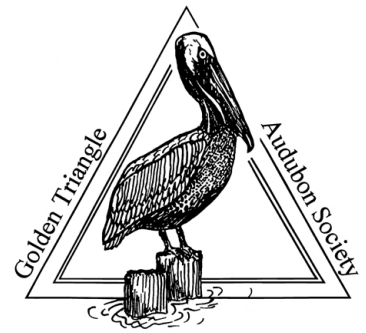


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 15 No. 3

March 2009

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 19, 2009
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
7:00 PM**

**Birds of Costa Rica
Gerald Duhon, Don Jeane and Sherrie Roden**

Our own members, Gerald Duhon, Don Jeane and Sherrie Roden were among a small group on a trip to Costa Rica last year. Costa Rica is known for its rich avifauna and many highly colorful species. The program will show us some of these species.

For a preview, go to Gerald's website at <http://mtns2molhiz.smugmug.com/> and Don's at <http://djeane.smugmug.com/> Both sites have a lot more pictures than there will be time to include in the talk, and there is additional commentary about the birding sites themselves and the hotels.

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

Birds and Climate Change – Ecological Disruption in Motion

Last month Audubon released an important report with the above title detailing the northward movement of the wintering range of 177 species of birds over the last 40 years as indicated by analysis of the Christmas Bird Count data. The report can be downloaded as a pdf file from the Audubon web site at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/bacc/index.html> By far the most likely cause for the northward movement is climate change, specifically significant warm of average January temperatures. The shift is quite remarkable in some species, 317 miles for the Red-breasted Merganser, for example, 157 miles for Green-winged Teal. The average shift over 305 species, including those which did not show a significant movement was 35 miles. This report received widespread publicity including a segment on the CBS Evening News and editorial comment in the New York Times. We encourage you to read the entire report for yourself.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 15, No.3 March 2009
Issue number 150

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

Vice-President

Jim Armacost (790-6908)

Treasurer

Christine Sliva (243-2446)

Secretary

John Whittle (722-4193)

Directors-at-Large

Edra Bogucki (835-7245)

Sherry Gibson (385-6302)

Frank Giglio (866-4850)

John Haynes (724-6842)

Sherrie Roden (962-7911)

Paula Shaw (866-0989)

Jana Whittle (722-4193)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program

Jana Whittle (722-4193)

Field Trips

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

Conservation, Publicity

Volunteer opportunity!

Membership

Paula Shaw (866-0989)

Education

Volunteer needed

Webmaster

Jeff Pittman (geojeff@geojeff.org)

Newsletter Distribution

Mary Stafford (962-8070)

Newsletter Editor

John Whittle (722-4193)

3015 Nashville Ave.

Nederland, TX 77627-6749

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 March 19. Membership Meeting. Bird of Costa Rica; Gerald Duhon, Don and Pat Jeane and Sherrie Roden.

Saturday March 21. Field Trip to Boykin Springs. The majority of those who responded to our request for input said they would favor a trip to Boykin Springs. The specialties at Boykin Springs are Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Bachman's Sparrows. Boykin Springs is approximately 80 miles and at least one and one-half hours from Beaumont and correspondingly further from mid and south-county. The Boykin Springs Recreation Area (for which there is a \$3 per vehicle day-use fee unless you have one of the passes that are honored) is in the Angelina National Forest, between Jasper and Zavalla. From Jasper, take Highway 63 west for about 21 or 22 miles (depending on where in Jasper you start counting the miles!) and turn left at FR 313. The intersection is approximately two miles beyond the Jasper/Angelina County line. From Zavalla, travel east on Highway 63 for 10 1/2 miles; and turn right (south) at Forest Service Road 313. While the campground is 2 1/2 miles along FR 313, our group will meet first at the intersection of Highway 63 and FR 313. This turn off to the recreation area is well signed, but does not show up well on Mapquest nor is it well labeled on Google Earth. Please let Steve Mayes (722-5807) know in advance that you plan to participate!

After exploring the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow area, there will be opportunities to bird other areas in the vicinity of the lower part of Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

Saturday March 28. Sabine Woods Work Day. We are planning a fourth 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 three work days since then.

On this work day, we plan to do the best we can to get the Woods ready for

spring visitors, human and avian. We have one surviving bench to reinstall, and hope to have some new replacement benches. We may do some more work on the back fence.

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 tools to do trail maintenance, especially loppers. Spades and posthole diggers will be very useful. 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 the remaining 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! We thank the following for bringing or arranging for refreshments for the February meeting: Jennifer Armacost, Bob Collier, Sherry Gibson, Mattie Jordan, Sherrie Roden, Lu Skillern, Jana Whittle and anyone whose name we have inadvertently omitted. We also thank those who have contributed cash towards refreshments.

