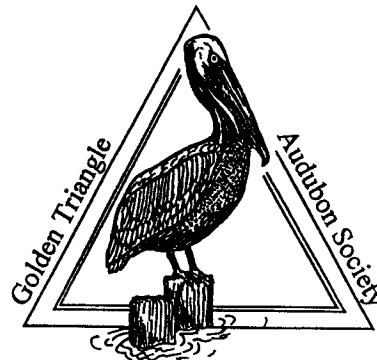


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 6 No. 10

October 2000

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 19, 2000
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**The Value of Agricultural Wetlands
as Waterbird Habitat**

**Dr. Jay Huner
Director, Crawfish Research Center
University of Louisiana at Lafayette**

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.

September Meeting Report

Dr. A. J. Sherman was the speaker at the membership meeting on Thursday, September 21, 2000. After a personal introduction from Mary Stafford, A. J. expressed a special thanks to his mother and stated that he has several loves in his life: God, his wife and children, dentistry and bird watching. He discussed the answers to three questions about the various aspects of flight: Why should I fly? What helps me to fly? And, do I need to fly?

Birds fly in order to find the foods they need, shelter, and to access secure places to nest. Flying gave birds the advantage of a wider range to travel to find the things they needed to maintain their life. Several aspects of a bird's physiology help it to fly: small mass, strong wings; skeletons are extremely light because most of their bones are hollow and flexible, massive respiratory system, strong heart, powerful digestive system, lay eggs, higher temperature, elevated blood pressure and blood sugar, concentrated nervous system, and well developed brain. There are some birds that do not fly because they have lost the need to fly; however, most birds fly in order to find the things they need to maintain their life. A. J. ended his presentation with a few minutes from a video tape titled "The Life of Birds" by David Attenbury.

Thank you for a very informative presentation and the wonderful personal stories. I hope to see many members and visitors at our next meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2000 when Dr. Jay Huner of the University of Louisiana, Lafayette will speak of birds and crawfish ponds.

Nancy Fisher

Our next Sabine Woods work day -- Saturday October 28 -- Please come and help.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 6, No.10 Oct 2000

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

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www.ih2000.net/gtas**

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3015 Nashville Ave.
Nederland, TX 77627-6749

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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

To reach 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 WMA. There should be signs to the Hawk Watch from the main intersection onwards. Official counters are on duty every day.

October 3, 10, 17 -- Beginning Birding Classes with Field Trip October 21.

Instructor: Robert Hurt. To be held at Lamar State College, Port Arthur. For details of the times and places, contact Mary Lyons (409) 984-6230 or mary.lyons@lamarpa.edu.

October 14 -- Project Prairie Birds workshop.

This citizen-science project focuses on wintering grassland birds. The workshop will be held on Saturday, Oct. 14th at the Armand Bayou Nature Center southeast of Houston in Clear Lake, Texas. The workshop runs from 9:30 a.m. to about 3:30 p.m. For directions to the Nature Center please visit their website <http://www.abnc.org/>.

Admission to this workshop is FREE and requires NO pre-registration. Bring a sack lunch. The workshop is spent half indoors and half outdoors (field practice). For more info, please contact Cecilia Riley at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Office at 979/480-0999, or Cliff Shackelford at Texas Parks and Wildlife at clifford.shackelford@tpwd.state.tx.us.

October 19 - Membership Meeting.

Dr. Jay Huner of the University of Southern Louisiana, Lafayette will speak of birds and crawfish ponds.

October 21 - Field Trip to Sabine Woods.

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

October 28 -- Sabine Woods Work Day.

Please come help us maintain the woods and continue our habitat improvement projects.

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.

Saturday Dec. 16 - Turkey Creek CBC.

Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on FM420 (off US 69 seven miles north of Kountze) at 6:30 a.m. For further information, call David Baker (409) 839-2689 ext. 235.

Saturday Dec. 30 - Beech Creek CBC.

Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 just north of Town Bluff at 6:30 a.m. For further information, call David Baker (409) 839-2689 ext. 235.

December 31 - Sea Rim State Park Christmas Count.

