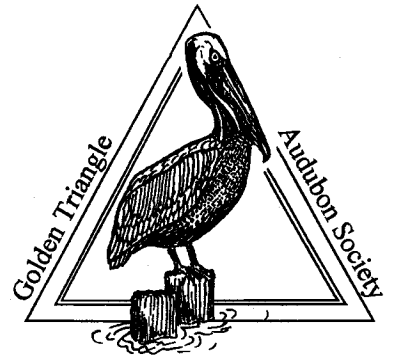


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 9 No. 11

November 2003

## Membership Meeting

Thursday, November 20, 2003  
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Your Favorite Bird Pictures or Videos  
Covered Dish Requested

We invite you to bring along your five (or more) favorite bird pictures, videos or stories. Please bring a covered dish, hors d'oeuvres or soft drinks, so we can all enjoy food and drink.

This meeting is also the Society's Annual Meeting and we will conduct elections for 2004 Officers and Board. 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.

## Important Projects and Planning Processes under way

There are a lot of projects being undertaken and plans prepared in the area these days. It is important that we all keep on top of what is going on so that habitat and other environmental concerns are not ignored. In the *Brown Pelican*, we try to provide you with advance notice when there are to be public meetings and hearings on these projects, but often the once a month publication schedule precludes this. When we can't give details here, we notify by email those for whom we know email addresses!

Already essentially complete is the construction of the permanent salt water barrier on the Neches River. Appropriation of funds for the \$3.5 million purchase of 3000 acres along Village and Big Sandy Creeks to enlarge the Big Thicket National Preserve by connecting units awaits final approval. This latter is part of an approved but not yet fully funded purchase of a total of 11,000 acres.

Planning efforts include the long range planning for the Texas Chenier Plains NWR Complex (which includes Texas Point and McFaddin NWRs), a feasibility study for widening and deepening the Sabine Neches Waterway from Sabine Pass to Beaumont. The former will guide the management and possible acquisition of additional land for the complex for the next ten or more years. The latter would be a \$268 to \$500 project to deepen the channel to 45, 48 or 50 feet, and selectively widen it. Coastal erosion is being examined by the Corps of Engineers, and is an important facet of the Texas General Land Office's Coastal 2020 project.

We understand a study on the effects of the Keith Lake Fish Pass will soon be initiated, and we know that plans for two liquid natural gas unloading terminals near Sabine Pass, one on the Louisiana side and one on the Texas side of the river, are in the works.

John Whittle

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count -- Sunday December 28, 2003

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 9, No.11 November 2003

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

RARE BIRD ALERT AND  
SOCIETY INFORMATION  
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## Calendar of Events

### November 20. Membership Meeting and Annual Meeting

As usual we will have our annual pot luck meeting to which you are asked to bring a "covered dish" to share with others. We will also be conducting our annual elections.

### November 22. Field Trip to Chambers County. (Tentative details.)

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the entrance to the J.J. Mayes Trace on the west side of the IH-10 bridge over the Trinity River. If coming from Beaumont on IH-10, take the exit immediately after crossing the bridge, and loop back under the highway/bridge on the service road to the entrance to the Trace on the service road on the south side of the highway.

A final decision on the destinations will be made nearer the date. Details will be announced at the Annual Meeting on November 20, or can be obtained by calling Steve Mayes at 722-5807 in the evening after November 16. Options in addition to the J.J. Mayes Trace include the Lake Charlotte area and Anahuac NWR. Waterfowl will be a prime target.

**Saturday December 20. Turkey  
Creek Christmas Bird Count.** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the new Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center located on Highway 69 (at FM 420) 7 miles north of Kountze, Texas. Call Merle King at (409) 839-2689 ext. 233.

**Sunday, December 22. Bolivar  
Peninsula Christmas Bird Count.** Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the old Birder's Haven in High Island. For more details, contact Bill Graber, (409) 866-5452.

**Sunday, December 28. Sea Rim State  
Park Christmas Bird Count.** This is the count that we sponsor. The tentative meeting place this year will be at the Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park at 7:15 a.m. To reach the park, proceed south from Port Arthur on Highway 87 to the main intersection in Sabine Pass (where Highway 87 turns west). At this intersection, go straight ahead on FM3322 for about 3/4 of a mile, and turn left into the park. If the park has been reopened, meet near the

restrooms. Otherwise, meet at the entrance. (There is no entry charge at this park.)

**Thursday, January 1, 2004 – Orange  
County Christmas Bird Count.** Meet at 7:15 a.m. at the Service Station at the corner of Highway 105 and Highway 1442. Contact Ken Sztraky at [kens@ih2000.net](mailto:kens@ih2000.net) or 409-385-2835.

