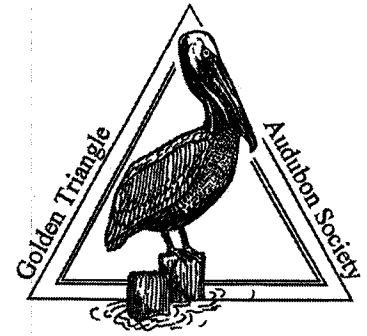


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 10 No. 5

May 2004

Membership Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2004
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Speaker: Margaret Pickell
Wildlife Rehab & Education

Margaret Pickell lives in Friendswood, Texas, and began birding when she was in college. She moved to the Houston area in the late 70's as an elementary school teacher and continued birding on weekends. She notes that birding around the area was a great challenge because of all the coastal birds and migrants in the fall and spring. She took a wildlife rehabilitation workshop when her twin girls were babies, and specialized in birds. She has been a state and federally permitted wildlife rehabilitator for 19 years, and now handles about 500 wildlife animals a year with the majority being birds. She is with an organization called Wildlife Rehab & Education that serves the upper Texas Gulf Coast area. The organization receives about 6,000 animals a year. She also is on the oiled wildlife response team. This is an elite team of experts that goes to an impacted area to retrieve, clean and release oiled wildlife.

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

April Meeting

Sandy Komito graciously stopped birding for a few hours to speak at our meeting last month. He had slides and told us many things to help us figure out how to find those birds that are so hard to find. One of the first things that he said was that he worked very hard at a younger age to build his business. In the 80's he retired and gave the business to his son. His wife was also instrumental in his being able to bird. He has a "rock-solid" loving relationship with his wife, and she understands that he birds (a lot). They have been married 47 years. He said that some people, hunt, fish, or golf, but he just wants to see birds. He has been birding since he was a young boy. As he grew older, he had a desire to see birds other than the ones in his area. He read several books about birds including "Wild America." These encouraged him to think of other places to bird. Then he heard about a telephone number that you could call to find out where "uncommon" birds were all over the U.S. He started going to these places

continued on page 4

Sabine Woods Work Day Saturday May 15 – please come and help if you can.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 10, No.5 May 2004

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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SOCIETY INFORMATION
TELEPHONE NUMBER
(409) 728-6957 (728-OWLS)**

**www.goldentriangleaudubon.
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Calendar of Events

Tuesday May 11. Instream Flows, Freshwater Inflows, and the Golden Triangle. A forum about ensuring water for fish and wildlife and the economy. Holiday Inn Atrium Plaza, 3950 Interstate 10 South, Beaumont, Texas, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Lone Star Chapter and the Golden Triangle Regional Group of the Sierra Club, Clean Air and Water, Golden Triangle Audubon Society, the Gulf Coast Rod, Reel and Gun Club and others.

Saturday May 15. Sabine Woods Work Day. 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 refreshments, 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.

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@exp.net if you can help on either day.

Thursday May 20. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1.

Saturday June 5. Field trip to Hardin County. We plan to run a field trip to Hardin County to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Pine, Prairie and Swainson's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo and

Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US96 north. Take **Business 96** into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right a short distance after crossing the railroad, continue straight ahead on FM92 for about a mile to the shopping center. There is a Bealls, a Dominos and an O'Reilly Auto Parts store in the center. We will bird the Firetower Road/Gore Store Road/Camp Waluta area and any nearby areas that are brought to our attention as being productive. We will probably finish before noon.

For those interested in Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow, we would recommend a trip to Boykin Springs, site 007 on the UTC Birding Trail. For further details see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/birdingtrails/ As you drive in heading west from Texas 63 north of Jasper along Forest Road 313, after two or three miles, there is a marked Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony on the north side of the road with a marked trail through it. The area on the north side of FR313 just before you reach the colony is excellent Bachman's Sparrow habitat.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Carol Lynn Loker, Dan Harmon, Jeannie Lanclos, Joe Halbrook and Jana Whittle for providing refreshments for the May meeting. Volunteers are also needed for all the fall 2004 meetings. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate! If you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 as soon as possible. Please help if you can!

