Brown Pelican

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The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 6 No. 7/8

July/August 2000

Membership Meeting Thursday, August 17, 2000 6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Mottled Duck Banding on the Texas Coast

Derrick Walter Texas Parks and Wildlife Department J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area

As usual, the doors will be open no later than 6:30 p.m., and the proceedings will start at 7:15 p.m. approximately.

From the President

I was recently asked about why should I pay to be a member and I paused in my answer and thought over our recent history.

Our club struggled over a year to reach the magic 50. Fifty is the number National Audubon sets for a chapter to be a chapter. We were told we would fail and encouraged to join other nearby chapters. Now with 360 plus members we are secure in our viability as we seek to promote birding and bird related conservation activities. We have reached a point where we can use bulk mailing for our newsletters and, as a non-profit organization, our costs are greatly reduced. Since we distribute such large numbers of newsletters our major expense is printing. Our last financial statement from January through June 2000 showed an income of \$420.58 and an expense of \$1101.63 (newsletter items only). This \$681.05 shortfall is offset greatly by donations for our members and corporate donations by some member's employers. This is the reason we ask for a donation to cover newsletter printing and mailing costs. But you say does not National give local chapters money. On a new member that we recruit we get back three-quarters of their membership dues the first year then on renewals we get back one quarter (or less if a family membership) of the renewal dues. So you can see it does not take long to spend more than comes in.

Membership is a easy way to be involved. Other ways include being a director at large or a holding a position as a committee chair member both of which have openings.

Ken Sztraky

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

RARE BIRD ALERT AND SOCIETY INFORMATION TELEPHONE NUMBER (409) 768-1340 www.ih2000.net/gtas

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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

If you can present a program of interest to a Membership Meeting, or know of some person who can, please contact Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193.

For more information on field trips, please contact Steve Mayes, (409) 722-5807 or the trip leader.

August 15-November 1 - Smith Point Hawk Watch

See page 3 for details.

August 17 - Membership Meeting. See front page for details.

August 19 or 26 - Field Trip. To be arranged. Details will be announced at the August membership meeting and on the hot-line message at 409-786-1340. Leader Steve Mayes.

September 16 - North American Migration Count.

Call John Whittle (409-722-4193) or email whittleja@hal.lamar.edu if you are interested in participating in this countywide count.

September 21 - Membership Meeting. Jay Huner of the University of Southern Louisiana, Lafayette will speak of birds and crawfish ponds.

September 23 - Field Trip.

Our September field trip will be to the Smith Point Hawk Watch in Chambers county. From Winnie, take TX124 south. Turn right(west) on FM1985 and proceed about 15 miles. Bear left onto FM562 and follow it to Smith Point. Continue straight ahead at the main intersection in Smith Point, and proceed about a mile, turning left into the Candy Cain Abshier Wildlife Management area. There should be signs to the Hawk watch from the main intersection onwards.

The Hawk Watch site itself is manned from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. It is easily possible to visit Anahuac NWR or High Island before returning home.

The trip should be very close to the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration, yet there should still be good numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks passing through. Sharp-shinned move much earlier in the morning than Broad-winged Hawks, which rarely lift

off before 9 a.m. For those who cannot make it on the 23rd, the days following through to about the following weekend also have the potential to produce large numbers of Broad-winged Hawks.

October 19 - Membership Meeting.

Details in later issues of the *Brown Pelican*.

October 21 - Field Trip to Sabine Woods.

We will hope for the last waves of fall migrants. Leader Steve Mayes.

November 16 - Membership Meeting. At this meeting, which is also our official annual meeting and election, we invite members to bring a few of their favorite bird slides, and a covered dish.

November 18 - Field Trip. Searching for sparrows. Location to be decided later.

December 31 - Sea Rim State Park Christmas Count.

This is the count that we sponsor. More details in later issues.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. Jack Baugh and Joe Tibbs have volunteered for August; and Sue Flanagan and Anne Lewing for September. Additional volunteers will be welcome especially for October and beyond.

Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label (or the date NOT prefixed by AU if there are two) has passed, 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.

Celebrate the 10th Annual Smith Point Fall Hawk Watch! Join Us For our Nature School Fundraiser

One of the most spectacular sites in nature is to see the sky full of migrating hawks winging their way to central and South America for the winter. When weather conditions are right, it's not unusual to see over 5,000 Broad-winged Hawks on a single September day. Even when the hawks aren't moving, other migrants like hummingbirds, swallows, shorebirds, butterflies and dragonflies can be seen.

The Smith Point Hawk Watch (SPHW) began as an all-volunteer effort in 1992. Inspired by the substantial numbers of hawks the volunteers counted, HawkWatch International and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory have been working together to conduct standardized, full-season counts since 1997. As last year, SPHW at Candy Abshier WMA will operate from August 15-November 1, 2000. Counters and volunteers will be on the hawk watch tower daily from 8AM to 4 PM. All are invited to come out as often as you can.

