 11th Annual Bluebird Festival, Will's Point. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 888-WPBLUBI on log on to www.flash.net/~junction/festival.htm

April 30 through May 3. 4th Annual Texas Songbird Festival, Lago Vista. Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 888-328-LAGO or log on to www.lagovista.org

Saturday May 8. Jefferson County Spring Migration Count. Contact John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count.

Saturday May 15 and Sunday May 16. Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs Garden Tours, 1-5 PM each day Volunteers are needed to act as Garden Club representatives at the various homes to be visited on these tours. Duties are straightforward and do not require special garden knowledge, and are not strenuous. Golden Triangle Audubon is a member of the Council and we are therefore obligated to help. Please contact Joe Halbrook at 409-892-3090 or joebmt@wt.net if you can help on either day.

Thursday May 20. Membership Meeting. Details later.

Late May/early June. Field trip to Hardin County. We have not finalized details, but we expect to continue our very popular and very successful trips to search for breeding warblers and other species in the area of Hardin county just north of Silsbee.

Grant for Audubon Adventures

Thanks to the efforts of Jeannie Lanclos, the Society has received a \$700 grant from the Audubon Council of Texas to enroll 18 fourth grade classes in the Audubon Adventures program.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Jean Hollingsworth Lynn Otto, and Needa Reed, for providing refreshments for the March meeting and Carol Lynn Loker for stepping up and agreeing to provide refreshments for the April meeting, but we are anticipating a large turnout and need additional volunteers. Volunteers are also needed for subsequent 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!

Sabine Woods Work Day

Thanks are due to Marty Bray, Bob Collier, Sherry Gibson, Jeannie Heltzel, Don Jeane, Harrison Jordan, Art Mackinnon, Bill McMillian, Wendy Mires, Richard Orgeron, Grady Skillern, Herb Stafford, Jana Whittle for working so hard on the Sabine Woods Work Day on March 13. I believe this was among the most productive work days ever. The areas up front and the main trail around the woods are now well established with "short grass prairie" species. We have made a good start to removing the invasive McCartney Rose in some areas round the edges of the main oak motte. Normally, we would leave more underbrush in some of those areas that we cleared, but we will let it grow back

after we have all the rose eradicated. We also have made almost the entire "new growth" oak area to the west accessible, and reduced the number of Mustang grape vines that will strangle/smother those oaks if left unchecked. Some areas of rose in that area were dealt with also.

Unfortunately, we have numerous small areas of Water Hyacinth in the main pond, but the pond is too full to be able to get at it all at present. A Great Blue Heron was observed using the pond later on Saturday, and it and others of its species may be what is bringing the hyacinth in. There was no hyacinth as the pond dried up last year! Doubtless, there will also be some tallow seedlings to deal with later in the Spring.

I will be planning on a work day at the end of the Spring season to mow the trails and generally deal with things that will be much worse if left all summer. May 15 and June 5 are the dates I am looking at, although June 5 may be the preferred date of our field trip to Hardin County to look for the breeding species of the area.

Again, thanks to all who helped. Be sure to visit the Woods often this Spring to enjoy the fruits of their labors. Even on the work day, there were an impressive nine species of warbler seen (even if four of them were wintering species – including the Prairie Warbler seen every month since August!).

John A. Whittle

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.

Sponsor our Birdathon!

As most of you will know, the Chapters in Texas and Louisiana nominated me for the National Audubon Society (NAS) Board of Directors, and I was duly elected late last year.

As part of my duties, I am expected to help with fund raising. As such, I will be more than delighted to hear from anyone reading this who wishes to make a direct contribution to support the Audubon cause, either now or as a bequest in the future.

One of the most successful means of fundraising for Audubon, and the one I am most able to participate in, is a birdathon. Royce Pendergast has again graciously agreed to join with me in a Spring Birdathon.

A Birdathon is very similar to other "athons" you may be familiar with, such as telethons, walkathons, etc. The idea is for us to get up at the crack of dawn on a day in late April and make a run from the woods and lakeshores of East Texas by way of Cattail Marsh to Texas Point, Sabine Woods and Sea Rim State Park, looking for as many species of birds as can be found. (We're aiming for at least 150 species.)

