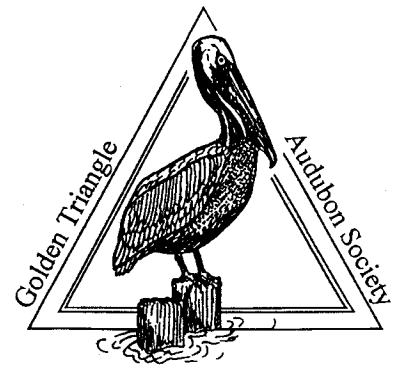


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 7 No. 1

January 2001

## Membership Meeting

Thursday, January 18, 2000

6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

## The Birds of Belize

David Sarkozi

Ornithology Group, Houston Outdoor Nature Club

Davis Sarkozi is currently chair of the Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club, and is active in the Friends of Anahuac Refuge. David works as a computer support technician at the University of Houston and maintains several birding related web sites, including his own [www.texasbirding.net](http://www.texasbirding.net).

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.

## Conservation -- What can be done "in my backyard"?

Well, not exactly in the backyard, but most of us have some ability to influence the practices of the private landowners who make decisions about their stewardship of their land. The not so old saying "think globally, act locally" is certainly valid. Most of the following suggestions are taken from the Texas Parks and Wildlife booklet on "Rare and Declining Birds of Texas."

- Avoid fragmentation of existing habitat. Retain large blocks of native habitat instead of cutting it up with road, fences, pipelines, or subdivisions.
- Restore natural wetlands. Allow natural areas that once experienced seasonal flooding to retain water. Bottomland hardwood forests in the eastern third of Texas need occasional understory flooding to maintain forest health. Traditional "stock ponds" and "stock tanks" are not particularly beneficial to the diversity of wildlife.
- Limit or stagger mowing/haying efforts to allow wintering grassland birds to depart (usually early March) and to allow breeding birds to complete nesting (April through July in normal years).
- Conserve and restore native plant communities/habitats; plant native vegetation only, especially grasses.
- Avoid clearcutting large blocks of forests; try selective harvesting to leave some attributes of natural forests with midstory and understory.

(continued on page 2)

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 7, No.1 Jan. 2001

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

**RARE BIRD ALERT AND  
SOCIETY INFORMATION  
TELEPHONE NUMBER  
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[http://goldtriaudubon.  
tripod.com](http://goldtriaudubon.tripod.com) (NEW!)**

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3015 Nashville Ave.

Nederland, TX 77627-6749

### *The Brown Pelican* is

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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.

**Thursday Jan. 18, 2001 - Membership Meeting.** David Sarkozi, President of the Ornithology Group of the Outdoor Nature Club of Houston will give a presentation on "The Birds of Belize."

#### **Saturday Jan. 20 - Field Trip**

Destination(s) to be arranged. Most likely targeted for waterfowl. (At the time of writing, Cattail Marsh was proving to be excellent for both sparrows and waterfowl. Unfortunately, a minimum of about two miles walking is necessary to explore the best sparrow habitat, and five or seven miles total to visit the areas currently favored by the ducks.)

**Thursday Feb. 15 - Membership Meeting.** Speaker not yet confirmed.

#### **Saturday Feb. 17 - Field Trip.**

Tentatively a trip to west Harris County to look for raptors and wintering sparrows. This area regularly produced eagles and hawks such as Ferruginous and White-tailed.

#### **Thursday Mar. 15 - Membership Meeting.**

Ro Wauer will speak on the Birds of Big Bend. Ro Wauer was Superintendent of Big Bend NP for many years so this promises to be a very interesting program

#### **Saturday Mar. 17 - Field Trip.**

Our annual pilgrimage to Bolivar Flats to look at shorebirds. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the beach, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). At that intersection, turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettilon Road. At the beach, if sand conditions permit, turn right (west) following previously successful vehicle tracks, about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Andrea Billingsley, Glen Cook and Marcelean Howell for the refreshments in October 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.

## Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by AU 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.

## Conservation "in my backyard"

*continued from page 1*

- Do not remove tree falls and rotting logs.
- Leave thickets/understory and grassy areas for cover whenever possible.
- Practice rotational grazing; limit populations/impacts of browsing animals (livestock, deer, etc.) especially in riparian and other sensitive areas.
- Mow/plow a pasture/field starting in the middle, then proceed towards the outside so skulking birds won't concentrate in the center and get run over.
- Apply prescribed fires where appropriate -- grasslands, shrublands, savannahs.
- Control feral hogs and feral and free roaming domestic cats.
- Encourage cavity-nesting birds to nest by providing nest boxes, leaving dead trees (snags) standing, etc.

