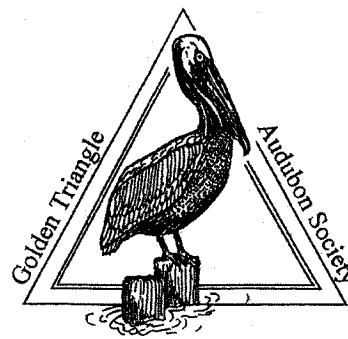


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 14 No. 12

December 2008

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count Saturday January 3, 2009 Meet in Sabine Pass at 7:00 a.m.

at the intersection of Highway 87 and FM3322 in Sabine Pass. This is at the stop sign in Sabine Pass, where Highway 87 turns west.

Countdown dinner at 6:00 p.m., location to be confirmed.

Please contact John Whittle 409-722-4193 (H), 409-880-8276 (W) or john.whittle@lamar.edu and let us know you plan to attend.

Orange County Christmas Bird Count Tuesday January 1, 2009 Meet in Orange at 7:15 a.m.

at the Service Station at the intersection of Highway 105 and FM1442.

Contact Ken Sztraky 409-385-2835 (H) or berrysheepfarm@att.net.

Please join us for what we hope will be two enjoyable birding days. All are invited, even if you are not an experienced birder or are only able to bird for part of the day. Feeder watchers are welcome to participate. Let us know in advance and we will find a suitable group for you to join. The more pairs of eyes in a group, the more birds will be seen.

Other local counts which will welcome your participation include the Turkey Creek Count (in the Big Thicket north of Kountze) on Monday, December 15 (contact Dave Roemer at Big Thicket NP at 409-951-6720 or John Whittle at john.whittle@lamar.edu), the Bolivar Peninsula Count on Saturday December 20 (contact Bill Graber 409-866-5452), the Johnson Bayou count on Saturday December 27 (contact Ken Sztraky, 409-385-2835 and the Beech Creek Count (in the Steinhagen Lake area) on December 27 (contacts as for Turkey Creek). More details and other counts on page 3.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 14, No.12 December 2008

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

See Web Site for more
information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Saturday December 6. Sabine Woods Work Day. We are planning a second work day at Sabine Woods. Please contact us or check our website before setting out for this work day. The woods were badly beaten by the storm surge from Hurricane Ike. Much was accomplished on the first work day on October 18 as described in November issue.

We would like to work on repairing the back fences, perhaps doing additional cleaning up and tidying of the trails, and work on vine control. Tools that we might need for this would include perhaps one or two chainsaws, and probably small sledge hammers to further disassemble the boardwalk sections. We might again want to remove vegetative debris, and, if you have a wheelbarrow and shovel to put in your pick up truck, it is conceivable that this might be useful.

We will plan to start around 7:30 a.m., and will probably work until noon or later.

Please bring heavy duty work gloves and insect repellent, and any of the tools mentioned above. We do plan to provide refreshments, but please bring water or other liquid refreshments just in case we run out.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for all the spring 2009 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 Jennifer Armacost at (409) 790-7222 (or email her at armacostj@yahoo.com) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

Christmas Bird Counts December 15 though January 3. Please see the list on the page opposite for details of local counts. In the aftermath of Ike, it is important that all counts

Thursday January 15. Membership Meeting. Speaker will be Jennifer Fleming, Texas Bluebird Society on Bluebirds.

Saturday January 17. Field Trip to West Harris County. Full details in next month's issue.

Saturday January 17, 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). 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. Turn right (north) on Barker Cypress and proceed just under three miles to the Intersection with Clay.

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.

Selected Upper Texas Coast Christmas Bird Counts

For more detailed descriptions of the Count Circles and details of other Upper Texas Coast Counts, see the Houston Audubon Society Web Page (www.houstonaudubon.org)

Turkey Creek: Monday, December 15, 2008

This count in Hardin and Tyler Counties includes the Turkey Creek and Hickory Creek Savannah Units of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on US69 at FM420, about 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 AM. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Contact Dave Roemer (Dave_Roemer@nps.gov) or at 409-951-6720 or John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu) or at 409-722-4193 for more information.

