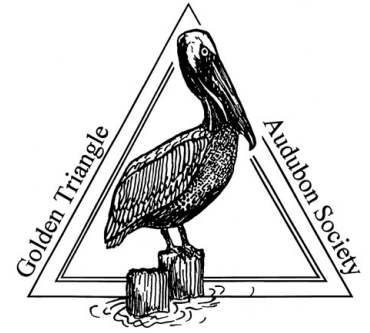


# *The Brown Pelican*



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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Vol. 20 No. 3

March 2014

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**Membership Meeting  
Thursday March 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Birds of New Zealand**

**Rebecca and John Phelps**

The "Birds of New Zealand" program is derived from our 27-day visit to New Zealand in October of 2013. We toured a number of sanctuaries scattered over the North and South Islands. New Zealand is very focused on conservation of their native species, spurred by the extinction of over 50 endemic species of birds found nowhere else. As a result, we were able to see many of the endangered, but recovering(!) species which are being protected in these sanctuaries.

The program consists of pictures of New Zealand species taken with my camera, as well as pictures taken from postcards and by some of our tour guides who generously shared with me. The Phelps, who are retired from their careers, have been birding for about 10 years now, with John doing the lion's share of spotting birds for Rebecca to identify. John takes great pleasure in announcing he is only an SOB [spouse of birder], but without his spotting abilities, Rebecca would have a much smaller life list!

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp. A light supper will be available from 6:15 p.m.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 20, No.3 March 2014  
Issue number 205

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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##### Field Trips

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### *The Brown Pelican* is

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## Calendar of Events

*Important Note: Field Trip notices published here should always be regarded as needing confirmation just before the date. Changes will always be posted on the web site at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org). Confirmation of the location will also normally be available at the Membership Meeting that is usually, but not always, two days prior to each trip, or by contacting Field Trip Committee chair, Steve Mayes at 409-722-5807 or [sgmayes@hotmail.com](mailto:sgmayes@hotmail.com)*

**Thursday March 20, 2014.**  
**Membership Meeting.** Details on p. 1.

### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Edra Bogucki, Linda and Howard Davis, Sherry Gibson, Robert Hurt, Denise and Gary Kelley, Dana Nelson, Lynn Otto and Phil Rogers for bringing refreshments in January. **We need volunteers to bring items for the March meeting and all subsequent spring 2014 meetings.** 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 Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 (or email her at [janafw@aol.com](mailto:janafw@aol.com)) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

**Saturday March 22, 2014. Sabine Woods Work Day.** Please put this date on your calendar. We will prepare the Woods for the upcoming spring migration season. As usual, we will want to mow all the trails and generally prepare the woods for the influx of spring birders.

**Saturday March 29, 2014. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats.**

*Important Note: Galveston County operates a parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. 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 will occur as spring shorebird migration is getting well under way, but while the wintering birds are mostly still present. Bolivar Flats is an important shore-bird location. We know that a lot of birders are intimidated by shorebirds, but they are not nearly as difficult to identify as is sometimes alleged! 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 goes north. Turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettilon 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. 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. Depending on the conditions, we may visit the North Jetty to view the birds there.

We normally stop at Fort Travis Park to eat lunch and use the facilities. We expect to stop at Rollover Pass and perhaps at High Island on the way back. We will check in High Island for any "very early" Neotropical songbird migrants. Bring drinks and lunch (or buy locally, but that is not particularly easy), sunscreen and insect repellent.

**March-April: Yellow Rail Walks at Anahuac NWR.** Join birding expert David Sarkozi for a chance to view Yellow Rails in addition to other rails and species. Meet at the Visitor Information Station just inside the gate at the Refuge. Boots and insect repellent strongly advised.

**Saturday March 29; 7 am and 4 pm**

**Saturday April 5; 7 am and 4 pm**

**Sunday April 6, 7 am and 4 pm**

**Sunday April 13; 7 am and 4 pm**

**Saturday April 19; 7 am and 4 pm**

**Sunday April 20; 7 am and 4 pm**

*More calendar on page 7*



# Winter Report to Chapters in the Central Flyway-South

February 2014

Joy Hester, Central Flyway-South Regional Director

At the end of my first term as your representative on the National Audubon board of directors and the beginning of my second 3-year term, I'd like to share some thoughts with you about that experience and give you a brief report about the winter board meeting in Sacramento.