We also invite you to join us for our 2nd Annual weekend long Hawk Watch and Nature School, the major fundraiser to support our local hawk counts. The Nature School will be offered during the weekend that the 'raptor-per-hour' count is traditionally highest, when thousands of Broad-winged Hawks wing their way through, September 22nd - 24th.

Complimenting the on-going classes on the hawk watch tower with experts who will help you learn to identify hawks in flight, there will be a variety of slide and video presentations on topics like dragonflies, butterflies, wildflowers, and local history. The presenters will also lead walks.

The workshop will be based at the Spoonbill R.V. Park and Lodge in Smith Point. The Nature School fee includes a donation to support SPHW, lectures and walks, time on the tower with experts, all meals including an all-you-can eat fish and oyster fry and a shrimp boil, and lodging. Lodging is rustic but clean with separate, shared bathrooms for men and women.

For information, pricing or reservations for the Hawk Watch and Nature School, please contact trip coordinator Sandra Skrei at Naturally Curious Inc., 888-258-4687 or sskrei@swbell.net.

For information on SPHW, including visiting or helping observe through out the season, please contact Cecilia Riley at 979-480-0999, criley@gcbo.org.

Aplomado Falcon seen in Jefferson County

As many of you know, an intensive captive breeding program for Aplomado Falcons has reached the point where significant numbers are being released into the wild in south Texas. Initial efforts were focused on the Laguna Atascosa NWR on the lower Texas Coast north of Brownsville, but more recently birds have been released in the Welder Wildlife Foundation refuge near Sinton north of Corpus Christi.

On April 28, a report was posted on the TEXBIRDS list serve of an immature Aplomado Falcon being seen along

Texas 73 between Port Arthur and Winnie. However, the poster of the report did not respond to a request for a more precise indication of the location.

On the late afternoon/early evening of July 6, Travis Lewing found an Aplomado Falcon hunting just inshore from the beach just west of the entrance road to McFaddin NWR (Clam Lake Road). Although at least two other observers searched the area in the days immediately following, the bird has not been reported again.

Although the two locations are 15 miles apart, one has to presume that both sightings involved the same bird. Unfortunately, there is essentially no public access to the approximately 150 square mile area bounded by Highway 73 on the north, Murphree WMA on the east, Highway 87 on the south and Big Hill Road (and southward) on the west that would encompass a likely area to search for this bird. The Intracoastal Waterway does run through the area five to seven miles north of the shoreline. However, if anyone has contacts that could provide access to the areas referred to as the Broussard property, the Sabine Ranch (or even the Pipkin Ranch further west), we should consider searching those areas during the fall.

The Aplomado Falcon is illustrated in all major field guides. It is a large falcon, a little smaller than a Peregrine, but less heavily built. It is stated to prey mainly on (small) birds, but also on insects, reptiles and rodents. Red-winged Blackbirds, Seaside Sparrows, and Dickcissels are numerous in the area described above. The bird's normal habitat is described as savannah grasslands with mesquite, yucca and cacti, so the area above would normally be on the wet side. The species is not migratory. Its former range encompassed much of Mexico north of a Guadalajara to Tampico line but east of the Sierra Madre Occidental and on into Texas immediately north of the Rio Grande, southern New Mexico and southeast Arizona. The current breeding range encompasses a narrow coastal strip from Tampico southeast to the state of Chiapas, and a area in the state of Chihuahua southwest of Presidio, Texas, plus the area where it is being reintroduced.

The species hunts from conspicuous and inconspicuous perches, and sometimes from a hover. Pursuit flight is direct with light quick wingbeats; otherwise the flight is buoyant and kestrel-like. This falcon will pursue prey on foot. Near Laguna Latascosa, birds are seen perched on the cross members of utility poles.

Please report any sightings of this species immediately to our hotline at 409-768-1340 or to any board member listed on page 2.

New Staff at McFaddin and Texas Point NWRs

New managers have been appointed for McFaddin and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges, located in Jefferson Couty west of Sabine Pass. Brett Wehrie is the new manager at McFaddin NWR, while Dean Bossert takes over Texas Point NWR. We welcome both of them to the area.

Bird Sightings - May 2000

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 whittleja@hal.lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8276 or fax to (409) 880-8270. For "very rare" birds, 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

JEF-TX87 5/21(1) KS

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".

Commentary: The tail end of spring migration in May usually brings some interesting sightings, while June, traditionally thought of as the slowest birding month in Southeast Texas often surprises with some winter birds spending the summer.

