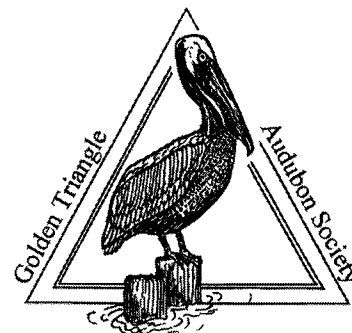


Brown Pelican

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The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 11 No. 9

September 2005

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2005
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Speaker: Margaret Pickell
Wildlife Rehab & Education**

Margaret Pickell is a State and Federally licensed wildlife rehabilitator and member of the Wildlife Rehab and Education oiled wildlife response team. She has just recently returned from an oil spill in Louisiana that impacted a nesting colony of Brown Pelicans. She has been a rehabilitator for over 20 years and has probably taken care of over 10,000 animals during this period. She is a retired elementary school teacher and a certified Texas Master Naturalist. Margaret has combined her love for children and animals and has developed several programs to educate our youth on the wonders of our native wildlife.

As usual, the doors will be open no later than 6:30 p.m., and the proceedings will start at 7:15 p.m. approximately.

Sabine Woods Work Day

We plan to hold a work day at Sabine Woods on Saturday September 10. Full details are in the Calendar of Events section of the following page. This has been a strange summer weather-wise, but there will be plenty to do. Riding mowers are what we need most urgently. Growth during the summer has been luxuriant and clearing trails is an urgent necessity. In addition to the routine clearing of the major trails and the fire break, we need to continue to clear the open areas in the western part of the sanctuary among what we call the newer oaks. We are close to completing the eradication of tallow, and have made good progress with the privet. The McCartney Rose continues to be a problem, but less so than it was. We will start about 7:30 a.m., and probably not work 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. We will try to provide refreshments. We know that whatever day we pick will be a problem for some, and September 10 is likely to be the first day of the Teal Season and the Alligator season. But September 3 is on Labor Day weekend, September 17 is the Fall Migration Count, and September 24 will be the best Saturday to visit the Hawk Watch at Smith Point. We can certainly brief you on what needs to be done, and you will then be free to work on other days. Obviously, there are many advantages to us all working on the same day, but that is increasingly not possible. It is more important that it gets done than exactly when it gets done, so please volunteer to help!

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 11, No.9 September 2005

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

Saturday September 10. Sabine Woods Work Day

We will start about 7:30 a.m., and probably not work 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. We will try to provide refreshments, but bring water and insect repellent. Also bring gloves, heavy duty pruning tools, machetes. We can especially use riding mowers, probably one chain saw and one or two push mowers for areas heavier equipment cannot reach. A broom and shovel will be useful for clearing the boardwalk. For more information, please contact John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-880-8276 work, 409-722-4193 home).

Thursday September 15. Membership Meeting. Speaker: Margaret Pickell on Bird Rehabilitation. See front page.

Saturday September 17. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count. Contact John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count.

Saturday September 24 – Field trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch. To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 miles (two miles past the access road for Anahuac NWR) until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left on a shell/limestone oilfield road, bearing left again to the parking area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. Your leaders will be there by 8:30 a.m., but join us when you can.

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

The Smith Point Hawk Watch is conducted by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, and our trip this year coincides with the GCBO's.

Thursday October 20. Membership Meeting. Speaker John O'Neill.

Thursday November 17. Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank the following for bringing refreshments in August: Lana and Terrel Gau, Jack Baugh, Elizabeth Cooper, Marcia and Frank Giglio, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, and Joe Tibbs. We now **need volunteers to bring all items for September and all the remaining 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 far in advance as possible. Please help if you can!

Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by "AU" has passed, or there is no other date, please remit your contribution of \$15 to Golden Triangle Audubon Society at P.O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292. Although this contribution towards the cost of the *Brown Pelican* is voluntary for National Audubon Society members living in the official chapter territory, we will appreciate your support. Our official chapter territory is defined by zip codes, but is basically Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties and one or two localities close to those Counties.