Galveston: Tuesday, December 16, 2008

This count includes Galveston Island west to a little beyond 9-mile Road, and Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary and Horseshoe Marsh Bird Sanctuary. Please contact compiler Gordon Nunn at 409-740-0082, if you'd like to participate.

Bolivar Peninsula: Saturday, December 20, 2008

The count circle in Chambers County includes High Island and Anahuac NWR. The countdown dinner is held at Al-T's Cajun Restaurant in Winnie. Newcomers are welcome to join! Please call compiler Bill Graber at 409-866-5452 to participate. This is Bill's 47th year to lead the count.

Johnson Bayou - Southwest Louisiana: Sunday, December 21, 2008

While much of the area is private, local land owners have allowed access to their property for this count, areas rarely birded and normally inaccessible to birders at other times offering a good chance for oddities. We have permission from the land owners including Gray Estate and Crain Brothers to be on their properties. Areas covered include beach, costal cheniers, marsh and grasslands. Johnson Bayou is located off Hwy 82 in Louisiana just across from Pleasure Island, TX (east of Sabine Pass). From Port Arthur take Hwy 82 east for about 15 miles into LA. The school sits between a store and the Head-of-the-Hallow Cemetery. Meet at 7:00 AM at the Johnson Bayou school. This count has great potential with enough observers. Every birder **WILL** make an impact on the results of this count. Please contact Ken Sztraky (berrysheepfarm@att.net) or telephone 409-385-2835 for more information, assignments and directions.

Trinity River: Friday, December 26, 2008

Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge will host this count covering northern Liberty County. Areas to be counted include the Trinity River NWR, Tarkington Prairie, and Gaylor Lake. We will meet at 7:00 AM at the Valero Gas station located at the intersection of Hwy 105 and 321, about 6 miles southeast of Cleveland. Some folks will bird the "bottoms" so be sure to bring a sack lunch, rubber knee boots and other appropriate outdoor clothing. The wrap-up dinner will be held at the Plantation restaurant in Cleveland. If you have any questions you can contact Stuart Marcus (stuart_marcus@fws.gov) or at 936/336-9786.

Beech Creek: Saturday, December 27, 2008

This count takes places in Tyler and Jasper Counties and includes Steinhagen Lake, the Beech Creek unit of Big Thicket National Preserve and Martin Dies State Park. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 immediately north of the intersection with FM1746 in Town Bluff at 6:30 AM. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Contact Dave Roemer (Dave_Roemer@nps.gov) or at 409-951-6720 or John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu) or at 409-722-4193 for more information.

Old River: Monday, December 29, 2008

The circle includes the Lower Trinity River centered at Lake Charlotte including Wallisville Dam. We will meet in the area between McDonald's and DJ's Country Store on the corner of I-10 & Hwy 61 (take the Hankamer exit off I-10) at 6:30 AM. The countdown dinner tentatively will be at Iguana Joe's just north of I-10 on Hwy 146 in Mont Belvieu. We will meet there between 5:00-5:30 PM. For further details please contact Harry Elliott (harry_s_elliott@yahoo.com, or at 832-444-0965.

Orange County: Thursday, January 1, 2009

Habitat covers marsh, woodlands, and the Cow Bayou watershed. Meet in Orange at 7:00 AM at the Service Station at the intersection of Highway 105 and FM 1442. All are invited, even if you are not an experienced birder or are only able to bird for part of the day. Feeder watchers are welcome to participate. Let us know in advance and we will find a suitable group for you to join. The more pairs of eyes in a group, the more birds will be seen. Contact Ken Sztraky (berrysheepfarm@att.net) or at 409-385-2835, for more information.

Sea Rim State Park: Saturday, January 3, 2009

This count in Jefferson County includes Sea Rim SP, Texas Point NWR and Sabine Pass area. Meet at the corner at the stop sign on Highway 87 (where Highway 87 turns right) in Sabine Pass at 7:00 AM. Sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society. Contact John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu) or at 409-722-4193 for details.

