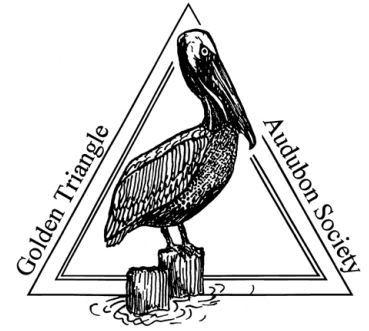


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 17 No. 2

February 2011

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**An Overview of Audubon Texas Programs
Focusing on Centers and Education**

Benjamin Jones, Director of Education, Audubon Texas

Benjamin Jones will present an overview of state programs including Important Bird Areas, the coastal program, and a special emphasis on centers and education initiatives including Audubon Texas' role in the new "Texas Children in Nature Initiative" launched in December.

Ben serves as State Director of Education for Audubon Texas. In this capacity; he directs the education program at the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas, supports the education programs at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in San Antonio, and is helping craft the education programs for the coming Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center in Cedar Hill, Texas. Ben serves on the Texas Education Agency's Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee and serves as the vice president for field trips for the Dallas County Audubon Society.

Ben grew up in Nederland. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Science and a Master of Science in Veterinary Anatomy from Texas A&M University in College Station. While at A&M, he developed an interest in informal education through involvement in the Department of Student Activities.

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

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 17, No.2 February 2011
Issue number 171

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
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 February 17, 2011. Membership Meeting. Audubon Texas Education Program. Details on page 1.

February 18-21, 2011. Great Backyard Bird Count. For details on how to participate in this annual count, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html>

Saturday February 19, 2011. Field Trip. Sheldon Lake State Park includes a large lake, which attracts many waterfowl, and well as moist wooded areas and newly restored prairie. The park entrance and Environmental Learning Center are at 15315 Beaumont Highway (Business 90) at Park Road 138 just outside the northeast section of Houston. We will meet at 8:15 a.m. inside the park outside the Environmental Learning Center. Normal travel time from the Golden Triangle should be about one hour 30 minutes to one hour 40 minutes. It is about 85 miles from Beaumont, and a little further from mid and south county.

If you approach on US 90, in Crosby, take the Beaumont Highway (**Business 90**, not the "main" US 90) and proceed about 5 miles to the park entrance to the right. If you reach Beltway 8 you have gone too far.

If you prefer IH10, exit on Beltway 8 and turn north. After just under four miles cross under US 90. Go another half mile or so and turn right on Business 90 (Beaumont Highway) and proceed less than a mile to the park entrance on the left.

The park does not open until 8:00 a.m. Park telephone is 281-456-2800.

Saturday March 12, 2010. Sabine Woods Work Day. Please mark your calendars now, as you may not receive the March issue before this date. We plan to get the trails ready for spring migration. There are a number of medium sized, but quite tall, dead trees near trails that we need to take down. Although we hope to be able to bush hog the larger areas, we will probably need push mowers to trim around the newly planted trees. We plan another Work Day for mid-May.

April 8-10. Big Thicket Science Conference, Nacogdoches TX.

Contact Julie Shackelford at The Conservation Fund, PO Box 4608, Nacogdoches TX 75962; (936) 468-5490 or www.conservationfund.org.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments in January. **We need volunteers to bring items for February and all the other spring 2011 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! Even if you would like to 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!

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.



EarthShare of Texas represents Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll contribution programs in workplaces throughout Texas. For more information about how you can support Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society at your workplace, call 1-800-GREENTX, or visit www.earthshare-texas.org

How to Warm the Heart on a Cold Winter January Day in Nederland and Beaumont.....

On Friday morning, January 21st, the hummer homes tour started on a very cold day. At 7:30 AM, one member of GTAS showed up to see the Buff-bellied Hummingbird drink sporadically from a feeder at our home in Nederland. This bird drinks for about 1/2 of a second at a time and then flies below and hides in between the sips. He (or she) is a very pretty colorful bird, though. A little while later another member showed up and saw glimpses of the same bird. The immature Black-chinned Hummingbird also made some very quick appearances. We left our house at 8:00 to go and see the most cooperative hummingbird that I have ever seen. We went to Harlan Stewart's house in Nederland to a female Anna's Hummingbird. The bird seems to like to show off for people. We say that she is sort of like a "Hollywood" hummingbird because she doesn't mind people being close to her and she doesn't mind having her picture taken. It did not take long to see her because she is very cooperative.

At 8:30, we left to go to Steve Kuritz's house in Beaumont to see his Rufous Hummingbird. His bird was very cooperative also and popped up onto a power cord above the garage and we took long looks. We left Steve's house around 9:15 and went to Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan's house in north Beaumont. We watched from the inside of their home that morning. We saw their Buff-bellied Hummingbird, their immature Rufous, and their Broad-tailed Hummingbird. We stayed two hours at the Jordan's house because they have lots of other birds to see also. As we were watching birds we began to talk about the arrival times of these "western" hummers that we were each hosting at our houses. We were finished and back home by noon.