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GREBE, Pied-billed
                          JEF-TP 5/6(4) JAW; JEF 5/13(2) MC05;
                                                                   HAWK, Swainson's
                                                                                              JEF 5/13(1) MC06; JEF 5/13(1) MC78
     JEF-TP 5/15(6) JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(1) JAW
                                                                   HAWK, Red-tailed
                                                                                              JEF 5/13(2) MC03; JEF 5/13(1) MC2;
GREBE, Horned
                          JEF-MCFW 5/15(1) MW
                                                                         JEF 5/13(1) MC78
                          JEF 5/13(1) MC09; JEF-SRSP 5/13(24)
PELICAN, Brown
                                                                   KESTREL, American
                                                                                              JEF 5/13(1) MC03
     MC11; JEF-TXPT 5/13(15) MC09; JEF-SRSP 5/14(1) JAW;
                                                                   BOBWHITE. Northern
                                                                                              JEF 6 reps(8)
     JEF-SRSP 5/21(10) KS
                                                                   RAIL, Clapper
                                                                                              JEF 1 rep(4)
CORMORANT, Neotropic
                          JEF 14 reps(189)
                                                                   RAIL, King
                                                                                              JEF 5/13(2) MC78; JEF 5/21(1) JAW
ANHINGA
                          JEF 2 reps(2)
                                                                   SORA
                                                                                              JEF-TP 5/18(1) JAW
BITTERN, Least
                          JEF-TX87 5/3(1) JAW; JEF 5/13(2)
                                                                   GALLINULE, Purple
                                                                                              JEF 5/13(1) MC12; JEF 5/13(2) MC78;
     MC05; JEF 5/13(47) MC12; JEF-TX87 5/20(2) JAW; JEF-TP
                                                                         JEF 5/13(1) MC8A; JEF 5/16(2) JAW
     5/27(2) JAW
                                                                   MOORHEN, Common
                                                                                              JEF 11 reps(59)
HERON, Great Blue
                          JEF 11 reps(15)
                                                                   COOT, American
                                                                                              JEF 7 reps(398)
EGRET, Great
                          JEF 25 reps(260)
                                                                   PLOVER, Black-bellied
                                                                                              JEF 8 reps(217)
EGRET, Snowy
                          JEF 24 reps(432)
                                                                   GOLDEN-PLOVER, Amer.
                                                                                             JEF 5/6(2) JAW; JEF 5/13(3) MC01
HERON, Little Blue
                          JEF 16 reps(1770)
                                                                   PLOVER, Wilson's
                                                                                              JEF 2 reps(4)
HERON, Tricolored
                          JEF 19 reps(57)
                                                                   PLOVER, Semipalmated
                                                                                             JEF 5 reps(10)
EGRET, Cattle
                          JEF 19 reps(1265)
                                                                   KILLDEER
                                                                                             JEF 22 reps(223)
HERON, Green
                          JEF 20 reps(85)
                                                                   STILT, Black-necked
                                                                                             JEF 26 reps(208)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.
                          JEF 6 reps(9)
                                                                                             JEF-PI 5/13(150) MC09
                                                                   AVOCET. American
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.
                          JEF 17 reps(77)
                                                                   YELLOWLEGS, Greater
                                                                                             JEF 7 reps(19)
IBIS, White
                          JEF 12 reps(963)
                                                                   YELLOWLEGS, Lesser
                                                                                              JEF 5/6(3) JAW; JEF 5/13(3) MC05;
IBIS, Glossy
                          JEF-TP 5/15(1) JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(1)
                                                                         JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) MC11; JEF-TP 5/15(4) JHJW
     JAW; JEF-TP 5/28(2) JAW
                                                                                             JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM
                                                                   YELLOWLEGS species
IBIS, White-faced
                          JEF 10 reps(200)
                                                                   WILLET
