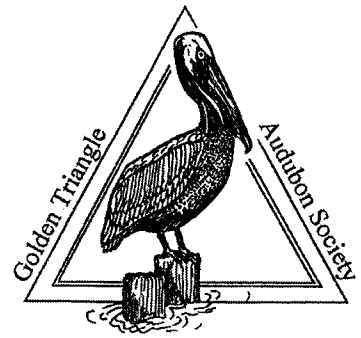


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 14 No. 1

January 2008

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 17, 2008**  
**7:00 PM, "The Green Barn"**  
**adjacent to the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**The Audubon Texas Important Bird Area Program**  
**Dr. Andrew Kasner**  
**Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Texas**

Andrew Kasner was born in San Angelo, Texas. He earned a B.S. in Biology in 1995 and an M.S. in Biology in 1999 at Angelo State University. His thesis research focused on the ecology of Least Sandpipers wintering at reservoirs in west-central Texas.

In 2000, Andy began work on the nesting and foraging ecology of endangered Interior Least Terns on the reclaimed areas of a surface coal mine in east-central Texas and other locations statewide. This was the subject of his dissertation at Texas A&M University, where he received a Ph.D. in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences in 2004. Through collaboration with others, he has also worked on grassland birds, swallows, and other bird species.

Prior to taking up his position with Audubon Texas in January 2007, Andy was from 2003 assistant professor of biology at Lamar University, where his efforts were focused on waterbirds in southeast Texas. These efforts included monitoring colonial waterbird populations and research on power line collisions. His graduate and undergraduate research students have worked on various subjects from passerines to waterbirds to shrimp in southeast Texas coastal marshes and upland habitats in Orange and the Big Thicket.

Andy oversees Audubon Texas program to further bird conservation efforts. One of the primary components of this is the Important Bird Area program, which will be the principal topic of his talk.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 14, No.1 January 2008

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

See Web Site for more  
information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

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## Calendar of Events

**Thursday January 17, 2008.** Speaker: Dr. Andrew Kasner, Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Texas on the Texas Important Bird Area Program. See page 1 for details

**Saturday January 19, 2008 Field Trip to Katy Prairie/West Harris County.** This has become one of our most popular field trips. Houston is rapidly advancing towards the heart of this excellent birding area, with its wintering waterfowl, sparrows (including Fox and Harris's) and raptors (including Caracara and Bald Eagle). A Pyrrhuloxia and two Kiskadees are being seen this winter. The meeting time and place will be 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, but because of continuing construction may not be well signposted. 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.

Construction on IH-10 (Katy Freeway) continues, and has been subject to various closures on weekends over the past many months. The connectors from IH-10 to northbound Highway 6 are closed until August or later. Should IH-10 be completely closed west of Houston on January 19th, an alternative is to go round IH-610 north, and exit onto US-290 northwest bound. From there take the West 43rd Street exit, and proceed west. This becomes Clay Road in less than a mile after crossing Hempstead Highway, and can be followed all the way to the Randall's at Barker-Cypress. In the early morning, this will not take much longer than using IH-10 and Barker-Cypress.

Please be sure to check with Steve Mayes at the Membership Meeting on January 17 or check the web-site at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org) or call

Steve Mayes at 722-5807 two or three days before to confirm details. It is a two and one-half hour 105-mile drive from the Golden Triangle.

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 January Membership meeting.

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.

**Thursday February 15, 2007. Membership Meeting.** Tentative: Jeff Pittman on the Origin of Birds.

## Cattail Marsh Closed for Rehabilitation

Cattail Marsh is currently closed to the public during a rehabilitation project which will last some months. At present, the City does not know how long the contractor will require to complete the project. We hope to have a more definitive estimate of the expected duration of the closure next month. Check our website in the meantime for possible news.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring all items for the January meeting and all spring 2008 meetings.** Please do not wait until the last minute to volunteer! 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!



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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 [estx@earthshare-texas.org](mailto:estx@earthshare-texas.org).

## Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count -- 29 December 2007

Twenty-eight observers participated in the 2008 Sea Rim State Park CBC on December 29, 2007 on an overcast day which, while not bitterly cold, failed to meet the expectations of the local meteorologists. Fortunately, the wind remained light generally from a northerly direction.