We first talked about when the ones we have first appeared: The Buff-bellied and Black-chinned at our house showed up on December 25th, 2010. Harlan first observed the Anna's on December 28th, 2010. Steve first observed his Rufous on August 28th, 2010 when there was a southwesterly wind; last year a Rufous came to his house on August 24th, 2009. The Jordan's Broad-tailed arrived on October 24th, the Buff-bellied on November 29th and the Rufous on December 27th.

So then we started wondering why they would come to our three urban and one large suburban yards. Here are some of the ideas we thought about:

1. Our climate only goes below freezing 5-10 times a year which means that the hummers will have nectar awhile to drink from before the plants get frozen.
2. We have more insects than a lot of other places.
3. We realize that many of these hummers can live in cold climates but when plants are covered with snow that would kill off the insects for a while.
4. Immature birds spread out farther than mature hummers.
5. We know that hummers go into a torpor state when they need to.
6. The typical winter territory is generally a small area.
7. None of us know where the hummingbirds that frequent our feeders go at night.
8. Each of the four houses plant native plants to provide nectar for butterflies and hummingbirds.

Harlan noted that his Anna's hummer will be active catching insects in 40 degree or better temperatures. We wonder if daily hours above 40 might be a factor (or infrequency of multi-day spans lacking x hours above 40)? Also, our damp winter climate might encourage the proliferation of fungus gnats, which might be excellent food for hummers. Harlan saw large numbers of midges (Chironomidae) in Anahuac on the GTAS fieldtrip. This might be a factor in some gardens with abundant moist leaf litter or other decaying vegetation or mulch.

Here is a list of plants at each yard:

Whittle's yard:

<i>Hamelia patens</i> (10)	Mexican cigar plant
David Verity cigar plant	Mexican Turk's cap
Abutilon (Flowering maple)	Purple Porterweed
Shrimp plant (5 large areas)	
Mulberry (2), oak (1), and pine (2) trees	

Harlan's yard:

Harlan rated the different plants according to which he saw them visited by hummingbirds (Mostly Ruby-throats). The lower ratings don't necessarily reflect reality. He observes "The shrimp plant is in a disadvantageous location for observations. The Penstemon, rated well in texts, has not competed well with adjacent larger plants (my brown thumb in action). Similarly for the Mexican honeysuckle. The bat-face cuphea is in my front yard and although it is continuously covered in blooms in the summer, I rarely spend time watching it for hummingbird activity. The pineapple sage should be rated higher I believe, but it hasn't yet been flowering enough to rate it fairly. The wisteria is good, but it flowers too briefly to be rated highly. The David Verity Cigar Plant hasn't had enough of a chance to show off."

Bottle-brush bush****	Chaste tree***
Mexican sunflower****	Mexican cigar plant****
Mexican sage****	Scarlet sage****
<i>Hamelia patens</i> ****	Coral vine****
Pink and yellow Lantana***	Wild morning glory***
Butterfly bush**	Zinnia (tall/large variety)**
Mexican milkweed**	Pineapple sage**
Brazilian sage (<i>Salvia guarantica</i>)**	
Wisteria*	? Shrimp plant*
Passion vine*	David Verity cigar plant*
Loquat trees*(two 10-ft tall)	? Penstemon
? Mexican honeysuckle	? Bat-face cuphea

Steve's yard:

Texas Clementis	Passion vine
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Winter honeysuckle
Red Honeysuckle	Spike flower
Penstemon	Shrimp plant
Pink and Yellow Lantana	Firecracker bush
Cestron	Scarlet Sage
Pineapple sage	Pink Sage
Mexican cuphea	20 feet tall Sistine grass
Cladendron (Cashmere Bouquet)	

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Field Trip to Anahuac NWR – 22 January 2011

What is a dedicated birder? How about one that comes out for a field trip in near freezing temperatures? With the Golden Triangle Audubon Society field trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, not just one but almost twenty dedicated birders turned out to see what this fantastic location could produce. And produce it did! And it all started right at the entrance to the refuge.

