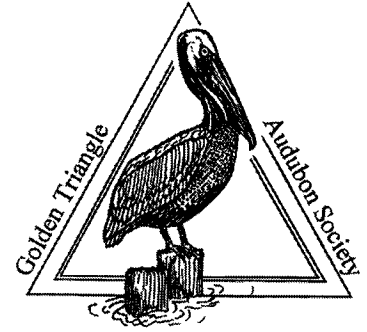


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 9 No. 3

March 2003

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 20, 2003**  
**6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

## **Seaside Sparrows**

**Matt Whitbeck**  
**Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge**

The Seaside Sparrow is a species that is found almost entirely in coastal marshes. This bird is a year round resident on the upper Texas coast. This program will center on the haunts and habits of this coastal marsh specialist. This species lives out its existence in an environment subject to regular inundation with saltwater. Storm-driven tides can completely submerge its grassy habitat. Fires regularly reduce vegetation to stubble. This turbulent environment is the permanent home of the Seaside Sparrow. Come hear about why this bird is such a unique member of our rich natural heritage.

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.

## **February Membership Meeting**

At the February meeting, forty members were present as R.A.F. (Bob) Hill showed us some of his slides of birds of the Coastal Bend. He included shots of Roseate Spoonbills, Reddish Egrets and other waterbirds characteristic of that part of the state as well as some of the passerine birds, including his obvious favorite, the Green Jay. We thank Jean Hollingsworth, Lynn Otto and Needa Reed for supplying the refreshments.

*John A. Whittle*

## **Sabine Woods**

We now have a water supply at Sabine Woods. We need a volunteer, either in advance of or during the Work Day (see below) to set up a water drip. There is water -- a faucet with a hose bib connection -- at the end of the boardwalk between the small pond and the main pond. We would like to be able to leave the main water valve (which is elsewhere and secured in a locked box), open only very slightly so that we do not have any possibility of an excessive water bill. We envisage a hose leading to a "camouflaged" metal tube providing the drip. Reimbursement for the cost of materials is available. Please contact John Whittle at (409) 722-4193.

We thank various volunteers who have, on their own initiative, performed various maintenance tasks for us in recent months. In particular, we thank Tex Wells and his brother-in-law for clearing the boardwalk of leaves and twigs at least twice.

**Sabine Woods Work Day, Sat. March 15, 2003, from 7:30 a.m. until ? Please come and help!**

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 9, No.3 March 2003

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

**RARE BIRD ALERT AND  
SOCIETY INFORMATION  
TELEPHONE NUMBER  
(409) 768-1340**

**www.goldentriangleaudubon.  
org**

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## Calendar of Events

**Saturday March 8, 2003. Marsh Madness! (at McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge).** In celebration of the 100th birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the McFaddin and Texas Point Refuges Alliance are hosting a free program for the families of Southeast Texas from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Presentations are planned to include the Basics of Fishing, Kayaks and Canoes, Importance of Wetlands, Waterfowl Demonstrations, Fire in the Marsh, Alligator and Snake Demonstrations. The entrance to McFaddin Refuge is located on Highway 87, 12 miles west of Sabine Pass. For more information, call the refuge at (409) 971-2909.

**Saturday March 15, 2003. Sabine Woods Work Day.** From 7:30 a.m. until ? Sabine Woods is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87.

**Saturday March 15, 2003. Grand Opening of new Pier and Boat Ramp at Champion Lake in Trinity River NWR.** The Friends of Trinity River Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service invite you to the grand opening of the new pier and boat ramp on Champion Lake. The ribbon cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. will be followed by refreshments, tours of the lake and other programs. The Champion Lake public use area is located at the end of CR 417, east of FM1409, 11 miles south of Dayton. Call the refuge at (936) 336-9786 for further details.

**Yellow Rail Walks at Anahuac NWR**  
**March 15th (Saturday) 7 am,**  
**March 29th (Saturday) 4 pm**  
**March 30th (Sunday) 7 am**  
**April 5 (Saturday) 7 am**  
**April 6 (Sunday) 4 pm**  
**April 12 (Saturday) 4 pm**  
**April 13 (Sunday) 7 am and 4 pm**  
**April 19 (Saturday) 7 am and 4 pm**

Meet leader David Sarkozi of the Friends of Anahuac Refuge at the visitor contact station at the entrance to the Refuge at the time indicated. (Matt Whitbeck will lead the April 5 walk.)

There is no charge for these walks. You should be in good shape to go onto the prairie, although many in their 70's

go on these trips with no problem (the record age is now 78).

The Yellow Rail walks are in strenuous walking conditions. The ground will be wet, but not what you could consider wading. Waterproof footwear is recommended, rubber knee boots are good. The water will be just "splashy" and areas where water would cover the feet are avoided so waterproof hiking boots will be fine. No one will be allowed on the walk with open toe shoes, sandals, or barefoot.