Field Trip to West Jefferson County -- 22 November 2008

Almost a dozen birders gathered on Johnson Road in the early morning hours for the GTAS field trip to western Jefferson County. Knowing full well that this area (and this trip) has, in the past produced regional rarities like Golden Eagle, Harris's Sparrow and Red Phalarope, anticipation was high and with a scheduled trip to a new birding location, Sabine Ranch, the beginning of the trip was eagerly awaited.

Johnson Road begins off of FM 365 with a series of pastures on one side and overgrown grassy fields on the other. These fields have, in past years, been an easy site for wintering LeConte's Sparrows and the birding began with trying to "pish" some up. A number of species responded including Common Yellowthroat, Sedge Wren, House Wren and many Savannah Sparrows but the LeConte's were either not present or just not interested. A Merlin perched on a nearby snag was much more cooperative.

Many species favor the weedy fields, pastures, hedgerows and flooded rice fields that cover much of the western part of the county and many of these birds were seen on the day. Eastern Phobes hawked insects from barbed wire fences. Numerous Eastern Meadowlarks call from the fields and flush at the birders approach. Turkey Vultures and Red-tailed Hawks soared high over the landscape while Northern Harriers cruised lower, just over the tops of the grasses and weeds. Tree Swallows zipped over the fields and Loggerhead Shrikes kept careful watch.

Down where Johnson Road ends at a "T" intersection, stands a small woodlot that has produced many good birds in the past. Often, typical eastern woodland birds can be found here when they are absent in the open habitats over the rest of the area. Some careful looking along with judicious use of taped calls produced a nice variety of birds including a nice surprise. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were easily found while a Yellow-rumped Warbler was less cooperative. Carolina Wrens and Chickadees took a little coaxing but eventually gave good looks to the group. A few American Robins were noticed and one of their cousins, a Hermit Thrush was also located. A Brown Thrasher sat up briefly while a couple of beautiful Blue-headed Vireos scolded the birders. Woodpeckers were responsive to the taped call of an Eastern Screech-Owl and Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Red-bellied Woodpecker were all found in this spot. Another responder to the Screech-Owl call was made by an actual Eastern Screech-Owl! The bird was never actually located by the group but it clearly called several times from nearby. The best find was made when the call of an American Goldfinch was heard. A suggestion from visiting birder John Berner led to the call of a Pine Siskin being played. Sure enough, at least four Pine Siskins called and came into view. Everyone in the group eventually got great looks at these small, streaked finches.

Pine Siskins are a species of bird that once occurred commonly in Jefferson County in the winter but are now mostly or many winters, entirely absent. Purple Finches also fall into this category. The exact reason for this decline is not clear though the usual suspects (habitat loss and possibly climate change) may be responsible. Whatever the cause of

these species decline, seeing the Pine Siskins in this small wooded area was surprising but most welcome!

Moving on from the woodlot, more open country birds were located. A single Grasshopper Sparrow popped up onto a barbed wire fence and cooperated for most of the group. A brushy area produced White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows. Swamp Sparrows were surprisingly scarce on the day but were seen by some.

One of the targets of this trip is always Sandhill Crane and the group was not disappointed. It took some maneuvering to finally get good looks at the bulk of the birds but, on League Road, the birders finally caught up with the cranes. At least one thousand of these stately gray birds roamed the fields or wheeled in the sky giving their strange bugling calls. Every winter some cranes tend to call this area home but the number varies greatly. Some years hundreds are present while others there are only a few dozen. Between two hundred and five hundred seems to be typical so the large number found on the field trip was a great treat!

Waterfowl and shorebirds are also a target of this field trip but there were few to be found. Flooded fields along South China and Lawhon Roads contained both Yellowlegs species along with Long-billed Dowitchers and some Least Sandpipers. A few (mostly very distant) ducks were also present including Mallards, Mottled Ducks and Northern Pintails. Geese seen on the day were all in flight and no concentrations on the ground were found. The geese seen included Greater White-fronted, Snow and Ross's Geese.

