

Brown Pelican

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The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 10 No. 11

November 2004

Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 18, 2004

6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Wintering Waterfowl and Shorebirds at Anahuac NWR

**Kelly McDowell, Refuge Manager
Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge**

Kelly McDowell will talk about the management of the moist soil units at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge for wintering waterfowl, and for Mottled Ducks and shorebirds.

In addition, this will be our Annual Meeting, and we will hold our elections. John Haynes' term as President continues through to the end of 2005, but all other officers and board positions are up for election.

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

Special December Meeting – December 9

Normally, we do not have a Membership Meeting in December. However, the opportunity arose to have a special meeting to hear John Arvin, currently with the World Birding Center at Bentsen State Park, talk about his experiences as the resident naturalist in the Manu National Park and Biosphere Reserve in Peru. This should be a very exciting talk. John describes Manu as probably the last place in the western hemisphere and maybe in the world where the ecosystem is completely intact just as it was when European man first set foot in the continent.

This meeting will be on the **second** Thursday of December, the 9th, at our usual place – the Garden Center at Tyrrell Park in Beaumont. The December edition of the *Brown Pelican* may not reach you until very close to the meeting, so please mark your calendars. The usual reminder will be emailed to those of you who have given us your email address, and, as always, details of the meeting will be on the home page of our web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org after the November meeting has taken place.

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Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

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

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Calendar of Events

Thursday November 18. Annual Meeting. Full details on page 1. We will hold our elections. We have deferred "your favorite slides" until a future meeting.

Saturday November 20. Field Trip to Cattail Marsh. Meet at the parking lot for the Marsh at 8:00 a.m. The entrance to the parking lot is about two-thirds of the way round the loop around the picnic area. Unfortunately, this field trip will require a good deal of walking, although the pace is likely to be leisurely. The walking surfaces are, however, very good. The exact route will depend on water levels and other conditions at the time, but the usual walk round is about five or six miles. It can be shortened a little, but normally a minimum of about three miles is necessary to access any of the areas where most of the ducks and other birds are normally to be found. Leader: Steve Mayes.

Thursday December 9. Special Membership Meeting. Tyrrell Park Garden Center, 7:00 p.m. John Arvin of the World Birding Center, Mission, Texas will talk on his work as resident naturalist in Manu National Park and Biosphere Reserve in Peru. Manu is probably the last place in the western hemisphere (and maybe the world) where the ecosystem is completely intact just as it was when European man first set foot on the continent.

Saturday December 18. Turkey Creek (north of Kountze-Silsbee) Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Big Ticket National Preserve Visitor Center on US 69 seven miles north of Kountze (at the intersection with FM420) at 6:30 a.m. Contact Merle King at 409-246-2337 or Merle.King@nps.gov for more details. Please notify Merle in advance if you plan on participating.

Thursday December 23. Bolivar Peninsula Christmas Bird Count. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the old Birder's Haven in High Island. For more details, contact Bill Graber, 409-866-5452.

Wednesday December 29. Beech Creek (Steinhagen Lake Area) Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Corp of Engineers Picnic Area on

FM92 in Town Bluff just north of the intersection with FM1746 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Merle King at 409-246-2337 or Merle.King@nps.gov for more details. Please notify Merle in advance if you plan on participating.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Sherry Gibson, Margo Holst, Linda Lang, Steve Mayes, and Jana Whittle for bringing the refreshments in October, but **we urgently need volunteers for November and December!** Volunteers are also needed for all spring 2005 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!

Saturday January 1, 2005. Orange County Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the service station at the intersection of FM105 and FM1442 at 7:00 a.m. Contact Ken Sztraky at 409-385-2835 or kens@ih2000.net for more details.

Sunday January 2, 2005. Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the entrance to the Sabine Pass Battleground Park at 7:00 a.m. Proceed south on TX 87 from Port Arthur to the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Go straight ahead on FM3322 and proceed about a mile to the entrance road. Contact John Whittle at 409-722-4193 or john.whittle@lamar.edu for more details.

Wednesday January 5, 2005. Johnson's Bayou Christmas Bird Count. Contact Ken Sztraky at 409-385-2835 or kens@ih2000.net for more details.

Thursday January 20, 2005. Membership Meeting. Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, 7:00 p.m. Charles Post will talk about Bluebirds.