Earth Share of Texas represents the Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll deduction plans for charitable giving. For information, call 1-800-GREENTX or email <estx@earthshare-texas.org>

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats, August 20, 2005

If the goal of a birder is to see lots of birds then there are few better places to spend a day than Bolivar Flats. This Houston Audubon Sanctuary is a magnet for shorebirds and wading birds of many different species. For this reason, the Golden Triangle Audubon Society has long considered one field trip to Bolivar Flats per year just not enough. The August field trip is for those who like to see lots of birds, enjoy the challenges presented by all those little brown shorebirds, and can't get enough of Bolivar Flats.

A young, white-phase Reddish Egret, dancing in the surf, was a nice start to the day and was quickly joined by Willets, Sanderlings and Laughing Gulls. A Ruddy Turnstone, still in colorful breeding plumage, was spotted and great, close looks were had at the first Wilson's Plover of the day.

Bolivar Flats provides a great opportunity to study the small plovers. Wilson's Plovers are the largest of these species, have a medium brown back, dull colored legs and a massive (for a small plover) bill. They nest at Bolivar Flats and are present all year. Piping Plovers are smaller and are a much paler brown on their backs. They have a small stub of a bill, which varies from black to orange in color depending on season. They have bright orange legs and this combination of orange legs, pale back and short bill are used to distinguish Piping Plovers from the other small plover species. Snowy Plovers are also pale brown on the back but they have dull colored legs and a longer, thinner dark bill. Semipalmated Plovers are similar to Piping in many ways. Both have stubby bills and orange legs. Semipalmated Plovers, though, have a much darker brown back. These latter three species are present at Bolivar Flats from late summer (or early fall) until late spring but leave the flats to breed further north. Several of these species (especially Piping and Wilson's) are greatly threatened and Bolivar Flats represents very important breeding, migratory and wintering territories for these and other threatened species.

Numerous other shorebird species were present at the flats on this day. Several Long-billed Curlews with their cinnamon-colored wing linings were seen as was the smaller but similar looking Whimbrel. Many Short-billed Dowitchers, mostly in winter plumage, worked the mud and shallow waters while Marbled Godwits, with their long, upturned bills fed nearby. A few, distant American Oystercatchers were spotted but the huge American Avocet flock that spends every winter at the flats was not yet present. Black-bellied Plovers, some in their pale winter plumage others still with their black bellies, were present in good numbers.

Two Ospreys, somewhat unusual on the upper Texas coast in late August, provided one of the best moments of the day. While the birds circled around giving good looks for the group, one of the birds decided it was lunchtime. With a dramatic stoop and a splash, the raptor hit the water only to quickly pop back up with a healthy sized fish. The Osprey then flew off to enjoy its meal in private.

Other birds seen at the flats on the day included many Laughing Gulls along with a few Ring-billed and Herring Gulls. Terns seen included Least, Black, Caspian, Royal and Sandwich Terns. Black Skimmers loafed on the beach and zipped around noisily. Huge Brown Pelicans were easily seen

while a few Magnificent Frigatebirds remained further away. A little pishing brought more than a dozen young Seaside Sparrows out of the vegetation to examine our group. They showed little fear as they flitted among the grasses and ran along the sand.

But Bolivar Flats is not the only birding spot on the Bolivar Peninsula and some of the group pressed on after leaving the flats. Fort Travis provided good looks at Clapper Rails and hungry Laughing Gulls. Frenchtown Road provided its usual American Oystercatchers along with many Semipalmated Sandpipers. Bob's Road provided a Belted Kingfisher and Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Yacht Basin Road lived up to its reputation as the place to see Clapper Rails in the Bolivar area with many good looks at this often elusive species.