The provisional total is 152 species, significantly down from last year's record 169 species, and in fact the lowest since the December 2001 count. We were not able to survey Texas Point NWR and the part of McFaddin NWR that are in the count circle by airboat this year, so we did not record probably at least five species that were doubtless there. We did cover the Texas Point Beach thoroughly, thanks to Tighe Teets, the Texas Chenier Plain Refuge Complex Law Enforcement Officer. Apart from those five, which include American Bittern, Sora, Virginia Rail and LeConte's Sparrow, we really were not short of many species that we know are always in the circle in winter, we just did not find any lingering neotropical migrants or other species that are rare or irregular winter residents.

The results of this year's other Upper Texas Coast Christmas Counts have been varied. Mostly, observers seem to have commented on low numbers of birds, and a relative paucity of sparrow species. "Low numbers of birds" is always difficult to evaluate, because the total number of birds seen, the most easily obtained statistic, is always highly influenced by one or two species typically seen in large numbers, such as Red-winged Blackbird and Snow Geese in the case of this count. The total number of birds seen this year was on the high side of normal, but some very large flocks of Snow Geese were largely responsible.

Among the waterfowl, Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, seen by two parties, were a welcome return after several years absence. One group was seen to lift off from the salt waters of the Gulf! Ross's Geese continue to increase, and quite likely are more numerous than appears. Most observers are very cautious about reporting the species, even in large flocks of flying white geese. We were pleased to see Canvasback back in fairly good numbers after not showing at all last year. Six Common Goldeneye represents a new high for the species since it was reinstated in 1995. Scoters are probably always present out in the Gulf, but difficult to observe from shore. A White-winged Scoter in the Pleasure Island area was therefore a pleasant surprise, and the first we have recorded since the January 2005 count..

Most of the herons and egrets were seen in greater numbers than last year, although Cattle Egret eluded us again. When Cattle Egrets first spread through the region, they were almost always to be found at least well into January if not throughout the winter. Now, the species seems much more highly migratory and hard to find even in December.

Raptors were pretty much as expected, other than a distinct shortage of Red-shouldered Hawks. White-tailed Hawks have been seen regularly in the area during the fall, but were not to be found on count day.

Once again, we found four wintering Whimbrel one at Sea Rim and three in the usual place along the beach almost at Texas Point itself. Long-billed Curlews and Marbled Godwits

also winter along the same stretch of beach, and are occasionally seen in nearby locations.

If we make a distinction between the "litoral" (and litoral) shorebirds -- the species to be found right along the beach -- and the "waders" --the species more likely to be found on mudflats in fresh to brackish environments, we do well with the shorebirds, but relatively less well with the waders, because we do not have much accessible true freshwater habitat for the latter in the circle. Gulls and terns were pretty much restricted to the expected species, with Bonaparte's Gulls noticeably almost absent.

Nine Great Horned Owls were more than twice as many as we have ever seen before on the count, but no Burrowing Owl turned up this year. The circle does not contain any extensive stands of mature trees, so the habitat for other owls is limited and woodpeckers, while present, are somewhat limited in number.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch found in the woods on private property south of Backridge Road represent only the second ever seen on the count. Golden-crowned Kinglets were found in good numbers as has become usual in recent years, even though the species is generally considered to prefer conifers on a year-round basis. There are not many conifers within the circle, and the species is often seen quite low to the ground in the area in winter. Tufted Titmice are very reluctant to leave continuously wooded areas, and the only previous record of the species was in December 2003. This year, two were seen, one in Sabine Woods and another in the same general area as the nuthatch.

We usually, but not always find Eastern Bluebirds, but none showed this year. American Robin numbers vary a lot, depending on whether on count day the birds are still in the Big Thicket or have moved further south. They almost always do move south, but sometimes it is February before that happens. There is little to say about the vireos and warblers; nothing out of the ordinary was found.

It is difficult to generalize about sparrows. Any analysis of the Sea Rim count alone would easily conclude that Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows, two species usually found in fairly high numbers, were down, yet a broader regional picture, including a consideration of the initial push of sparrows in late October/early November, would point to low numbers of Savannah Sparrows (so far at least), and a great variety of species early in the season, not represented in the count.

This year (2008), Christmas falls on a Thursday, and unless we receive significant unfavorable reaction, we are proposing to hold the next count on Saturday January 3, 2009.

We thank Joseph Munguia and the staff at Sea Rim State Park, Jim Sutherlin of Murphree WMA and Dean Bossert and the staff of Texas Point and McFaddin NWRs for help in accessing areas of the count circle within their areas.

