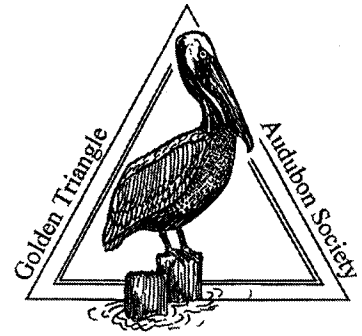


Brown Pelican

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The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 12 No. 11

November 2006

Annual Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2006
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
Big Bend Superlatives: Birds and Butterflies
Ro Wauer

We have an exciting program for November! A talk on the Birds of Big Bend by the acknowledged expert. Ro Wauer retired from the National Parks Service after 32 years service, which included six years as chief naturalist at Big Bend National Park. Among the 15 books he has written are the definitive books on Big Bend: *A Field Guide to the Birds of Big Bend* and *Naturalist's Big Bend*. He also served at Crater Lake, in Death Valley, at Pinnacles, Zion, Great Smoky Mountains and Virgin Islands National Parks. His career also included stints as Chief of Natural Resources Management and as Regional Chief Scientist. Ro currently lives in Victoria, Texas and co-authored the *Birding Texas* guide, published in 1998.

At this meeting, as is our November tradition, we ask you, if you are able, to bring a "covered dish." We will also conduct our election of officers and board of directors for 2007. If you have one or more friends you want to introduce to Audubon, this is the meeting to bring them to! As usual, the doors will be open no later than 6:30 p.m., but the talk will start at 7:15 p.m. approximately.

October Meeting

At the October meeting, Gerald Duhon talked about the logistics of arranging a birding trip to Ecuador, touching on air travel and the logistics of arranging for guides and accommodations. Steve Mayes then presented photographs taken by Gerald and himself on the June 2006 trip to Ecuador by himself, Gerald Duhon and John Haynes. First, he showed some photographs illustrative of the many varied habitats in Ecuador. Then he showed pictures of a selection of the bird species that they saw on their trip. Many of the pictures were of hummingbirds, of which they saw more than 60 species. He also showed pictures of many species of tanager, and a number of pictures of antpittas, a group of birds that are normally very secretive. Steve impressed everyone present by his ability to narrate the photographs, including all the species names, entirely from memory, without benefit of any notes.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 12, No.11 November 2006

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

See Web Site for more
information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is

published monthly except July
by the Golden Triangle Audubon
Society,
P. O. Box 1292, Nederland,
Texas 77627-1292

Calendar of Events

Thursday November 16. Annual Meeting. Speaker Ro Wauer. Full details on page 1. We will also hold our elections. See page 3.

Saturday November 18. Field Trip to West Jefferson County This trip will explore west Jefferson County, just as the wintering birds should be arriving. The trip will likely find raptors, sparrows and Sandhill Cranes, and, depending on the presence or absence of water in the rice fields, waterfowl.

Meet at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the "north/west" side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of Interstate 10 and FM365 in Fannett, proceed along FM365 in the direction that is marked as "north" (even though it is actually very nearly due west at that point) for about six miles. Shortly after you cross over the second of two bridges (this one over Ground Bridge Gully) and emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. There is a sign, albeit not very conspicuous, for the G and A Turf Farm on Johnson Road at the intersection. Contact Steve Mayes 409-722-5807 or sgmayes@hotmail.com for further information.

Saturday December 16 (tentative). Turkey Creek Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on US69 at FM420, about 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 a.m.

Saturday December 23 (tentative). Beech Creek Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Corp of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 immediately north of the intersection with FM1746 in Town Bluff at 6:30 a.m.

Sunday December 31. Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count. Meet outside the Olde Tyme Diner at the corner at the stop sign on Highway 87 in Sabine Pass at 7:00 a.m. Contact John Whittle at john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-722-4193 or for more details.

Monday January 1, 2007. Orange County Christmas Bird Count. Contact Ken Sztraky at 409-385-2835 or kens@ih2000.net for more information.

Thursday January 18, 2007. Membership Meeting. Speaker: Don Jeane on Bird Photography.

Saturday January 20, 2007 Field Trip to Katy Prairie/West Harris County.

This is always one of our most popular trips, looking for waterfowl, sparrows, raptors in Baer Creek Park and areas west of there that unfortunately are rapidly being consumed by development. Full details in future issues of the *Brown Pelican*.

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.

Sibley Prints for Sale

The Nature Store at Anahuac NWR has the rare privilege of offering for sale a dozen limited-edition prints of the Golden-winged Warbler drawn by best-selling author, David Sibley. Each one is signed and numbered by him. Eight of them are framed and matted using acid free materials to be sold for \$150.00 plus tax for each. Mr. Sibley donated 300 prints to the National Wildlife Refuge System, with the agreement that the proceeds from their sale would be used to enhance opportunities for birders on national wildlife refuges. Current store hours are Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 am until 4:00 pm. Contact Kay Lovelace., 409-252-3454 for more information.