We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$.50, \$.75, or \$1.00 (or whatever amount you choose) per bird species. A flat donation is also welcome. Please take the time to make a pledge today -- your donation to our Birdathon will be earmarked to support Audubon's mission of protecting our natural heritage in Texas and the nation by supporting conservation, education and advocacy. This year, half of the funds we raise will be designated for Audubon Texas activities and programs, and the other half for NAS. Checks should be made out to Audubon Texas and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible. Local businesspeople and businesses are often very receptive to this kind of fund raising and we would welcome any suggestions of where we might find receptive potential supporters. Please contact me at john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H) with your pledge and your suggestions.

John A. Whittle

Recent Texas and National Audubon News

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Agreement has been reached with the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) to establish an Audubon Center at Mitchell Lake, just south of the loop in San Antonio. Approximately 600 acres (of the total 1,300 acres) of the lake and adjacent wetlands will be leased to Audubon for 25 years at a nominal rent. An 1,800 sq. ft. historic house has been moved onto the site and rehabilitated to a high standard for use as the initial educational center. SAWS will also contribute operating funds for an initial period.

Mitchell Lake is a well known and very special birding location, with a large wintering waterfowl and other waterbird population. The bird list for the site includes over 300 species.

Mitchell Lake is the fourth Audubon center to be established in Texas after the Sabal Palm Center and Sanctuary in Brownsville, the Blucher House in Corpus Christi and the Dogwood Canyon Center being developed just south of Dallas.

Texas Quail/Grassland Bird Initiative

This program seeks to engage landowners and land managers in a statewide effort to restore habitat for quail and other grassland birds. The Audubon Texas Coordinator, Jason Hardin, has been assisting landowners, conducting land management workshops, and even writing management plans. Currently, more than 1.25 million acres have been impacted by these efforts.

Important Bird Areas

The Texas Important Bird Areas program, coordinated by Ned Wright, is focusing first on the Texas Coast. Teams of volunteers willing to assist in the Avian Inventory and Monitoring process. Golden Triangle Audubon has volunteered to help in our area. More information on the IBA program is now available on the web at www.tx.audubon.org/programs/iba.htm

Oil and gas drilling in Alaska

As you must surely know, Audubon at a national level has been vigorously opposed to any oil exploration or drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and is continuing its efforts to protect the Alaskan wilderness. In addition, however, Audubon recently joined in a suit filed to prevent the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from proceeding with its plans to lease a large part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. Following the publication of the draft Environmental Impact Statement in 2003, Audubon Alaska proposed an alternative that would protect sensitive areas that are the nesting groups of rare Spectacled and Steller's Eiders, and the molting areas of most of the population of the Pacific Black Brant, while still allowing exploration on over 65 percent of the reserve. Although the reserve was set aside in

1923 as a Petroleum Reserve for the Navy, it was transferred in 1978 to the BLM with a mandate to protect its unique values. It was this protection that Audubon sought to achieve in its alternative proposal. However, BLM decided to proceed with its original plan to open up the entire area to drilling, albeit with a few areas deferred for 10 years.

Audubon at Home

On December 2, 2003 Audubon Ohio announced the launch of Audubon At Home, a new National Audubon conservation initiative, throughout the state. Funded through a federal grant from the Natural Resource Conservation Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Audubon At Home will engage people at home, in Audubon Chapters, and in local communities, improving the quality of habitat and the environmental health of backyards and community greenspaces. The program will be expanded to cover the entire nation.

The premise of Audubon At Home is that actions we take in our everyday lives can add up to make an important difference in conservation, the environment, and in the quality of our everyday lives. Our back yards are one place to start. By reducing the use of pesticides and fertilizer, yards and communities will be safer for children and pets, and the quality of the water in our lakes, streams, and reservoirs will improve. Using native plant species, and providing bird-friendly habitat in our lawns and landscaping saves money and time, and creates homes for wildlife that can provide hours of viewing enjoyment.

As part of its commitment to community-based conservation, Audubon seeks to share the guiding principles of the Audubon at Home program with people in urban, suburban, and rural areas all over the country. To learn more about the National Audubon Society's nationwide Audubon at Home program, please visit: <http://www.audubon.org>.

Audubon Adventures Recognized

Audubon Adventures, Audubon's in-school education program, has been named one of the top ten most popular environmental education programs by the National Environmental Education Training Foundation, it was announced today. Audubon Adventures, which just received an anonymous \$55,000 grant, placed second on the NEETF list.