A quick stop at Boy Scout Woods did not provide much in the way of the land bird migrants we were looking for but several Northern Cardinals were still worth looking at. A last stop of the day for the last remaining birders was a series of large fields on FM 1985 near the entrance to Anahuac NWR. These fields had hosted larger numbers of shorebirds in previous days. With a little patience, the birders managed to see several Upland Sandpipers and a good flock of Buff-breasted Sandpipers. Wrapping up the day with more than 20 species of shorebirds and plenty of other great birds to look at, the birders left satisfied with another great Bolivar Flats birding experience.

The following species were recorded on the trip: (BF=Bolivar Flats; CHA=Chambers County FM1985; PB=Port Bolivar; TX87=Texas87; YBR=Yacht Basin Road): American White Pelican (1 BF); Brown Pelican (100 BF; 25 RP; 4 TX87); Neotropic Cormorant (60 BF; 1 PB); Magnificent Frigatebird (4 BF); Great Blue Heron (2 BF); Great Egret (10 BF; 3 PB; 2 YBR; 9 CHA); Snowy Egret (50 BF; 5 PB; 1 YBR); Little Blue Heron (1 PB; 2 CHA); Tricolored Heron (1 BF; 3 PB); Reddish Egret (22 BF); Cattle Egret (41 TX87; 403 CHA); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (3 BF; 1 PB; 1 YBR); White Ibis (3 BF; 20 CHA); Plegadis species Ibis (20 CHA); Roseate Spoonbill (12 BF); Osprey (2 BF); Northern Harrier (1 BF); Clapper Rail (1 BF; 2 PB); Clapper Rail (7 YBR); Black-bellied Plover (50 BF); Black-bellied Plover (1 PB); Snowy Plover (6 BF); Wilson's Plover (35 BF; 1 PB); Semipalmated Plover (50 BF); Semipalmated Plover (3 PB); Piping Plover (30 BF); Killdeer (3 PB; 2 TX87; 1 YBR); American Oystercatcher (5 BF; 2 PB); Black-necked Stilt (5 PB); Lesser Yellowlegs (1 PB); Willet (100 BF; 1 PB; 1 YBR); Upland Sandpiper (5 CHA); Whimbrel (1 BF); Long-billed Curlew (10 BF; 3 PB); Long-billed Curlew (1 CHA); Marbled Godwit (40 BF); Ruddy Turnstone (2 BF; 2 RP); Sanderling (50 BF); Semipalmated Sandpiper (20 PB); Western Sandpiper (20 BF); Least Sandpiper (25 BF; 1 PB); Peep Sandpiper (500 PB); Buff-breasted Sandpiper (50 CHA); Short-billed Dowitcher (150 BF; 27 PB); Laughing Gull (250 BF; 20 PB; 20 RP; 9 YBR); Ring-billed Gull (3 BF); Herring Gull (2 BF); Caspian Tern (4 BF; 1 PB); Royal Tern (150 BF); Sandwich Tern (10 BF); Least Tern (30 BF; 20 PB); Black Tern (75 BF; 11 PB); Black Skimmer (60 BF; 10 PB); Rock Dove (10 RP; 1 TX87); Eurasian Collared-Dove (2 PB); White-winged Dove (8 PB); Mourning Dove (2 PB; 1 YBR; 2 CHA); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1 PB); Common Nighthawk (1 BF; 1 PB; 3 TX87); Hummingbird species (1 PB; 1 HI); Belted Kingfisher (1 PB); Eastern Kingbird (1 HI; 1 TX87; 4 CHA); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (3 BF; 1 CHA); Loggerhead Shrike (2 PB); Horned Lark (2 BF); Barn Swallow (2 BF; 1 PB); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1 HI); Northern Mockingbird (1 PB; 1 HI); European Starling (6 TX87; 25 CHA); Seaside Sparrow (17 BF); Northern Cardinal (6 HI); Great-tailed Grackle (10 BF; 5 TX87).