Grounding on the Upper Texas Coast - 24-26 April 2004

(Taken from a post by Ted Eubanks on TEXBIRDS April 26, 2004)

My parents, wife, and I decided, after participating in Galveston's Feather Fest earlier this month, to return to the Upper Texas Coast (UTC) for an additional weekend of birding. Given our schedules we had no choice other than 24-25 April, with an extra day (Monday) to make the drive from Austin worth our time. As the weekend neared I followed the weather closely (just as in the "old days") and grew timidly hopeful that the projected inclement weather might entice a few migrants to spend the weekend with us in High Island.

Awakening Saturday morning in Galveston, I quickly checked Weather Underground on the web. Yellow and red splotches dominated the radar screen to the west of the island, with a general movement toward High Island. Crossing the ferry I thought of fallouts in year's past, standing then, as now, on the deck of the Bolivar ferry wondering just how effective the weather might have been in halting migrant birds along the immediate coast. Yet, I too am aware of the complete absence of groundings along the UTC for at least a decade. Perhaps the fallouts of my past were no longer possible? Perhaps the decline in neotropical migrant populations had left little chance that such a significant massing of migrants along the UTC would happen again?

We arrived in High Island (Scout's Woods) around 9:00 AM. As I walked from the parking lot toward the woods I noticed a dozen Indigo Buntings drop out of the sky and spin into the privet thickets that border the sanctuary. Good sign. In the past, Jim Morgan and I would quickly assess the woods by looking for migrants "dropping in."

The sanctuary personnel at the entrance typed the woods as "quiet" so far that Saturday. Yet the rain had only begun to approach the coast, and therefore I remained cautiously optimistic. We walked along the boardwalk toward the Cathedral, and were stopped in our tracks by a small flock of mixed warblers feeding in the catkins of a pecan along the way. The small flock soon expanded by another dozen birds, with Chestnut-sided, Bay-breasted, and Tennessee warblers quickly filling our views. The rain intensified, as did the movement of migrants. The fallout had begun.

For the remainder of the day we stayed in the High Island sanctuaries. At times the movement of birds through Smith Oaks eclipsed our abilities to process them. The rain held steady through early afternoon, and then began to diminish. Yet the clusters of birds swirling through the woods continued unabated, and at dark we, and the fortunate birders in attendance, were still being entertained by this singular natural phenomenon.

Sunday we charted a different course, and spent most of the day in Sabine Woods and Sea Rim State Park. Although the numbers of migrants had diminished (predictable, given the departure of the rains) the diversity of species only improved. We were blessed with a number of UTC migrant rarities - Black-throated Blue Warbler in Sabine Woods, Cape May Warbler along Hwy 87 south of Sea Rim State Park, Prairie Warbler in the willows at Sea Rim, and a small flock of Bobolinks along Hwy 87 between Sea Rim and Sabine Woods.

On Monday we chose a different path to return to Austin. We first checked Offat Bayou (Common Loons with one Pacific), and then decided to give Lafitte's Cove a try. Although the wind had shifted to the northeast, the lack of rain lessened our chances (I thought) for a substantial grounding. Yet in about 90 minutes we found 16 species of warblers, with good numbers of Gray Catbirds and Indigo Buntings as well.

Yes, by any standard I found the past three days to be exceptional. Jim Morgan used the arbitrary number of 1000 individual migrants as a threshold for a fallout. By his criteria this past weekend passed the test. Yet more importantly I met a number of birders who had experienced the fallouts of the 1970s and 1980s as well, and we all agreed that this weekend would compare well with the fallouts of the past.

The following is a list of migrants seen by my family, with rough estimates of the numbers of individuals:

