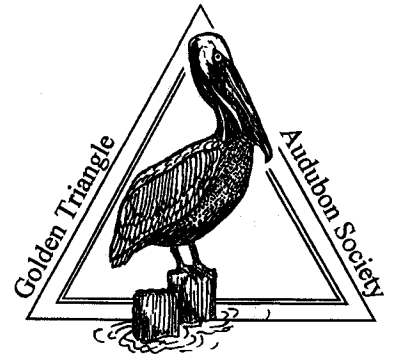


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 8 No. 2

February 2002

**Membership Meeting  
Thursday, February 21, 2002  
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Purple Martins  
Jace Stansbury  
Purple Martin Conservation Association**

This timely program will explain all about Purple Martins: their migration patterns, nesting box requirements and care. Jace Stansbury will illustrate his talk with slides from the Purple Martin Conservation Association.

The first male "scout" Purple Martins have already arrived in Texas. Reports of the migration can be viewed at [www.purplemartin.com](http://www.purplemartin.com). The first report this year was from John Arvin, who reported a sighting at El Encino in Tamaulipas, Mexico on January 5. The first report from Texas came from Seguin on January 18. There was a sighting in Beaumont on January 23.

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.

## January Membership Meeting

Chester Moore, outdoor writer for the *Orange Leader* and the *Port Arthur News*, gave a presentation on the searches for the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. He described how he grew up in Southeast Texas and his interest in the topic. He pointed out that East Texas has more forest land than Oregon. In his researches, he described talking with the wife of James Tanner, whose 1941 pictures are among the last fully confirmed sightings of the species.

Chester described the background to the 30-day search for the Ivory-billed woodpecker being organized by Van Remsen of Louisiana State University and sponsored by Carl Zeiss optics. (See the Article in the January 2002 issue of the *Brown Pelican*.) He had arranged to accompany one party of searchers the following Monday and Tuesday.

Indicating that he felt that there may be a few left, wandering more in the forests of East Texas, Chester noted that there was some evidence of the species preference for gum tree and others harboring a specific species of beetle larvae. He cited a 1977 recoding from the Neches River bottoms as evidence of the possible continued existence of the species.

Chester answered many questions from the audience of approximately 50 members and guests.

**Next Sabine Woods Work Day – Saturday March 9 – please plan to come and help**

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 8, No.2 February 2002

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

RARE BIRD ALERT AND  
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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.

### Wednesday February 6, 2002.

There will be a meeting to discuss beneficial uses of dredge material from the proposed deepening of the Neches River and the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel. The meeting, hosted by the Gulf Coast Rod, Reel and Gun Club, will take place at the J and J Steakhouse, 6685 Eastex Freeway, in Beaumont, and will begin at 7 p.m. All interested persons are invited to attend.

### Thursday February 21, 2002 -- Membership Meeting. See front page

**Saturday February 23, 2002 (tentative) – Field Trip to West Harris County.** Following last year's extremely successful trip, we plan to visit the area again. This area includes the Katy Prairie, and is good for raptors (including eagles and caracara), sparrows and (if conditions are right) waterfowl. Although housing developments are rapidly encroaching on this area, it is still good for birding. To ensure that no-one is left behind at the start, advance registration is required for this trip, and will facilitate car pooling. See Steve Mayes at the Membership Meeting on February 21 or call and leave a message at 409-722-5807. The meeting place will be the Albertson's parking lot at Barker-Cypress and Clay Roads west of Houston at 8 a.m. It takes about 2½ hours to drive there from the Golden Triangle area. Take Barker Cypress north from IH-10 two miles west of Highway 6. The trip is planned for all day, but will reach US 290 in Hockley around mid-day for those who want to leave early.

Thursday March 21 (tentative date)  
– Membership Meeting. Details later.

**Saturday March 23, 2002 – Field Trip to Bolivar Flats.** Meet at the vehicle barrier at 8:30 a.m. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the shoreline, 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 Rettillon Road. At the beach, if sand conditions permit, turn right (west) following previously successful vehicle tracks, about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. We will probably leave the vehicle barrier at about 9:00 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes later than that. It takes about 90 minutes to drive from Beaumont to the flats. Although it will still be early in the migration season, an opportunity will exist to visit High Island on the way back.

**Saturday April 20, 2002 – Field Trip.** Our traditional April Field Trip in conjunction with Sea Rim State Park looking for Spring migrants starts at 7:30 a.m. at the headquarters building at Sea Rim State Park.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Lu and Grady Skillern and Mary and Herb Stafford for providing the refreshments in for January, and Joe Tibbs and Jack Baugh for volunteering for February. We are looking for volunteers for March, April and May. 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 Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 as soon as possible. Please help if you can!