This is the count that we sponsor. Please plan on joining us for this count. Call John Whittle (409) 722-4193 for more details.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Sue Flanagan and Anne Lewing for the magnificent September refreshments. Andrea Billingsley, Glen Cook and Marcelean Howell have volunteered for October. In November, we ask everyone to bring something. For January 2001, Lynn Otto, Dean Hollingswood and Needa Reed have volunteered. In February Lou and Grady Skillern have signed up; we are now seeking volunteers for the March and April 2001.

Jefferson County North American Migration Count – 16 September 2000

The first fall cold fronts reached the coast early this year, and made for more pleasant birding than might otherwise be expected. A number of our regular participants were out of town, but all areas of the county were covered. The 157 species found was a little low, but definitely respectable.

The south impoundment at Pleasure Island proved to be a hot spot this year. The mudflat and shallow water conditions were near ideal for many shorebirds at a time when shorebird habitat was almost non-existent in the rest of the very dry county. Good numbers of White Pelicans, Avocets and even Northern Shovelers were there. High numbers of Willets, Black-bellied Plovers and Roseate Spoonbills were recorded. Marbled Godwits have not been seen very frequently in recent years in Jefferson County, but there were several there, along with a Wood Stork and at least two Baird's Sandpipers – new to the count – among the thousands of small sandpipers. Good numbers of Least and Black Terns were also there.

John Haynes found Cattail Marsh in Tyrell Park to contain very little "usable" habitat but was treated to a succession of Broad-wing Hawk flights totaling 1750 birds and kettles of Anhingas totaling 225! However, there were few ducks and this was the first year that we didn't find both Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks. We found neither! Neither did we find any Green-winged Teal

Rose Ann Jordan's army of helpers in Beaumont came up with most of the usual species. However, Bob Collier saw a good number of Upland Sandpipers on the soccer fields on Dishman Road. Attempts to relocate them on Sunday were unsuccessful although there were Buff-breasted Sandpipers instead. (There was at least one Upland there on Monday!).

The northwest sector of the county produced a Vermilion Flycatcher (and another one in a different location the following day, along with a Say's Phoebe).

Sabine Woods produced a decent number of warblers and other migrants, flycatchers especially, but not quite the 22 warbler species seen there the following day. Wilson's Warblers and Yellow-breasted Chats were the most visible species. Large numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were there (and elsewhere). For the first time on this count, we failed to find any thrushes, although there were Brown Thrashers there (and Swainson's Thrushes the following day). A very early Ruby-crowned Kinglet was seen.

The beach at Sea Rim, which has disappointed us in the fall in recent years, was well populated with essentially all the possible terns.

The following is a provisional list of the species and numbers seen: GREBE, Pied-billed (32); PELICAN, American White (200); PELICAN, Brown (7); CORMORANT, Neotropic (76); CORMORANT, Double-crested (3); ANHINGA (228); HERON, Great Blue (28); EGRET, Great (156); EGRET, Snowy (127); HERON, Little Blue (10); HERON, Tricolored (17); EGRET, Cattle (1875); HERON, Green (23); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (9); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (1); IBIS, White (144); IBIS, White-faced (92); IBIS, *Plegadis* (10); SPOONBILL, Roseate (216); STORK, Wood (1); VULTURE, Black (16); VULTURE, Turkey (49); DUCK, Wood (2); DUCK, Mottled (19); TEAL, Blue-winged (93); SHOVELER, Northern (178); DUCK species (18); OSPREY (3); KITE, White-tailed (1); KITE, Mississippi (4); HARRIER, Northern (1); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Cooper's (3); HAWK, Red-shouldered (10); HAWK, Broad-winged (1905); HAWK, Swainson's (2); HAWK, Red-tailed (1); KESTREL, American (16); MERLIN (1); RAIL, Clapper (2); MOORHEN, Common (21); COOT, American (3); PLOVER, Black-bellied (219); PLOVER, Snowy

