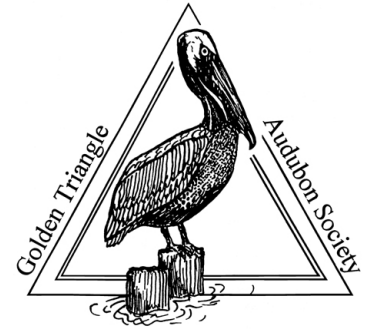


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 9

September 2010

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 16, 2010**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Sea Rim State Park**  
**Tracy Ferguson**

Tracy Ferguson was appointed as the Superintendent of Sea Rim State Park in March of this year, and will discuss what has been accomplished at Sea Rim since then, and give an overview of future plans. He will briefly outline Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's capital projects processes to give a better understanding of the timeline for reconstruction. In addition, he will share some of the importance functions of State Parks in the protection of cultural and natural resources, and will include a slide show of birds and other wildlife found in the park.

Tracy started as a Park Ranger with the Parks and Wildlife Department in 1994. He previously worked at Caprock Canyons State Park in the Panhandle, Eisenhower State Park in north central Texas, and Lake Colorado City State Park in west Texas. As Superintendent, he oversees all facets of park operations. He is excited about his role in helping to re-establish Sea Rim State Park and making it once again a gem of Southeast Texas.

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

## **Upcoming GTAS Elections**

Our elections will soon be upon us. President Jim Armacost has appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of himself, Gerald Duhon and Rose Ann Jordan. Please contact any of these individuals with your offer to serve or suggestions for others who may be willing. Contact information can be found on page 2, or see one of them at the September meeting. All offices except President and all board positions are up for election at our November annual meeting. The term of the President is two years; the terms of all other officers and board members are one year. We are always looking for new blood and fresh ideas. The duties are not onerous! The board typically meets for two hours in the evening about three times a year, and otherwise operates by email and telephone.

## The Brown Pelican

Vol. 16, No.9 September 2010  
Issue number 166

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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*The Brown Pelican* is

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

## Calendar of Events

**Thursday September 16. Membership Meeting.** Tracy Ferguson on Sea Rim State Park. Details on page 1.

### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Sherrie Roden, Jean Beavens, Sherry Gibson, Gail Slocum, Mary and Herb Stafford and Jana Whittle for bringing refreshments for the August meeting.

**We need volunteers to bring items for all the rest of the fall 2010 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](mailto:armacostj@yahoo.com)) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

**Saturday September 18. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count.** Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. In this count, we survey as much of the county as we are able, and all are welcome to help, even if you can only spend a few hours in the morning. We do survey in town as well as in the more rural areas, and can accommodate feeder watchers too. Please note that most arrangements will need to be made prior to the compiler leaving on an out-of-town trip on September 10, but we may be able to assign you to help in one of the areas at the membership meeting on September 16

**Saturday September 25. Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch.** Our leaders will be there from about 8 a.m. To coincide with the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration, this trip will be one week later than our normal field trip schedule.

To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow

it about 14 miles (two miles past the access road for Anahuac NWR) until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there will be signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left on an oilfield road, bearing left again to the parking area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. Be advised there will also be field trips of other groups at the Hawk Watch site on this day so look for our leader Steve Mayes. While Broad-winged Hawks usually do not start moving until thermals begin to form after 9 a.m., Accipiters start passing over much earlier. At Smith Point, hawk activity normally falls off sharply in the afternoon.

The Smith Point Hawk Watch is conducted by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. See page 3 for more info.

**Saturday October 2: Sabine Woods Work Day.** We are planning a work day at Sabine Woods, mainly for a massive backlog of routine maintenance items; mowing the trails, trimming and pruning to keep the trails clear. The rains of late July and August and the more open canopy created by the hurricanes have led to much more growth than normal inside the woods as well as outside. There is a lot of work to be done on the trails and around the trees that we planted on the east side.

We will plan to start around 7:30 a.m., and will probably work until noon or thereabouts. Sometimes on past fall work days, we have shortened the schedule because of the presence of migrants!

Please bring work gloves and insect repellent, and whatever hand tools you have – loppers, clippers etc. We have a few, but typically not enough. We will probably be able to use more push mowers than usual, both in clearing the trails inside the woods, and around the new trees. We would like at least one small chain saw, and gasoline powered string trimmers will be useful this time. We will try to provide light refreshments.