Bird Sightings – July 2005

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: A much increased list over July in previous year. July typically brings the first waves of shorebird migrants, but seeing them depends on the availability of accessible suitable habitat, with the south impoundment of Pleasure Island one of the few places. A rather dry June was followed by a relatively wet July in most places, and we did not find many concentrations of shorebirds. To make up for that, however, we had a very welcome trend in reports from north of the immediate Golden Triangle. In addition, we had some very early neotropical migrants along the coast at the end of the month.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell. JEF 3 reps(18)
DUCK, Mottled JEF-PI 7/4(8) JAW; JEF 7/31(20)
 JAW; JEF-TP 7/31(3) JAW
GREBE, Pied-billed JEF-TP 7/23(4) SM; JEF-TP 7/31(5)
 JAW
PELICAN, Brown JEF-SRSP 7/4(4) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic JEF 4 reps(45)
ANHINGA JEF 2 reps(3); ORA 2 reps(2)
BITTERN, Least ORA 7/17(1) KS; ORA 7/17(1) SM
HERON, Great Blue JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 4 reps(6)
EGRET, Great JEF 10 reps(54); ORA 2 reps(8)
EGRET, Snowy JEF 9 reps(157); ORA 1 rep(2)
HERON, Little Blue JEF 3 reps(28)
HERON, Tricolored JEF 3 reps(28); ORA 1 rep(2)
EGRET, Cattle JEF 19 reps(1043); ORA 5 reps(28)
HERON, Green JEF 4 reps(17); ORA 2 reps(6)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown. JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crown. JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 2 reps(2)
IBIS, White JEF 2 reps(26)
IBIS, White-faced JEF 2 reps(216)
IBIS, Plegadis JEF 1 rep(179)
SPOONBILL, Roseate JEF-PI 7/4(18) JAW; JEF 7/23(10)
 SM; JEF-TP 7/23(6) SM; JEF 7/31(5) JAW
VULTURE, Black HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 4
 reps(13)
VULTURE, Turkey HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 5 reps(20); ORA 3
 reps(9)
OSPREY JEF 7/30(1) SM
KITE, Swallow-tailed JAS 7/16(1) SG; JAS 7/24(1) JFW;
 TYL 7/6(1) SG
KITE, Mississippi HAI 7/21(2) JM
HAWK, Red-shouldered HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 2
 reps(2)
HAWK, Broad-winged JEF 7/12(1) JAW; JEF 7/30(1) SM
HAWK, Red-tailed HAI 7/10(1) KS; HAI-SNDY 7/10(1)
 SM; ORA-ORG 7/17(1) SBE; ORA-ORG 7/31(1) SBE
GALLINULE, Purple JEF-TP 7/23(4) SM; JEF-TP 7/31(1)
 JAW
MOORHEN, Common JEF 2 reps(29)
PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 1 rep(3)
PLOVER, Wilson's JEF 1 rep(1)
PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF-MCFW 7/30(1) SM
KILLDEER JEF 2 reps(7); ORA 1 rep(2)
STILT, Black-necked JEF 5 reps(142)
AVOCET, American JEF-PI 7/4(53) JAW; JEF-MCFW
 7/30(1) SM
YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF-TP 7/31(1) JAW
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 7/23(7) SM; JEF-MCFW 7/30(1)
 SM
SANDPIPER, Solitary JEF-TP 7/23(1) SM
WILLET JEF 1 rep(35)
SANDPIPER, Spotted JEF-TP 7/23(5) SM
SANDPIPER, Western JEF-PI 7/4(7) JAW; JEF-MCFW
 7/30(4) SM
SANDPIPER, Peep JEF-PI 7/4(25) JAW
SANDPIPER, Least JEF-PI 7/4(50) JAW; JEF-TP 7/23(4)
 SM; JEF-MCFW 7/30(4) SM
DOWITCHER, Long-billed JEF-PI 7/4(35) JAW
DOWITCHER species JEF-PI 7/4(65) JAW; JEF-TXPT
 7/4(8) JAW