(21); PLOVER, Semipalmated (9); PLOVER, Piping (9); KILLDEER (46); STILT, Black-necked (51); AVOCET, American (200); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (2); SANDPIPER, Solitary (1); WILLET (512); SANDPIPER, Spotted (2); SANDPIPER, Upland (30); CURLEW, Long-billed (1); GODWIT, Marbled (8); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (26); SANDERLING (63); SANDPIPER, Western (508); SANDPIPER, Least (75); SANDPIPER, Baird's (2); SANDPIPER, Pectoral (4); SANDPIPER, Peep species (2500); SANDPIPER, Stilt (3); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (35); DOWITCHER, Species (35); PHALAROPE, Wilson's (7); GULL, Laughing (810); GULL, Ring-billed (7); TERN, Gull-billed (2); TERN, Caspian (95); TERN, Royal (203); TERN, Sandwich (2); TERN, Common (1); TERN, Forster's (148); TERN, Least (30); TERN, Black (77); SKIMMER, Black (250); DOVE, Rock (71); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (8); DOVE, Mourning (262); DOVE, Inca (5); CUCKOO, Yellow-billed (1); OWL, Great Horned (1); OWL, Barred (1); NIGHTHAWK, Common (1); WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- (2); SWIFT, Chimney (166); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (114); KINGFISHER, Belted (2); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (7); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (3); WOODPECKER, Downy (24); WOODPECKER, Hairy (7); WOODPECKER, Pileated (7); WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (6); FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied (3); FLYCATCHER, "Traill's" (2); FLYCATCHER, Least (8); FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax* (4); PHOEBE, Eastern (6); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (1); FLYCATCHER, Great Crested (13); KINGBIRD, Western (3); KINGBIRD, Eastern (32); FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (30); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (92); VIREO, White-eyed (16); VIREO, Warbling (1); VIREO, Red-eyed (2); JAY, Blue (103); CROW, American (36); CROW, Fish (27); CROW, Species (11); MARTIN, Purple (1000); SWALLOW, Tree (56); SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged (15); SWALLOW, Bank (10); SWALLOW, Barn (178); CHICKADEE, Carolina (21); TITMOUSE, Tufted (1); WREN, Carolina (17); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (1); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (96); ROBIN, American (23); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (170); THRASHER, Brown (3); STARLING, European (296); WARBLER, Blue-winged (1); WARBLER, Nashville (16); PARULA, Northern (2); WARBLER, Yellow (28); WARBLER, Magnolia (3); WARBLER, Pine (4); WARBLER, Black-and-white (12); REDSTART, American (2); WARBLER, Prothonotary (2); OVENBIRD (4); WATERTHRUSH, Northern (20); WARBLER, Kentucky (1); WARBLER, Mourning (1); YELLOW-THROAT, Common (18); WARBLER, Hooded (2); WARBLER, Wilson's (15); WARBLER, Canada (8); CHAT, Yellow-breasted (14); TANAGER, Summer (7); SPARROW, Lark (5); SPARROW, Seaside (1); CARDINAL, Northern (119); GROSBEAK, Blue (2); BUNTING, Indigo (24); BUNTING, Painted (4); DICKCISSEL (1); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (187); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (8); GRACKLE, Common (99); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (62); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (288); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (31); ORIOLE, Orchard (3); ORIOLE, Baltimore (53); FINCH, House (11); SPARROW, House (162); TOTAL (15783); Number of species (157); Observers (17); Parties (12).

Thanks to the following for participating: Jack Baugh, Althea Bythewood, Bob Collier, Gerald Duhon, Keith Hansen, John Haynes, Winette and Brad Hogue, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Carol Lynn Loker, Steve Mayes, Leon Purkey, Ken and Eric Sztraky, and Joe Tibbs.
John A. Whittle

Golden Triangle Audubon Society Call for Nominations for 2000 Officers and Board

The term of President Ken Sztraky continues through the end of 2001. The terms of all other officers and board members (see list in panel on opposite page) expires at the end of this year. All incumbents have been re-nominated for an additional one-year term.

Additional nominations may be submitted to President Sztraky. Nominations must be made and seconded by members whose addresses are within the chapter's official territory and are members in good standing of National Audubon Society.

Elections will be conducted at the Annual Meeting on Nov. 17.

Bird Sightings - August 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 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: Passerine migration got off to an early start this year, with several "early" warblers in the middle of the month. Suitable shorebird habitat has been scarce this year, but good concentrations have been present in the south impoundment at Pleasure Island. A Purple Martin roost at the K-Mart in Groves has attracted large numbers of watchers. Although the numbers are greatly reduced, the roost was still active as we closed for press. Added excitement has been caused by at least one and probably two all-white martins. While not true albinos – the eyes are dark rather than pink – they attracted much attention.

