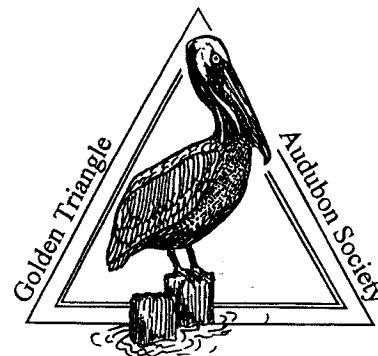


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 7 No. 6

June 2001

Summer Hiatus!

As usual, there will be no membership meetings in June or July. Our next meeting will be on **THURSDAY AUGUST 16, 2001 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, Texas. Topic: **Jimmy Braud of Braud Camera and Video will present a program entitled Basic Photography Tips. Further details in the next issue.**

The next issue of the *Brown Pelican* will be a combined July/August issue, to be published in early August.

May Membership Meeting Report

Winnie Burkett was the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's speaker for the Thursday, May 17, 2001 membership meeting. Winnie is both sanctuary manager for Houston Audubon Society, overseeing the sanctuaries in High Island and at Bolivar Flats, and also North Coast Steward for Texas Audubon Society, looking after the various colonial waterbird nesting islands in Galveston Bay. Winnie spoke to us about the various aspects and joys of summer birding.

Everybody likes to get out in the springtime to view the beautiful Scarlet Tanager and various other migrating birds, but when migration is over don't put your binoculars away because you can bird during the summer in comfort. There are several ways to bird in the summertime while staying cool and still see lots of birds. The first way is roadside birding. In the cool of your vehicle with the windows rolled up, you would view the birds and other wildlife through the windows. There are several places to go roadside birding: Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Bolivar Peninsula including Yacht Basin Road, Bob Road, Bolivar Flats, the Lighthouse ponds, Loop 108, and ride the Bolivar ferry, San Louis Pass, Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, and the Dow Skimmer Colony. While roadside birding you might see baby Clapper Rails, Whimbrels, Long-billed Curlews, Mottled Duck babies, Black-necked Stilt babies, Avocets, Black-bellied, Semipalmated, Piping and nesting Wilson's Plovers, Roseate Spoonbills, Ibis, Wood Storks, various shorebirds and herons, gulls, both cormorants, Common, Forster's and Black Terns, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Willets, Horned Larks, Common Nighthawks, and a Black Skimmer colony. Southward shorebird migration ends July 4, and northward shorebird migration begins July 5, so we get the peak numbers of shorebirds moving through our area during the last of July and the beginning of August. Sometimes there are tens of thousand of shorebirds during this time period.

One branch of roadside birding is restaurant birding. Winnie's favorite restaurant is the Stingray. It is on the Intracoastal Waterway, which provides many birding opportunities. You can sit by the window, eat crabs and watch the herons come in to roost on the islands. You can also watch the various birds moving up and down the intercoastal. Another restaurant on the Bolivar Peninsula that is good for bird watching is Shirley's Bakery and Cafe. There is a little deck outside with a picnic table. Although it is not cool, you can watch the birds feeding in the wake of the tugboats. Often you can see Black, Common and Forster's Terns, gulls, and roosting shorebirds can be seen on the far shore.

(continued on page 7)

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 7, No.6 June 2001

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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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.

We are in the process of developing our program for September and beyond. Details are not yet confirmed, but tentatively, John Haynes will talk to us in September about identifying ducks, and John Arvin will speak in October on birds of Peru. November will be our usual pot luck supper meeting. Jace Stansbury will present a program on Purple Martins in February.

Thursday August 16 - Basic Photography Tips. Jimmy Braud, President of Braud Camera Company in Nederland will present this program. He encourages everyone to bring their cameras, without film in them.

Saturday September 15 - Fall Migration Count. As usual we will be conducting a county-wide migration count in Jefferson county. Contact John Whittle (409-722-4193) for more details or to indicate your participation. It is not necessary to count for the whole day. In fact, the more people we have counting in the critical early morning hours, the better. So please call, even if your help will be limited to a few hours.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Nancy and Don Fisher, and Jana Whittle for bringing the refreshments in May. **We now need volunteers for all meetings from August on!** We do not expect one person to bring everything. If you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 or Nancy Fisher at (409) 751-0119 as soon as possible. Please help if you can!

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. Our official chapter territory is defined by zip codes, but is basically Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties and one or two localities close to those Counties.

