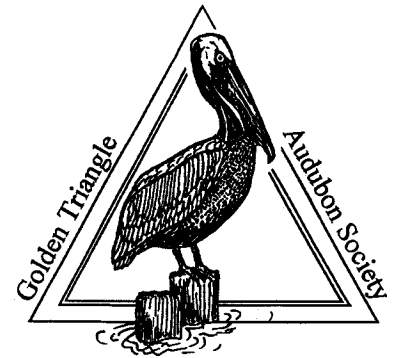


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 7 No. 11

November 2001

**Annual Meeting and Elections
Thursday, November 15, 2001
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

Birds of Southeast Arizona

**David Bradford
Houston Audubon Society and
Houston Outdoor Nature Club**

The mountain ranges in Southeast Arizona, sometimes called "sky islands", harbor quite a few birds of interest to the US birder. Many birds from Mexico extend their range northward into the US in the mountains and deserts of SE Arizona. David will take us on a typical tour through Southeast Arizona where hummingbirds and trogons rule. He will show slides of birds of the Huachuca Chiricahua, and Santa Rita Mountains, Portal, Patagonia, Mount Lemmon, Santa Rita Lodge, California Gulch, Sierra Vista and more.

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. This is our annual "covered dish" dinner meeting, and all are asked to contribute by bringing something to eat or drink. Please call Nancy Fisher (751-0119) or Jana Whittle (722-4193) to coordinate so we don't have anything missing. At this meeting, we will also conduct our annual elections.

October Meeting Report

The Golden Triangle Audubon Society membership meeting was held on Thursday, October 18, 2001. Bessie Cornelius, a long time friend of John C. Arvin, gave the introduction. John is chair of the Texas Ornithological Society's Bird Records Committee and for many years he led bird watching tours to South and Central America. In 1998, he spent the spring and fall migration season on an oilrig platform 80 miles out in the Gulf of Mexico. The Louisiana State University selected him to be an observer for a project for observing, counting and studying the migratory birds coming and going over the Gulf of Mexico.

John spent 10 or 11 weeks on the Vermilion 265 platform. He had to establish a route for his censuses. He had to do five censuses a day approximately an hour each in which he had to cover all levels, all decks, and all parts of all decks looking for birds

(continued on page 3)

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 7, No.11 Nov. 2001

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

**RARE BIRD ALERT AND
SOCIETY INFORMATION
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[http://goldtriaudubon.
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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 November 15 – Annual Meeting and Covered Dish Dinner.

At this meeting, in addition to holding our annual elections, we invite everyone to bring a “covered dish”. See front page for details of the program.

Saturday November 17 – Field Trip to Calcasieu (and Cameron) Parishes in Louisiana.

In this trip we will explore the area of Calcasieu Parish west of Lake Charles and south of IH-10, just across the Sabine River from Orange. This area has historically been a good area for sparrows and raptors and has a number of areas of modest woods which can produce a surprising variety of wintering birds. If time permits, the group may proceed south along State Highway 27 into Cameron Parish, birding Sabine NWR and Peveto Beach Woods before completing the loop route back into Texas at the Highway 82 causeway.

We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Louisiana Tourist Bureau Welcome Station on the eastbound side of IH-10 a mile or two inside Louisiana. Meet near the Visitor Center (even though it will probably not be open at that hour).

The Welcome Station is not a convenient place to leave a vehicle, so car pooling must be arranged in advance. This can be accomplished at the Membership Meeting, or by calling Steve Mayes at 722-5807.

Sunday December 30 – Sea Rim Christmas Bird Count.

This is the count we sponsor! We will certainly welcome participation by anyone with a boat and able to help us cover the lakes and bayous in the count circle. For those not pre-assigned, meet at

7:15 a.m. at the main intersection in Sabine Pass where Highway 87 turns right (west) and FM3322 continues straight ahead. Depending on available parking, we usually meet on the northwest corner of the intersection, or a little further north. If you wish to participate, please let John Whittle (409-722-4193) know.

Thursday January 17, 2002 – Membership Meeting. Chester Moore, outdoor columnist for the *Orange Leader* and *Port Arthur News* will present a program on investigating reports of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. Traditionally in November, we all bring something, so please do so if you can. We need volunteers for next year's meetings. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate! If you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Nancy Fisher at (409) 751-0119 or Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 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.