GREBE, Pied-billed	ANG 8/12(4) BD; JEF-TP 8/13(13) JAW	PLOVER, Wilson's	JEF 2 reps(2)
PELICAN, American White JAW	JEF-PI 8/5(25) JAW; JEF-PI 8/13(95)	PLOVER, Semipalmated JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/13(1) JAW	JEF-PI 8/5(20) JAW; JEF-PI 8/13(6)
PELICAN, Brown	JEF-SRSP 8/13(3) JAW	PLOVER, Piping	JEF-SRSP 8/26(2) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF 3 reps(148)	KILLDEER	ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(28)
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	JEF-SRSP 8/13(1) JAW	STILT, Black-necked	JEF 3 reps(70)
ANHINGA	ANG 1 rep(35)	AVOCET, American JAW	JEF-PI 8/5(15) JAW; JEF-PI 8/13(517)
HERON, Great Blue	ANG 1 rep(15); JEF 2 reps(10)	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(11)
EGRET, Great	ANG 1 rep(200); JEF 9 reps(48)	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF 2 reps(48)
EGRET, Snowy	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(75)	WILLET	JEF 3 reps(244)
HERON, Little Blue	ANG 1 rep(29); JEF 2 reps(6)	SANDPIPER, Spotted JAW; JEF-PI 8/13(1) JAW	ANG 8/12(1) BD; JEF-SRSP 8/5(1)
HERON, Tricolored	ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(15)	WHIMBREL	JEF-PI 8/13(1) JAW
EGRET, Reddish	JEF 2 reps(2)	CURLEW, Long-billed	JEF-PI 8/13(1) JAW
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 6 reps(501)	GODWIT, Marbled	JEF-SRSP 8/26(1) JAW
HERON, Green	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(4)	TURNSTONE, Ruddy	JEF-SRSP 8/5(14) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/13(4) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/26(7) JAW
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	JEF 3 reps(3)	SANDERLING	JEF 3 reps(62)
IBIS, White	ANG 1 rep(25); JEF 3 reps(12)	SANDPIPER, Semipalmated	JEF 8/5(2) JAW
IBIS, White-faced	JEF 1 rep(3)	SANDPIPER, Western	JEF 2 reps(54)
IBIS, <i>Plegadis</i>	JEF 4 reps(31)	SANDPIPER, Peep	JEF 1 rep(2400)
SPOONBILL, Roseate JAW; JEF-PI 8/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/26(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 8/27(2) KS	JEF 8/5(15) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/5(7)	SANDPIPER, Least	JEF 3 reps(82)
STORK, Wood	HAI 8/6(3) KS; JEF 8/5(4) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(18) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(15) KS	SANDPIPER, Stilt	JEF-PI 8/13(930) JAW
VULTURE, Black reps(25)	ANG 1 rep(9); HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 3	DOWITCHER, Short-billed	JEF-PI 8/13(14) JAW
VULTURE, Turkey reps(15)	ANG 1 rep(4); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7	GULL, Laughing	JEF 4 reps(961)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Bik-bell.	JEF-TP 8/13(2) JAW	GULL, Ring-billed	JEF-PI 8/13(1) JAW
DUCK, Wood	ANG 8/12(50) BD	TERN, Gull-billed	JEF 2 reps(37)
GADWALL	JEF-PI 8/13(6) JAW	TERN, Caspian	JEF 3 reps(19)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF-PI 8/13(50) JAW	TERN, Royal	JEF 3 reps(100)
CANVASBACK	ANG 8/18(2) BW	TERN, Sandwich	JEF 3 reps(12)
DUCK, Ruddy JAW	JEF-PI 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-TP 8/13(1)	TERN, Common	JEF-PI 8/5(1) JAW; JEF 8/6(1) JAW; JEF-PI 8/13(1) JAW
OSPREY	JEF-TP 8/13(1) JAW	TERN, Forster's	JEF 3 reps(82)
KITE, Swallow-tailed	JAS 8/6(1) NB	TERN, Least	JEF 3 reps(300)
KITE, White-tailed	JEF 2 reps(2)	TERN, Black	JEF 3 reps(212)
KITE, Mississippi	ANG 8/12(15) BD	SKIMMER, Black	JEF 3 reps(22)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(3)	DOVE, Rock	ANG 1 rep(90); JEF 6 reps(28)
HAWK, Broad-winged	JEF 8/10(2) JAW; JEF 8/12(1) JAW	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	JEF 8/6(2) JAW; JEF 8/12(3) JAW; JEF 8/27(5) JAW
HAWK, Swainson's JEF 8/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1) KS	JEF 8/12(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) KS;	DOVE, White-winged	JEF-SW 8/27(3) KS
KESTREL, American	JEF 8/6(1) JAW	DOVE, Mourning reps(610)	ANG 1 rep(32); HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 13
BOBWHITE, Northern	JEF 1 rep(8)	DOVE, Inca	JEF 4 reps(5)
RAIL, Clapper	JEF 1 rep(2)	CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(10)
RAIL, King	JEF-TXPT 8/27(1) KS	OWL, Barn KS	JEF-SW 8/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1)
MOORHEN, Common	JEF 2 reps(5)	OWL, Great Horned KS	JEF-SW 8/20(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/27(1)
COOT, American	JEF 1 rep(2)	NIGHTHAWK, Common	JEF 6 reps(14)
PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 2 reps(11)	WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- JAW	JEF-SW 8/20(1) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(2)
PLOVER, Snowy 8/26(4) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/13(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP		