# The Great Backyard Bird Count

## PARTICIPATING IS EASY!

***We need every birder in Southeast Texas to count for the birds!***

Here's what you do:

- **Count the birds in your backyard**, local park, or other natural area on one or all four count days, Feb. 15 – 18. You can count in as many locations desired, just keep separate records and fill out a checklist for each area and each day.
- **Watch the birds** for at least 15 minutes on each day that you participate.
- **How to count:** It is very important that everyone count their birds in the same way. On the day(s) you count, watch your bird feeders, or take a short walk (less than 1 mile) in your neighborhood, park or natural area. For each species you see, keep track of and report the **highest number of individuals** that you observe at any one time. For example, if you see a female Cardinal which leaves the area, then later see a male Cardinal which leaves the area, and later see 3 Cardinals at one time, your count for Cardinals would be 3.
- **How to report:** At the end of the day go to "Submit your bird checklist" on the GBBC web site. <http://www.birdsource.com/gbbc/checklistmap.html> Fill out the form about your location, local habitat, and count start time and duration. Enter your high counts for each species seen that day at that location. You submit one bird checklist for each day that you count and for each area you count in.

For example:

- If you count 4 days at one location, you'd submit 4 different checklists.
- If you count 4 days at 2 *different* locations each day, submit 8 checklists. And etc.
- **Problems Getting to the Internet?** Contact Joe Halbrook, 4680 Barton, Beaumont, TX 77706-2730, phone 892-3090.

Texas is consistently the state with the most species reported. In 2001 Texas reported 227 species, well above No. 2 California's 197. As shown below, last year Texas cities took the top 4 spots in the country for the most species seen and took 6 out of the top ten spots.

### Top 10 Cities For Number Of Species In 2001

City	No. of Species	City	No. of Species
1 Rockport, TX	142	6 Austin, TX	112
2 Dallas, TX	126	7 Rio Hondo, TX	109
3 Houston, TX	126	8 Albuquerque, NM	108
4 San Antonio, TX	126	9 Lakeport, CA	108
5 Tucson, AZ	115	10 Virginia Beach, VA	107

The political geography of Southeast Texas restricts the area available to count for any one named locality and may mean that no one local area will be able to get on the above list but we should be able to get on the top ten list for Texas. Last year that would have only taken 82 species. So let's get out to our backyards, Cattail Marsh, the Pleasure Island spoil areas, Sabine Woods and Sea Rim Park and count birds on Feb. 15 through 18. Each location has its own importance. Although this may be a difficult year, and by mid-February, many wintering species may have thinned out, Cattail Marsh and the surrounding areas certainly hold at least 90 species in a typical winter. If we remember that Beaumont also includes the many wooded areas in North Beaumont, Beaumont could make the national list if conditions are good. Also, Pleasure Island, the Pilot Station at Texas Point and Sabine Woods are all within the city limits of Port Arthur!

## Bird Sightings - December 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:** December brings Christmas Counts, and a lot of the sightings this month came from them. Throughout the Upper Texas Coast observers have noted drastically reduced numbers of winter residents this year. This has been true in our area also. The reason ascribed by most people has been the absence of cold weather in states north of us. However, this would have suggested that the birds would be merely late in arriving. There is not much time left if they are to show up at all!

