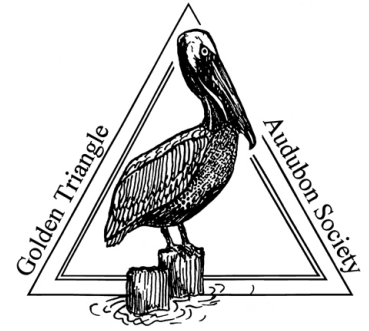


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 17 No. 3

March 2011

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

**Costa Rica - Coast to Coast
Birds, Flowers, Monkeys and Gold**

**Gerald Duhon
Golden Triangle Audubon Society**

No larger than West Virginia, Costa Rica boasts a bird list in excess of 850+ species, slightly larger than all of North America! Containing a wide variety of easily accessible habitats, ranging from tundra-like environs, wet cloud and rain forests, dry savannah and everything in between, the appeal to birders of this little country in Central America is undeniable. Join Golden Triangle Audubon Society vice-president Gerald Duhon for our March meeting as he takes us on a journey from the humid lowlands of the Caribbean slope to the rain forests of the Pacific. While the presentation will focus primarily on birds, we will stop along the way to view other attractions of the "Rich Coast," including volcanoes, one of Central America's best flower gardens, howler and white-faced monkeys at play, and the world's most spectacular collection of pre-Columbian gold artifacts.

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

Sabine Woods Work Day - Saturday March 12, 2011

On Saturday March 12, we will be having our usual pre-Spring Migration work day to get the Woods ready for the birds and the birders. Please come and help if you can. We be doing relatively light trail maintenance work, some mowing, and we will be working on removing some dead trees that are in undesirable locations. Bring pruning shears or loppers, gas-powered weed eaters, work gloves and insect repellent. Riding mowers will be very useful, as will one chain saw. Lunch will be provided. We start at 7:30 or 8 a.m. but come when you can. Sabine Woods is on Highway 87, 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass, on the north side of the road.

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

Saturday March 12, 2010. Sabine Woods Work Day. 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.

Thursday March 17. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments in February: Jean Beavens, Bob Collier, Sherry Gibson, Lu Skillern Keeler, Carol Lynn Loker, Phil Rogers and Jana Whittle. **We need volunteers to bring items for March 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!

Saturday March 29. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats.

Important Note: Galveston County operates a parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. Any one can drive on the beach for free. But if you park on the beach you must have a parking permit on your windshield. The fee for the permit is \$10.00 a year and permits are obtainable from most merchants on the Bolivar Peninsula.

This trip occurs as shorebird migration is in full swing. Bolivar Flats is a hemispherically important shorebird location. We know that a lot of birders are intimidated by shorebirds. This trip offers an opportunity to compare many of the "true" shorebirds with lots of help in identifying them.

Meet at the vehicle barrier at 8:30 a.m. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the shoreline, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). Turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettillon Road. At the beach, if conditions permit, turn right (west) about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. It takes at least one and a half hours to drive from the Golden Triangle; more if you bird on the way! We will leave the vehicle barrier at about 8:45 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes later than that.

Some walking is necessary on this field trip. How much depends on how much mud flat is exposed, and this depends on both the tide and the winds that have prevailed over the previous day or so.

Depending on the mud flat conditions, we may visit to the North Jetty to view the birds from that side.

We expect to stop at Rollover Pass and High Island on the way back. We will check in High Island for any "early" neotropical songbird migrants.

Bring lunch (or buy locally), sunscreen and insect repellent.

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.

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.

February Program Report

Ben Jones, Education Director of Audubon Texas came to speak to our GTAS members about things happening in Audubon in Texas. He began by outlining the origins of National Audubon. The Audubon movement was founded in 1905 by a group of women who were concerned about the slaughter of birds. Women's hats were being decorated with feathers from birds. Now there are 500 plus local chapters and 500,000 members in the USA. Across the nation, there are more than 45 Audubon Centers serving about a million people per year. Audubon Texas is a state program of National Audubon. It works with local chapter organizations for conservation and education.

Coastal conservation has long been one of Audubon Texas' prime thrusts. Audubon Texas manages 80 coastal islands totaling about 13,000 acres. Many of these islands are leased for a nominal sum from the Texas General Land Office. More than 20 species of colonial waterfowl comprising 90 percent of Texas colonial water bird population nest of these islands. The largest colony of Reddish Egrets in the world – about 1200 pairs – is on Green Island. On Sundown Island, there are approximately 1,000 nesting pairs of Brown Pelicans.