Black-billed Cuckoo (1); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (20); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (5); Eastern Wood-Pewee (25); Acadian Flycatcher (2); White-eyed Vireo (20); Yellow-throated Vireo (10); Philadelphia Vireo (4); Red-eyed Vireo (40); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1); Gray-cheeked Thrush (1); Swainson's Thrush (20); Wood Thrush (10); Gray Catbird (200); Blue-winged Warbler (3); Tennessee Warbler (75); Northern Parula (15); Yellow Warbler (50); Chestnut-sided Warbler (50); Magnolia Warbler (10); Cape May Warbler (1); Black-throated Blue Warbler (1); Black-throated Green Warbler (15); Blackburnian Warbler (25); Prairie Warbler (1); Bay-breasted Warbler (50); Blackpoll Warbler (20); Cerulean Warbler (2); Black-and-white Warbler (40); American Redstart (10); Prothonotary Warbler (6); Worm-eating Warbler (3); Ovenbird (10); Northern Waterthrush (8); Louisiana Waterthrush (1); Kentucky Warbler (6); Common Yellowthroat (20); Hooded Warbler (10); Wilson's Warbler (1); Summer Tanager (75); Scarlet Tanager (75); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (50); Blue Grosbeak (2); Indigo Bunting (250); Painted Bunting (10); Bobolink (2); Orchard Oriole (15); Baltimore Oriole (50).

Ted Lee Eubanks, Austin, Texas

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.

Please note that if you have renewed your National Audubon membership in the last three months or so, the date shown on our labels prefixed by "AU" may not reflect the correct expiry date.

Sabine Pass Area Sightings, Saturday May 1, 2004

Outstanding birding conditions developed on the extreme upper Texas coast for the second weekend in a row! Certainly more than most of us locals expect in one season. A strong, well defined squall line preceded the evening's arrival of a late spring cold front. (In my experience, these west to east moving impulses provide the best chance of fall out conditions, as they seem to sweep migrants out of the gulf and deposit them along the beach-facing woodlots).

There was some action in advance of the weather, despite the strong onshore winds. At around 7 a.m. on Saturday morning, I found a well marked female Cape May Warbler at the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, from the road, at the extreme eastern end of the motte, near where the cane stand begins. Then, about 30 minutes later, again from the road, two fine males were spotted working the far western end of the complex by the small pond. Like the previous weekend, they were easily seen by many as they foraged just off the pavement. Sabine Woods seemed somewhat quiet in comparison, but there were assorted Blackpoll, Redstart, Magnolia, and Tennessee Warblers, along with a Gray-cheeked Thrush and a Veery or two. There were reports of Prairie and Palm Warblers on the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, but I did not find the Prairie Warbler until later that afternoon.

I was actually on the road to the Pilot Station looking for the above when I noticed the roll cloud approaching rapidly. I drove to the Willows at Sea Rim and stationed myself at "fall out point" (the southernmost portion of the boardwalk) to watch the show. When I arrived, the winds had all ready switched to northwest. -- there were massive amounts of what I think the weather folks call "mammiform" formations at the base of the leading edge of the complex, indicating a layer of severe turbulence. This was about 12:20 p.m.

First in and preceding the rain was a huge movement of swallows (Northern Rough-winged, Barn, a few Bank and some Cliff) and Chimney Swifts moving at grass-top level. Next were waves of Common Nighthawks, flying in groups of four or five directly overhead, about 20-30 feet up, but with a least one flock of 15 or so moving right along the beach.

Then the passerines began to arrive, as the roll cloud passed and the more diffuse portion of the system swung by. Hundreds of black specks were outlined against the cloud base, moving directly west to east with the weather. Some were spiraling there way down into the backside of the willows, dropping like rocks, but the majority continued to fly. We also saw birds coming directly off the water -- these were having the hardest time. A dozen or so, in small groups of two to three, seemed to reach the shore and several dove either onto the beach or more likely right into the vegetation line. Unfortunately, we observed several not 50 feet or so from the beach that despite flapping like crazy, were not making any forward progress -- they swung like a pendulum lateral to the coast -- more than one was pushed southward out of sight. Numbers though, coming off the water, at least one Magnolia Warbler for sure judging by the undertail pattern made it safely into the southward facing edge of the willows.

All this transpired over the course of 15 minutes or so, and then the rain began in earnest. Cruising the highway

between the new entrance to McFaddin beach and the willows, most all of the south facing bushes had numbers of warblers. Especially productive were the line of small ones just past the entrance to McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, on the north side of the road. The interior of this two foot high, very dense scrubby growth had lots of movement in it -- Magnolia Warblers, Redstarts, Tennessee Warblers, one Golden-winged, Black-and-white, Hooded, Blue-winged, Bay-breasted, Yellow, Black-throated Green, Chestnut-sided Warblers, and a few Northern Parula and Northern Waterthrushes.