If you are less able to go into the prairie you still have a good chance to see a Yellow Rail by standing at the edge of the prairie and watch the walkers with binoculars or scope. Many have been very successful this way.

There are LOTS of mosquitoes on the Yellow Rail Prairie; long sleeves are recommended, as is insect repellent.

**Thursday March 20. Membership Meeting.** "Seaside Sparrows" by Matt Whitbeck, Anahuac NWR. See page 1 for details.

**Saturday March 29. Field trip to Bolivar Flats. Note the changed date!** Leader Steve Mayes. 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 8:45 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 bird the High Island Sanctuaries on the way back.

**March 27-30 The Hawk Migration Association of North America Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas.** One of the main purposes of the HMANA Conference, held every three years, is to provide a venue for the

presentation of papers from individuals and organizations from all over North America. Papers cover such topics as raptor migration site reports, long-term trends, banding results, migration ecology, owl migration, hawk watching history, and education with raptors to name just a few. In addition to the paper sessions there will be talks by representatives of other raptor organizations and many invited speakers, including Scott Weidensaul (author - Living on the Wind), Pete Dunne (co-author - Hawks in Flight), and Bill Clark (co-author Peterson Guide to the Hawks, Photographic Guide to North American Raptors). There will also be speakers and workshops on new initiatives such as HAWKCOUNT, the on-line electronic database provided by HMANA, satellite telemetry, and the use of NEXRAD radar.

The theme for the 2003 HMANA Conference will be 'A Celebration of Flight'. For further information, visit the HMANA web site at: [www.hmana.org](http://www.hmana.org)

**Saturday April 12. Sea Rim SP Bird Walk.** Meet at Park HQ at 7:30 a.m. Easy walking (or driving) to the boardwalk at Willows. Later, drive to Sabine Woods to continue birding for those who wish. Easy walking on the boardwalks at both locations.

Sea Rim State Park is on Highway 87, 10 miles west of Sabine Pass.

**Thursday April 17. Membership Meeting.** Speaker: Sandy Komito, author of "I Came, I Saw, I Counted"

**Saturday/Sunday May 3/4. Spring Garden Tour.** The Beaumont Council of Garden Clubs is seeking volunteers to staff this event. Please contact Joe Halbrook at (409) 892-3090 or [Joebmt@wt.net](mailto:Joebmt@wt.net).

**Thursday May 15. Membership Meeting.** Speaker: Victor Emanuel of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours.

## Volunteer Urgently Needed

Ken Sztraky has looked after our telephone answering machine for more than seven years, but is moving out of

the 768 exchange area (Vidor). Is their a volunteer in Vidor or anywhere else in the triangle who would like to provide service to our members? We use the recording to provide information as well as receive messages. Most of the information would reach the volunteer by email. To volunteer, contact any Board member – see panel opposite for numbers.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. Volunteers are now solicited for April 2003 onwards. 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!

## 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.

## Check our Web Site!

Jeff Pittman has done a splendid job in overhauling and expanding our web site. Plans are afoot to eventually include access to the database of local bird sightings that we have amassed over the last eight years or so. Jeff would also welcome any contributions from members, especially any photographs that we might use for a period. Jeff is particularly interested in

photos that might replace the Black Skimmer photograph currently on the home page. If these are already in electronic format, send them to Jeff at [Geojeff@swbell.net](mailto:Geojeff@swbell.net). We can arrange to scan prints or slides. Quite often, the editor has supplementary material that won't fit in the Newsletter, and in future we will put the complete items onto the web site. We are committed to keeping the printed *Brown Pelican* indefinitely, but if you would like us to stop sending the *Brown Pelican* by mail and merely send you an email each time we put a new issue on the web site, we can do that. Send a email with your request to [whittleja@hal.lamar.edu](mailto:whittleja@hal.lamar.edu).

## Bolivar Flats Appeal

The Houston Audubon Society has been working for about two years on a project to acquire 750 acres on the Bolivar Peninsula known as the Horseshoe Marsh. For those of you who have visited the Peninsula, it is the area near the ferry landing surrounding the cast iron lighthouse and going back to Port Bolivar. It is a beautiful saltmarsh area with exposed oyster reefs at low tide and yet also with some significant upland habitat. It serves as home for many shorebirds, Roseate Spoonbills, Oystercatchers, Long-billed Curlews, Seaside Sparrows and Meadowlarks among many others.

Acquisition has been extremely difficult as the property is in a bankruptcy proceeding and the developer was attempting to divide the property including wetlands into over 400 different tracts. The survey of the property alone costs in excess of \$50,000 and took months to complete.