The following results are still provisional and subject to further checking:

WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (12); GOOSE, Greater White-fronted (51); GOOSE, Snow (9862); GOOSE, Snow (White)

(248); GOOSE, Snow (Blue) (64); GOOSE, Ross's (28); GOOSE, Canada (57); GADWALL (408); WIGEON, American (27); MALLARD (4); DUCK, Mottled (70); TEAL, Blue-winged (55); SHOVELER, Northern (185); PINTAIL, Northern (394); TEAL, Green-winged (465); CANVASBACK (850); DUCK, Ring-necked (19); SCAUP, Greater (3); SCAUP, Lesser (1094); SCAUP, Species (736); SCOTER, White-winged (1); BUFFLEHEAD (25); GOLDENEYE, Common (6); MERGANSER, Hooded (9); MERGANSER, Red-breasted (43); DUCK, Ruddy (95); DUCK, species (38); BOBWHITE, Northern (1); LOON, Common (3); GREBE, Pied-billed (52); GREBE, Horned (1); GREBE, Eared (23); GANNET, Northern (1); PELICAN, American White (704); PELICAN, Brown (97); CORMORANT, Neotropic (299); CORMORANT, Double-crested (402); CORMORANT species (171); ANHINGA (14); HERON, Great Blue (58); EGRET, Great (769); EGRET, Snowy (341); HERON, Little Blue (29); HERON, Tricolored (67); HERON, Green (3); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (21); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (10); IBIS, White (1052); IBIS, White-faced (40); IBIS, Plegadis species (2018); SPOONBILL, Roseate (110); VULTURE, Black (67); VULTURE, Turkey (72); OSPREY (7); KITE, White-tailed (10); HARRIER, Northern (41); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (5); HAWK, Cooper's (3); HAWK, Red-shouldered (1); HAWK, Red-tailed (47); CARACARA, Crested (4); KESTREL, American (15); MERLIN (4); FALCON, Peregrine (2); RAIL, Clapper (4); RAIL, King (2); MOORHEN, Common (109); COOT, American (4756); PLOVER, Black-bellied (137); PLOVER, Snowy (31); PLOVER, Semipalmated (21); PLOVER, Piping (10); KILLDEER (98); STILT, Black-necked (32); AVOCET, American (57); SANDPIPER, Spotted (2); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (29); WILLET (92); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (1); YELLOWLEGS, species (30); WHIMBREL (4); CURLEW, Long-billed (11); GODWIT, Marbled (3); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (8); SANDERLING (178); SANDPIPER, Western (59); SANDPIPER, Least (24); DUNLIN (425); SANDPIPER, Stilt (7); SANDPIPER species (8); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (1); DOWITCHER, species (35); SNIPE, Wilson's (10); GULL, Laughing (270); GULL, Bonaparte's (1); GULL, Ring-billed (732); GULL, Herring (19); TERN, Caspian (19); TERN, Royal (138); TERN, Common (5); TERN, Forster's (385); SKIMMER, Black (200); PIGEON, Rock (87); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (6); DOVE, White-winged (1); DOVE, Mourning (76); OWL, Barn (2); OWL, Great Horned (9); KINGFISHER, Belted (38); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (4); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (6); WOODPECKER, Downy (36); FLICKER, Northern (16); PHOEBE, Eastern (50); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (39); VIREO, Blue-headed (12); JAY, Blue (34); CROW species (1); SWALLOW, Tree (233); CHICKADEE, Carolina (15); TITMOUSE, Tufted (2); NUTHATCH, Red-breasted (1); WREN, Carolina (3); WREN, House (15); WREN, Sedge (7); WREN, Marsh (1); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (22); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (116); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (88); THRUSH, Hermit (4); ROBIN, American (18); CATBIRD, Gray (8); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (33); THRASHER, Brown (9); STARLING, European (318); PIPIT, American (3); WAXWING, Cedar (1); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (49); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (56); WARBLER, Yellow-r.(Myrtle) (285); WARBLER, Pine (36);

YELLOWTHROAT, Common (27); SPARROW, Chipping (1); SPARROW, Vesper (1); SPARROW, Savannah (95); SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-tailed (1); SPARROW, Seaside (6); SPARROW, Song (9); SPARROW, Lincoln's (7); SPARROW, Swamp (62); SPARROW, White-throated (11); SPARROW, White-crowned (11); CARDINAL, Northern (31); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (897); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (3); GRACKLE, Common (72); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (413); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (48); GRACKLE, species (680); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (2); FINCH, House (2); GOLDFINCH, American (64); SPARROW, House (19); SPECIES, total (152); INDIVIDUALS, total (33568); Observers (28); Parties (10); Party-hours total (73.75); Party-miles total (172.35); Party-hours on foot (40.40); Party-miles on foot (17.85); Party-hours by car (27.35); Party-miles by car (126.50); Party-hours by boat (6.00); Party-miles by boat (18.00)