                                                                                              JEF 10 reps(91)
IBIS. Plegadis
                          JEF 11 reps(326)
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Spotted
                                                                                             JEF 5/6(2) JAW; JEF 5/13(1) MC05;
SPOONBILL, Roseate
                          JEF 19 reps(119)
                                                                         JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) MC11; JEF-TP 5/15(1) JHJW; JEF-TP
VULTURE, Black
                          JEF 10 reps(30)
                                                                         5/16(1) JAW; JEF-TP 5/18(1) JAW; JEF 5/20(1) JAW
VULTURE, Turkey
                          HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 22 reps(71)
                                                                                              JEF 5/6(253) JAW: JEF 5/7(6) JAW:
WHISTLING-DUCK, BIk-bel. JEF-TP 5/15(6) JHJW; JEF-TP 5/28(3)
                                                                         JEF 5/13(12) MC01; JEF 5/13(1) MC04; JEF 5/13(14) MC78;
     JAW
                                                                         JEF-TXPT 5/13(1) MC09; JEF 5/21(6) JAW
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous JEF 8 reps(26)
                                                                   GODWIT, Hudsonian
                                                                                             JEF 5/13(15) MC05; JEF-PI 5/13(1)
DUCK, Wood
                          JEF 5/13(1) MC03; JEF 5/13(2) MC05;
                                                                        MC09; JEF-TP 5/15(15) JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(4) JAW
     JEF 5/13(1) MC78; JEF-TP 5/18(1) JAW
                                                                   TURNSTONE, Ruddy
                                                                                             JEF 4 reps(36)
GADWALL
                          JEF 5/13(2) MC05; JEF-TP 5/15(2)
                                                                   KNOT, Red
                                                                                             JEF-SRSP 5/13(6) MC11; JEF-SRSP
     JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(1) JAW; JEF-TP 5/18(1) JAW
                                                                         5/14(12) JAW
MALLARD
                          JEF 5/13(2) MC05; JEF-TP 5/16(3)
                                                                   SANDERLING
                                                                                             JEF 2 reps(76)
     JAW; JEF-TP 5/18(1) JAW; JEF-TP 5/28(1) JAW
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Semipalmated JEF-SRSP 5/13(11) MC11; JEF-SRSP
DUCK, Mottled
                          JEF 22 reps(122)
                                                                         5/14(23) JAW
TEAL. Blue-winged
                          JEF 10 reps(181)
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Western
                                                                                             JEF 5/13(251) MC01; JEF-SRSP
SHOVELER, Northern
                          JEF-TP 5/6(1) JAW; JEF 5/13(1) MC05;
                                                                        5/13(75) MC11; JEF-SRSP 5/14(112) JAW; JEF-TP 5/18(1)
     JEF-TP 5/15(1) JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(3) JAW; JEF 5/28(2) JAW
                                                                         JAW
DUCK, Ring-necked
                          JEF-TP 5/28(2) JAW
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Peep
                                                                                             JEF 5/13(30) MC78
SCAUP, Lesser
                          JEF-TP 5/6(1) JAW
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Least
                                                                                             JEF 5/6(10) JAW: JEF 5/13(50) MC05;
DUCK species
                          JEF 1 rep(1)
                                                                        JEF-TP 5/15(50) JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(16) JAW; JEF-TP 5/18(5)
DUCK, Ruddy
                          JEF-PI 5/13(10) MC09; JEF-TP 5/28(3)
     JAW
                                                                   SANDPIPER, White-rumped JEF 11 reps(2005)
OSPREY
                          JEF 5/13(1) MC05; JEF 5/20(1) JAW
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Baird's
                                                                                             JEF 5/13(3) MC10; JEF-TP 5/18(1)
KITE, Swallow-tailed
                          ORA 5/28(1) SR
                                                                         JAW
KITE, White-tailed
                          JEF 2 reps(2)
                                                                   SANDPIPER, Pectoral
                                                                                              JEF 5/6(1) JAW; JEF 5/13(10) MC05;
HAWK, Sharp-shinned
                          JEF-SW 5/21(1) KS
                                                                         JEF-TP 5/16(3) JAW; JEF-TP 5/28(2) JAW
HAWK, Cooper's
                          JEF-TX87 5/14(1) JAW
                                                                   DUNLIN
                                                                                             JEF 5/13(25) MC01; JEF 5/13(2) MC05;
HAWK, Red-shouldered
                          JEF 9 reps(14)
                                                                        JEF-SRSP 5/13(167) MC11; JEF-SRSP 5/14(72) JAW
HAWK, Broad-winged
                          JEF 5/13(1) MC05; JEF 5/13(1) MC2;
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SANDPIPER, Stilt