Saturday April 18 Field Trip to Sabine Woods and Sabine Pass Area.

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants, and does not necessitate extensive walking.

We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. We may also visit the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, McFaddin Refuge and/or McFaddin Beach. At Sabine Woods, there is a small parking area, but additional parking is improvised by using the roadside verges beyond the limits of the parking area. Please pull off the highway as is reasonably possible.

Relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds. However, Ike completely destroyed the boardwalks, and the trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos are still active, so there may be holes to avoid! There is a \$5 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are not members of Texas Ornithological Society. This field trip is especially suited for not-very-experienced birders.

Birding in late April can be exciting. However, we cannot promise anything, as the number of birds in the coastal woodlots is strongly dependent on the weather conditions over the Gulf, and we do not yet know how inviting the habitat will be to the birds in the wake of Ike.

Saturday May 9. North American Spring Migration Count. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. This is again the day before Mother's Day! We try to cover all of Jefferson County. Even if you can only help for part of the day, it will be very much appreciated. The early morning hours are by far the best for detecting birds.

Thursday May 17. Membership Meeting. Full details in next issue.

Saturday May 30. Field trip to Hardin County. We plan to run a field trip to Hardin County to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Pine, Prairie and Swainson's Warblers (and possibly Prothonotary Warbler), Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. Check our website or call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 to confirm the details of the trip if you miss the May Membership Meeting.

The meeting place will be at **7:00 a.m.** (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee.

To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US96 north. Take **Business 96** into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right a short distance after crossing the railroad, continue straight ahead on FM92 for about a mile to the shopping center. We will bird the Firetower Road/Gore Store Road/ Camp Waluta area and any nearby areas that are brought to our attention as being productive. Unfortunately, many areas along Firetower Road have been clear cut, and we will likely spend most of our time in the northern section of Firetower Road, and along Gore Store Road. We will probably finish about noon.

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.

Sponsor our Birdathon

As most of you will know, the Chapters in Texas and Louisiana nominated me for the National Audubon Society (NAS) Board of Directors, and I was elected to the board in 2004 and then reelected in 2007 as an at-large member.

One of the most successful means of fundraising for Audubon, and the one I am most able to participate in, is a birdathon. Royce Pendergast has again graciously agreed to join with me in a Spring Birdathon.

A Birdathon is very similar to other "athons" you may be familiar with, such as telethons, walkathons, etc. The idea is for us to get up at the crack of dawn on a day in late April – we're planning

April 20, with April 21 as an alternate day if the weather does not look as if it will cooperate -- and make a run to include the coast of east Jefferson County, the woods of East Texas, perhaps Anahuac NWR, High Island and Bolivar Flats looking for as many species of birds as can be found. We're aiming for at least 150 species.

We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$1.00 or more, \$.75, \$.50, or (or whatever amount you choose) per bird species. A flat donation is also welcome. Please take the time to make a pledge today -- your donation to our Birdathon will be earmarked to support Audubon's mission of protecting our natural heritage in Texas and the nation by supporting conservation, education and advocacy. Again this year, half of the funds we raise will be designated for Audubon Texas activities and programs, and the other half for NAS. Checks should be made out to Audubon Texas and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible. Local business people and businesses are often very receptive to this kind of fund raising and we would welcome any suggestions of where we might find receptive potential supporters. We appreciate all of you who contributed generously last year, and hope you will consider supporting us again. Please contact me at 3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627 or at johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H) with your pledge and your suggestions. *John A. Whittle*

Sabine Pass Donations

Rose Ann Jordan spoke with an employee of Sabine Pass ISD and asked what we could do for the residents of Sabine Pass. The needs are great, but this person suggested that some groups are "adopting" different families to help out. Since we are such a small organization, Rose Ann thought that maybe we could handle helping out one of the elderly couples that lost everything. In the February newsletter, we plan to list various items that you can donate because we realize there are some people who would rather purchase specific items rather than donate money, but for now we will accept donations

through the mail or at the meeting. Our first donation to one of the Sabine Pass families was very much appreciated and we were so glad that people saw the need and responded quickly. This will be an ongoing process that will probably last from January until March. The Sabine Pass employee seemed pleasantly surprised that a bird-watching group cared about their community. Please either give your donation to Christine Sliva or mail it to Golden Triangle Audubon at P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627. Thank you.