SWIFT, Chimney ANG 1 rep(1)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 15 reps(37); ORA 1 rep(3)
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous JEF-SW 8/13(1) KS
KINGFISHER, Belted ANG 8/12(3) BD; JEF-TX87 8/26(1) JAW
WOODPECKER, Red-head. ANG 8/12(1) BD
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 1 rep(1)
WOODPECKER, Downy ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 6 reps(11)
WOODPECKER, Pileated ANG 1 rep(5); HAI 1 rep(1)
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(1) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(4) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1) KS
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern ANG 1 rep(8); JEF 2 reps(2)
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell. JEF-SW 8/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/26(2) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Acadian ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)
FLYCATCHER, Traill's JEF-SW 8/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/26(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Least JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(1) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1) KS
EMPIDONAX species JEF 3 reps(14)
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested ANG 8/12(7) BD; JEF-SW 8/13(4) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(2) JAW
KINGBIRD, Western JEF-TX87 8/5(2) JAW
KINGBIRD, Eastern ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(65)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail. ANG 1 rep(4); JEF 2 reps(8)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(57)
VIREO, White-eyed ANG 1 rep(10)
VIREO, Yellow-throated ANG 1 rep(3)
VIREO, Red-eyed ANG 1 rep(6); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(5)
JAY, Blue ANG 1 rep(9); HAI 2 reps(12); JEF 5 reps(15)
CROW, American ANG 1 rep(10); HAI 1 rep(7)
CROW, Fish JEF-TX87 8/5(2) JAW; JEF-TP 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/13(1) KS; JEF-TX87 8/20(1) KS; ORA 8/20(4) KS
CROW, species JEF 3 reps(7)
MARTIN, Purple JEF 8 reps(11379)
SWALLOW, Tree JEF-SW 8/20(12) KS; JEF 8/27(2) JAW
SWALLOW, N Rough-wing. JEF-SW 8/13(5) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/13(1) JAW
SWALLOW, Cliff JEF-TX87 8/5(3) JAW
SWALLOW, Barn ANG 1 rep(5); JEF 7 reps(60)
SWALLOW species JEF 1 rep(1)
CHICKADEE, Carolina ANG 1 rep(9); HAI 3 reps(28)
TITMOUSE, Tufted ANG 1 rep(4); HAI 1 rep(6)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed ANG 8/12(2) BD
WREN, Carolina ANG 1 rep(13); ORA 1 rep(4)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray ANG 1 rep(25); HAI 2 reps(33); JEF 6 reps(32)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern ANG 1 rep(4); JEF 1 rep(3); ORA 1 rep(1)
ROBIN, American JEF-NEDR 8/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/12(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/13(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/24(1) JAW
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern ANG 1 rep(9); JEF 10 reps(106)
STARLING, European ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(239)
WARBLER, Blue-winged JEF-SW 8/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(3) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(3) KS
PARULA, Northern ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Yellow ANG 8/12(1) BD; JEF-SW 8/13(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(2) KS
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green JEF-SW 8/26(1) JAW

