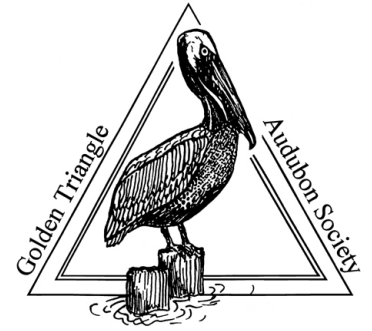


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 15 No. 4

April 2009

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2009
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
7:00 PM**

**My ABA Big Year 2008
Lynn Barber**

Lynn E. Barber was born in Wisconsin, and has lived in Alaska, Oregon, North Carolina and, since 2000, Texas. Lynn obtained her scientific education at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has a B.A. in zoology, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in bacteriology. After receiving her doctorate, she worked for eight years as a research microbiologist at Oregon State University and North Carolina State University.

She obtained her J.D. from Duke University Law School and has been a registered patent attorney since 1985. She taught a patent law course at North Carolina Central University from 1996-98. She opened her law office in Fort Worth, Texas in February of 2000.

Her avocations include bird-watching, nature photography, church volunteer activities, playing the hammered dulcimer, and baking cookies. She is married to Rev. David Barber, pastor at First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Fort Worth. She is past President of the Fort Worth Audubon Society and President-Elect of the Texas Ornithological Society. In 2005, she broke the previous record for number of bird species seen in Texas in one year, and in 2008, she got 723 bird species in the "ABA Area", which covers the continental U.S., Canada, and the surrounding waters. Please join us for the April meeting where Lynn will share her adventures and photos from her 2008 ABA Big Year.

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.

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org
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Calendar of Events

Thursday April 16. Membership Meeting. My ABA Big Year 2008 by Lynn Barber. See front page for details..

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, Pat Jeane, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, 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. Full details in next month's issue, and we will put the details on the website. Check our website or call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 to confirm the details of the trip if you miss the May Membership Meeting.



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.

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

Good News! Our donations for Sabine Pass families who are struggling as a result of hurricane Ike are doing a lot of good. The first family we helped was so appreciative. Then we began accepting donations for another smaller family. The elderly mother has had a stroke. We gave them some Wal-Mart gift cards and received a very nice thank you note. Our group has been so generous that we are able to again help this second family AND help one or two other people buy some badly needed medicine! So, thank you Golden Triangle Audubon. You are very much appreciated.

Rose Ann Jordan

Sabine Woods Work Day March 28, 2009

We offer our sincere thanks to the seventeen volunteers who helped on the Sabine Woods workday on Saturday March 28th. It was an excellent work day, and the volunteers were able to accomplish everything that was asked of them. The work day was focused on making the Woods more comfortable for birders this spring. Andy Allen built eight benches for us and these were installed in locations throughout the center section of the main woods.

Because of the opening up of the canopy with the defoliation caused by Hurricane Ike, much annual vegetation, including some grasses and a vetch widely distributed in the understory, had grown up with unusual vigor. We did much mowing and weed-eating to clear the trails. In some areas, trails were rerouted round fallen branches and trees, and those who haven't visited since Ike may find they need to re-learn where there are trails. Reestablishing the trail in the easternmost of the conjoined sections of woods involved cutting some overhanging branches and a couple of leaning trees. Signage was improved. A high capacity portable pump was used to pump water all day from the main pond, resulting in significant visible lowering of the water level. A start was made to the massive task of pulling storm-deposited dead marsh grass from the lower limbs of the trees.

The volunteers were: Andy Allen, Amelie Cobb, Howard Davis, Harrison Jordan, Gary Kelley, Steve Kuritz, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Steve Mayes, Karen McCormick, Wendy Mires, Richard Orgeron, Sherrie Roden, Paula and Paul Shaw, Christine Sliva, John Whittle.

We know that you are probably all interested in how the Woods are recovering from Ike. There is a lot of green. There are migrant birds. They seem to be finding food! There are some trees that have not leafed out, but it will be another two or three weeks at least before we know their status with any certainty. Trees under stress will be late in leafing in any case. Salt water affects different species of tree differently. Live oaks (and other oaks) seem to be quite salt tolerant, and the vast majority have new leaves already. Some hackberry trees have already leafed out; others have not. Mature mulberry trees seem to be in moderate health at least. But no willow tree along the entire stretch from Sabine Woods to the entrance to McFaddin has any leaves.