Saturday January 22. Field Trip to West Harris County. The meeting time and place will be the same location as in previous years: 7:30 a.m. at the

Randall's Supermarket on the northeast corner of Barker-Cypress Road and Clay Road, west of Houston. To reach this location, take IH-10 west through Houston and across Loop 610 on the west side to Barker-Cypress Road – exit 748. This exit is 15 miles west of Loop 610, is beyond Beltway 8 and just beyond Highway 6. Turn right (north) on Barker Cypress and proceed just under three miles to the Intersection with Clay. The Randall's parking lot can be entered from Barker-Cypress immediately north of the intersection. Please be sure to check at the Membership Meeting on January 20 or check the web-site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org or call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 two or three days before to confirm details of both date and meeting place. Although it is a two and one-half hour drive from the Golden Triangle, this has been a very popular trip in past years.

The meeting place is about 105 miles from Beaumont (IH-10 and College St.), and the travel time at that hour of the morning is a little under 2 1/2 hours.

Car pooling from Beaumont is desirable. The fewer cars we have in the rural areas of west Harris County, the better. Maps and the opportunity to arrange car pooling will be available at the February Membership meeting on Thursday January 20.

Should you be late, the plan is to first proceed to Bear Creek Park. We will probably enter the park by turning south off Clay Road, just east of the golf course.

Tuesday, February 8, 2005. Whooping Crane Trip: Rockport-Fulton. Join Audubon Texas for a day of coastal birding in beautiful Rockport, Texas during the peak of Whooping Crane season. The day will begin with an optional early morning birding trip to Cape Valero to observe the many species of ducks, waders and shorebirds, followed by a talk about the Audubon Texas Coastal Program and "History of the Whooping Crane" given by Audubon Texas Important Bird Areas Coordinator, Ned Wright. Lunch will be provided during the presentation at the Lighthouse Inn. Participants will then meet at the dock in Rockport-Fulton for an afternoon of

boating aboard the shallow draft "Skimmer" which allows us to access the best sites in the area for viewing Whooping Cranes, including Audubon-managed Ayres Island sanctuary. Our tour will finish by 5 p.m., and participants will be on their own for dinner and relaxation that evening, or to get an early start home.

2005 tour price: \$150 per person. Tour limited to 25 participants. Price includes light breakfast during the morning field trip, lunch, boat admission, and an Audubon Texas guide.

To make your reservation or for more information, please contact Lk Loflin at Audubon Texas, 512-306-0225 extension 15 or lloflin@audubon.org.

Thursday February 17, 2005. Membership Meeting. Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, 7:00 p.m.. Speaker: Jace Stansbury on Purple Martins.

Christmas Bird Counts

Dec. 17 - San Bernard
 Dec. 18 - Turkey Creek
 Dec. 18 - Houston
 Dec. 18 - Sabine NWR
 Dec. 20 - Mad Island Marsh
 Dec. 22 - Attwater NWR
 Dec. 23 - Bolivar Peninsula
 Dec. 26 - Trinity River
 Dec. 27 - Old River
 Dec. 29 - Beech Creek
 Jan 1, 2005 - Orange County.
 Jan 2, 2005 - Sea Rim State Park
 Jan 5, 2005 - Johnson Bayou, LA

Bird Alert

It is always risky to attempt any bird alert in the *Brown Pelican* because of the delay that unavoidably elapses between these words being written and your reading them. Here, however, is a summary of the October 31 Bird Alert. This and all other alerts are posted on the web site and are emailed to those who have requested to be on the list.

Bird activity on the coast at Sabine Woods on Saturday October 30 was

modest, with Black-throated Green, American Redstart, Nashville, Magnolia and Black-and-white Warblers and a few other migrants

On Sunday October 30, the south impoundment of Pleasure Island held a large number of birds, although the water levels are low and many of them were quite distant. (The rains of November 2 have doubtless greatly changed that situation!) There were four Brown Pelicans among the 60 or so American White Pelicans, A Red Knot along the eastern shore was unusual for that location. Most impressive were 600 American Avocets. There were a good number of ducks, but most were too far away to be identified. Eight Lesser Scaup were on the water near four Mottled Ducks, and there were some obvious Northern Shovelers on the far bank. A couple of Blue-winged and one Green-winged Teal were positively identified, but 100 other ducks were not.