**Thursday October 21. Membership Meeting.** Details in next month's issue of the *Brown Pelican*.

## Smith Point Hawk Watch is 14 Years Old!

“Fall” bird migration begins in mid summer, and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory’s 14th annual hawk watch at Smith Point is already upon us. *[Hawk watches were also conducted at the site by volunteers for several years earlier.—Ed.]* Our official monitoring season is August 15 through November 15, seven days a week. An accident of geography makes Smith Point, a triangular peninsula on the east side of Galveston Bay, a natural concentration point of migrating birds. Migrating birds, including up to 23 species of raptors, or birds of prey, moving southwestward down the coast of Texas to their winter homes in tropical latitudes become funneled down to the tip of the peninsula. The tiny community of Smith Point lies at the tip and so does the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area, owned and operated by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, one of our partners in this long term monitoring project. There a 30-foot tower allows an unobstructed view. Birds may come by ones and twos or in giant “kettles”, swirling flocks of hundreds of birds. A huge kettle of hawks is one of the awe inspiring sights in nature.

The Smith Point hawk tower is open to the public every day of the 90-day season and the hawk watchers are on hand to share their knowledge with visitors. Each year we have a public event with educational presentations including bird banding, raptor identification tips, migration strategies, and other aspects of raptor migration. This year our “Hawk Happening” will be on September 25, right on the statistical peak of hawk migration at Smith Point. Polish your hawk identification skills under the guidance of Jen Ottinger and Jacquie Ferrato, our official hawk watchers this year. There will be a bird banding demonstration and raptor-oriented materials will be available from our Nature Store. Mark your calendars and come on out. Directions may be found on page 2 and on the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory website at [www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org).

*John C. Arvin*  
Research Coordinator, GCBO

## Sabine Woods

In the Calendar of Events on the opposite page, is a request for your assistance at the Sabine Woods Work Day on October 2. We earnestly hope as many of you as possible will come and help. There is a lot to do this year!

Sabine Woods was severely impacted by Hurricane Ike in September 2008. Salt water covered all parts of the sanctuary to a depth of five feet or more (and most of the sanctuary is on a ridge that is at least five feet above the surrounding ground). Quite apart from destroying all the man-made structures – shelter and boardwalks – the storm and its salt water removed all the then existing underbrush, and blew over or killed many trees. Initial clean-up involved removing the remains of the boardwalks, clearing fallen trees that were in awkward places and repairing fences to keep cattle out.

In 2009, underbrush began to recover, but the most obvious change was the appearance in the fall of large stands of giant ragweed. Giant ragweed is, in fact, quite bird-friendly, providing seeds and insects to eat and cover, but there was just too much of it. We cut down a lot so that it would not seed. We were successful, as this year we have a more reasonable amount.

This year, the much reduced canopy has allowed very luxuriant growth inside the woods – even more so than in 2009 – and even though some of the in-woods trails were mowed in mid-summer, they are very much overgrown, but not so thick as to prevent reasonably easy passage. We may be able to do a quick pass along the main in-woods trails with a mower in early September, but we will need to do a more thorough job on the work day.

There are still dead trees standing in many parts of the Sanctuary. Each severe thunderstorm brings down limbs from these trees and eventually, the trees themselves. It is important that birders, for their own safety, stay out of the woods during any thunderstorms or other high wind events. This will need to continue for the next few years.

Last fall and continuing up the present, under the skilful management and labor of volunteer Gary Kelley, we have completed a number of recovery projects. The shelter has been rebuilt

and the gates replaced with the assistance of a grant from the Sempra Energy Foundation. A grant from the 2008 Great Texas Birding Classic was used to repair and expand the water system, and to purchase and plant over 50 good sized trees, mostly live oaks, in the eastern part of the Sanctuary. In addition, a volunteer crew planted over 100 mulberry trees propagated for us by Jim Anding in College Station. As (bad) luck would have it, after a wet late winter, the area entered a period of sustained drought, and it was necessary to water the trees through all of June and much of July. We really appreciate the volunteers who helped in this task. We know it was not fun dragging hoses through the vegetation in the heat and humidity of a south-east Texas summer. There has been a reasonable amount of rain in August, thank goodness, although we have learned that the land where Sabine Woods sits, immediately inland of the shoreline, doesn't get nearly as much rain as areas a little further inland. It is probably too much to expect that all of the trees have survived, but we are hopeful that losses will be able to be counted on the fingers of one hand. For the most part, the mulberry trees, which were quite small, have taken hold well; the oaks and hackberry trees will probably take until next year to show real growth.