## The Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count

The weather was cold, yet 35 participants in the count on December 31 found a record 160 species, seven species more than the previous best. We dodged a weather bullet, however, as the area came close to having snow in the evening. The number of individual birds counted (15,427) was the lowest since the count was restarted in the current circle in 1995. While the number is important -- the Christmas Bird Count reports represent the largest collection of such data and the longest running set of such data -- year to year variations are not as important as longer term trends. In our count circle as in many other coastal circles, the numbers of waterfowl, gulls and shorebirds are subject to wide variations, and this year, the waterfowl and gulls were absent.

Special thanks are due to the McFaddin/Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge staff and particularly to Patrick Walther for assistance in the count. With Patrick's assistance, we were able to cover Texas Point NWR thoroughly -- the beach by four-wheeler and the interior by airboat. In addition, the Salt Bayou and Wild Cow Bayou areas of McFaddin NWR and Shell Lake, Johnson Lake and Mud Lake were all surveyed by airboat. The cooperation of Sea Rim State Park is also appreciated.

Waterfowl numbers were generally down. The coastal marshes have experienced high salinities due to the lack of fresh water over most of the last 18 months or so, while the water in marshes further inland was only recently replenished, and the normal flora and fauna have not yet reestablished. One hit and miss situation involves Snow Geese. There are large numbers wintering as usual -- they just chose not to fly over the count circle on the day in question. Although several days of strong north winds had blown the water of the Gulf away from shore exposing lots of beach, the gulls and terns were also somewhere else!

The Most unusual finds were a Green-tailed Towhee in Sabine Woods and an Ash-throated Flycatcher. Whether this was the same Green-tailed Towhee as was seen on the October Golden Triangle Audubon October field trip is not known. Certainly, if it had been in Sabine Woods in between, it remained well hidden. A Grasshopper Sparrow was more expected, but a good find in Sabine Woods nevertheless. A Fox Sparrow, not the first seen near the coast this winter, was perhaps indicative of a southward push resulting from the effects of the repeated strong cold fronts. Dark-eyed Juncos were reported by two groups. The hummingbird feeder in Sabine Woods was being used by a Rufous Hummingbird.

Of the waterfowl, Hooded Mergansers were everywhere, with more than twice the previous high being recorded. Ruddy Ducks were quite numerous. Otherwise, only Northern Shovelers were recorded in normal numbers; numbers of all other species were low. Herons were, interestingly enough, present in above average numbers.

The shorebirds were interesting. Along the beach at Texas Point NWR a surprise find was eleven (yes, eleven) Whimbrels. Long-billed Curlews have been more obvious (and increasing) in the area, yet to find them closely associating with, but actually outnumbered by, Whimbrels

along the beach was not expected. Marbled Godwits have been very rare in Jefferson County, although common 20 or so miles further west. The south impoundment at Pleasure Island held a flock of about 30-40 during the late fall. Apparently, they have mostly moved into the mudflats in the interior of Texas Point NWR. Similarly, Stilt Sandpipers, present on Pleasure Island in large numbers at least until early December, were found in small numbers in the same mudflats. Three American Oystercatchers were a surprise last year. One this year in basically the same place -- the Louisiana side of the Sabine-Neches Waterway opposite the Sabine Pass Battleground -- suggests we may have a small number of resident birds. Semi-palmated Plovers were seemingly more numerous, and Snowy and Piping Plovers were found. There have been large numbers of Snowy Plovers on the beach near the Sea Rim Headquarters this fall.

Other generalizations are difficult. Hawk numbers were normal. Four species of owl -- repeating last year's surprisingly good showing -- possibly represents all the resident species. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were very scarce, but Wrens were about normal, although no Carolina Wrens were found. The usual warblers were present in numbers which were near normal. Sparrow numbers were generally above average.

National Audubon Society has not yet decided whether to continue with the publication of the printed reports of all Christmas Counts. Reports are, however, available on the internet at <http://birdsource.org> as soon as they are entered by compilers. The results of all Christmas Counts ever conducted -- since 1900 -- are available at that site, which also provides a number of geographic based query options. Database files for counts up to about 1998 are available for downloading by ftp from John Shipman's (New Mexico Tech) site at <http://www.nmt.edu/~shipman/z/cbc/homepage.html>. By the standards of only a few years ago, the files are large -- they total about 25 MB in compressed form -- but well within the capacity of modern hard drives even when uncompressed, which will be over 100 MB.