Earth Share
OF TEXAS

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 esbx@earthshare-texas.org.

Important Audubon Election Under Way in the Southwest Election Region

Nominations are now open for the Chapter-selected candidate from the Southwest Election Region to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. Any Chapter in the Southwest Region may nominate one candidate for the Board this fall and winter. The election to choose the candidate will be held in the spring.

Nominees should be willing and able to:

- * Help set overall national policies.
- * Articulate the issues and concerns of our region.
- * Participate in fund raising, and maintain the fiscal integrity of National Audubon Society.
- * Attend 3 Board meetings per year, each 3 days in length.
- * Fill the position for the three years beginning January 2008.

Contact a Chapter officer with your suggestions. The nomination from your Chapter should be sent to the Chapter Services Office by January 31, 2007.

A Personal Note from the Editor

When the redistricting takes effect on January 1, 2007, Texas will be part of the "new" Southwest region (Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona), which will have a sitting director -- Roger Wolf from Tucson. My term as the regionally nominated director from the (old) Southwest Region expires essentially at the end of this year. However, because Roger's term goes through the end of 2007, he will technically "represent" the Texas Chapters in 2007. But, that would have left the Texas chapters for a year without a director for whom they had voted. Therefore, the decision was made that I would be nominated for an at-large position on the National Audubon Society board (and the same for one other director in the same sort of situation). (There are 9 regionally nominated directors and 27 who are nominated "at-large" by the nominating Committee.) So when the proxy arrives in a month or two, you will find that I have been nominated for a second term on the board for a 2007-2009 term. I will work with the Texas Chapters in a cooperative fashion with Roger (and his successor, should he not be re-elected) throughout my new three year term to effect an orderly transition

Golden Triangle Audubon Elections

President Jeff Pittman has appointed a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the elections for the officers and board of directors for 2007 to be held at the Annual Meeting on November 16, 2006. See page 1 for details. The members of the Committee are Joe Halbrook, John Haynes, Jeff Pittman, and Jana Whittle. Please contact any member of the committee with your suggestions for nominees. Any additional nominations made from the floor at the meeting must be accompanied by written agreement to serve if elected from the candidate.

Report on National Audubon Society Board Meeting

The National Audubon Society Board of Directors met from October 6th through October 8th in Oahu, Hawaii. The following are some of the highlights of actions and committee work at this meeting.

Key Board Actions:

The Board devoted a significant amount of their meeting time on global warming and wind energy development. Alan Wilson, Chair of the Conservation Committee, led a discussion on a refined Audubon Framework for engaging on the broad issue of global warming focusing on Audubon's key strengths.

Science - birds as indicators

People - motivating individual action

Grass Roots - build policy capacity

Field Presence - work at local, state and national levels

As part of the Framework, the Board adopted the following Principles to guide our actions:

- *Global warming is a serious and present threat to people, birds and other wildlife. The U.S. should adopt a clear national policy to proactively reduce the threat of global warming.*
- *Adopt quantitative and mandatory domestic reduction targets for all greenhouse gases with a credible system to measure emissions and track progress.*
- *Use economic incentives as well as mandates to achieve the reduction targets.*
- *Increase research and implementation of safe and cleaner technology and energy production.*
- *The U.S. should assume a global leadership position to address this threat to human and ecosystem health.*
- *Local and State governments should take aggressive actions on their own or with regions. The cumulative impact of many actions will make a difference in both combating global warming and creating political demand for action.*

During the discussion on global warming, the Board also agreed that Audubon has a unique role to play in the ongoing debate on wind energy. The Board asked staff to develop a national policy on wind energy that addresses the overarching need for the development of renewable energy resources while assuring avian impacts are clearly taken into account. Advocating for extension of the federal Production Tax Credit for wind power was identified as one early action Audubon should take. This credit currently expires every few years; extending its duration will promote longer-term project planning.

The full Board took the following actions recommended by the Governance Committee, chaired by Andy Sansom: Set the next Annual Meeting of Members for Friday, January 26, 2007, at 10 am at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, and set December 8, 2006 as the Record Date for the Annual Meeting of Members (the date used to determine the eligibility of members in good standing to participate in the Annual Meeting).

Bird Sightings – September 2006

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. 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." The range of dates for which the species was reported is shown in parentheses in a column before the sighting details or report summaries.

Commentary: This month's list is swelled by the Migration Count sightings, but also includes the first full month of what is shaping up to be a rather exciting fall migration for birders. Rarities include a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher and a Black Rail. There are also several species seen at the extremes of or a little outside the normal migration window. As this is being written, October is also producing excellent birding along the coast. Full details next month!