The entrance to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is undergoing some changes currently with a new visitor's center being built to replace the one destroyed by the storm surge of hurricane Ike. One thing that has not changed is that, with a lot of rehabilitation from staff and volunteers, the area is still quite birdy! A couple of American Robins sitting on a power line were a nice start (we won't mention the European Starlings that were hanging around). A Northern Harrier cruised over the fields while a Loggerhead Shrike called from nearby. A Vermilion Flycatcher is always a nice sight and a staked out bird at the entrance showed off for the whole group. Savannah Sparrows and Swamp Sparrows would eventually be located along with familiar Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. One of the best finds of the day started with a cooperative flock of White-crowned Sparrows. These are attractive birds in their own right but quite common in our area. The excitement came when a young Harris's Sparrow was spotted among the White-crowns perched atop a nearby fence. Harris's Sparrows are large relatives of our more familiar White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows but are quite hard to come by in our little corner of Texas. Unfortunately, he did not stick around long choosing to hide in a nearby brush pile and the bird could not be relocated later.

Moving on from the entrance area was difficult with such nice birds around but it proved to be well worth it. Traveling down the shell road to the Teal Slough/Deep Marsh area of the refuge allowed the group to view a large concentration of waterfowl that has been present for much of the season. The birders were able to stand out in the cold and scope out the birds and pick out the various species. Green-winged Teal were the most numerous but there were plenty of Northern Shovelers as well. Northern Pintail and Blue-winged Teal also were picked out but many ducks were just too far out to be identified to species. There were other birds in this area as well including a large flock of huge American White Pelicans and a few beautiful Tricolored Herons. A flock of Long-billed Dowitchers obligingly called as they flew overhead. One Wilson's Snipe was spotted but no one had trouble seeing multiple White Ibis. Greater Yellowlegs waded in the shallows while Neotropic Cormorants swam in deeper waters. A Peregrine Falcon perched in the distance was an excellent spot. The real highlights of this spot though were the eagles. Soon after arriving, the group found two distant raptors perched on posts near the waterfowl. Both would prove to be immature Bald Eagles! It would have still been a nice find if the eagle spotting had stopped there but it did not – the eagles just kept on coming! Another young Bald Eagle soared over the group and this was followed by more distant views of the Golden Eagle that has taken up residence in the area this winter. And it still wasn't over. From the opposite end of the waterfowl flock several Bald Eagles (including one or more

adult birds) seemed to appear at once soaring and quarreling! It was a great find for the day and it would not be the last one for the group.

After another look around the entrance area and a lunch break, the group headed around the Shoveler Pond loop. At first, there were not a lot of birds to be had. A Common Moorhen appeared and a Great Blue Heron or two put in an appearance. A Belted Kingfisher was seen along with an Eastern Phoebe. Overall, pretty humdrum considering what the group had already experienced on the day but this was about to change! While driving along, the group suddenly noticed a steady stream of birds flying overhead. Stopping for a look, the birds turned out to be Snow Geese – flock after flock of Snow Geese. The birds stretched as far as the eye could see and they were flying directly overhead! And they just kept on coming! The group watched in awe as thousands of geese kept coming overhead. Over 35,000 Snow Geese were estimated to have passed by and this was probably a conservative guess! It was a great note to leave the refuge on!

The trip was still not quite over though. The group wound its way through Chambers county noting many birds along the way. It was a great day for Red-tailed Hawks with many different forms including several dark plumaged birds at least one a likely "Harlan's" Hawk. American Kestrel and Red-shouldered Hawk were also noted en route to the Jenkins Road ponds. When the birders arrived at this spot more good birds were quickly found. Waterfowl on the pond included numerous Ruddy Ducks and American Coots along with many Northern Shovelers and a smattering of Canvasbacks. A nice group of Black-crowned Night-Herons flushed from the reeds while a single Anhinga remained perched. The group got a treat when a flycatcher popped up onto a dead tree. Instead of the expected Eastern Phoebe, the bird proved to be an Ash-throated Flycatcher! A great addition to the day's list! Species like Cackling Goose and Crested Caracara finished off the day and sent the birders home happy!

It just goes to show that cold is no obstacle when there are great birds to be had! True, it may not have been exactly arctic conditions but for a bunch of southeast Texas birders it was cold! But finding Harris's Sparrow, Bald and Golden Eagles and huge flocks of Snow Geese made it all worthwhile. This is just another demonstration of the value of our National Wildlife Refuges and the many great birding opportunities right here in our own backyard.

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Greater White-fronted Goose (108); Snow Goose (38862); Ross's Goose (33); Cackling Goose (7); Gadwall (12); Mottled Duck (8); Blue-winged Teal (17); Northern Shoveler (702); Northern Pintail (250); Green-winged Teal (2650); Canvasback (8); Lesser Scaup (1); Ruddy Duck (25); Duck Species (2500); Pied-billed Grebe (7); American White Pelican (237); Brown Pelican (11); Neotropic Cormorant (79); Anhinga (1); Great Blue Heron (5); Great Egret (11); Snowy Egret (53); Tricolored Heron (13); Black-crowned Night-Heron (50); White Ibis (130); Plegadis species Ibis (365); Black Vulture (3); Turkey Vulture (8); White-tailed Kite (4); Bald Eagle (7); Northern Harrier (18); Cooper's Hawk (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (57); Red-tailed