From there, the group traveled onto to a lunch stop at Christine Sliva's home (thanks Christine!) and, from there, a trip to Sabine Ranch. This ranch consists of more than twelve thousand acres of pastures and marsh land south of Highway 73 and (mostly) north of the intracoastal canal. This area was devastated by Hurricane Ike and the recovery process is only now just beginning. All of the structures on the ranch were destroyed or heavily damaged. All of the grassland and fresh water marsh habitats were inundated by saltwater and the vegetation killed. The brackish water areas closer to the intracoastal canal fared better. This area normally supports thousands of waterfowl, shorebirds and other species this time of year but the current, devastated habitat is only a shadow of it's former self and few birds were located. A few American Avocets were nice to see and a single Great Horned Owl was appreciated. The hospitality of the ranch owners and manager was much appreciated and they are already hard at work in rebuilding the facilities and helping the land to recover. No doubt the land will eventually recover and will again host thousands of birds and we wish the owners the best of luck with the recovery. The group ended the day at the beautiful lodge at Sabine Ranch, already being restored. Having seen lots of good birds on the day including a few surprises, I know we will all look forward to more chances to bird the wet prairies of western Jefferson County.

The following species were recorded on the trip: Pied-billed Grebe(1), Great Blue Heron(7), Great Egret(30), Snowy
(continued on page 7)

Hurricanes, Storm Surge and Chenieres

The following interesting exchange, lightly edited for presentation here, was posted on the LABIRD listserv on October 15, 2008

October 15, 2008 post by Bill Fontenot, Lower Prairie Basse, Lafayette Parish, LA.

As we birded the beaches/dunes/back marshes west of Johnson's Bayou this past summer (pre-Gustav/Ike of course; and nearly 3 years post-Rita), I recall being struck on numerous occasions at how fine the vegetation and general ecological conditions were regarding these coastal habitats. Besides health of individual plants studied, most striking of all was the diversity of plant life within those habitats. Those who pay close attention to the plant life within these coastal habitats noted the post-Rita jump in numerous species at almost every locale surveyed. We can only hope that a similar scenario emerges post-Ike.

[Regarding] the woody habitats -- the chenieres -- I'm somewhat more concerned. Yes, both the magnitude and diversity of herbaceous (non-woody) species that we noted in dune and marsh habitats was similarly remarkable in the chenieres post-Rita; but the storm-battered trees were somewhat slower in responding. And by this past summer nearly 3 years post-Rita, several herbaceous and woody vine species had come on so strong in the chenieres that they were swallowing up woody tree/shrub seedlings which had sprung up in response to more light/less woody competition.

In the long term, I'd be interested in monitoring the post-storm self-restoration process within cheniere habitats vs. post-storm restoration of similar habitats aided by restoration-personnel (i.e. planting selected woody species, managing rampant vine growth around selected woody seedlings/saplings, etc.).

October 15, 2008 post by Wylie C Barrow, Lafayette, LA

Although Peveto [Woods] faired OK during the storms (2005-2008), other chenieres did not. The near-shore ridge at Rutherford Beach is gone; vanished except for a few hackberry stumps (loss due mainly to new sand deposits up to 6-7 feet.). It is hardly noticeable a coastal forest was ever there. That's about 60 acres or so. The new sediment deposits have probably built the foundation for some fine future cheniere though. Hackberry Ridge, the forest stretching from the Tenneco plant west to the Sabine is severely damaged. Most all of the hackberry canopy is on the ground. Mulberries, acacia, toothache tree, etc. are either on the ground or will be soon. Live oak and honey locust and wolfberry withstood the storm better. I worry a bit about tallow opportunities that have "opened up" throughout all the chenieres.

All the birds (Black-throated Green Warbler., several Palm Warbler, Empidonax species, Eastern Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Brown Thrasher, Magnolia Warbler. etc.) we saw at Peveto last week were feeding on winged prey, mostly moths. Some hackberry fruit remained on dead branches.