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bel (4-16)	JEF 2 reps(49)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (16-16)	JEF 3 reps(43)
GOOSE, White-fronted (16-16)	JEF 9/16(13) MC5
DUCK, Wood (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC3A; JEF 9/16(2) MC3B; JEF 9/16(3) MC5
MALLARD (13-13)	JEF-MCFW 9/13(8) JG
DUCK, Mottled (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(1) JAW; JEF 9/16(100) MC4; JEF 9/16(21) MC5; JEF 9/16(14) MC5; JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8
TEAL, Blue-winged (4-17)	JEF 6 reps(1941)
SHOVELER, Northern (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC10; JEF 9/16(21) MC5
PINTAIL, Northern (16-16)	JEF 9/16(3) MC5
TEAL, Green-winged (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(1) JAW; JEF 9/16(85) MC5
GREBE, Pied-billed (16-16)	JEF 2 reps(17)
GREBE, Eared (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC5
PELICAN, Amer. White (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(2)
PELICAN, Brown (13-24)	JEF-SRSP 9/13(1) JG; JEF 9/16(10) MC11; JEF-SRSP 9/24(1) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic (2-30)	JEF 11 reps(162)
CORMORANT, Double-crest (16-16)	JEF 9/16(3) MC11; JEF 9/16(3) MC5
ANHINGA (3-16)	JEF 3 reps(10)
FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent (16-16)	JEF 9/16(2) MC11
BITTERN, Least (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(3) JAW; JEF 9/16(4) MC5
HERON, Great Blue (3-24)	JEF 12 reps(29)
EGRET, Great (2-30)	JEF 21 reps(368)
EGRET, Snowy (3-28)	JEF 17 reps(535)
HERON, Little Blue (4-16)	JEF 7 reps(37)
HERON, Tricolored (3-16)	JEF 8 reps(47)
EGRET, Reddish (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(1)
EGRET, Cattle (2-24)	JEF 19 reps(3996)
HERON, Green (3-16)	JEF 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-TP 9/4(7) JAW; JEF-MCFW 9/13(1) JG; JEF-TX87 9/13(1) JG; JEF 9/16(1) MC10; JEF 9/16(21) MC5; JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. (13-16)	JEF 3 reps(13)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. (16-16)	JEF 3 reps(4)
IBIS, White (3-30)	JEF 16 reps(736)
IBIS, White-faced (4-16)	JEF 3 reps(29)
IBIS, Plegadis (4-24)	JEF 13 reps(778)
SPOONBILL, Roseate (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC10; JEF 9/16(77) MC5; JEF 9/16(13) MC6; JEF 9/16(15) MC9
STORK, Wood (4-16)	HAI 9/14(100) JM; JEF-TP 9/4(9) JAW; JEF 9/7(10) JP; JEF 9/16(3) MC1A; JEF 9/16(2) MC4; JEF 9/16(2) MC5; JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8
VULTURE, Black (4-30)	JEF 8 reps(23)
VULTURE, Turkey (2-30)	JEF 18 reps(120)
OSPREY (16-30)	HAI-SILS 9/25(1) DMW; JEF 9/16(1) MC3A; JEF-TX87 9/17(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/30(1) JAW
KITE, White-tailed (13-24)	JEF 4 reps(5)
KITE, Mississippi (16-16)	JEF 9/16(12) MC10
HARRIER, Northern (16-30)	JEF 9/16(1) MC4; JEF 9/24(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/30(1) MHW
HAWK, Sharp-shinned (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC5
HAWK, Cooper's (3-30)	JEF 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/16(1) MC2W; JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8; JEF 9/24(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) MHW
ACCIPITER species (16-16)	JEF 9/16(2) MC2E; JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8
HAWK, Red-shouldered (2-24)	JEF 13 reps(18)
HAWK, Broad-winged (2-30)	HAI-SILS 9/25(5000) DMW; JEF-TX87 9/2(1) JAW; JEF 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-TP 9/4(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF 9/16(2) MC10; JEF 9/16(4) MC3A; JEF 9/24(1) KS; JEF-SW 9/30(3) MHW
HAWK, Swainson's (4-24)	JEF 4 reps(4)
HAWK, Red-tailed (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC1A; JEF 9/16(1) MC2E; JEF 9/16(1) MC4; JEF 9/16(1) MC6
CARACARA, Crested (16-24)	JEF 9/16(2) MC1A; JEF 9/24(1) KS; JEF-TX87 9/24(1) JAW
KESTREL, American (3-30)	JEF 4 reps(4)
MERLIN (13-30)	JEF-TX87 9/13(1) JG; JEF 9/16(1) MC2E; JEF-SW 9/24(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/30(1) RHJ
RAIL, Black (29-29)	JEF-MCFW 9/29(1) MCF
RAIL, Clapper (16-16)	JEF 2 reps(8)
GALLINULE, Purple (16-16)	JEF 9/16(2) MC5
MOORHEN, Common (16-16)	JEF 3 reps(79)
COOT, American (4-16)	JEF 2 reps(2)
PLOVER, Black-bellied (16-16)	JEF 2 reps(52)
PLOVER, Snowy (16-16)	JEF 9/16(29) MC11
PLOVER, Semipalmated (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(2)
PLOVER, Piping (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(13)
KILLDEER (3-24)	JEF 14 reps(178)
STILT, Black-necked (3-16)	JEF 7 reps(533)
AVOCET, American (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(18)
SANDPIPER, Spotted (16-16)	JEF 2 reps(6)
SANDPIPER, Solitary (4-4)	JEF-TP 9/4(2) JAW
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (4-16)	JEF 3 reps(19)
WILLET (16-24)	JEF 3 reps(18)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (4-16)	JEF 2 reps(72)
YELLOWLEGS species (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(1)
SANDPIPER, Upland (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC2E
TURNSTONE, Ruddy (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(1)
SANDERLING (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(185)
SANDPIPER, Semipalmated (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(9) JAW; JEF 9/16(42) MC5
SANDPIPER, Western (4-16)	JEF 2 reps(325)
SANDPIPER, Peep (16-16)	JEF 2 reps(1716)
SANDPIPER, Least (4-16)	JEF 3 reps(553)
SANDPIPER, Baird's (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(3) JAW; JEF 9/16(12) MC5
SANDPIPER, Pectoral (4-16)	JEF 2 reps(126)
SANDPIPER, Stilt (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(11) JAW; JEF 9/16(32) MC5
SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted (16-16)	JEF 9/16(2) MC5
DOWITCHER species (16-16)	JEF 1 rep(300)
PHALAROPE, Wilson's (4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(60) JAW; JEF 9/16(10) MC5
GULL, Laughing (2-30)	JEF 12 reps(1078)
GULL, Ring-billed (16-16)	JEF 9/16(7) MC5; JEF 9/16(1) MC9
TERN, Least (2-4)	JEF 2 reps(6)
TERN, Gull-billed (16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC11; JEF 9/16(12) MC7/8
TERN, Caspian (16-16)	JEF 2 reps(53)
TERN, Black (4-16)	JEF 4 reps(156)
TERN, Forster's (4-30)	JEF 7 reps(70)
TERN, Royal (4-16)	JEF 3 reps(178)