HAS now has received the appraisal for almost \$800,000. They have received a federal grant to protect the wetlands, but still need to raise about \$300,000 as quickly as possible to complete the acquisition.

If you can support this effort, please send donations in any amount to: Houston Audubon Society, 440 Wilchester, Houston, Texas 77079.

Please earmark donations specifically for the "Bolivar Fund" and they will be used exclusively for the Bolivar sanctuary which this piece will increase to in excess of 2,000 acres.

# Welcome to eBird

*Contributed by Robert Hurt*

For years now I have been keeping records of the birds I have seen on my field trips and their numbers. Many birders keep excellent records. Many birders will count the birds they identify and record their sightings along with locations and dates. What's more, each of these sightings is important, because each one is a vital piece of information that can be used to better understand what is going on with bird populations. Where do different species breed or winter and in what numbers? When do they migrate? When do they show up at the woods? Are their numbers increasing or decreasing? Are their geographic ranges shifting? These important questions can be answered, but only if the millions of sightings made by birders each year can be collected into one place where they can be stored, accessed, and used by other birders, scientists, and conservationists. This data will help to solve the puzzle of North American bird populations.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society have come together to provide such a place eBird. Now the time you spend in the field can be shared with others and can help others to better understand what is going on with our Avian friends. This online checklist project allows you to enter all your bird sightings into a powerful database that you can use to keep track of all your North American birding information, and that other birders and scientists can use to study and protect bird populations. Whether you are a backyard birder, a Merry Miler, refuge hopper or just plane serious about your birding you are welcome to explore the eBird database, discover what birds are being seen at different locations, and add your own observations to the growing database.

You'll have fun keeping track of your bird sightings with eBird. You can easily determine your life list, your yard list, your year list, or any other list in which you may be interested. Along with keeping count of what, where, and when you saw the species, you can look to see how populations of "your" birds may be changing.

The eBird data collected and archived over decades and even centuries, will play an important role in detecting and explaining changes in bird populations and aiding in bird conservation efforts and you can play a role in this effort. The long-term importance of bird survey projects, such as the Breeding Bird Survey and Christmas Bird Count, and Project Feeder Watch as well as the Great Backyard Bird Count are already well established. These counts provide our most reliable records of population trends at both regional and continental scales. eBird takes bird counting one step further, because with the eBird project, each individual can develop his or her own bird-monitoring routes, and every sanctuary, preserve, or Audubon center can develop its own protocol for measuring long-term changes in its own bird populations. eBird data, collected and archived over decades and even centuries, will thus play an enormous role in detecting and explaining changes in bird populations and aiding in bird conservation efforts.

Your style of birding is important and can help. Your interest in birds may be to mount a single feeder to your

window, or you may landscape your yard to attract a variety of species. You may prefer watching the birds in your backyard or a Merry Miler chasing rarities across the continent or you might accumulate large numbers of species on your year list, county list, or life list or backyard list. All are welcome any and all birders! All that matters is that, each time you identify a bird, you submit your observation to the project where it can help in scientific and conservation efforts.

One of the goals of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society is to help make a difference. In order for us to make a difference I feel our involvement with the eBird project can help us make that difference. This project is a living, community-based effort, and Cornell and Audubon are providing a way for us to become involved. They are seeking our input and will be improving the ways that we can submit, view, and explore our observations. It's my hope that some of us in the club will join with eBird by contributing our observations, and then keep watching as pieces to the puzzles fall in place. To participate in eBirds you'll need to have internet access. Their web address is [www.ebird.org](http://www.ebird.org).

## Audubon Reorganizes in Texas

Last September, during a series of meetings in Rockport, Texas, a reorganization of the Audubon organization in Texas was completed. The Audubon Assembly is composed of two delegates from each of the 21 active certified Audubon Chapters in Texas. Representing Golden Triangle Audubon Society were Sherrie Roden and Jana Whittle. The Assembly elected five Regional Directors, one from each region, and three At-large Directors to the board of Audubon Texas. This represents one-half of the voting members of the board, the other members being elected by the board itself. Golden Triangle Audubon is in Region V along with Coastal Bend Audubon, Houston Audubon and Rio Grande Delta Audubon. Our newly elected Regional Director is John Biesmann, President-elect of the Houston Audubon Society. John Whittle is also a member of the board of Audubon Texas, and serves as its Secretary.

The keystone initiatives of the restructure include components for conservation science, education, outreach/advocacy and support to chapters. In keeping with the Audubon Texas mission to conserve birds, wildlife habitat and promote natural diversity, the Audubon Texas Assembly identified three key issues. Topping the list as a consensus of the regions across Texas is the issue of water conservation. This involves everything from ground water mining and exploration to water quality. Urban development as it relates to growth and fragmentation of habitat is the second issue the group will focus on in the coming year. The third key issue involves promoting education for quality stewardship.