Sabine Woods Work Day

We thank Nancy and Don Fisher and Steve Mayes for helping on the Sabine Woods Work Day on Saturday May 26.

Prior to the work day, we were able to have extensive bushhogging completed by a contractor, and also treatment of all remaining tallows. On the work day, we removed tallows which had fallen across the trails, did some work on the trails inside the woods, and close cropped the grass on the main track round the woods. Some limited cutting of vines was also accomplished.

The bushhogging carried out by the contractor included some extensive clearing of the areas surrounding the main entrance, the second (of three) phases of clearing in the eastern segment of the sanctuary, and further maintenance re-clearing of the wide fire break we are attempting to keep on the northern perimeter of the sanctuary. In accordance with the conservation plan for the sanctuary, we are continuing efforts to control the wild rose to prevent it becoming too invasive.

We plan to hold another work day, probably late in September, although if it continues wet, we may have to consider doing it sooner.

We Appreciate the Help

We acknowledge with grateful thanks, a generous donation in support of our activities at Sabine Woods by Craig Damuth.

Spring Migration Count -- 12 May 2001

Our familiar lament for the Spring Migration Count is that it is timed (the second Saturday in May, and thus between May 8 and 14) for states in the middle and northern tiers of the United States. Of course, this is often much too late for there to be many migrants in coastal Texas. This year's count produced a preliminary total of 162 species, the lowest since 1995. However, with eight years of counts completed, we now have a good picture of what is normal

It is difficult to categorize the "misses" -- the species not seen that are usually found. "Only" 13 species of warbler were recorded -- our best has been 19. A Yellow-throated Warbler in Tyrrell Park/Cattail Marsh, although not new to the count, is interesting because of the likelihood that it was nesting. Very few lingering ducks were found. No Brown Pelicans were found. Also surprisingly, for the third year in a row, no Piping Plover and no Snowy Plovers were seen. Hudsonian Godwits have been scarce this spring, and none were found on the day of the count.

On the plus side, a Reddish Egret was in the south impoundment at Pleasure Island, while a Red-breasted Merganser was in the north impoundment. Five Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a Solitary Sandpiper on "Aggie Drive" near China were good finds. Eurasian Collared-Doves continue to increase, although there are known to be many more than showed up on May 12. Inevitably, some White-winged Doves were also found. We expect the counts of both these species to increase more dramatically over the next few years. One Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reported in Beaumont was late. Also new to the count were a Great Horned Owl and a late Sedge Wren. Late were four Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows near the Pilot Station at Texas Point. However, thrushes, tanagers and other "larger" species were present in good numbers.

Participants in this year's count were: Althea Bythewood, Bob Collier, Bessie Cornelius, Nancy and Don Fisher, Joe Halbrook, Keith Hansen, John Haynes, Brad and Winette Hogue, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Ray Jordan, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Steve Mayes, Ken Sztraky and John Whittle. Full historical details have been sent to participants (and are available to others on request), and the sightings will be incorporated, sector by sector, into the sightings report for May in the next *Brown Pelican*. The totals (subject to confirmation) were:

GREBE, Pied-billed (3); PELICAN, American White (3); CORMORANT, Neotropic (90); CORMORANT, Double-crested (3); ANHINGA (3); BITTERN, Least (10); HERON, Great Blue (7); EGRET, Great (125); EGRET, Snowy (124); HERON, Little Blue (53); HERON, Tricolored (22); EGRET, Reddish (1); EGRET, Cattle (381); HERON, Green (57); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (9); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (18); IBIS, White (21); IBIS, White-faced (41); IBIS, *Plegadis* (40); SPOONBILL, Roseate (57); VULTURE, Black (35); VULTURE, Turkey (26); WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (26); WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (44); DUCK, Wood (8); DUCK, Mottled (40); TEAL, Blue-winged (49); SCAUP, Lesser (3); Merganser, Red-breasted (1); OSPREY (1); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Cooper's (1); HAWK, Red-shouldered (9);