Audubon Texas can trace its roots back to well before there was a National Audubon Society, as an Audubon group was formed in 1898 in Galveston. In 1923, the first wardens were appointed to protect the nesting birds from being hunted, poisoned by pesticides, and driven away by habitat loss and human disturbance. Now they do all the above and they census bird populations, monitor predator activity, removing those introduced by man, and also watch for exotic and invasive vegetation. Fire ants are monitored on Green Island now also.

Another important program seeks to conserve land for quail and grassland birds, working with over 100 plus private land owners on around 3 million acres. There has been an incredible decline in quail population.

One of the causes is land fragmentation. However, Audubon Texas has tried to reach out to land owners to help with on-the-ground management for quails. They have worked with partners and donors. They are also working to educate people about conserving native grasslands.

Another large project is the centers for education program. Many children are growing up in an increasingly urbanized world. Some people call this "Nature Deficit Disorder." There is a concern from many parents that being out of doors is not safe. The Texas students' science scores have been falling. Instead of walking trails in parks and playing outside, the children stay inside and play video games, cell phones, and Ipods. Centers now have hands-on and outdoors science education for urban children. Each child will have four hours of guided nature experiences, such as seining ponds, dissecting owl pellets, examining water with magnifying glasses, and removing litter from ponds.

There are camps that students can go to such as day long camps, week long camps, and monthly nature clubs. One center has had 24,000 school children involved. They have seen TAKS science scores improved after students are involved in outdoor activities. Many children are happier when they are outdoors and when they are taught to listen to nature. They record nature sounds by using digital recorders and then sometimes they mix them with their music.

Many students had never even heard the sound of a cricket, etc., and when they do hear nature sounds, it seems to relax them more, reduces their stress, helps with self-esteem, and makes them happier.

Currently in Texas, Audubon operates the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas and the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in San Antonio. Trinity River Audubon Center was opened 2 1/2 years ago, on a previous (illegal) landfill site. Mitchell Lake has a 600 acre lake, 215 acres of wetlands, and 385 acres of upland habitat. The 6,000 square foot Dogwood Canyon

Audubon Center in Cedar Hill outside Dallas is currently in the final stages of construction, and includes 505 acres. An Audubon Center is planned at Sheldon Lake State Park outside Houston. Unfortunately, the Sabal Palm Audubon Center in Brownsville had to be closed because of issues associated with the Border Wall. However, the 505 acres of Rio Grande bottomlands have recently been reopened in partnership with the Gorgas Science Foundation of Brownsville, Texas as a sanctuary.

Ben described in detail the activities at Trinity River Audubon Center where he works. They have had 4,000 fourth and fifth grade students from Grand Prairie attend various classes there. They have had 18,000 students served so far. The students do crawfish pond sampling, monarch observation, canoeing and paddling, examining bird skins, dissecting owl pellets, and so on. They even have after-school programs and children will help remove invasive plants and plant native grasses. At the Center they have nine summer interns to help with the various camps for the children. In 2010, 1,540 children attended day camp, and 65 attended the week -long camp. An additional 223 children attended "Sound-scape" science classrooms and after-school programs.

It was a very good program that made us all think about how important it is to educate ourselves, others, and children all around us about our environment

Jana Whittle



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

Field Trip to Sheldon Lake – 19 February 2011

Sheldon Lake State Park is on the eastern outskirts of Texas' largest city and provides some great wildlife viewing opportunities in the vast urban and suburban stretches of Houston. Sheldon Lake packs a lot of different habitats into one small area which provides lots of chances for birders to see interesting things. Wooded areas provide song birds and woodpeckers, grasslands give looks at sparrows and raptors and the lake and wetlands show off the waterfowl and shorebirds. With this in mind, a terrific turn out of well over a dozen Golden Triangle birders (and friends) showed up on a beautiful Saturday to explore Sheldon Lake State Park and see what birds it had to offer.

We started out birding around the parking area and the trails around the fishing ponds that led into the woodlands. Birds like American Robin and American Goldfinch were evident early on with Cedar Waxwings and Yellow-rumped Warblers also being seen. A White-winged Dove perched conveniently in a tree while a male Yellow-bellied Sapsucker played hide and seek with the birders. Along the ponds, the group found water birds like Ring-necked Duck and Anhinga while White-throated Sparrow and Brown Thrasher moved through the underbrush along the trails. White Ibis, Tricolored Heron and Pied-billed Grebe were also seen in the ponds along with a few wary American Alligators! The gators probably make the resident water birds very wary as well!