DOWITCHER, Long-billed

JEF 9 reps(374)

JEF-TP 5/15(3) JHJW

DOWITCHER species JEF 5/13(6) MC01; JEF-PI 5/13(1000) **SWALLOW, Tree** JEF 5/6(4) JAW; JEF-TP 5/6(5) JAW; MC09 JEF-TP 5/16(4) JAW PHALAROPE, Wilson's JEF 5/13(15) MC05: JEF-TP 5/15(11) SWALLOW, Bank JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) MC11 JHJW; JEF-TP 5/16(4) JAW; JEF-TP 5/18(4) JAW; JEF-TP **SWALLOW, Cliff** JEF 9 reps(106) 5/28(5) JAW SWALLOW, Cave JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) MC11; JEF-SRSP **GULL**, Laughing 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 5/20(2) JAW JEF 11 reps(168) **GULL**, Ring-billed JEF 3 reps(20) JEF 24 reps(356) SWALLOW, Barn **GULL**, Herring JEF 2 reps(6) CHICKADEE, Carolina HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 2 reps(40) TERN, Caspian JEF 4 reps(10) **TITMOUSE, Tufted** HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 3 reps(23) TERN. Royal JEF 3 reps(45) WREN, Carolina JEF 7 reps(22); ORA 1 rep(1) TERN, Sandwich JEF 1 rep(2) WREN, Marsh JEF-TP 5/6(2) JAW; JEF-PI 5/13(2) **TERN, Common** JEF 3 reps(10) MC09 TERN, Forster's JEF 4 reps(8) GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF-SW 5/13(3) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(1) TERN, Least JEF 5 reps(53) JAW: JEF-SW 5/14(2) KS TERN, Black JEF 4 reps(28) **BLUEBIRD**. Eastern HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 1 rep(3); ORA 1 SKIMMER, Black JEF 1 rep(1) rep(2) DOVE, Rock HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 12 reps(78) **VEERY** JEF-SW 5/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. JEF 5/7(1) JAW; JEF 5/13(2) MC78; SM JEF 5/27(3) JAW THRUSH, Grav-cheeked JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW: JEF-SW 5/3(1) **DOVE, White-winged** HAI 5/7(1) KS; JEF 5/27(4) SR SM; JEF-SW 5/13(2) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW **DOVE, Mourning** HAI 1 rep(8); JEF 24 reps(466) 5/14(2) KS DOVE, Inca HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 13 reps(35) THRUSH, Swainson's JEF-SW 5/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) CUCKOO, Yellow-billed SM: JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) MC11; JEF-SW 5/13(4) MC10; JEF 11 reps(21) OWL, Barn JEF-SRSP 5/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(3) JAW; JEF-SW JEF-SW 5/13(1) MC10 SCREECH-OWL, Eastern JEF 5/13(1) MC78 5/14(4) KS OWL, Barred JEF 5/13(2) MC03; JEF 5/13(1) MC05; THRUSH, Wood JEF 3 reps(5) JEF-TP 5/15(1) JHJW ROBIN, American JEF 8 reps(20) JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/6(10) **NIGHTHAWK, Common** JEF 15 reps(37) CATBIRD, Grav SWIFT, Chimney JAW; JEF 5/13(2) MC03; JEF-SW 5/13(4) MC10; JEF-SW HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 13 reps(454); ORA 2 reps(4) 5/14(4) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(5) KS; JEF-SW 5/20(2) JAW; HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. HAI 1 rep (1); JEF 11reps(42); ORA 3 JEF-SW 5/24(1) KS reps(6) MOCKINGBIRD, Northern HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 25 reps(582) **HUMMINGBIRD** species JEF-SW 5/13(3) MC10; JEF-TXPT THRASHER, Brown JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) 5/13(1) MC09; JEF-TX87 5/14(1) JAW SM KINGFISHER, Belted JEF-SW 5/13(1) MC10 STARLING, European HAI 1 rep(8); JEF 26 reps(411) WOODPECKER, Red-head. HAI 5/7(2) KS; JEF 5/13(8) MC03 WAXWING, Cedar JEF 5/13(2) MC78; JEF-SW 5/20(1) WOODPECKER, Red-bell. JEF 8 reps(44); ORA 1 rep(1) JAW: ORA 5/8(8) KS WOODPECKER, Downy HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(25) WARBLER, Golden-winged JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM **WOODPECKER, Pileated** JEF 1 rep(3) WARBLER, Brewster's JEF-SW 5/3(1) CLL FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided JEF-SW 5/13(1) MC10 WARBLER, Tennessee JEF-SW 5/3(6) JAW; JEF-SW 5/13(1) WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 12 reps(24) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(2) KS FLYCATCHER, Yell-bell JEF-SW 5/13(3) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(1) PARULA, Northern HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 5 reps(15) JAW; JEF-SW 5/20(2) JAW WARBLER, Yellow JEF-SW 5/3(27) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JEF-SRSP 5/13(2) MC11; JEF-SW FLYCATCHER, Traill's SM; JEF-SW 5/13(2) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/20(1) JAW 5/14(1) KS **FLYCATCHER**, Least JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF 5/13(1) WARBLER, Chestnut-sided JEF-SW 5/3(5) JAW: JEF-SW 5/3(1) MC78; JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) MC11; JEF-SW 5/13(2) MC10; SM; JEF-SW 5/13(2) MC10; JEF-SW 5/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW JEF-SW 5/14(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(2) KS; JEF-SW 5/20(1) 5/21(4) KS **JAW** WARBLER, Magnolia JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF 5/13(1) MC78; **EMPIDONAX** species JEF 6 reps(8) JEF-SW 5/13(5) MC10: JEF-SW 5/14(5) JAW: JEF-SW 5/14(8) JEF 5/7(1) JAW; JEF 5/21(1) JAW FLYCATCHER, Vermilion KS; JEF-SW 5/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/21(4) KS FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF 5/13(3) MC03; JEF-SRSP 5/14(1) WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF 5/13(1) MC03 **JAW** WARBLER, Blk-thr. Green JEF-SW 5/13(5) MC10 KINGBIRD, Western JEF 5/13(2) MC12; JEF-SRSP 5/13(2) WARBLER, Blackburnian JEF-SW 5/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/13(4) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(1) KS; JEF-SW MC11; JEF-TX87 5/13(1) MC11; JEF-TX87 5/14(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 5/20(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 5/21(2) KS 5/20(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/21(4) KS KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF 24 reps(352) WARBLER, Pine JEF 1 rep(12); ORA 1 rep(2) FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail JEF 16 reps(134) WARBLER, Bay-breasted JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 27 reps(212) SM; JEF-SW 5/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/13(7) MC10; JEF-SW HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 9 reps(19) VIREO, White-eved 5/14(8) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(4) KS; JEF-SW 5/20(2) JAW VIREO, Yellow-throated JEF 2 reps(2) JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 WARBLER, Blackpoll VIREO, Philadelphia JEF-SW 5/3(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) 5/21(1) KS MC11; JEF-SW 5/13(2) MC10 WARBLER, Cerulean JEF-SW 5/3(2) JAW VIREO, Red-eyed JEF 7 reps(80) WARBLER, Black-and-wh. JEF 5 reps(18) JAY, Blue JEF 20 reps(116) REDSTART, American JEF-SW 5/3(6) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) CROW, American HAI 1 rep(8); JEF 5 reps(34) SM; JEF 5/13(4) MC03; JEF-SW 5/13(11) MC10; JEF-SW CROW, Fish JEF 10 reps(37) JAW 5/14(13) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(8) KS; JEF-SW 5/20(1) JAW; CROW, species JEF 7 reps(36) JEF-SW 5/21(1) KS; JEF 5/27(1) SR MARTIN, Purple HAI 1 rep(8); JEF 21 reps(631); ORA 1 WARBLER, Prothonotary JEF 1 rep(1)

rep(9)