Audubon Texas consists of the approximately 25,000 National Audubon Society members in Texas. Approximately 7,000 of these members live in areas not currently included in a chapter territory.

*Sherrie Roden*

*(The editor apologizes for the delay in publishing Sherrie's report.)*

## Field Trip to West Harris County – February 22, 2003

A dozen birders braved the dark clouds and long drive for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's annual field trip to the Katy Prairie. This region of western Harris County and eastern Waller County was, formerly, a large swath of wet grassland. It is now largely used for agriculture, livestock, and increasingly, housing subdivisions but is still a haven for birds. Wintering flocks of sparrows and waterfowl are joined by raptors and flycatchers to create a great situation for visiting birders.

First stop was Gummert Road. David Bradford has been seeding this area for years to attract sparrows and was kind enough to spread seed the morning of our trip. Sparrows in the seeded area were a little thin on this trip however. Though Field Sparrow and Vesper Sparrow and White-throated Sparrows were all sighted, the numbers of species and individuals were less than has been seen in the past. The Harris's Sparrows seen easily on a scouting trip some weeks earlier did not materialize on this date. A nice consolation prize was a Crested Caracara flying by and landing in a tree. These odd-looking raptors seem to be increasingly common on the upper Texas coast and this was evident on the trip as the species were seen numerous times. One sparrow that did cooperate more than usual was the always elusive LeConte's Sparrow. This seldom seen bird dwells in wet fields and prefers to run away from disturbance rather than fly. The thick grasses of its typical haunts make getting a good look at the bird difficult at best. Usually, all that is seen is a small bird that pops up and just as quickly zips deep into the grasses. Usually, a few hardy souls decided to try and flush a LeConte's. There was brief success as birds would pop up and then disappointment as they would then hide but persistence paid off. Finally, a bird was flushed and it zipped across the nearby road. With none of its usual grasses around, it had no choice but to perch in a small tree giving good looks to the whole group. It was a nice way to finish off the main Sparrow-hunt of the trip.

Moving on, the group cruised the back roads of the Katy Prairie. Some of the first birds found were also among of the best. Stopping near a small wooded area on Peek Road produced an expected but still welcome result – Great Horned Owl. Scopes were quickly trained on the bird, sitting low in an oak tree watching the birders just as intently. What was a surprise was the second Great Horned Owl perched nearby. They were probably a mated pair as these large raptors start nesting very early. Next was an adult White-tailed Hawk soaring along one side of the road. The bird cooperated nicely giving good views to all the assembled group. With its gray back, orange shoulders and stark white tail, tipped in black it is certainly one of our more handsome raptors and usually hard to find east of Houston. The good luck momentarily abandoned the group as the pond, usually surrounded by Black-crowned Night-Herons produced little more than a Great Egret and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

Our luck returned when we hit the wet fields filled with wintering waterfowl. Fields full of geese and ducks are one of the great wonders of the Katy Prairie and it did not disappoint. Snow Geese by the hundreds could be seen easily – sitting in the fields, flying by or in the process of landing. Suddenly, large groups would boil up off the ground and the birder's eyes would quickly scan the sky for eagles or other raptors.

Unfortunately, no eagles were seen (at least well) on this trip but Osprey and Northern Harrier scared the geese as best they could. But the Snows were not alone. They were joined by plenty of dark geese as well. Greater White-fronted were easily seen and Canada Geese were also found. It took a little more searching to locate a few diminutive Ross's Geese. These Snow look-alikes can be recognized by their overall smaller size and substantially smaller bills and they were eventually picked out of the groups of Snows. Along with the geese were plenty of ducks. Northern Pintails were by far the most common covering wet fields and dabbling in small ponds. American Wigeon was also picked out by a sharp-eyed birder and a few Mallards made an appearance. Gadwall and Northern Shoveler were also easy to find on the day.

While cruising Longenbaugh Road, one of the best spots for Bald Eagle, another bird caught the eye. Vermilion Flycatcher! And an adult male at that! Though the bird had been reported in the area previously, it was still a joy to find this little gem. Fiery red and black, he did his trademark flycatching from a fence giving everyone a chance to admire him. Anyone who has ever struggled identifying scores of dull and often look alike species of flycatcher can appreciate one so gaudily colored and conspicuous.

Many other species were located on the day. A Red-bellied Woodpecker worked a dead snag while a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker actually showed off his yellow belly. Eastern Bluebirds brightened the trip and their cousins the American Robins seemed to dot every field and yard. Yellow-rumps worked the trees and bushes while both Yellowlegs species worked shallow ponds along with numerous Dowitchers. Also nice to see were Purple Martins. These large swallows are among the earliest of spring migrants and were seen cruising for insects over several area fields. A couple of pine trees filled with Cedar Waxwings was a nice show.