Moving along other woodland trails, into areas of taller trees, other species presented themselves. Red-bellied Woodpeckers moved along the tree trunks while Golden-crowned Kinglets foraged on high branches over the trails. Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse were fairly cooperative while a couple of Brown Creepers were a little more cagey. Eastern Phoebes were easily visible as they did their fly catching routine from the branches overhanging the trails and ponds while a Hermit Thrush was much more hesitant about coming out in the open. Northern Cardinals are very numerous in this part of the park and many were seen on the day with the brilliant males perched up and singing. One of the best finds of the day was the sighting of two female Purple Finches in the trees along a trail near the backside of the lake. The birds were somewhat wary and not everyone got great looks but for those that did, the unique facial pattern, streaking and heavy bill were enough to distinguish this uncommon bird from its more common cousin the House Finch. A raspberry-colored male might have been nice but any look at Purple Finches in our area is a good one!

The group ventured out to the grasslands and marshy areas next. This area is being restored to its native state by park employees and volunteers and an observation tower is currently under construction that will give a bird's eye view of the prairie area and the lake nearby. Moving through this area some grassland species were quickly noted including Eastern Meadowlark and Savannah Sparrow. A Red-tailed Hawk cruised overhead and the occasional American Pipit flyby. One sharp-eyed birder spotted a very elusive species – LeConte's Sparrow! This colorful little sparrow is not particularly rare but it is secretive and shy as it hides in wet grassland areas and rarely sits up to give good looks. In this case though, the bird sat in one little open stand of grasses

giving great looks to the group! The LeConte's was a great addition to the day list and a life bird for a least one participant.

Moving into a more marshy area, geese were impossible to miss. Hundreds of Snow Geese were perched in the area with smaller numbers of Greater White-fronted Geese. The birds would flush up every now and then and wheel around before settling back down giving a spectacular show for the group. And the geese were not alone as there were a good number of ducks among them. Most numerous were Northern Pintails but there were more Mallards and American Wigeon in this flock than most of the gathered birders had seen in recent years. Northern Shovelers were also present along with Blue-winged Teal and larger numbers of Green-winged Teal. A diving adult Peregrine Falcon put on a nice show for the group as well as it tried (unsuccessfully) to catch a duck dinner.

Moving out to Sheldon Lake itself, it was immediately clear that, if you want to see American Coots, this is the place to be! Hundreds of these white-billed relatives of rails foraged for aquatic vegetation on the lake almost to the exclusion of other species! There were a few other species around if you looked hard enough though: Anhinga perched on dead snags while a large gathering of Laughing Gulls congregated together. Smaller numbers of Ring-billed Gulls and at least one Herring Gull were also present. Ducks were hard to come by here and may have been hiding out on the back side of the lake. Once opened, the observation tower will give birders viewing access to this part of the lake as well, so future field trips may find these hiding ducks!

Some additional birds were seen on the day at the lake and on the Yellow-rump trail at the end of the day (including several Wood Ducks) but all good trips have to end! Fortunately, there are lots of great state parks (and local parks and refuges) full of great birds just waiting to be seen by curious birders. With spring migration right around the corner, this species-rich trip to Sheldon Lake State Park, just whet the appetite of the Golden Triangle birders and they will, no doubt, be out again soon to see the wonderful birds present in the parks of southeast Texas!

The following species were recorded by the field trip leaders: Greater White-fronted Goose (10), Snow Goose (205), "White" Goose" (400), Wood Duck (5), Gadwall (15), American Wigeon (100), Mallard (32), Blue-winged Teal (4), Northern Shoveler (27), Northern Pintail (200), Green-winged Teal (501), Ring-necked Duck (13), Pied-billed Grebe (3), Double-crested Cormorant (22), Anhinga (9), Great Blue Heron (2), Great Egret (4), Snowy Egret (1), Little Blue Heron (2), Tricolored Heron (2), Black-crowned Night-Heron (1), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1), White Ibis (14), Roseate Spoonbill (1), Black Vulture (3), Turkey Vulture (1), Cooper's Hawk (1), Accipiter species (1), Northern Harrier (6), Red-shouldered Hawk (3), Red-tailed Hawk (5), American Kestrel (1), Peregrine Falcon (1), Common Moorhen (9), American Coot (1208), Greater Yellowlegs (17), Wilson's Snipe (7), Laughing Gull (2055), Ring-billed Gull (101), Herring Gull (1), Rock Pigeon (1), White-winged Dove (2), Mourning Dove

(continued on page 7)

Bird Sightings – January 2011

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: With the results of two of the local Christmas Bird Counts included, this report is a very full one. We have used the condensed format for far more species than we would have liked! We have tried to save some space by reporting hummingbird species in a different fashion. In those cases where a particular bird has been seen all month, we have omitted the individual sightings and show a single entry covering the whole month. Even so, we have probably not fully kept up with all the hummingbirds, and we apologize if we have missed any. Six species of hummingbird in January is unprecedented!