SKIMMER, Black	(16-16)	JEF 2 reps(8)	TITMOUSE, Tufted	(4-16)	JEF 7 reps(14)
PIGEON, Rock	(2-28)	JEF 15 reps(614)	NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.	(2-28)	JEF 11 reps(74)	WREN, Carolina	(2-24)	JEF 9 reps(25)
DOVE, White-winged	(1-29)	JEF 14 reps(203)	WREN, Marsh	(4-4)	JEF-TP 9/4(1) JAW
DOVE, Mourning	(2-28)	JEF 21 reps(556)	KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(24-30)	JEF 9/24(1) KS; JEF-SW
DOVE, Inca	(16-28)	JEF 2 reps(4)	9/24(1) DV; JEF-SW	9/30(3) MHW	
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(4-16)	JEF 9 reps(17)	GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(1-24)	JEF 17 reps(114)
OWL, Barn	(2-16)	JEF-TX87 9/2(1) JAW; JEF	BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(16-16)	JEF 2 reps(7)
9/16(1) MC5B			THRUSH, Swainson's	(24-24)	JEF-SRSP 9/24(1) DV; JEF-
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(3-16)	JEF-NEDR 9/3(1) JAW; JEF	SW 9/24(2) DV		
9/16(1) MC5B			THRUSH, Wood	(13-13)	JEF-SRSP 9/13(1) JG
OWL, Great Horned	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC10	ROBIN, American	(1-16)	JEF 7 reps(24)
OWL, Barred	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC7/8	CATBIRD, Gray	(10-30)	JEF-SW 9/10(3) JHH; JEF
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(1-1)	JEF 1 rep(1)	9/16(1) MC11; JEF-SW	9/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW	9/30(1) MHW
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-	(2-16)	JEF-TX87 9/2(1) JAW; JEF-	MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(2-30)	JEF 22 reps(163)
SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF 9/16(2) MC10			THRASHER, Brown	(10-30)	JEF 9 reps(13)
SWIFT, Chimney	(3-30)	JEF 8 reps(50)	STARLING, European	(3-27)	JEF 13 reps(337)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-30)	JEF 26 reps(377)	WARBLER, Blue-winged	(9-30)	JEF 7 reps(10)
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail.	(27-28)	JEF-NEDR 9/27(1) JAW; JEF-	WARBLER, Tennessee	(13-24)	JEF-SW 9/13(1) JG; JEF
NEDR 9/28(1) JAW			9/16(1) MC11; JEF-SRSP	9/24(1) DV; JEF-SW	9/24(4) DV;
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	(1-30)	JEF-BMT 9/1(1) RHJ; JEF-	JEF-SW 9/24(3) JAW		
BMT 9/4(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	9/5(1) RHJ; JEF 9/16(1) MC3A;		WARBLER, Orange-crown.	(13-13)	JEF-SRSP 9/13(3) JG; JEF-
JEF-BMT 9/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	9/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT		SW 9/13(1) JG		
9/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	9/28(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	9/30(1) RHJ	WARBLER, Nashville	(9-28)	JEF 6 reps(9)
HUMMINGBIRD species	(4-16)	JEF 9/4(1) JAW; JEF 9/16(4)	PARULA, Northern	(9-30)	JEF 7 reps(14)
MC1A; JEF 9/16(5) MC2E;	JEF 9/16(3) MC3A; JEF 9/16(1)	MC4	WARBLER, Yellow	(2-30)	JEF 15 reps(97)
KINGFISHER, Belted	(2-30)	JEF 13 reps(36)	WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	(13-30)	JEF-SW 9/13(1) JG; JEF-SW
WOODPECKER, Red-head.	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC3C	9/24(2) DV; JEF-SW	9/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW	9/30(1) MHW
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(4-16)	JEF 9 reps(21)	WARBLER, Magnolia	(9-30)	JEF 9 reps(39)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(2-30)	JEF 13 reps(27)	WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(9-30)	JEF 6 reps(13)
FLICKER, Northern	(4-4)	JEF 9/4(1) JAW	WARBLER, Blackburnian	(9-24)	JEF-SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF-SW
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(2-16)	JEF 3 reps(12)	9/10(1) JHH; JEF 9/16(1) MC6;	JEF-SRSP 9/24(1) DV	
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided	(9-9)	JEF-SRSP 9/9(1) HM	WARBLER, Yellow-thr.	(2-16)	JEF-TX87 9/2(1) JAW; JEF-
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	(2-24)	JEF 9 reps(42)	SRSP 9/13(1) JG; JEF	9/16(1) MC10	
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell.	(2-30)	JEF-TX87 9/2(2) JAW; JEF	WARBLER, Pine	(2-16)	JEF 2 reps(8)
9/16(2) MC10; JEF-SW	9/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW	9/30(1) MHW	WARBLER, Prairie	(9-10)	JEF-SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF-