Also on Sunday October 31, a circumnavigation of Cattail Marsh at Tyrrell Park yielded many birds and a number of noteworthy sightings. (Cell 1 is the northernmost cell, the next block of three cells from west to east are #s 2, 3 and 4, the triangular cell south of the power line is cell 5, and the southernmost three from west to east are #s 6,7 and 8. A map is available at www.cattailmarsh.org)

Keith Hansen reported Least Grebes in the far south-east corner of the wetland – actually in the southwest most area of cell 8 – about three weeks ago and one was found there Sunday.

The northern part of cell 4 had, among other things, five Stilt Sandpipers and three very late Wilson's Phalaropes. Altogether in the marsh, Avocets totaled 83. Ducks recorded were Gadwall (one drake), Green-winged Teal (nearly 500), Blue-winged Teal (over 600), Northern Shoveler (nearly 50), Northern Pintail (at least 8), Ring-necked Duck (18) and Ruddy Duck (5). As usual there were many Snowy Egrets and Black-necked Stilts. *Remember that the rains of November 2 will have had great effect on the water levels at Cattail Marsh, and the conditions and locations of the birds will doubtless have changed.* Most birds like areas where water is receding rather than areas where it is rising and often avoid newly flooded areas

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Sabine Woods October 23, 2004

Steve Mayes

Fall birding is always a strange mix. Winter birds mixed with birds last seen in the spring (though, sometimes wearing very different plumages) along with our residents. You never know what you will find in the fall, as bird distribution and migration patterns are not as well known to most birders as those in the spring. With this in mind, a half dozen members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society ventured to Sabine Woods for an October field trip.

Some of our familiar wintering birds have already arrived despite a paucity of decent cold fronts. Indeed, temperatures were very warm for late October and the mosquitoes were worse than they had been in the summer! Still, the winter birds know when it is time to arrive and do so on schedule most years. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers gave their mewing calls as they quickly flitted from tree to tree. Brown Thrashers were evident, more from their sounds than sights. "Churr!" calls from the deep brush sometimes accompanied by a glimpse of a rusty-colored long tailed bird flying away are enough for experienced birders to recognize this species. Eastern Phoebe were also noisily obvious while a single Blue-headed Vireo made an appearance. A few Ruby-crowned Kinglets (the first of many for the winter) fussed at passing birders and, not to be out done, a number of House Wrens also joined in the scolding.

Migrating birds were not especially common on this day but were found eventually. Most of the migrant warblers were found in a couple of loose foraging flocks traveling through the woods. Tennessee Warblers were elusive in the treetops while a couple of Magnolia Warblers were more cooperative. The Magnolia Warbler is one of those birds that, in the fall, give only a pale impression of their flashy spring plumage. This change does not compare to that of the Chestnut-sided Warbler. In the fall, this looks like a totally different bird than the one that comes through in the spring. With a lime green back, yellow wing bars and a white eye-ring, it is barely recognizable. Luckily, the one seen on the field trip still had a bit of chestnut on its sides to make the identification easier. Black-throated Green Warblers were pretty easy to see on the day and some of the birders got fleeting glimpses of a Yellow-throated Warbler. American Redstarts were cooperative but a Hooded Warbler was strangely shy. This is typical behavior, however, for the Ovenbird but the group still managed good looks at one. Single individuals of Scarlet Tanager and Rose-breasted Grosbeak were eventually located while Indigo Buntings were much more numerous.

Raptors made a good showing on this field trip. Some of the birders were treated to an Osprey sitting on a pole on the way down to Sabine Pass. One of the first birds located by the group at the woods was a real treat, a Peregrine Falcon! Usually, this powerful predator is only seen zooming by but this bird was perched atop a tree on the property behind Sabine Woods, allowing good looks for the group. A lingering Broad-winged Hawk hunted over the trees while a young Northern Harrier quartered the fields out back. A quick glimpse was had at a Cooper's Hawk but better looks were

obtained at two Sharp-shinned Hawks that erupted from a small tree. An American Kestrel and a passing Merlin finished off our diurnal raptors for the day while a Barn Owl put a nocturnal raptor on the day's list as well.

Some interesting birds have visited Sabine Woods this fall including Great Kiskadee, Black-throated Gray Warbler and Buff-bellied Hummingbird. Unfortunately, none of these birds showed up for the field trip (must not have read their newsletters). A wayward Carolina Chickadee was still present but winter Chickadees have become almost annual at Sabine Woods. A Green Heron was seen on the trip, was this a late migrant or one of the small wintering population in the area? A Chuck-will's-widow (always a nice bird to see) was flushed several times as it tried to find an out of the way place to sleep the day away. But perhaps most noticeable were the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Dozens of these tiny birds displayed their pugnacious nature by fussing and fighting among the tops of the oaks and at the late blooms of Turk's Cap and Lantana.