The list of the environmental education programs most popular with teachers is viewable at NEETF's "Classroom Earth" www.classroomearth.org, a new, free, website on how educators can obtain the best and most usable environmental education programs available today. It amounts to a "best of the best" collection of environmental education programs and resources for K-12 teachers, parents, and students.

On a side note, the \$55,000 grant will enable Audubon Adventures to explore expanding pilot after school projects, coordination with state offices programs, and integrating Audubon Adventures with Centers operations.

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 20 March 2004

The fog cleared for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's annual pilgrimage to Bolivar Flats revealing a beautiful day for bird watching. Every year, thousands of shorebirds, herons, pelicans and other birds make Bolivar Flats their temporary or permanent home and every year the birders flock to see them. This is one of the finest shorebirding spots in North America so it is no wonder that about a dozen GTAS birders braved heavy fog to reach this conglomeration of sandy beach and mudflats.

Most of the usual suspects were present on the Flats as Sanderlings, Dunlin, and Ruddy Turnstones combed the beaches while Laughing Gulls and Royal Terns wheeled noisily overhead. Reddish Egrets danced in the surf while Brown and White Pelicans watched lazily from nearby. The White Pelicans were beginning to show the fleshy "horn" that indicates their breeding status. Sitting on the beach together, the huge size of the White Pelican was obvious as they were significantly larger than their Brown cousins (which have a 7+ foot wingspan themselves). Willets called from every direction while Roseate Spoonbills cruised over the marsh.

Plovers are one of the main attractions of the Flats and the group sought them out. Wilson's Plovers were easily located. These, largest of our small plovers, were calling on the beach. Whether this was in agitation at the presence of people or in preparation for courtship was not clear. Black-bellied Plovers were also obvious. The further the group got on the Flats, the more of these large plovers were seen. Piping Plovers were also found in abundance. Though an endangered species, a significant portion of the world's population of Piping Plovers winters on Texas beaches. Snowy Plovers are often more elusive on the Flats but a few were eventually seen by all. Snowy's have a longer, thinner bill than the little stubby bill of the Piping Plover with duller colored legs. Semipalmated Plovers were, at first, difficult to locate. It was not until the group was well out onto the Flats that the first of these small, dark-backed plovers was located. Bolivar Flats is one of the best places to study the four species of small plovers and sort out the sometimes subtle, sometimes obvious differences between them. Killdeer were seen later in the day but no American Golden-Plovers, denying the group the opportunity for a clean sweep of the plovers.

Other birds seen on the Flats that day included Long-billed Curlews, Marbled Godwits, Greater Yellowlegs and Least Sandpipers. Gulls were not loafing on the beach in great numbers and no unusual gulls were seen but the normal Laughing, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were seen. Terns were also in fairly low numbers on the beach but Forster's, Royal, Caspian and a lone Least Tern were located.

When clouds of shorebirds rise off the beach, wheeling about, that usually means a raptor is nearby. The culprit was a young Peregrine Falcon who dove through the masses of birds but came up empty. The predator eventually perched on a metal tower overlooking the Flats without a meal.

Later in the day, the Flats were viewed from another angle – from the jetty. From here, the thousands of American Avocets on the Flats were obvious, many nearing breeding plumage. Close up looks were also had at Marbled Godwits, Neotropic Cormorants, and a very cooperative Horned Grebe.

Leaving the Flats, a Horned Lark gave the birders a nice goodbye as other destinations called. A stop at Fort Travis Park for lunch also revealed the first of several Common Loons on the day along with quick looks at Clapper and Sora Rails. A roadside utility pole was topped with an Osprey. The largely empty pit that was once a pond on Bob's Road contained numerous gulls including Bonaparte's Gulls. Yacht Basin Road was not as active as in some past years but produced Common Tern nonetheless. A stop in Port Bolivar gave distant looks at American Oystercatcher along with Blue-winged Teal and Gadwall. Rollover Pass held big numbers of Black Skimmers along with many Red-breasted Mergansers.

This trip traditionally ends up at High Island and this year was no exception. Boy Scout Woods cooperated by giving up looks of Blue-headed Vireo, Hooded Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler and Northern Parula. The rookery at Smith Oaks ended the day. Great looks at hundreds of Great and Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons, Roseate Spoonbills and Neotropic Cormorants were supplemented with smaller numbers of Anhinga, Black-crowned Night-Herons, Common Moorhen and White Ibis. American Alligators cruised below the birds looking for an easy meal. The Smith Oaks rookery is never dull and is the perfect place to end a great birding day.