(continued on page 7)

Bird Sightings – December 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: Our December sightings report is always a little unusual. Many of our most active birders seem to save up their

energies for Christmas Counts. While the Turkey Creek and Beech Creek results are incorporated into this report, the Orange County and Sea Rim Counts took place in January and will therefore be in next month's listing. We do get many reports from residential areas of Hardin county, but Christmas Counts are nearly the only reports from Tyler and Jasper counties. So to some extent, we do not know how unusual some of the species observed are. However, we suspect Red-breasted and, particularly, White-breasted Nuthatch are not at all common. Purple Finch used to be quite regular in the Big Thicket, but this month's report is the first in several years. American Woodcock are being seen in numbers over the whole of the region.

There were few reports from west Jefferson County in December, but it will be interesting to see if the increasing amounts of rain have any effect on the avian populations there.

It used to be that any hummingbird in the area in winter was likely to be a Rufous Hummingbird, but the listing below shows clearly what is happening. Other western and southern hummingbirds are now more common than Rufous!

GOOSE, White-fronted (19-19) JEF 12/19(38) JAW
GOOSE, Snow (6-24) JEF 4 reps(2790)
GOOSE, White (19-19) JEF 12/19(10000) JAW
GOOSE, Ross's (11-19) JEF 2 reps(101)
DUCK, Wood (12-29) HAI 4 reps(17); JAS 1 rep(2); TYL 4 reps(40)
GADWALL (29-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(5) BC08
WIGEON, American (29-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(1) BC08
MALLARD (18-29) HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 2 reps(18); TYL 1 rep(2)
TEAL, Blue-winged (18-18) HAI TYL 12/18(2) TC08/09
SHOVELER, Northern (4-11) JEF 3 reps(162)
CANVASBACK (29-29) JAS 12/29(9) BC07; JAS-MDSP 12/29(170) BC08; TYL 12/29(80) BC09; TYL 12/29(50) BC10
REDHEAD (29-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(16) BC08
DUCK, Ring-necked (29-29) JAS 12/29(13) BC07; JAS-MDSP 12/29(20) BC08; TYL 12/29(30) BC09
SCAUP, Lesser (29-29) TYL 12/29(10) BC09
MERGANSER, Hooded (29-29) JAS 12/29(12) BC07; TYL 12/29(3) BC04
MERGANSER, Red-breasted (5-5) JEF-PI 12/5(7) JAW
DUCK, Ruddy (29-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(1) BC08; TYL 12/29(2) BC09
LOON, Common (5-5) JEF-PI 12/5(2) JAW
GREBE, Pied-billed (18-29) HAI 1 rep(3); JAS 2 reps(34); TYL 3 reps(52)
GREBE, Horned (5-5) JEF-PI 12/5(2) JAW
PELICAN, Brown (5-24) JEF-PI 12/5(7) JAW; JEF-TX87 12/5(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 12/24(11) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic (5-24) JEF 2 reps(25)
CORMORANT, Double-crest. (5-29) HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 2 reps(5); TYL 2 reps(11)
ANHINGA (29-29) JAS 12/29(3) BC07; JAS-MDSP 12/29(1) BC08; TYL 12/29(3) BC09
HERON, Great Blue (5-29) HAI 2 reps(4); JAS 2 reps(9); JEF 3 reps(7); TYL 7 reps(13)
EGRET, Great (5-29) HAI 2 reps(3); JAS 2 reps(20); JEF 3 reps(4); TYL 5 reps(16)
EGRET, Snowy (4-29) JAS 2 reps(2); JEF 3 reps(6); TYL 1 rep(11)
HERON, Little Blue (5-29) JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)
HERON, Tricolored (29-29) TYL 12/29(1) BC09
EGRET, Cattle (18-19) HAI TYL 12/18(1) TC08/09; JEF 12/19(3) JAW
IBIS, White (4-29) JAS 1 rep(25); JEF 1 rep(25)
VULTURE, Black (4-29) HAI 4 reps(79); JEF 3 reps(6); TYL 10 reps(149)