In most areas in the woods proper, there is a good amount of green "underbrush" in all areas not heavily shaded. This vegetation is not at all woody, but Hooded Warblers seem to be willing to use it, and there are Northern Cardinals, White-throated Sparrows, Brown Thrashers, and even a Hermit Thrush or two around. Treetop

birds such as Northern Parulas and Yellow-throated Warblers are plentiful. There is no shortage of White-eyed Vireos, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers or Black-and-white Warblers. There has been a shy Ash-throated Flycatcher in the woods for about two weeks now, and good numbers of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds working along the highway in front of the Woods.

The drip is operating and is thus a source of fresh water. We continue to siphon water slowly out of the main pond, and will continue to do so until the salinity returns to near normal, because there is no outlet from it. It normally decreases in level only by evaporation.. There were good rains March 13 and 15, and again on March 26. We hope and believe that these rains significantly diluted the salt solution and we are awaiting the results of a determination of the current salinity. We have seen a few Louisiana Waterthrushes, but it is not clear whether the edges of the pond are satisfactory to the species.

Conditions in Sabine Pass remain difficult. One Deli has opened, but there is still no gasoline and public toilet facilities are very scarce. (We have portable toilets at the Woods through early May, but by the end of Sunday on April weekends, they may be in need of service.) Clean up of the area is proceeding and the amount of debris has been greatly reduced in the past few weeks. Many fences are still down. Sea Rim remains closed, but there is good access to McFaddin Beach immediately west of the Sea Rim boundary.

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 for those who could be available, often at short notice, to be at the Woods during a weekday to meet with contractors.

Designation of the Neches as a Wild and Scenic River

The Neches River country is a land of towering trees, rare plants, water birds, ducks, fish, and other wildlife, a crucial "highway" for thousands of migrating waterfowl and song birds. Its nutrient-rich waters nourish the Big Thicket National Preserve and Sabine Lake.

Conservation groups, river enthusiasts, tourism and convention bureaus, hunters, fishermen, and civic leaders in a number of cities in the Neches River Valley are proposing a study of the Neches for its potential as a Wild and Scenic River. Newspapers up and down the river have printed feature stories and the Beaumont Enterprise endorsed adding the Neches to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Designating the Neches as a Wild and Scenic River would protect the river and highlight its value as a tourism asset. Three dams proposed for the river together would inundate 175,000 acres. By preventing damming of the river, the designation protects landowners, timber growers, recreational users and the diverse wildlife that depends on the Neches bottomland hardwood forests.

Naming the Neches a Scenic River would also give a boost to the region's economy, serving as an economic engine for motels, B&B's, restaurants, outfitters, and other businesses that bring tourist dollars.

Before the Neches can be named a Wild and Scenic River, the U.S. Congress must authorize a study of the river, to be conducted by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service, in consultation with landowners, local governments, river authorities, civic groups, and non-profit organizations such as Audubon, Texas Forestry Association, and chambers of commerce. The study will identify the river's "outstandingly remarkable" values — historic, cultural, geologic, scenic, fish and wildlife, archeological, and recreational — and develop a cooperative management plan for the river. If the study results in a recommendation that the river be named a Wild and Scenic River, a second bill must be passed by Congress before the designation is in place.

To help take the first step of studying the river, contact your local congressman and ask him to introduce a bill authorizing a study of the Neches as a Wild and Scenic River. Congressman Ted Poe's District 2 includes the whole of Jefferson County, the southern part of Liberty County His local address is The Honorable Ted Poe, U.S. House of Representatives, 505 Orleans Street, Suite 100, Beaumont, TX 77701. Congressman Kevin Brady's District 8 includes the whole of Orange, Hardin, Newton, Jasper and Tyler Counties, as well as other areas further west. His local address is The Honorable Kevin Brady, U.S. House of Representatives, 420 Green Ave, Orange, Texas 77630.

For more information, contact the Texas Conservation Alliance, telephone 903-592-0909, or email them at Alliance@TCATexas.org. Their web site is at www.TCATexas.org.

*Janice Bezanson., Executive Director
Texas Conservation Alliance*

Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals Upholds Neches River NWR

The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals March 12 affirmed a lower-court decision defending the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's June 2006 decision to create the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge was heralded

(continued on page 7)

Field Trip to Boykin Springs and Concord Ridge 21 March 2009

An endemic species is one found only in one area and no other. Some isolated tropical countries like New Guinea and Australia have more than two hundred endemic bird species – those found in no other country. Temperate countries (especially small ones) may have few or no endemic birds. Clement's *Birds of the World* lists the United States as having nine endemic species. That's not many but they are well worth seeing. It was to see a few of these endemic (or near endemic) species that nine birders from the Golden Triangle Audubon Society made the long drive to the Boykin Springs area in the piney woods of east Texas.