HAWK, Swainson's (1); HAWK, Red-tailed (1); FALCON, Peregrine (1); BOBWHITE, Northern (20); RAIL, Clapper (2); SORA (2); GALLINULE, Purple (2); MOORHEN, Common (25); COOT, American (25); PLOVER, Black-bellied (213); PLOVER, Wilson's (4); PLOVER, Semipalmated (4); KILLDEER (89); STILT, Black-necked (72); AVOCET, American (43); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (5); SANDPIPER, Solitary (1); WILLET (21); SANDPIPER, Spotted (7); WHIMBREL (32); GODWIT, Marbled (8); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (23); SANDERLING, (25); SANDPIPER, Semipalmated (6); SANDPIPER, Western (643); SANDPIPER, Least (156); SANDPIPER, White-rumped (3); SANDPIPER, (1040); SANDPIPER, Pectoral (35); DUNLIN (228); SANDPIPER, Stilt (183); SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted (5); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (20); DOWITCHER species (2); PHALAROPE, Wilson's (21); GULL, Laughing (42); GULL, Ring-billed (2); GULL, Herring (4); TERN, Caspian (40); TERN, Royal (12); TERN, Common (3); TERN, Forster's (19); TERN, Least (11); TERN, Black (4); SKIMMER, Black (84); DOVE, Rock (105); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (4); DOVE, White-winged (3); DOVE, Mourning (277); DOVE, Inca (6); CUCKOO, Yellow-billed (24); OWL, Great Horned (1); OWL, Barred (4); NIGHTHAWK, Common (21); SWIFT, Chimney (203); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (32); HUMMINGBIRD species (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (2); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (8); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (44); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (1); WOODPECKER, Downy (28); WOODPECKER, Pileated (5); WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (13); FLYCATCHER, Acadian (1); FLYCATCHER, *Empidonax* (2); FLYCATCHER, Great Crested (3); KINGBIRD, Eastern (121); FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (42); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (97); VIREO, White-eyed (11); VIREO, Yellow-throated (1); VIREO, Philadelphia (1); VIREO, Red-eyed (7); JAY, Blue (101); CROW, American (30); CROW, Fish (29); MARTIN, Purple (161); SWALLOW, Tree (3); SWALLOW, Bank (1); SWALLOW, Cliff (72); SWALLOW, Cave (2); SWALLOW, Barn (342); CHICKADEE, Carolina (50); TITMOUSE, Tufted (27); WREN, Carolina (38); WREN, Sedge (1); WREN, Marsh (4); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (1); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (4); VEERY (5); THRUSH, Gray-cheeked (2); THRUSH, Swainson's (5); THRUSH, Wood (2); ROBIN, American (24); CATBIRD, Gray (5); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (261); THRASHER, Brown (6); STARLING, European (478); WAXWING, Cedar (83); PARULA, Northern (8); WARBLER, Yellow (3); WARBLER, Magnolia (8); WARBLER, Yellow-throated (1); WARBLER, Pine (7); WARBLER, Bay-breasted (1); WARBLER, Blackpoll (2); REDSTART, American (4); WARBLER, Prothonotary (3); OVENBIRD (2); WATERTHRUSH, Northern (2); WARBLER, Kentucky (1); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (22); TANAGER, Summer (3); TANAGER, Scarlet (2); SPARROW, Savannah (1); SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-tailed (4); SPARROW, Seaside (5); CARDINAL, Northern (173); GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted (4); GROSBEAK, Blue (1); BUNTING, Indigo (5); BUNTING, Painted (10); DICKCISSEL (45); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (514); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (83); GRACKLE, Common (261); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (133); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (260); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (66); ORIOLE, Orchard (48); FINCH, House (9); SPARROW, House (184); TOTAL INDIVIDUALS (9181); TOTAL SPECIES (162); CUMULATIVE TOTAL SPECIES (223); Number of Observers (18); Number of Parties (13); Total party-miles (542).

Bird Sightings - April 2001

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: After the exciting last few days of March, migration birding was quite slow during the first half of April, as strong southerly winds persisted for much of the time. During the peak of migration in the second half of April the

number of migrants observed increased to a peak, probably on April 23, and then fell off. Strong easterly winds over the Gulf for a good portion of this period did result in high numbers of Black-throated Blue, Cape May and Blackpoll Warblers.

Probably the rarest bird confirmed during April was the first winter Little Gull which was present at the Beaumont Sewage Works for nearly two weeks. A reported Scott's Oriole was not observed well enough for confirmation of the identification. We concluded that a sparrow seen during our April 28 field trip was a Henslow's Sparrow.

As always, at this stage, we make no attempt to eliminate duplicate reports of the same bird(s). (This we will attempt during our analysis of the migration.) All reports submitted or published on **TEXBIRDS** are incorporated into the database and will appear in our columns. Also, many observers, especially those posting on **TEXBIRDS**, do not provide complete listings of all species seen, and some do not provide estimates of numbers seen. Therefore, in some instances where one bird is shown, the numbers may have been larger.