October generally finishes off the fall migration for those birds that spend the winter in Latin America but for our birds, the birds that winter here, their migration is just starting. Nevertheless it will be interesting to see if the first real cold front brings with it a final push of migrating passerine species. Reports from southern Canada suggest many migrant species lingered there. Harriers and Kestrels are starting to arrive but Red-tailed Hawks are yet to arrive in numbers. Teal and Shovelers are in the marshes but diving ducks are still to come. Only a few of our wintering sparrows have reached the area but soon the chip of Savannah Sparrows will be everywhere. So October is over but come for our November Field Trip to Cattail Marsh where these winter birds will be the focus and (hopefully) will put on a good show for our Golden Triangle birders.

Below is the list of birds seen in Sabine Woods itself.

Northern Harrier (1); Sharp-shinned Hawk (2); Cooper's Hawk (1); Broad-winged Hawk (1); American Kestrel (1); Merlin (1); Peregrine Falcon (1); Mourning Dove (2); Barn Owl (1); Great Horned Owl (1); Chuck-will's-widow (1); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (100); Downy Woodpecker (2); Eastern Phoebe (4); *Empidonax* species (2); Loggerhead Shrike (1); White-eyed Vireo (4); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (10); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (4); Carolina Chickadee (1); Carolina Wren (1); House Wren (3); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (15); Gray Catbird (6); Northern Mockingbird (1); Brown Thrasher (15); Tennessee Warbler (3); Nashville Warbler (2); Chestnut-sided Warbler (1); Magnolia Warbler (2); Black-throated Green Warbler (4); Yellow-throated Warbler (1); American Redstart (4); Ovenbird (1); Common Yellowthroat (3); Hooded Warbler (1); Wilson's Warbler (1); Scarlet Tanager (1); Northern Cardinal (4); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1); Indigo Bunting (20); Red-winged Blackbird (4); Common Grackle (1)