Participants: Jennifer and Jim Armacost, Bob Collier, Howard Davis, Don and Nancy Fisher, Sherry Gibson, Bill Graber, John Haynes, Lance Howell, Don Jeane, Harrison and Rose Ann Jordan, Andy and Carol Lynn Loker, Steve Mayes, Karen McCormick, Jason Mills, Royce Pendergast, Sherrie Roden, Jenny Shuffield, Christine Sliva, Ken Sztraky, Tighe Teets, Tex Wells, Colt Westbrook and Jana and John Whittle.

## Turkey Creek CBC 15 December 2007

The Turkey Creek Christmas Bird Count is sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve, and has been conducted annually since the Preserve was established in the late seventies. The weather forecast for the appointed day was not at all promising, and indeed, shortly after sunrise, a rather strong cold front, with a line of very heavy rain passed through the area, forcing a stop to birding for about one and a-half hours. Behind the front, a strengthening north wind reduced the temperature fairly significantly and fairly quickly. The previous few days had been much more favorable, and birds, not pressed immediately to find food, were not very active, and thus hard to find, especially as the wind increased.

The total number of species seen was only 50, well below the 60 to 70 typical of the past decade. But back in 1994 and 1995 the totals were below 50. To some extent, a milder than usual fall may have resulted in some winter residents not having come all the way south by the very early date of the count. The period immediately preceding the count had also been fairly dry, and, since the circle contains little permanent water, waterbirds, herons etc. were not plentiful. Paradoxically, the only species seen that was new to the count was Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. But not finding Great Blue Heron, or any cormorants of Northern Harrier was unusual to say the least.

Finding a flock of Northern Bobwhite for the first time since 1992 was more encouraging. Not finding Red-headed Woodpecker was somewhat surprising in view of the still significant number of dead trees still standing in the aftermath of hurricane Rita in 1995. Most of the wintering insect eating species were found in low the normal numbers, but sparrow numbers and variety were drastically reduced from normal.

## Species Seen

GOOSE, Snow (21); DUCK, Wood (1); BOBWHITE, Northern (9); EGRET, Great (1); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (1); VULTURE, Black (38); VULTURE, Turkey (61); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Red-shouldered (5); HAWK, Red-tailed (1); KESTREL, American (6); KILLDEER (35); WOODCOCK, American (1); DOVE, Mourning (4); OWL, Barred (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (13); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (8); WOODPECKER, Downy (7); FLICKER, Northern (7); WOODPECKER, Pileated (6); PHOEBE, Eastern (13); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (1); VIREO, White-eyed (1); VIREO, Blue-headed (2); JAY, Blue (28); CROW, American (109); CROW Species (7); CHICKADEE, Carolina (30); TITMOUSE, Tufted (16); NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (7); WREN, Carolina (18); WREN, House (1); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (4); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (24); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (87); THRUSH, Hermit (3); ROBIN, American (2405); CATBIRD, Gray (3); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (12); WAXWING, Cedar (32); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (4); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (66); WARBLER, Pine (67); SPARROW, Chipping (155); SPARROW, Field (3); SPARROW, White-throated (17); SPARROW, White-crowned (1); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (5); CARDINAL, Northern (68); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (12); GOLDFINCH, American (79); SPARROW, House (1); SPECIES, total (50); Number of observers (11); Number of parties (4); Party-hours on foot (9.75); Party-miles on foot (6.75); (); Party-hours by car (17.50); Party-miles by car (116); ; Total Party hours (27); Total Party miles (122).

Participants: David Baker, Bruce Bishop, Sherry Gibson, Don and Pat Jeane, Harrison and Rose Ann Jordan, Lisa Jameson, Tom Kihn, Jeff Pittman, John Whittle.