McFaddin and Texas Point Refuges Alliance

"To promote, enhance, restore, and conserve the resources of McFaddin and Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges. Working co-operatively with The United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the McFaddin and Texas Point Refuges Alliance will facilitate communication between the public and refuge personnel encourage public awareness of and involvement in refuge operations and programs, and enhance scientific, educational and recreational opportunities. "

That is the mission statement of the McFaddin and Texas Point Refuges Alliance (The Alliance), a non-profit organization recently established to work cooperatively with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. A Board of Directors was nominated and they include: James Cacioppo - President, Marty Briggs - Vice President, Mark Merchant - Secretary/Treasurer, Jared Briggs, Jed Comeaux, Rose Ann Jordan, Clyde Richmond, Charles Solano, Wayne Stupka, Joe Watts and John Whittle. They are working on obtaining 501(c)(3) status and hope to have that completed soon. A diverse group of refuge users, they have specifically expressed an interest in working with staff on a range of issues, including enhanced access and organized use. If you would like to get involved or want more information about The Alliance, please contact Charles Solano at ctsolano@swbell.net. Meanwhile, if you would like to be placed on the mailing list for the McFaddin and Texas Point NWRs Newsletter, please call the Refuge Office at (409) 971-2909 or the Texas Chenier Plains Refuge Complex Office at (409) 267-3337, fax (409) 267-2104; or you can email your request to Nancy_Brown@fws.gov

Nearby Christmas Bird Counts

Don't forget the Sea Rim State Park CBC, sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society on Sunday 30 December 2001. Those not pre-assigned, meet at 7:15 a.m. at the main intersection in Sabine Pass, where Highway 87 turns right (west) and FM3322 continues straight ahead. Normally, we meet just a little north of the intersection on the east side of the road.

Contact John Whittle, whittleja@hal.lamar.edu, or 409-722-4193 for further information.

San Bernard NWR CBC - Friday 14 December 14 2001. Ron Weeks: igarapet@BRAZOSPORT.CC.TX.US.

Lacassine NWR-Thornwell CBC - Friday 14 December, 2001. Contact: Steven W. Cardiff, (225) 578-9289 or scardif@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu

Turkey Creek CBC - Saturday 15 December 2001. Meet at the new Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center located on FM 420 approximately 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 a.m. Contact: Merle King (Big Thicket NP) at (409) 839-2689 x 233.

Sabine NWR CBC - Saturday 15 December 2001.

Contact: Marty Guidry, guidrym@home.com.

Freeport CBC - Sunday 16 December 2001. Contacts: Dick Peake 409-744-4301 rpeake1@excite.com (Houston/Galveston area); Tom Collins (979) 297-3954 thcollins@orbitworld.net (Brazosport area).

Johnsons Bayou CBC - Sunday 16 December 2001. Contact: Steven W. Cardiff, (225) 578-9289 (W), scardif@unix1.sncc.lsu.edu.

Mad Island Marsh CBC - Monday 17 December 2001. Contact: Brent Ortego at Brent.Ortego@tpwd.state.tx.us or Mark Dumesnil at mdumesnil@tnc.org.

Cypress Creek Count (Katy Prairie) CBC - Tuesday 1 January 2002. Contact: Fred Collins fcndc@JUNO.COM

Beech Creek CBC - Saturday 5 January 2002. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Town Bluff Dam Picnic area located on FM 92 just north of FM 1746. Time: 6:30 a.m. for registration and team assignments. Contact: Merle King (Big Thicket NP) at (409) 839-2689 x 233.

October Membership Meeting

continued from page 1

that may have landed. Also, he had two other censuses in which he sat in a fixed position of an hour each and watched for birds flying by. He describes the rig as bird habitat with an under story, mid canopy and canopy. In this habitat, to his surprise, he found dirt doblers, wasp, ants, mice and other organisms that came aboard with the daily supplies. These platforms are artificial reefs that attract fish and where there are fish there are birds. Normally one shrimp boat was in sight most of the time and they also attract birds. There was a wide range of sea birds seen during his study. Pomarine Jaeger, Magnificent Frigatebird, Masked Booby, Gannet, and Common Tern. However, he was there to observe migratory land birds in the vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico as they were returning from their winter quarters in the tropics. He observed Yellow-rumped Warbler, Northern Parula, Prothonotary Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Catbird, and American Redstart. Various other non-migratory birds were also observed.

John mentioned two conditions of birds which causes them to land on the platform; birds that are exhausted but otherwise in good shape seeking shelter and rest from bad weather conditions and then after resting continues with their flight; then, birds that are totally exhausted and have burned up all their stored fat. These birds usually never leave the platform and eventually die. According to John, a lot of the birds that die on platforms would have just fallen into the water and washed up on the beach if there had not been a platform there. Platforms, as near as he can tell, do not contribute in any significant way to bird mortality.

If you missed the meeting you may read about his adventure in the well-written article, Anchored in a River of Birds, which appears in the Spring-Summer 2001 of the Texas Birds publication. The project's web site address is www.geocities.com/napavalley/8596, which has some very interesting information that was not touched on during John's presentation. The November 15 meeting is the annual meeting and covered dish dinner, so please don't miss this meeting.

Nancy Fisher

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – October 20, 2001

The setting for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's October field trip was very familiar to most of the participants. Sabine Woods is probably the best and most popular birding stop in Jefferson County. The combination of coastal woodlots, open fields, and the nearby marshes and shore make for a unique combination of habitats and that brings many different species of birds. Still, as familiar as Sabine Woods is to most of the area birders, it can still hold surprises as 14 eager birders found out.