OVENBIRD JEF-SW 5/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(2) **CORMORANT, Neotropic** JEF 4 reps(27) JAW: JEF-SW 5/14(1) KS **ANHINGA** JEF 1 rep(1) WATERTHRUSH, Northern JEF-SW 5/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) **BITTERN, Least** JEF 6/1(1) BBS; JEF 6/1(1) BBS SM: JEF 5/13(1) MC03; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(1) **HERON**, Great Blue JEF 1 rep(4) KS; JEF-SW 5/21(1) KS; JEF-SW 5/24(1) KS EGRET. Great JEF 3 reps(19) WATERTHRUSH, Louis. JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) **EGRET. Snowy** JEF 4 reps(31); ORA 1 rep(4) SM **HERON, Little Blue** JEF 4 reps(12) YELLOWTHROAT, Com. JEF 10 reps(21) **HERON, Tricolored** JEF 4 reps(7) WARBLER, Hooded JEF 2 reps(4) **EGRET, Cattle** JEF 7 reps(151) WARBLER, Canada JEF 5/13(2) MC03; JEF-SW 5/13(2) **HERON, Green** JEF 4 reps(7) MC10 NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr JEF 6 reps(12); ORA 1 rep(2) **TANAGER. Summer** JEF 5 reps(14) STORK, Wood HAI 6/18(30) SM **TANAGER, Scarlet** JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/13(3) **VULTURE, Black** JEF 1 rep(1); NEW 1 rep(1) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW **VULTURE, Turkey** JEF 5 reps(19); NEW 1 rep(5) TANAGER, Western JEF-SW 5/3(1) RBA WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous JEF 1 rep(1) SPARROW, Savannah JEF 5/7(1) JAW **DUCK, Mottled** JEF 6/1(1) BBS; JEF 6/1(1) BBS; SPARROW, Seaside JEF 2 reps(47) JEF-SW 6/17(1) JAW SPARROW, White-throated JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM KITE, Swallow-tailed JEF 6/2(1) SR; JAS 6/2(1) NB **CARDINAL**, Northern JEF 24 reps(216); ORA 1 rep(2) KITE, Mississippi JEF-TP 6/10(1) SM GROSBEAK, Rose-breast. JEF-SW 5/3(6) JAW; JEF 5/13(2) MC78 HAWK, Red-shouldered ORA 1 rep(1) **GROSBEAK. Blue** JEF 5/13(2) MC03 HAWK, Broad-winged HAI 6/25(1) KS; JEF 6/13(1) JAW; **BUNTING, Indigo** JEF 9 reps(22) JEF-BMT 6/30(1) JAW **BUNTING, Painted** JEF 12 reps(14) HAWK, Swainson's JEF 6/18(1) HD; JEF 6/18(1) KS; JEF DICKCISSEL JEF 11 reps(104) 6/24(1) JAW **BLACKBIRD**, Red-winged JEF 27 reps(540) HAWK, Red-tailed HAI 6/25(2) KS; ORA 6/4(1) KS; ORA MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 13 reps(121) 6/25(1) KS **MEADOWLARK species** JEF 8 reps(55) **BOBWHITE**, Northern JEF 1 rep(2) **GRACKLE, Common** JEF 17 reps(314) **GALLINULE.** Purple ANG 6/30(2) NB **GRACKLE**, Boat-tailed JEF 10 reps(103) MOORHEN, Common JEF 2 reps(2) **GRACKLE**, Great-tailed JEF 24 reps(272) COOT, American JEF 1 rep(1) COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 16 reps(94) PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 2 reps(4) **ORIOLE, Orchard** JEF 15 reps(62) PLOVER, Wilson's JEF 1 rep(6) **ORIOLE, Baltimore** JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) **KILLDEER** JEF 3 reps(16) MC11; JEF-SW 5/13(1) MC10; JEF-SW 5/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW STILT, Black-necked JEF 3 reps(7) 5/14(2) KS WILLET JEF 2 reps(9) **FINCH. House** JEF-NEDR 5/6(1) JAW: JEF 5/13(7) JEF-SRSP 6/17(2) JAW; JEF 6/24(1) **TURNSTONE**, Ruddy MC03; JEF-NEDR 5/21(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 5/28(1) JAW **JAW** GOLDFINCH, American ORA 5/14(2) KS; ORA 5/16(2) KS SANDERLING JEF 1 rep(2) SPARROW, House JEF 16 reps(177) **GULL**, Laughing JEF 3 reps(105) TERN, Gull-billed JEF 2 reps(3) **Number of Species** 189 TERN, Caspian JEF 2 reps(3) **Number of Individuals** 20426 TERN, Royal JEF 2 reps(10) **County Abbreviations:** TERN, Sandwich JEF 1 rep(3) HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange **TERN, Common** JEF-SRSP 6/17(90) JAW; JEF-TXPT 6/24(2) JAW Location Codes: TERN, Forster's JEF 2 reps(11) MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island. **TERN, Least** JEF 3 reps(179) Port Arthur; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TP -TERN, Black JEF 2 reps(542) Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine SKIMMER, Black JEF 1 rep(4) Pass-Sea Rim; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point DOVE, Rock HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 3 reps(16) **Observer Abbreviations:** COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. JEF 6/1(2) BBS; JEF 6/1(4) BBS; JEF CLL - Carol Lynn Loker; JAW - John Whittle; JHJW - Joe Halbrook, 6/1(1) BBS John Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; MC01 Migration Count Area 1 (Nancy DOVE, White-winged JEF 6/1(2) HD and Don Fisher); MC02 Migration Count Area 2 (Joe Halbrook); MC03 **DOVE, Mourning** JEF 7 reps(88) Migration Count Area 3 (Rose Ann Jordan and friends); MC04 DOVE, Inca JEF 5 reps(13) Migration Count Area 4 (Nancy and Don Fisher); MC05 Migration CUCKOO, Yellow-billed JEF 4 reps(10); ORA 4 reps(8) Count Area 5 (Joe Halbrook); MC06 Migration Count Area 6 (John OWL, Barn JEF-SW 6/24(1) JAW Whittle), MC78 Migration Count Areas 7 & 8 (Ken Sztraky); MC8A -**NIGHTHAWK, Common** JEF 2 reps(7) Migration Count Area 8A (John Whittle); MC09 Migration Count Area 9 WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-JEF-TX87 6/4(2) KS -(John Whittle); MC10 Migration Count Area 10 (John Whittle); MC11 HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 6 reps(22); ORA 2 SWIFT, Chimney Migration Count Area 11 (John Whittle and Pat and Don Jeane): MC12 reps(8) Migration Count Area 12 (Matt Whitbeck); MW - Matt Whitbeck; RBA -HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. HAI 6/16(1) SM; JEF 6/21(1) RAJ; ORA Texas Rare Bird Alert; SM - Steve Mayes; SR - Sherrie Roden. 6/4(2) KS; ORA 6/11(2) KS; ORA 6/18(3) KS; ORA 6/25(3) KS WOODPECKER, Red-head. NEW 6/25(2) KS; ORA 6/25(1) KS WOODPECKER, Red-bell. HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 1 rep(7); NEW 1 **Bird Sightings - June 2000**