## Johnson Bayou CBC 23 December 2007

The Johnson Bayou Christmas Bird Count, organized and compiled by Ken Sztraky, was held this year with six participants. Once again, great cooperation was obtained from the Gray Estate and Crain Brothers, the two major landowners in the circle. The overall total of 117 species was on the low side of the norm for recent years. In common with other areas along the immediate coast, waterfowl numbers and variety were on the low side, and sparrow variety very much so. There never seem to be any concentrations of shorebirds in the accessible areas of this count, and the overall total reflects this. In addition, the cheniers, although somewhat recovered from hurricane Rita in 2005, do not contain anything near the pre-Rita variety of insectivores. A lot of the larger trees, mostly hackberry, were killed by salt water. Sparrow numbers, if not variety, continue to rebound.

Unusual species seen included a Parasitic Jaeger seen flying just offshore, a Northern Flicker of the Red-shafted race, a Least Flycatcher on the chenier along Hackberry Ridge, and a Black-throated Gray Warbler. A Baltimore Oriole was also a very unusual species for December. A Red-breasted Nuthatch provided some confirmation of the irruption

of the species this winter season. Palm Warbler was seen for the first time in several years.

### Species seen:

Greater White-fronted Goose (2); Snow Goose (483); Ross's Goose (6); American Wigeon (1); Gadwall (82); Green-winged Teal (45); Redhead (1); Mottled Duck (10); Northern Pintail (6); Blue-winged Teal (272); Northern Shoveler (157); Lesser Scaup (19); Scaup species (385); Red-breasted Merganser (13); Pied-billed Grebe (22); Neotropic Cormorant (13); Double-crested Cormorant (59); Cormorant species (80); Anhinga (2); American White Pelican (231); Brown Pelican (16); Tricolored Heron (13); Little Blue Heron (12); Snowy Egret (83); Great Blue Heron (30); Great Egret (819); Cattle Egret (4); Green Heron (4); American Bittern (1); White Ibis (259); Plegadis Ibis species (1830); Roseate Spoonbill (22); Black Vulture (33); Turkey Vulture (20); Osprey (1); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (30); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Cooper's Hawk (3); Red-tailed Hawk (25); American Kestrel (8); Clapper Rail (2); Sora (2); Common Moorhen (151); American Coot (1418); Wilson's Snipe (3); Lesser Yellowlegs (9); Spotted Sandpiper (1); Willet (5); Ruddy Turnstone (31); Sanderling (204); Least Sandpiper (1); Black-necked Stilt (2); Black-bellied Plover (10); Killdeer (317); Piping Plover (25); Ring-billed Gull (229); Herring Gull (1); Laughing Gull (180); Caspian Tern (11); Royal Tern (7); Forster's Tern (165); Parasitic Jaeger (1); Black skimmer (8); Rock Pigeon (4); Mourning Dove (12); White-winged Dove (2); Inca Dove (3); Barn Owl (2); Great Horned Owl (2); Short-eared Owl (1); Belted Kingfisher (27); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (7); Downy Woodpecker (5); Northern (Yellow shafted) Flicker (14); Northern (Red-shafted) Flicker (1); Eastern Phoebe (47); Least Flycatcher (1); Blue Jay (4); Blue-headed Vireo (6); Loggerhead Shrike (22); Tree Swallow (199); Cedar Waxwing (3); Eastern Bluebird (2); Hermit Thrush (4); American Robin (3); Gray Catbird (3); Northern Mockingbird (17); Brown Thrasher (3); European Starling (9); Red-breasted Nuthatch (1); Sedge Wren (4); Marsh Wren (10); Carolina Wren (4); House Wren (21); Winter Wren (3); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (53); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (80); Golden-crowned Kinglet (11); Orange-crowned Warbler (30); Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (33); Black-throated Gray Warbler (1); Pine Warbler (3); Palm Warbler (3); Black-and-white Warbler (2); Common Yellowthroat (12); Song Sparrow (14); Lincoln's Sparrow (14); Swamp Sparrow (117); White-crowned Sparrow (89); White-throated Sparrow (13); Savannah Sparrow (145); Northern Cardinal (15); Baltimore Oriole (1); Red-winged Blackbird (1884); Eastern Meadowlark (5); Great-tailed Grackle (83); Boat-tailed Grackle (75); Quiscalus species (200); American Goldfinch (17); House Sparrow (6); Total species seen (117); 6 participants in 3 parties; foot 18.5 hours 12.5 miles; car 10.25 hours 42.5 miles; total party 28.75 hours 54.5 miles. Participants; Coulter, Steve Mayes, Ken Sztraky, Bill Tarbox, White, John Whittle

## Other Area Christmas Counts

We hope to have brief details of some other local counts next month.