Bird Sightings – September 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: Always an interesting month, September brought its share of noteworthy sightings. The Great Kiskadee continued at Sabine Woods, although it cannot be guaranteed to show on any given day. A Black-throated Gray Warbler found at Sabine Woods in mid-month remained long enough to be counted on the Migration Count. Also found on the Migration Count (at Cattail Marsh) was a very early White-crowned Sparrow.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied	JEF 9/18(12) MC02; JEF 9/19(18) MC05	RAIL, Clapper	JEF 5 reps(28)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	JEF 2 reps(19)	RAIL, King	JEF 9/18(1) MC09
GOOSE, Snow	JEF-BMT 9/30(125) SBE; ORA 9/19(16) SBE	MOORHEN, Common	JEF 5 reps(42)
DUCK, Wood	JEF 9/19(2) MC05	COOT, American	JEF 2 reps(8)
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 9/6(25) JAW; JEF 9/18(7) MC02; JEF 9/18(50) MC09; JEF 9/19(55) MC05	PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 4 reps(44)
TEAL, Blue-winged	JEF 2 reps(457)	PLOVER, Snowy	JEF-SRSP 9/11(3) JAW; JEF 9/18(33) MC11
TEAL species	JEF 1 rep(2)	PLOVER, Semipalmated	JEF 3 reps(3)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF 9/19(7) MC05	PLOVER, Piping	JEF 2 reps(5)
BOBWHITE, Northern	JEF 1 rep(7)	KILLDEER	JEF 10 reps(195)
GREBE, Pied-billed	JEF 2 reps(13)	STILT, Black-necked	JEF 8 reps(179)
PELICAN, Amer. White	JEF 2 reps(95)	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	JEF 3 reps(33)
PELICAN, Brown	JEF-SRSP 9/11(2) JAW; JEF 9/18(18) MC11	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF 4 reps(35)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF 9/4(1) JAW; JEF 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 9/11(5) JAW; JEF 9/18(4) MC06; JEF 9/18(117) MC09; JEF 9/18(14) MC11; JEF 9/19(21) MC05; JEF 9/25(4) MHW; JEF-TX87 9/25(3) MHW	SANDPIPER, Solitary	JEF 9/19(2) MC05
CORMORANT, Double-crested	JEF 9/18(1) MC06; JEF 9/19(3) MC05	WILLET	JEF 3 reps(66)
CORMORANT, Species	JEF 9/18(550) MC09	SANDPIPER, Spotted	JEF 9/18(4) MC06; JEF 9/18(4) MC09; JEF 9/19(3) MC05
ANHINGA	JEF 4 reps(10)	CURLEW, Long-billed	JEF 3 reps(4)
HERON, Great Blue	JEF 9 reps(31)	GODWIT, Marbled	JEF 9/18(2) MC09
EGRET, Great	JEF 17 reps(364)	TURNSTONE, Ruddy	JEF 2 reps(4)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 13 reps(447)	SANDERLING	JEF 3 reps(139)
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 6 reps(15)	SANDPIPER, Western	JEF 3 reps(203)
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 8 reps(37)	SANDPIPER, Least	JEF 3 reps(566)
EGRET, Reddish	JEF 1 rep(1)	SANDPIPER, Pectoral	JEF 2 reps(19)
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 18 reps(4954)	SANDPIPER, Stilt	JEF 9/18(2) MC06
HERON, Green	JEF-NEDR 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/4(4) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/5(1) JAW; JEF 9/18(2) MC03; JEF 9/18(1) MC06; JEF 9/18(3) MC09; JEF 9/18(1) MC78; JEF 9/19(4) MC05; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW	DOWITCHER, Long-billed	JEF 1 rep(40)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned	JEF 5 reps(10)	DOWITCHER species	JEF 3 reps(122)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned	JEF 3 reps(7)	GULL, Laughing	JEF 10 reps(3550)
IBIS, White	JEF 10 reps(249)	GULL, Ring-billed	JEF 9/18(5) MC09; JEF 9/18(1) MC11; JEF 9/19(15) MC05
IBIS, White-faced	JEF 3 reps(59)	GULL, Herring	JEF 9/18(1) MC11
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF 6 reps(178)	TERN, Gull-billed	JEF-SRSP 9/11(24) JAW; JEF 9/18(20) MC09; JEF 9/18(24) MC11
SPOONBILL, Roseate	JEF 9/18(5) MC06; JEF 9/18(107) MC09; JEF 9/18(4) MC11; JEF 9/19(17) MC05; JEF 9/30(1) JAW	TERN, Caspian	JEF 6 reps(183)
STORK, Wood	JEF 9/18(18) MC03; JEF 9/18(9) MC78	TERN, Royal	JEF 2 reps(280)
VULTURE, Black	JEF 11 reps(75)	TERN, Sandwich	JEF 2 reps(8)
VULTURE, Turkey	JEF 14 reps(50)	TERN, Common	JEF-SRSP 9/11(2) JAW; JEF 9/18(1) MC09; JEF 9/18(1) MC11
OSPREY	JEF-TX87 9/25(1) MHW	TERN, Forster's	JEF 8 reps(585)
KITE, White-tailed	JEF 1 rep(1)	TERN, Least	JEF 1 rep(2)
KITE, Mississippi	JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF 9/8(1) SM	TERN, Black	JEF 4 reps(70)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	JEF 9/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/11(1) JAW	SKIMMER, Black	JEF 3 reps(338)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	JEF 11 reps(23); ORA 1 rep(2)	DOVE, Rock	JEF 13 reps(161)
HAWK, Broad-winged	JEF 9/4(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF-SW 9/11(1) SM; JEF 9/18(1) MC10; JEF 9/19(7) MC05; ORA 9/15(1) SBE	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	JEF 19 reps(107)
HAWK, Swainson's	JEF 3 reps(3)	DOVE, White-winged	JEF 11 reps(52)
HAWK, Red-tailed	JEF 9/26(1) MW	DOVE, Mourning	JEF 23 reps(904); ORA 5 reps(12)
CARACARA, Crested	JEF 9/25(1) HM	DOVE, Inca	JEF 6 reps(14)
KESTREL, American	JEF 1 rep(1)	CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	JEF 4 reps(5)
MERLIN	JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW	OWL, Barn	JEF-SW 9/5(1) JAW; JEF 9/18(1) MC10
		NIGHTHAWK, Common	JEF 3 reps(4)
		WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-	JEF-SW 9/6(1) JHH; JEF 9/18(1) MC10; JEF 9/18(1) MC11; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW
		SWIFT, Chimney	JEF 9 reps(28)
		HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated	JEF 28 reps(651); ORA 7 reps(38)
		HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	JEF 9/18(1) MC03; JEF 9/18(1) MC06; JEF-NEDR 9/28(1) JAW
		HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus	JEF-NEDR 9/7(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/8(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/25(1) MHW; JEF-NEDR 9/26(1) MW; JEF-NEDR 9/27(1) JAW