WARBLER, Pine ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 2 reps(16)
WARBLER, Black-and-white JEF 3 reps(8)
REDSTART, American JEF-SW 8/20(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(1) JAW
WARBLER, Prothonotary ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(3)
WARBLER, Worm-eating JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) KS
OVENBIRD JEF-SW 8/20(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/27(1) KS
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana ANG 8/12(2) BD
WARBLER, Kentucky ANG 8/12(2) BD; JEF-SW 8/20(1) KS
YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 2 reps(2)
WARBLER, Hooded ANG 1 rep(1); HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 5 reps(19)
WARBLER, Canada JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(3) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(4) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(2) JAW
CHAT, Yellow-breasted JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(2) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(1) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(2) JAW
TANAGER, Summer ANG 1 rep(3); HAI 1 rep(1)
TANAGER, Scarlet JEF-SW 8/26(3) JAW
SPARROW, Seaside JEF 2 reps(4)
SPARROW, White-throated ANG 8/21(1) JWI
CARDINAL, Northern ANG 1 rep(18); HAI 3 reps(14); JEF 7 reps(24)
GROSBEAK, Blue ANG 8/12(2) BD
BUNTING, Indigo ANG 8/12(10) BD; JEF-SW 8/27(3) KS
BUNTING, Painted JEF-SW 8/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(8) KS; JEF-SW 8/20(8) KS; JEF-SW 8/26(1) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(28)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 2 reps(3)
MEADOWLARK species JEF 3 reps(4)
GRACKLE, Common JEF 6 reps(55)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 3 reps(32)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 6 reps(52)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 2 reps(8)
ORIOLE, Orchard JEF 5 reps(38)
FINCH, House JEF-NEDR 8/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/12(1) JAW
SPARROW, House ANG 1 rep(5); JEF 7 reps(67)
Number of Species 155
Number of Individuals 21591

County Abbreviations:

ANG - Angelina; HAI - Hardin; JAS - Jasper; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

Location Codes:

MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SNDY - Nature Conservancy Sandyland Sanctuary; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point.

Observer Abbreviations:

BD - Nancy Bird and Louis Debetaz; BW - Nancy Bird and Jack Windsor; JAW - John Whittle; JWI - Jack Windsor; KS - Ken Sztraky; NB - Nancy Bird.

Alaska Trip

David Bradford has decided to return to Alaska one more time with a revised and expanded itinerary for the year 2001. This 21 day trip (May 31 to June 20) includes visits to Anchorage, Barrow, Denali NP, Homer, Nome, Seward, and St. Paul in the Pribilof Islands. On a birding trip of this length, in such a splendid land, sightseeing is a must so we will hike to a glacier, look for whales, shop in Homer, view Mt. Redoubt, and visit a cultural center in Barrow. If you are interested in going or would like more information please contact David at 281-855-2615 or (brdfrd@tenet.edu). Past bird lists are available.

National Audubon Society Board Meeting, Casper, WY -- September 14-17

Editor's Note: We do not normally report on proceedings at the NAS Board. However, at its recent meeting, the NAS Board approved changes in the financial relationships between NAS and chapters. These changes have caused great concern in many chapters. The following report was posted to an Audubon List Serve by Marsha Cannon, a former chapter President. The report has been slightly condensed, and some items of explanation have been added.

Unfortunately, NAS President John Flicker was unable to attend the meeting because he had recently had single bypass surgery. We received several reports that he is doing well but will be recovering for the next 3-4 weeks.

The following report is organized by topic. It's long, but I want to share all that I learned. The opinions and interpretations of what went on at the meeting are my own.

About 75 people attended. Board members plus a few spouses; 15-20 Chapter guests (most from Wyoming, 2 from Los Angeles, 2 from Arizona; 1 from Wisconsin); and 25 NAS staff, mostly from New York but also a few State Office directors. Board and Chapter members pay their own expenses, although meals and bus transportation were provided. Everyone was very cordial and open about information. We went on a field trips by bus to Pathfinder National Wildlife Refuge and to Soda Lake to see an abandoned oil refinery settling pond that has been turned into a wildlife refuge; and a tasty barbecue dinner hosted by Wyoming Audubon at their Garden Creek Center.