In the next few years these forests will be different from the ones we have known during our brief life span, but that's the nature of coastal forests- always changing.

October 15, 2008 post by David Muth, New Orleans

Thanks for the insight and observation. Any further comments on more interior chenieres near Grand Chenier?

After Rita many landowners took the opportunity to clean up fallen and dead trees by taking out everything and converting to pasture. Any NGO or government programs out there to discourage that response this time around?

October 15, 2008 post by Wylie Barrow, Lafayette, LA

I have not spent as much time on Grand Cheniere. Several live oaks and cypresses on Little Cheniere are standing dead from Rita (probably from standing in pooled saltwater after surge). Still a lot of wrack and debris. Other trees including live oaks appear stressed (lots of epicormic branching).

I have noticed the "cleaning up" by landowners and DOTD [Louisiana Department Of Transportation and Development]. TNC [The Nature Conservancy] had a coastal forest program a few years ago where they extended offers for conservation easements to landowners on chenieres. I do not know if that program is still active or not.

A question to interested LABIRD folks Re: coastal forest conservation: Re: sea level rise and severe hurricanes- Do we invest conservation funds on restoration and protection of near coast forest, like chenieres or do we abandon those efforts and move inland, say 40-100 miles (out of reach of surge and rising sea level)?

October 15, 2008 post by Bill Fontenot

My point in the post is that within the coastal landscape, herbaceous plant communities (marsh, dune) seem somehow invigorated (more botanically diverse, and possessing healthier plants) by storm surges, whereas woody plant (chenieres) recovery seems far more problematic. Not only does the additional sediment suffocate roots of trees & shrubs, but vine growth becomes more rampant with increased sunlight levels in chenieres, and seems to threaten to smother what woody seedlings/saplings remain.

Re: potential tallow invasion down there, how salt tolerant is chinese tallow that near to the coast?

October 15, 2008 post by Wylie Barrow, Lafayette, LA

Tallow appears to be surprisingly salt tolerant. Many tallows looked dead but we will have to wait until next spring or the next few years to see what the cumulative mortality is for tallow and other species.

Your observations and thoughts about the coast are good I was just expanding on it to describe some other chenieres.

October 15, 2008 post by Paul Conover, Lafayette

I think the latter option [move inland, say 40-100 miles (out of reach of surge and rising sea level)] seems wise. I know a big part of our thinking is that we'd all like coastal areas to observe fallouts, but that might prove untenable in terms of the cost of purchasing and maintaining land that may be gone soon. Identifying good spots inland, however far, might be a good exercise at this point. And who knows, our inland spots may prove to be good coastal spots before we know it...

Bird Sightings – October 2008

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 reports still show some after effects of Ike, both in the abnormal conditions in the coastal habitat, and the significantly reduced birding activity. Ordinarily in October, there would be a number of reports of migrants from Sabine Woods and other coastal locations. Although there are some reports (from the Work Day) at Sabine Woods, and encouraging reports at that, clearly there were less birders around, and fewer accessible coastal locations. With less pressure on space, we have included full details of all the hummingbird sightings.