We thank all those who participated. We look forward to the next count, tentatively set for Sunday December 30. The results were as follows:

Common Loon (1); Pied-billed Grebe (64); Eared Grebe (10); American White Pelican (633); Brown Pelican (29); Neotropic Cormorant (949); Double-crested Cormorant (315); Anhinga (8); American Bittern (3); Great Blue Heron (129); Great Egret (123); Snowy Egret (97); Little Blue Heron (50); Tricolored Heron (51); Reddish Egret (1); Cattle Egret (2); Green Heron (2); Black-crowned Night-Heron (121); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (9); White Ibis (297); White-faced Ibis (161); *Plegadis* species Ibis (40); Roseate Spoonbill (145); Black Vulture (25); Turkey Vulture (39); Greater White-fronted Goose (156); Snow Goose (474); Canada Goose (3); Wood Duck (2); Gadwall (168); American Wigeon (4); Mallard (13); Mottled Duck (58); Blue-winged Teal (17); Northern Shoveler (412); Northern Pintail (67); Green-winged Teal (872); Canvasback

## USGS Issues Alert for Deadly Disease in Birds

(554); Redhead (3); Ring-necked Duck (2); Greater Scaup (3); Lesser Scaup (510); Bufflehead (70); Hooded Merganser (46); Red-breasted Merganser (3); Duck species (20); Ruddy Duck (1303); Osprey (5); White-tailed Kite (12); Northern Harrier (50); Sharp-shinned Hawk (2); Cooper's Hawk (4); Red-shouldered Hawk (7); Red-tailed Hawk (40); American Kestrel (29); Merlin (2); Peregrine Falcon (2); Clapper Rail (9); King Rail (5); Virginia Rail (2); Common Moorhen (21); American Coot (106); Black-bellied Plover (69); Snowy Plover (9); Semipalmated Plover (37); Piping Plover (3); Killdeer (113); American Oystercatcher (1); Black-necked Stilt (64); American Avocet (571); Greater Yellowlegs (19); Lesser Yellowlegs (23); Willet (71); Spotted Sandpiper (7); Whimbrel (11); Long-billed Curlew (77); Marbled Godwit (35); Ruddy Turnstone (32); Red Knot (1); Sanderling (177); Western Sandpiper (107); Least Sandpiper (121); Dunlin (173); Stilt Sandpiper (5); Short-billed Dowitcher (68); Long-billed Dowitcher (306); Dowitcher species (24); Common Snipe (3); Laughing Gull (390); Bonaparte's Gull (11); Ring-billed Gull (493); Herring Gull (36); Caspian Tern (14); Royal Tern (18); Forster's Tern (180); Black Skimmer (50); Rock Dove (13); Eurasian Collared-Dove (10); White-winged Dove (6); Mourning Dove (217); Inca Dove (11); Barn Owl (2); Great Horned Owl (2); Barred Owl (1); Short-eared Owl (1); Rufous Hummingbird (1); Belted Kingfisher (16); Red-bellied Woodpecker (5); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (7); Downy Woodpecker (23); Northern Flicker (10); Eastern Phoebe (68); Ash-throated Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (40); White-eyed Vireo (1); Blue-headed Vireo (3); Blue Jay (51); Tree Swallow (22); Carolina Chickadee (8); Brown Creeper (4); House Wren (3); Sedge Wren (32); Marsh Wren (8); Golden-crowned Kinglet (6); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (50); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3); Eastern Bluebird (9); Hermit Thrush (19); American Robin (169); Gray Catbird (8); Northern Mockingbird (52); Brown Thrasher (44); European Starling (48); American Pipit (96); Cedar Waxwing (20); Orange-crowned Warbler (49); Yellow-rumped Warbler (231); Pine Warbler (27); Palm Warbler (3); Common Yellowthroat (33); Green-tailed Towhee (1); Eastern Towhee (1); Savannah Sparrow (255); Grasshopper Sparrow (1); LeConte's Sparrow (3); Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow (5); Seaside Sparrow (16); Fox Sparrow (1); Song Sparrow (48); Lincoln's Sparrow (5); Swamp Sparrow (174); White-throated Sparrow (87); White-crowned Sparrow (11); Dark-eyed Junco (3); Northern Cardinal (69); Red-winged Blackbird (1192); Eastern Meadowlark (33); Meadowlark species (2); Common Grackle (16); Boat-tailed Grackle (117); Great-tailed Grackle (70); Brown-headed Cowbird (45); Blackbird species (75); American Goldfinch (60); House Sparrow (25); Number of species (160); total individuals (15,427).