HUMMINGBIRD species	JEF 9/4(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/4(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/6(1) JAW; JEF 9/11(1) JAW; JEF 9/18(2) MC02; JEF 9/18(1) MC03	WARBLER, Yellow	JEF 6 reps(22)
KINGFISHER, Belted	JEF-TX87 9/11(1) JAW; JEF 9/18(1) MC03; JEF 9/18(1) MC06; JEF 9/18(1) MC09; JEF 9/18(1) MC12; JEF 9/18(1) MC78; JEF-TX87 9/25(1) MHW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO	WARBLER, Magnolia	JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	JEF 9/18(3) MC03; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; ORA 9/2(1) SBE; ORA 9/7(4) SBE; ORA 9/15(3) SBE; ORA 9/30(1) SBE	WARBLER, Black-thr. Gray	JEF-SW 9/16(1) GCO; JEF 9/18(1) MC10
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	JEF 5 reps(18); ORA 7 reps(7)	WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF 9/18(1) MC10; JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
WOODPECKER, Downy	JEF 7 reps(27)	WARBLER, Blackburnian	JEF-SW 9/16(1) GCO; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW
WOODPECKER, Pileated	JEF 2 reps(8); ORA 4 reps(6)	WARBLER, Yellow-throated	JEF-SW 9/16(1) GCO; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided	JEF-SW 9/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT	WARBLER, Pine	JEF 2 reps(3)
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	JEF 2 reps(6)	WARBLER, Prairie	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF 9/18(1) MC03; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW; JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RHJ
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied	JEF-SW 9/5(3) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(2) SM; JEF 9/18(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW	WARBLER, Black-and-white	JEF 12 reps(25)
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	JEF 9/18(1) MC78	REDSTART, American	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF-SW 9/25(2) MHW; JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 9/27(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
FLYCATCHER, Traill's	JEF 9/18(3) MC10	OVENBIRD	JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
FLYCATCHER, Least	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(2) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(2) JAW; JEF 9/18(5) MC10; JEF 9/18(4) MC11; JEF-SW 9/25(3) MHW	WATERTHRUSH, Northern	JEF 8 reps(8)
EMPIDONAX species	JEF 6 reps(10)	WARBLER, Kentucky	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion	JEF 9/18(1) MC78	WARBLER, Mourning	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF-SRSP 9/6(1) SM; JEF-SW 9/6(2) SM; JEF 9/18(1) MC10; JEF 9/18(1) MC11; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	JEF-SW 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(3) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(7) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/11(2) SM; JEF-SW 9/25(3) MHW	YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 9 reps(27)
KISKADEE, Great	JEF-SW 9/4(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/16(1) GCO; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO	WARBLER, Hooded	JEF 3 reps(3)
KINGBIRD, Eastern	JEF 11 reps(48); ORA 4 reps(43)	WARBLER, Wilson's	JEF-SW 9/5(1) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF-SW 9/16(1) GCO; JEF 9/18(1) MC09; JEF 9/18(6) MC10; JEF 9/18(1) MC11; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 9/27(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	JEF 7 reps(46)	WARBLER, Canada	JEF-SW 9/5(7) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(2) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/11(3) SM; JEF 9/18(2) MC10
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	JEF 16 reps(173)	CHAT, Yellow-breasted	JEF-SW 9/5(14) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(16) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(2) SM; JEF 9/18(1) MC03; JEF 9/18(1) MC11; JEF-SW 9/25(3) MHW
VIREO, White-eyed	JEF 7 reps(23)	TANAGER, Summer	JEF 1 rep(1)