First, let me say thank you for re-electing me to be Regional Director for the Central Flyway-South. I'm honored to serve, and I'm pleased to report that during my first three years on the board I've seen renewed interest in and respect for chapters from Audubon leaders at the highest levels. Anyone who witnessed Board Chair Holt Thrasher's speech at the Audubon Convention last summer would, I'm sure, agree with me that the appreciation and respect he showed for chapters was heartfelt. President and CEO David Yarnold has also consistently talked about the importance of chapters and the unique potential they bring to Audubon.

Further evidence of the new commitment to chapters in Audubon is the Texas Chapters Assembly happening March 1-2 in central Texas. Hosted by Audubon Texas with Travis Audubon and Bastrop County Audubon chapters, it's the first statewide meeting of chapters in more than a decade. The agenda is packed with sessions based on feedback from chapters and includes topics of conservation interest as well as ways to improve your chapters.

Now to some highlights of the Sacramento board meeting held February 1-2 of this year:

**New Board Chair**—An important transition in Audubon's leadership took place at this meeting. Holt Thrasher stepped down as Board Chair after five years of outstanding leadership. His commitment to bird conservation and his understanding of the importance of chapters were at the heart of his successful tenure. David Ford, a long time board member, was welcomed as the new Board Chair.

**New Chapter Policy**—The Chapters Committee is a relatively new committee formed only a few years ago. Its purpose is to address issues of importance to chapters and to make suggestions to the board on ways to support chapters and improve their effectiveness. A major effort of the committee this last year is a draft revision of the Chapter Policy that has been sent out to chapters for review and comment. We look forward to hearing your thoughts about it.

**RD Communications**—The Regional Directors met on the Thursday evening before the board meeting to discuss, among other things, ways that the RD's can better communicate with chapters in their regions. In the Central Flyway we've done a couple of telephone conference calls that some of you may have participated in. If you'd like more of those or perhaps some state conference calls, please let me know and I'll work with Audubon to get them set up. We all struggle to send out reports that aren't just repeats of what you're getting from National Audubon, so any thoughts you have about how to better communicate with you will also be welcome.

**Chapters Forum**—One of my favorite things about board meetings is the Chapters Forum held the day before the board meeting and hosted by the Regional Director from the region. Chapters throughout the region are invited to attend the Forums and the board meetings as well as some of the committee meetings. It's a great way for chapters, staff, and board members to get to know each other. The program this time included reports from chapters and Audubon staff about a number of successful programs being implemented by staff and chapters in the region.

**Birds and Climate**—Audubon's groundbreaking Birds and Climate report, to be published this spring, provides insights based on in-depth research about the effects of climate on birds and how Audubon can focus its bird conservation work to help birds survive climate change. All Chapter Leaders received an email earlier this year about plans to involve all levels of Audubon, including Chapters, in work based on the report. When the publication date is known, you'll receive additional information, including a Chapter kit that can be used to help spread the word.

**Field Trips**—Field trips associated with the board meetings typically are opportunities to see conservation efforts on the ground in the area where the board meetings are held. This year we visited 2,600-acre Roosevelt Ranch, owned and managed by Board Secretary Kristi Patterson and her husband, for a close-up look at management practices that support huge numbers of waterfowl and other birds in the upper Central Valley. We also visited the Cosumnes River Preserve and nearby sites where we saw an amazing array of ducks, Sandhill Cranes, and Tundra Swans.

The next board meeting will be held in mid-May in Seattle, Washington, and I'll be in touch again afterward to give you a short report about it. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact me any time at either of my e-mail addresses below.

Joy Hester

Regional Director, Central Flyway South

NAS Board of Directors

[jhester@audubon.org](mailto:jhester@audubon.org) or [jhester0809@att.net](mailto:jhester0809@att.net)

## Hummingbird Home Tour -- 25 January 2014

January 25th was our fourth GTAS Hummer Home Tour. There were nine people who braved the 30 degree weather to meet at our house at 8:30. It worked out very well. Birders watched as five different species showed off for them and all the people who came got to have five species of hummers for their year lists. Male and female Broad-tailed, male and female Black-chinned, male and female Ruby-throated, a female Buff-bellied, and two immature Rufous/Allen's. (These two were identified as Rufous Hummingbirds when captured for banding on February 15.) There were some adult males for a change which made it even better for us that have a hard time identifying female hummers sometimes. We stayed in the warm house until 9:30 having breakfast foods and watching hummers. There were other birds that weren't hummers too. Four Orange-crowned Warblers constantly drank from the hummingbird feeders along with two House Finches. (We later found out that we seriously underestimated the number of Orange-crowned Warblers; see the accompanying article on banding.) At the seed feeders were lots of American Goldfinch and a few Pine Warblers along with House Sparrows, of course. John saw Black-bellied Whistling Ducks fly over from the window, and a Northern Flicker, was seen and heard. A Red-bellied Woodpecker was heard also. A probable Brewer's Blackbird was spotted by one of our birders in the top of the oak tree in the front yard.