Participants: Jack Baugh, Joy and Will Crenshaw, Howard Davis, Gerald Duhon, Don and Nancy Fisher, Janet and Perry Fleckman, Bill Graber, Joe Halbrook, Keith Hansen, Margo Holst, Robert Hurt, Don and Pat Jeane, Harrison and Rose Ann Jordan, Jim Olive, Gary Kelley, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Steve Mayes, Royce Pendergast, Annette Riddle, Sherrie Roden, Dottie and Gene Schulz, Lu Skillern, Ken Sztraky, Joe Tibbs, Patrick Walther, Tex Wells, Jana and John Whittle

A deadly bird disease, avian vacuolar myelinopathy (AVM), is affecting mallard ducks and coots on Woodlake in North Carolina; coots on Lake Juliette in central Georgia; and coots, bald eagles and -- for the first time -- a Canada goose on Strom Thurmond Lake on the border of South Carolina and Georgia. The disease has not previously been confirmed in Canada geese. Pathologists at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) in Madison, Wisconsin and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) at the University of Georgia made the diagnoses.

While there is no evidence that AVM can affect humans, the risk to humans is unknown. People should avoid handling wildlife that have died from unknown causes, or do so with caution using waterproof gloves or an inverted plastic bag. Hunters should avoid shooting wildlife exhibiting unusual behavior, use waterproof gloves when dressing out game, and thoroughly cook meat before eating.

Vacuolar myelinopathy is a nervous system lesion. In affected birds it appears as open spaces in the white matter of the brain. Scientists have determined the spaces are caused by separation of the myelin layers that surround and protect the nerves.

Affected birds may fly erratically or not be able to fly at all. They may crash land, swim tipped to one side with one or both legs or wings extended, or may be in the water on their back with feet in the air. On land, birds may stagger and have difficulty walking; they may fall over and be unable to right themselves (appear intoxicated). Birds are usually alert and may bite when handled even if unable to escape capture. It remains unknown if the disease is "spreading" or if affected birds at other locations are recognized because more people are aware of the problem.

All diagnostic, field and laboratory efforts indicate the cause is most likely a chemical substance, either one that is naturally occurring or manmade. It is unclear how the birds are exposed to the toxins. Many agencies are continuing field, laboratory and research efforts to determine the cause of the disease.

USGS-NWHC is conducting research on AVM using mallards and coots in a sentinel study for the disease at North Carolina. So far the study has confirmed that the disease is site-specific, i.e. the lakes where birds are dying is the site of exposure. Samples of water, vegetation, and sediments were immediately collected at the locations where mallards were feeding. Feeding experiments are also underway to try and determine the route of exposure.

Wildlife managers are encouraged to observe coots, waterfowl and eagles and report any sick birds to the National Wildlife Health Center at 608-270-2400 or the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at 706-542-1741.

For more information on AVM: USGS National Wildlife Health Center (<http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/nwhc.html>)

News Release December 5, 2000

U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey

# A Message to all Christmas Bird Count Compilers and Regional Editors

*Although this message from Dr. Frank Gill, Audubon Vice President for Science, was addressed to Christmas Bird Count Compilers, we felt it to be of interest to all our readers.*

As we move full speed into the weeks of the 101st Christmas Bird Count field effort, despite the weather and the holiday challenges, I want to thank each of you for your leadership and your good feedback to the information in the compiler's packets. Thank you for your positive and constructive comments during this period of growth and change of the venerable Christmas Bird Count.

When I joined Audubon as Director of Science five years ago, I had a single personal purpose and corresponding mandate from John Flicker, the new President of Audubon, namely to insure a prominent place for birds and citizen science in the Audubon agenda. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) program, one of our largest and most complicated, was approaching its 100th anniversary, was the obvious focus of my attention.

I know that many of you have questions and concerns about the changes underway. We have met with compilers around the country to answer your questions and hear your concerns. I have learned a lot. It would be wrong for me to try to revisit all the past decisions, controversies, and debates. Change isn't easy, but it is necessary. Here I try to clarify the challenges and changes underway.

The first challenge is to understand the staggering dimensions of the CBC. Geoff LeBaron single-handedly works directly with 1800 Compilers and 33 Regional Editors, plus thousands of individuals and hundreds of reporters interested in the CBC. The rule of thumb in management is to restrict one's direct reports to few than 10. Geoff manages 20 times that, without complaint. He answers your questions, takes your advice, and hears your concerns. This is a daunting task. On top of that Geoff manages the mountain of data entry, compilation, and publication, with little help. You know how hard it is to do this for one count. Geoff compiles all of them. Thanks Geoff.

Managing the enormous, continent wide CBC enterprise also costs real money. My summaries of the CBC budget in the last two compiler's packets have been well received and apparently appreciated. Participants and compilers alike should know how their contributions are being used. The controversial participant fees/contributions have been and still are an essential, reliable subsidy of the program. Bottom line, we rely on the contributions to keep the CBC healthy in a standard nonprofit environment. We also raise a lot of money to support the full costs of the CBC.