GREBE, Pied-billed	JEF 3 reps(4).
PELICAN, American White	JEF 1 rep(3)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF 11 reps(42)
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	JEF 1 rep(1)
CORMORANT, Species	JEF 1 rep(2)
BITTERN, Least	JEF-MCFW 4/2(1) MCF; JEF-TP 4/10(1) JAW
HERON, Great Blue	JEF 4 reps(5)
EGRET, Great	JEF 20 reps(98)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 19 reps(232); TYL 1 rep(1).3
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 13 reps(48)
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 13 reps(41)
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 16 reps(508); TYL 2 reps(7)
HERON, Green	JEF 17 reps(86)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown.	JEF 2 reps(12)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crown.	JEF 19 reps(30)
IBIS, White	JEF 3 reps(27)
IBIS, Glossy	JEF-TP 4/10(1) JAW
IBIS, White-faced	JEF 6 reps(97)
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF 20 reps(319)
SPOONBILL, Roseate	JEF-TX87 4/8(1) JAW; JEF 4/17(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/18(9) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/19(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/21(4) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/21(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/24(4) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/27(4) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/28(5) JAW
VULTURE, Black	JEF 9 reps(20); TYL 1 rep(8)
VULTURE, Turkey	JEF 15 reps(69); TYL 1 rep(7)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell.	JEF-SW 4/18(5) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/20(14) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(4) FTSR
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	JEF 4/8(9) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/11(6) JAW; JEF 4/29(6) JAW
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 11 reps(23)
TEAL, Blue-winged	JEF 11 reps(258)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF 2 reps(30)
REDHEAD	JEF-TP 4/10(1) JAW
DUCK, Ring-necked	JEF-TP 4/10(25) JAW
SCAUP, Lesser	JEF 2 reps(4)
DUCK, Ruddy	JEF 1 rep(3)
KITE, Swallow-tailed	JAS 4/3(1) MCR; JEF-SRSP 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW; NEW 4/13(1) NB
HARRIER, Northern	JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 4/8(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-TP 4/9(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/21(2) JAW; JEF 4/29(1) JAW
HAWK, Red-shouldered	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(3); TYL 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Broad-winged	JEF 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Swainson's	JEF 4/11(1) JAW; JEF 4/13(2) JAW; JEF 4/14(1) JAW; JEF 4/17(1) JAW; JEF 4/19(1) JAW; JEF 4/24(1) JHH

CARACARA, Crested	JEF 4/29(1) JAW
KESTREL, American	HAI 4/7(1) JAW
MERLIN	JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) SM; JEF-TX87 4/28(1) FTSR
BOBWHITE, Northern	JEF 2 reps(2)
RAIL, Clapper	JEF 2 reps(2)
RAIL, Virginia	JEF-MCFW 4/2(1) MCF
SORA	JEF 2 reps(2)
RAIL species	JEF 1 rep(1)
MOORHEN, Common	JEF 4 reps(8)
COOT, American	JEF 3 reps(204)
PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 1 rep(5)
PLOVER, Semipalmated	JEF 1 rep(1)
PLOVER, Piping	JEF 1 rep(4)
KILLDEER	JEF 12 reps(40); TYL 1 rep(1)
STILT, Black-necked	JEF 13 reps(83)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	JEF-TP 4/10(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/11(1) JAW
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF 10 reps(72)
SANDPIPER, Solitary	JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/3(1) SR; JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) SM; JEF-TP 4/10(3) JAW
WILLET	JEF 12 reps(53)
SANDPIPER, Spotted	JEF-TXPT 4/20(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR
WHIMBREL	JEF-SRSP 4/11(6) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/24(1) JAW; JEF 4/29(4) JAW
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	JEF 1 rep(2)
SANDERLING	JEF 1 rep(75)
SANDPIPER, Least	JEF 3 reps(7)
SANDPIPER, Pectoral	JEF 1 rep(4)
DUNLIN	JEF 3 reps(276)
DOWITCHER species	JEF 1 rep(20)
GULL, Laughing	JEF 15 reps(153)
GULL, Little	JEF 4/8(1) NBL; JEF 4/10(1) JAW; JEF 4/15(1) NBL; JEF 4/17(1) JAW; JEF 4/17(1) TC; JEF 4/18(1) JAW; JEF 4/20(1) JAW; JEF 4/20(1) LJW; JEF 4/20(1) RD
GULL, Bonaparte's	JEF 4/9(4) JAW; JEF 4/10(10) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/11(15) JAW; JEF 4/12(4) JAW; JEF 4/13(10) JAW; JEF 4/17(4) JAW; JEF 4/18(4) JAW; JEF 4/20(3) JAW
GULL, Ring-billed	JEF 9 reps(69)
GULL, Herring	JEF 2 reps(4)
TERN, Caspian	JEF 4 reps(7)
TERN, Royal	JEF 4 reps(209)
TERN, Sandwich	JEF 1 rep(45)
TERN, Common	JEF-SRSP 4/11(4) JAW
TERN, Forster's	JEF 3 reps(104)
TERN, Least	JEF 5 reps(40)
SKIMMER, Black	JEF 1 rep(1)
DOVE, Rock	JEF 9 reps(37)

COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian JEF 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/13(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/21(1) JAW; JEF 4/27(1) JAW; JEF 4/29(10) JAW; ORA-BC 4/15(3) JAW
DOVE, White-winged JEF 8 reps(15)
DOVE, Mourning JEF 21 reps(259); TYL 1 rep(1)
DOVE, Inca JEF 7 reps(15)
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(10) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(5) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(8) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(10) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JJW; JEF-TX87 4/26(1) JJW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(2) FTSR
OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW
NIGHTHAWK, Common JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW; JEF-SW 4/28(2) FTSR; JEF-TX87 4/28(1) JAW
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-JAW JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW
SWIFT, Chimney JEF 16 reps(69); TYL 1 rep(4)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throat. JEF 14 reps(119)
KINGFISHER, Belted JEF 11 reps(13)
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied JEF 5 reps(6); TYL 1 rep(1)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied JEF 1 rep(3)
WOODPECKER, Downy JEF 15 reps(55)
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(5) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JHH
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied JEF-TXPT 4/24(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Acadian JEF-SW 4/13(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Trail's JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW
EMPIDONAX species JEF 8 reps(12)
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH
KINGBIRD, Western JEF-TX87 4/28(1) JAW
KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF 25 reps(282)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed JEF 14 reps(39)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 16 reps(88); ORA 1 rep(1)
VIREO, White-eyed JEF 19 reps(95)
VIREO, Yellow-throated JEF 12 reps(16)
VIREO, Blue-headed JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM
VIREO, Philadelphia JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(4) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(9) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JJW
VIREO, Red-eyed JEF 19 reps(132); TYL 1 rep(1)
JAY, Blue JEF 20 reps(103)
CROW, American HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 1 rep(2); TYL 2 reps(11)
CROW, Fish JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/7(2) SM; JEF 4/9(10) JAW; JEF-TP 4/9(2) JAW; JEF-TP 4/10(3) JAW; JEF 4/13(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(2) JAW; JEF 4/20(2) JAW
CROW, species HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 12 reps(47); ORA 1 rep(4)
MARTIN, Purple JEF 12 reps(156); TYL 2 reps(27)
SWALLOW, Tree JEF 15 reps(296)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged JEF 6 reps(32)
SWALLOW, Cliff JEF-SRSP 4/8(15) JAW; JEF-SW 4/8(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 4/11(6) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/21(15) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR
SWALLOW, Barn HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 21 reps(170); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 1 rep(5)
TITMOUSE, Tufted TYL 1 rep(1)
WREN, House JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM
WREN, Marsh JEF-MCFW 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/20(1) JAW
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned JEF-SW 4/1(10) SM; JEF-SW 4/7(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 10 reps(58)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 2 reps(8)
VEERY JEF-SRSP 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(7) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW; JEF-SW 4/27(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/28(4) FTSR
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked JEF-SW 4/23(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/26(6) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW; JEF-SW 4/27(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/28(4) FTSR
THRUSH, Swainson's JEF 17 reps(80)
THRUSH, Hermit JEF-SW 4/1(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/3(5) SR; JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW
THRUSH, Wood JEF 17 reps(105)
ROBIN, American HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(26)
CATBIRD, Gray JEF 18 reps(206)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 17 reps(155); ORA 1 rep(1); TYL 2 reps(6)
THRASHER, Brown JEF 15 reps(45)
STARLING, European HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 17 reps(271); ORA 1 rep(4); TYL 1 rep(5)
WAXWING, Cedar JEF-NEDR 4/6(50) JAW; JEF 4/27(20) JAW; JEF-NEDR 4/28(15) JAW; JEF-SW 4/28(20) FTSR
WARBLER, Blue-winged JEF 15 reps(35)
WARBLER, Golden-winged JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF 4/13(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(4) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH
WARBLER, Brewster's JEF-SW 4/25(1) MH
WARBLER, Tennessee JEF 22 reps(196)
WARBLER, Orange-crowned JEF-SW 4/1(3) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/8(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW
PARULA, Northern JEF 17 reps(45); TYL 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Yellow JEF 20 reps(99)
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF-SW 4/23(25) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(4) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(10) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(7) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(4) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JJW
WARBLER, Magnolia JEF-SW 4/23(4) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW
WARBLER, Cape May JEF-TXPT 4/23(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JHH
WARBLER, Black-thr. Blue JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF-SW 4/1(3) SM; JEF-SW 4/7(3) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(4) SM; JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(6) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(1) JAW
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green JEF 13 reps(42)
WARBLER, Blackburnian JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/23(20) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(5) JHH; JEF-TXPT 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JJW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/28(1) FTSR
WARBLER, Yellow-throated JEF-SW 4/1(3) SM; JEF-MCFW 4/2(1) MCF; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW
WARBLER, Pine TYL 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Prairie JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF 4/13(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ
WARBLER, Palm JEF-TXPT 4/14(1) JAW
WARBLER, Bay-breasted JEF-SW 4/23(15) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(6) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(8) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(11) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(6) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/28(1) FTSR
WARBLER, Blackpoll JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/20(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/21(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(8) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(5) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(8) JHH; JEF-TXPT 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(4) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JJW; JEF-SW 4/27(4) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/28(6) FTSR
WARBLER, Cerulean JEF 4/13(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/23(3) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW;

JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JHH

WARBLER, Black-and-white JEF 21 reps(90)

REDSTART, American JEF-SW 4/7(5) SM; JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(8) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(8) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(5) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR

WARBLER, Prothonotary JEF 21 reps(60)

WARBLER, Worm-eating JEF-SW 4/1(10) SM; JEF-SW 4/3(1) SR; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/8(2) SM; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(4) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW JEF-SW 4/20(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(3) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR

WARBLER, Swainson's JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) GD

OVENBIRD JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(4) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(5) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(2) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(5) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(4) JAW JEF-SW 4/28(1) FTSR

WATERTHRUSH, Northern JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/8(1) NBL; JEF-SW 4/8(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/12(1) RKR; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(4) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(2) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/28(1) FTSR

WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana JEF-SW 4/1(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH

WARBLER, Kentucky JEF-SW 4/1(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/3(2) SR; JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM; JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(3) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(3) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR

YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 22 reps(54)

WARBLER, Hooded JEF 23 reps(94)

WARBLER, Wilson's JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(3) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW

WARBLER, Canada JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW

CHAT, Yellow-breasted JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/18(6) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/25(2) GD; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW JEF-SW 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/28(1) FTSR

TANAGER, Summer JEF 18 reps(89)

TANAGER, Scarlet JEF 24 reps(194)

TOWHEE, Eastern JEF-SW 4/1(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/3(1) SR; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW

SPARROW, Savannah JEF 3 reps(7)

SPARROW, Henslow's JEF-SRSP 4/28(1) FTSR

SPARROW, Seaside JEF 2 reps(10)

SPARROW, Song JEF-SW 4/1(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW

SPARROW, Swamp JEF-SW 4/7(1) SM

SPARROW, White-throated JEF 13 reps(67)

SPARROW, White-crowned JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JHH

CARDINAL, Northern JEF 18 reps(81)

GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 20 reps(110)

GROSBEAK, Black-headed JEF-SW 4/26(1) JJW

GROSBEAK, Blue JEF 4/13(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/15(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/19(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/21(7) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(6) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(14) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(25) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/28(4) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/28(4) FTSR

BUNTING, Indigo HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 23 reps(496)

BUNTING, Painted JEF-SW 4/8(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/8(1) NBL; JEF-SW 4/8(3) SM; JEF 4/13(3) DQ; JEF-SW 4/13(4) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/21(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(3) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JJW JEF-SRSP 4/28(4) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/28(1) FTSR

DICKCISEL JEF-SRSP 4/17(2) JAW; JEF 4/29(1) LJW

BOBOLINK JEF 4/29(1) LJW

BLACKBIRD, Red-winged JEF 19 reps(183); ORA 1 rep(1)

MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 8 reps(13)