## Bird Sightings – November 2007

**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:** The beginning of the month shows some continuation of the push of winter residents arriving with some reaching the coast. We now have adequate past records to recognize that this push at the end of October and beginning of November is an annual occurrence. What we don't know yet is whether these birds -- sparrows and some

woodland species -- retreat back north to the woodlands in the southern part of the Big Thicket, or whether they proceed west along the coast and then further south. The relatively low numbers of birds of these species in the Big Thicket in early to mid-December some years, this one included, suggests that most may be headed further south or perhaps west. However, the late October/early November push is very regular, rarely varying by more than a few days either side of November 1, while the arrival of the wintering woodland species in the Big Thicket seems to be much more variable, and apparently influenced much more weather pattern and cold fronts in particular.

The most unusual species reported this month was a Black-throated Gray Warbler that put in a very brief appearance at Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan's feeders in north Beaumont on November 8th. Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Hawks are still being seen regularly in west Jefferson County. Gray Catbirds seem to be numerous this year, while Black-chinned Hummingbirds are, somewhat unusually, apparently significantly outnumbering Rufous Hummingbirds. Rufous used to be considered the most common species along the Gulf coast.

<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	(3-17)	JEF 2 reps(255)	<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(3-29)	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 7
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	(13-30)	JEF 4 reps(566)	reps(21)		
<b>GOOSE, Ross's</b>	(17-17)	JEF 11/17(33) FTWJ	<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	(3-22)	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>GADWALL</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(205)	<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	(3-25)	JEF 6 reps(40)
<b>WIGEON, American</b>	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(3)	<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	(3-28)	JEF 7 reps(6)
<b>MALLARD</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(29)	<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(1-17)	JEF-BMT 11/1(1) RHJ;
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(4-23)	JEF-TP 11/4(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/18(10) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(4) JAW	JEF-MCFW 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 11/12(1) JAW; JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ		
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(109)	<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(4-25)	JEF 5 reps(5)
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(1027)	<b>HAWK, White-tailed</b>	(17-17)	JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(343)	<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(77)
<b>TEAL, Green-winged</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(1480)	<b>HAWK, Red-tailed (Kriider's)</b>	(5-17)	JEF-TX87 11/5(1) JWR;
<b>DUCK, Ring-necked</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(108)	JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ		
<b>SCAUP, Greater</b>	(4-4)	JEF-TP 11/4(3) JAW	<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	(4-25)	JEF 11/4(3) JAW; JEF 11/17(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/18(1) JAW; JEF 11/25(2) JAW
<b>SCAUP, Lesser</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(118)	<b>KESTREL, American</b>	(4-25)	JEF 6 reps(85)
<b>BUFFLEHEAD</b>	(18-25)	JEF-TP 11/18(6) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(9) JAW; JEF-TP 11/25(5) JAW	<b>MERLIN</b>	(4-5)	JEF-TP 11/4(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/5(1) JWR
<b>MERGANSER, Hooded</b>	(18-18)	JEF-TP 11/18(1) JAW	<b>MERLIN</b>	(4-5)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>DUCK, Ruddy</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(735)	<b>FALCON, Peregrine</b>	(17-17)	JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
<b>BOBWHITE, Northern</b>	(10-10)	HAI 1 rep(1)	<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(3)
<b>LOON, Common</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	(3-18)	JEF 3 reps(12)
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	(3-23)	JEF 4 reps(51)	<b>COOT, American</b>	(3-25)	JEF 5 reps(1553)
<b>GREBE, Horned</b>	(25-25)	JEF-TP 11/25(1) JAW	<b>CRANE, Sandhill</b>	(17-17)	JEF 11/17(50) FTWJ
<b>GREBE, Eared</b>	(3-25)	JEF 3 reps(4)	<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(4)
<b>PELICAN, Amer. White</b>	(3-18)	JEF 2 reps(23)	<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 11/3(2) JAW
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 11/3(7) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/3(2) JAW	<b>KILLDEER</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(123)
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(3-23)	JEF 5 reps(70)	<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(302)
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crested</b>	(3-23)	JEF 4 reps(15)	<b>AVOCET, American</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(9)
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(30)	<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(100)	<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	(3-25)	JEF 5 reps(16)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(3-25)	JEF 5 reps(165)	<b>WILLET</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(7)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(4-25)	JEF 2 reps(2)	<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(18-22)	JEF 2 reps(51)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(3-23)	JEF 4 reps(12)	<b>SANDERLING</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(10)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(3-18)	JEF 3 reps(52)	<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	(18-23)	JEF 2 reps(22)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(4-4)	JEF-TP 11/4(1) JAW	<b>SANDPIPER, Peep</b>	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(3)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown.</b>	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(12)	<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	(18-23)	JEF 2 reps(55)
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(508)	<b>DUNLIN</b>	(22-22)	JEF 1 rep(20)
<b>IBIS, Glossy</b>	(4-18)	JEF 11/4(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/18(1) JAW	<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	(3-18)	JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) JAW;
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(67)	JEF-TP 11/18(20) JAW		
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(3-23)	JEF 4 reps(403)	<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(18-23)	JEF 2 reps(125)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(4-23)	JEF-TP 11/4(3) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(1) JAW	<b>SNIBE, Wilson's</b>	(4-23)	JEF 3 reps(12)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(3-29)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 2	<b>WOODCOCK, American</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(2) JAW
reps(15)			<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(3-25)	JEF 5 reps(1363)
			<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	(3-25)	JEF 5 reps(100)
			<b>GULL, Herring</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(1)
			<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	(3-23)	JEF 3 reps(8)
			<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(3-23)	JEF 2 reps(13)