At 9:30, we left here and drove over to Harlan Stewart's house in Nederland. At Harlan's, we watched three Rufous Hummingbirds being very vocal and active. One is very tolerant of visitors and allows close looks. Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen from Harlan's house also. I spoke with Harlan at the end of day, and he said that a fourth Rufous showed up late this afternoon also. Harlan has also seen a Black-chinned hummer at his house recently. In the past years, he has hosted an Anna's Hummingbird, two Calliopes, and a male Buff-bellied Hummingbird.

We left Harlan's at 10:30 to go to the Jordan's house in Beaumont, where Harrison welcomed us with hot coffee and cookies and lots of birds. We only saw two Rufous Hummingbirds, but his adult male Rufous is gorgeous! There were lots of other birds. Harrison had seen a Calliope the day before, but we missed it today. Other birds seen such as Red-headed Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Mockingbird, lots of Goldfinch, White-throated Sparrows, Carolina Wrens, Brown Thrasher, and House Finches.

At 11:45, we left to drive to John Mariani's house. The first birds we saw there were Inca Doves and right above them was a Ruby-throated Hummingbird. We then walked to the pond behind his house where we saw five Wood Ducks get up from the pond and fly away. It was nice because John says they are skittish and all of us were able to see them. We took a walk around the pond and had White-throated Sparrow, Caroline Wrens, lots of Goldfinch, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, etc. We went into John's warm house and watched his feeders. We also saw Tufted Titmice, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and, of course, Northern Cardinals.

We finished our trip and had lunch in Lumberton together. The temperature ended up being 59 degrees at the end of our mini-field trip, and we had seen at least 17 hummingbirds of five different species. A huge thank you for all the people who came, and for people who allowed us to come to their homes to enjoy seeing winter hummers. One couple that came, went home and put out four feeders, and immediately got a Rufous Hummingbird. We wonder what had that Rufous that showed up there today been eating? That was one of the things we strive for. To promote people feeding winter hummers. Harrison says his Rufous has been there since August. Our Buff bellied has been here this year since October 31st. So if you plan on hosting feeders for winter hummers, put your feeders out by October at least and keep them fresh. But it also means that you can enjoy feeding hummers for six months not counting the month for Ruby-throated migration. You may never know that you have hummers until you try.

*Jana Whittle*

## Hummingbird Banding 15 February 2014

Yesterday's hummingbird and Orange-crowned Warbler banding by Sumita Prasad was quite enjoyable and very productive - seven Orange-crowned Warblers banded, all at the Whittles' and nine hummingbirds banded, seven at the Whittles and two in my yard. The Whittles' thought they had a goodly number of the warblers, but yesterday certainly upped any prudent estimate of that number. Of course, their yard is a hummer winter wonderland - Sumita banded two Broad-tailed Hummingbirds (one with a deformed but functional beak), two Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, and three Rufous Hummingbirds. One of the Rufous was a recapture, having been banded in Kleb Woods in Houston in December 2013, if I recall correctly from Sumita's explanation. I also got a photo of an immature male Ruby-throated Hummingbird at the Whittles' that escaped banding. Since I have four hummer regulars (three Rufous and a Black-chinned). At my house Sumita banded a female Rufous Hummingbird and a female Black-chinned Hummingbird. That represents at least a dozen hummingbirds and four species seen in two yards - pretty good for a single day in winter. The two "escapees" from banding from my yard included an immature female Rufous that closely inspected a trap, but never availed herself of the feeder inside. The other "escapee" is the one I mention below that I requested not be banded since she is so "friendly" that she can be photographed and observed virtually with impunity. One personal observation of banded hummers is that they hold no grudge against people, but some may be somewhat leery of an open hand, particularly an open palm. Sometimes that can sort of complicate approaching a bird for photography - one has to approach with clenched fists or with a constant grip on the camera and lens.