The rain let up somewhat around 3 to 4 p.m. but then began again. All the above plus those listed below showed up at the woods. Reported were Cerulean and Worm-eating Warblers, which I did not see. The road to the Pilot Station about 5 p.m. had wave upon wave of warblers, Red-eyed Vireos, orioles, a few Summer and Scarlet Tanagers, and some Blue and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks actively foraging or calmly resting in the salt cedars.

All in all a most memorable experience. I am omitting numbers of the more numerous species -- I am probably off by an order of magnitude or more. For those listed as "many," my impression was that totals were in the 30-60 range ?

The following list covers the period from 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. in Sabine Pass, Sabine Woods, the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, most all bushes between Sabine Woods and entrance to McFaddin Wildlife Refuge:

American Bittern (1 -- willows); Common Nighthawk (30+); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (4-5+); E. Wood Pewee (8-10+); *Empidonax* species (5-7+); Philadelphia Vireo (6-8+); White-eyed Vireo (4); Red-eyed Vireo (many); Yellow-throated Vireo (3); Wood Thrush (4++); Swainson's Thrush (3+); Veery (6++); Gray-cheeked Thrush (4); Yellow Warbler (15+); Chestnut-sided Warbler (8+); Magnolia Warbler (very many); Cape May Warbler (3); Blackburnian Warbler (5); Black-throated Green (6+); Prairie Warbler (1 -- Pilot Station Road); Bay-breasted Warbler (many); Tennessee Warbler (15+); Blue-winged Warbler (1); Golden-winged Warbler (1); Northern Parula (6+); Black-and-white Warbler (many); American Redstart (very many); Prothonotary Warbler (2); Blackpoll Warbler (4+); Common Yellowthroat (8-10); Kentucky Warbler (2); Northern Waterthrush (8+); Ovenbird (8-10+); Hooded Warbler (5); assorted Grosbeaks, Tanagers, Orioles and Indigo Buntings.

Gerald Duhon

April Meeting *(continued from page 1)*

and began traveling even more when he retired. He and three friends talked and decided to try to get 700 North American species in one year. They started of course on January 1. He was surprised how many species he had by the end of January, so that encouraged him to try harder. He had birding friends that called him when they knew that he might want to locate a certain bird. He birds alone most of the time, but he welcomes people talking to him while birding.

We appreciate Mr. Komito speaking to our record-setting crowd. Anyone who came will attest that it was a really good meeting and that we learned a lot about various aspects of listing bird species.

Jana Whittle

Bird Sightings – March 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: Possibly the most significant sighting in March were two adult Bald Eagles on McDermand Road in west Jefferson County on March 1. It will be interesting development if we have Bald Eagles nesting in the area. This is eminently possible, as there has been a pair on Lake Charlotte in Chambers County for several years now. In Texas, Eagles generally nest in December/January possibly influenced by the plentiful supply of ducks in those months.