Jana Whittle

Sabine Woods Work Day February 28, 2009

We offer our sincere thanks to the thirteen volunteers, including a contingent of four from the Rio Brazos Audubon Society from College Station, who helped on the Sabine Woods workday on Saturday February 28th. We accomplished a great deal. After ascertaining that the Mustang grape vines had not been killed by the salt water of the storm surge of Hurricane Ike, several members of the crew set about cutting vines. The Woods have an excess of the vines, which both strangle the trees and compete with them for sunlight and water. Because so much of the underbrush was removed by the storm surge, access to the vines at ground level was made much easier. Other volunteers did a lot more work on the back fence, replacing twenty five more posts. Every fifth pole of that fence was wooden, and all of them broke at ground level. At the end of January, Claire and Dick Brooks came from Austin and brought the equipment and know how needed to repair the wires themselves, some of which had broken in the storm surge, and others which were cut to get cattle out of the property after the storm. They also trained our volunteers in the post replacement and wire re-attachment processes. The fences are now adequate to keep cattle out, although the salt water has caused extensive corrosion of the metal posts at ground level, and all are eventually

going to need to be replaced. The one big remaining fallen tree was cut up so that it is no longer a danger to visitors. All the trails and two of our meadow areas were mowed. The water system was tested and found to be apparently leak free, although the valves on the backflow preventer are corroded and will need replacement before long. Our next work day will be on Saturday March 28, when we will focus on doing what we can to make birding this spring as pleasant as possible.

The volunteers were: Andy Allen, Kitty and Jim Anding, John Haynes, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Steve Mayes, Richard Orgeron, Christine Sliva, Betty Vermeire, Mary Dabney Wilson, Jana and John Whittle.

We know that you are probably all interested in how the Woods are recovering from Ike. We are perhaps three or four weeks away from having a reasonably complete picture. We believe most trees of the major species represented in the Woods seem are alive, although it seem likely that some trees will not make it. Perhaps not unexpectedly, smaller trees seem more at risk than larger ones. The willows in the pond may not survive. We are very slowly siphoning the water out of the pond, and the pond is already at quite a low level, but it has been very dry ever since the hurricane, and even in the absence of our efforts, it would not be full. What we really need is some rain to help wash out and dilute the salt! Interestingly, the literature suggests that trees remove salt by transporting it to the leaves. The woods themselves do look almost normally green for this time of year from the front (south) and there is underbrush beginning to grow. There was not nearly as much tree damage in the form of large broken limbs in Ike as there was in Rita, so we do not expect there will be nearly as much of the thick ball shaped outermost growth this time around. However, the northern half of the property, in much of which water usually stands for a good portion of the year, shows very little sign of green, except where there are patches of *Spartina patens*, which is well know as being very salt tolerant. That area is still somewhat moist, probably mostly still from the storm surge water. There are some birds using the woods. One Great

Horned Owl has remained continuously since the storm. Two or three Carolina Chickadees – a very isolated "flock" – also seemingly survived the storm and did not move away. There are a few White-throated Sparrows, while Eastern Phoebes, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and at least one Brown Thrasher have been seen regularly. The resident Downy Woodpeckers have remained.

Conditions in Sabine Pass remain difficult. One Deli has opened, but there is still no gasoline and public toilet facilities are very scarce. Clean up of the area is proceeding at a slow pace, and there is still a lot of debris around. Many fence are still down.

John A. Whittle

Volunteer Opportunities

Eco-Fest in Orange, April 25

Shangri-La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center in Orange is holding their Second Annual Eco-Fest on Saturday April 25. They have invited us to have a booth at this festival, but to do this, we need volunteers. We will need to set up the booth on Friday afternoon and man it on Saturday. Shangri La is providing lunch on both days to booth attendants. We will likely need at least three volunteers, and we will need a firm commitment by the March Membership meeting (March 19). Duties will be to answer usually simple questions about birds in the area, where to bird etc. Please contact Christine Sliva (243-2446) with any questions or offers to help.

Sabine Woods, continuing

We are always looking for additional volunteers who are able to assist. We have had excellent help from Andy Allen and Howard Davis in particular, but we will soon be looking to add to our list of those who could be available, often at short notice, to be at the Woods during a weekday to meet with contractors.



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>.