GOOSE, Snow	(19-19)	JEF-GROV 10/19(95) SR
DUCK, Wood	(28-28)	HAI-VCSP 10/28(1) JA
DUCK, Mottled	(19-19)	JEF 10/19(6) JAW
TEAL, Blue-winged	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(4)
PELICAN, Amer. White	(18-18)	JEF 1 rep(35)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(2-18)	JEF-BMT 10/2(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/4(3) JAW; JEF-MURW 10/9(10) JA; JEF-TX87 10/18(1) JAW
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(7) JA
CORMORANT, Species	(9-21)	JEF-MURW 10/9(19) JA; JEF-MURW 10/21(17) JA
BITTERN, American	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(1) JA
BITTERN, Least	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(1) JA
HERON, Great Blue	(5-25)	JEF 4 reps(6)
EGRET, Great	(1-28)	JEF 8 reps(19)
EGRET, Snowy	(4-21)	JEF 5 reps(41)
HERON, Little Blue	(9-21)	JEF 2 reps(8)
HERON, Tricolored	(9-21)	JEF 3 reps(28)
EGRET, Cattle	(3-19)	JEF 4 reps(468)
HERON, Green	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(4) JA
IBIS, White	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(21)
IBIS, Plegadis	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(24) JA
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(21-21)	JEF-MURW 10/21(2) JA
VULTURE, Black	(5-18)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(5)
VULTURE, Turkey	(4-30)	HAI 4 reps(10); JEF 4 reps(18)
OSPREY	(18-21)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW; JEF-MURW 10/21(1) JA
HARRIER, Northern	(5-28)	JEF 10/5(2) JAW; JEF- MURW 10/9(1) JA; JEF 10/19(1) JAW; JEF 10/28(2) RHJ
HAWK, Cooper's	(18-21)	JEF 2 reps(2)
ACCIPITER species	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(5-25)	JEF 8 reps(8)
HAWK, Swainson's	(5-5)	JEF 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Red-tailed	(3-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(10)
KESTREL, American	(5-28)	JEF 3 reps(18)
MERLIN	(26-26)	JEF-BMT 10/26(1) RHJ
FALCON, Peregrine	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
MOORHEN, Common	(9-21)	JEF 2 reps(7)
KILLDEER	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(4)
STILT, Black-necked	(2-19)	JEF 3 reps(5)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(7)
SANDPIPER, Western	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(25)
SANDPIPER, Least	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(5)
DUNLIN	(19-19)	JEF 10/19(35) JAW
DOWITCHER, Long-bill	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(95)
DOWITCHER species	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(20)
GULL, Laughing	(4-19)	JEF 4 reps(104)
TERN, Forster's	(5-9)	JEF 2 reps(4)
TERN, Royal	(21-21)	JEF 1 rep(1)
PIGEON, Rock	(1-29)	HAI 5 reps(370); JEF 7 reps(93)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(1-19)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 2 reps(11)
DOVE, White-winged	(2-30)	JEF 13 reps(32)

DOVE, Mourning	(3-30)	HAI 9 reps(68); JEF 6 reps(126)
DOVE, Inca	(2-24)	HAI 4 reps(8); JEF 1 rep(1)
OWL, Great Horned	(4-18)	HAI-SILS 10/8(1) MG; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/18(2) JHH
SWIFT, Chimney	(5-12)	JEF-BMT 10/5(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/12(5) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied	(31-31)	HAI 10/31(1) JM
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-23)	HAI-SILS 10/1(6) MG; HAI-SILS 10/2(8) MG; HAI-SILS 10/8(2) MG; HAI-SILS 10/14(2) MG; JEF-BMT 10/1(20) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/1(8) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/2(20) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/2(5) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/3(20) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/4(20) RHJ; JEF- GROV 10/4(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/4(18) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/5(20) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/5(6) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/6(20) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/6(5) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/7(20) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/8(10) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/9(10) RHJ; JEF- BMT 10/10(10) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/11(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/12(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/13(3) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/13(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/14(3) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/14(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/15(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/16(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/17(6) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/18(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/19(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/20(1) RHJ; JEF- BMT 10/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/23(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-23)	HAI 4 reps(18); JEF 29 reps(258)
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed	(10-28)	JEF-BMT 10/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/28(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus	(17-17)	JEF-BMT 10/17(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD species	(20-31)	JEF-NEDR 10/20(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/21(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/24(1) RHJ; JEF- BMT 10/25(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/27(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/29(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/30(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/31(1) RHJ
KINGFISHER, Belted	(4-21)	JEF 5 reps(9)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	(14-23)	HAI-VCSP 10/23(1) JA; JEF-BMT 10/14(1) RHJ
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(1-28)	HAI 17 reps(42); JEF 1 rep(1)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	(18-31)	HAI-VCSP 10/23(1) JA; HAI-SILS 10/28(1) MG; HAI-VCSP 10/28(1) JA; HAI-SILS 10/31(1) MG; JEF-SW 10/18(1) JHH
WOODPECKER, Downy	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 20 reps(24)
FLICKER, Northern	(17-29)	HAI-SILS 10/29(2) MG; JEF-BMT 10/17(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(3-30)	HAI 11 reps(12); JEF 6 reps(6)
PHOEBE, Eastern	(5-31)	HAI-SILS 10/20(1) MG; HAI-VCSP 10/23(1) JA; HAI-SILS 10/25(1) MG; HAI-SILS 10/26(1) MG; HAI-VCSP 10/28(3) JA; HAI-SILS 10/29(1) MG; HAI-SILS 10/31(1) MG; JEF 10/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/18(5) JAW; JEF 10/19(5) JAW; JEF-MURW 10/21(1) JA; JEF-BMT 10/25(1) RHJ; JEF 10/28(1) RHJ
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(5-19)	HAI-SILS 10/10(5) MG; JEF 10/5(2) JAW; JEF 10/19(1) JAW

FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	(2-19)	JEF 10/2(8) CS; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JAW; JEF 10/5(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/18(3) JAW; JEF 10/19(4) JAW
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(5-28)	JEF 3 reps(17)
VIREO, Blue-headed	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(5) JAW
VIREO, Red-eyed	(9-18)	JEF-BMT 10/9(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
JAY, Blue	(1-28)	HAI 7 reps(25); JEF 7 reps(13)
CROW, American	(23-23)	HAI 1 rep(2)
CROW, species	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(4)
SWALLOW, Tree	(5-19)	JEF 3 reps(253)
SWALLOW, Cave	(5-5)	JEF 10/5(33) JAW
SWALLOW, Barn	(5-19)	JEF 2 reps(41)
SWALLOW species	(5-5)	JEF 1 rep(30)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(1-31)	HAI 18 reps(70); JEF 3 reps(4)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(1-31)	HAI 13 reps(37)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(23-23)	HAI-VCSP 10/23(4) JA
CREEPER, Brown	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
WREN, Carolina	(1-31)	HAI 14 reps(48); JEF 1 rep(1)
WREN, House	(21-21)	JEF-MURW 10/21(1) JA
WREN, Winter	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
WREN, Sedge	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(2) JA
WREN, Marsh	(9-21)	JEF-MURW 10/9(8) JA; JEF-MURW 10/21(20) JA
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(3-29)	HAI-SILS 10/3(1) MG; HAI-VCSP 10/23(2) JA; HAI-VCSP 10/28(5) JA; HAI-SILS 10/29(2) MG; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/18(5) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/27(1) RHJ
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(4-21)	JEF 3 reps(7)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(11-30)	HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 5 reps(11)
THRUSH, Hermit	(18-28)	HAI-VCSP 10/23(1) JA; HAI-VCSP 10/28(4) JA; JEF 10/18(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/18(3) JAW
ROBIN, American	(3-20)	JEF-NEDR 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/16(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/20(1) JAW
CATBIRD, Gray	(4-23)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 4 reps(4)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-31)	HAI 7 reps(25); JEF 9 reps(24)
THRASHER, Brown	(4-26)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 3 reps(6)
STARLING, European	(3-29)	HAI 4 reps(31); JEF 4 reps(95)
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	(18-31)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/31(1) RHJ
WARBLER, Nashville	(9-9)	JEF-BMT 10/9(1) RHJ
WARBLER, Magnolia	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(21-28)	HAI-VCSP 10/23(2) JA; HAI-VCSP 10/28(4) JA; JEF-MURW 10/21(2) JA
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
WARBLER, Blackburnian	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JAW
WARBLER, Pine	(12-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 2 reps(3)
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(1-18)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 1 rep(2)
OVENBIRD	(6-6)	JEF-BMT 10/6(1) RHJ
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(4-23)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(3)
WARBLER, Hooded	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JHH
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(11-11)	JEF-BMT 10/11(1) RHJ
TANAGER, Summer	(18-18)	JEF-SW 10/18(1) JHH
TOWHEE, Eastern	(23-23)	HAI-VCSP 10/23(3) JA
SPARROW, Chipping	(28-31)	HAI-SILS 10/28(3) MG; HAI-SILS 10/31(1) MG
SPARROW, Savannah	(9-28)	JEF-MURW 10/9(1) JA; JEF 10/19(2) JAW; JEF 10/28(15) RHJ
SPARROW, Seaside	(9-9)	JEF-MURW 10/9(5) JA
SPARROW, Swamp	(9-21)	JEF-MURW 10/9(5) JA; JEF-MURW 10/21(4) JA
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 11 reps(89); JEF 5 reps(13)
BUNTING, Indigo	(18-19)	JEF 2 reps(25)