Missing from some of the recent discussion is full appreciation of the availability on-line of the full CBC data set through BirdSource, and the cost of doing this. We have invested a lot of money (over 2-3 million dollars and counting) into computerizing CBC into a modern, full access database. This is money that we raised from individuals, corporations, and foundations who shared our vision of the value of citizen science for conservation. We will continue to

invest more to realize the full potential of the CBC's and of your volunteer contributions. Most of you entered your data "On-Line and On-Time" last year. Even more will do so this year. Your direct on-line data entry helps control our costs, makes your count data available to all faster, and ensures accuracy.

Now, anyone can explore the electronically published CBC results from anywhere anytime through the BirdSource website [<http://birdsource.org>]. Most heartening is the excited enthusiasm I hear almost daily from students, birders, CBC veterans, and ornithologists alike. An industry of scientific analysis and discovery about our early-winter bird populations is starting.

The chorus of excited compliments greatly overshadows the complaints about a computer future for CBC's. For the first time the full value of the CBC results to ornithology, to conservation, to trip planning, is available to you and everyone else. I urge you to explore the website tools. Click on a count or encircle several on the "Map Analyzer" tool and ask what are the trends for your favorite species.

The CBC enterprise is growing. This poses new challenges. Good folks start new counts each year. Also leaders of counts that have not been sent to Audubon in the past, now are asking how to integrate their data into the BirdSource system. We face the challenge of growth in the number of participating CBC counts by at least 25 percent in just a few years. Combined with hundreds of more counts joining the enterprise in the U.S., not to mention anticipated growth in Latin America, the CBC database will be a central feature of citizen science ornithology.

Then there is the issue of how best to publish the data. This issue now challenges all institutions that can provide more information faster through the Internet. What is the future of hardcopy publication versus electronic publication—the web is just a new form of disseminating information. We ourselves are wrestling with this challenge for the venerable CBC volume of "American Birds". Based on the comments I have received these past few years, a strong majority of birders and ornithologists question the value of the printed volume in its current form, given the availability of these data in more usable form on the Web.

In my view, all options are open. I lean to using limited funds including participant contributions to maximize the scientific and conservation value of the CBC data, and to publish cogent summaries and analyses of these data—what we have learned from our winter citizen science efforts. Again the weight of opinion is to move forward with a different publication. Among other things, use of the CBC on-line definitely is draining interest in subscriptions to the volume, which are at an all time low. We are weighing the options and value your thoughts.

Thanks again for all you have done for science and conservation. Thanks for helping us change for the better. And best wishes for the holidays and your Christmas Bird Counts this winter.

*Frank Gill December 22, 2000*

## Bird Sightings - November 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:** November, as usual brought reduced observer effort. It also brought colder weather than in recent years. The drought finally ended! As usual, there were still a few migrants at the beginning of the month, but all in all, the weather seems to have made remarkably little impact on winter birds of the coastal area. Perhaps we were fortunate enough to have had just enough rain earlier to ensure that there were enough seeds for the sparrows and other seed eaters.