Bird Sightings – January 2009

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: Although bolstered by the increased observer activity associated with Christmas Counts, the list is nevertheless, unexpectedly lengthy. Most notable were the raptors in west Jefferson County, with probably five different Bald Eagles as well as a Golden Eagle, one or more Peregrine Falcons and several Merlins. Ducks were seen in good numbers considering the very dry conditions, and the lack of access to Cattail Marsh. Unusual species for winter included a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, a female Painted Bunting, a Western Tanager and a Northern Waterthrush. Reports of sparrow species were lower than usual. Easily overlooked is the fact that there have been few flocks of blackbirds in the west Jefferson County this year.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.	(4-24)	JEF 1/4(10) SR06; JEF-TX87 1/24(5) JAW
GOOSE, White-fronted	(1-25)	JEF 6 reps(82); ORA 1 rep(6)
GOOSE, Snow	(1-25)	JEF 16 reps(31235); ORA 1 rep(68)
GOOSE, Ross's	(1-25)	JEF 1/3(5) JAW; JEF-TX87 1/3(4) JAW; JEF-MURW 1/4(19) SR04; JEF 1/8(20) JHW; JEF-SW 1/18(3) JAW; JEF 1/19(30) JAW; JEF 1/19(3) JJW; JEF 1/25(7) WWF; ORA 1/1(6) OCCB
GOOSE, Cackling	(3-8)	JEF 1/3(3) JAW; JEF 1/6(4) RHJ; JEF 1/8(3) JHW
DUCK, Wood	(1-17)	JAS 1/17(20) LG; ORA 1/1(3) OCCB
GADWALL	(1-19)	JEF 10 reps(592); ORA 1 rep(530)
WIGEON, American	(1-25)	JEF 1/4(2) SR07; JEF-MURW 1/4(1) SR04; JEF 1/25(3) WWF; ORA 1/1(22) OCCB
MALLARD	(1-1)	JEF 1/1(2) OCCB
DUCK, Mottled	(4-4)	JEF 3 reps(15)
TEAL, Blue-winged	(1-4)	JEF 5 reps(79); ORA 1 rep(6)
SHOVELER, Northern	(3-25)	JEF 10 reps(586)
PINTAIL, Northern	(3-25)	JEF 8 reps(1647)
TEAL, Green-winged	(1-4)	JEF 6 reps(2366); ORA 1 rep(200)
CANVASBACK	(1-4)	JEF-MURW 1/4(2900) SR04; JEF-PI 1/4(750) SR01; ORA 1/1(2) OCCB
REDHEAD	(3-3)	JEF-TX87 1/3(1) GG
DUCK, Ring-necked	(1-4)	JEF-MURW 1/4(1) SR04; JEF-PI 1/4(1) SR01; ORA 1/1(296) OCCB
SCAUP, Greater	(1-1)	ORA 1/1(6) OCCB
SCAUP, Lesser	(4-4)	JEF 5 reps(270)
SCAUP species	(4-4)	JEF-PI 1/4(1) SR01
SCOTER, Surf	(4-4)	JEF-SRSP 1/4(4) SR10
SCOTER, Black	(4-4)	JEF-SRSP 1/4(2) SR10
BUFFLEHEAD	(1-4)	JEF 1 rep(13); ORA 1 rep(5)
GOLDENEYE, Common	(1-1)	ORA 1/1(21) OCCB
MERGANSER, Hooded	(1-4)	JEF 1/4(1) SR06; JEF 1/4(2) SR07; JEF-MURW 1/4(2) SR04; ORA 1/1(11) OCCB
MERGANSER, Red-breasted	(1-4)	JEF 5 reps(42); ORA 1 rep(53)
DUCK species	(4-4)	JEF-MCFW 1/4(2350) SR12
DUCK, Ruddy	(4-4)	JEF-MCFW 1/4(4) SR12; JEF-MURW 1/4(35) SR04; JEF-PI 1/4(100) SR01
LOON, Common	(1-23)	JEF-MCFW 1/3(2) WWF; JEF 1/23(1) GJS; ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
GREBE, Pied-billed	(1-4)	JEF 9 reps(37); ORA 1 rep(15)
GREBE, Horned	(4-4)	JEF 1/4(1) SR13
GREBE, Eared	(4-4)	JEF-MURW 1/4(4) SR04; JEF-PI 1/4(1) SR01
PELICAN, American White	(1-8)	JEF 8 reps(334); ORA 1 rep(81)
PELICAN, Brown	(1-25)	JEF 13 reps(144); ORA 1 rep(35)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(1-25)	JEF 12 reps(367); ORA 1 rep(96)
CORMORANT, Double-crest	(1-18)	JEF 10 reps(168); ORA 1 rep(109)
CORMORANT, Species	(1-4)	JEF 2 reps(15); ORA 1 rep(1)
ANHINGA	(1-18)	JEF 1/4(3) SR05A; JEF-MURW 1/4(17) SR04; JEF-SW 1/4(2) SR08; JEF 1/18(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
BITTERN, American	(4-4)	JEF 1/4(1) SR07
HERON, Great Blue	(1-25)	JEF 19 reps(99); ORA 1 rep(29)
EGRET, Great	(1-25)	JEF 17 reps(494); ORA 1 rep(42)
EGRET, Snowy	(1-25)	JEF 10 reps(49); ORA 1 rep(52)
HERON, Little Blue	(1-4)	JEF 5 reps(26); ORA 1 rep(10)
HERON, Tricolored	(1-25)	JEF 7 reps(63); ORA 1 rep(7)
EGRET, Cattle	(18-18)	JEF 1 rep(26)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.	(1-4)	JEF 1/4(60) SR06; JEF-MURW 1/4(2) SR04; ORA 1/1(19) OCCB
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(4-4)	JEF 1/4(3) SR05A
IBIS, White	(1-4)	JEF 9 reps(520); ORA 1 rep(20)
IBIS, White-faced	(4-4)	JEF-MURW 1/4(11) SR04
IBIS, Plegadis	(1-25)	JEF 6 reps(1218); ORA 1 rep(106)
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(1-4)	JEF 3 reps(92); ORA 1 rep(8)
VULTURE, Black	(1-29)	HAI 3 reps(10); JEF 4 reps(29); ORA 1 rep(21)
VULTURE, Turkey	(1-30)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 12 reps(132); ORA 1 rep(22)
OSPREY	(1-24)	JEF 8 reps(11); ORA 1 rep(10)
KITE, White-tailed	(4-4)	JEF-TX87 1/4(2) SR02
EAGLE, Bald	(1-25)	JEF 1/8(2) JHW; JEF 1/11(4) GD; JEF 1/12(2) JP; JEF 1/15(3); JEF 1/18(1) JAW; JEF 1/19(4) JJW; JEF 1/25(4) RHJ; JEF 1/25(1) WWF; ORA 1/1(2) OCCB
HARRIER, Northern	(1-25)	JEF 17 reps(72); ORA 1 rep(4)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(1-25)	JEF 7 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Cooper's	(1-25)	JEF 5 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(4)
ACCIPITER species	(19-19)	JEF 1/19(1) JAW
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(1-26)	JEF 6 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(10)
HAWK, Red-tailed	(1-25)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 22 reps(90); ORA 1 rep(13)
EAGLE, Golden	(19-19)	JEF 1/8(1) JHH; JEF 1/19(1) JJW
CARACARA, Crested	(8-23)	JEF 1/8(2) JHW; JEF 1/23(1) GJS
KESTREL, American	(1-25)	JEF 19 reps(100); ORA 1 rep(11)
MERLIN	(1-25)	JEF 7 reps(8); ORA 1 rep(2)
FALCON, Peregrine	(3-18)	JEF 1/3(1) JAW; JEF 1/4(2) SR07B; JEF-MCFW 1/4(1) SR12; JEF-SRSP 1/4(1) SR10E;