The following birds were recorded by the leader on the trip: Common Loon (5), Pied-billed Grebe (5), Horned Grebe (1), American White Pelican (200), Brown Pelican (55), Neotropic Cormorant (200), Double-crested Cormorant (15), Anhinga (4), Great Blue Heron (11), Great Egret (150), Snowy Egret (101), Little Blue Heron (7), Tricolored Heron (76), Reddish Egret (8), Cattle Egret (9), Green Heron (2), Black-crowned Night-Heron (8), White Ibis (35), Roseate Spoonbill (125), Black Vulture (1), Turkey Vulture (10), Gadwall (7), Mottled Duck (4), Blue-winged Teal (26), Red-breasted Merganser (100), Osprey (1), Northern Harrier (2), Red-tailed Hawk (2), American Kestrel (5), Peregrine Falcon (1), Clapper Rail (2), Sora (1), Common Moorhen (8), American Coot (10), Black-bellied Plover (260), Snowy Plover (3), Wilson's Plover (6), Semipalmated Plover (6), Piping Plover (50), Killdeer (3), American Oystercatcher (2), Black-necked Stilt (8), American Avocet (5000), Greater Yellowlegs (2), Lesser Yellowlegs (7), Willet (170), Long-billed Curlew (6), Marbled Godwit (45), Ruddy Turnstone (8), Sanderling (280), Western Sandpiper (50), Least Sandpiper (30), Dunlin (230), Short-billed Dowitcher (225), Laughing Gull (180), Bonaparte's Gull (36), Ring-billed Gull (90), Herring Gull (6), Caspian Tern (22), Royal Tern (100), Sandwich Tern (20), Common Tern (4), Forster's Tern (105), Least Tern (1), Black Skimmer (250), Rock Pigeon (8), Eurasian Collared-Dove (4), Mourning Dove (50), Belted Kingfisher (1), Eastern Kingbird (3), Loggerhead Shrike (3), Blue-headed Vireo (1), Blue Jay (5), Horned Lark (1), Purple Martin (46), Tree Swallow (30), Barn Swallow (38), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Northern Mockingbird (14), European Starling (80), Orange-crowned Warbler (1), Northern Parula (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1), Black-and-white Warbler (1), Common Yellowthroat (4), Hooded Warbler (1), Savannah Sparrow (6), Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (1), Swamp Sparrow (1), Northern Cardinal (8), Red-winged Blackbird (110), Eastern Meadowlark (7), Boat-tailed Grackle (30), Great-tailed Grackle (71), Brown-headed Cowbird (15), House Sparrow (1).

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – February 2004

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 john.whittle@lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8276 or fax to (409) 880-7977. 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: Like most Februaries, a relatively quiet month. Several species previously reported remained "on station." The Vermilion Flycatchers in west Jefferson County became a little less regular; Common Goldeneye were seen again in the marshes west of Bridge City; the Rusty Blackbirds remained in Orange, and the faithful Prairie Warbler at Sabine Woods was seen twice during the month.