Warren Lake is one of the premier spots on the Katy Prairie as it hosts large flocks of waterfowl and other birds. On this date, American Coots, Pied-billed Grebes, Snow and Canada Geese were all found on the water. As for ducks, Ring-necked, Scaup, Ruddy, Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were all found. Double-crested Cormorants lounged on snags and one birder caught a brief glimpse at a probable Common Loon.

The highlight of the trip for many came on Mathis Road just before it takes a right turn and becomes Berry Road. This spot has produced a number of interesting birds over the years and is always worth a stop. At first, it looked like little would be seen here on this trip but then a raptor was spotted perched in a small tree. Binoculars revealed rusty wings whose tips reached almost to the tip of the tail. Could it be ... Yes! As the bird took to the air we saw the distinctive field marks of an adult Ferruginous Hawk! This largest of *Buteos* soared up into the air providing good looks at the top and under side of the bird. But the show was not over as the large hawk was joined on the aerial stage by another bird. A dark-morph Red-tailed Hawk! Mostly seen in the west, these dark raptors are always a welcome sight and this bird provided a nice contrast to the much paler Ferruginous. Although not the last birds seen by any means, this was certainly one of the high points of the trip

*(concluded on page 7)*

## Bird Sightings – January 2003

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:** An interesting month enlivened by a Bald Eagle, a White-tailed Hawk and a Crested Caracara in west Jefferson County, along with the now expected Sandhill Cranes. The numbers and variety of raptors in that area have been excellent this winter season. The best areas are probably those south of US90 but north of the wooded areas in the Gilbert Ranch on either side of FM365. They can be birded from South China Road, McDermand Road, Johnson Road, League Road, FM1406 and Willis Road.

Increasing numbers of wintering hummingbirds were recorded, but not all of them could be fully identified. There has been less readily accessible wintering sparrow habitat this year, although the results from the Orange County Christmas count, which are included below, suggest that the birds may well be present.