*Harlan Stewart*

## Field Trip to Cattail Marsh – 22 February 2014

It was a beautiful day and a spectacular turn out for the February field trip the Golden Triangle Audubon Society to Tyrrell Park and Cattail Marsh. Tyrrell Park is one of the premier birding destinations in southeast Texas with the combination of the wooded areas of the main park, the botanical gardens and the artificial and natural wetlands of Cattail Marsh producing a wide variety of birds at all times of the year. Winter can be an especially good time for birding Cattail Marsh as large numbers of waterfowl are always around for observation. It was with this in mind that the members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society set forth into Cattail Marsh!

Ducks are, of course, some of the most prominent denizens of the marsh and there were good numbers on hand on this day. Though the duck numbers probably peak in January and disperse somewhat after hunting season ends, the diversity was still a treat for the gathered birders. Green-winged Teal were among the most common ducks seen on the day as there seemed to be some of the small species in every cell and pond. Blue-winged Teal were less common but still easily found. Cinnamon Teal, a more western species, can be scarce in this area but at least half a dozen were found on this trip. Northern Shoveler, with their large bills, were obvious while it took a little more looking to find the Northern Pintail present. Plain Gadwall were common and beautiful green-headed Mallards were unusually plentiful. Diving ducks were represented mostly by Ruddy Ducks but there were also some Lesser Scaup present along with a handful of tiny Buffleheads. Perhaps the most surprising duck species found on the day was a single Fulvous Whistling-Duck. Common in the summer, the Fulvous Whistling-Duck is uncommon at best during the winter months so finding this bird was one of the highlights of the field trip.

But ducks are certainly not the only water birds that call Cattail Marsh home. American Coots were plentiful as usual as were their slightly shyer cousins, the Common Gallinules (Common Moorhen to those of you with older field guides). Other rails were detected mostly by their calls and included King Rail, Virginia Rail and Sora. A few Pied-billed Grebes were relatively easy to find while a single Eared Grebe took some searching. Unfortunately, the Least Grebes that have been so reliable at this location in the last couple of years seem to have disappeared and were not seen on this trip. A single American White Pelican was spotted along with a single American Avocet. Black-necked Stilts were easier to locate. Other wading birds including Great Blue and Little Blue Herons, Tricolored Herons and Black-crowned Night-Herons were found by the group along with the ubiquitous Great and Snowy Egrets. Ibis made a strong showing with White Ibis, White-faced Ibis and even a couple of the scarcer Glossy Ibis being seen well by the birders. A couple of small groups of Least Sandpipers and fairly numerous Wilson's Snipe represented the shorebirds on the field trip while dozens of Laughing and a few Ring-billed Gulls soared overhead.

Raptors are always fun to watch but this trip was a little lacking in numbers of individuals. Luckily, this lack of quantity was more than made up for by the quality of the

encounters. The king and queen of Cattail Marsh are surely the pair of Bald Eagles that have taken up winter residence at the wetland. The southern population of Bald Eagles nest in the winter, taking advantage of the abundant waterfowl that winter in the south as a food source for their growing families. This pair of eagles has nested in a pine tree on the back side of the marsh for at least two (and possibly three) winters now and have fledged several young eagles out in to the world. Both of the adult Bald Eagles were seen on this trip with one spending time in the nest probably feeding one or more youngsters. Another great sighting came when an Accipiter streaked into view while the group was still in the parking lot and proceeded to perch in a relatively open spot at the top of a large tree. After some initial debate among the birders, it was deduced that the bird was a Cooper's Hawk, probably a male owing to its smaller size. The bird continued perching in the tree allowing scope filling views for the group to enjoy for as long as they wished. An unusually cooperative Accipiter! Other raptors seen on the day included Red-tailed Hawk, Osprey, Northern Harrier and American Kestrel.