VIREO, Blue-headed	JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO	SPARROW, Seaside	JEF 1 rep(73)
VIREO, Warbling	JEF 9/18(1) MC10	SPARROW, White-crowned	JEF 9/19(1) MC05
VIREO, Philadelphia	JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW	CARDINAL, Northern	JEF 11 reps(138); ORA 7 reps(71)
VIREO, Red-eyed	JEF 4 reps(4)	GROSBEAK, Blue	JEF 9/4(20) JAW; JEF 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(9) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF 9/11(2) JAW; JEF 9/18(6) MC10; JEF-SW 9/25(3) MHW
JAY, Blue	JEF 18 reps(130); ORA 6 reps(13)	BUNTING, Indigo	JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF 9/18(10) MC03; JEF 9/18(4) MC10; JEF 9/18(1) MC78; JEF 9/19(3) MC05; JEF-SW 9/25(11) MHW
CROW, American	JEF 3 reps(39)	BUNTING, Painted	JEF-SW 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(10) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(6) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(1) SM; JEF 9/18(3) MC10; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/25(2) MHW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
CROW, Fish	JEF 9/18(2) MC03; JEF 9/18(1) MC06; JEF 9/18(3) MC78; JEF 9/19(5) MC05	DICKCISSEL	JEF 2 reps(2)
CROW, species	JEF 7 reps(49)	BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 8 reps(1089)
SWALLOW, Tree	JEF 3 reps(34)	MEADOWLARK, Eastern	JEF 1 rep(1)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged	JEF 3 reps(26)	MEADOWLARK species	JEF 2 reps(5)
SWALLOW, Barn	JEF 10 reps(1130)	GRACKLE, Common	JEF 16 reps(385)
SWALLOW species	JEF 3 reps(39)	GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 5 reps(74)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	JEF 8 reps(41); ORA 7 reps(13)	GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 22 reps(436)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	JEF 6 reps(16); ORA 7 reps(9)	GRACKLE, Gt./Boat Tl.	JEF 2 reps(16)
WREN, Carolina	JEF 9 reps(40); ORA 2 reps(2)	COWBIRD, Brown-headed	JEF 5 reps(88)
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO	BLACKBIRD species	JEF 1 rep(10)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	JEF 13 reps(95); ORA 1 rep(1)	ORIOLE, Orchard	JEF 5 reps(35)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	JEF 1 rep(4)	ORIOLE, Baltimore	JEF-SW 9/5(5) JAW; JEF-SW 9/5(12) MT; JEF-SW 9/6(25) SM; JEF-SW 9/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/16(1) GCO; JEF 9/18(8) MC10; JEF 9/18(1) MC11; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW; JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO
THRUSH, Swainson's	JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO	SPARROW, House	JEF 6 reps(131); ORA 2 reps(8)
THRUSH, Wood	JEF 9/18(1) MC10	Number of Species	182
ROBIN, American	JEF-NEDR 9/3(20) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/8(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/9(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/11(5) JAW; JEF 9/18(8) MC03; JEF 9/18(4) MC06; JEF-NEDR 9/23(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/24(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/25(2) MHW; JEF-NEDR 9/26(1) MW; JEF-NEDR 9/27(2) JAW	Number of Individuals	23487
CATBIRD, Gray	JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF 9/18(4) MC06; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW	County Abbreviations:	JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	JEF 18 reps(246); ORA 4 reps(5)		
THRASHER, Brown	JEF-SW 9/6(1) SM; JEF 9/18(1) MC03; JEF 9/18(28) MC06; JEF 9/18(1) MC10; JEF 9/18(1) MC78; JEF-SW 9/25(1) MHW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO		
STARLING, European	JEF 15 reps(742); ORA 1 rep(6)		
WARBLER, Blue-winged	JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO		
WARBLER, Tennessee	JEF 9/18(1) MC10		
WARBLER, Nashville	JEF 9/18(1) MC10; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; JEF-BMT 9/26(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 9/27(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 9/28(3) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/30(1) GCO		
PARULA, Northern	JEF 4 reps(4)		