<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(6)	<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(3-30)	HAI 3 reps(7); JEF 7 reps(50)
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(1-18)	JEF 3 reps(93)	<b>STARLING, European</b>	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(14); JEF 7 reps(535)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(175)	<b>PIBIT, American</b>	(17-25)	JEF 5 reps(64)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(2-30)	JEF 4 reps(8)	<b>WARBLER, Orange-crowned</b>	(3-30)	HAI 5 reps(6); JEF 7 reps(10)
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(3-30)	HAI 5 reps(109); JEF 7 reps(662)	<b>WARBLER, Magnolia</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) JAW
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SW 11/3(1) JAW	<b>WARBLER, Yellow-rumped</b>	(1-30)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 10 reps(53)
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SW 11/3(1) JAW	<b>WARBLER, Bik-thr. Gray</b>	(8-8)	JEF-BMT 11/8(1) RHJ
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(14-14)	HAI-SILS 11/14(1) MG	<b>WARBLER, Bik-thr. Green</b>	(5-5)	JEF-SW 11/5(1) JWR
<b>OWL, Barred</b>	(9-18)	HAI-SILS 11/9(1) MG; JEF- TP 11/18(1) JAW	<b>WARBLER, Palm</b>	(4-4)	JEF 11/4(2) JAW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.</b>	(15-25)	JEF-BMT 11/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/18(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/20(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/25(1) RHJ	<b>REDSTART, American</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) JAW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous</b>	(23-26)	JEF-BMT 11/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/24(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/25(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/26(1) RHJ	<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	(3-23)	JEF 3 reps(4)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD species</b>	(1-26)	JEF-BMT 11/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/6(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 11/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/18(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/23(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/24(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/26(1) RHJ	<b>SPARROW, Chipping</b>	(4-30)	HAI-SILS 11/4(13) MG; HAI-SILS 11/9(9) MG; HAI-SILS 11/13(12) MG; HAI-SILS 11/14(6) MG; HAI-SILS 11/16(6) MG; HAI-SILS 11/20(10) MG; HAI-SILS 11/21(12) MG; HAI-SILS 11/22(15) MG; HAI-SILS 11/26(12) MG; HAI-SILS 11/27(20) MG; HAI-SILS 11/28(18) MG; HAI-SILS 11/29(16) MG; HAI-SILS 11/30(18) MG; JEF- BMT 11/25(30) RHJ
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	(3-25)	JEF 5 reps(15)	<b>SPARROW, Vesper</b>	(17-25)	JEF 11/17(8) FTWJ; JEF 11/25(4) JAW
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	(4-30)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 4 reps(9)	<b>SPARROW, Savannah</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(286)
<b>SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied</b>	(4-19)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 2 reps(2)	<b>SPARROW, LeConte's</b>	(3-17)	JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) JAW; JEF 11/17(10) FTWJ
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(2-30)	HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 7 reps(10)	<b>SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-t.</b>	(3-5)	JEF 2 reps(22)
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(3-29)	HAI 5 reps(7); JEF 6 reps(8)	<b>SPARROW, Seaside</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(12)
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(4-20)	HAI 4 reps(4)	<b>SPARROW, Song</b>	(3-25)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(3) JAW; JEF 11/4(10) JAW; JEF 11/17(3) FTWJ; JEF 11/18(3) JAW; JEF 11/25(1) JAW
<b>PHOEBE, Eastern</b>	(3-30)	HAI 9 reps(9); JEF 7 reps(68)	<b>SPARROW, Lincoln's</b>	(3-17)	JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>KINGBIRD, Western</b>	(3-5)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/5(1) JWR	<b>SPARROW, Swamp</b>	(3-17)	JEF 3 reps(6)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed</b>	(3-3)	JEF-TX87 11/3(7) JAW	<b>SPARROW, White-throated</b>	(1-23)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(36)