The wooded and grassy areas of Tyrrell Park (both in and away from Cattail Marsh) are also excellent for birding with wintering and resident land birds plentiful. Inca Doves stalked the lawn in front of the garden center while Loggerhead Shrikes hunted nearby. American Robins were common in the interior of the park while Common Yellowthroats and a Marsh Wren stuck to the thick reeds on the marsh edges. Chipping Sparrows and Pine Warblers flocked with Yellow-rumped Warblers along the woodland edges while Tree Swallows and a single Barn Swallow zipped overhead. Woodpeckers seen included the large Pileated along with Red-bellied Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Perhaps the best bird seen on the day was also one of the last. An odd looking blackbird was seen at the edge of a wet woodland near the garden center but it quickly disappeared before its identity could be confirmed. Luckily, some sharp ears soon picked up an odd call from nearby. The bird was located and its identity was no longer in doubt – Rusty Blackbird! This species is increasingly uncommon in southeast Texas as its population has seriously declined in recent years so spotting this bird was a real treat. Tyrrell Park has always seemed to be ideal winter habitat for this species so it was probably only a matter of time before a Rusty or two turned up here.

Cattail Marsh produced lots of good water birds for the field trip including some uncommon winter species (Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Cinnamon Teal) as was expected. The other areas of the park also rewarded the birders with some terrific finds (especially the Rusty Blackbird). Couple those nice birds with an excellent turnout and fantastic weather and it is clear why the Golden Triangle Audubon Society chose Tyrrell Park for its February field trip. Great birds and birding friends in a beautiful setting are the exact therapy to cure those winter blues!

The following species were noted by the trip leaders:  
Fulvous Whistling-Duck (1); Gadwall (32); Mallard (20); Mottled Duck (6); Blue-winged Teal (40); Cinnamon Teal (6); Northern

*(continued on page 7)*

## Bird Sightings – January 2014

With this month's listing, we have made a drastic change. After compiling almost exclusively from your reports since July 1995, we have decided that eBird ([www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org)) is now adequately filling the function of recording the local sightings of our regular species. Most, but not all of our regular observers are already entering their observations into eBird, which is rapidly becoming a mature system for collecting, storing and analyzing bird sighting data world-wide. While two of the recently introduced analytical tools that have greatly enhanced the usefulness of the system for scientists and recreational birders alike are still labeled as in beta test, the system will now reasonably easily produce almost all of the information that our listings have done, and we have not encountered any serious "missing" capability. To the extent that the individual observers provide it, eBird records more detailed location information for sightings away from the hotspots. We encourage all of our regular contributors to enter their sightings into eBird going forward. We will use all reports available to us so if you do not enter your sightings into eBird, please continue to send at least those of rare birds to us by the 15th of the month following. The data entry system in eBird is now quite good. The supreme challenge for any bird data system is to provide easy and quick access to a particular bird species and to a particular location for both data entry and for data retrieval. If we have any issue with eBird it is that, while there are excellent analysis applications within the system, the downloading of "raw" data from the database in electronic format is not as straightforward or routine as it could be.

eBird is provided and run by Cornell Lab of Ornithology as a service to the ornithological community. It was started in 2002 in association with National Audubon Society. Support has been provided by the National Science Foundation, numerous state and local Audubon entities, and several charitable foundations. There are numerous affiliated groups both in the United States and abroad, and a full list can be viewed at [www.ebird.org/content/ebird/about/affiliates/](http://www.ebird.org/content/ebird/about/affiliates/)

In this section of the Newsletter, going forward, we plan to record only the rare and unusual birds reported during the month. This month, we have merely used our judgment on what constitutes rare or unusual. (We have not dwelled on the

rarities already reported in the Christmas Bird Count reports we have already published.) We will try to formalize this for future issues, probably limiting the report to birds shown as rare or very rare on the local checklists, but we will also mention any particularly high numbers and even expected birds that were not seen. We envisage that "rarity" will be defined relative to the month as a whole for winter and summer records, but by the week for March through May and August through October or November. The format this month is somewhat experimental and we can tweak it if you have any suggestions to make it better.

We have reviewed eBird and other submitted records for January for the Texas counties we have always covered – Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine and Tyler. We also looked at, more selectively, records for nearby counties or parts of counties that are easily accessible to and often birded by birders in our core Golden Triangle Audubon area. These are Chambers, Galveston (High Island and Bolivar Peninsula only) and Liberty counties in Texas, and Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes (both west of the Calcasieu River only) in Louisiana. Quite likely, we will report only very rare species from these additional counties during spring and fall migration. Sightings of excitingly rare species will not be delayed until the issue that they would normally appear in, but will be reported if we have the information when we close for press. But it does take time to enter data into eBird, and we know that you are not always able to do so immediately after for more routine sightings.