GULL, Laughing JEF 4 reps(108)
TERN, Gull-billed JEF 2 reps(2)
TERN, Caspian JEF 1 rep(22)
TERN, Royal JEF 1 rep(50)
TERN, Sandwich JEF 1 rep(4)
TERN, Forster's JEF 2 reps(51)
TERN, Least JEF 2 reps(197)
TERN, Black JEF 3 reps(184)
DOVE, Rock HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 21 reps(109); ORA
 1 rep(4)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 11 reps(20); ORA 3
 reps(8)
DOVE, White-winged JEF 27 reps(189)
DOVE, Mourning HAI 2 reps(8); JEF 25 reps(162);
 ORA 5 reps(18)
DOVE, Inca HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(24); ORA 2
 reps(2)
OWL, Barred HAI-BTTC 7/19(1) JM; HAI 7/21(1)
 JM; JEF-BMT 7/31(1) JM
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)
NIGHTHAWK, Common JEF 2 reps(2)
SWIFT, Chimney HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 14 reps(48); ORA 2
 reps(12)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throat. HAI 7/10(2) KS; JEF-BMT 7/10(3)
 RA; JEF-NEDR 7/12(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/16(1) JAW; JEF-
 NEDR 7/22(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
 7/31(1) JAW; ORA-ORG 7/12(3) SBE; ORA 7/17(1) KS; ORA-
 ORG 7/17(5) SBE
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus JEF-NEDR 7/31(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD species JEF 7/21(1) SR; JEF-NEDR 7/26(1)
 JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/28(1) JAW; ORA 7/17(1) SM
KINGFISHER, Belted HAI 7/31(1) JM; JEF 7/23(1) SM;
 ORA 7/17(2) KS; ORA 7/17(2) SM
WOODPECKER, Red-headed HAI 7/10(2) KS; HAI-SNDY 7/10(4)
 SM; JEF 7/23(1) SM; ORA-ORG 7/12(2) SBE; ORA-ORG
 7/17(7) SBE; ORA-ORG 7/31(3) SBE
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 4
 reps(11)
WOODPECKER, Downy HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 6 reps(14); ORA 3
 reps(8)
FLICKER, Northern JEF 7/15(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/17(1)
 JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/24(1) JAW; JEF-
 NEDR 7/28(1) JAW; ORA 7/17(1) KS; ORA 7/17(3) SM
WOODPECKER, Pileated HAI 2 reps(6); ORA 2 reps(4)
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied JEF-SW 7/30(1) SM
FLYCATCHER, Acadian HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 1 rep(3)
FLYCATCHER, Least JEF-SW 7/30(1) SM
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF-BMT 7/10(1) RAJ
KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF 4 reps(24); ORA 2 reps(5)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed JEF 2 reps(7)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 5 reps(17)
VIREO, White-eyed HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(3); ORA 2
 reps(5)
VIREO, Yellow-throated HAI 2 reps(2)
JAY, Blue HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 12 reps(22); ORA
 5 reps(57)
CROW, American HAI 2 reps(10); ORA 1 rep(7)
CROW, Fish JEF 7/20(1) JAW; JEF-TP 7/23(6)
 SM; JEF-NEDR 7/24(1) JAW; ORA-ORG 7/17(6) SBE; ORA-
 ORG 7/31(6) SBE