<b>LOON, Common</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	JEF 7 reps(508)
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	JEF 12 reps(70)	<b>TEAL, Green-winged</b>	JEF 5 reps(9750)
<b>GREBE, Horned</b>	JEF 12/30(2) SR7; JEF 12/30(1) SR10	<b>CANVASBACK</b>	JEF 12/30(1) SR1; JEF 12/30(1000)
<b>GREBE, Eared</b>	JEF 2 reps(6)	SR4	
<b>PELICAN, American White</b>	JEF 15 reps(2357)	<b>REDHEAD</b>	JEF 12/30(15) SR4
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	JEF 12/1(15) PW; JEF-PI 12/1(1) PW; JEF-TX87 12/1(2) PW; JEF-TXPT 12/1(5) PW; JEF-TX87 12/13(1) HJW; JEF-TXPT 12/26(5) JAW; JEF-PI 12/28(1) JAW; JEF 12/30(50) SR1; JEF 12/30(11) SR4; JEF 12/30(6) SR5 JEF 12/30(10) SR6; JEF 12/30(11) SR10; JEF 12/30(30) SR6A; JEF 12/30(1) SR8B	<b>DUCK, Ring-necked</b>	JEF 3 reps(233)
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	JEF-PI 12/1(11) PW; JEF-TX87 12/1(2) PW; JEF-TXPT 12/1(14) PW; JEF-TP 12/9(3) JAW; JEF 12/13(35) HJW; JEF 12/26(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 12/26(7) JAW; JEF 12/28(25) JAW; JEF-PI 12/28(10) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(5) JAW JEF 12/30(25) SR1; JEF 12/30(50) SR4; JEF 12/30(12) SR5; JEF 12/30(85) SR6; JEF 12/30(1) SR8; JEF 12/30(10) SR8A	<b>SCAUP, Greater</b>	JEF-TP 12/28(3) JAW; JEF 12/30(2)
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crest</b>	JEF 13 reps(718)	SR6	
<b>ANHINGA</b>	JEF-TP 12/9(1) JAW; JEF 12/30(2) SR4; JEF 12/30(1) SR8A	<b>SCAUP, Lesser</b>	JEF 10 reps(464)
<b>FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent</b>	JEF 12/30(1) SR6	<b>SCAUP species</b>	JEF 5 reps(245)
<b>BITTERN, American</b>	JEF 12/30(2) SR11	<b>BUFFLEHEAD</b>	JEF 5 reps(43)
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	JEF 16 reps(106)	<b>MERGANSEER, Hooded</b>	JEF-TP 12/28(4) JAW; JEF 12/30(3)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(192); ORA 1 rep(1)	SR4; JEF 12/30(2) SR6; JEF 12/30(3) SR7	
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	JEF 14 reps(267); ORA 1 rep(1)	<b>MERGANSEER, Red-breasted</b>	JEF 6 reps(31)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	JEF 7 reps(26)	<b>DUCK, Ruddy</b>	JEF 3 reps(1190)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	JEF 7 reps(41)	<b>OSPREY</b>	JEF-TX87 12/1(2) PW; JEF-TX87 12/13(2) HJW; JEF-TX87 12/26(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(1) JAW; JEF 12/30(2) SR4; JEF 12/30(1) SR5; JEF 12/30(1) SR6; JEF 12/30(2) SR8A; JEF 12/30(1) SR8B
<b>EGRET, Reddish</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	JEF 7 reps(18)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	JEF 5 reps(34)	<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(80)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.</b>	JEF 6 reps(47)	<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	JEF 3 reps(4)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.</b>	JEF 12/30(9) SR5; JEF 12/30(9) SR8A	<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	JEF-SRSP 12/1(1) PW; JEF-TX87 12/1(1) PW; JEF 12/30(1) SR4
<b>IBIS, White</b>	JEF-TX87 12/1(1) PW; JEF-TXPT 12/1(500) PW; JEF-TP 12/9(3) JAW; JEF 12/16(120) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(4) JAW; JEF 12/30(45) SR4; JEF 12/30(10) SR6; JEF 12/30(35) SR7; JEF 12/30(2) SR8; JEF 12/30(3) SR10 JEF 12/30(50) SR8A	<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	JEF 4 reps(4); TYL 1 rep(1)
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	JEF-TP 12/9(40) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(32) JAW; JEF 12/30(75) SR4; JEF 12/30(9) SR8; JEF 12/30(50) SR8A	<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	JEF 16 reps(149); TYL 1 rep(1)
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	JEF-TX87 12/1(107) PW; JEF 12/16(15) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(22) JAW; JEF 12/30(4) SR10A	<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	JEF-SW 12/1(1) PW; JEF 12/19(2) RP
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	JEF-TXPT 12/1(2) PW; JEF-TP 12/9(6) JAW; JEF-SW 12/13(1) HJW; JEF 12/30(1) SR1; JEF 12/30(80) SR4; JEF 12/30(10) SR5; JEF 12/30(5) SR6; JEF 12/30(8) SR7; JEF 12/30(11) SR6A; JEF 12/30(1) SR8A	<b>KESTREL, American</b>	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 14 reps(99)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	HAI 1 rep(17); JEF 11 reps(64); TYL 1 rep(3)	<b>FALCON, Peregrine</b>	JEF 12/30(3) SR7
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	HAI 2 reps(9); JEF 13 reps(97)	<b>RAIL, Yellow</b>	JEF 12/30(1) SR10A; JEF 12/30(1) SR11
<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	JEF 5 reps(176)	<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	JEF 10 reps(8005); ORA 1 rep(100)	<b>RAIL, Virginia</b>	JEF 12/30(1) SR11
<b>GOOSE, Ross's</b>	JEF-TP 12/9(8) JAW; JEF 12/16(3) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(2) JAW; ORA 12/22(1) MW	<b>SORA</b>	JEF 5 reps(40)
<b>GOOSE, Canada</b>	JEF 1 rep(12)	<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	JEF 6 reps(319)
<b>GADWALL</b>	JEF 4 reps(1108)	<b>COOT, American</b>	JEF 12/16(65) JAW
<b>WIGEON, American</b>	JEF 2 reps(105)	<b>CRANE, Sandhill</b>	JEF 7 reps(161)
<b>MALLARD</b>	JEF 4 reps(68)	<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	JEF 12/30(1) SR7; JEF 12/30(2) SR10
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	JEF 12/9(4) JAW; JEF-TP 12/9(6) JAW; JEF 12/16(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(1) JAW; JEF 12/30(8) SR4; JEF 12/30(5) SR7	<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	JEF 5 reps(90)
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	JEF 5 reps(250)	<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	JEF 12/30(4) SR7
<b>TEAL, Cinnamon</b>	JEF-TP 12/9(3) JAW	<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	JEF 10 reps(95)
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	JEF 7 reps(4215)	<b>KILLDEER</b>	JEF 12/30(2) SR6A
		<b>OYSTERCATCHER, Amer.</b>	JEF 5 reps(170)
		<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	JEF 8 reps(786)
		<b>AVOCET, American</b>	JEF 6 reps(20)
		<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	JEF 8 reps(294)
		<b>WILLET</b>	JEF-PI 12/28(4) JAW; JEF 12/30(1) SR1; JEF 12/30(1) SR5; JEF 12/30(2) SR6; JEF 12/30(2) SR6A; JEF 12/30(1) SR8A; JEF 12/30(1) SR8B
		<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	JEF 12/30(12) SR7
		<b>WHIMBREL</b>	JEF 2 reps(6)
		<b>CURLEW, Long-billed</b>	JEF-PI 12/28(1) JAW; JEF 12/30(1) SR1
		<b>GODWIT, Marbled</b>	
		SR1	
		<b>TURNSTONE, Ruddy</b>	JEF 3 reps(13)
		<b>SANDERLING</b>	JEF 5 reps(244)
		<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	JEF 5 reps(318)
		<b>SANDPIPER, Peep</b>	JEF 2 reps(202)
		<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	JEF 5 reps(154)
		<b>DUNLIN</b>	JEF 4 reps(622)
		<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	JEF 12/30(3) SR7
		<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	JEF-TP 12/28(10) JAW; JEF 12/30(250) SR1; JEF 12/30(1) SR6; JEF 12/30(2) SR10
		<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(70)