Letters to the Board

I did not see Board members reading any of the letters on the Dues Share issue that were so carefully crafted and sent to them. I'm sorry but I believed they had been delivered. But there was no argument when Ruth Russell (co-chair of the Membership Strategy Task Force) proposed postponing dues share implementation until July 31. Chuck Bragg and Helen Engle did an outstanding job presenting the Chapter viewpoint.

Dues Share

[Currently, Chapters receive \$15 from NAS for each new member they recruit. They also receive \$5.50 annually for every other Audubon member in their territory, regardless of who initially recruited the member. The proposal approved by the NAS Board will result in Chapters keeping the full first year dues for any member that they recruit. NAS will determine a net dues revenue per member taking into account all NAS recruiting costs and all Magazine production costs, and revenue from advertising, dues income and list rental. Chapters will receive the net dues revenue in the second and subsequent years for members they recruit. For members recruited in other ways, the Chapters will receive one half of the net dues per member figure for each year after the first. There are some transitional arrangements to prevent precipitous drops in income to any chapter, but the expectation is that Chapters will eventually be receiving about

half of what they currently receive from NAS. NAS expects to adopt new Chapter requirements rules which will relieve the chapters from the current obligation to send all Newsletters to all members. A vigorous debate has taken place on the NAS Chapter List Serve, and several letters signed by multiple chapters were sent to the board, mostly urging postponement of action on the proposals to allow for fuller debate and further refinement. The plan that was enacted was modified during the debate process. Ed.]

The dues share issue is troubling for two reasons. First, it represents an obvious and immediate crisis for chapters, even though it is "just" a 3-year pilot program. Second, NAS has handled it poorly.

As I sat through the NAS Board meeting, my biggest question was, "what is driving this change?" Of course, the answer is money.

The bottom line is that 450,000 subscribers/ members are needed to maintain "Audubon" magazine advertising rates. The magazine itself generates approximately \$900,000 in net revenue. But for NAS to "acquire" a magazine subscriber through direct mail (junk mail to some) costs a staggering \$28.60. Simple multiplication shows that NAS is spending \$5.7 MILLION to keep the magazine afloat. For many reasons, past NAS direct mail marketing has not been effective in recruiting and retaining long-term members. Our precious dues money is going to the post office and the printer rather than to Chapters.

The situation has come to a head. And who would urge NAS to continue wasting paper and postage on ineffective magazine subscriber solicitations?

Board members constantly refer to the \$5.50 dues share as an expense that no other national organization has to pay to its local chapters. Most NAS Board members saw \$1.8 million going out the door for something they don't understand, so they voted to cut the cost in half. While Board members that I spoke with personally told me they valued the Chapters and understood my concern about losing 25 percent of our Chapter's annual operating budget, the \$1.8 million/\$5.50 per member issue obviously outweighed my pleas.

As Chapter leaders, we know that Chapter volunteers -- officers and members -- do Audubon's grassroots work: . lead the field trips, organize monthly educational presentations, give the talks in classrooms, write letters, speak at public hearings, restore wildlife habitat, etc. We count on NAS to share member dues to support our volunteer efforts. Yet, the NAS Board spent time during their meeting actually worrying about defining grassroots!! Over the next few months or years Chapters must effectively communicate our value to NAS.

The way that NAS has gone about announcing and implementing the dues share changes has angered Chapter leaders. I feel that NAS has taken a top-down, authoritarian, big-business approach. Those of us used to operating by consensus (where we eventually get to a decision that everyone can live with) feel betrayed. Chapters have no input into the membership (marketing) budget, yet our net dues share will be based on the amount remaining after all marketing expenses have been paid. The dues share issue was

handled in a way exactly opposite to how the Audubon Strategic Plan was developed. Why the Board felt compelled to dictate this drastic change and impose its will on Chapters is beyond comprehension. The process has caused great harm to the organization. Can we get beyond this?

I am convinced that NAS Board members value the organization (they're volunteers, too!). Fortunately, or unfortunately, Audubon is a multi-million dollar nonprofit organization (\$57.6 million budget for FY00) with a well-heeled board of very intelligent but decidedly business-oriented directors. Audubon relies on its Board to provide essential links to major donors. That's not unusual.

But Audubon is also a hybrid organization that relies on volunteers to run its Chapters. When new ideas need to be implemented, support must be built from the bottom up. How can that be accomplished? I feel that fostering communication to build personal relationships between NAS and Chapter leaders will go a long way to restoring trust and cooperation. It will take time.