In due course, we intend to use the upload options to enter our personal records from prior years into the eBird system. This will necessarily take some preparation, and will not happen immediately! However, if we are successful in creating a program that will upload directly into eBird, and we currently see no major barrier to doing that, then it will eventually be possible to provide you with files of your prior contributions in such format. We can also explore the possibility of using a generic Golden Triangle Audubon account in eBird to upload some of the records in our database into the system. But we would much rather help you upload them into your own account!

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Canada Goose	Jan 13 JEF-Big Hill Rd (8) RHRC	Bald Eagle	Jan 22 HAI-Village Creek SP (1) SG
	Jan 20 JEF-Big Hill Rd (6) RHRC	Broad-winged Hawk	Jan 3 JEF-nr. Sabine Woods (2) SRCBC
Redhead	Jan 3 JEF-Cattail Marsh (8) SRCBC	Ferruginous Hawk	Jan 11 GAL-Tuna Rd, Bolivar Pen. (1) Eric Lee, Romey Swanson and Nan Perkins
	Jan 3 JEF-Sea Rim SP (2) SRCBC	Virginia Rail	Jan 9 JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) JHH
	Jan 3 JEF-Sabine Neches Channel (1) SRCBC.		Jan 11 JEF-Cattail Marsh (8) JHH, SM
Com. Goldeneye	Jan 19 JEF-Pleasure Is (2) SM		Jan 16 JEF- Cattail Marsh (3) JHH
	Jan 22 JEF-Pleasure Is (2) JHH		Jan 17 JEF- Cattail Marsh (2) JHH
Least Grebe	Jan 9 JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) JHH – not seen since despite many trips		Jan 18 JEF-Cattail Marsh (10) JHH
Green Heron	Jan 6 JEF-Big Hill Rd (1) RHRC	Whimbrel	Jan 25 JEF-Cattail Marsh (7) RW
Glossy Ibis	Jan 11 JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) (SM, JHH)		Jan 3 JEF-Texas Point NWR Beach (4) SRCBC
	Jan 17 JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) SM		Jan 12 JEF-Sea Rim SP (1) SM
Bald Eagle	Jan 4 JEF-Parkdale Mall, Beaumont (1) CSL		Jan 15 CAM-Holly Beach (4) Dan O'Malley
	Jan 9 JEF-Cattail Marsh (2) JHH		Jan 22 JEF-Sea Rim SP (1) SM
	Two also seen Jan 11 and 16 and one on Jan 17 and 18 JHH, SM		

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Bird Sightings *(continued from page 6)*

Stilt Sandpiper	Jan 3	JEF-JD Murphree WMA (6) SRCBC
	Jan 3	JEF-Texas Point NWR (23) SRCBC
	Jan 5	JEF-Sea Rim SP (1)
Lsr. Blk-backed Gull	Jan 1	ORA-Bailey's Bridge City (1) OCCBC
Buff-bellied Humm.	One thru Jan 28 and one thru Jan 20+	JEF-Nederland JJW
Ruby-throat. Humm.	Two Jan 17 thru end of month; one Jan 21 thru end of month	JEF-Nederland JJW
	One all month	HAI-Lumberton JM
Black-chined Humm.	One all month	JEF-Nederland HS
Broad-tailed Humm.	One all month, one Jan 16 thru end of month, one Jan 24 thru end of month	JEF-Nederland JJW
Rufous Humm.	One throughout month, one Jan 16 thru end of month, one Jan 17 thru end of month	JEF-Nederland JJW
	Two all month, one Jan 5 thru end of month	JEF-Nederland HS
	Two all month	JEF-Beaumont HJ
Rufous/Allen's Humm	One Jan 25 only	JEF-Nederland HS
	One all month	JEF-Nederland SM
Short-eared Owl	Jan 11	CHA-Chambers Co. beach (1) Gary Binderim
Hairy Woodpecker	Jan 12	HAI-Kirby NT, BTNP (1) Jessica and Randy
Red-cockaded Wood	Jan 9	JAS-Boykin Springs (2) Andy Newman
White-eyed Vireo	Jan 4	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) SM
	Jan 22	ANG-Diboll (1) Andy Newman
Red-br. Nuthatch	Jan 3	HAI-Village Creek SP (1) Dick Mansfield
White-br. Nuthatch	Jan 6	ANG-S of Diboll (1) Andy Newman
		Also seen there Jan 7, 22 and 23
Winter Wren	Jan 3	HAI-Village Creek SP (1) Dick Mansfield
	Jan 9	JEF-Edgewater, BTNP (2) JHH
	Jan 25	JEF-Edgewater, BTNP (1) Jana and John Whittle, Christine Sliva
Wood Thrush	Jan 3	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) SRCBC
Black-and-Wh. Warb.	Jan 3	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) SRCBC
	Jan 5	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) JAW
Prairie Warbler	Jan 4	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Michael Bernard
Spotted Towhee	Jan 3	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) SRCBC
Fox Sparrow	Jan 4	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Dave Patton
	Jan 7	ANG-S of Diboll (1) Andy Newman
Brewer's Blackbird	Jan 7	JEF-West Jefferson Co (1) JHH
	Jan 26	JEF-West Jefferson Co (26) JAW