The table reflects a very active early migration season this year with many species present in good numbers. The Prairie Warbler, however, seen many times in Sabine Woods was the bird that overwintered there. Not unexpectedly, there have also been reports of Swallow-tailed Kites in both Hardin and Orange Counties. A Crested Caracara reflects another sighting of a species expanding its range.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell. JEF 3/7(8) JAW
GOOSE, Snow JEF 1 rep(70)
GADWALL JEF 3 reps(46)
WIGEON, American JEF 1 rep(2)
DUCK, Mottled JEF-SRSP 3/1(4) AM; JEF 3/6(2) JAW; JEF 3/7(2) JAW; JEF 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(4) AM
TEAL, Blue-winged JEF 6 reps(647)
SHOVELER, Northern JEF 5 reps(150)
PINTAIL, Northern JEF 2 reps(123)
TEAL, Green-winged JEF 3 reps(29)
DUCK, Ring-necked JEF 1 rep(1)
SCAUP, Greater JEF 3/1(40) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/1(5) AM; JEF 3/15(14) AM
SCAUP, Lesser JEF 3 reps(8125)
SCOTER, Surf JEF 3/1(2) AM
SCOTER, White-winged JEF 3/1(2) AM
SCOTER, Black JEF 3/1(1) AM
MERGANSER, Red-breasted JEF 2 reps(182)
GREBE, Pied-billed JEF 2 reps(5)
GANNET, Northern JEF 3/1(11) AM
PELICAN, Amer. White JEF 3 reps(141)
PELICAN, Brown JEF 3/1(20) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/1(26) AM; JEF-TX87 3/13(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/14(3) JAW; JEF 3/15(60) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(135) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(16) AM
CORMORANT, Neotropic JEF 7 reps(604)
CORMORANT, Double-crested JEF 4 reps(46)
HERON, Great Blue JEF 6 reps(19)
EGRET, Great HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(282); ORA 1 rep(2)
EGRET, Snowy JEF 11 reps(324)
HERON, Little Blue JEF 5 reps(85)
HERON, Tricolored JEF 6 reps(126)
EGRET, Cattle JEF 6 reps(24)
HERON, Green JEF-SW 3/19(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(4) SM
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. JEF 1 rep(2)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. JEF 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(16) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(3) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(1) AM
IBIS, White JEF-SRSP 3/1(14) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(14) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(14) AM
IBIS, White-faced JEF-SRSP 3/1(37) AM; JEF-SW 3/19(6) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(22) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(60) AM
IBIS, Plegadis JEF-TX87 3/6(300) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(6) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/14(11) JAW
SPOONBILL, Roseate JEF-SRSP 3/1(9) AM; JEF 3/9(2) JAW; JEF 3/14(6) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(2) AM
VULTURE, Black HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 5 reps(9); TYL 1 rep(2)
VULTURE, Turkey HAI 2 reps(10); JEF 6 reps(51)
VULTURE species JEF 1 rep(2)
OSPREY HAI 3/27(1) JM; JEF-TX87 3/6(1) JAW; JEF 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM
KITE, Swallow-tailed HAI 3/27(1) JM; ORA 3/14(1) KS; ORA 3/15(1) KS; ORA 3/22(1) SBE

KITE, White-tailed JEF 5 reps(7)
EAGLE, Bald JEF 3/1(2) JP
HARRIER, Northern JEF 3 reps(9)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned JEF-SW 3/1(1) AM
HAWK, Cooper's JEF-SW 3/17(1) JHH
HAWK, Red-shouldered ORA 4 reps(4)
HAWK, Broad-winged JEF 3/16(1) JAW
HAWK, Red-tailed JEF 6 reps(26)
CARACARA, Crested JEF-SW 3/15(1) AM
KESTREL, American JEF 9 reps(30); ORA 1 rep(1)
MERLIN JEF 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM
FALCON, Peregrine JEF-SW 3/1(1) AM; JEF 3/15(1) AM
RAIL, Clapper JEF 2 reps(2)
SORA JEF 1 rep(1)
GALLINULE, Purple JEF 3/28(1) SM
MOORHEN, Common JEF 3 reps(16)
COOT, American JEF 3 reps(63)
PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 3 reps(175)
PLOVER, Snowy JEF-SRSP 3/15(12) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(30) AM
PLOVER, Wilson's JEF 1 rep(2)
PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF 1 rep(1)
PLOVER, Piping JEF 1 rep(14)
KILLDEER JEF 5 reps(24)
STILT, Black-necked JEF 3 reps(30)
AVOCET, American JEF 3 reps(154)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF 2 reps(10)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 2 reps(3)
WILLET JEF 3 reps(49)
SANDPIPER, Spotted JEF 3/7(1) JAW
CURLEW, Long-billed JEF 2 reps(3)
TURNSTONE, Ruddy JEF 1 rep(4)
SANDERLING JEF 3 reps(1064)
SANDPIPER, Western JEF 2 reps(32)
SANDPIPER, Least JEF 1 rep(22)
DUNLIN JEF 3 reps(166)
DOWITCHER species JEF 1 rep(25)
JAEGER, Parasitic JEF 3/1(1) AM
GULL, Laughing JEF 8 reps(960)
GULL, Bonaparte's JEF 3 reps(957)
GULL, Ring-billed JEF 8 reps(606)
GULL, Herring JEF 4 reps(92)
GULL, Thayer's JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM
GULL, Lsr Black-backed JEF 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF 3/24(2) AM
TERN, Caspian JEF 4 reps(47)
TERN, Royal JEF 3 reps(706)
TERN, Sandwich JEF 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF 3/24(39) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(4) AM
TERN, Common JEF 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF 3/24(18) AM
TERN, Forster's JEF 4 reps(494)
TERN, Least JEF 3/24(2) AM
DOVE, Rock HAI 1 rep(33); JEF 7 reps(94)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian JEF 3/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/2(1) JAW; JEF 3/3(4) JAW; JEF 3/8(2) JAW; JEF 3/9(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/13(2) JAW; JEF 3/14(18) JAW; JEF 3/16(1) JAW; JEF 3/23(3) JAW; JEF 3/25(1) JAW