The trip started at about 7:30 a.m. as the group began assembling at the front of the sanctuary. One early arriver noted a Ruby-throated Hummingbird in the lantana near the entrance. Tree Swallows wheeled overhead as Brown Thrashers called loudly from all around. A wren could be heard buzzing from the underbrush and the first of many Eastern Phoebes for the day called from a nearby tree. The group decided they had waited long enough as any latecomers could catch up easily, and started into the woods. Hyperactive Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets, two of the areas most common winter songbirds, were immediately evident as they called and hopped from branch to branch. Resident Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals were also heard and seen early on.

It was clear from the start that it was a pretty quiet day inside the woods. There was not a great deal of bird activity being seen or heard. Gray Catbirds called from concealed locations and an Eastern Wood-Pewee was located. The Downy Woodpecker population sent out a few representatives to be seen and a female Wilson's Warbler came out for a look at the birders. A Yellow-throated Vireo was a nice find near the large pond in the woods. A wet year (finally) produced plenty of water at the sanctuary and all of the ponds were completely filled and the fields surrounding the woods were very wet in places. After a number of dry years, the abundant water was nice to see.

But as the group was walking on the edge of the woods, it was the fields that produced the biggest surprise of the day. As most of the group concentrated on locating lingering woodland migrants, Pat Jeane noticed something else. A large black bird was perched in a small tree outside of the main woods. As she pointed it out to the rest of the group, its identity was confirmed – a Groove-billed Ani! This strange cuckoo with a parrot bill is normally a resident of the thorny woods of south Texas but a few stray up the coast every year. The Jeane's had actually seen an Ani in the same area just a couple of weeks before but the notoriously nomadic Ani was no sure thing for this trip. The group crept closer for a better look and was not disappointed. The Ani hopped into the open and gave everyone a great look. While the group looked on a second Ani popped into view beside the first! Both birds stayed in the tree soaking up the morning sun as the birders looked on. Groove-billed Ani was definitely the bird(s) of the day.

The Anis disappeared and other birds awaited discovery, so the group moved on. Moving out into the fields, a Common Yellowthroat reluctantly revealed itself while Indigo Buntings were a bit more cooperative. Distant flying ducks were identified by resident waterfowl expert John Haynes as

Northern Shoveler and Northern Pintail. A late Green Heron flew by while a Swamp Sparrow gave a brief glimpse. A young Painted Bunting was located and several wading birds flew by including Tricolored Heron and several White Ibis.

A couple of large oak trees on the western edge of the main woods has been a focal point of bird activity for much of the fall and this day was no exception. The group stood under and around the trees fighting for decent glimpses of the numerous song birds moving in the branches. Most would turn out to be American Redstart or Ruby-crowned Kinglet but a couple of Northern Parulas including a beautiful adult male were also seen. Other birds located in the woods were Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and an Osprey (flying over). A Black-throated Green Warbler caught a caterpillar right before our eyes. A Red-breasted Nuthatch was heard calling in the eastern section of the woods but could never be located. A bird for another day.

Eventually the birders headed for "The Willows". It seems as if every area in the country has a great birding spot locals call "The Willows" and ours is at Sea Rim State Park. This small area has provided many great birds over the years so it is always worth checking out. It was a little slow on this day a few good birds were found. A couple of Tennessee Warblers played hide and seek but were eventually identified. A beautiful Yellow-breasted Chat appeared at the base of one of the trees. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was seen along with a fairly cooperative Magnolia Warbler. A House Wren was seen by some and a Gray Catbird by most.

Most of the birders departed at this point but a last check of Sabine Woods revealed a few birds new for the day: Barn Owl, Nashville Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. Still, those Groove-billed Anis made the day for most everyone and demonstrated one of the great things about birding: even in very familiar surroundings, you never know what will show up!

The following list was compiled by the trip leader:

Neotropic Cormorant (1), Great Egret (4), Tricolored Heron (4), Cattle Egret (2), Green Heron (2), White Ibis (30), Plegadis Ibis (1), Turkey Vulture (5), Blue-winged Teal (8), Northern Shoveler (3), Northern Pintail (1), Osprey (1), Northern Harrier (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (2), American Kestrel (1), Black-necked Stilt (1), Willet (1), Laughing Gull (20), Mourning Dove (10), Groove-billed Ani (2), Barn Owl (1), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Downy Woodpecker (5), Eastern Wood-Pewee (5), Least Flycatcher (1), Eastern Phoebe (5), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (3), Loggerhead Shrike (4), Yellow-throated Vireo (1), Blue Jay (6), Tree Swallow (5), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1), Red-breasted Nuthatch (1 – heard only), Carolina Wren (2), House Wren (4), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (6), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (10), Gray Catbird (9), Northern Mockingbird (7), Brown Thrasher (8), European Starling (10), Tennessee Warbler (3), Nashville Warbler (1), Northern Parula (2), Magnolia Warbler (3), Black-throated Green Warbler (1), American Redstart (5), Northern Waterthrush (1), Common Yellowthroat (4), Wilson's Warbler (1), Yellow-breasted Chat (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Swamp Sparrow (1), Northern Cardinal (5), Blue Grosbeak (1), Indigo Bunting (5), Painted Bunting (2), Red-winged Blackbird (15), Boat-tailed Grackle (1), Great-tailed Grackle (33), Baltimore Oriole (1)