DOWITCHER species JEF 5 reps(1146)  
 SNIPE, Common JEF 3 reps(5)  
 WOODCOCK, American JEF-SW 12/13(1) HJW; JEF 12/30(2)  
 SR4; JEF 12/30(1) SR8  
 GULL, Laughing JEF 13 reps(4446)  
 GULL, Bonaparte's JEF 4 reps(35)  
 GULL, Ring-billed JEF 14 reps(1952); ORA 1 rep(1)  
 GULL, Herring JEF 12 reps(88)  
 GULL, Lsr. Black-backed JEF 12/30(1) SR6A  
 TERN, Caspian JEF 8 reps(104)  
 TERN, Royal JEF 6 reps(80)  
 TERN, Forster's JEF 12 reps(155)  
 SKIMMER, Black JEF 2 reps(120)  
 DOVE, Rock JEF 6 reps(55); ORA 1 rep(20)  
 COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian JEF-TX87 12/1(1) PW; JEF-TX87  
 12/13(25) HJW; JEF 12/30(2) SR5; JEF 12/30(4) SR6; JEF  
 12/30(6) SR8  
 DOVE, White-winged JEF-NEDR 12/1(1) PW; JEF-SW  
 12/1(1) PW; JEF-NEDR 12/28(1) JAW  
 DOVE, Mourning HAI 2 reps(11); JEF 14 reps(258);  
 ORA 1 rep(7)  
 DOVE, Inca HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(4)  
 ANI, Groove-billed JEF-SW 12/1(2) PW  
 OWL, Barn JEF-SW 12/1(2) PW; JEF 12/30(1)  
 SR5; JEF 12/30(1) SR8  
 OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 12/1(1) PW; JEF 12/30(3)  
 SR8A; JEF-SW 12/30(1) SR8  
 HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus* JEF-NEDR 12/2(1) JAW  
 KINGFISHER, Belted JEF 11 reps(42); ORA 1 rep(2)  
 WOODPECKER, Red-headed HAI 12/15(1) TCCB  
 WOODPECKER, Red-bellied HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 3 reps(9); TYL 1  
 rep(4)  
 SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(4)  
 WOODPECKER, Downy HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 7 reps(30); TYL 1  
 rep(1)  
 FLICKER, Northern HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(2); TYL 1  
 rep(1)  
 WOODPECKER, Pileated HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 1 rep(2); TYL 1  
 rep(2)  
 PHOEBE, Eastern HAI 2 reps(12); JEF 15 reps(115); TYL  
 1 rep(1)  
 SHRIKE, Loggerhead HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(358)  
 VIREO, White-eyed HAI 12/15(1) TCCB; JEF 12/30(1)  
 SR8A; TYL 12/15(1) TCCB  
 VIREO, Blue-headed HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3 reps(6)  
 JAY, Blue HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 8 reps(63)  
 CROW, American HAI 2 reps(22); TYL 1 rep(26)  
 CROW, Fish JEF-TP 12/9(20) JAW; JEF-TP  
 12/28(2) JAW  
 CROW, species JEF 2 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(3)  
 SWALLOW, Tree JEF 12/28(3) JAW; JEF 12/30(20)  
 SR4; JEF 12/30(6) SR8; JEF 12/30(8) SR10  
 CHICKADEE, Carolina HAI 2 reps(26); JEF 6 reps(30); TYL 1  
 rep(5)  
 TITMOUSE, Tufted HAI 2 reps(22); TYL 1 rep(4)  
 NUTHATCH, Red-breasted JEF-SW 12/30(1) SR8  
 NUTHATCH, Brown-headed HAI-SNDY 12/9(4) KS; HAI 12/15(4)  
 TCCB  
 CREEPER, Brown HAI-SNDY 12/9(1) KS  
 WREN, Carolina HAI 2 reps(10); JEF 4 reps(6)  
 WREN, House HAI 12/15(5) TCCB; JEF-TP 12/9(1)  
 JAW; JEF 12/30(3) SR2; JEF 12/30(2) SR10; JEF 12/30(4)  
 SR8A; JEF 12/30(1) SR8B  
 WREN, Sedge JEF 12/30(2) SR4; JEF 12/30(12)  
 SR5; JEF 12/30(1) SR11; JEF 12/30(1) SR8A  
 WREN, Marsh JEF-TXPT 12/1(1) PW; JEF-TP  
 12/9(7) JAW; JEF 12/30(1) SR4; JEF 12/30(6) SR10  
 KINGLET, Golden-crowned JEF 12/30(2) SR8A  
 KINGLET, Ruby-crowned HAI 2 reps(21); JEF 12 reps(60); TYL  
 1 rep(5)  
 GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(57)  
 BLUEBIRD, Eastern HAI 2 reps(47); JEF 2 reps(18); TYL 1  
 rep(12)  
 THRUSH, Hermit HAI-SNDY 12/9(1) KS; HAI 12/15(2)  
 TCCB; JEF 12/30(1) SR8B  
 ROBIN, American HAI-SNDY 12/9(45) KS; HAI  
 12/15(145) TCCB; JEF-NEDR 12/1(4) PW; JEF-NEDR 12/22(1)  
 MW; JEF 12/30(10) SR8A; TYL 12/15(74) TCCB  
 CATBIRD, Gray JEF-SW 12/1(1) PW; JEF-TXPT  
 12/1(1) PW; JEF-SW 12/26(3) JAW; JEF 12/30(1) SR2; JEF  
 12/30(1) SR5; JEF 12/30(2) SR6; JEF 12/30(2) SR8; JEF  
 12/30(1) SR8A  
 MOCKINGBIRD, Northern HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 12 reps(74); TYL 1  
 rep(1)  
 THRASHER, Brown JEF 3 reps(7)  
 STARLING, European JEF 9 reps(980)  
 PIPIT, American JEF 3 reps(62)