**Saturday, January 3, 2004. Beech  
Creek Christmas Bird Count.** Meet at 6:30 a.m. at the Corps of Engineers Town Bluff Dam picnic area located on FM 92 just north of FM 1746. For more information call Park Ranger Merle King at (409) 839-2689 ext. 233.

### Thursday, January 15, 2004. Membership Meeting.

Dr. Brent Ortego, immediate past president of Texas Ornithological Society, and chair of the Sanctuary Committee will talk about TOS and about Sabine Woods.

### Thursday February 19, 2004. Membership Meeting.

Dan Brooks of the Houston Museum of Natural History will be our speaker. The title of his talk is not yet available.

### Thursday March 18, 2004. Member- ship Meeting.

Gerald Duhon will be our speaker. His talk will be titled " (Barely)South of the Border, Down Mexico Way."

## Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by AU has passed, or there is no other date, 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.

## Fall Migration Count – 20 September 2003

The Fall Migration Count was conducted in pleasant weather conditions, but resulted in a disappointing 150 species, the lowest since 1997. It is not easy to summarize the reasons. The southern part of the county – the beach and Sabine Woods mainly – produced an above average number of species, with no major "misses." Just one or two species not found elsewhere in each of many bird groups were the culprits.

Both Whistling Ducks were seen as usual, but the number of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks was significantly below normal. Blue-winged Teal were in greater numbers than the poor showing last year, but the only other "regular" duck species seen were Wood, Mottled and Northern Shoveler.

Dark Ibis numbers were down, even though we added Glossy Ibis to the "all-time" fall count list. Snowy Egrets have been very numerous lately and this was reflected in the count.

Raptors were disappointing, despite a Swainson's Hawk in the southwest part of the county. No Broad-winged Hawks were seen for the first time ever.

Shorebird migration was scarce in Cattail Marsh, but quite possible too extensive in the rice field area, making the birds difficult to find. Late Purple Gallinules were seen. "Beach birds" were better and all the expected small plovers were on the beach at Sea Rim. Unusually, no Herring Gulls were seen, but the combination of Sea Rim and the southern impoundment of Pleasure Island produced all the terns that are seen in this area.

Woodpeckers, flycatchers and Kingbirds were "normal," while Loggerhead Shrikes were at an all time high. This is an encouraging result, all the more so because it has been a steady increase over the last five or so years. Concern has long been expressed for this species elsewhere in the country.

Blue Jays were in reduced numbers, but not disastrously so, and we must point out that our observers effort within the urban areas of the county was reduced. Crows were seen in approximately normal results.

Probably the high point of the count was the 18 species of warbler recorded at Sabine Woods, equaling the previous best showing, but there were no Catharus thrushes or any early wintering species.

A full listing including all the previous fall counts is available on request to the editor in either hard-copy or electronic format (Excel spreadsheet). We will be working on adding the summary to the web site.

Species Recorded: WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (17); WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (8); DUCK, Wood (2); DUCK, Mottled (38); TEAL, Blue-winged (94); SHOVELER, Northern (6); GREBE, Pied-billed (20); PELICAN, American White (36); PELICAN, Brown (42); CORMORANT, Neotropic (75); CORMORANT, Double-crested (19); ANHINGA (4); HERON, Great Blue (40); EGRET, Great (170); EGRET, Snowy (315); HERON, Little Blue (51); HERON, Tricolored (31); EGRET, Reddish (1); EGRET, Cattle (1861); HERON, Green (20); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (3); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (3); IBIS, White (355); IBIS, White-faced (45); IBIS, Glossy (1); IBIS, Plegadis (81); SPOONBILL, Roseate (14); VULTURE, Black (2); VULTURE, Turkey (26); KITE, White-tailed (2); KITE, Mississippi (19); HAWK, *Accipiter* species (1);