The interesting sightings on Christmas Counts were reported in the reports on the counts in last month's issue. A good showing of raptors continued through the month. A White-breasted Nuthatch in north Beaumont was most noteworthy. A likely Cassin's Vireo in Sabine Woods cannot be considered as fully confirmed, but worth recording. It is very difficult to be sure that this bird was not a very drab Blue-headed Vireo.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bel. JAW	(30-30)	JEF-TX87 1/30(10)	EGRET, Reddish	(3-30)	JEF 1/3(2) SR07M; JEF-TX87 1/30(1) JAW
GOOSE, Snow	(1-23)	JEF 5 reps(1502); ORA 1 rep(20)	HERON, Green	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF-MURW 1/3(1) SR04
GOOSE, Ross's	(1-3)	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(2)	NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.	(1-3)	JEF 1 rep(10); ORA 1 rep(47)
DUCK, Wood	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(8) SR05A; ORA 1/1(2) OC02; ORA 1/1(86) OC08A; ORA 1/1(1) OC08B	NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05A
GADWALL	(1-30)	JEF 7 reps(547); ORA 1 rep(333)	IBIS, White	(1-30)	JEF 9 reps(2261); ORA 3 reps(45)
WIGEON, American	(1-23)	JEF 3 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(5)	IBIS, White-faced	(3-3)	JEF 2 reps(75)
MALLARD	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR01	IBIS, Plegadis	(1-30)	JEF 4 reps(1098); ORA 3 reps(450)
DUCK, Mottled	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(56); ORA 1 rep(2)	SPOONBILL, Roseate	(1-3)	JEF 4 reps(56); ORA 2 reps(2)
TEAL, Blue-winged	(3-30)	JEF 5 reps(253)	VULTURE, Black	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 5 reps(19); ORA 6 reps(50); TYL 1 rep(2)
SHOVELER, Northern	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(408); ORA 1 rep(26)	VULTURE, Turkey	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 12 reps(47); ORA 7 reps(47); TYL 1 rep(2)
PINTAIL, Northern	(3-23)	JEF 4 reps(51)	OSPREY	(1-30)	JEF 3 reps(3); ORA 8 reps(17)
TEAL, Green-winged reps(17)	(1-23)	JEF 4 reps(1467); ORA 2	KITE, White-tailed	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF-SRSP 1/3(3) SR10
CANVASBACK	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 1/3(150) SR12; JEF- MURW 1/3(720) SR04	EAGLE, Bald	(1-31)	HAI 1/27(1) JP; JEF 1/23(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(1) OC08; ORA -BC 1/26(2) CK; ORA 1/27(1) JFW; ORA 1/31(1) CSL
DUCK, Ring-necked 1/1(3) OC02	(1-3)	JEF-MURW 1/3(15) SR04; ORA	HARRIER, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(53); ORA 2 reps(2)
SCAUP, Lesser	(1-23)	JEF 4 reps(1575); ORA 1 rep(56)	HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(3-3)	JEF 4 reps(5)
SCAUP species	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(280) SR07B	HAWK, Cooper's	(1-11)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 4 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(1)
BUFFLEHEAD	(1-3)	JEF 1 rep(11); ORA 1 rep(1)	ACCIPITER species	(28-28)	JEF-BMT 1/28(1) RHJ
GOLDENEYE, Common 1/1(21) OC08	(1-3)	JEF-MURW 1/3(2) SR04; ORA	HAWK, Red-shouldered	(1-24)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 6 reps(9); ORA 6 reps(15)
MERGANSEr, Hooded	(1-30)	JEF 3 reps(37); ORA 5 reps(26)	HAWK, Red-tailed	(1-30)	JEF 18 reps(280); ORA 10 reps(19)
MERGANSEr, Red-breasted	(3-16)	JEF 4 reps(37)	CARACARA, Crested	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR06
DUCK species	(3-3)	JEF 3 reps(1062)	KESTREL, American	(1-30)	JEF 10 reps(60); ORA 5 reps(10)
DUCK, Ruddy	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 1/3(25) SR12; JEF- MURW 1/3(18) SR04	MERLIN	(3-30)	JEF 7 reps(9)
LOON, Common OC10	(1-16)	JEF-PI 1/16(3) RHJ; ORA 1/1(1)	FALCON, Peregrine SR07M	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR06; JEF 1/3(1)
GREBE, Pied-billed	(1-29)	JEF 8 reps(64); ORA 2 reps(14)	RAIL, Yellow	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 1/3(2) SR12
GREBE, Eared	(3-3)	JEF-MURW 1/3(2) SR04; JEF- SRSP 1/3(1) SR10	RAIL, Clapper	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(15); ORA 2 reps(2)
PELICAN, Amer. White reps(335)	(1-30)	JEF 14 reps(1218); ORA 5	RAIL, King	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(6) SR05A; JEF-MCFW 1/3(2) SR12; ORA 1/1(1) OC08; ORA 1/1(1) OC08A
PELICAN, Brown reps(58)	(1-30)	JEF 12 reps(121); ORA 5	RAIL, Virginia	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF-MCFW 1/3(3) SR12
CORMORANT, Neotropic reps(144)	(1-30)	JEF 9 reps(354); ORA 4	SORA	(1-3)	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(1)
CORMORANT, Double-crest ORA 7 reps(47)	(1-3)	JEF 5 reps(275);	RAIL species	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 1/3(1) SR12
CORMORANT, Species	(1-1)	ORA 1 rep(1)	MOORHEN, Common	(1-3)	JEF 3 reps(18); ORA 3 reps(15)
ANHINGA OC08B	(1-1)	ORA 1/1(1) OC08; ORA 1/1(1)	COOT, American	(3-30)	JEF 6 reps(666)
BITTERN, American	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 1/3(2) SR12	CRANE, Sandhill OC08; ORA 1/1(6) OC10	(1-23)	JEF 1/23(240) JAW; ORA 1/1(9)
HERON, Great Blue ORA 9 reps(27)	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 15 reps(92);	PLOVER, Black-bellied	(1-3)	JEF 6 reps(56); ORA 2 reps(17)
EGRET, Great reps(55)	(1-30)	JEF 16 reps(295); ORA 9	PLOVER, Snowy	(3-3)	JEF-SRSP 1/3(24) SR10
EGRET, Snowy reps(131)	(1-30)	JEF 11 reps(230); ORA 7	PLOVER, Semipalmated SR07B; ORA 1/1(20) OC10	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR06; JEF 1/3(35)
HERON, Little Blue	(1-3)	JEF 5 reps(40); ORA 3 reps(22)	PLOVER, Piping	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(4) SR07B; JEF-SRSP
HERON, Tricolored	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(67); ORA 1 rep(6)			