MEADOWLARK species JEF 2 reps(16)

BLACKBIRD, Brewer's JEF 4/29(3) JAW

GRACKLE, Common HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 14 reps(98)

GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 13 reps(109)

GRACKLE, Great-tailed HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 15 reps(159)

COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 10 reps(42)

ORIOLE, Orchard HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 22 reps(380)

ORIOLE, Baltimore JEF 13 reps(56)

ORIOLE, Scott's (possible) JEF-SW 4/20(1) KC

FINCH, House JEF-NEDR 4/29(1) JAW

GOLDFINCH, American TYL 4/7(1) JAW; TYL 4/15(3) JAW

SPARROW, House JEF 5 reps(16); TYL 1 rep(4)

Number of Species 193
Number of Individuals 10758

County Abbreviations:

HAI - Hardin; JAS - Jasper; JEF - Jefferson; NEW - Newton; ORA - Orange; TYL - Tyler

Location Codes:

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

Observer Abbreviations:

GD - Don Quaintance; FTSR - Field Trip Sea Rim and Sabine Woods; DQ - Gerald Duhon; JAW - John Whittle; JHH - John H. Haynes; JJW - John and Jana Whittle; KC - Kelly Cotton; LJW - Larry and Jane Wilson; MCF - McFaddin and Texas Pt NWRs (Patrick Walther); MCR - Mike Creese; MH - Margo Holst; NB - Nancy Bird; NBL - Nick Block; RD - Rich Damron; RKR - Russell Krenek; SM - Steve Mayes; SR - Sherrie Roden; TC - Tom Collins

Notes on Very Rare Species

Swallow-tailed Kite – 3, 8, 13, 26 April

We look forward to the time (not very far off?) when sightings of Swallow-tailed Kites do not merit inclusion here. However, there is still great interest in the species, and we continue to report sightings. Mike Creese saw one over US 96 just south of Jasper in Jasper County about 11 a.m. on 3 April. John Whittle saw one migrating eastwards just north of the boat ramp at the marsh unit of Sea Rim State Park late in the evening on 8 April. Nancy Bird saw one over US 190 just west of the Sabine River in Newton County on 13 April. Finally, several observers saw one fly over Sabine Woods about 6 p.m. on 26 April. This bird flew east to west over the woods, and then turned back and was lost to sight heading northeast.

Outside our normal reporting area, Kites are being seen with some regularity around Dayton in Liberty County again this year.

Little Gull – 8 through 20 April

Certainly the highlight of the month was the first winter Little Gull discovered at the Beaumont Sewage Treatment Plant on Lafin Road by Nick Block on April 8. It was seen there on April 10, but then was not seen again until Nick Block found it again on April 15. After that, it was seen by hundreds of observers, including many attending the ABA convention, through about April 21, when it (and the four or so Bonaparte's Gulls it had been associating with) apparently left for points north.

The bird was mostly in first-winter plumage but had partially molted into first-summer plumage. The tail band was broken and the secondaries appeared to be fresh. It had not started to molt head feathers and retained the dark ear spot and small cap. It was associating with several Bonaparte's Gulls on the settling tank arms and could be distinguished when perched by its smaller size, smaller bill, and much darker carpal bar. In flight, the strong wing pattern stood out.

Henslow's Sparrow – 28 April – John Haynes and John Whittle

During the field trip on 28 April, a sparrow was flushed at about 10:30 a.m. in the dunes at the western edge of Sea Rim State Park (Jefferson County) between the beach and the salt cedars/mulberry trees. The bird was first seen foraging in the new growth grass. It flew to near the top of a salt cedar, lacking much green, about five feet from ground. It later flew down to the vicinity of a small bush in the new growth grass, but could not be relocated.

A moderately large sparrow with noticeably flat head and large bill. The predominant color was brown, with lighter streaks down the back. The nape appeared to be a medium to light tan color, forming a distinctive collar. The side of the face resembled the pattern of a Lincoln's Sparrow, but was much paler and brown rather than gray. There was a distinct dark auricular mark. When the bird flew, there was a reddish hue to the back and upper tail surfaces. The sides of the flanks were boldly streaked.

The bird was recognized as an *Ammodramus* sparrow by the large bill and flat head. The auricular spot and brownish collar suggested Grasshopper Sparrow, but the strongly streaked flanks are not consistent with that species. The nape, however, appeared more light brown than the greenish-olive shown in field guides for Henslow's.