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(3-25)	JEF 6 reps(61)	<b>SPARROW, White-crowned</b>	(3-25)	JEF 6 reps(43)
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	(26-28)	HAI-SILS 11/26(1) MG; HAI-SILS 11/28(6) MG	<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(4-30)	HAI 6 reps(40); JEF 5 reps(18)
<b>VIREO, Blue-headed</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(3-25)	JEF 7 reps(1759)
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(3-30)	JEF 5 reps(8)	<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	(4-18)	JEF 3 reps(20)
<b>CROW, American</b>	(4-17)	JEF 2 reps(7)	<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	(18-25)	JEF 3 reps(34)
<b>CROW, species</b>	(17-17)	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>BLACKBIRD, Brewer's</b>	(22-25)	JEF 11/22(35) JAW; JEF 11/25(155) JAW
<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	(3-25)	JEF-TXPT 11/3(130) JAW; JEF 11/4(330) JAW; JEF-TP 11/4(125) JAW; JEF 11/17(24) FTWJ; JEF 11/18(45) JAW; JEF-TP 11/18(2) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(56) JAW; JEF-TP 11/25(50) JAW	<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(4-18)	JEF 2 reps(40)
<b>SWALLOW species</b>	(17-17)	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	(3-23)	JEF 2 reps(61)
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(3-22)	HAI 4 reps(20); JEF 3 reps(4)	<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	(1-30)	JEF 8 reps(419)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(9-30)	HAI 7 reps(30)	<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(6)
<b>NUTHATCH, Red-breasted</b>	(24-24)	JEF-BMT 11/24(2) RHJ	<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	(4-25)	JEF 4 reps(2735)
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(4-29)	HAI 5 reps(10); JEF 3 reps(4)	<b>BLACKBIRD species</b>	(22-25)	JEF 2 reps(80)
<b>WREN, House</b>	(3-22)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) JAW; JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ; JEF 11/18(1) JAW; JEF 11/22(1) JAW	<b>FINCH, House</b>	(1-25)	JEF-BMT 11/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/3(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/20(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/24(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/25(4) RHJ
<b>WREN, Winter</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) JAW	<b>GOLDFINCH, American</b>	(17-30)	JEF 11/17(5) FTWJ; JEF- BMT 11/24(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/25(5) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 11/30(4) JAW
<b>WREN, Sedge</b>	(17-23)	JEF 11/17(30) FTWJ; JEF- TP 11/23(1) JAW	<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(3-22)	JEF 4 reps(40)
<b>WREN, Marsh</b>	(3-23)	JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/4(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(1) JAW	<b>Number of Species</b>		151
<b>KINGLET, Golden-crowned</b>	(3-3)	JEF-SW 11/3(1) JAW	<b>Number of Individuals</b>		22559
<b>KINGLET, Ruby-crowned</b>	(1-22)	HAI 8 reps(12); JEF 5 reps(15)	<b>County Abbreviations:</b>		HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(3-22)	JEF 4 reps(11)	<b>Location Codes:</b>		BMT — Beaumont; GROV — Goves; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; 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; TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(18-30)	HAI 4 reps(33); JEF 3 reps(16)	<b>Observer Abbreviations</b>		FTWJ — Field Trip to West Jefferson County; JAW — John Whittle; JWR — Jan and Will Risser; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SR — Sherrie Roden
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(3-18)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 11/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/18(1) RHJ			
<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(3-29)	HAI-SILS 11/19(1) MG; HAI-SILS 11/29(2) MG; JEF-SRSP 11/3(15) JAW; JEF-SW 11/3(25) JAW; JEF-SW 11/5(5) JWR; JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ; JEF-TP 11/18(1) JAW; JEF 11/25(1) JAW			

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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/texbirds.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.

Golden Triangle Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 1292  
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