VULTURE, Turkey (4-29) HAI 8 reps(74); JAS 2 reps(2); JEF 5 reps(16); ORA 1 rep(4); TYL 11 reps(100)
OSPREY (18-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC05/06
EAGLE, Bald (29-29) JAS 12/29(1) BC07; JAS-MDSP 12/29(2) BC08; TYL 12/29(3) BC09
HARRIER, Northern (1-24) JEF 5 reps(19)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned (18-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC05/06
HAWK, Cooper's (18-24) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 1 rep(1)
ACCIPITER species (18-18) HAI 2 reps(2)
HAWK, Red-shouldered (18-29) HAI 5 reps(10); JAS 2 reps(2); TYL 8 reps(11)
HAWK, Red-tailed (1-29) HAI 2 reps(4); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(108); TYL 5 reps(6)
CARACARA, Crested (21-24) JEF-TX87 12/21(1) JFW; JEF-TX87 12/24(2) JAW
KESTREL, American (1-29) HAI 4 reps(4); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(44); TYL 10 reps(18)
MOORHEN, Common (29-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(9) BC08; TYL 12/29(2) BC09
COOT, American (29-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(710) BC08; TYL 12/29(1200) BC09; TYL 12/29(54) BC10
CRANE, Sandhill (19-19) JEF 12/19(782) JAW
PLOVER, Black-bellied (24-24) JEF-SRSP 12/24(2) JAW
PLOVER, Snowy (24-24) JEF-SRSP 12/24(16) JAW
KILLDEER (6-29) HAI 3 reps(41); JAS 2 reps(8); JEF 4 reps(86); TYL 7 reps(24)
STILT, Black-necked (4-24) JEF-TX87 12/4(2) JAW; JEF 12/11(4) JAW; JEF-TX87 12/24(2) JAW
SANDPIPER, Spotted (29-29) JAS 12/29(3) BC07; TYL 12/29(2) BC10
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (19-19) JEF 12/19(1) JAW
WILLET (24-24) JEF-TX87 12/24(8) JAW
CURLEW, Long-billed (19-19) JEF 12/19(121) JAW
SANDERLING (24-24) JEF-SRSP 12/24(10) JAW
SANDPIPER, Least (5-5) JEF-PI 12/5(4) JAW
DUNLIN (19-24) JEF 12/19(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 12/24(20) JAW
DOWITCHER, Long-billed (19-19) JEF 12/19(20) JAW
SNIFE, Wilson's (6-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC07; HAI TYL 12/18(1) TC08/09; JEF 12/6(3) RHJ; TYL 12/18(2) TC09/12
WOODCOCK, American (12-26) HAI-SNDY 12/12(3) JAW; HAI 12/18(2) TC04; HAI 12/18(1) TC05/06; HAI-SILS 12/23(2) MG; JEF-BMT 12/18(1) CC; JEF-SW 12/18(1) GD; TYL 12/18(3) TC03; TYL 12/26(5) TC01/02
GULL, Laughing (5-31) JEF 3 reps(2057)
GULL, Franklin's (24-24) JEF-SRSP 12/24(6) JAW
GULL, Ring-billed (5-31) JEF 3 reps(245); TYL 1 rep(10)