DOVE, White-winged JEF-NEDR 3/1(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/2(6) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/3(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/5(7) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/6(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/7(8) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/11(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/12(4) JAW; JEF 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/19(12) AM; JEF-NEDR 3/24(4) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/24(1) AM

DOVE, Mourning HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 24 reps(228); ORA 3 reps(7)

DOVE, Inca HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)

CUCKOO, Yellow-billed JEF-SW 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(5) JHH

OWL, Barn JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM

OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 3/1(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM

OWL, Barred ORA 3/14(1) KS; ORA 3/17(1) KS; ORA 3/20(1) KS

SWIFT, Chimney HAI 3/27(1) KS

HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. HAI 3/10(2) KS; JEF 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(2) AM; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/17(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(2) SM; JEF-NEDR 3/22(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/23(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-NEDR 3/25(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) CBO

HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus* JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/14(1) JAW

HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous HAI 3/10(1) KS; JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/13(1) JAW

HUMMINGBIRD species JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/12(1) JAW

KINGFISHER, Belted JEF 9 reps(25); ORA 1 rep(1)

WOODPECKER, Red-bellied JEF 3 reps(3); ORA 5 reps(7)

SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied JEF 4 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)

WOODPECKER, Downy JEF 12 reps(28); ORA 1 rep(2)

FLICKER, Northern JEF 1 rep(1)

WOODPECKER, Pileated HAI 1 rep(1); ORA 2 reps(2)

PHOEBE, Eastern JEF 14 reps(54)

FLYCATCHER, Vermillion JEF 3/1(1) JP

FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH

KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF-SW 3/19(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(3) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(5) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(8) CBO; JEF-SW 3/31(11) JHH

FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed JEF 3/31(1) KS

SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 9 reps(40)

VIREO, White-eyed JEF 10 reps(73)

VIREO, Yellow-throated JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH

VIREO, Blue-headed HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 13 reps(24)

VIREO, Red-eyed JEF-SW 3/28(3) SM; JEF-SW 3/30(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(7) JHH

JAY, Blue HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 21 reps(70); ORA 4 reps(17)

CROW, American HAI 1 rep(1)

CROW, Fish JEF-SW 3/19(5) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(2) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(3) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(4) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(4) AM; ORA 3/7(1) SBE; ORA 3/15(2) KS; ORA 3/18(2) KS

CROW, species HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(13); TYL 1 rep(4)

MARTIN, Purple HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 13 reps(89)

SWALLOW, Tree JEF 10 reps(2133)

SWALLOW, N Rough-winged JEF-SRSP 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/24(2) AM

SWALLOW, Cliff JEF-SRSP 3/24(4) AM

SWALLOW, Cave JEF-SRSP 3/24(2) AM

SWALLOW, Barn HAI 3/7(12) KS; HAI 3/10(5) KS; JEF-MCFW 3/6(10) JAW; JEF 3/14(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/14(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(12) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/19(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/24(12) AM; JEF-SW 3/24(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(10) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(2) AM; TYL 3/19(4) JAW

CHICKADEE, Carolina HAI 1 rep(3); ORA 4 reps(6)

TITMOUSE, Tufted ORA 1 rep(1)