GREBE, Pied-billed JEF 1 rep(5); ORA 1 rep(3)  
 PELICAN, Amer. White JEF 4 reps(524); ORA 1 rep(4)  
 PELICAN, Brown JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW; JEF 11/12(1) JAW; JEF-PI 11/12(1) JAW  
 CORMORANT, Neotropic JEF 11/5(3) JAW; JEF 11/5(6) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/5(3) JAW; JEF 11/11(20) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/11(7) JAW; JEF 11/12(7) JAW; JEF 11/12(6) JAW  
 CORMORANT, Double-cr. ORA 1 rep(1)  
 HERON, Great Blue JEF 5 reps(18); ORA 1 rep(1)  
 EGRET, Great JEF 5 reps(20); ORA 1 rep(1)  
 EGRET, Snowy JEF 3 reps(16); ORA 1 rep(1)  
 HERON, Tricolored JEF 1 rep(1)  
 EGRET, Reddish JEF 1 rep(1)  
 EGRET, Cattle JEF 2 reps(6)  
 IBIS, White JEF-TXPT 11/5(4) JAW; JEF 11/11(1) JAW; JEF-PI 11/12(20) JAW; JEF 11/26(488) KS  
 IBIS, Plegadis JEF-PI 11/5(1) JAW  
 SPOONBILL, Roseate JEF-PI 11/5(10) JAW; JEF 11/12(1) JAW; JEF-PI 11/12(2) JAW  
 VULTURE, Black JEF 2 reps(4)  
 VULTURE, Turkey JEF 4 reps(15); ORA 1 rep(3)  
 GOOSE, White-fronted JEF 1 rep(100)  
 GOOSE, Snow JEF 1 rep(1)  
 DUCK, Mottled ORA 11/23(4) KS  
 TEAL, Blue-winged JEF 1 rep(1)  
 SHOVELER, Northern JEF 1 rep(250)  
 CANVASBACK JEF 11/8(1) PW; JEF-PI 11/12(50) JAW  
 SCAUP, Lesser JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(15)  
 BUFFLEHEAD JEF-PI 11/12(50) JAW  
 DUCK, Ruddy JEF 1 rep(50)  
 OSPREY JEF 11/5(1) JAW; JEF 11/5(1) KS  
 KITE, White-tailed JEF 6 reps(8)  
 HARRIER, Northern JEF 11 reps(21)  
 HAWK, Sharp-shinned JEF 2 reps(2)  
 HAWK, Cooper's JEF 11/12(1) KS; JEF-SW 11/26(1) CS  
 ACCIPITER species ORA 11/23(1) KS  
 HAWK, Red-shouldered HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(7)  
 HAWK, Red-tailed JEF 7 reps(11)  
 KESTREL, American JEF 9 reps(34)  
 MERLIN JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW  
 FALCON, Peregrine JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW  
 BOBWHITE, Northern JEF 2 reps(14)  
 RAIL, Clapper JEF 1 rep(1)  
 COOT, American JEF 1 rep(2); ORA 1 rep(30)  
 PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 2 reps(261)  
 PLOVER, Snowy JEF-SRSP 11/5(2) JAW  
 PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF 2 reps(26)  
 KILLDEER JEF 3 reps(41)  
 STILT, Black-necked JEF 2 reps(32)  
 AVOCET, American JEF 3 reps(2018)  
 WILLET JEF 3 reps(513)  
 CURLEW, Long-billed JEF 3 reps(7)  
 GODWIT, Marbled JEF-PI 11/12(15) JAW  
 SANDERLING JEF 1 rep(11)  
 SANDPIPER, Western JEF 2 reps(22)  
 SANDPIPER, Peep JEF 1 rep(500)

DUNLIN JEF 1 rep(14)  
 DOWITCHER, Short-billed JEF 11/12(8) KS  
 GULL, Laughing JEF 3 reps(351); ORA 1 rep(5)  
 GULL, Franklin's JEF-SRSP 11/5(74) JAW  
 GULL, Ring-billed JEF 2 reps(8)  
 GULL, Herring JEF 1 rep(10)  
 TERN, Gull-billed JEF-PI 11/12(1) JAW  
 TERN, Caspian JEF 2 reps(32)  
 TERN, Royal JEF 1 rep(20)  
 TERN, Common JEF-SRSP 11/5(3) JAW  
 TERN, Forster's JEF 3 reps(70)  
 SKIMMER, Black JEF 1 rep(50)  
 DOVE, Rock JEF 2 reps(7)  
 COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian JEF-TX87 11/5(4) JAW; JEF 11/26(5) CS  
 DOVE, White-winged JEF 11/3(1) MCF; JEF 11/4(1) MCF  
 DOVE, Mourning HAI 2 rep(multiple days); JEF 5 reps(60); ORA 1 rep(3)  
 OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/11(3) JAW; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW; JEF 11/19(1) KS  
 NIGHTHAWK, Common JEF-NEDR 11/4(1) JAW  
 WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- JEF 11/12(1) KS  
 SWIFT, Chimney JEF-SW 11/4(3) SM  
 HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bell. JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM  
 HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. JEF-SW 11/4(3) SM; JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW  
 HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. JEF-NEDR 11/28-30(1) JJW  
 HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous HAI 11/1-12(1) LJW; HAI 11/21-23(1) LJW; HAI 11/27-30(1) LJW  
 KINGFISHER, Belted JEF 4 reps(8)  
 WOODPECKER, Red-bellied HAI 2 rep(3); JEF 9 reps(17); ORA 1 rep(3)  
 SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell. HAI 1 rep(2), JEF 4 reps(5)  
 WOODPECKER, Downy HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(17)  
 FLICKER, Northern HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(8)  
 WOODPECKER, Pileated HAI 1 rep(2);  
 WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/26(1) CS  
 PHOEBE, Eastern HAI 2 rep(9); JEF 10 reps(72); ORA 1 rep(4)  
 FLYCATCHER, Vermilion JEF 11/5(1) KS  
 KINGBIRD, Western JEF 11/5(1) KS; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW  
 FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed JEF 11/5(8) KS; JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW  
 SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 5 reps(29); ORA 1 rep(2)  
 VIREO, White-eyed JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/5(3) JAW  
 VIREO, Blue-headed JEF 2 reps(4)  
 VIREO, Cassin's HAI-SNDY 11/26(1) KS  
 VIREO, Philadelphia JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW  
 JAY, Blue HAI 2 rep(7); JEF 6 reps(20); ORA 1 rep(6)  
 CROW, American HAI 1 rep(18)  
 SWALLOW, Tree JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/5(3) JAW; JEF 11/12(7) KS; JEF 11/19(12) KS; JEF 11/26(21) KS; ORA 11/23(850) KS