<b>LOON, Common</b>	ORA 1 rep(2)	<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	JEF 1/12(1) JAW; JEF 1/20(1) JAW;
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	JEF 4 reps(14); ORA 1 rep(17)	JEF 1/30(1) AM; ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC	
<b>PELICAN, Amer. White</b>	ORA 1 rep(23)	<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	JEF 1/1(1) OCCBC
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	JEF 1/1(7) OCCBC; JEF-TP 1/18(1)	<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	JEF 6 reps(14); ORA 9 reps(30)
FTTP; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC		<b>HAWK, White-tailed</b>	JEF 1/11(1) JAW; JEF 1/18(1) MHW;
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	JEF 1/1(1) OCCBC; JEF 1/11(2)	JEF 1/26(2) FZW	
JAW; JEF-TP 1/11(15) JAW; JEF 1/12(1) JAW; JEF-TP 1/18(5)		<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	JEF 8 reps(94); ORA 1 rep(9)
FTTP; JEF 1/19(10) JAW; ORA 1/1(11) OCCBC		<b>HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's)</b>	JEF 1/18(2) MHW
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crested</b>	JEF 3 reps(29); ORA 1 rep(41)	<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	JEF 1/26(1) FZW
<b>CORMORANT, Species</b>	JEF 1 rep(4); ORA 1 rep(9)	<b>KESTREL, American</b>	JEF 8 reps(95); ORA 2 reps(6)
<b>ANHINGA</b>	JEF-TP 1/18(1) FTTP	<b>MERLIN</b>	JEF 1/12(2) JAW; JEF 1/18(1) MHW;
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	JEF 8 reps(36); ORA 1 rep(15)	JEF-TP 1/18(1) FTTP	
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	JEF 8 reps(79); ORA 1 rep(28)	<b>FALCON, Peregrine</b>	JEF 1/19(1) JAW; JEF 1/27(1) AM
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	JEF 7 reps(106); ORA 1 rep(101)	<b>RAIL species</b>	ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	ORA 1 rep(19)	<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(9)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	JEF 2 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(4)	<b>COOT, American</b>	JEF 3 reps(2800); ORA 1 rep(900)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	JEF 4 reps(39); ORA 1 rep(5)	<b>CRANE, Sandhill</b>	JEF 1/12(127) JAW; JEF 1/18(142)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	JEF 1/19(1) JAW	MHW; ORA 1/1(60) OCCBC	
<b>IBIS, White</b>	ORA 1/1(10) OCCBC	<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	ORA 1 rep(25)
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	JEF-TP 1/18(5) FTTP	<b>KILLDEER</b>	JEF 8 reps(970); ORA 3 reps(56)
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	JEF 1/18(200) MHW; JEF 1/19(7)	<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	JEF 2 reps(59); ORA 1 rep(64)
JAW; ORA 1/1(35) OCCBC		<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	ORA 1/1(8) OCCBC	<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	JEF 4 reps(14)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	JEF 5 reps(19); ORA 1 rep(32)	<b>YELLOWLEGS species</b>	ORA 1 rep(18)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	JEF 5 reps(35); ORA 3 reps(12)	<b>WILLET</b>	ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	JEF 3 reps(85)	<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	JEF-TP 1/11(1) JAW; JEF-TP 1/18(1)
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	JEF 6 reps(4880); ORA 1 rep(125)	FTTP; JEF 1/19(1) JAW; ORA-BC 1/1(1) OCCBC	
<b>GOOSE, Ross's</b>	JEF-TP 1/11(3) JAW; JEF 1/12(1)	<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	ORA 1 rep(10)
JAW; JEF 1/26(1) FZW; ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC		<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	JEF 5 reps(101); ORA 1 rep(10)
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	ORA 1/1(3) OCCBC	<b>DUNLIN</b>	ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>GADWALL</b>	JEF 3 reps(750); ORA 1 rep(50)	<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	JEF-TP 1/11(1) JAW; JEF 1/18(2)
<b>WIGEON, American</b>	JEF 2 reps(13)	MHW; ORA-BC 1/1(1) OCCBC	
<b>MALLARD</b>	JEF 1 rep(12); ORA 1 rep(1)	<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	ORA-BC 1/1(50) OCCBC
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	JEF 1/11(4) JAW; JEF-TP 1/11(2)	<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	JEF 1 rep(105)
JAW; JEF 1/19(2) JAW; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC		<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	JEF 2 reps(256); ORA 1 rep(70)
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	JEF 3 reps(475)	<b>SNIPE, Wilson's</b>	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(4)
<b>TEAL, Cinnamon</b>	JEF 1/19(2) JAW	<b>WOODCOCK, American</b>	JEF 1/30(1) AM; ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	JEF 3 reps(4250); ORA 1 rep(2)	<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	JEF 5 reps(205); ORA 1 rep(348)
<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	JEF 3 reps(400)	<b>GULL, Bonaparte's</b>	JEF 3 reps(17); ORA 1 rep(65)
<b>TEAL, Green-winged</b>	JEF 3 reps(2500); ORA 1 rep(72)	<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	JEF 6 reps(1203); ORA 2 reps(48)
<b>CANVASBACK</b>	JEF-TP 1/18(3) FTTP; JEF 1/19(1)	<b>GULL, Herring</b>	JEF 3 reps(30)
JAW; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC		<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b>	JEF 1/11(10) JAW; ORA 1/1(1)
<b>DUCK, Ring-necked</b>	JEF 3 reps(900); ORA 1 rep(9)	OCCBC	
<b>SCAUP, Greater</b>	JEF-TP 1/11(12) JAW; JEF-TP	<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	JEF 3 reps(10)
1/18(2) FTTP; JEF 1/19(5) JAW; ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC		<b>TERN, Common</b>	ORA-BC 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>SCAUP, Lesser</b>	JEF 2 reps(250); ORA 1 rep(6)	<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	JEF 3 reps(10); ORA 1 rep(22)
<b>BUFFLEHEAD</b>	JEF 3 reps(22); ORA 1 rep(1)	<b>SKIMMER, Black</b>	JEF 1 rep(5)
<b>GOLDENEYE, Common</b>	JEF-TP 1/11(1) JAW; JEF-TP 1/18(2)	<b>DOVE, Rock</b>	JEF 3 reps(26); ORA 1 rep(28)
FTTP; JEF 1/19(1) JAW		<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	JEF 1/9(1) JAW; JEF 1/10(2) JAW;
<b>MERGANSER, Hooded</b>	JEF-TP 1/11(3) JAW; JEF 1/19(1)	JEF 1/11(9) JAW; JEF 1/18(3) MHW; JEF 1/19(16) JAW; JEF	
JAW		1/20(2) JAW; ORA-BC 1/1(2) OCCBC; ORA 1/26(2) SBE	
<b>DUCK, Ruddy</b>	JEF 2 reps(20)	<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	JEF-NEDR 1/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
<b>OSPREY</b>	JEF-TP 1/18(1) FTTP; ORA 1/1(6)	1/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/13(1) JAW; JEF 1/19(1) JAW;	
OCCBC		JEF-NEDR 1/26(1) FZW; JEF-NEDR 1/27(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(1)	
<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	JEF 2 reps(4)	OCCBC	
<b>EAGLE, Bald</b>	JEF 1/11(1) JAW; JEF 1/12(1) JAW	<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	JEF 10 reps(233); ORA 9 reps(21)
<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	JEF 6 reps(59)	<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	JEF 1 rep(2); ORA 1 rep(8)