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(13-17)	JEF-SRSP 9/13(2) JG; JEF-	SRSP 9/10(1) JHH		
SW 9/13(4) JG; JEF 9/16(1) MC10;	JEF-SRSP 9/17(1) JAW;		WARBLER, Bay-breasted	(24-24)	JEF-SRSP 9/24(1) JAW
JEF-SW 9/17(2) JAW			WARBLER, Black-and-wh.	(2-30)	JEF 13 reps(73)
FLYCATCHER, Trail's	(2-24)	JEF-TX87 9/2(2) JAW; JEF	REDSTART, American	(2-30)	JEF 11 reps(56)
9/16(2) MC11; JEF-SW	9/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW	9/24(1) JAW	WARBLER, Prothonotary	(9-24)	JEF-SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF-
FLYCATCHER, Least	(3-17)	JEF 5 reps(15)	SRSP 9/10(1) JHH; JEF-SW	9/10(2) JHH; JEF 9/16(1) MC10;	
EMPIDONAX species	(3-24)	JEF 10 reps(91)	JEF-SW 9/17(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP	9/24(1) DV	
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion	(29-29)	JEF-PTNE 9/29(1) DMO	WARBLER, Worm-eating	(9-24)	JEF-SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF-SW
FLYCATCHER, Gt Crested	(2-24)	JEF 10 reps(42)	9/10(1) JHH; JEF 9/16(1) MC10;	JEF-SW 9/24(1) JAW	
FLYCATCHER, Sulphur-bell.	(9-10)	JEF-SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF-SW	OVENBIRD	(2-30)	JEF 8 reps(12)
9/10(1) JHH			WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(2-30)	JEF 9 reps(16)
KINGBIRD, Western	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC3B	WARBLER, Kentucky	(9-24)	JEF 6 reps(9)
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(2-24)	JEF 12 reps(48)	WARBLER, Mourning	(2-30)	JEF-TX87 9/2(2) JAW; JEF-
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.	(3-24)	JEF 10 reps(72)	SW 9/9(1) HM; JEF-SW	9/10(1) JHH; JEF 9/16(1) MC11; JEF-	
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(3-24)	JEF 18 reps(124)	SW 9/30(1) MHW		
VIREO, White-eyed	(4-30)	JEF 15 reps(58)	YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(9-30)	JEF 13 reps(39)
VIREO, Yellow-throated	(2-24)	JEF 3 reps(4)	WARBLER, Hooded	(2-30)	JEF 9 reps(14)
VIREO, Warbling	(9-24)	JEF-SW 9/9(2) HM; JEF-SW	WARBLER, Wilson's	(2-30)	JEF 12 reps(25)
9/10(2) JHH; JEF 9/16(2) MC10;	JEF-SW 9/24(1) DV; JEF-SW	9/24(1) JAW	WARBLER, Canada	(2-24)	JEF 11 reps(51)
VIREO, Philadelphia	(13-24)	JEF-SW 9/13(4) JG; JEF-SW	CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(1-26)	JEF 8 reps(19)
9/24(1) DV; JEF-SW	9/24(1) JAW		TANAGER, Summer	(13-30)	JEF 5 reps(10)
VIREO, Red-eyed	(2-24)	JEF 12 reps(32)	TANAGER, Scarlet	(24-24)	JEF-SW 9/24(1) DV
JAY, Blue	(2-24)	JEF 18 reps(133)	SPARROW, Seaside	(4-16)	JEF 2 reps(13)
CROW, American	(16-16)	JEF 5 reps(13)	CARDINAL, Northern	(4-16)	JEF 12 reps(92)
CROW, Fish	(4-16)	JEF-TP 9/4(2) JAW; JEF-SW	GROSBEAK, Blue	(3-24)	JEF 7 reps(63)
9/13(1) JG; JEF 9/16(1) MC3A;	JEF 9/16(15) MC5		BUNTING, Indigo	(13-24)	JEF-SW 9/13(1) JG; JEF
CROW, species	(16-16)	JEF 1 rep(7)	9/16(2) MC3A; JEF 9/16(1) MC5;	JEF 9/16(10) MC7/8; JEF	
MARTIN, Purple	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(2) MC2E; JEF	9/24(2) KS		
9/16(1) MC7/8			BUNTING, Painted	(9-24)	JEF 6 reps(14)
SWALLOW, Tree	(16-16)	JEF 4 reps(53)	DICKISSEL	(3-24)	JEF 7 reps(19)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing.	(16-16)	JEF 3 reps(80)	BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(3-24)	JEF 11 reps(196)
SWALLOW, Bank	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(16)	MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(16-24)	JEF 2 reps(3)
SWALLOW, Cliff	(3-17)	JEF 9/3(2) JAW; JEF 9/16(2)	GRACKLE, Common	(2-29)	JEF 12 reps(353)
MC12; JEF 9/16(150) MC1A;	JEF-TX87 9/17(2) JAW		GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(2-24)	JEF 12 reps(198)
SWALLOW, Cave	(3-3)	JEF 9/3(2) JAW	GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(2-29)	JEF 13 reps(272)
SWALLOW, Barn	(2-24)	JEF 17 reps(559)	GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed	(3-24)	JEF 4 reps(23)
SWALLOW species	(3-4)	JEF 2 reps(22)	COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(3-16)	JEF 4 reps(96)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-30)	JEF 15 reps(37)	BLACKBIRD species	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(250)
			ORIOLE, Orchard	(3-17)	JEF 6 reps(19)
			ORIOLE, Baltimore	(2-25)	JEF 13 reps(42)