1/3(12) SR10
KILLDEER (1-30) HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 15 reps(290);
ORA 11 reps(210)
STILT, Black-necked (1-30) JEF 4 reps(137); ORA 1 rep(40)
AVOCET, American (3-3) JEF-MURW 1/3(45) SR04
SANDPIPER, Spotted (1-3) JEF 5 reps(9); ORA 2 reps(3)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (1-23) JEF 5 reps(45); ORA 3 reps(69)
WILLET (1-30) JEF 8 reps(105); ORA 1 rep(8)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (1-30) JEF 8 reps(27); ORA 2 reps(12)
YELLOWLEGS species (3-3) JEF 1 rep(20)
WHIMBREL (3-3) JEF 1/3(6) SR07B
CURLEW, Long-billed (3-23) JEF 1/3(4) SR07B; JEF-SRSP
1/3(1) SR10; JEF 1/23(12) JAW
GODWIT, Marbled (3-3) JEF 1/3(10) SR07B; JEF-SRSP
1/3(3) SR10
TURNSTONE, Ruddy (3-3) JEF 1/3(3) SR07B
SANDERLING (3-3) JEF 5 reps(213)
SANDPIPER, Western (1-3) JEF 2 reps(10)
SANDPIPER, Peep (1-1) ORA 2 reps(250)
SANDPIPER, Least (1-30) JEF 6 reps(229); ORA 2
reps(157)
DUNLIN (1-3) JEF 1/3(327) SR07B; JEF-SRSP
1/3(605) SR10; ORA 1/1(20) OC10; ORA 1/1(30) OCboat
SANDPIPER, Stilt (1-3) JEF 1/3(4) SR07B; JEF 1/3(25)
SR07M; ORA 1/1(3) OC10
DOWITCHER, Short-billed (3-3) JEF 1/3(10) SR07B; JEF 1/3(25)
SR07M
DOWITCHER, Long-billed (1-23) JEF 1/1(60) OC11; JEF 1/23(20)
JAW; ORA 1/1(580) OC08; ORA 1/1(2) OC10; ORA 1/1(160)
OCboat
DOWITCHER species (1-17) JEF 3 reps(782); ORA 1 rep(12)
SNIBE, Wilson's (1-30) JEF 10 reps(62); ORA 2 reps(6)
WOODCOCK, American (1-21) HAI-SILS 1/21(1) MG; JEF 1/3(1)
SR08; ORA 1/1(1) OC07; ORA 1/1(1) OC12; ORA 1/1(1)
OC08B
GULL, Bonaparte's (1-3) JEF 1/3(4) SR01; JEF-SRSP
1/3(4) SR10; ORA 1/1(20) OC08
GULL, Laughing (1-30) JEF 9 reps(1734); ORA 4
reps(97)
GULL, Ring-billed (1-30) JEF 11 reps(1126); ORA 5
reps(630)
GULL, Herring (1-30) JEF 8 reps(49); ORA 4 reps(23)
GULL, Lesser Black-backed (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OC10
TERN, Caspian (1-3) JEF 3 reps(17); ORA 2 reps(5)
TERN, Common (1-1) ORA 1/1(3) OC10
TERN, Forster's (1-30) JEF 7 reps(84); ORA 5 reps(198)
TERN, Royal (1-30) JEF 4 reps(70); ORA 2 reps(2)
SKIMMER, Black (3-3) JEF 1/3(2) SR05
PIGEON, Rock (1-30) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(266);
ORA 5 reps(80)
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. (1-29) HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 6 reps(22);
ORA 2 reps(22)
DOVE, White-winged (1-30) HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 11 reps(49)
DOVE, Mourning (1-31) HAI 15 reps(158); JEF 10
reps(141); ORA 3 reps(37)
OWL, Barn (3-3) JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF 1/3(1)
SR07M; JEF-MCFW 1/3(1) SR12
OWL, Great Horned (1-27) JEF 7 reps(9)
OWL, Barred (29-29) JEF 1/29(1) JAW
OWL, Short-eared (3-3) JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(1)
SR07B; JEF 1/3(2) SR07M
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied (1-31) JEF-BMT one bird
all month (RHJ); JEF-NEDR one bird all month (JJW)
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. (5-30) JEF-NEDR 1/5 to
end of month (1 or perhaps 2) JJW;
HUMMINGBIRD, Anna's (1-31) JEF-NEDR one female all month
(HS)
HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope (2-2) JEF-NEDR 1/2(1) JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail. (1-25) JEF-BMT 1/1 thru
1/25(1) RHJ;
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (2-30) JEF-BMT 1/2 thru 1/30(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD species (8-30) JEF 7 reps(8)
KINGFISHER, Belted (1-30) JEF 11 reps(38); ORA 8 reps(21)
WOODPECKER, Red-head. (1-1) ORA 1/1(1) OC07
WOODPECKER, Red-bell. (1-31) HAI 16 reps(30); JEF 7 reps(26);
ORA 7 reps(23)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell. (1-23) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(5); ORA
2 reps(9)