Howard Davis brush hogged the area between the trees for us in June, but , with the rain, it has grown up again. We will need, on the work day, to try to clear the areas immediately surrounding the trees to reduce competition for water and nutrients. We cannot use large equipment for much of this task, and push mowers and hoes will be the order of the day. This will not be pleasant work, but if we have a good turnout, no one will need to do too many trees.

For the future, Jim Anding is propagating some willow trees for us that we will transplant this winter to replace those in the pond that were killed by the salt water in Ike. And, as always, we continue to remove invasive species – tallow trees have almost all been dealt with, but we are still working on McCartney Rose.

Please come help us return Sabine Woods to its rightful position as the best birding locale on the Gulf coast!

*John A. Whittle*

# Bird Sightings – July 2010

**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 johnawhittle@aol.com or call (409) 722-4193. 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:** There is little space for commentary this month so we will let the reports speak for themselves!

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Back-bell</b>	(11-18)	JEF-TX87 7/11(20) JAW; JEF-SRSP 7/18(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 7/18(2) JAW
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(121) JAW
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(11-24)	JEF 4 reps(23)
<b>BITTERN, Least</b>	(18-18)	JEF-MCFW 7/18(3) JAW
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(4-18)	HAI-SILS 7/6(1) MG; JEF-BMT 7/4(1) RHJ; JEF-MCFW 7/18(1) JAW
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(4-18)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(11-24)	JEF 3 reps(9)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(11-24)	JEF 6 reps(56)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(11-24)	JEF 3 reps(8)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(11-18)	JEF 3 reps(8)
<b>EGRET, Reddish</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(2) JAW
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(13-26)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(158)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(11-27)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3 reps(9)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.</b>	(18-18)	JEF-MCFW 7/18(1) JAW
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr..</b>	(18-29)	JEF 5 reps(10)
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(17-18)	JEF 2 reps(54)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(17-19)	JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>STORK, Wood</b>	(24-24)	JEF 7/24(80) JAW
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(11-17)	JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(11-30)	JEF 4 reps(7)
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b>	(11-22)	ORA 7/11(1) CC; ORA 7/12(1) CC; ORA 7/13(1) CC; ORA 7/14(4) CC; ORA-ORG 7/20(4) CC; ORA-ORG 7/21(6) JRP; ORA-ORG 7/22(2) CC
<b>KITE, Mississippi</b>	(5-5)	JEF-BMT 7/5(1) RHJ
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(8-8)	HAI-SILS 7/8(1) MG
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(19-27)	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(15-15)	JEF-BMT 7/15(1) RHJ
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	(17-25)	JEF 7/17(1) JJW; JEF 7/25(1) CSL
<b>HAWK, White-tailed</b>	(30-30)	JEF-NEDR 7/30(1) CC
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(25-27)	HAI-SILS 7/25(1) MG; HAI- SILS 7/27(1) MG
<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(18-18)	JEF 1 rep(6)
<b>RAIL, King</b>	(18-18)	JEF-MCFW 7/18(24) JAW
<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(2) JAW
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(11-28)	JEF 3 reps(28)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(11-18)	JEF 2 reps(7)
<b>WILLET</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(11) JAW
<b>SANDERLING</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(20) JAW
<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(1) JAW
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	(18-18)	JEF-MCFW 7/18(1) JAW
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(11-18)	JEF 3 reps(188)
<b>TERN, Least</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(114) JAW
<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(1) JAW
<b>TERN, Black</b>	(11-18)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 7/18(2) JAW
<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(11-18)	JEF 2 reps(56)
<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(123) JAW
<b>TERN, Sandwich</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 7/11(50) JAW
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(11-30)	JEF 10 reps(81)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	(12-30)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(26)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(1-31)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 48 reps(541)
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(8-29)	HAI 3 reps(28); JEF 6 reps(71)
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(22-22)	JEF-SILS 7/22(1) MG
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	(17-17)	JEF-SW 7/17(1) JJW
<b>SCREECH-OWL, Eastern</b>	(29-29)	JEF-NEDR 7/29(1) JAW
<b>NIGHTHAWK, Common</b>	(17-18)	JEF 2 reps(11)
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	(4-29)	JEF 11 reps(166)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b>	(1-31)	HAI 12 reps(14); JEF 33 reps(66)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Archilochus</b>	(19-19)	JEF-NEDR 7/19(1) JAW
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	(27-27)	HAI-SILS 7/27(1) MG
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-headed</b>	(7-19)	JEF-BMT 7/7(1) RHJ; JEF- BMT 7/19(1) RHJ
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	(3-20)	HAI 3 reps(6); JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(5-31)	JEF 27 reps(28)
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(8-26)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 6 reps(6)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested</b>	(17-27)	HAI-SILS 7/27(1) MG; JEF- SW 7/17(1) JJW
<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b>	(11-24)	JEF 4 reps(49)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed</b>	(11-11)	JEF-MCFW 7/11(1) JAW
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(18-18)	JEF 7/18(1) JAW
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(3-31)	HAI 9 reps(92); JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>CROW, American</b>	(2-13)	HAI 2 reps(8)
<b>CROW, Fish</b>	(27-27)	JEF-NEDR 7/27(3) JJW
<b>CROW, species</b>	(12-28)	JEF 6 reps(11)
<b>MARTIN, Purple</b>	(6-29)	JEF 10 reps(60054)
<b>SWALLOW, Cliff</b>	(11-18)	JEF-MCFW 7/11(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/16(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 7/18(2) JAW
<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	(11-29)	JEF 7 reps(184)
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(9-31)	HAI 9 reps(25)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(18)
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(8-26)	HAI 5 reps(17)
<b>WREN, Marsh</b>	(11-11)	JEF-MCFW 7/11(3) JAW
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(4-20)	HAI-SILS 7/4(1) MG; HAI 7/19(2) MG; HAI-SILS 7/20(1) MG
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(4-31)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 6 reps(9)
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(13-29)	JEF 10 reps(14)
<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(4-31)	JEF 17 reps(19)
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(4-26)	HAI 3 reps(10); JEF 6 reps(20)
<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(1-31)	HAI 9 reps(13); JEF 26 reps(33)
<b>STARLING, European</b>	(11-29)	JEF 5 reps(53)
<b>WARBLER, Yellow-thr</b>	(19-19)	HAI 7/19(1) MG
<b>WARBLER, Pine</b>	(3-8)	HAI-SILS 7/3(1) MG; JEF- BMT 7/8(1) RHJ
<b>WATERTHRUSH, Northern</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SW 7/11(1) JAW
<b>TANAGER, Summer</b>	(21-21)	HAI-SILS 7/21(1) MG
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 19 reps(1086); JEF 3 reps(64)
<b>BUNTING, Painted</b>	(11-11)	JEF-SW 7/11(1) JAW
<b>DICKCISSEL</b>	(11-18)	JEF-MCFW 7/11(8) JAW; JEF-SRSP 7/11(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 7/18(7) JAW
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(11-24)	JEF 3 reps(75)
<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	(24-24)	JEF 7/24(1) JAW
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(11-24)	JEF 5 reps(10)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	(11-18)	JEF 3 reps(142)
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	(11-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 12 reps(278)
<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed.</b>	(11-11)	JEF-TX87 7/11(3) JAW
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	(8-18)	HAI 4 reps(15); JEF 2 reps(13)