LOON, Common PELICAN, Brown

JAW

JEF-SRSP 6/17(1) JAW JEF-TX87 6/4(2) KS; JEF-SRSP 6/17(9) **WOODPECKER, Downy** rep(2) FLICKER, Northern FLYCATCHER, Acadian

rep(2); ORA 2 reps(4)

JEF 6/16(1) HD

HAI 1 rep(1)

HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 2 reps(3); NEW 1

FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF-BMT 6/19(2) RAJ KINGBIRD, Western JEF-TX87 6/17(1) JAW KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF 6 reps(30); NEW 1 rep(2)

FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail JEF 5 reps(12) SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 4 reps(19)

VIREO, White-eyed HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(6) JAY, Blue HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 6 reps(32) CROW, American HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 1 rep(4); NEW 1

rep(12)

CROW, species JEF 5 reps(10)

MARTIN, Purple HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 9 reps(345); ORA 2 reps(12)

SWALLOW, Cliff 6/24(10) JAW

SWALLOW, Cave JEF-SRSP 6/17(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP

JEF 4 reps(62)

6/24(1) JAW

SWALLOW, Barn CHICKADEE, Carolina reps(9)

HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 1 rep(6); ORA 3

JEF-SRSP 6/17(15) JAW; JEF-SRSP

TITMOUSE, Tufted

HAI 1 rep(12); ORA 3 reps(8)

NUTHATCH, Brown-headed HAI 6/25(1) KS

WREN, Carolina JEF 1 rep(5); ORA 1 rep(2) WREN, Marsh JEF 6/1(2) BBS; JEF 6/1(1) BBS

GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray HAI 6/25(12) KS

BLUEBIRD, Eastern JEF 1 rep(1); NEW 1 rep(1); ORA 1

rep(2)

THRUSH, Wood JEF-BMT 6/1(2) RAJ **ROBIN, American** JEF 5 reps(13) CATBIRD, Gray **JEF-BMT 6/1(1) RAJ**

MOCKINGBIRD, Northern JEF 6 reps(84); NEW 1 rep(4)