GULL, Herring (5-24) JEF 2 reps(12)
TERN, Forster's (5-29) JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)
TERN, Royal (24-24) JEF-SRSP 12/24(150) JAW
PIGEON, Rock (4-12) HAI 12/12(2) JAW; JEF-
NEDR 12/4(20) JAW; JEF 12/12(2) JAW; ORA-BC 12/5(1) JAW
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (4-29) HAVTYL 12/18(1) TC08/09;
JEF-TX87 12/4(2) JAW; JEF 12/19(2) JAW; TYL 12/29(8) BC04
DOVE, White-winged (4-31) HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 3
reps(523)
DOVE, Mourning (4-29) HAI 7 reps(40); JAS 1 rep(7);
JEF 5 reps(87); TYL 9 reps(57)
DOVE, Inca (18-29) HAI 1 rep(4); JAS 1 rep(8);
TYL 3 reps(24)
OWL, Barn (4-4) JEF-SW 12/4(1) JAW
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (18-29) HAI 12/18(2) TC05/06; JAS
12/29(1) BC07
OWL, Great Horned (8-26) JEF 5 reps(5)
OWL, Barred (18-29) HAI 12/18(1) TC05/06; TYL
12/29(1) BC09
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied (7-31) JEF 12/7(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT
12/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 12/9(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/9(1) JAW;
JEF-BMT 12/13(6) RHJ; JEF-BMT 12/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT
12/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 12/20(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 12/24(1) RHJ;
JEF-NEDR 12/25(1) JJW; JEF-BMT 12/26(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR
12/26(1) JJW; JEF-BMT 12/28(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/28(1)
JJW; JEF-BMT 12/30(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/30(1) JFW; JEF-
BMT 12/31(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/31(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. (23-26) JEF-NEDR 12/23(1) JFW;
JEF-NEDR 12/25(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 12/26(1) JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Anna's (30-30) JEF-NEDR 12/30(1) HS
HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope (25-31) JEF-NEDR 12/25(1) JJW;
JEF-NEDR 12/27(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 12/29(1) JFW; JEF-
NEDR 12/31(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed (7-28) JEF-BMT 12/7(1) RHJ; JEF-
BMT 12/24(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/24(1) JFW; JEF-BMT
12/26(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/26(1) JJW; JEF-BMT 12/27(1)
RHJ; JEF-NEDR 12/27(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 12/28(1) JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (27-27) JEF-BMT 12/27(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD species (1-25) JEF 13 reps(14)
KINGFISHER, Belted (5-29) HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 2 reps(5);
JEF 4 reps(6); TYL 2 reps(3)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed (18-18) HAVTYL 12/18(6) TC08/09
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (11-30) HAI 15 reps(36); JAS 2
reps(24); JEF 1 rep(2); TYL 12 reps(87)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (18-29) HAI 5 reps(21); JAS 2
reps(18); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 9 reps(32)
WOODPECKER, Downy (8-31) HAI 5 reps(8); JAS 2 reps(6);
JEF 11 reps(13); TYL 9 reps(33)
WOODPECKER, Hairy (18-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC04
FLICKER, Northern (17-29) HAI 4 reps(4); JAS 2 reps(15);
JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 6 reps(19)
WOODPECKER, Pileated (2-29) HAI 5 reps(10); JAS 2
reps(10); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 12 reps(37)
PHOEBE, Eastern (4-29) HAI 10 reps(34); JAS 2
reps(13); JEF 4 reps(18); TYL 11 reps(44)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (11-24) JEF 12/11(1) JAW; JEF
12/18(1) GD; JEF 12/19(1) JAW; JEF 12/21(1) JFW; JEF
12/24(1) JAW
SHRIKE, Loggerhead (4-24) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(36)
VIREO, White-eyed (18-29) HAI 12/18(2) TC14; TYL
12/18(1) TC13; TYL 12/29(1) BC09
VIREO, Blue-headed (12-29) HAI 4 reps(7); JEF 1 rep(1);
TYL 2 reps(2)
JAY, Blue (4-31) HAI 5 reps(19); JAS 2
reps(15); JEF 3 reps(7); TYL 11 reps(54)
CROW, American (12-29) HAI 6 reps(107); JAS 2
reps(38); TYL 14 reps(259)
SWALLOW, Tree (4-31) HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 5
reps(160)
SWALLOW species (11-19) JEF 2 reps(11)
CHICKADEE, Carolina (5-29) HAI 11 reps(81); JAS 2
reps(60); JEF 2 reps(3); TYL 12 reps(122)
TITMOUSE, Tufted (7-30) HAI 12 reps(37); JAS 2
reps(40); TYL 9 reps(50)
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted (18-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC14
NUTHATCH, White-breasted (29-29) TYL 12/29(3) BC09

NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (18-29) HAI 1 rep(12); TYL 4 reps(22)
CREEPER, Brown (12-29) HAI 3 reps(6); JAS 2 reps(4);
TYL 4 reps(8)
WREN, Carolina (2-29) HAI 13 reps(32); JAS 2
reps(26); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 11 reps(47)
WREN, House (11-29) HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 2 reps(2);
TYL 6 reps(20)
WREN, Winter (12-29) HAI-SNDY 12/12(1) JAW; HAI
12/18(1) TC05/06; JAS 12/29(5) BC07; TYL 12/29(3) BC09;
TYL 12/29(1) BC10
WREN, Sedge (18-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC05/06
KINGLET, Golden-crowned (4-29) HAI 3 reps(15); JAS 2
reps(30); JEF 2 reps(18); TYL 5 reps(50)
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (4-31) HAI 7 reps(51); JAS 2
reps(64); JEF 5 reps(16); TYL 13 reps(87)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (4-29) JAS-MDSP 12/29(1) BC08;
JEF-SW 12/4(3) JAW; TYL 12/29(2) BC09
BLUEBIRD, Eastern (7-29) HAI 6 reps(38); JAS 1 rep(8);
JEF 5 reps(13); TYL 10 reps(136)
THRUSH, Hermit (4-29) HAI 3 reps(14); JAS 1 rep(3);
JEF 2 reps(2); TYL 6 reps(15)
ROBIN, American (9-31) HAI 7 reps(1433); JAS 2
reps(365); JEF 3 reps(263); TYL 15 reps(2565)
CATBIRD, Gray (18-29) HAI 12/18(3) TC05/06; HAI-
SILS 12/28(1) MG; JAS-MDSP 12/29(2) BC08; JEF-TX87
12/24(1) JAW; TYL 12/18(3) TC13; TYL 12/29(1) BC03
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (4-31) HAI 7 reps(38); JAS 2
reps(12); JEF 5 reps(15); TYL 11 reps(43)
THRASHER, Brown (4-30) HAI 12 reps(12); JEF 2
reps(4); TYL 3 reps(4)
STARLING, European (4-24) JEF 4 reps(360); ORA 1
rep(2)
PIBIT, American (11-19) JEF 2 reps(17)
WAXWING, Cedar (18-31) HAI 2 reps(8); JAS 2 reps(16);
JEF 1 rep(100); TYL 6 reps(214)
WARBLER, Orange-crowned (1-31) HAI 20 reps(26); JAS 1
rep(3); JEF 3 reps(7); TYL 7 reps(13)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (7-31) HAI 7 reps(280); JAS 2
reps(66); JEF 9 reps(69); TYL 13 reps(283)
WARBLER, Pine (2-31) HAI 6 reps(29); JAS 2 reps(8);
JEF 19 reps(73); TYL 12 reps(101)
WARBLER, Palm (6-18) JEF 12/6(1) RHJ; JEF-SW
12/18(1) GD
YELLOWTHROAT, Common (18-29) HAI 12/18(1) TC05/06; JAS
12/29(3) BC07; JEF-TX87 12/24(1) JAW
WARBLER, Wilson's (4-31) HAI 8 reps(8); JEF 1 rep(1)
TOWHEE, Eastern (4-29) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(4);
TYL 4 reps(8)
SPARROW, Chipping (1-31) HAI 22 reps(490); JAS 2
reps(26); JEF 4 reps(43); TYL 10 reps(352)
SPARROW, Field (4-26) HAI-SNDY 12/12(3) JAW;
JEF-SW 12/4(1) HDSM; TYL 12/18(3) TC13; TYL 12/26(1)
TC10
SPARROW, Vesper (12-12) HAI-SNDY 12/12(1) JAW
SPARROW, Savannah (6-19) JEF 3 reps(42)
SPARROW, Fox (18-18) HAI 12/18(2) TC05/06
SPARROW, Song (11-29) HAI 2 reps(5); JAS 2 reps(2);
JEF 3 reps(6); TYL 4 reps(13)
SPARROW, Lincoln's (29-29) JAS 12/29(4) BC07
SPARROW, Swamp (18-29) HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 1 rep(5);
TYL 2 reps(22)
SPARROW, White-throated (4-31) HAI 12 reps(155); JAS 2
reps(75); JEF 8 reps(22); TYL 11 reps(258)
SPARROW, White-crowned (6-6) JEF 12/6(10) RHJ
JUNCO, Dark-eyed (12-29) HAI-SNDY 12/12(3) JAW; HAI
12/18(6) TC05/06; HAI 12/18(2) TC07; JAS-MDSP 12/29(6)
BC08; TYL 12/18(14) TC13; TYL 12/29(12) BC01; TYL 12/29(5)
BC04; TYL 12/29(5) BC09; TYL 12/29(1) BC10
CARDINAL, Northern (1-31) HAI 24 reps(456); JAS 2
reps(74); JEF 3 reps(5); TYL 12 reps(133)
BUNTING, Indigo (18-24) JEF-SW 12/18(2) GD; JEF-
TX87 12/24(2) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (4-29) HAI 1 rep(8); JAS 1 rep(130);
JEF 4 reps(71); TYL 1 rep(70)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern (18-29) HAI 2 reps(21); JEF 1 rep(5);
TYL 2 reps(32)

MEADOWLARK species	(11-19) JEF 2 reps(13)
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	(19-19) JEF 12/19(30) JAW
GRACKLE, Common	(18-29) JAS 12/29(60) BC07; TYL 12/18(2) TC13; TYL 12/29(50) BC04; TYL 12/29(40) BC05
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(24-24) JEF-TX87 12/24(2) JAW
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(4-24) JEF 5 reps(1277); ORA 1 rep(20)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(11-29) JEF 1 rep(41); TYL 1 rep(2)
BLACKBIRD species	(11-11) JEF 1 rep(200)
FINCH, Purple	(18-18) HAI 12/18(1) TC04; HAI 12/18(3) TC05/06
FINCH, House	(7-30) JEF 18 reps(99)
GOLDFINCH, American	(7-29) HAI 8 reps(129); JAS 2 reps(48); JEF 10 reps(76); TYL 11 reps(210)
SPARROW, House	(26-31) JEF 2 reps(25); TYL 2 reps(9)
Number of Species	154
Number of Individuals	69844

County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange; TYL — Tyler.

Location Codes

BC — Bridge City; BMT — Beaumont; BTBC — Big Thicket NP - Beech Creek Unit; MDSP — Martin Dies State Park; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — ; SNDY — Nature Conservancy Sandyland Sanctuary; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP.