Marketing

There has been an almost complete turnover of staff in the NAS Marketing Department (Iris Blumenthal is still there.) I meet Alan Bayersdorfer, the new V.P. of Marketing. He comes with experience at Rodale Press, and after just 6 weeks on the job is already making progress with the \$30 Fall Special. Kristen Totaro, Partnership Marketing Director, has communicated her eagerness to work with Chapters. The few Chapters that are paying attention have gotten the message: we must work hard for our dues share. On the other hand, Chapters now have a big opportunity to get involved, to communicate with NAS, and strengthen Audubon.

Here's what we face. NAS must "acquire" 200,000 new members/subscribers each year just to keep subscriber levels at the 450,000 level needed to sustain advertising rates. Last year, 100,000 came via direct mail; it is the core tool for membership recruitment. Other sources are 50,000 via third party agents (like Publisher's Clearinghouse); 6,500 via Chapters; and the rest from gifts, ads, package inserts, etc

The biggest challenge is renewals. First year retention is on par with the 40 industry average for members acquired via direct mail. After that, when NAS sends renewal notices, just 2.5 percent rejoin. However, I learned about an Alaska chapter that sent their own notices on Chapter letterhead from a local post office -- 15 percent rejoined. Yes, this is more work for chapters, but NAS has pledged their support and we must hold them to it!

National's short-term goal is to double Chapter-generated memberships -- they're the best. In the long run, NAS is undertaking a three-part effort to revitalize Audubon: (1) mission-based (rather than magazine-based) direct mail marketing to improve response rates, lower costs and build member commitment; (2) revamp the magazine over the next two years to better implement the Audubon mission and include Chapter activities; and (3) re-tailor the Chapter certification requirements to allow flexibility for the wide array of Chapter needs.

Throughout the meeting I heard many references to Audubon's goal of recruiting families and reaching one out of every four schoolchildren.

States and Centers

Audubon offices have been established in 24 states. A map with state-office states shown in green was handed out -- referred to as the "Greening of America. In conversations with local Chapter leaders, I learned about the potential for friction between Chapter and the State Office. When paid staff roll into town and start making things happen, volunteer Chapter leaders have a hard time keeping up

There was a discussion about the "Vision for Chapters," and "How to Define Grassroots." A draft "Resolution in Support of Chapters" was distributed and Dave Pardoe (Co-chair Membership Strategy Task Force) described the diversity of chapters. Amy Skillbred (regional rep from Alaska) addressed the need to define "Grassroots," asking where Chapters fit into the NAS vision and recommending that we need to go back to the Strategic Plan to ensure that Chapters fit in well.

Other NAS Board member comments:

- Chapters are "the wings that lift Audubon to a culture of conservation." The Strategic Plan says that field offices' major role is to help chapters build skills.
- It's not what we say, but what we do.
- Chapters add immense value/intellectual capital to Audubon but feel devalued.
- We do not have a philosophy gap, we have an information gap and do not know what each other is doing.
- We need to define how a grassroots organization works.
- Grassroots represent the human capital of the organization.
- Centers vs. Chapters is a stumbling block.
- 25 percent of our members are not in chapters.
- Where we invest our money changes our relationship.

Other Issues

Chairman of the Board Donal C. O'Brien, Jr. briefly described several big issues that NAS will be pursuing:

- Greening of America (establishing state offices)
- \$100 million capital campaign to support current campaigns
- Membership growth
- Essential Elements of a Chapter (certification)
- Logo/branding (they're keeping the egret which has been just slightly revamped and it looks nice with green and gray/brown type)
- Audubon Magazine revamp

The NAS "Resolution in Support of Chapters" was unanimously approved.

A motion urging President Clinton to name the Alaska Arctic National Wildlife Refuge a National Monument was unanimously approved.

I am glad to have had the opportunity to attend the NAS Board meeting and hope that these notes are of value to Chapters in Wisconsin and elsewhere.

*Marsha Cannon, Past President/Board Member
Madison Audubon Society, Inc., Madison, WI
cannon@mailbag.com September 22, 2000*

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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To subscribe to the Brown Pelican, please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year. Members with addresses within our official territory are asked to contribute \$15 also if they are able.

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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
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