FINCH, House	(4-30)	JEF 3 reps(3)
SPARROW, House	(3-28)	JEF 12 reps(131)
BISHOP, Orange	(16-16)	JEF 9/16(1) MC6

Number of Species	199
Number of Individuals	34355

County Abbreviations
HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson

Location Codes
BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland;
PTNE — Port Neches; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park;
SW — Sabine Woods; TP — Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 —
Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations
DMO — Donna Monk; DMW — Debby McWhorter; DV — Don Verser; HM — John Haynes and Steve Mayes; MHW — Steve Mayes. John Haynes and John Whittle; JAW — John Whittle; JG — Johnnie Green; JHH — John H. Haynes; JM — John Mariani; JP — John Park; KRO — Kathi and Richard Orgeron; KS — Ken Sztraky; MC1A — Migration Count Area 1A; MC1B — Migration Count Area 1B; MC2E — Migration Count Area 2 East; MC2W — Migration Count Area 2 West; MC3A — Migration Count Area 3A; MC3B — Migration Count Area 3B; MC3C — Migration Count Area 3C; MC4 — Migration Count Area 4; MC5 — Migration Count Area 5; MC5B — Migration Count Area 5B; MC6 — Migration Count Area 6; MC7/8 — Migration Count Areas 7 and 8; MC9 — Migration Count Area 9; MC10 — Migration Count Area 10; MC11 — Migration Count Area 11; MC12 — Migration Count Area 12; MCF — McFaddin and Texas Pt NWRs (Patrick Walther and Bobby Schat); RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan

Notes on Very Rare Species

Black Rail -- September 29 -- Patrick Walther

Bobby Schat and I were in the airboat [in McFaddin NWR, Jefferson County] and bumped a black rail out of hiding. At first glance I thought it was a very young moorhen chick as it ran out into an open spot, then realized it was a rail, small size and dark. Much smaller than the Sora's running around and looked quite a bit smaller than a yellow. It then stopped for a moment by a small clump of grass and fluttered onto the top of the grass beside the pond. At that point it ducked into the heavy grass and disappeared. Distance was about 10 to 8 feet, decreasing slowly as I was moving. Only about five seconds worth of observation, but distinctly not a Sora due to size and no yellow or tan coloration, with no white on the wings.