GOOSE, Snow	JEF 3 reps(865)	HAWK, Red-shouldered	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 2 reps(3); ORA 2
GOOSE, Ross's	JEF 2/1(3) JAW; JEF-TP 2/1(1) JAW	reps(4)	
GADWALL	JEF 4 reps(336); ORA 2 reps(450)	HAWK, Red-tailed	JEF 8 reps(64); ORA 2 reps(3)
WIGEON, American	JEF 1 rep(3); ORA 1 rep(6)	KESTREL, American	JEF 8 reps(65); ORA 2 reps(3)
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 2/1(2) JAW; JEF 2/4(5) JAW;	MERLIN	JEF 2/7(1) JAW; JEF 2/8(1) JAW
	JEF 2/8(10) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/20(2) AM; JEF 2/21(2)	FALCON, Peregrine	JEF 2/29(1) JAW
	JJW; JEF 2/28(2) JAW; JEF 2/29(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 2/29(3)	MOORHEN, Common	JEF 1 rep(5)
	JAW; ORA 2/14(1) JAW	COOT, American	JEF 3 reps(291)
TEAL, Blue-winged	JEF 5 reps(256)	PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 3 reps(38)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF 7 reps(1678); ORA 2 reps(51)	PLOVER, Snowy	JEF 2/29(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP
PINTAIL, Northern	JEF 3 reps(7100)	2/29(58) JAW	
TEAL, Green-winged	JEF 4 reps(2235); ORA 1 rep(20)	KILLDEER	JEF 5 reps(214); ORA 1 rep(1)
DUCK, Ring-necked	JEF 1 rep(50)	STILT, Black-necked	JEF 6 reps(416); ORA 1 rep(25)
SCAUP, Greater	JEF-TP 2/1(7) JAW	AVOCET, American	JEF 2 reps(275)
SCAUP, Lesser	JEF 2 reps(102)	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	JEF 3 reps(282)
BUFFLEHEAD	JEF 3 reps(8); ORA 1 rep(1)	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF 3 reps(72)
GOLDENEYE, Common	ORA 2/14(6) JAW	SANDPIPER, Solitary	JEF 2/28(1) JAW
MERGANSEER, Hooded	JEF-TXPT 2/1(2) SM; ORA 2/14(5)	WILLET	JEF 3 reps(11)
	JAW; ORA 2/15(2) JAW	SANDPIPER, Spotted	JEF-PI 2/21(3) JJW
DUCK, Ruddy	JEF 2 reps(27)	CURLEW, Long-billed	JEF 2 reps(67)
LOON, Common	JEF 2 reps(3)	SANDERLING	JEF 2 reps(60)
GREBE, Pied-billed	JEF 5 reps(13); ORA 3 reps(10)	SANDPIPER, Western	JEF 3 reps(63)
PELICAN, Amer. White	JEF 5 reps(124); ORA 3 reps(39)	SANDPIPER, Peep	JEF 2 reps(56)
PELICAN, Brown	JEF 2/15(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/20(1)	SANDPIPER, Least	JEF 2 reps(214)
	AM; JEF-PI 2/21(5) JJW; JEF-TX87 2/29(12) JAW	DUNLIN	JEF 4 reps(1044)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF-TP 2/1(1) JAW; JEF 2/8(2) JAW;	SANDPIPER, Stilt	JEF 2/1(10) JAW; JEF 2/7(1) JAW;
	JEF 2/14(1) JAW; JEF 2/15(12) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/20(8)	JEF 2/8(2) JAW	
	AM; JEF 2/21(500) JJW; JEF 2/28(2) JAW; JEF 2/29(5) JAW;	DOWITCHER, Long-billed	JEF 3 reps(7690)
	JEF-TX87 2/29(7) JAW; ORA 2/15(5) JAW; ORA 2/21(2) JJW	DOWITCHER species	JEF 1 rep(50)
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	JEF 5 reps(39)	SNIPE, Common	JEF 1 rep(1)
CORMORANT, Species	ORA 1 rep(10)	GULL, Laughing	JEF 8 reps(2736); ORA 1 rep(50)
ANHINGA	JEF 2/7(1) JAW; JEF 2/8(2) JAW	GULL, Bonaparte's	JEF 2 reps(59); ORA 2 reps(117)
HERON, Great Blue	JEF 7 reps(17); ORA 1 rep(1)	GULL, Ring-billed	JEF 6 reps(195); ORA 2 reps(23)
EGRET, Great	JEF 15 reps(278); ORA 5 reps(48)	GULL, Herring	JEF 2 reps(21)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 13 reps(204); ORA 3 reps(33)	TERN, Gull-billed	JEF 2/8(1) JAW
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 4 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)	TERN, Caspian	JEF 2 reps(11)
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 2 reps(3)	TERN, Royal	JEF 2 reps(20)
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 3 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(5)	TERN, Forster's	JEF 5 reps(125); ORA 2 reps(40)
IBIS, White	JEF 2/1(65) JAW; JEF 2/8(20) JAW;	DOVE, Rock	JEF 9 reps(241); ORA 2 reps(25)
	JEF 2/21(100) JJW; JEF 2/29(15) JAW	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	JEF 11 reps(18); ORA 2 reps(6)
IBIS, Glossy	JEF-TP 2/1(1) JAW; JEF 2/28(1) GD	DOVE, White-winged	JEF 18 reps(72)
IBIS, White-faced	JEF-TP 2/1(15) JAW; JEF-SRSP	DOVE, Mourning	JEF 19 reps(283); ORA 5 reps(10)
	2/20(225) AM	DOVE, Inca	JEF 1 rep(2)
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF 2/1(100) JAW; JEF-TP 2/1(20)	SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	JEF-NEDR 2/6(1) JJW
	JAW; JEF 2/7(360) JAW; JEF 2/8(326) JAW; JEF 2/18(50)	OWL, Great Horned	JEF-SW 2/20(1) AM
	MM; JEF-TX87 2/29(50) JAW; ORA 2/15(30) JAW	HUMMINGBIRD, <i>Archilochus</i>	JEF-NEDR 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
SPOONBILL, Roseate	JEF 2/1(3) JAW; JEF 2/4(30) JAW;	2/29(1) JJW	
	JEF 2/7(3) JAW; JEF 2/8(10) JAW; JEF 2/28(5) JAW; ORA	HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	HAI 2/1(1) KS; HAI 2/25(2) KS; JEF-
	2/14(2) JAW; ORA 2/22(4) SBE	NEDR 2/7(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/8(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR	
VULTURE, Black	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 4 reps(7); ORA 1	2/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/14(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/15(1)	
rep(2)		JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/16(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/17(1)	
VULTURE, Turkey	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 6 reps(94); ORA 2	JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/18(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/21(1) JJW;	
reps(8)		JEF-NEDR 2/24(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/26(1) JAW; JEF-	
OSPREY	JEF 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/20(1)	NEDR 2/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/29(1) JJW	
	AM; JEF-TX87 2/29(1) JAW	HUMMINGBIRD species	JEF-NEDR 2/19(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
KITE, White-tailed	JEF 4 reps(6)	2/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/28(1) JAW	
HARRIER, Northern	JEF 5 reps(33)	KINGFISHER, Belted	JEF 6 reps(20); ORA 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	JEF 2/1(1) JAW; JEF 2/4(1) JAW;	WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	JEF 9 reps(9)
	JEF 2/28(1) JAW	SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	JEF 2 reps(3); ORA 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Cooper's	JEF 2/8(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 2/28(1)	WOODPECKER, Downy	JEF 4 reps(6)
JAW		WOODPECKER, Pileated	JEF 1 rep(1)