**SWALLOW, N Rough-winged** JEF 11/12(3) KS  
**CHICKADEE, Carolina** HAI 2 rep(multiple days); JEF 2  
 reps(14); ORA 1 rep(10)  
**TITMOUSE, Tufted** HAI 1 rep(6); ORA 1 rep(4)  
**NUTHATCH, Brown-headed** HAI-SNDY 11/26(3) KS  
**WREN, Carolina** JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 2 reps(2)  
**WREN, House** HAI-SNDY 11/26(1) KS; JEF-SW  
 11/4(1) SM; JEF 11/5(4) KS; JEF-SW 11/5(3) JAW; JEF  
 11/12(4) KS; JEF 11/19(3) KS; JEF 11/26(2) KS; ORA  
 11/23(1) KS  
**WREN, Sedge** JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW  
**WREN, Marsh** JEF-TXPT 11/11(1) JAW  
**KINGLET, Golden-crowned** HAI-SNDY 11/26(5) KS; JEF-SW  
 11/11(7) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/11(1) JAW; JEF 11/12(9) KS;  
 JEF-SW 11/12(6) JAW; JEF 11/19(2) KS; JEF 11/26(3) KS;  
 ORA 11/23(1) KS  
**KINGLET, Ruby-crowned** HAI 2 reps(9); JEF 7 reps(50); ORA  
 1 rep(5)  
**GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray** JEF 7 reps(34)  
**BLUEBIRD, Eastern** HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 2 reps(9); ORA 2  
 reps(8)  
**THRUSH, Hermit** HAI-SNDY 11/26(1) KS; JEF-SW  
 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW;  
 JEF 11/26(2) KS; JEF-SW 11/26(2) CS; ORA 11/23(1) KS  
**THRUSH, Wood** JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW  
 11/11(3) JAW  
**ROBIN, American** HAI-SNDY 11/26(1110) KS;  
 JEF-SW 11/11(15) JAW; JEF 11/26(99) KS; JEF-SW  
 11/26(10) CS; ORA 11/23(45) KS  
**CATBIRD, Gray** JEF-SW 11/4(5) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(25) JAW; JEF 11/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/11(3) JAW;  
 JEF-TX87 11/11(1) JAW; JEF 11/12(3) KS; JEF-SW 11/12(5)  
 JAW  
**MOCKINGBIRD, Northern** HAI 2 reps(multiple days); JEF 6  
 reps(33); ORA 1 rep(4)  
**THRASHER, Brown** JEF 6 reps(25)  
**STARLING, European** JEF 4 reps(224)  
**WARBLER, Tennessee** JEF-SW 11/4(2) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(3) JAW; JEF 11/12(1) KS  
**WARBLER, Orange-crowned** JEF 8 reps(20)  
**WARBLER, Nashville** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/12(1) JAW  
**PARULA, Northern** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(5) JAW  
**WARBLER, Chestnut-sided** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM  
**WARBLER, Magnolia** JEF-SW 11/5(5) JAW; JEF-SW  
 11/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/12(3) JAW  
**WARBLER, Black-thr. Blue** JEF-SW 11/11(1) JAW  
**WARBLER, Yellow-rumped** HAI 2 reps(multiple days); JEF 8  
 reps(53); ORA 2 reps(35)  
**WARBLER, Blk-thr. Green** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(6) JAW  
**WARBLER, Pine** JEF 2 reps(6); ORA 2 reps(8)  
**WARBLER, Black-and-wh.** JEF-SW 11/4(5) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(2) JAW  
**REDSTART, American** JEF-SW 11/4(10) SM; JEF 11/5(2)  
 KS; JEF-SW 11/5(5) JAW  
**YELLOWTHROAT, Common** JEF 3 reps(4)  
**WARBLER, Hooded** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(2) JAW  
**WARBLER, Wilson's** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM; JEF 11/5(1)  
 KS; JEF-SW 11/5(6) JAW  
**TANAGER, Summer** JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW  
 11/12(1) JAW  
**TOWHEE, Spotted** JEF-SW 11/4(1) SM  
**SPARROW, Chipping** HAI-SNDY 11/26(18) KS; JEF  
 11/26(2) KS; ORA 11/23(12) KS  
**SPARROW, Field** JEF 11/19(4) KS; JEF 11/26(4) KS  
**SPARROW, Savannah** JEF 3 reps(48)  
**SPARROW, Seaside** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**SPARROW, Song** JEF 11/12(1) KS; JEF 11/26(7) KS;  
 ORA 11/23(3) KS  
**SPARROW, Lincoln's** JEF 11/12(6) KS  
**SPARROW, Swamp** JEF 4 reps(10); ORA 1 rep(6)  
**SPARROW, White-throated** HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(19); ORA  
 1 rep(9)  
**SPARROW, White-crowned** JEF 11/19(6) KS; JEF 11/26(1) KS  
**JUNCO, Dark-eyed** HAI-SNDY 11/26(18) KS; JEF-SW