The Brown-headed Nuthatch is a near endemic species that occurs only in the U.S. and on Grand Bahama Island (who knew?). This small bird is a fairly common resident of the pine forests of the southeastern part of the country and the western edge of its range ends in east Texas. It is closely related to the Pygmy Nuthatch of the pine forests of the western United States. It probes the bark and needles of the pine trees for small invertebrates often while hanging upside down. They are usually easily detected (even before they are seen) by their squeaky-toy voices that they are not shy about using. If you hear the call, you can bet a small troop of these fearless little birds are nearby.

Bachman's Sparrow, a U.S. endemic, is one of the most attractive and least seen sparrows in our area. Like the nuthatch, this sparrow is distributed mostly in the pine forests of the southeast although it does range up into Illinois (and occasionally into Canada). Oddly enough, there is a gap in the range for quite a distance on either side of the middle and lower Mississippi River. Though present throughout the year, this bird is seldom seen except when the males are singing from exposed perches in the spring and early summer. Otherwise, these sparrows are mostly on the ground in the grassy understory that they favor and very difficult to see. Unfortunately, this species range is shrinking, especially on its northern edges. The reasons for this are not completely clear but the usual culprits, habitat loss and climate change, are likely factors.

Perhaps the most sought after endemic bird of our area is the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. This rare species is patchily distributed through the pine forests of the southeast and is on the federal endangered species list. The woodpecker requires a very specific habitat type, large stretches of mature pine forest with a grassy understory largely free of the heavy brush found in much of the area forests. This is a habitat that requires periodic fires to maintain it. The nest trees are easy to recognize and not just because most are paint marked by the forest service. The woodpeckers keep a heavy flow of sap beneath their nest holes, running down the trunk of the tree, to deter predators. Even when you find a colony with several nest trees, the bird is not always easy to find as it leaves the nest holes before dawn and often does not return until dusk. In fact, the woodpecker is usually easier to find in the forests surrounding the colony, as it roams in small groups, in search of food.

Brown-headed Nuthatch was no trouble to find on the day of the field trip. Their squeaks were heard often on the day and these entertaining little birds were seen by all of the birders. Several of the other common birds of the east Texas piney woods were also seen on the day. Tufted Titmice scolded us from above at Boykin Springs while Pine Warblers were heard constantly and seen numerous times as well. A Hooded Warbler was heard but not seen while a Brown Thrasher gave a brief glance. White-throated Sparrows called from the brush while Purple Martins called overhead. A pair of American Kestrels perched briefly in a dead snag near the woodpecker colony while a young Red-shouldered Hawk soared overhead. A real treat was the young Bald Eagle that flew over the woodpecker colony at Concord Heights.

Bachman's Sparrows were a little more of a challenge. The lovely song of these reddish-brown sparrows was heard all over the woods but the birds themselves were much harder to find. The birds would often stop singing when anyone got too close but, with patience, good looks were had. When a bird was heard nearby the whole group would scan the area looking for the open perches, usually less than 15 feet off the ground, the singing males seem to favor. Eventually, a sparrow was spotted and everyone in the group was rewarded with scope filling views.

Ultimately, this trip was about finding the rare Red-cockaded Woodpecker. It seemed for a long time that this goal would not be accomplished. Early in the day, a fleeting glimpse was seen of a probable Red-cockaded flying through the trees near Boykin Springs but it could not be refound. The birds were heard on a number of occasions on the day but the birds never came close enough to be spied by the group. Other woodpeckers were seen and/or heard including Red-bellied and Pileated Woodpeckers, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and Northern Flicker. When the group had all but given up, on the way back to the vehicles to leave for the day, finally success! A group of four Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were heard near the trail at the Concord Ridge colony. As the birders waited the woodpeckers flew into nearby trees. Although the birds moved around a lot, they eventually gave good looks to all remaining members of the group. The perfect way to end the search for U.S. endemics in the piney woods of east Texas!