(continued on page 5)

## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 28 August 2010

The sky was clear as a small group assembled at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats on a day with somewhat lower humidity than is often the case in late August. The "tide" (which on the Gulf coast is influenced by wind than the moon) was quite high, and there was not a lot of exposed mud flat. The sandbars are gradually rebuilding after the redistribution of sand by Hurricane Ike, but still have a ways to go.

The attention of some members of the group was held initially by some crabs of the genus *Ocypode* – the so called Ghost Crabs – that were extremely large for this genus and busy digging holes in the sand. However, remembering the principal purpose of the trip, the group set out westwards.

As we left, a young Double-crested Cormorant, unusual so early in the season, flew by. Walking along the shoreline, among the first birds we encountered were a couple of Wilson's Plovers. This species, the largest of the small plovers and characterized by a long thick bill, is quite common at Bolivar, especially in the early fall when birds presumably assemble before departing south for the winter. Although the population appears quite stable, the worldwide population estimates for the species are actually slightly smaller than those for the Piping Plover. However, the Piping Plover population is trending in the wrong direction! We saw about 15 Wilson's Plovers, rather more Piping Plovers and still more Semi-palmated Plovers. Snowy Plovers are always more difficult to find at Bolivar, although usually very easy at Sea Rim SP, and we were only able to see one or possibly two at some distance later in the day at Rollover Pass. There were a few Black-bellied Plovers around, mostly still only in the very early stages of molt out of breeding plumage.