PHOEBE, Eastern	JEF 6 reps(13); ORA 1 rep(1)
FLYCATCHER, Vermillion	JEF 2/1(4) JAW; JEF 2/7(2) JAW; JEF 2/8(3) JAW; JEF 2/18(1) MM
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	JEF 9 reps(114); ORA 2 reps(3)
VIREO, Blue-headed	JEF 2 reps(2)
JAY, Blue	JEF 16 reps(42); ORA 6 reps(17)
CROW, American	JEF 1 rep(3)
CROW, Fish	JEF-TP 2/1(250) JAW; JEF 2/17(5) JAW; JEF 2/18(1) JAW; ORA 2/16(1) SBE; ORA 2/22(6) SBE
CROW, species reps(4)	HAI 1 rep(14); JEF 5 reps(15); ORA 3
MARTIN, Purple	HAI 2/1(1) KS; HAI 2/8(2) KS; HAI 2/15(6) KS; JEF-SW 2/20(4) AM; JEF-NEDR 2/28(5) JAW; JEF 2/29(12) JAW; JEF-SW 2/29(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 2/29(26) JAW
SWALLOW, Tree	JEF 2/1(10) JAW; JEF-TP 2/1(500) JAW; JEF 2/7(50) JAW; JEF 2/8(20) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/20(60) AM; JEF-SW 2/20(16) AM; JEF-NEDR 2/25(25) JAW; JEF 2/29(15) JAW; JEF-SW 2/29(100) JAW; JEF- TX87 2/29(10) JAW; ORA 2/14(400) JAW; ORA 2/15(37) JAW
SWALLOW, Barn	JEF 2/29(2) JAW
CHICKADEE, Carolina	JEF 7 reps(11); ORA 5 reps(7)
WREN, Carolina	JEF 1 rep(2)
WREN, Marsh	JEF-TP 2/1(1) JAW
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	JEF 5 reps(14)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	JEF 5 reps(27)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(19)
ROBIN, American	JEF 10 reps(17); ORA 1 rep(5)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	JEF 12 reps(56); ORA 4 reps(6)
THRASHER, Brown	JEF 1 rep(2)
STARLING, European	JEF 11 reps(404); ORA 1 rep(1)
PIBIT, American	JEF 3 reps(38); ORA 1 rep(50)
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	JEF 5 reps(8)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	JEF 7 reps(103)
WARBLER, Prairie AM	JEF-SW 2/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 2/20(1)
WARBLER, Black-and-white	JEF-TX87 2/21(1) GD
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 3 reps(9)
SPARROW, Chipping	JEF 1 rep(90); ORA 1 rep(1)
SPARROW, Savannah	JEF 6 reps(86); ORA 1 rep(10)
SPARROW, Seaside	JEF 1 rep(1)
SPARROW, Song	JEF 2 reps(3)
SPARROW, Lincoln's JAW	JEF-SW 2/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 2/29(1)
SPARROW, Swamp	JEF 4 reps(13)
SPARROW, White-throated	JEF 3 reps(22); ORA 2 reps(4)
SPARROW, White-crowned	JEF-TP 2/1(3) JAW; JEF 2/18(1) MM
CARDINAL, Northern	JEF 7 reps(31); ORA 7 reps(37)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 8 reps(971); ORA 7 reps(122)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	JEF 4 reps(38)
MEADOWLARK species	JEF 6 reps(43)
BLACKBIRD, Rusty	ORA 2/14(2) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	JEF 2/8(15) JAW
GRACKLE, Common	JEF 17 reps(2977); ORA 4 reps(58)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 4 reps(71)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 16 reps(1670); ORA 4 reps(52)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	JEF 5 reps(106); ORA 1 rep(1)
BLACKBIRD species	JEF 1 rep(100)
FINCH, House	JEF-NEDR 2/7(1) JAW; ORA 2/22(1) SBE; ORA 2/25(2) SBE; ORA 2/29(2) SBE
GOLDFINCH, American	JEF 20 reps(312); ORA 5 reps(57)
SPARROW, House	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 8 reps(45)