This is only the second confirmed observation of them I know of on McFaddin. I have heard them calling at least four times, including this summer in the area around the refuge entrance.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher—September 10/11—John Haynes

On both September 10 and 11, a large, heavily streaked flycatcher was seen from the boardwalk [at Sabine Woods, Jefferson County] in close proximity to the larger pond. The bird appeared to be about Kiskadee sized and heavy bodied. The face was boldly marked with the dark malar stripe giving a chin-strap appearance. The bird was heavily streaked underneath and on the sides, with a slight yellowish cast to the chest and belly. The tail was very bright Rufous, and was quite noticeable both perched and in flight. No Rufous was noted in the feather edgings of the wings. Bird was silent both times it was seen. The bird appeared nearly identical to the one we had in spring and could be the same bird.

Sabine Woods Work Day 30 September 2006

An excellent work day was held on Saturday, September 30th, with 17 volunteers contributing to the effort. We thank each and every one of the following for their splendid accomplishments:

Andrea Ayers, Howard Davis, John Haynes, Levie Horton, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Steve Mayes, Donna and Paul Monk, Jeff Pittman, Daniel Reed, Alice Richardson, Herb Stafford and Jana Whittle.

In addition, we thank Howard Davis for transporting his own tractor and brushhog to the Woods in advance of the Work Day and doing a splendid job of clearing the main trail and many other areas. During October, Howard returned to the Woods and did even more of the needed maintenance.

We got a lot accomplished on September 30th. We pruned some lower branches of some of the oaks to facilitate continued tractor passage round the main trail round the woods. We cleared three trees which had fallen across trails this summer as delayed results of Hurricane Rita last September, and also dealt with some hanging damaged branches that were in awkward or threatening places. We cleared all the fallen branches out of the small pond to restore a view of the drip. We worked on the somewhat balky main water valves and restored flow to the drip, although the valve at the water meter — the City of Port Arthur's responsibility — needs further attention as the damage done by a hurricane clean up contractor working along the public highway has not been satisfactorily repaired on a permanent basis. We cleared branches and twigs off the boardwalk. We removed the water hyacinth from a couple of small areas of the main slough. Following on the work by Howard Davis with his tractor and brushhog, Herb Stafford mowed the main trail and the entrance area on his riding mower, cropping the grass quite short in the hopes we will not have to do it again until next spring. However, the recent rains and somewhat warm weather may necessitate additional mowing. We worked on the trails in the woods, clearing them of this summer's growth and making them easier to negotiate. We prepared a path into an "island" open area in the center of the "newer" western area of oaks, as we plan to mow this area occasionally during the next few years to maintain basically grassy vegetation. For the rest of the Sanctuary outside the main woods, the management plan calls for mowing each section about every three years, on a staggered basis, as conditions and resources permit, although we like to maintain a few paths at scattered more or less random locations to provide access to all areas for the ongoing tallow eradication and McCartney Rose control efforts.

All birders who visit the Woods will surely enjoy these improvements, and on their and TOS's behalf, we thank those who participated in the Work Day.

Since the Work Day, however, probably a result of some of the heavy rains experienced in the area in the second half of October, a very large mulberry tree has leaned further over the boardwalk, and will likely have to be removed. It is still possible to negotiate the boardwalk without too much difficulty, and there appears to be no immediate danger of it leaning any further, as one of its main branches now reaches to the ground and is supporting the rest of the tree.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Sabine Pass Area – 21 October 2006

Contrary to what some birders may believe, big birding days do not only happen during spring migration, they can happen in the fall as well. The same kind of weather events that quicken the pulse of the ardent bird watcher in April can produce excellent results in October. Even many of the species to be seen are the same though some may be a bit drabber in plumage. A few hardy birders from the Golden Triangle Audubon Society dodged rain showers on the October field trip to experience one of these days.

The fall migration of 2006 will be remembered as one of the best in recent memory. Twenty warbler species days are normally thought to only happen in late April or early May but they also happened in September this year. Add on a brief appearance of a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (just like in the spring) and you add up to something truly special. The October field trip day was also special and might well be remembered as: The Day of the Catbirds!

Gray Catbirds are often described in field guides as skulking birds that prefer to stick to dense thickets. Anyone who has experienced migration on the upper Texas coast knows that is not always so. They can be quite abundant on a normal migration day but this day took that to the extreme. Gray Catbirds were everywhere you looked. Catbirds in the thickets, catbirds high in the trees, catbirds on the boardwalk! There was no way to count them all but a conservative estimate of 500+ catbirds at Sabine Woods was made for the day. That was an amazing day no matter the place or time of year!