JEF-SRSP 1/4(1) SR10; JEF 1/18(1) JAW
RAIL, Clapper (4-4) JEF 1/4(2) SR06; JEF 1/4(3) SR07; JEF-MURW 1/4(3) SR04; JEF-SRSP 1/4(3) SR10
RAIL, King (1-4) JEF 1/4(20) SR05A JEF 1/4(1) SR07; JEF-SW 1/4(4) SR08; ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
RAIL, Virginia (1-4) JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(2)
SORA (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
RAIL species (1-4) JEF 1 rep(5); ORA 1 rep(1)
MOORHEN, Common (1-4) JEF 3 reps(7); ORA 1 rep(13)
COOT, American (1-4) JEF 6 reps(886); ORA 1 rep(168)
CRANE, Sandhill (1-25) JEF 1/3(100) JAW; JEF 1/8(75) JHW; JEF 1/15(150) CSL; JEF 1/19(330) JAW; JEF 1/19(12) JJW; JEF 1/21(100) JP; JEF 1/25(250) WWF; ORA 1/1(15) OCCB
PLOVER, Black-bellied (3-25) JEF 6 reps(186)
PLOVER, Snowy (4-4) JEF 1/4(1) SR07B; JEF-SRSP 1/4(16) SR10
PLOVER, Semipalmated (4-4) JEF 1/4(59) SR07B
PLOVER, Piping (4-4) JEF 1/4(6) SR07B; JEF-SRSP 1/4(3) SR10
KILLDEER (1-31) HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 15 reps(94); ORA 1 rep(85)
OYSTERCATCHER, Amer. (4-4) JEF 1/4(2) SR06
STILT, Black-necked (1-4) JEF 1/1(6) OCCB; JEF 1/4(2) SR05A JEF-PI 1/4(5) SR01; ORA 1/1(60) OCCB
AVOCET, American (4-4) JEF-PI 1/4(300) SR01; JEF-SRSP 1/4(2) SR10
SANDPIPER, Spotted (1-4) JEF 1/4(2) SR05A JEF 1/4(1) SR06; ORA 1/1(3) OCCB
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (1-25) JEF 12 reps(284); ORA 1 rep(6)
WILLET (1-4) JEF 5 reps(34); ORA 1 rep(6)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (1-25) JEF 5 reps(81); ORA 1 rep(2)
YELLOWLEGS species (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
WHIMBREL (4-4) JEF 1/4(3) SR07B
GODWIT, Marbled (4-4) JEF-SRSP 1/4(27) SR10
TURNSTONE, Ruddy (4-4) JEF 1/4(12) SR06; JEF 1/4(26) SR07B; JEF-SRSP 1/4(1) SR10E
SANDERLING (3-4) JEF 5 reps(341)
SANDPIPER, Western (3-4) JEF 1/3(3) JAW; JEF 1/4(120) SR07B
SANDPIPER, Least (1-19) JEF 3 reps(80); ORA 1 rep(8)
DUNLIN (3-25) JEF 6 reps(757)
SANDPIPER, Stilt (1-4) JEF 1/4(5) SR07B; ORA 1/1(3) OCCB
DOWITCHER, Short-billed (4-4) JEF-PI 1/4(1) SR01
DOWITCHER, Long-billed (3-25) JEF 1/3(200) JAW; JEF-PI 1/4(1) SR01; JEF 1/25(50) WWF
DOWITCHER species (1-4) JEF 1/4(1) SR06; JEF-PI 1/4(100) SR01; ORA 1/1(400) OCCB
SNIFE, Wilson's (1-25) JEF 8 reps(27); ORA 1 rep(29)
WOODCOCK, American (29-29) HAI-SILS 1/29(2) MG
GULL, Laughing (1-25) JEF 18 reps(734); ORA 1 rep(46)
GULL, Bonaparte's (1-4) JEF-SRSP 1/4(36) SR10; ORA 1/1(39) OCCB
GULL, Ring-billed (1-25) JEF 11 reps(742); ORA 1 rep(509)
GULL, California (4-4) JEF 1/4(2) SR07B
GULL, Herring (1-4) JEF 8 reps(147); ORA 1 rep(21)
GULL, Glaucous (4-4) JEF-PI 1/4(1) SR01
TERN, Caspian (1-18) JEF 5 reps(11); ORA 1 rep(7)
TERN, Forster's (1-18) JEF 8 reps(244); ORA 1 rep(67)
TERN, Royal (1-4) JEF 5 reps(105); ORA 1 rep(8)
SKIMMER, Black (1-1) JEF 1/1(50) OCCB
PIGEON, Rock (1-31) HAI 6 reps(198); JEF 6 reps(111); ORA 1 rep(50)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (1-27) HAI 5 reps(14); JEF 4 reps(14); ORA 1 rep(3)
DOVE, White-winged (4-19) HAI 1 rep(75); JEF 4 reps(15)