The following species were recorded by the trip leader: Black Vulture (1), Turkey Vulture (8), Bald Eagle (1), Accipiter sp.(1), Red-shouldered Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Red-shouldered Hawk (1), American Kestrel (4), Mourning Dove (12), Red-bellied Woodpecker (4), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Downy Woodpecker (2), Northern Flicker (1), Pileated Woodpecker (4), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (6), White-eyed Vireo (2), American Crow (13), Purple Martin (2), Tufted Titmouse (4), Brown-headed Nuthatch (11), Carolina Wren (1), Brown Thrasher (2), Pine Warbler (30), Hooded Warbler (1), Bachman's Sparrow (20), White-throated Sparrow (8), Northern Cardinal(12).

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – February 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, or very much out-of-season species, 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: Another full month, but somewhat reflecting some of the changed habitats and access difficulties in the wake of Hurricane

Ike. With Cattail Marsh closed, there is little publicly available non-ephemeral waterfowl or shorebird habitat, and somehow, the Jefferson county beach in the vicinity of McFaddin Beach still seems somewhat lacking its normal variety of beach birds. Wintering habitat for passerines is in many places, especially south of Interstate 10, abnormal or degraded.

The listing that we publish each month lists some birds in summary format and others in more detail. We used to automatically detail species that are less than "common" on the best Upper Texas Coast checklists, but now we make a decision on each species reported, based on an admittedly subjective evaluation of the interest in the detail for that species in our area, or where it may have distributional significance for the species. To illustrate this, we have in recent months listed Pine Siskins in detail, because they are not nearly as common as even the latest editions of the checklist imply. The database contains essentially all the location data that are supplied to us, and we will gladly make any data that can easily be derived from the database available upon request.

GOOSE, White-fronted JAW	(12-12)	JEF-NEDR 2/12(30)	HAWK, Red-shouldered reps(8); ORA 1 rep(1)	(12-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 4
GOOSE, Snow 2/15(121) JAW	(2-15)	JEF 2/2(11) RHJ; JEF	HAWK, Red-tailed	(2-26)	JEF 7 reps(18)
DUCK, Wood	(15-15)	ORA 2/15(5) SBE	EAGLE, Golden 2/19(1) JAW	(14-19)	JEF 2/14(1) JHH; JEF
GADWALL JEF-MURW 2/27(31) JA	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(6) JA;	CARACARA, Crested JEF 2/21(2) CSL	(7-21)	JEF-TX87 2/7(1) JAW;
TEAL, Blue-winged JEF-MURW 2/27(46) JA	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(7) JA;	KESTREL, American	(2-20)	JEF 5 reps(14)
SHOVELER, Northern MURW 2/13(4) JA; JEF-MURW 2/27(8) JA	(2-27)	JEF 2/2(200) RHJ; JEF-	FALCON, Peregrine	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(1) JAW
TEAL, Green-winged	(13-13)	JEF-MURW 2/13(8) JA	RAIL, Clapper	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 2/27(4) JA
GREBE, Pied-billed JEF-MURW 2/27(1) JA	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(2) JA;	MOORHEN, Common	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(3)
PELICAN, Brown rep(2)	(7-20)	JEF 4 reps(15); ORA 1	COOT, American	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(2)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(7-27)	JEF 7 reps(36)	CRANE, Sandhill	(20-20)	JEF 2/20(7) CSL
CORMORANT, Double-crested	(15-15)	ORA 2/15(11) SBE	KILLDEER reps(51)	(2-27)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3
ANHINGA JEF-MURW 2/27(15) JA	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(7) JA;	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(13-27)	JEF 3 reps(14)
HERON, Great Blue reps(11)	(12-27)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 6	WILET	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(1)
EGRET, Great reps(4)	(12-20)	JEF 5 reps(14); ORA 2	SANDPIPER, Western	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(1) JAW
EGRET, Snowy rep(3)	(12-27)	JEF 4 reps(6); ORA 1	SANDPIPER, Least	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(20) JAW
HERON, Little Blue	(13-27)	JEF 2 reps(15)	DUNLIN	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(25) JAW
HERON, Tricolored	(13-27)	JEF 2 reps(10)	SNIFE, Wilson's MURW 2/27(8) JA	(15-27)	JEF 2/15(3) JAW; JEF-
EGRET, Cattle	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(1) JAW	GULL, Laughing rep(10)	(7-15)	JEF 2 reps(6); ORA 1
IBIS, White	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(3)	GULL, Bonaparte's	(15-15)	ORA 2/15(3) SBE
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(1)	GULL, Ring-billed rep(5)	(7-15)	JEF 3 reps(42); ORA 1
VULTURE, Black reps(6); ORA 1 rep(2)	(9-15)	HAI 1 rep(16); JEF 2	GULL, Herring	(13-13)	JEF 1 rep(3)
VULTURE, Turkey reps(18)	(7-20)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 4	TERN, Caspian ORA 2/15(2) SBE	(7-15)	JEF-TX87 2/7(1) JAW;
OSPREY	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(1) JA;	PIGEON, Rock reps(232); ORA 1 rep(52)	(1-28)	HAI 3 reps(50); JEF 9
KITE, White-tailed	(26-26)	JEF-BMT 2/26(1) RHJ	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(10-27)	JEF 5 reps(24);
			DOVE, White-winged	(5-28)	JEF 13 reps(85)
			DOVE, Mourning reps(121); ORA 2 reps(3)	(3-27)	HAI 6 reps(27); JEF 8
			DOVE, Inca	(8-8)	HAI-SILS 2/8(1) MG
			OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 2/28(1) JAW	(26-28)	JEF-BMT 2/26(1) RHJ;
			OWL, Barred	(13-13)	ORA 1 rep(1)
			HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(7-7)	JEF-NEDR 2/7(1) JJW
			HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chinned	(25-25)	JEF-NEDR 2/25(1) JAW
			HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	(4-28)	JEF 22 reps(27)
			HUMMINGBIRD species	(1-28)	JEF 18 reps(20)
			KINGFISHER, Belted rep(1)	(8-28)	JEF 6 reps(8); ORA 1
			WOODPECKER, Red-bellied reps(4); ORA 4 reps(6)	(1-25)	HAI 11 reps(21); JEF 4
			SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied rep(1); ORA 4 reps(5)	(5-21)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1