CROW, species	JEF 13 reps(34)
MARTIN, Purple 1 rep(5)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 9 reps(4207); ORA
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged JAW	JEF-TP 7/23(4) SM; JEF-TP 7/31(12)
SWALLOW, Cliff 7/4(10) JAW	JEF-SRSP 7/4(1) JAW; JEF-TX87
SWALLOW, Barn 2 reps(22)	HAI 2 reps(15); JEF 7 reps(75); ORA
CHICKADEE, Carolina 5 reps(35)	HAI 2 reps(14); JEF 6 reps(11); ORA
TITMOUSE, Tufted	HAI 2 reps(6); ORA 3 reps(7)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed KS	HAI-SNDY 7/10(8) SM; ORA 7/17(4)
WREN, Carolina reps(11)	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 1 rep(4); ORA 4
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray 7/30(1) SM; ORA 7/17(2) KS	HAI-SNDY 7/10(3) SM; JEF-SW
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	HAI 2 reps(6)
ROBIN, American reps(24)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 22 reps(49); ORA 2
CATBIRD, Gray RAJ	HAI 7/10(2) KS; JEF-BMT 7/10(2)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern reps(65)	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 25 reps(93); ORA 5
THRASHER, Brown RAJ; JEF-SW 7/30(1) SM	HAI 7/10(2) KS; JEF-BMT 7/10(2)
STARLING, European	JEF 15 reps(71); ORA 1 rep(2)
WARBLER, Yellow	JEF-SRSP 7/30(1) SM
WARBLER, Pine	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Black-and-white 7/30(5) SM	JEF-SRSP 7/30(2) SM; JEF-SW
WARBLER, Prothonotary	JEF 1 rep(3)
WARBLER, Swainson's	HAI-BTTC 7/19(2) JM
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 3 reps(11); ORA 2 reps(2)
WARBLER, Hooded rep(1)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1
TANAGER, Summer reps(2)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 2
CARDINAL, Northern 4 reps(53)	HAI 2 reps(14); JEF 7 reps(24); ORA
GROSBEAK, Blue SM	HAI 7/10(1) KS; HAI-SNDY 7/10(1)
BUNTING, Indigo	HAI 7/10(2) KS
BUNTING, Painted SM; JEF-TP 7/23(4) SM;	HAI 7/10(3) KS; HAI-SNDY 7/10(3)
DICKCISSEL	JEF 2 reps(5)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 4 reps(177); ORA 5 reps(24)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	JEF 2 reps(2)
MEADOWLARK species	JEF 1 rep(4)
GRACKLE, Common	JEF 15 reps(53); ORA 5 reps(32)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 4 reps(37)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 20 reps(290); ORA 4 reps(60)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	JEF 2 reps(10)
ORIOLE, Orchard	JEF 2 reps(7); ORA 3 reps(7)
FINCH, House 7/12(1) HJ; JEF-NEDR 7/16(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/17(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/20(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/28(1) JAW; JEF- NEDR 7/31(1) JAW	JEF-BMT 7/10(2) RAJ; JEF-BMT
SPARROW, House reps(22)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 17 reps(88); ORA 3

Number of Species 118
Number of Individuals 9915

County Abbreviations:

HAI -- Hardin; JAS -- Jasper; JEF -- Jefferson; ORA -- Orange; TYL -- Tyler

Location Codes: BMT -- Beaumont; BTTC -- Big Thicket Turkey Creek Unit; MCFW -- McFaddin NWR; NEDR -- Nederland; ORG -- Orange; PI -- Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SNDY -- Nature Conservancy Sandyland Sanctuary; 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: HJ -- Harrison Jordan; JAW -- John Whittle; JFW -- Jana Whittle; JJW -- John and Jana Whittle; JM -- John Mariani; KS -- Ken Sztraky; RAJ -- Rose Ann Jordan; SBE -- Sheri Bethard; SG -- Sherry Gibson; SM -- Steve Mayes; SR -- Sherrie Roden

Notes on Very Rare Species

Hooded Warbler -- Sabine Woods -- 30 July 2005.

Steve Mayes reports a young male or very boldly marked female seen in Sabine Woods. The bird did not have a full black hood, but the chinstrap was present.

Prothonotary Warbler -- Sabine Woods -- 30 July 2005.

Steve Mayes reported a party of three dull plumaged Prothonotary Warblers working noisily round the ponds at Sabine Woods.

Bird Alert

Hummingbird migration is increasing markedly, and a male Black-chinned and probably female Broad-tailed have been seen in Nederland.

At last report, the Purple Martin roost near Phelan and 23rd Street in Beaumont was still going strong, although the birds were not gathering on wires as they usually do, but descending straight into the trees.