### Abbreviations used

ANG – Angelina County; BTNP – Big Thicket National Preserve; CAM – Cameron Parish, LA; CHA – Chambers County; CSL – Christine Sliva; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; JM – John Mariani; OCCBC- Orange County Christmas Bird Count; ORA – Orange County; RHRC – Rene Hebert and Rita Czek; SG – Sherry Gibson; SM – Steve Mayes; SRCBC – Sea Rim SP Christmas Bird Count

## New Drips at Sabine Woods

We owe a great debt of gratitude to Howard Davis, Gary Kelley and Harlan Stewart for working to construct two new drips in an area of Sabine Woods that lost its trees and became overgrown after Hurricane Ike. These new drips will be the centerpiece of Rose Ann's Water Feature, named in memory of Rose Ann Jordan and have been designed with photographic opportunities in mind. We will be working on final touches during the work day on March 22, but we will need to let nature take its course in providing appropriate vegetation behind the drips.

## Calendar *(continued from page 2)*

**Thursday April 17. Membership Meeting.** Sandy Komito, until recently holder of the record for the highest number of species seen in North America in a year, will be our speaker.

### Saturday April 19. Field Trip to Sabine Woods and Sabine Pass.

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants at the height of spring migration, and does not necessitate extensive walking.

We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. While we may go to Pilot Station Road or the Sea Rim and McFaddin areas, we will be in Sabine Woods for at least the first couple of hours, and you should be able to find the group if you are late.

At Sabine Woods, there is a small parking area, and additional parking is improvised using the roadside verges. Sabine Woods is on the north side of Highway 87, 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Take Highway 87 from Port Arthur to Sabine Pass, turn right at the stop sign, and go 4.1 miles. Fuller details of this trip will be published in the April Brown Pelican.

### Field Trip *(continued from page 5)*

Shoveler (40); Northern Pintail (17); Green-winged Teal (135); Ring-necked Duck (8); Lesser Scaup (18); Bufflehead (4); Ruddy Duck (50); Pied-billed Grebe (4); Eared Grebe (1); Double-crested Cormorant (10); Neotropic Cormorant (4); American White Pelican (1); Great Blue Heron (2); Great Egret (10); Snowy Egret (31); Little Blue Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (3); Black-crowned Night-Heron (3); White Ibis (5); Glossy Ibis (2); White-faced Ibis (16); *Plegadis* species Ibis (25); Black Vulture (46); Turkey Vulture (10); Osprey (1); Northern Harrier (2); Red-tailed Hawk (1); Bald Eagle (2); Cooper's Hawk (1); American Kestrel (2); King Rail (2); Virginiai Rail (6); Sora (1); Common Moorhen (35); American Coot (210); Killdeer (1); Black-necked Stilt (14); American Avocet (1); Greater Yellowlegs (2); Least Sandpiper (20); Wilson's Snipe (12); Laughing Gull (121); Ring-billed Gull (2); Inca Dove (7); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Northern Flicker (1); Pileated Woodpecker (1); Eastern Phoebe (2); Loggerhead Shrike (2); Tree Swallow (20); Barn Swallow (1); Carolina Chickadee (1); Tufted Titmouse (1); Marsh Wren (1); American Robin (80); Northern Mockingbird (1); American Pipit (8); Common Yellowthroat (2); Pine Warbler (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (20); Chipping Sparrow (8); Savannah Sparrow (20); Song Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (1); White-crowned Sparrow (4); Northern Cardinal (2); Red-winged Blackbird (30); Great-tailed Grackle (10); Rusty Blackbird (1)

*Steve Mayes*



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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 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 [www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds](http://www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds). It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include all recent postings. Postings for the last two weeks are also available at <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/TX>.

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..>