WARBLER, Orange-crowned HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(25); TYL 1  
 rep(2)  
 WARBLER, Yellow-rumped HAI 1 rep(27); JEF 11 reps(367); TYL  
 1 rep(10)  
 WARBLER, Pine HAI 2 reps(40); JEF 3 reps(5); TYL 1  
 rep(8)  
 WARBLER, Palm JEF-TP 12/9(4) JAW; JEF-TP 12/28(3)  
 JAW; JEF 12/30(3) SR10; JEF 12/30(1) SR8A  
 YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 8 reps(23)  
 WARBLER, Wilson's JEF-SW 12/26(2) JAW; JEF 12/30(1)  
 SR2; JEF 12/30(1) SR6; JEF 12/30(1) SR8  
 TOWHEE, Spotted JEF-SW 12/26(1) JAW  
 SPARROW, Chipping HAI 2 reps(140); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 1  
 rep(10)  
 SPARROW, Field HAI-SNDY 12/9(4) KS; HAI 12/15(12)  
 TCCB  
 SPARROW, Savannah JEF 14 reps(366)  
 SPARROW, LeConte's JEF 12/30(1) SR5  
 SPARROW, Seaside JEF 2 reps(27)  
 SPARROW, Fox JEF 12/30(0) SR6A; JEF 12/30(0)  
 SR8B  
 SPARROW, Song JEF 3 reps(12)  
 SPARROW, Lincoln's JEF 12/30(1) SR5; JEF 12/30(8)  
 SR8A; JEF 12/30(2) SR8B  
 SPARROW, Swamp JEF 9 reps(111)  
 SPARROW, White-throated HAI 2 reps(6); JEF 6 reps(46)  
 SPARROW, White-crowned JEF-SW 12/1(2) PW; JEF-TP 12/9(1)  
 JAW; JEF-SW 12/13(1) HJW; JEF 12/16(3) JAW; JEF-TP  
 12/28(2) JAW; JEF 12/30(1) SR8; JEF 12/30(51) SR8A  
 JUNCO, Dark-eyed HAI 1 rep(2)  
 CARDINAL, Northern HAI 1 rep(15); JEF 10 reps(45); TYL 1  
 rep(2)  
 BLACKBIRD, Red-winged JEF 14 reps(1030)  
 MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 10 reps(57)  
 MEADOWLARK species JEF 3 reps(11)  
 GRACKLE, Common HAI 1 rep(102); JEF 9 reps(525); TYL  
 1 rep(75)  
 GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 7 reps(111)  
 GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 12 reps(438)  
 COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 5 reps(1042)  
 BLACKBIRD species JEF 2 reps(140)  
 GOLDFINCH, American HAI 1 rep(162); JEF 5 reps(51); TYL 1  
 rep(1)  
 SPARROW, House JEF 6 reps(67)