Bird Sightings - September 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: September marks the peak – measured by the number of individual birds at least – of fall migration. The sightings below include those from the migration count, but overall represent a rather uneventful migration season. Continued expansion of Eurasian Collared-Dove and White-winged Dove populations is apparent. Unfortunately, we see on **TEXBIRDS** and elsewhere many reports from Sabine Woods and other coastal areas which cannot be used because two or three days are reported together. Ideally, we would like reports by day, listing numbers of all species seen, even if you intend to post highlights only on **TEXBIRDS**.

GREBE, Pied-billed	JEF 4 reps(32)	MC05; JEF-SW 9/23(6) JAW; JEF 9/25(1) JAW; ORA 9/15(64) AM
PELICAN, Amer. White	JEF 2 reps(37)	
PELICAN, Brown	JEF 9/8(10) JAW; JEF 9/15(5) MC09;	HAWK, Swainson's JEF 5 reps(6)
JEF-SRSP 9/15(13) MC11; JEF-TX87 9/15(10) MC11;	JEF-SW 9/23(30) JAW; JEF-SRSP 9/30(12) JAW	HAWK, Red-tailed JEF 9/15(1) MC01; JEF-SW 9/18(1) JAW; JEF 9/30(2) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF 24 reps(189)	KESTREL, American JEF 5 reps(19)
CORMORANT, Double-cr.	JEF 9/15(27) MC06; JEF 9/15(125) MC09; JEF-TP 9/15(2) MC05	RAIL, Clapper JEF 3 reps(40)
ANHINGA	JEF 3 reps(65); ORA 1 rep(1)	RAIL, King JEF-MCFW 9/4(6) PW; JEF 9/15(2) MC09
BITTERN, American	JEF-MCFW 9/4(4) PW	SORA JEF-MCFW 9/4(2) PW; JEF 9/15(1) MC09
BITTERN, Least	JEF-MCFW 9/4(11) PW; JEF 9/15(4) MC09; JEF 9/15(2) MC11	GALLINULE, Purple JEF-MCFW 9/4(6) PW; JEF 9/8(2) JAW
HERON, Great Blue	JEF 17 reps(73); ORA 1 rep(1)	MOORHEN, Common JEF 6 reps(80)
EGRET, Great	JEF 20 reps(904); ORA 1 rep(5)	COOT, American JEF 4 reps(227); ORA 1 rep(7)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 23 reps(1177); ORA 1 rep(9)	PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 9 reps(60)
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 11 reps(52); ORA 1 rep(8)	PLOVER, Snowy JEF 9/15(3) MC11; JEF-SRSP 9/15(16) MC11
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 16 reps(96)	PLOVER, Semipalmated JEF 1 rep(13)
EGRET, Reddish	JEF 4 reps(6)	PLOVER, Piping JEF 4 reps(8)
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 17 reps(3583); ORA 1 rep(34)	KILLDEER JEF 21 reps(221); ORA 1 rep(4)
HERON, Green	JEF 26 reps(89); ORA 9/15(4) AM	STILT, Black-necked JEF 13 reps(174)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.	JEF 3 reps(13); ORA 1 rep(6)	YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF 8 reps(28)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	JEF 11 reps(86); ORA 1 rep(14)	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 6 reps(84)
IBIS, White	JEF 19 reps(731); ORA 1 rep(16)	YELLOWLEGS species JEF 1 rep(3)
IBIS, White-faced	JEF 5 reps(187)	WILLET JEF 5 reps(33)
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF 9 reps(130)	SANDPIPER, Spotted JEF-PI 9/2(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 9/3(4) JAW; JEF-MCFW 9/4(11) PW; JEF 9/8(2) JAW; JEF 9/15(2) MC09; JEF 9/15(1) MC11; JEF-SRSP 9/15(7) MC11; JEF-TXPT 9/23(2) JAW
SPOONBILL, Roseate	JEF 9/1(2) JAW; JEF 9/3(1) JAW;	CURLEW, Long-billed JEF 1 rep(3)
JEF-SW 9/8(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/8(2) JAW; JEF 9/11(2) JAW;	JEF 9/15(27) MC01; JEF 9/15(5) MC02; JEF 9/15(86) MC04;	TURNSTONE, Ruddy JEF 1 rep(29)
JEF 9/15(20) MC07; JEF 9/15(1) MC08; JEF 9/15(33) MC09	JEF-TP 9/15(7) MC05; JEF 9/16(49) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 9/23(5) JAW; ORA 15/9(1) AM	KNOT, Red JEF 9/8(1) JAW
STORK, Wood	JEF 9/15(69) MC01; JEF 9/15(23) MC04; JEF 9/16(35) JAW	SANDERLING JEF 4 reps(125)
VULTURE, Black	JEF 14 reps(53); ORA 1 rep(2)	SANDPIPER, Western JEF 6 reps(250)
VULTURE, Turkey	JEF 18 reps(123); ORA 1 rep(4)	SANDPIPER, Peep JEF 1 rep(50)
VULTURE species	JEF 1 rep(1)	SANDPIPER, Least JEF 5 reps(199)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.	JEF 9/15(6) MC09; JEF-TP 9/15(2) MC05	SANDPIPER, Baird's JEF 9/15(3) MC07
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	JEF 2 reps(127)	SANDPIPER, Pectoral JEF 2 reps(8)
DUCK, Wood	JEF-TP 9/15(7) MC05; ORA 1 rep(49)	SANDPIPER, Stilt JEF 9/15(1) MC11
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 9/15(4) MC01; JEF 9/15(2) MC06;	DOWITCHER, Short-billed JEF 1 rep(21)
JEF 9/15(6) MC09; JEF-TP 9/15(14) MC05; JEF 9/16(11) JAW		DOWITCHER, Long-billed JEF 2 reps(250)
TEAL, Blue-winged	JEF 7 reps(404)	DOWITCHER species JEF 1 rep(21)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF-TP 9/15(1) MC05; JEF 9/16(10) JAW	SNIPE, Common JEF 9/15(1) MC07
TEAL, Green-winged	JEF 9/15(3) MC09	GULL, Laughing JEF 16 reps(1888); ORA 1 rep(6)
DUCK, Ruddy	JEF-TP 9/15(2) MC05	GULL, Ring-billed JEF 9/15(75) MC09; JEF-SRSP 9/15(1) MC11
OSPREY	JEF 9/15(1) MC06; JEF 9/15(1) MC09;	GULL, Herring JEF 9/15(7) MC09
JEF 9/15(1) MC12; JEF-TX87 9/22(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/23(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/30(2) JAW		TERN, Gull-billed JEF 9/15(2) MC07; JEF-SRSP 9/15(46) MC11; JEF-SRSP 9/30(10) JAW
KITE, White-tailed	JEF 7 reps(13)	TERN, Caspian JEF 5 reps(180)
KITE, Mississippi	ORA 9/15(1) AM	TERN, Royal JEF 7 reps(229)
HARRIER, Northern	JEF 9/15(3) MC04; JEF 9/15(1) MC06;	TERN, Sandwich JEF 1 rep(2)
JEF 9/30(1) JAW		TERN, Common JEF 9/15(12) MC06; JEF 9/15(12) MC09; JEF-SRSP 9/15(1) MC11
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	JEF-SW 9/2(1) JAW; JEF 9/16(2) JAW;	TERN, Forster's JEF 16 reps(523)
JEF-SW 9/22(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(1) JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM		TERN, Least JEF 2 reps(52)
HAWK, Cooper's	JEF 9/15(2) MC08	TERN, Black JEF 6 reps(340)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	JEF 3 reps(7); ORA 1 rep(5)	SKIMMER, Black JEF 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Broad-winged	JEF 9/15(1) MC02; JEF-TP 9/15(5)	DOVE, Rock JEF 15 reps(288)

COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. JEF 13 reps(94)
DOVE, White-winged JEF 10 reps(37)
DOVE, Mourning JEF 19 reps(1087) ; ORA 1 rep(13)
DOVE, Inca JEF 10 reps(68)
GROUND-DOVE, Common JEF 9/15(4) MC06
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed JEF 9 reps(13) ; ORA 1 rep(1)
ANI, Groove-billed JEF-SW 9/29(1) DPJ
OWL, Barn JEF 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/11(1) JAW;
JEF 9/15(3) MC01
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern JEF 9/15(2) MC06
OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF 9/10(1) GD;
JEF 9/15(1) MC10; JEF-SW 9/23(1) JAW
OWL, Barred ORA 9/15(4) Am
NIGHTHAWK, Common JEF 7 reps(18) ; ORA 1 rep(1)
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- JEF-SW 9/1(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/15(2) MC10; JEF-SW
9/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW
SWIFT, Chimney JEF 9 reps(57) ; ORA 1 rep(4)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. JEF 30 reps(666) ; ORA 1 rep(2)
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail. JEF 9/9(2) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/15(1) MC06
HUMMINGBIRD species JEF 7 reps(19)
KINGFISHER, Belted JEF 18 reps(34); ORA 1 rep(3)
WOODPECKER, Red-head. JEF-BMT 9/15(1) MC03; ORA 15/9(3)
AM
WOODPECKER, Red-bell. JEF 7 reps(36); ORA 1 rep(8)
WOODPECKER, Downy JEF 14 reps(30)
WOODPECKER, Hairy ORA 9/15(2) AM
FLICKER, Northern JEF 9/15(1) MC06; JEF 9/15(1) MC09;
JEF-BMT 9/15(2) MC03
WOODPECKER, Pileated JEF 3 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(5)
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided JEF-SW 9/16(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(1)
JAW
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern JEF 11 reps(45)
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell. JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF 9/15(3)
MC10; JEF-SW 9/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/18(2) JAW; JEF-SW
9/23(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Acadian JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM
FLYCATCHER, Alder JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Willow JEF-SW 9/2(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(2)
JAW
FLYCATCHER, Traill's JEF 9/15(1) MC10; JEF-SW 9/16(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/18(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(2) JAW; JEF-SW
9/30(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Least JEF-SW 9/1(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(8)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(5) JAW; JEF-SW 9/11(2) JAW; JEF 9/15(2)
MC10; JEF-SW 9/22(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 9/23(2) JAW;
JEF-SW 9/23(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW
EMPIDONAX species JEF 11 reps(20); ORA 1 rep(4)
PHOEBE, Eastern JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested JEF-SW 9/1(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(3)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(10) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(3) JAW; JEF 9/10(3)
GD; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/11(3) JAW; JEF 9/15(1)
MC06; JEF 9/15(1) MC09; JEF 9/15(6) MC10; JEF-SW 9/16(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/18(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SW
9/22(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 9/23(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(5) JAW;
JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW
KINGBIRD, Western JEF 9/15(1) MC10; JEF-TX87 9/15(2)
MC11; JEF-TX87 9/16(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 9/23(1) JAW
KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF 15 reps(146)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail. JEF 16 reps(116)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 20 reps(250); ORA 1 rep(1)
VIREO, White-eyed JEF 6 reps(23); ORA 1 rep(12)
VIREO, Bell's JEF-SRSP 9/23(1) GD
VIREO, Yellow-throated JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 1 rep(2)
VIREO, Warbling JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(1)
JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM
VIREO, Philadelphia JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD
VIREO, Red-eyed JEF 9 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(1)
JAY, Blue JEF 21 reps(215); ORA 1 rep(18)
CROW, American JEF 3 reps(57)
CROW, Fish JEF 9/5(20) JAW; JEF 9/10(1) JAW;
JEF 9/15(4) MC06; JEF 9/15(6) MC07; JEF 9/15(3) MC08;
JEF-BMT 9/15(9) MC03; JEF-TP 9/15(8) MC05
CROW, species JEF 3 reps(5)
MARTIN, Purple JEF-TX87 9/1(68) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(2)