WOODPECKER, Downy (1-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 22 reps(41);
ORA 5 reps(13)
FLICKER, Northern (1-3) JEF 4 reps(5); ORA 2 reps(4)
WOODPECKER, Pileated (1-28) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3 reps(3);
ORA 1 rep(2)
PHOEBE, Eastern (1-30) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(61);
ORA 9 reps(29)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (3-3) JEF 1/3(1) SR05
SHRIKE, Loggerhead (1-30) JEF 13 reps(97); ORA 6 reps(9)
VIREO, White-eyed (1-3) JEF-MURW 1/3(2) SR04; JEF-
SW 1/3(2) SR08; ORA 1/1(1) OC08B
VIREO, Cassin's (uncfmd) (30-30) JEF-SW 1/30(1) JAW
VIREO, Blue-headed (1-3) JEF 5 reps(12); ORA 1 rep(1)
JAY, Blue (1-30) HAI 4 reps(12); JEF 7 reps(26);
ORA 6 reps(18)
CROW, American (1-22) HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 1 rep(1); ORA
4 reps(14); TYL 1 rep(3)
CROW, species (1-1) ORA 1 rep(5)
LARK, Horned (3-3) JEF 1/3(3) SR07B
SWALLOW, Tree (1-30) JEF 13 reps(851); ORA 8
reps(518)
CHICKADEE, Carolina (1-31) HAI 11 reps(27); JEF 6 reps(21);
ORA 9 reps(57)
TITMOUSE, Tufted (1-27) HAI 11 reps(25); ORA 3 reps(7)
NUTHATCH, White-breasted (1-1) JEF-BMT 1/1(1)
RHJ
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (1-1) ORA 1/1(5) OC02
CREEPER, Brown (1-3) JEF 1/3(3) SR05A; ORA 1/1(2)
OC02
WREN, Carolina (1-31) HAI 18 reps(44); JEF 4 reps(12);
ORA 7 reps(21)
WREN, House (1-30) JEF 7 reps(26); ORA 5 reps(12)
WREN, Winter (1-3) JEF 1/3(2) SR06; ORA 1/1(3)
OC02; ORA 1/1(1) OC08A; ORA 1/1(1) OC08B
WREN, Sedge (1-3) JEF 8 reps(131); ORA 3 reps(3)
WREN, Marsh (1-3) JEF 4 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(1)
KINGLET, Golden-crowned (1-8) JEF 6 reps(67);
ORA 2 reps(9)
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (1-30) HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 8 reps(75);
ORA 8 reps(26)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (1-30) JEF 8 reps(39);
ORA 2 reps(2)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern (1-31) HAI 7 reps(14); JEF 5 reps(16);
ORA 6 reps(55)
THRUSH, Hermit (1-18) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 2 reps(4);
ORA 2 reps(3)
ROBIN, American (1-29) HAI 8 reps(1510); JEF 7
reps(58); ORA 7 reps(201)
CATBIRD, Gray (1-3) JEF 4 reps(15); ORA 2 reps(3)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (1-30) HAI 6 reps(20); JEF 12 reps(93);
ORA 11 reps(35)
THRASHER, Brown (1-30) HAI 20 reps(20); JEF 4 reps(10);
ORA 3 reps(3)
STARLING, European (1-30) HAI 1 rep(60); JEF 14 reps(599);
ORA 5 reps(367); TYL 1 rep(4)
PIPIT, American (1-29) JEF 4 reps(9); ORA 3 reps(15)
WAXWING, Cedar (1-15) HAI-SILS 1/15(20) MG; ORA
1/1(49) OC07; ORA 1/1(12) OC08
WARBLER, Orange-crown. (1-31) HAI 27 reps(27); JEF 13
reps(46); ORA 8 reps(23)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (1-29) HAI 4 reps(11); JEF
10 reps(137); ORA 11 reps(411)
WARBLER, Pine (1-31) HAI 6 reps(9); JEF 35 reps(133);
ORA 7 reps(61)
WARBLER, Palm (3-15) JEF 1/3(5) SR05; JEF 1/3(1)
SR06; JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF-SRSP 1/3(2) SR10; JEF-SW
1/3(1) SR08; JEF-SW 1/15(3) SM
YELLOWTHROAT, Common (1-15) JEF 8 reps(20);
ORA 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Wilson's (1-31) HAI-SILS all month (1) MG; JEF-
SW 1/15(1) SM
CHAT, Yellow-breasted (8-15) JEF-SW 1/8(1) SM; JEF-SW
1/15(1) SM
TOWHEE, Eastern (1-30) JEF 1/1(2) OC11; JEF 1/3(1)
SR05A; JEF-SW 1/3(1) SR08; JEF-SW 1/30(1) JAW
SPARROW, Chipping (1-31) HAI 31 reps(913); JEF 2 reps(2);
ORA 2 reps(33)