Number of Species 170  
 Number of Individuals 54075

#### County Abbreviations:

HAI - Hardin; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange; TYL - Tyler

#### Location Codes:

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

#### Observer Abbreviations:

HJW - Harrison Jordan and John Whittle; JAW - John Whittle; JJW - John and Jana Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; MW - Steve Mayes and John Whittle; PW - Royce Pendergast, John Whittle; RP - Royce Pendergast; SR1 - Sea Rim CBC Area 1; SR2 - Area 2; SR4 - Area 4; SR5 - Area 5; SR6 - Area 6; SR6A - Area 6A; SR7 - Area 7; SR8 - Area 8; SR8A - Area 8A; SR8B - Area 8B; SR10 - Area 10; SR10A - Area 10A; SR11 - Area 11; TCCB - Turkey Creek CBC (Robert Row and John Whittle).

## Notes on Rare Species

**Magnificent Frigatebird -- 30 December 2001 -- Sherrie Roden**  
 A large black bird with angular wings, black head, white triangular patch on the neck. Long tail and legs. Wings completely black. Seen over the Sabine-Neches Waterway in Sabine near the Coast Guard Station.

**Yellow Rail -- 30 December 2001 -- John Whittle**  
 Two separate birds. One was seen on the marsh side of the ditch alongside the private road leading from Highway 87 to the beach near the western boundary of Texas Point NWR. The other was flushed by airboat in the Sea Rim SP hunt area north and a little west of the headquarters complex. In each cases the medium sized rail exhibited a plainly visible white trailing edge to the secondaries.

(continued on page 6)

## Field Trip to Cattail Marsh 19 January 2002

In general, the weather has pretty much cooperated with the field trips of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society in recent years. Sure there have been a couple of cold, windy mornings on Bolivar Flats, but for the most part things have gone smoothly. Things looked ominous for the first field trip of 2002 however, with an 80% coverage of rain expected for the day to go along with gusty winds. Because of this, this trip leader's expectations were pretty low for the expedition to Tyrrell Park's Cattail Marsh facility. Surely, few people would show up on such a day and if they did how easy would birds be to get a look at?

Both these questions were quickly answered on that morning as more than a dozen birders (including some first timers on our trips) showed up and Cattail Marsh provided plenty of birds. The viewing conditions were far from perfect, but nice looks at numerous birds were still had by all.

Ducks are the major focus of winter trips to Tyrrell Park as Cattail Marsh is far and away the best and most accessible place to see large numbers of these birds in our area. Usually, ten or more species of waterfowl can be viewed with little trouble in a single day at this facility. This day was no different as Green-winged Teal populated the flooded cells everywhere you looked. Interspersed were good numbers of Northern Shovelers and plenty of Lesser Scaup. Picking out a Greater Scaup (usually present at this location in small numbers) from among the Lessers proved impossible with the windy conditions, so looks at Ruddy Ducks and Gadwall had to do. Picking through the many birds, a few individuals of less common species were noted: a beautiful male Bufflehead along with a female, a few Mallards here and there along with their look alike cousins the Mottled Duck. Flocks of Snow Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese were seen flying by.