On Sunday August 21, in Sabine Woods, the following were noted: three Carolina Chickadees (which have been there for a few weeks at least, although not a normal resident), three Olive-sided Flycatchers, two or more Eastern Wood-Pewee, two "Traill's" Flycatcher (one very brown and thus probably a Willow Flycatcher), one Least Flycatcher, one more *Empidonax* species and a Great Crested Flycatcher. Three Brown Thrashers were very early, although they do nest about 30 miles north. There was one Red-eyed Vireo, three Prothonotary Warblers (2 males and 1 female plumaged), three Yellow Warblers (1 male and 2 female plumaged), one Blue-winged Warbler (male), one Northern Parula (female or young), one Hooded Warbler (male) and several Black-and-White Warblers (all female or immature), two Yellow-breasted Chats (1 young bird seen, 1 other heard) as well as Common Yellowthroats.

On the west beach at Sea Rim State Park, there were 17 Snowy Plovers (in the place favored by a flock of about 40 last winter), 1 Piping Plover. A few Forster's Terns were included along with Royal, Black and Least Terns.

The east beach at Sea Rim had a very large number of birds (albeit mainly Laughing Gulls) especially east of the Vehicle Barrier. Noteworthy was a young dark phase Reddish Egret (unusual in Jefferson County), several Gull-billed Terns and two Wilson's Plovers (not particularly common at Sea Rim).

Along Highway 87, we had an adult Broad-winged Hawk near the entrance to the Salt Bayou unit of Murphree WMA, several Common Nighthawks between Sabine Pass and Sea Rim, and a male Belted Kingfisher just north of Sabine Pass.

The south impoundment of Pleasure Island (the water in it is essentially fresh water) had thousands of peeps, mostly distant. Those close enough for identification were Western Sandpipers, only a very small percentage being juveniles, four basic plumaged Wilson's Phalaropes, 250 Long-billed Dowitchers still in breeding plumaged (no short bills were seen or Short-billed calls detected), 75 Stilt Sandpipers (almost all completely in basic plumage -- just one of two with remnants of bars on the belly), about 30 American Avocets (which have summered there) and various terns, ibis, herons, Mottled Ducks etc. The south impoundment at Pleasure Island is best viewed by climbing up the levee -- there are trails -- opposite the northernmost fishing shelter on the levee road, one or two miles south from T. B. Ellison Parkway.

Spring 2005 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County -- "Early" Vireos and Warblers

Date	MAR																												APR														APR														MAY														MAY	GRAND	
	1	2	5	6	7	9	11	12	16	17	18	19	20	25	26	27	28	TOT	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	AP1	TOT	16	17	19	20	22	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	AP2	1	2	3	4	7	9	14	15	17	27	TOT	TOT																
Number of Reports	1	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	TOT	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	2	1	3	AP1	TOT	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	1	2	AP2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	4	4	1	2	TOT	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	TOT	TOT
VIREO, White-eyed	1				1			1	3					4	5	2	2	19	2	3					1			3	1		9	19		1			2		9	3		5	2					22	2	2					2	4	1	1	1	1	13	73											
VIREO, Blue-headed	1			1				1	1	1				1	1	1		7	2	1					1	1	1			1	7																										8	14															
VIREO, Yellow-throated								1	1					1	2	2	1	8												2	2							1					1						2	2	1						4	16															
WARBLER, Blue-winged														1				1	1	2	1						5	5	1	5	21																										1	42															
WARBLER, Golden-winged																		1	1	2	1									2	1							1																		1	10																
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	5	2	3		4			4	3	8		1		3	2	2	5	1	43	2	1	1						1			1	6																										2	49														
PARULA, Northern	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	16	1	5	1	6	4	8	50	18	116	16	19	5				6	9	2		30	5	20	112							2	1																		2	234														
WARBLER, Yellow-throated				2	1	1	1		7	5	3	2		1	2		1	25	1	1					1	2	1		3	1	1	2	13	1																							2	40															
WARBLER, Prairie			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1	2	1	1	12	1	1	1										3	2																								4	19															
WARBLER, Black-and-white	1		1	1	1	1		28	7	12		1	1	7	3	5	5	23	96	2	5	1				3	4	2	2		5	1	12	37										8	3	1	6	5	7	4	34	12	2			1	1			3				19	186								
WARBLER, Prothonotary							1	1					1					3	1														13																							2	22																
WARBLER, Worm-eating																				2	1			1				3	1	1	23	32	1	1							4	8	1	3	1	1	1	21	1												1	54											
WARBLER, Swainson's																																	3	2																							2	3															
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	2		1	1	1	1	1	1	21	1	2				1	1		1	1	2	9																								1	33																		
WARBLER, Kentucky																		1	1								2	3	8	15	3	1							4	5		4	5										22	52																			
WARBLER, Hooded							1	2	1		1	2	4	5	4	35	55	10	11	5	1	2	13	1	1	20	20	1	41	126									6	5	1	8	4												27	220																	
CHAT, Tellow-breasted								1										1																																								96	108														