DOVE, Mourning (1-25) HAI 5 reps(25); JEF 12 reps(165); ORA 1 rep(61)
DOVE, Inca (1-29) HAI 8 reps(14); ORA 1 rep(8)
OWL, Barn (3-3) JEF-TX87 1/3(1) GG
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
OWL, Great Horned (18-23) JEF-SW 1/18(1) JAW; JEF 1/23(1) GJS
OWL, Barred (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
OWL, Barred (1-1) ORA 1 rep(1)
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. (4-9) HAI 1/4(1) JM; JEF-BMT 1/9(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed (9-9) JEF-BMT 1/9(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (1-24) JEF-NEDR 1/14(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/17(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/18(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/24(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus (4-4) HAI 1/4(1) JM
HUMMINGBIRD species (1-29) JEF 13 reps(14)
KINGFISHER, Belted (1-25) JEF 13 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(19)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed (1-1) ORA 1/1(7) OCCB
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (1-31) HAI 16 reps(31); JEF 5 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(69)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (1-18) HAI-SILS 1/2(1) MG; JEF 1/1(1) OCCB; JEF 1/4(5) SR05A JEF-BMT 1/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 1/18(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(9) OCCB
WOODPECKER, Downy (1-27) HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 15 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(28)
FLICKER, Northern (1-4) JEF 1/4(7) SR05A JEF 1/4(1) SR06; JEF-SW 1/4(2) SR08; ORA 1/1(11) OCCB
WOODPECKER, Pileated (1-31) HAI-SILS 1/31(1) MG; JEF-BMT 1/30(1) RHJ; ORA 1/1(14) OCCB
PHOEBE, Eastern (1-25) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 19 reps(57); ORA 1 rep(42)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (3-3) JEF-TX87 1/3(1) ST
SHRIKE, Loggerhead (1-25) JEF 14 reps(49); ORA 1 rep(7)
VIREO, White-eyed (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
VIREO, Blue-headed (1-25) JEF 4 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(5)
JAY, Blue (1-31) HAI 9 reps(19); JEF 5 reps(14); ORA 1 rep(69)
CROW, American (1-30) HAI-SILS 1/30(3) MG; JEF 1/25(4) WWF; ORA 1/1(41) OCCB
CROW, Fish (1-1) ORA 1/1(4) OCCB
SWALLOW, Tree (1-19) HAI-SILS 1/4(6) MG; JEF 1/1(30) OCCB; JEF 1/3(5) JAW; JEF-TX87 1/3(1) JAW; JEF 1/19(5) JJW; ORA 1/1(161) OCCB
CHICKADEE, Carolina (1-31) HAI 14 reps(52); JEF 3 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(80)
TITMOUSE, Tufted (1-30) HAI 10 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(21)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (24-24) HAI-SILS 1/24(1) SG
CREEPER, Brown (4-4) JEF 1/4(1) SR05
WREN, Carolina (1-25) HAI 10 reps(12); JEF 5 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(53)
WREN, House (1-25) JEF 6 reps(15); ORA 1 rep(7)
WREN, Winter (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
WREN, Sedge (1-4) JEF 4 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(15)
WREN, Marsh (1-4) JEF 1/4(2) SR06; JEF-MURW 1/4(2) SR04; ORA 1/1(3) OCCB
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (1-25) JEF 9 reps(54); ORA 1 rep(68)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (1-25) JEF 9 reps(27); ORA 1 rep(8)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern (1-31) HAI 8 reps(16); JEF 4 reps(15); ORA 1 rep(58)
THRUSH, Hermit (1-4) JEF 1/4(2) SR05A JEF 1/4(1) SR06; JEF-MURW 1/4(2) SR04; ORA 1/1(5) OCCB
ROBIN, American (1-22) JEF 5 reps(14); ORA 1 rep(195)
CATBIRD, Gray (1-4) JEF 1/4(1) SR06; ORA 1/1(11) OCCB
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (1-25) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(63); ORA 1 rep(69)
THRASHER, Brown (1-20) HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 4 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(8)