Raptors are also usually obvious winter birds at the park. A noisy Red-shouldered Hawk flew through the trees opposite the parking lot as the group looked on and the group got scope-filling looks at our smallest raptor, the colorful American Kestrel. Red-tailed Hawks were the most numerous of the true raptors seen on the trip (Vultures don't really count) as they were seen perched and in flight around the marsh.

The highlight bird of the trip was located by Don Jeane in his scope. How he first got on the bird, no one else knows but Don seems to have a knack for it. It was a male Cinnamon Teal ... or was it? The rich, rusty plumage seemed a dead giveaway for this species but something was not quite right. The crown of the bird was a bit darker than the rest of the head and was that a very small white spot in front of the eye? Possibly these were just plumage aberrations or discolorations, but that did not quite ring true. Eventually, a check of the Sibley Guide would give added assurance that this bird was probably of hybrid origin. Cinnamon Teal hybridize with Blue-winged Teal with some frequency so birds of mixed parentage turn up from time to time. Often, the birds look like Cinnamon Teal with a strong hint of the Blue-wing head pattern. Our bird was probably the result of a Blue-wing x Cinnamon hybrid mating back with another Cinnamon Teal as it showed only a hint of the Blue-wing pattern but it was enough for the group to notice.

As the weather conditions worsened and rain seemed eminent, the group headed back to the parking lot, intent on waiting out the shower. Many in the group decided to call it a day, but the remaining birders ventured forth again traveling a bit further on the levee roads than before. A few new ducks were added, such as Northern Pintail and Ring-necked Duck. White-crowned Sparrows and American Pipits were also located. A young Roseate Spoonbill (age determined by his very pale, pink plumage) showed himself along with a very cooperative Tricolored Heron. A large mound of earth on one of the levees proved a favorite roosting site for numerous Black and Turkey Vultures. Plenty of Dowitchers along with Lesser Yellowlegs, Killdeer and Black-necked Stilts represented the shorebird group while a Northern Harrier cruised low over the flocks looking for an easy meal.

Eventually, even these hardy birders had to call it a day. The weather was not getting any better and the wind was making the use of scopes difficult. Having seen the majority of what Cattail Marsh had to offer, the birds headed back to the parking lot to go their separate ways. But more birds, and probably more surprises, await the intrepid birder willing to lug his spotting scope around the miles of levees of Cattail Marsh for a little winter birding fun. Hopefully, with a little better weather.

The following birds were identified by the group:

GREBE, Pied-billed (1); HERON, Great Blue (1); EGRET, Great (4); IBIS, *Plegadis* (570); SPOONBILL, Roseate (1); VULTURE, Black (15); VULTURE, Turkey (3); GOOSE species (500); GADWALL (50); MALLARD (6); DUCK, Mottled (10); TEAL, Blue-winged (100); TEAL, Blue-wing X Cinnamon (1); SHOVELER, Northern (1000); PINTAIL, Northern (6); TEAL, Green-winged (2000); DUCK, Ring-necked (25); BUFFLEHEAD (1); BUFFLEHEAD (2); DUCK, Ruddy (50); HARRIER, Northern (1); HARRIER, Northern (3); HARRIER, Northern (2); HAWK, Red-shouldered (2); HAWK, Red-tailed (4); KESTREL, American (2); COOT, American (20); KILLDEER (10); STILT, Black-necked (20); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (1); SANDPIPER, Western (2); SANDPIPER, Least (2); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (50); GULL, Laughing (100); GULL, Ring-billed (10); TERN, Caspian (1); TERN, Forster's (4); DOVE, Mourning (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (1); WOODPECKER, Downy (1); FLICKER, Northern (1); WOODPECKER, Pileated (1); PHOEBE, Eastern (3); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (1); CROW, American (1); WREN, Carolina (1); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (2); STARLING, European (4); PIPIT, American (2); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (3); SPARROW, Savannah (10); SPARROW, Song (1); SPARROW, Swamp (2); SPARROW, White-crowned (3); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (250); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (13); GOLDFINCH, American (1)

### Notes on Rare Species (cont from page 5)

**Lesser Black-backed Gull – 30 December 2001 – Joe Carona, Paul Shaw and Craig Provost**

A black-backed gull, larger than nearby Ring-billed Gulls, was seen on a mudflat on the bank of the Sabine-Neches Waterway during the Sea Rim CBC.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch – 30 December 2001 – Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan.**

A nuthatch with a black line through the eye and relatively dark red underparts.