As we approached a "pond", all the birds in and around it took flight. We were not near enough to have been the cause, so we scanned the sky for an explanation. Then we saw a rather early Osprey flying methodically towards us. Soon the birds settled back down, and we were able to study most of the expected shorebirds. There were Willets – all of the Western subspecies as far as we could tell – as well as Ruddy Turnstones, a few Short-billed Dowitchers, Western and Least Sandpipers in addition to the many Sanderlings. We could not miss the Black Skimmers. Terns included Caspian, Royal and Sandwich among the larger species, and Forster's, Black and Least among the smaller ones. The only gulls around were a modest number of Laughing Gulls and one Ring-billed Gull. Several Marbled Godwits had already returned from points north. There were several Long-billed Curlews, a few Marbled Godwits and we glimpsed one curlew flying from one pond to another back in the deeper marsh that was probably a Whimbrel.

Most of the birds were very inactive on this morning, including even most of the Reddish Egrets, of which there were an encouraging number, mostly dark-billed immature birds. We have noted before that many beach birds retreat to favored spots when the water is high and wait quietly for the shallower water and mud flats to be re-exposed.

On the marsh's edge, we spotted three Horned Larks, while further back were some Roseate Spoonbills, White Ibis, Great Blue Herons and a Tricolored Heron.

We next headed to Fort Travis (toilets!) passing by what looked like two families of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers on Retillon Road and one or two perched Common Nighthawks on the very few bushes that survived Hurricane Ike. The bay

just west of Fort Travis yielded four American Oystercatchers, not where we had expected to find them.

The next stop was Frenchtown Road, where a Clapper Rail with a young juvenile in tow allowed a brief look. A Spotted Sandpiper was new to the day list.

Looking at the flats from the North Jetty was rather disappointing, as the birds were a long, long way away, but did allow us to see the bulk of the Brown Pelicans that were present.

After a leisurely lunch, the group proceeded to Rollover Pass, where there were good numbers of birds, including a lot more Brown Pelicans and a lot more Black Skimmers. A female Magnificent Frigatebird over the Intracoastal Waterway was welcome, even if that was not where we had expected to see one. We did also find seven more American Oystercatchers.

A stop at High Island, however, proved that 3 p.m. is not the best time to look for passerine migrants, so the group called it a day. This was by no means the best day we have ever had on the Bolivar Peninsula, but we are spoiled. In most of the rest of the country, a list like the one that follows would be regarded as excellent!

Magnificent Frigatebird (1); Great Blue Heron (13); Great Egret (21); Snowy Egret (47); Little Blue Heron (4); Tricolored Heron (5); Reddish Egret (16); Cattle Egret (20); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); Night-Heron species (1); White Ibis (12); Plegadis species Ibis (1); Roseate Spoonbill (3); Turkey Vulture (2); Osprey (1); Crested Caracara(1); Clapper Rail (4); Black-bellied Plover (20); Snowy Plover (1); Wilson's Plover (15); Semipalmated Plover (77); Piping Plover (20); Killdeer (2); American Oystercatcher (13); Black-necked Stilt (5); Spotted Sandpiper (1); Willet (20); (Western) Willet (15); Whimbrel (1); Long-billed Curlew (5); Marbled Godwit (15); Ruddy Turnstone (6); Sanderling (70); Western Sandpiper (13); Least Sandpiper (3); Short-billed Dowitcher (4); Laughing Gull (130); Ring-billed Gull (1); Least Tern (65); Caspian Tern (3); Black Tern (110); Forster's Tern (107); Royal Tern (25); Sandwich Tern (4); Black Skimmer (84); Eurasian Collared-Dove (1); White-winged Dove (1); Mourning Dove (1); Common Nighthawk (3); Eastern Kingbird (1); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (11); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Horned Lark (3); Barn Swallow (24); Northern Mockingbird (3); European Starling (2); Northern Cardinal (4); Great-tailed Grackle (5).

*John A. Whittle*

### July 2010 Bird Sightings (cont from page 4)

<b>ORIOLE, Orchard</b>	(11-18)	JEF 3 reps(22)
<b>FINCH, House</b>	(2-30)	HAI 12 reps(25); JEF 11
	reps(20)	
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(8-30)	JEF 10 reps(48)
<b>Number of Species</b>		98
<b>Number of Individuals</b>		129590

#### County Abbreviations:

HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

#### Location Codes

BMT - Beaumont; MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; ORG - Orange; SILS - Silsbee; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

#### Observer Abbreviations

CC - Cody Conway; CSL - Christine Sliva; JAW - John Whittle; JFW - Jana Whittle; JJW - John and Jana Whittle; JRP - John and Rebecca Phelps; MG - Melanie Goetsell; RHJ - Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan.





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## *Brown Pelican*

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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 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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