But there were more than just Gray Catbirds around. It may not have been a twenty warbler day but the colorful little songbirds still made a good showing. Hyperactive American Redstarts flitted all over the woods. Several Black-throated Green Warblers showed little fear of the group as they foraged low in the oak trees. Magnolia Warblers, looking very different than in spring, were, nevertheless, recognized. Black and White Warblers worked the tree bark while Hooded Warblers flashed their white tail feathers in the underbrush.

Plenty of other migrants worked the coastal migrant traps that day. Summer Tanagers were present along with less colorful (but still appreciated) birds like Eastern Wood-Pewee and Least Flycatcher. Wood Thrushes were easily seen (and heard) while Blue-headed, Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos worked the trees. A single, female Painted Bunting was seen along with many more Indigo Buntings. Unfortunately, none of these showed the bright colors of the breeding plumaged males we see in the spring and summer. Plenty of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, also in their duller fall plumage, were seen along with a Blue Grosbeak.

The Willows at Sea Rim State Park also held plenty of birds. In addition to the Catbirds, Grosbeaks and Buntings that seemed to be everywhere, this little migrant hotspot also turned up Philadelphia Vireos and a Northern Waterthrush. Northern Harriers coursed over the surrounding marshes while numerous Common Yellowthroats fussed from the grasses and reeds. Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were easily seen (and heard).

A number of hard to get birds were found on the day. A Winter Wren, difficult to find on the immediate coast, was seen at Sabine Woods by a couple of lucky birders. A young

Peregrine Falcon was also spotted as it cruised over the woods. Golden-crowned Kinglets with their high pitched calls were found at the Woods and the Willows. These tiny birds often end up on the coast immediately after a strong fall cold front. An Osprey and a Merlin were both perched in low trees/snags along Highway 87 between the Woods and the Willows. A Barn Owl was flushed from the oaks at Sabine Woods while at least two Western Kingbirds were spotted around the sanctuary with more numerous Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Perhaps the bird of the day was a lone White-tailed Hawk seen by some participants along Highway 87. This was a young bird in transition between immature and adult plumage. This species is fairly common on the coastal plains of south Texas but is rarely seen in Jefferson County. Perhaps recent sightings of this species in the area represent the cusp of a range expansion?

Whether a birder is seeing a rare species or a common one in extraordinary numbers, there is much to appreciate about fall birding around Sabine Pass. As the autumn passes toward winter, the bird species continue to change. Even as you are reading this report, sparrows are arriving in the area on the heels of cold fronts. Waves of Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese are passing to the coast and Red-tailed Hawks are beginning to command more and more roadside telephone poles. Yes, fall birding can be as good as spring and the best news is that it is not over yet! Get out and enjoy it!

The following species were observed on the field trip: Neotropic Cormorant (10); Great Egret (4); Cattle Egret (35); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (2); Plegadis species Ibis (6); Black Vulture (9); White-tailed Kite (1); Northern Harrier (1); Accipiter species (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); White-tailed Hawk (1); Crested Caracara (1); American Kestrel (1); Merlin (1); Peregrine Falcon (1); Common Moorhen (1); Killdeer (9); Eurasian Collared-Dove (3); White-winged Dove (6); Mourning Dove (3); *Archilochus* Hummingbird (1); *Selasphorus* Hummingbird (1); Belted Kingfisher (6); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Downy Woodpecker (2); Eastern Wood-Pewee (7); Least Flycatcher (2); Eastern Phoebe (2); Western Kingbird (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (24); Loggerhead Shrike (9); White-eyed Vireo (6); Warbling Vireo (1); Philadelphia Vireo (3); Red-eyed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (4); Tree Swallow (28); Carolina Chickadee (1); Carolina Wren (1); House Wren (1); Winter Wren (1); Golden-crowned Kinglet (3); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (14); Wood Thrush (25); Gray Catbird (710); Northern Mockingbird (4); Brown Thrasher (21); Blue-winged Warbler (1); Nashville Warbler (1); Northern Parula (3); Yellow Warbler (1); Magnolia Warbler (12); Black-throated Green Warbler (3); Bay-breasted Warbler (1); Black-and-white Warbler (2); American Redstart (15); Prothonotary Warbler (1); Ovenbird (3); Northern Waterthrush (1); Common Yellowthroat (95); Hooded Warbler (11); Wilson's Warbler (1); Yellow-breasted Chat (1); Summer Tanager (3); Scarlet Tanager (2); Lincoln's Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (4); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (21); Blue Grosbeak (2); Indigo Bunting (75); Painted Bunting (3); Red-winged Blackbird (35); Boat-tailed Grackle (27); Great/Boat-tailed Grackle (25)

Steve Mayes

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

Unfortunately, almost all the local and regional telephone Rare Bird Alerts have been discontinued in favor of various Internet based means of distribution.

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> and each new alert is posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. The archives of this listserv can be accessed at <http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/tebirds.html> It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives.

Transcriptions of many current and recent email alerts are available on the 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 very early issues.

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