STARLING, European	(1-25)	HAI 2 reps(17); JEF 15 reps(501); ORA 1 rep(50)
PIBIT, American	(1-25)	JEF 4 reps(25); ORA 1 rep(27)
PIBIT, Sprague's	(25-25)	JEF 1/25(2) RHJ
WAXWING, Cedar	(1-4)	JEF-SW 1/4(2) SR08; ORA 1/1(4) OCCB
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	(1-31)	HAI 19 reps(22); JEF 20 reps(35); ORA 1 rep(14)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(1-25)	HAI 4 reps(16); JEF 17 reps(700); ORA 1 rep(358)
WARBLER, Pine	(1-31)	HAI 18 reps(21); JEF 26 reps(72); ORA 1 rep(131)
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(4-4)	JEF-SRSP 1/4(1) SR10
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(1-4)	JEF 1/4(1) SR05A JEF 1/4(1) SR06; ORA 1/1(3) OCCB
TANAGER, Western	(4-4)	HAI 1/4(1) JM
TOWHEE, Eastern	(1-1)	ORA 1/1(1) OCCB
SPARROW, Chipping	(1-31)	HAI 21 reps(643); JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(135)
SPARROW, Vesper	(19-25)	JEF 1/19(1) JAW; JEF 1/19(1) JJW; JEF 1/25(2) WWF
SPARROW, Savannah	(1-25)	JEF 15 reps(196); ORA 1 rep(47)
SPARROW, LeConte's	(4-4)	JEF 1/4(3) SR07
SPARROW, Nelson's S-tail	(4-4)	JEF 1/4(3) SR06
SPARROW, Seaside	(4-4)	JEF 1/4(2) SR06; JEF 1/4(5) SR07
SPARROW, Song	(1-23)	JEF 1/1(3) OCCB; JEF 1/18(2) JAW; JEF 1/23(1) GJS; ORA 1/1(6) OCCB
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(1-25)	JEF 5 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(2)
SPARROW, Swamp	(1-25)	JEF 7 reps(34); ORA 1 rep(18)
SPARROW, White-throated	(1-31)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 21 reps(87); ORA 1 rep(53)
SPARROW, White-crowned	(19-25)	JEF 2 reps(45)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(1-29)	JEF 5 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(6)
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 17 reps(622); JEF 11 reps(44); ORA 1 rep(137)
BUNTING, Painted	(16-18)	JEF-BMT 1/16(1) MW; JEF- BMT 1/17(1) MWI; JEF-BMT 1/18(1) MWI
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-25)	JEF 13 reps(8312); ORA 1 rep(2249)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(1-25)	JEF 7 reps(70); ORA 1 rep(3)
MEADOWLARK species	(6-25)	JEF 6 reps(125)
GRACKLE, Common	(1-25)	JEF 6 reps(94); ORA 1 rep(687)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(1-24)	JEF 5 reps(54); ORA 1 rep(35)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-25)	JEF 10 reps(525); ORA 1 rep(155)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	(4-24)	JEF 2 reps(16)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(1-25)	JEF 1/3(1030) JAW; JEF 1/4(1) SR06; JEF 1/25(20) WWF; ORA 1/1(64) OCCB
BLACKBIRD species	(18-19)	JEF 3 reps(8500)
FINCH, House	(5-29)	HAI 3 reps(22); JEF 8 reps(10)
SISKIN, Pine	(2-31)	HAI-SILS 1/6(3) SG; HAI- SILS 1/7(6) SG; HAI-SILS 1/15(9) SBE; HAI-SILS 1/19(6) SG; HAI-SILS 1/22(14) SG; HAI-SILS 1/23(10) SG; HAI-SILS 1/24(9) SG; HAI-SILS 1/26(6) SG; HAI-SILS 1/28(8) SG; HAI- SILS 1/29(8) SG; JEF-BMT 1/2(1) RHJ; JEF 1/4(4) SR05A JEF-BMT 1/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/24(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/27(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/31(2) RHJ
GOLDFINCH, American	(1-31)	HAI 28 reps(393); JEF 31 reps(1674); ORA 1 rep(83)
SPARROW, House	(1-25)	JEF 8 reps(23); ORA 1 rep(10)