SPARROW, Field	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR05A; JEF-SW 1/3(1) SR08; ORA 1/1(1) OC08A
SPARROW, Savannah	(1-30)	JEF 11 reps(614); ORA 6 reps(38)
SPARROW, LeConte's	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR06; JEF 1/3(2) SR07M; JEF-MCFW 1/3(1) SR12
SPARROW, Nelson's	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(10) SR06
SPARROW, Seaside	(3-3)	JEF 5 reps(30)
SPARROW, Song	(1-30)	JEF 8 reps(26); ORA 6 reps(26)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF-SRSP 1/3(1) SR10; JEF-SW 1/3(3) SR08; ORA 1/1(2) OC08A
SPARROW, Swamp	(1-30)	JEF 7 reps(204); ORA 6 reps(46)
SPARROW, White-throated	(1-31)	HAI 19 reps(69); JEF 26 reps(282); ORA 6 reps(120)
SPARROW, White-crown.	(1-23)	JEF 4 reps(16); ORA 1 rep(1)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 4 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 28 reps(840); JEF 9 reps(43); ORA 6 reps(27)
BUNTING, Indigo	(8-30)	JEF-SW 1/8(2) SM; JEF-SW 1/30(2) JAW
BUNTING, Painted	(3-30)	JEF-SW 1/3(1) SR08; JEF-SW 1/30(1) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-30)	HAI 3 reps(32); JEF 11 reps(1903); ORA 8 reps(567)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(1-30)	JEF 7 reps(125); ORA 3 reps(28)
MEADOWLARK species	(23-29)	JEF 2 reps(38)
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	(23-29)	JEF 1/23(39) JAW; JEF 1/29(10) JAW
GRACKLE, Common	(1-23)	JEF 7 reps(640); ORA 2 reps(12)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(1-30)	JEF 8 reps(665); ORA 2 reps(63)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-30)	JEF 11 reps(662); ORA 6 reps(113)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed	(3-30)	JEF 4 reps(159)
COWBIRD, Bronzed	(15-26)	JEF-GROV 1/15(6) SM; JEF-GROV 1/26(25) CK
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(1-26)	HAI 2 reps(6); JEF 6 reps(3135); ORA 1 rep(15)
FINCH, House	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(72); ORA 1 rep(2)
SISKIN, Pine	(3-3)	HAI-SILS 1/3(2) MG
GOLDFINCH, American	(1-31)	HAI 22 reps(84); JEF 38 reps(2319); ORA 5 reps(114)
SPARROW, House	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(57); ORA 3 reps(29)