SCREECH-OWL, Eastern ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 OWL, Barred ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. JEF-NEDR 1/12(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/22(1) JJW  
 HUMMINGBIRD, *Archilochus* JEF-NEDR 1/20(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/23(1) JJW  
 HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous JEF-NEDR 1/12(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/22(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/23(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/26(3) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/27(2) JJW; ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 HUMMINGBIRD, *Selasphorus* JEF-NEDR 1/11(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/19(3) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/20(1) JJW  
 HUMMINGBIRD species JEF-NEDR 1/9(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/13(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/19(1) JJW  
 KINGFISHER, Belted JEF 7 reps(21); ORA 3 reps(19)  
 WOODPECKER, Red-headed ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC  
 WOODPECKER, Red-bellied JEF 5 reps(13); ORA 13 reps(52)  
 SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 5 reps(23)  
 WOODPECKER, Downy JEF 3 reps(4); ORA 2 reps(23)  
 FLICKER, Northern JEF 4 reps(5); ORA 1 rep(14)  
 WOODPECKER, Pileated JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 5 reps(20)  
 PHOEBE, Eastern JEF 6 reps(67); ORA 7 reps(35)  
 SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 10 reps(110); ORA 5 reps(27)  
 VIREO, White-eyed ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 VIREO, Cassin's ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 VIREO, Blue-headed ORA 2 reps(6)  
 JAY, Blue JEF 7 reps(20); ORA 16 reps(76)  
 CROW, American JEF 3 reps(33); ORA 1 rep(45)  
 CROW, Fish JEF-TP 1/11(12) JAW; JEF-TP 1/18(15) FTTP; JEF 1/19(200) JAW; ORA 1/1(3) OCCBC  
 CROW, species JEF 2 reps(5)  
 SWALLOW, Tree JEF-TP 1/11(59) JAW; JEF-TP 1/18(10) FTTP; JEF 1/19(50) JAW; ORA 1/1(604) OCCBC  
 SWALLOW, N Rough-winged ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 CHICKADEE, Carolina JEF 4 reps(10); ORA 18 reps(70)  
 TITMOUSE, Tufted ORA 11 reps(30)  
 NUTHATCH, Brown-headed ORA 1/1(8) OCCBC  
 CREEPER, Brown ORA 1/1(3) OCCBC  
 WREN, Carolina JEF 4 reps(6); ORA 2 reps(31)  
 WREN, House ORA 1/1(11) OCCBC  
 WREN, Sedge ORA 1/1(6) OCCBC  
 WREN, Marsh ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 KINGLET, Golden-crowned ORA 1/1(14) OCCBC  
 KINGLET, Ruby-crowned JEF 4 reps(32); ORA 6 reps(80)  
 GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 3 reps(13); ORA 1 rep(14)  
 BLUEBIRD, Eastern JEF 6 reps(120); ORA 6 reps(94)  
 THRUSH, Hermit JEF-TP 1/18(1) FTTP; ORA 1/1(16) OCCBC  
 ROBIN, American JEF 14 reps(1058); ORA 14 reps(933)  
 CATBIRD, Gray ORA 1/1(10) OCCBC  
 MOCKINGBIRD, Northern JEF 9 reps(176); ORA 15 reps(105)  
 THRASHER, Brown ORA 5 reps(26)  
 STARLING, European JEF 7 reps(271); ORA 4 reps(146)  
 PIPIT, American JEF 5 reps(150); ORA 1 rep(7)  
 WAXWING, Cedar ORA 6 reps(313)  
 WARBLER, Orange-crowned JEF 3 reps(15); ORA 1 rep(25)  
 WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF 5 reps(335); ORA 17 reps(614)  
 WARBLER, Pine JEF 8 reps(25); ORA 7 reps(84)  
 WARBLER, Palm JEF-TP 1/11(3) JAW; JEF-TP 1/18(3) FTTP; JEF 1/19(6) JAW  
 YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 1 rep(4)  
 TOWHEE, Eastern ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 SPARROW, Chipping ORA 3 reps(76)  
 SPARROW, Vesper ORA 1/1(3) OCCBC  
 SPARROW, Savannah JEF 7 reps(146); ORA 1 rep(18)  
 SPARROW, LeConte's ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 SPARROW, Song JEF 4 reps(7); ORA 3 reps(16)  
 SPARROW, Swamp JEF 2 reps(20); ORA 1 rep(20)  
 SPARROW, White-throated JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 17 reps(122)  
 SPARROW, White-crowned JEF 1/11(20) JAW; JEF 1/18(1) MHW; JEF-TP 1/18(1) FTTP; ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 JUNCO, Dark-eyed ORA 1 rep(5)  
 CARDINAL, Northern JEF 7 reps(49); ORA 20 reps(275)  
 BUNTING, Indigo ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC  
 BLACKBIRD, Red-winged JEF 6 reps(3393); ORA 16 reps(251)  
 MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 6 reps(108); ORA 1 rep(29)