Number of Species 141
Number of Individuals 41012

County Abbreviations:

HAI – Hardin; JEF – Jefferson; ORA – Orange

Location Codes:

BC – Bridge City; 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:

AM – Art Mackinnon; GD – Gerald Duhon; JAW – John Whittle; JJW –
John and Jana Whittle; KS – Ken Sztraky; MM – Marilyn McClelland;
SBE – Sheri Bethard; SM – Steve Mayes

Bird Alerts

Because of the time necessarily elapsing between this section being written and your receiving the printed words, anything here should be updated by the other methods mentioned below if at all possible.

Neotropical passerine migration seemed to get off to a very early start this year, with significant number of the traditionally early species being seen as early as March 10 and 11. Northern Parulas arrived very early in excellent numbers, and very early Prothonotary Warblers. Yellow-throated Warblers, Yellow-throated Vireos, White-eyed Vireos, Hooded Warblers and even an early Ovenbird have also been seen.

By late March many of the migrant shorebird species have already passed through. American Golden-Plovers usually exhibit a wide migration window, and some were seen in early March in the "Moist Soil Unit" at Anahuac NWR. The mix of Yellowlegs has changed in that Greater Yellowlegs – the most common wintering yellowlegs species on the Upper Texas Coast -- are now greatly outnumbered by Lesser Yellowlegs, which are actually quite scarce in winter, although certainly present.

Swallows are already present in some numbers, Barn Swallows usually being among the earliest of migrants (after Purple Martins, of course). Cliff Swallows are becoming a more prominent part of our avifauna, and already there are birds reviewing various bridges in the area as possible nesting sites.

On the other side of the coin, waterfowl numbers – never very high this winter – are declining, and sparrows are not quite as numerous. However, Eastern Towhees, not very obvious this winter in Sabine Woods, have suddenly appeared (or come out of hiding?)

Bird Alerts on the Web or by email

Do you want to know what migrants are being seen during the upcoming migration season without the delays referred to in the section above? If so, there are two sources. You can log on to our web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org or you can receive alerts by email by sending a request to John Whittle at john.whittle@lamar.edu If you have a spam filter you may also need to add that address to those that you are willing to receive emails from!! When pressed for time, we update the web site first – emails may come a day or two later.

Local Hotline

The 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! To the extent possible, the message that you get will very briefly indicate the birds that are being seen. Please leave a message (or email john.whittle@lamar.edu) with details of your sightings, so they can be shared.

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from: _____

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon 7XCH8W25

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

RARE BIRD ALERTS

Below is a listing of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for nearby areas. Transcriptions of some current tapes are available on the World Wide Web 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	(409) 728-6957
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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