Number of Species 187
Number of Individuals 97828

County Abbreviations

HAI— Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange; TYL — Tyler

Location Codes

BC — Bridge City; BMT — Beaumont; GROV — Groves; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA, west of Taylor Bayou; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations

CK — Cody Conway and Kelley Sampeck; CSL — Christine Sliva; HS — Harlan Stewart; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JKSW — Rose Anna and Harrison Jordan, Steve Kuritz, Harlan Stewart, Jana Whittle; JP — John Park; MG — Melanie Goetsell; OC02 — Orange County CBC Area 2; OC03 — Orange County CBC Area 3; OC06 — Orange County CBC Area 6; OC07 — Orange County CBC Area 7; OC08 — Orange County CBC Area 8; OC08A — Orange County CBC Area 8A; OC08B — Orange County CBC Area 8B; OC10 — Orange County CBC Area 10; OC11 — Orange County CBC Area 11; OC12 — Orange County CBC Area 12; OCboat — Orange County CBC Area 8, 11 and 12 in boat; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SM — Steve Mayes; SR01 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 1; SR02 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 2; SR04 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 4; SR05 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 5; SR05A — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 5A; SR06 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 6; SR07B — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 7 Beach; SR07M — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 7 Marsh; SR08 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 8; SR10 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 10; SR11 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 11; SR12 — Sea Rim SP CBC Area 12; WWRS — J&J Whittle, Sherrie Roden, Harlan Stewart

Sponsor our Birdathon

Once again, we will be raising money for Golden Triangle Audubon and for Audubon Texas in our Birdathon. You may be assured that all your contributions will stay close to home as it were. Royce Pendergast will again be joining with me in this year's 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 start birding at the crack of dawn on a day in mid April and make a run to include the coast of east Jefferson County, the woods of East Texas, parts of Jefferson and Chambers counties, 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 will pick an exact date guided by the weather forecasts. Our preferred period will be April 12 to 14 but we are prepared to wait until the following week if need be. While there are often more individual birds towards the end of the April, we are hoping for a greater number of species, including more lingering winter residents earlier in the month.

We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$1.00 or more, \$0.75, \$0.50, 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, we plan on half of the funds we raise will be designated for Golden Triangle Audubon projects and the other half for Audubon Texas activities and programs. (If you wish, you may earmark your contributions for a specific use.) Checks should be made out to Golden Triangle Audubon Society and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. 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 409-722-4193 with your pledges and your suggestions.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip *(continued from page 4)*

(12), Belted Kingfisher (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (3), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3), Downy Woodpecker (3), Eastern Phoebe (7), Blue-headed Vireo (1), Blue Jay (4), American Crow (3), Crow species (3), Carolina Chickadee (4), Tufted Titmouse (1), Brown Creeper (2), Carolina Wren (3), House Wren (1), Golden-crowned Kinglet (7), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (5), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3), Eastern Bluebird (3), Hermit Thrush (1), American Robin (46), Northern Mockingbird (7), Brown Thrasher (3), European Starling (1), American Pipit (2), Cedar Waxwing (51), Orange-crowned Warbler (5), Yellow-rumped Warbler (39), Pine Warbler (7), Common Yellowthroat (1), LeConte's Sparrow (1), Savannah Sparrow (5), Song Sparrow (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Swamp Sparrow (15), White-throated Sparrow (1), Northern Cardinal (9), Red-winged Blackbird (51), Eastern Meadowlark (33), Great-tailed Grackle (3), Purple Finch (2), American Goldfinch (8), 82 Species)

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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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