JAW; JEF-TX87 9/2(10) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/3(10) JAW; JEF
9/15(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/23(2) JAW
SWALLOW, Tree JEF 6 reps(76)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing. JEF 5 reps(44)
SWALLOW, Bank JEF 1 rep(10)
SWALLOW, Barn JEF 15 reps(358)
SWALLOW species JEF 1 rep(1)
CHICKADEE, Carolina JEF 6 reps(30); ORA 1 rep(9)
TITMOUSE, Tufted JEF 3 reps(10)
WREN, Carolina JEF 14 reps(35); ORA 1 rep(3)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 19 reps(171)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern JEF 1 rep(4)
THRUSH, Swainson's JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW
THRUSH, Wood ORA 9/15(1) AM
ROBIN, American JEF-NEDR 9/1(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
9/8(2) JAW; JEF 9/15(2) MC07; JEF-NEDR 9/16(1) JAW;
JEF-NEDR 9/23(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/28(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR
9/30(6) JAW; ORA 9/15(4) AM
CATBIRD, Gray JEF 9/15(1) MC06; JEF 9/15(2) MC09;
JEF-TP 9/15(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1)
JAW; ORA 9/15(4) AM
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern JEF 22 reps(421); ORA 1 rep(3)
THRASHER, Brown JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/15(1) MC06; JEF 9/15(2)
MC07; JEF 9/15(2) MC09; JEF 9/15(1) MC10; JEF-BMT
9/15(3) MC03; JEF-SW 9/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/20(2) GD;
JEF-SW 9/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(10)
JAW
STARLING, European JEF 19 reps(797); ORA 1 rep(19)
WARBLER, Blue-winged JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(4) JAW; JEF 9/10(2)
GD; JEF-BMT 9/15(2) MC03; JEF-SW 9/18(1) JAW; JEF-SW
9/20(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/23(2) JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM
WARBLER, Golden-winged JEF-SW 9/23(1) JAW
WARBLER, Tennessee JEF 9/10(1) GD; JEF 9/15(1) MC10;
JEF-SW 9/23(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM
WARBLER, Nashville JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF 9/15(5) MC09; JEF 9/15(2)
MC10; JEF-SW 9/16(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SW
9/23(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW
PARULA, Northern JEF 5 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Yellow JEF 11 reps(25)
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/23(2)
JAW
WARBLER, Magnolia JEF 9/10(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/11(1) JAW;
JEF 9/15(2) MC10; JEF-SRSP 9/23(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(6)
JAW
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF-TP 9/15(1) MC05
WARBLER, Black-thr. Grn JEF 9/10(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ;
JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 9/23(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(8)
JAW
WARBLER, Yellow-throated JEF-SW 9/8(2) JAW; JEF 9/10(1) GD;
JEF-SW 9/23(1) JAW
WARBLER, Pine JEF 3 reps(16); ORA 1 rep(14)
WARBLER, Prairie JEF 9/15(3) MC10
WARBLER, Cerulean JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW
WARBLER, Black-and-white JEF 11 reps(56); ORA 1 rep(1)
REDSTART, American JEF-SW 9/1(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(4) JAW; JEF 9/10(3) GD; JEF-SW 9/16(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/20(2) GD; JEF-SW 9/23(6) JAW; JEF-SW
9/30(2) JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM
WARBLER, Prothonotary JEF-SW 9/3(1) SM; ORA 9/15(2) AM
WARBLER, Worm-eating JEF-SW 9/1(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(1) JAW; JEF 9/10(1)
GD; JEF-SW 9/23(1) JAW
WARBLER, Swainson's JEF-SW 9/3(1) GD
OVENBIRD JEF-SW 9/1(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(3)
JAW; JEF 9/15(1) MC09; JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SRSP
9/23(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(4) JAW
WATERTHRUSH, Northern JEF 9 reps(20)
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana JEF-SW 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(2)
JAW
WARBLER, Kentucky JEF-SW 9/1(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(2)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(3) JAW; JEF 9/10(3) GD
WARBLER, Mourning JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/11(3) JAW; JEF
9/15(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/16(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/18(1) JAW;
JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 9/23(0) JAW; ORA 9/15(1)