MEADOWLARK species JEF 4 reps(45)  
 BLACKBIRD, Brewer's ORA 1/6(5) SBE; ORA 1/9(5) SBE; ORA 1/10(4) SBE; ORA 1/13(12) SBE; ORA 1/14(4) SBE; ORA 1/15(9) SBE; ORA 1/16(2) SBE; ORA 1/17(3) SBE; ORA 1/18(3) SBE; ORA 1/20(2) SBE; ORA 1/22(3) SBE; ORA 1/23(1) SBE  
 GRACKLE, Common JEF 7 reps(546); ORA 8 reps(205)  
 GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 4 reps(58); ORA 1 rep(22)  
 GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 6 reps(253); ORA 1 rep(86)  
 COWBIRD, Brown-headed JEF 2 reps(21); ORA 1 rep(1)  
 BLACKBIRD species JEF 1 rep(20)  
 FINCH, House JEF-NEDR 1/11(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/12(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 1/13(1) TW; JEF-NEDR 1/13(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/26(1) FZW; ORA 1/3(3) SBE; ORA 1/7(4) SBE; ORA 1/10(3) SBE; ORA 1/13(3) SBE; ORA 1/14(5) SBE; ORA 1/15(1) SBE; ORA 1/16(4) SBE; ORA 1/17(3) SBE; ORA 1/18(1) SBE; ORA 1/20(2) SBE; ORA 1/24(1) SBE; ORA 1/25(3) SBE; ORA 1/26(3) SBE  
 GOLDFINCH, American JEF 11 reps(227); ORA 19 reps(292)  
 SPARROW, House JEF 3 reps(46); ORA 2 reps(19)  
 Number of Species 155  
 Number of Individuals 37398

County Abbreviations:  
 JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

Location Codes:  
 BC - Bridge City; BMT - Beaumont; NEDR - Nederland; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh

Observer Abbreviations:  
 AM - Art Mackinnon; FTTP - Field Trip to Tyrrell Park/Cattail Marsh; FZW - Sarah Fezio and John Whittle; JAW - John Whittle; JJW - Jana and John Whittle; MHW - Steve Mayes, John Haynes, John Whittle; OCCBC - Orange County CBC; SBE - Sheri Berthard; TW - Tex Wells

## Field Trip Report (cont. from page 5)

All in all another great field trip to the Katy Prairie. With hundreds of waterfowl and dozens of raptors this would be a great trip even without the possibility of the more unusual species. But with sightings of Caracaras, White-tailed and Ferruginous Hawks, and Vermilion Flycatcher it is easy to see what attracts so many birders to the area and why it desperately needs and deserves to be preserved.

The following birds were recorded on the trip:  
 Loon species (1); Pied-billed Grebe (3); Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (6); Snowy Egret (1); Plegadis species Ibis (3); Black Vulture (13); Turkey Vulture (33); Greater White-fronted Goose (135); Snow Goose (500); White Goose (2250); Ross's Goose (3); Canada Goose (30); Gadwall (55); American Wigeon (1); Mottled Duck (8); Blue-winged Teal (5); Northern Shoveler (313); Northern Pintail (2150); Green-winged Teal (270); Ring-necked Duck (2); Scaup species (25); Ruddy Duck (100); Osprey (1); Bald Eagle (2?); Northern Harrier (5); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Cooper's Hawk (2); White-tailed Hawk (3); Red-tailed Hawk (35); Ferruginous Hawk (1); Crested Caracara (7); American Kestrel (12); American Coot (25); Killdeer (9); Greater Yellowlegs (2); Lesser Yellowlegs (1); Yellowlegs species (6); Dowitcher species (831); Rock Dove (16); Mourning Dove (24); Great Horned Owl (2); Belted Kingfisher (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Eastern Phoebe (3); Vermilion Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (19); Blue Jay (1); American Crow (8); Song species (1); Purple Martin (6); House Wren (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (9); Eastern Bluebird (2); American Robin (289); Northern Mockingbird (9); European Starling (20); Cedar Waxwing (200); Yellow-rumped Warbler (6); Chipping Sparrow (1); Field Sparrow (2); Vesper Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (28); LeConte's Sparrow (3); Song Sparrow (10); Swamp Sparrow (2); White-throated Sparrow (3); White-crowned Sparrow (2); Northern Cardinal (3); Red-winged Blackbird (200); Eastern Meadowlark (9); Meadowlark species (4); Great-tailed Grackle (4); Brown-headed Cowbird (20); American Goldfinch (1); House Sparrow (8).

Steve Mayes



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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
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