Not included above is a Brewster's Warbler on Apr 27, and one Wilson's Warbler on each of Apr 14 and Apr 20.

Spring 2005 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County -- "Later" Vireos and Warblers

Date	APR														APR														MAY														MAY	GRAND									
	MAR	1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	AP1	TOT	16	17	19	20	22	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	AP2	TOT	1	2	3	4	6	7	9	14	15	16	17	27	29			30	TOT	TOT						
Number of Reports	TOT	2	3	2	2	3	3	2	2	4	2	1	3	TOT	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	4	4	1	2	TOT	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	TOT	TOT	
VIREO, Warbling			1										6	1	8							1	1		5	5	12	3																					4	24			
VIREO, Philadelphia														1	1	1						2	1	1	2		8	2	4																				12	21			
VIREO, Red-eyed			2				1	2	1	4				25	35	7	10	2				4	10	3	9	7	11	63	13	30	11	8	15																	110	208		
WARBLER, Tennessee			2											20	40	3	1	3	2	3	15	21	10	45	26	6	25	160	37	5		1	1																			50	250
WARBLER, Yellow							1							2	4	2	1	7				2	2	7	3	1	1	4	30	7	4					3	9	1	1												28	62	
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided														1	1							1	2		5	9	1	2	21	14	3																			21	43		
WARBLER, Magnolia	1		1											1	2							1	1	7		3	13	9	1		1	1																	51	67			
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	1						1							10	1							2	2		2	5	5	4	20	8	2		1																	15	50		
WARBLER, Blackburnian														1	1							3	2	1		6	3	15	4																					6	22		
WARBLER, Bay-breasted																							2	3	7	1	13	28	6																					38	51		
WARBLER, Blackpoll																											17																								4	21	
WARBLER, Cerulean	1		1				1							1	1	1	1	2	7								13	2																							3	24	
REDSTART, American														1	1	1	1	4									17	9	8	1	1																					70	91
OVENBIRD														1	1												9	11																								49	79
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	2			1	1	1	1	1	1	4				2	12	2	2	1									38	6	4	3	3	2	1	5																29	81		
WARBLER, Canada																											2	1																							1	8	

The March totals (some are wintering birds) comprise Magnolia Warbler on Mar 26, Black-throated Green on Mar 27, Cerulean Warbler on Mar 17, and Northern Waterthrushes on Mar 5 and Mar 16. Not included above are Black-whiskered Vireo sightings on Apr 24(2), Apr 26, 27, 30, May 9, 14; Nashville Warblers on Mar 28, Apr 11, Apr 24 (2), Apr 27 and May 1; Cape May Warblers on Apr 20, 26; Townsend's Warbler on May 9 and Mourning Warbler on May 9. Sighting are single sightings unless otherwise indicated.

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Golden Triangle	(409) 728-6957
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Abilene	(915) 691-8981
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N. E. Texas	(903) 839-4804
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