11/26(2) CS; ORA 11/23(9) KS  
**CARDINAL, Northern** HAI 2 reps(multiple days); JEF 4  
 reps(10); ORA 1 rep(6)  
**GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted** JEF-SW 11/4(3) SM  
**BUNTING, Indigo** JEF-SW 11/4(10) SM; JEF-SW  
 11/5(10) JAW  
**BLACKBIRD, Red-winged** JEF 2 reps(95); ORA 1 rep(18)  
**MEADOWLARK, Eastern** JEF 2 reps(6)  
**MEADOWLARK species** JEF 2 reps(2)  
**GRACKLE, Common** JEF 2 reps(55)  
**GRACKLE, Boat-tailed** JEF 1 rep(11)  
**GRACKLE, Great-tailed** JEF 3 reps(64); ORA 1 rep(12)  
**COWBIRD, Brown-headed** ORA 1 rep(12)  
**SISKIN, Pine** ORA 11/23(3) KS  
**GOLDFINCH, American** HAI 11/28(1) LJW; JEF-SW 11/26(1)  
 CS; ORA 11/23(19) KS  
**SPARROW, House** HAI 1 reps(multiple days)

**Number of Species** 149  
**Number of Individuals** 9828

#### County Abbreviations:

HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

#### Location Codes:

NEDR - Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SNDY - Sandylan  
 TNCT Sanctuary; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods;  
 TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim; TXPT - Road to Pilot  
 Station at Texas Point

#### Observer Abbreviation

CS - Cliff Shackelford; JAW - John Whittle; JJW - John and Jana  
 Whittle; KS Ken Sztraky; LJW - Larry and Jane Wilson; MCF - McFaddin  
 NWR (Patrick Walther); SM - Steve Mayes

## Notes on Very Rare Species

### Chuck-will's widow - 12 Nov. 2000 - Ken Sztraky

Seen in east Jefferson County around Wilber and Todd roads,  
 50 to 70 feet away. While walking in the brush a large  
 'goatsucker' type bird flushed from the ground.. Its large size,  
 floppy flight and secretive behavior led to the identification.

### Philadelphia Vireo - 5 and 12 Nov. 2000 - John Whittle

On each occasion, one bird seen well in Sabine Woods, from  
 distances of 15 feet and less in the lower branches of oaks and  
 hackberry trees. Smallish vireo, grayish above, darker towards  
 tail; pale below with fairly bright yellow wash along flanks.  
 Black eye-line, extending in front of eye, and pale superciliary  
 line above the eye-line. Very late for this species in fall.

### Cassin's Vireo - 26 Nov. 2000 - Ken Sztraky

Seen in Sandylan Sanctuary in Hardin county. A deliberate  
 moving vireo was seen in the tree tops. Bird was dingy gray-  
 green colored on its upper body; bird had white wing bars. The  
 dull colored head did not contrast with its back as would that of  
 a Blue-headed Vireo. Bird had a off-white throat and dingy  
 yellow flanks and sides. The yellow did not extend to the vent  
 as on a Blue-headed. The Cassin's Vireo is the west coast  
 member of the Solitary Vireo complex.

### Tennessee Warbler - 12 Nov. 2000 - Ken Sztraky

Seen form six feet away in east Jefferson county around Todd  
 and Wilber roads. A small warbler seen feeding in a wax myrtle  
 tree. The bird had a yellow cast throat and white under-tail-  
 coverts verses the yellow of an Orange-crowned Warbler seen  
 nearby. Bird had an eye-line, not a eye-ring. Bird had no breast  
 or flank streaking typical of an Orange-crowned. No pale patch  
 was seen in the wing bend.



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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://www.texasbirding.net>. 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) 299-8175
Louisiana	(504) 768-9874

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