WREN, Carolina JEF 9 reps(11); ORA 1 rep(1)

WREN, House JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM

WREN, Marsh JEF-MCFW 3/6(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/28(1) SM

KINGLET, Golden-crowned JEF-SW 3/16(1) JHH

KINGLET, Ruby-crowned JEF 10 reps(44)

GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 10 reps(70)

BLUEBIRD, Eastern HAI 2 reps(6)

THRUSH, Hermit JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM

THRUSH, Wood JEF-SW 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(13) JHH

ROBIN, American JEF 18 reps(56); ORA 1 rep(3)

CATBIRD, Gray JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM

MOCKINGBIRD, Northern HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 16 reps(52); ORA 4 reps(9)

THRASHER, Brown JEF 8 reps(20)

STARLING, European JEF 11 reps(91)

WAXWING, Cedar HAI 1 rep(22); JEF 2 reps(48); ORA 4 reps(424); TYL 1 rep(20)

WARBLER, Blue-winged JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(5) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(6) JHH

WARBLER, Tennessee JEF-SW 3/19(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH

WARBLER, Orange-crowned JEF 14 reps(48)

PARULA, Northern JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/10(8) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(15) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/14(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(42) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(109) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(40) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(20) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(2) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(4) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/28(3) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/29(5) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(9) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(14) JHH; ORA 3/15(1) KS

WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF 20 reps(491); ORA 1 rep(1)

WARBLER, Back-thr. Green JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH

WARBLER, Yellow-throated JEF-SW 3/10(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(8) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/29(2) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(4) JHH

WARBLER, Prairie JEF-SW 3/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/10(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH

WARBLER, Palm JEF-SRSP 3/10(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 3/31(3) JHH

WARBLER, Black-and-white JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/10(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(8) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(18) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(12) JHH; JEF-SW 3/21(2) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/29(3) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(7) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(12) JHH

WARBLER, Prothonotary JEF-SW 3/10(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(2) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/21(5) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(12) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/29(2) CBO; JEF-SW 3/29(4) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(24) JHH

WARBLER, Worm-eating JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 3/30(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(7) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(10) JHH

WARBLER, Swainson's JEF-SRSP 3/31(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH

OVENBIRD JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM

Migration Reflection

(Another *TEXBIRDS* post by Ted Eubanks, April 27, 2004)

Jim [Stevenson]'s sobering comments about bird populations brought another thought to mind. For the past three days I have been birding in sanctuaries and refuges that were not in existence when I began 30 years ago. Sabine Woods, Sea Rim State Park, McFaddin NWR, High Island, Bolivar Flats, and Corps Woods are all examples of properties that have been acquired and enhanced during my lifetime. Fortunately I have been able to play a small part in all of them, but to see the results of our labors (and I mean "our" to be all inclusive) is breathtaking.

For example, on Sunday I walked to the western limits of Sabine Woods to see how the live oak "saplings" were faring. I recall when we were able to expand our new sanctuary with a grant for live oak saplings (thanks, Robert Benson), and how anxious we were to see if our 130 new trees would survive. Now, years later, I struggled to determine where the old woods stopped and the new woods began. In a brief span of time these woods have at least quadrupled in size. What an incredible addition of new habitat for birds and birders alike.

The same is true virtually everywhere I visited. I clearly remember our desires in the 1970s to collect a "string of pearls" along the upper Texas coast for birds and birders. We began with nothing, and both birds and we birders were completely dependent on the good graces of the landowners who owned and managed our favorite spots (such as Smith Oaks, Scout's Woods, and Sabine Woods). Yet in what now seems like a brief passage of time we have been able to realize our original dream. The "string of pearls" does exist.

My challenge to those who are joining our recreation, those of the generations that are following us, is to envision your own "string of pearls" and see that your dreams are realized as well. What we have proven, in my opinion, is that Texas birders are capable of investing significant resources in conserving lands for both the resource (the birds) and our recreation. We have also demonstrated that even marginal lands can be restored to a healthy and productive condition. Given the success of the Sabine Woods revegetation, I would argue that even over-grazed pasture or discarded industrial sites along the immediate coast should be considered for acquisition and enhancement. The fields where we planted the oaks in Sabine Woods were grazed to the nub for as long as I had visited the woods. Now, a forest has replaced that impoverished landscape. With the on-going efforts of the Golden Triangle Audubon (and what an effort that has been!) to maintain and enhance the property, what was once a small oak motte surrounded by overgrazed cattle pasture has become a signature migrant bird sanctuary on the Texas coast.