THRASHER. Brown JEF-BMT 6/1(2) RAJ STARLING, European JEF 6 reps(91) WARBLER, Pine HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 1 rep(2)

WARBLER, Swainson's HAI-VCSP 6/1(1) RBA YELLOWTHROAT, Com. JEF 3 reps(16)

WARBLER, Hooded JEF 1 rep(1) **TANAGER, Summer**

HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1

rep(1)

CARDINAL, Northern HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 7 reps(43)

BUNTING, Painted JEF-SW 6/17(12) JAW; JEF-SW 6/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 6/20(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 6/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW

6/24(1) JAW; NEW 6/25(5) KS; ORA 6/25(2) KS

DICKCISSEL JEF 1 rep(6) **BLACKBIRD**, Red-winged JEF 4 reps(134) **MEADOWLARK, Eastern** JEF 2 reps(32) MEADOWLARK species JEF 1 rep(1) **GRACKLE, Common** JEF 6 reps(39) **GRACKLE**, Boat-tailed JEF 3 reps(37) GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 5 reps(49) COWBIRD, Brown-headed **JEF 3 reps(25)** ORIOLE, Orchard JEF 5 reps(15) SPARROW, House JEF 6 reps(16)

Number of Species 102 Number of Individuals 2922

County Abbreviations: -

ANG - Angelina; HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; NEW - Newton; ORA -Orange;

Location Codes:

BMT - Beaumont; MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass - Sea Rim; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point; VCSP - Village Creek State Park.

Observer Abbreviations:

BBS - Breeding Bird Survey Route 311 (John Whittle); HD - Howard Davis; JAW - John Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; NB - Nancy Bird; RAJ -Rose Ann Jordan; RBA - Texas Rare Bird Alert; SM - Steve Mayes: SR - Sherrie Roden; WWL - John and Jana Whittle, Jeannie Lanclos.

Notes on Very Rare Birds

Horned Grebe - 15 May 2000 - Matt Whitbeck A very late Horned Grebe seen in McFaddin NWR.

Wood Stork - 18 June 2000 - Steve Mayes

Woods Storks arrived early everywhere in Texas this year. Thirty were seen over Highway 69 just north of Pine Island Bayou in Hardin County.

Swallow-tailed Kites

Within our area. Sherrie Roden reports one over Highway 62 in Orange County on 28 May and another over Groves in Jefferson County on 2 June. Swallow-tailed Kites are seen regularly i the Buna-Kirbyville area of Jasper County, and Nancy Bird reported on 02 June. Outside our area, we have a report from Merrie Cox of one in Chambers County on 17 June. Birds are also being seen in the Liberty area again this

Mississippi Kite - 6 June 2000 - Steve Mayes

A subadult bird was seen over Tyrrell Park in Beaumont.

Purple Gallinule - 30 June 2000 - Nancy Bird

Purple Gallinules are common in the coastal marshes; however, the sighting of an adult with a chick at Kurth Lake marks the first known sighting of the species in Angelina County, and also, obviously, the first breeding record for the county.

Western Tanager - 3 May 2000 - Texas RBA

A female Western Tanager was reported on the Texas Rare Bird Alert as having been seen in Sabine Woods.

Sabine Woods **Habitat Improvement**

When you visit Sabine Woods this fall, you will not fail to notice some of the progress that has been made this year. This year, we were fortunate enough to receive project funding through the Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission's Supplemental Environmental Program. In this program, penalties for violations may, at the option of the violator, be applied to an environmental project in the county in which the violation occurred. These projects are submitted through in our case Texas Audubon Society, which has entered into an agreement with TNRCC, and which in turn relies on the chapters to actually manage the projects. In this case, we have the City of China to thank for designated a significant penalty to the Sabine Woods habitat improvement project.

All the tallows that remained alive have been removed or treated! Many large areas of wild rose were bushhogged, and will not be allowed to become so thick and invasive in future. The areas round the newer oaks in the south western quadrant of the sanctuary have been cleared to reduced competition for water and nutrients. The old interior fence was removed. Other areas in the northern part of the sanctuary have been opened up. We are currently discussing with Dr. Brent Ortego of TOS how best to provide water for the birds.

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, TX 77627-1292. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

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Gift from:		
Check enclosed	Please bill me	
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Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

Below is a listing of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for nearby areas. Transcriptions of some current tapes are available on the World Wide Web at http://www.stat.wharton.upenn.edu/~siler/hoturls.html

Detailed information (maps and text) on birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast is also available on the Web at http://texasbirding.simplenet.com.

This includes all the Jefferson County hotspots published in early issues.

Golden Triangle	(409) 768-1340
Texas (Houston)	(713) 369-9673
Abilene	(915) 691-8981
Austin	(512) 926-8751
Ft. Worth (N. Cent)	(817) 329-1930
Lubbock	(806) 797-6690
N. E. Texas	(903) 839-4804
Rio Grande Valley	(210) 969-2731
San Antonio	(210) 308-6788
Waco	(254) 299-8170
Louisiana	(504) 768-9874

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