AM

YELLOWTHROAT, Com. JEF 7 reps(37)
WARBLER, Hooded JEF 9 reps(20)
WARBLER, Wilson's JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF 9/10(1) GD;
JEF-SW 9/11(1) JAW; JEF 9/15(1) MC09; JEF 9/15(1) MC10;
JEF-TP 9/15(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/20(4) GD; JEF-SW 9/22(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW
WARBLER, Canada JEF-SW 9/1(8) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(3)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(6) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(4) JAW; JEF 9/10(3)
GD; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF 9/15(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/20(1)
GD; JEF-SW 9/23(8) JAW; ORA 9/15(1) AM
CHAT, Yellow-breasted JEF-SW 9/8(2) JAW; JEF 9/10(3) GD;
JEF-SW 9/11(3) JAW; JEF 9/15(5) MC10; JEF-TP 9/15(1)
MC05; JEF-SW 9/20(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW
9/23(2) JAW
TANAGER, Summer JEF 5 reps(8)
SPARROW, Lark JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF 9/15(1)
MC04; JEF-BMT 9/15(1) MC03; JEF-TP 9/15(2) MC05
SPARROW, Savannah JEF-TP 9/15(1) MC05
SPARROW, Seaside JEF 2 reps(10)
CARDINAL, Northern JEF 18 reps(211); ORA 1 rep(17)
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted JEF 9/15(1) MC02
GROSBEAK, Blue JEF-TX87 9/8(10) JAW; JEF-TX87
9/11(5) JAW; JEF 9/15(5) MC01; JEF 9/15(21) MC04; JEF
9/15(16) MC10; JEF-SRSP 9/15(1) MC11; JEF-TP 9/15(6)
MC05; JEF 9/16(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/16(6) JAW; JEF-SW
9/22(1) JAW JEF-TX87 9/22(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(4) JAW;
JEF-TX87 9/23(30) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(2) JAW; ORA 9/15(2)
AM
BUNTING, Indigo JEF-SW 9/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(2)
JAW; JEF 9/10(2) GD; JEF 9/15(9) MC10; JEF-TP 9/15(26)
MC05; JEF-SW 9/16(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(4) JAW; JEF-SW
9/23(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(1) JAW; ORA 9/15(5) AM
BUNTING, Painted JEF-SW 9/1(5) JAW; JEF-SW 9/2(4)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/3(20) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(20) JAW; JEF
9/10(8) GD; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF 9/15(17) MC09; JEF
9/15(10) MC10; JEF-TP 9/15(24) MC05; JEF-SW 9/16(7) JAW;
JEF-SW 9/18(10) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(5) JAW; JEF-SW 9/23(1)
JAW; ORA 9/15(2) AM
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged JEF 16 reps(2680); ORA 1 rep(64)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 3 reps(34)
GRACKLE, Common JEF 12 reps(458); ORA 1 rep(40)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 14 reps(803)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 14 reps(1008); ORA 1 rep(12)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 11 reps(957); ORA 1 rep(6)
ORIOLE, Orchard JEF 9 reps(80)
ORIOLE, Baltimore JEF-SW 9/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/8(10)
JAW; JEF 9/10(5) GD; JEF-SW 9/10(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 9/11(3)
JAW; JEF-TX87 9/11(1) JAW; JEF 9/15(1) MC09; JEF 9/15(4)
MC10; JEF-BMT 9/15(4) MC03; JEF-SRSP 9/23(3) JAW
JEF-SW 9/23(6) JAW; JEF-SW 9/30(3) JAW
FINCH, House JEF-NEDR 9/5(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
9/7(1) JAW; JEF 9/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/10(1) JAW; JEF
9/15(2) MC06; JEF 9/15(2) MC07; JEF-BMT 9/15(9) MC03
SPARROW, House JEF 16 reps(214); ORA 1 rep(6)