## Golden Triangle Audubon Society

### Income and Expense Summary Calendar Years 2001 and 2000

Income	Calendar 2001	Calendar 2000
Contributions		
Restricted		
Entergy Corp/Art Exhibit	0.00	3,700.00
Sabine Woods	2,069.00	70.00
Total Restricted	2,069.00	3,770.00
Unrestricted		
Mobil Foundation	3,000.00	3,500.00
Other	543.00	90.00
Total Unrestricted	3,543.00	3,590.00
Total Contributions	5,612.00	7,360.00
NAS Chapter Dues Share	1,714.55	961.56
Newsletter Subscriptions/contributions	535.00	633.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$7,861.55</b>	<b>\$8,954.56</b>
Expenses		
Advertising	195.05	161.35
Contributions Made	1,020.00	30.00
Office Supplies and Expenses	0.00	19.78
Postage and Delivery	0.00	3.20
Education Program incl. Art Show	1,273.51	3,698.49
Meeting Expenses	288.35	206.84
Newsletter Expenses	1,660.20	1,987.16
Sabine Woods Expenses	1989.00	0.00
PO Box Rent, Telephone	366.66	22.65
Travel Reimbursement	497.19	789.66
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$7,289.96</b>	<b>\$7,117.13</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenses</b>	<b>\$571.59</b>	<b>\$1,837.43</b>

### Balance Sheet -- 31 December 2001 and 31 December 2000

Assets		
Community Bank Account	5,972.33	5,682.13
Fixed Equipment	281.39	0.00
Total Assets	6,253.72	5,682.13
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Fund Balance at beg. of year	5,682.13	3,844.70
Surplus of income over expenses	571.59	1,837.43
Fund balance at end of year	6,253.72	5,682.13
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$6,253.72</b>	<b>\$5,682.13</b>

#### Notes

1. Accounts are maintained on a cash basis.
2. Major Sabine Woods expenditures in 2000 under a TNRRCC SEP grant were paid directly to the contractor by Travis Audubon Society acting as fiscal agent for Texas Audubon Society, and thus do not appear in these accounts.
3. Entergy contribution was in support of sponsorship of the Gentling Brothers "Of Birds and Texas" Art Exhibition at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas held in 2000.
4. Mobil Foundation grants match the donations of volunteer hours by employees and retirees and their spouses.
5. National Audubon Society dues share is distributed based on projections of chapter membership for the year, with adjustments for actual result for the preceding year.
6. Newsletter Subscriptions include payments by Audubon members residing in the chapter territory. These are voluntary, and thus are technically contributions rather than subscriptions.

## Report from the January Board of Directors Meeting

The following is a summary of major non-routine issues discussed at the January 24 Board of Directors meeting. Copies of the minutes are available upon request, as are copies of the somewhat more detailed financial report discussed at the meeting.

The minutes of the board meeting of 8 November 2001 and the intervening membership meetings were approved.

President Steve Mayes noted that a consulting firm hired by the US Army Corps of Engineers was seeking to hold a meeting to solicit suggestions on possible beneficial use of dredge material from the proposed deepening of the Neches River and the Sabine-Neches Waterway. It was agreed that it would be best if our members were given the opportunity to attend a meeting in conjunction with other groups rather than one for our members only. [Unfortunately, this meeting was scheduled for February 6, and it is unlikely that this Newsletter will be distributed in time. We did notify all members for whom we have an email address.]

The Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau was seeking to identify participants in their "Roughwings" (ages 8 through 13) team to participate in the Great Texas Birding Classic Upper Texas Coast Sector on April 27. (Anyone knowing of a possible participant should contact Steve Mayes.)

Secretary John Whittle noted that the Audubon Texas board would meet in Corpus Christi on February 9, and that the National Audubon Society board planned to meet in Houston March 15-17.

It was reported that Harrison Jordan had volunteered to manage the proposed water project (a well or connection to city water and associated work) at Sabine Woods. He will investigate the options and prepare a recommendation for approval by Texas Ornithological Society and will then act as project manager during the construction phase.

John Whittle appealed for additional contributed articles for the Newsletter, citing a need articles on conservation issues, whether local regional, national or international, to better balance the Newsletter content. A volunteer was also needed to write the reports on the membership meetings for the Newsletter.

On conservation issues, the board noted that there had been no known activity or action on the permit request by Western Towing respect of a proposed barge mooring near Bessie Heights Marsh. The proposal floated by the Lower Neches Valley Authority to raise the level of Steinhagen Lake by seven to ten feet was also discussed. There is, at this time, no known public formal proposal. The sense of the board was that there would be much opposition to such a project.

In response to a desire on the part of National Audubon Society, Steve Mayes agreed to prepare a draft of a plan for the Chapter for 2002.

The board will welcome any suggestions or comments from members, and will especially welcome offers to help with the myriad of tasks that have to be accomplished to keep the Society running smoothly.



## NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

### Membership Form

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

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

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\_\_\_\_\_

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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 on Siler's Birding on the Net at <http://birdingonthe.net/hotmail.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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