DICKCISSEL	(5-5)	JEF 10/5(4) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(4-21)	JEF 4 reps(53)
MEADOWLARK species	(5-28)	JEF 2 reps(12)
GRACKLE, Common	(2-4)	JEF 3 reps(27)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(8)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(3-21)	JEF 7 reps(142)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed.	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(4)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(5-5)	JEF 1 rep(30)
BLACKBIRD species	(21-21)	JEF 1 rep(100)
ORIOLE, Baltimore	(8-8)	JEF-BMT 10/8(3) RHJ
FINCH, House	(1-24)	JEF-BMT 10/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/3(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/4(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/6(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/7(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/9(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/13(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/18(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/19(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/24(1) RHJ
SPARROW, House	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(12)

Number of Species 127
Number of Individuals 4670

County Abbreviations:
HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson

Location Codes
BMT — Beaumont; GROV — Groves; MURW — J. D. Murphree
WMA, west of Taylor Bayou; NEDR — Nederland; SILS — Silsbee;
SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-
Sea Rim SP; VCSP — Village Creek State Park

Observer Abbreviations
CS — Cliff Shackelford; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle;
JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John
Mariani; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison
Jordan; SR — Sherrie Roden;

Field Trip (cont. from page 4)

Egret(16), Tricolored Heron(15), White Ibis(300), Plegadis sp. (450), Roseate Spoonbill(1), Turkey Vulture(10), Greater White-fronted Goose(25), Snow Goose(250), Ross's Goose(6), Mallard(6), Mottled Duck(4), Northern Pintail(10), Northern Harrier(14), Red-shouldered hawk(1), Red-tailed Hawk(17), American Kestrel(9), Merlin(2), Sandhill Crane(1000), Killdeer(25), Black-necked Stilt(12), American Avocet(4), Greater Yellowlegs(200), Lesser Yellowlegs(100), Least Sandpiper(20), Long-billed Dowitcher(300), Wilson's Snipe(1), Gull-billed Tern(1), Mourning Dove(75), Great Horned Owl(1), Eastern Screech-Owl(1), Red-bellied Woodpecker(5), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker(4), Downy Woodpecker(1), Northern Flicker(2), Eastern Phoebe(20), Loggerhead Shrike(5), Blue-headed Vireo(2), American Crow(2), Tree Swallow(40), Carolina Chickadee(4), Carolina Wren(3), House Wren(6), Ruby-crowned Kinglet(4), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher(1), Hermit Thrush(1), American Robin(5), Northern Mockingbird(5), Brown Thrasher(1), European Starling(15), American Pipit(1), Orange-crowned Warbler(1), Yellow-rumped "Myrtle" Warbler(5), Common Yellowthroat(2), Savannah Sparrow(300+), Grasshopper Sparrow(1), Swamp Sparrow(1), White-crowned Sparrow(5), White-throated Sparrow(1), Northern Cardinal(5), Red-winged Blackbird(60), Eastern Meadowlark(35), Boat-tailed Grackle(50), Great-tailed Grackle(150), Brown-headed Cowbird(10), Blackbird sp. (5000+), Pine Siskin (4), American Goldfinch(2), House Sparrow(10).

Steve Mayes

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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/> Email alerts are also available for a small fee. Most rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. The archives of this listserv are at <http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/texbirds.html> It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include postings up to the most recent..

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..>

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