Observer Abbreviations

BC01 — Beech Creek CBC Sector 1; BC02 — Sector 2; BC02A — Sector 2A; BC03 — Sector 3; BC04 — Sector 4; BC05 — Sector 5; BC07 — Sector 7; BC08 — Sector 8; BC09 — Sector 9; BC10 — Sector 10; CC — Cody Conway; CSJW — Christine Sliva and John Whittle; GD — Gerald Duhon; HDSM — Howard Davis and Steve Mayes; HS — Harlan Stewart; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; TC01/02 — Turkey Creek Sectors 1 & 2; TC03 — Sector 3; TC04 — Sector 4; TC05/06 — Sectors 5 & 6; TC07 — Sector 7; TC08/09 — Sectors 8 & 9; TC09/12 — ; TC10 — Sector 10; TC11 — Sector 11; TC13 — Sector 13; TC14 — Sector 14.

Hummingbird Tour *(continued from page 3)*

Rose Ann and Harrison's yard:

Yaupon	Shrimp plant
Mexican Turk's cap	Wax myrtle
Purple, white, pink Lantana	David Verity cuphea
Pyracantha	Walter's Vibumum
Mexican heather	Butterfly bush
Mexican sage	Bottle-brush bush
Coral honeysuckle	Little Turk's cap
<i>Hamelia patens</i>	Milkweed
Purple and white Lantana	Spike flower
Virginia's sweet spire	Begonias

Running water in a fountain that birds love, and black oil seed feeders and two peanut cakes, one of which is homemade

If you would like to see any of our winter hummers, please call me at 722-4193 and I will contact the others unless you know them personally. Also, if you have winter hummers at your feeder please call me so this quartet of hummer hosts can view your hummers also.

One of the purposes for this article is to encourage local birders to put out hummingbird and butterfly plants all during the year and feeders in the winter. Some hummer hosts clean the feeder daily and some every three days, so it is not extremely difficult. There is a listserv in Louisiana that regularly posts a list of all their wintering hummingbirds. I can

forward the latest report to you if you want to see the list so far this winter. They have reported 288 wintering hummingbirds to date. We all wonder how many our area really has on any winter day.....

Jana Whittle

Field Trip *(continued from page 4)*

(Harlan's) Hawk (2); Golden Eagle (1); Crested Caracara (1); American Kestrel (11); Peregrine Falcon (1); Clapper Rail (1); Common Moorhen (2); American Coot (100); Killdeer (131); Black-necked Stilt (25); Greater Yellowlegs (35); Willet (2); Lesser Yellowlegs (2); Least Sandpiper (7); Long-billed Dowitcher (510); Wilson's Snipe (1); Ring-billed Gull (252); Gull-billed Tern (2); Caspian Tern (1); Forster's Tern (20); Mourning Dove (6); Belted Kingfisher (4); Eastern Phoebe (10); Vermilion Flycatcher (1); Ash-throated Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (8); Tree Swallow (25); Sedge Wren (3); Marsh Wren (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); American Robin (2); Northern Mockingbird (6); European Starling (30); American Pipit (20); Orange-crowned Warbler (5); Yellow-rumped Warbler (7); Pine Warbler (2); Savannah Sparrow (8); Song Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (3); Harris's Sparrow (1); White-crowned Sparrow (20); Northern Cardinal (3); Red-winged Blackbird (3); Eastern Meadowlark (4); Meadowlark species (59); Brown-headed Cowbird (10); American Goldfinch (1); House Sparrow (50); species (79)

Steve Mayes

January Meeting

At our January meeting, Jim Armacost presented Katy Gifford's research on "The Use of Chinese Tallow Tree Stands by Resident and Migrant Birds in Southeast Texas". Jim started out by telling us that vegetation structure is very important for birds on many ecological levels. Monotypic (all same species) stands have a more homogenous vegetative structure and are generally expected to have a lower number of avian species. Some positive aspects about Chinese Tallow trees are that they will successfully grow in very moist areas, they have a broad ecological tolerance, a high growth rate, the lack of predator insects, and are somewhat salt water tolerant. Most species of bird are unable to metabolize the waxy coating of the seeds, but Yellow-rumped Warblers and probably Baltimore Orioles can. The seeds are also eaten by Cardinals. Some negative aspects are that they lower the water table in dry conditions, alter soil nutrients, alter vegetation of habitat, change the vertical structures of the vegetation, are very invasive and they replace coastal prairie, a rapidly declining habitat type along the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

Katy studied the bird use of three types of habitat. One was native mixed species control areas of which Sabine Woods was one. She also did research in places that had mature Chinese Tallow stands, and also places that had young Chinese Tallow stands. The control areas of native mixed-species stands had higher numbers of forest birds and a higher species richness in all seasons, but only significantly higher than the mature tallow stands in the spring, and significantly higher than the young tallow stands in the spring and summer. During her research, Katy observed 137 bird species, 69 forest species including 3,243 individual birds, and 68 open area species including 2,003 individual birds.

Jana Whittle

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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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