WOODPECKER, Downy reps(13); ORA 1 rep(3)	(2-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 13
WOODPECKER, Hairy	(14-14)	ORA-ORG 2/14(1) SBE
FLICKER, Northern	(14-14)	HAI 2/14(1) JA
WOODPECKER, Pileated rep(1); ORA 1 rep(1)	(8-22)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 1
PHOEBE, Eastern reps(10); ORA 2 reps(2)	(7-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 8
SHRIKE, Loggerhead reps(13)	(1-22)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3
JAY, Blue reps(4); ORA 3 reps(10)	(6-28)	HAI 4 reps(8); JEF 2
CROW, American 2/14(3) JA; HAI-SILS 2/25(1) MG	(8-25)	HAI-SILS 2/8(2) MG; HAI
MARTIN, Purple	(26-26)	JEF-BMT 2/26(6) RHJ
SWALLOW, Tree rep(31)	(8-28)	JEF 5 reps(240); ORA 1
CHICKADEE, Carolina reps(7)	(1-16)	HAI 7 reps(27); ORA 4
TITMOUSE, Tufted rep(1)	(1-16)	HAI 6 reps(17); ORA 1
WREN, Carolina reps(2); ORA 1 rep(1)	(3-28)	HAI 9 reps(10); JEF 2
WREN, House JEF-BMT 2/9(1) RHJ	(8-9)	JEF-SW 2/8(1) JAW;
WREN, Sedge	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 2/27(3) JA
WREN, Marsh	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(8)
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(13-13)	JEF-MURW 2/13(1) JA
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray reps(6)	(7-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 4
BLUEBIRD, Eastern rep(1); ORA 4 reps(9)	(6-28)	HAI 9 reps(24); JEF 1
THRUSH, Hermit ORA-ORG 2/14(1) SBE	(13-14)	ORA-ORG 2/13(1) SBE;
THRUSH, Wood	(23-23)	HAI-SILS 2/23(1) MG
ROBIN, American reps(12); ORA 3 reps(16)	(3-28)	HAI 3 reps(98); JEF 9
CATBIRD, Gray	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 2/27(3) JA
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern reps(18); ORA 3 reps(3)	(12-28)	HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 8
THRASHER, Brown BMT 2/25(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 2/28(1) JAW	(14-28)	HAI 2/14(1) JA; JEF-
STARLING, European reps(187)	(7-28)	HAI 3 reps(141); JEF 8
WAXWING, Cedar reps(67)	(3-28)	HAI 2 reps(37); JEF 4
WARBLER, Orange-crowned reps(20); ORA 1 rep(1)	(1-28)	HAI 15 reps(18); JEF 20
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped reps(333); ORA 4 reps(20)	(2-28)	HAI 2 reps(16); JEF 19
WARBLER, Pine reps(26); ORA 4 reps(4)	(1-28)	HAI 8 reps(9); JEF 19
YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF-MURW 2/27(6) JA	(13-27)	JEF-MURW 2/13(2) JA;
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(13-27)	JEF 2 reps(8)
SPARROW, Chipping reps(8)	(1-28)	HAI 13 reps(530); JEF 6
SPARROW, Savannah MURW 2/27(1) JA	(15-27)	JEF 2/15(59) JAW; JEF-
SPARROW, Seaside	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(3)
SPARROW, Song	(16-16)	ORA-ORG 2/16(1) SBE
SPARROW, White-throated reps(84); ORA 3 reps(3)	(1-28)	HAI 3 reps(28); JEF 22
SPARROW, White-crowned	(9-15)	JEF 2 reps(5)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(4-28)	JEF 13 reps(15)
CARDINAL, Northern reps(10); ORA 4 reps(23)	(1-27)	HAI 11 reps(558); JEF 4
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted	(13-13)	JEF-GROV 2/13(1) SR
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged reps(310); ORA 4 reps(12)	(7-27)	HAI 2 reps(166); JEF 3
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(32) JAW
MEADOWLARK species	(15-15)	JEF 2/15(8) JAW
GRACKLE, Common reps(138); ORA 2 reps(5)	(13-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF-TX87 2/14(23) JAW; JEF-TX87 2/28(2) JAW	(7-28)	JEF-TX87 2/7(4) JAW;