For this moment, however, I would ask all to celebrate what has become a remarkable success and potent model for others along the Texas coast. I assure you that at the outset we had no earthly idea how to accomplish our goals. Yet we were able to dream, and to take that aspiration and work persistently toward its realization. What I now await is the dream that will take its place, the next iteration of bird and birding along the Texas coast. And, yes, I hope to contribute to that effort as well.

Ted Eubanks, Austin, Texas

WATERTHRUSH, Northern	JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	JEF-SW 3/10(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/15(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(4) JHH
WATERTHRUSH, La./N.	JEF-SRSP 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM
WARBLER, Kentucky	JEF-SRSP 3/30(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(5) JHH
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 19 reps(81)
WARBLER, Hooded	JEF-SW 3/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/16(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(4) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 3/29(3) CBO; JEF-SW 3/29(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(4) CBO; JEF-SRSP 3/30(7) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(17) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(27) JHH
TANAGER, Summer	JEF-SW 3/31(5) JHH
TANAGER, Scarlet	JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) CBO; JEF-SW 3/31(7) JHH
TOWHEE, Eastern	JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/28(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH
SPARROW, Chipping	ORA 1 rep(1)
SPARROW, Vesper	JEF-TXPT 3/14(1) JAW
SPARROW, Savannah	JEF 4 reps(90)
SPARROW, Seaside	JEF 1 rep(1)
SPARROW, Song	JEF 4 reps(4)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	JEF-SRSP 3/1(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/1(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/9(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/10(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/17(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/21(4) SM; JEF-SW 3/24(4) AM; JEF-SW 3/28(3) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH
SPARROW, Swamp	JEF 8 reps(61)
SPARROW, White-throated	JEF 14 reps(159); ORA 4 reps(15)
SPARROW, White-crowned	ORA 3/5(3) SBE
CARDINAL, Northern	JEF 13 reps(44); ORA 7 reps(29)
BUNTING, Indigo	JEF-SW 3/28(6) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(4) CBO; JEF-SW 3/30(7) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(9) JHH
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 12 reps(691); ORA 3 reps(100)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	JEF 6 reps(63)
MEADOWLARK species	JEF 3 reps(9)
GRACKLE, Common	HAI 1 rep(30); JEF 11 reps(146); ORA 4 reps(31)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 6 reps(98)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 18 reps(410)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	JEF 2 reps(31)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	JEF 1 rep(10); ORA 4 reps(7)
ORIOLE, Orchard	JEF-SW 3/28(6) SM; JEF-SW 3/29(6) CBO; JEF-SW 3/31(6) JHH
ORIOLE, Baltimore	JEF-SW 3/29(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/29(1) CBO
FINCH, House	JEF-NEDR 3/24(1) JAW
GOLDFINCH, American	JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 6 reps(45)
SPARROW, House	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 2 reps(3)

Number of Species 188
Number of Individuals 25632

County Abbreviations:

HAI – Hardin; JEF – Jefferson; ORA – Orange; TYL – Tyler

Location Codes:

MCFW – McFaddin NWR; NEDR – Nederland; PI – Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TX87 – Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP; TXPT – Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point.

Observer Abbreviations

AM – Art Mackinnon; CBO – Carol Bookout; JAW – John Whittle; JHH – John H. Haynes; JWJ – John and Jana Whittle; JM – John Mariana; JP – John Park; KS – Ken Sztraky; SBE – Sheri Bethard; SM – Steve Mayes.

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Below is a listing of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for nearby areas. Transcriptions of some current tapes are available on the World Wide Web on Siler's Birding on the Net at <http://birdingonthe.net/hotmail.html> Detailed information (maps and text) on birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast is also available on the Web at <http://www.texasbirding.net>. This includes all the Jefferson County hotspots published in early issues.

Golden Triangle	(409) 728-6957
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