Location Codes:

BMT - Beaumont; NEDR - Nederland; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations:

GCO - Glenn and Claire Ory; HJ - Harrison Jordan; HM - John Haynes and Steve Mayes; JAW - John Whittle; JHH - John Haynes; MC01 - Migration Count Area 1 (John Haynes); MC02 - Migration Count Area 2 (Joe Halbrook; MC03 - Migration Count Area 3 (Rose Ann Jordan and helpers); MC04 - Migration Count Area 4 (John Haynes); MC05 - Migration Count Area 5 (includes Cattail Marsh) (John Haynes); MC06 - Migration Count Area 6 (includes Nederland and Port Arthur) (Jana Whittle); MC09 - Migration Count Area 9 (includes South Impoundment of Pleasure Island) (Steve Mayes); MC10 - Migration Count Area 10 (includes Sabine Woods) (Steve Mayes and Don Jeane); MC11 - Migration Count Area 11 (Sea Rim State Park) (Steve Mayes and Don Jeane); MC12 - Migration Count Area 12 (part of McFaddin NWR) (Don Jeane); MC78 - Migration Count Areas 7 and 8 (Ken Sztraky); MHW - Steve Mayes, John Haynes and John Whittle; MT - Derek Muschalek and Rob Thacker; MW - Steve Mayes and John Whittle; RHJ - Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE - Sheri Bethard; SM - Steve Mayes

National Audubon Society Releases "State of the Birds"

On Tuesday, October 19, The National Audubon Society released the "The State of the Birds", a report documenting the health and abundance of North America's birds. Appearing in the October issue of Audubon Magazine, "The State of the Birds" paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30% of America's bird species are in "significant decline," a situation that signals seriously degraded environmental conditions in the habitats these birds call home.

The bottom line: the state of the birds in 2004 is not sound. In particular, a disturbing 70 percent of grassland species; 36 percent of shrub-land bird species; 25 percent of forest bird species; 13 percent of wetland species; and 23 percent of bird species in urban areas are showing "statistically significant declines."

According to "State of the Birds," these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural, cyclical rise and fall of bird populations, "statistically significant declines" are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

Audubon's President John Flicker sees a clear message in this report. "Like the canary in the coal mine warning the miner of danger ahead, our birds are an indicator of environmental and human health," he said. "Birds signal that we are at risk next."

But, Flicker also sees a clear path out of trouble. "People may have created these problems, but people can solve them, if we act now," he stated. To that end, Audubon is now addressing the findings of "State of the Birds" in its conservation agenda at the legislative and policy making level, and in the states where the greatest conservation challenges exist.

Compiled by Audubon Scientist Greg Butcher, "State of the Birds" analysis makes the case for private and public action. Based on the report's findings, Audubon is advocating for improved grassland, forest, and wetland protection, stronger pollution controls, partnerships with private landowners, and backyard habitat programs for homeowners.

"State of the Birds" summarizes the status of nearly 700 birds species native to the continental United States, focusing on the condition of species in each of five habitat types: grasslands, shrublands, forests, wetlands, and urban areas (the fastest growing habitat type in the U.S.). Written using USGS Breeding Bird Survey and Audubon's WatchList - cross-referenced with Audubon's Christmas Bird Count data, the report will be issued on a yearly basis, and will inform Audubon's conservation agenda, identifying key areas requiring immediate action.

Birds not only serve as reliable indicators of environmental conditions, they also contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. Keeping birds - and their home habitats - in good condition is not only a good conservation policy, it is also good business. The worth of birds beyond their aesthetic and conservation value is something that is beginning to be more fully appreciated, a situation that has created allies for bird conservation in small and large business, and local governments - entities that have been historically unlikely conservation partners.

"According to the U.S. Forest Service, 70 million Americans - one-third of all adults in this country - call themselves birdwatchers. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service notes that they contribute at least \$32 billion in retail sales, \$85 billion in overall economic output, and \$13 billion in state and federal taxes, creating 863,406 jobs," continued Flicker. "Birds also contribute to the bottom line in more subtle ways, providing free pest and weed control, distributing seeds, and pollinating flowers and crops. American businesses and communities simply cannot afford to ignore the state of the birds."

A digest of the report was published in the October issue of Audubon magazine and a further analysis is available on the Audubon website, www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds.

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.

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

San Antonio, TX, Friday, October 8, 2004 - Mitchell Lake Wildlife Refuge, long a destination for tens of thousands of migratory birds, is now a little friendlier to a different kind of visitor - people. San Antonio Water System (SAWS) - which owns the Mitchell Lake property - and Audubon Texas celebrated the launch of the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center. The Center serves the greater San Antonio community with nature education programs, using the resources around the 600-acre lake and adjoining wetlands as an outdoor classroom for visitors of all ages.

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.

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

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

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	(956) 584-2731
San Antonio	(210) 308-6788
Waco	(254) 299-8175
Louisiana	(504) 768-9874

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