Number of Species 191
Number of Individuals 177468

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

Location Codes:

BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP; TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point.

Observer Abbreviations:

CSL — Christine Sliva; GD — Gerald Duhon; GG — Georgette Guernsey; GJS — Sherry Gibson, Don Jeane, Ken Sztraky; JAW — John Whittle; JHW — John Haynes and John Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; JP — John Park; LG — Lana Gau; MG — Melanie Goetsell; MW — Steve Mayes and John Whittle; MWI — Marsha Williams; OCCB — Orange County CBC; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE — Sheri Bethard; SG — Sherry Gibson; SR01 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Sector 1; SR02 —Sector 2; SR04 —Sector 4; SR05A —Sector 5A; SR06 — Sector 5 and 6; SR07 —Sector 7; SR07B —Sector 7B; SR08 — Sector 8; SR10 —Sector 10; SR10E —Sector 10E; SR11 —Sector 11; SR11A — Sector 11A; SR12 —C Sector 12; SR13 —Sector 13; ST — Sharon Thomas; WFF — John Whittle, Nancy and Don Fisher; WWF — Jana and John Whittle, Ross Foreman.

Bird Alerts (and Anticipation)

We usually try here to report on the interesting birds that are in the area, even though more immediate alerts are sent by email and posted on our website.

The most exciting birds recently, as noted in the commentary preceding the bird sightings, have been the eagles -- five Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle -- in west Jefferson County, but these have now left, almost certainly for points north. Eagles in this area fall into two separate populations. Those that spend the winter here, like those we have been seeing in west Jefferson County, and the resident Southern subspecies of Bald Eagle, which breed locally. The Southern Bald Eagles usually nest in the December to March time frame, and are inclined to wander a little to the north in classic post-breeding dispersal. The nesting eagles in Orange County have young again this year.

The wintering hummingbirds, and we have probably had a greater variety of species this winter than ever before, are now also thinning out as they depart for their breeding grounds. We will, however, soon be seeing the first of the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds returning to nest locally.

What this year will bring in the way of spring migrants and how long they will pause in the area is more uncertain than ever before, as the habitat conditions at the coastal woodlots are unknown to us. Certainly, we are seeing encouraging signs of new growth, but many of our migrants are insect eaters, and we aren't able to evaluate the condition of their food!

Our Thanks to Joe Halbrook

Joe Halbrook, who has been one of the stalwarts on the board of Golden Triangle Audubon has tendered his resignation as a director for family reasons, and the board has reluctantly accepted it. Joe has been with the group from the beginning, and has contributed in many ways. Among many other things, he worked at all the early Sabine Woods workdays, and for many years was our representative to the Beaumont Council of Garden Club, the body that runs the Garden Center. He helped store our audio visual equipment while the Garden Center was being renovated. We thank him most sincerely for all he has done for us.

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from: _____

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon C9ZW250Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To subscribe to the Brown Pelican, please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year. Members with addresses within our official territory are asked to contribute \$15 also if they are able.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

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/> Email alerts are also available for a small fee. Most rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at <http://www.embroideryline.com/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>.

-8-

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 12
Groves, Texas