GRACKLE, Great-tailed 1 rep(25)	(7-27)	JEF 10 reps(388); ORA
COWBIRD, Brown-headed rep(73); ORA 3 reps(30)	(13-16)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 1
FINCH, House	(2-28)	JEF 8 reps(12)
SISKIN, Pine HAI 2/6(50) JAW; HAI-SILS 2/12(10) SG; HAI-SILS 2/19(6) SG; HAI-SILS 2/26(6) SG; JEF-BMT 2/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/7(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 2/8(15) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/9(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/10(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/12(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/14(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/15(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/16(7) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/17(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/18(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/19(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/21(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/28(4) RHJ	(1-28)	HAI 14 reps(209); JEF 32 reps(1828); ORA 4 reps(79)
GOLDFINCH, American	(1-28)	HAI 14 reps(209); JEF 32 reps(1828); ORA 4 reps(79)
SPARROW, House reps(30)	(5-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7
Number of Species		112
Number of Individuals		16118

County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; GROV — Groves; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA, NEDR — Nederland; ORG — Orange; SILS — Silsbee; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations

CSL — Christine Sliva; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE — Sheri Bethard; SG — Sherry Gibson; SR — Sherrie Roden; X — Unknown

Neches River NWR *(continued from page 4)*

as one of the great Texas conservation victories of the decade. The City of Dallas and the Texas Water Development Board filed suit hoping to overturn approval of the Refuge and make way for a reservoir Dallas predicted might be needed in fifty years. Federal Judge Jorge A. Solis ruled in favor of the FWS in July 2007, upholding creation of the refuge.

On March 12, a three-judge panel affirmed the lower court's decision, concurring with Judge Solis that the Refuge was properly established. The ruling sparked jubilation among conservationists, sportsmen, and many other Texans who care about the state's amazing outdoors. The Neches River Refuge is exceptional wildlife habitat -- one of the most important wildlife areas left in Texas. Thousands of Texans wrote letters or signed petitions in support of its creation. Speculation now turns to whether the City of Dallas will attempt an appeal to the Supreme Court. Proponents of the refuge, pointing out how strong the opinions are from both the lower-court and the appeals court, are hoping that Dallas and the Texas Water Development Board will accept the decision and opt for one of the many other water supply options available for Dallas, rather than appealing the decision. The Fish and Wildlife Service has been barred from acquiring land for the refuge, pending outcome of the appeal. If Dallas and the Water Development Board do not appeal the decision, the lower court will take the necessary steps to finalize the lawsuit and lift the injunction against land acquisition. Texas Conservation Alliance, Friends of the Neches River, and the many other organizations who support the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge look forward to seeing land added to the refuge once the lawsuit is final.

Texas Conservation Alliance Press Release

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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/> 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://lists.texbirds.org/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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