Number of Species 197
Number of Individuals 27952

County Abbreviations:
JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

Location Codes:
BMT - Beaumont; MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; PI -
Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW -
Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 - Texas 87
Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at
Texas Point

Observer Abbreviations:
AM - Art Mackinnon; DPJ - Don and Pat Jeane; GD - Gerald Duhon;
JAW - John Whittle; MC01 - Migration Count Area 1 (Margo Holst);
MC02 - Area 2 (Joe Halbrook and Don Jeane); MC03 - Area 3 (Rose
Ann Jordan et al); MC04 - Area 4 (Joe Halbrook and Don Jeane);
MC05 - Area 5 (John Haynes); MC06 - Area 6 (Sherrie Roden and Joe
Tibbs); MC07 - Area 7 (Ray Jordan and Ken Sztraky); MC08 - Area 8
(Steve Mayes); MC09 - Area 9 (Robert Hurt); MC10 - Area 10 (Steve
Mayes); MC11 - Area 11 (John Whittle); MC12 - Area 12 (John
Whittle); PW - Royce Pendergast, John Whittle; RHJ - Rose Ann and
Harrison Jordan; SM - Steve Mayes.

Notes on Very Rare Species

Groove-billed Ani - 29 September 2001 - Pat and Don Jeane.

Seen east of Sabine Woods (4.1 miles W of Sabine Pass in Jefferson County) in the open area back of the pines almost to the north fence just off one of the newly bush-hogged trails, about 10:00 a.m.

Bell's Vireo - 23 September 2001 - Gerald Duhon

A small passerine was located near the end of the easternmost extension of the boardwalk at the willows at Sea Rim State Park (Jefferson County). The bird responded to a Screech Owl call at about 4:30 p.m., and was first observed flitting nervously at the edge of the large willow. The bird subsequently came into the open, responding to "pishing", and moved into the second growth. Total observation time, about three minutes.

This was a small, at first very plain looking bird -- obviously a vireo owing to short, but fairly stout, hooked, beak. The back was greenish, nape and head grayish, affording fair contrast between the two. Very narrow white eye ring, light lores -- there appeared to be no definite "spectacled" look. There were two whitish wing bars, but bird's most distinctive feature was the look of the wing bars. The upper, while visible, was indistinct and narrow, while the lower was very bold and prominent. There was a very small amount of yellowish wash present along the flanks and sides. For the most part, there was a lack of contrast between the wings and back without panels or edgings. Save for the narrow eye ring and light lores, the face was very plain.

Bird Alerts

As this is being written in very late October, passerine migration is all but over, with a very uneventful latter half of the season. Early migration may well have been the theme this year! One major concern has been the very poor showing of thrushes. Good weather through most of October may have result in minimal delay on the coast for most migrants.

Thoughts now turn to our wintering birds. The habitat in the north part of Sabine Woods looks great for wintering sparrows, and indeed there were several there on the last weekend in October. But as seems to be usual, early sparrows can best be found on the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point. There were eight species there, including a rather unexpected (for that location) pair of Field Sparrows, and three early White-throated Sparrows, two of them apparently young birds. An immature White-crowned was also early, while Swamp, Sharp-tailed and as many as 30 cooperative Seaside Sparrows were seen.

It is difficult to predict what the winter will bring to Cattail Marsh. The cell immediately inside the walk-in gate was in the final stages of being drained on October 28, and was full of shorebirds: Long-billed Dowitchers, Stilt Sandpipers, both Yellowlegs, Least and Western Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts and even a few Dunlin. But that will only last as long as pockets of water remain. The Water Hyacinth that had completely clogged that cell has diminished and was drying out in the southern part of the cell. That notwithstanding, the number of ducks in the southern-most cells particularly was impressive for so early in the season, with good numbers of both species of Teal, Gadwall and Shoveler. There were also Mottled Duck, Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, a few Ruddy Duck and even one female Lesser Scaup. The city appears to be in the process of clearing all the trees from all the levees. While we are pleased to see the tallows removed, we may well miss the willows. The grass on the sides of all the levees has also been mowed. While there is still sparrow habitat in a few places inside and a good number of places just outside the fences, sparrows may be much harder to find this winter. We need to educate the city to do that particular mowing, which we assume is done to maintain the levees free of trees and woody plants, in May or June rather than September or October. The willows were popular with Palm Warblers, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and other similar species. We may have to visit the more natural wetland across the bridge over Willow Marsh Bayou.

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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
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