Black-headed Grosbeak (female) – 26 April – John Whittle

Seen in Sabine Woods, 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass, Jefferson County, around 5 p.m. The bird was foraging in a hackberry tree about 25 feet up.

A typical female Rose-breasted/Black-headed Grosbeak, brown and white with narrow white line just above eye. Brown cheek patch. Upperparts brown with two faint white wing bars. The breast was pale buff with fine streaks, weak in the center. Belly whitish.

The fine breast streaks and buffy background are characteristic of Black-headed rather than Rose-breasted Grosbeak. However, there will always be some doubt over identification of an out-of-range female grosbeak!

Scott's Oriole (possible) – 20 April – Kelly Cotton

An oriole seen high in the mulberry trees in Sabine Woods, mixed in with a small flock of Northern Orioles.

The bird was clearly not an immature Orchard Oriole. It was too large to be an Orchard, and had a distinct and dark black hood on its head, from breast to back. It also was somewhat larger than the Baltimore Oriole beside which it was feeding, and was distinctly yellow in all the right places.

Kelly was unable to determine the color of the outer edges of the upper tail surface. Without this, the possibility that it was an aberrantly colored Baltimore Oriole cannot be eliminated.

Bird Alerts

Spring migration has already drawn to a close. However, we will preview the May sightings report in the next issue by noting that the first few days of May saw many species of warbler in Sabine Woods and along the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point. With continuing strong easterly winds across the Gulf, "eastern" warblers continued to be prominent. On a quick trip on the evening of 2 May, the two most

numerous warblers seen by the writer were Cape May (with an incredible six individuals) and Blackpoll (only four!). Male Black-throated Blue Warblers, normally thought of more as more easily seen during fall migration, were present in Sabine Woods for several days. A Yellow-green Vireo was seen by multiple observers at Sabine Woods on 7 May.

May Meeting Report *(continued from p.1)*

Another type of roadside birding is road-kill birding. Road-kill birding gives you the opportunity to view a bird close up, when normally you would see the bird for only a few seconds. Cars often kill Chuck-will's-Widow, Barn Owls, Least Bittern, Meadowlarks and Bobwhite.

If you're really adventuresome, why not take a boat ride on the Seagull to the bird islands in Galveston Bay. The first stop is Little Pelican Island where you could see 500 to 1,000 pairs of pelicans this year. The next stop is North Deer Island where you could see about 22,000 pairs of nesting White Ibis. On North Deer there are also about thirty pairs of Reddish Egrets. Also, on North Deer are nesting Roseate Spoonbills. Little spoonbill chicks hatch with a spoonbill. They have pink skin and very pale pink feathers.

If you want to get really brave, you can actually go outside to bird watch. Winnie gave us some summer clothing tips. She likes to wear very thin cotton shirts and don't tucked them in so that the maximum amount of air can circulate. Pants that can be converted into shorts are very versatile. Don't forget a hat, sunscreen and mosquito repellent. Just like water is important for the birds during the summer, it is very important that you drink plenty of water.

Brazos Bend State Park is a wonderful place to bird in the summertime. Evenings are a good time to bird because sometimes there are breezes. So take a picnic, watch the birds bring food to their chicks, and enjoy the sunset. You might see Cattle Egrets, Little Blue Herons, Great Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and their chicks, Painted Buntings and maybe even a Masked Duck. Bolivar Flats is an excellent place to bird in the evenings around 6pm. During low tide, the North Jetty is a very good place to see the birds on Bolivar Flats. Sometimes the birds will be fairly close or even walking on the jetty. Smith Oaks holds a lot of interesting things in the summer. The hummingbird garden attracts not only hummingbirds but also butterflies during the summer. Breeding birds at Smith Oaks would include Eastern Kingbirds and Orchard Orioles. But the most interesting thing is the rookery where you can watch the home life of spoonbills, herons and egrets and watch them come in to roost in the evening. In the fall, about August 15, hawk watch begins. According to Winnie, up on top of the hawk watch tower, at Smith Point, is the coolest place you can be outside on the upper Texas Coast; and, the birding can be very interesting. Some days there are hawks, some days there are Swallow-tailed Kites, some days there are Magnificent Frigatebirds, and some days there are Blue-gray Gnatcatchers.

As you can see there are plenty of places you can bird in the summertime. So don't stay inside, try some roadside birding! Our next meeting will be Thursday, August 16, 2001, so mark your calendars and come enjoy the program.

Nancy Fisher

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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	
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N. E. Texas	(903) 839-4804
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