HAWK, Red-shouldered (6); HAWK, Swainson's (1); KESTREL, American (5); MERLIN (2); FALCON, Peregrine (1); RAIL, Clapper (15); SORA (2); GALLINULE, Purple (3); MOORHEN, Common (12); PLOVER, Black-bellied (36); PLOVER, Snowy (8); PLOVER, Wilson's (4); PLOVER, Semipalmated (5); PLOVER, Piping (4); KILLDEER (89); STILT, Black-necked (58); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (18); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (25); WILLET (22); SANDPIPER, Spotted (6); CURLEW, Long-billed (3); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (2); SANDERLING (64); SANDPIPER, Western (102); SANDPIPER, Least (27); SANDPIPER, Stilt (1); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (2); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (186); DOWITCHER, Species (15); SNIBE, Wilson's (7); GULL, Laughing (1310); GULL, Ring-billed (29); TERN, Gull-billed (45); TERN, Caspian (218); TERN, Royal (63); TERN, Common (4); TERN, Forster's (158); TERN, Least (7); TERN, Black (10); SKIMMER, Black (35); PIGEON, Rock (84); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (16); DOVE, White-winged (49); DOVE, Mourning (390); DOVE, Inca (19); CUCKOO, Yellow-billed (1); OWL, Great Horned (1); NIGHTHAWK, Common (1); SWIFT, Chimney (67); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (301); HUMMINGBIRD species (4); KINGFISHER, Belted (13); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (17); WOODPECKER, Downy (7); FLICKER, Northern (1); WOODPECKER, Pileated (1); WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (4); FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied (4); FLYCATCHER, Traill's (1); FLYCATCHER, Least (5); FLYCATCHER, Empidonax (6); FLYCATCHER, Great Crested (7); KINGBIRD, Eastern (30); FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (49); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (145); VIREO, White-eyed (8); VIREO, Yellow-throated (1); VIREO, Blue-headed (2); VIREO, Warbling (6); VIREO, Red-eyed (4); JAY, Blue (94); CROW, American (37); CROW, Fish (36); CROW, Species (16); MARTIN, Purple (3); SWALLOW, Tree (55); SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged (3); SWALLOW, Barn (4); SWALLOW, Barn (623); CHICKADEE, Carolina (12); TITMOUSE, Tufted (7); WREN, Carolina (15); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (17); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (7); ROBIN, American (15); CATBIRD, Gray (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (203); THRASHER, Brown (3); STARLING, European (702); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (1); WARBLER, Nashville (3); PARULA, Northern (5); WARBLER, Yellow (14); WARBLER, Chestnut-sided (2); WARBLER, Magnolia (1); WARBLER, Yellow-throated (3); WARBLER, Prairie (3); WARBLER, Black-and-white (9); REDSTART, American (4); WARBLER, Prothonotary (2); OVENBIRD (3); WATERTHRUSH, Northern (5); WARBLER, Mourning (2); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (13); WARBLER, Hooded (3); WARBLER, Wilson's (4); CHAT, Yellow-breasted (2); TANAGER, Summer (1); SPARROW, Seaside (38); CARDINAL, Northern (77); GROSBEAK, Blue (20); BUNTING, Indigo (36); BUNTING, Painted (5); DICKCISSEL (5); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (539); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (4); GRACKLE, Common (50); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (120); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (250); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (227); BLACKBIRD species (13); ORIOLE, Orchard (8); ORIOLE, Baltimore (6); SPARROW, House (142); TOTAL (10546); Number of species (150).

Number of Observers (16); Number of Parties (10); Number of Party-Hours (49.69); Miles on foot (13.82) Miles by automobile (552.1); Miles by bicycle (1); Party-hours feeder watching (5).

Participants: Althea Bythewood; Bob Collier; Dehay Family; Sarah Fezio; Joe Halbrook; John Haynes; Brad Hogue; Winette Hogue; Don Jeane; Pat Jeane; Steve Mayes; Sherrie Roden; Ken Sztraky; John Whittle.

## Bird Sightings – September 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 September included a steady stream of the expected warbler species, with good numbers of both Mourning and Wilson's Warblers. Warbling Vireos were unusually numerous. The September Orange-crowned Warblers that we have seen in each of the last several fall migrations are not misidentified Tennessee Warblers. The evidence from Point Pelee in Ontario is that the first migrant Orange-crowned Warblers do not pass through there until late in September. The early birds that we see seem quite bright yellow, and are almost certainly of the *lutescens* subspecies that breeds in Alaska and Western Canada. Unfortunately, the difficulties in identification probably means that not all the published records are correct. Fall Clay-colored Sparrows are becoming a regular occurrence, or else we didn't used to look closely enough.

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell.</b>	JEF-TP 9/20(17) MC05	<b>SORA</b>	JEF-TP 9/20(2) MC05
<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous</b>	JEF 1 rep(8)	<b>GALLINULE, Purple</b>	JEF 9/20(3) MC78
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	JEF-TP 9/20(2) MC05	<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	JEF 2 reps(12)
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	JEF 9/20(12) MC78; JEF-TP	<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	JEF 6 reps(140)
9/20(19) MC05		<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(10) JAW; JEF
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	JEF 4 reps(112)	9/20(8) MC11; JEF-SRSP 9/28(1) JAW	
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	JEF-TP 9/20(6) MC05; JEF 9/25(2)	<b>PLOVER, Wilson's</b>	JEF 1 rep(4)
JAW		<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	JEF 3 reps(9)
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(20)	<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	JEF 2 reps(7)
<b>PELICAN, American White</b>	JEF 3 reps(54)	<b>KILLDEER</b>	JEF 12 reps(67)
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(93) JAW; JEF	<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	JEF 8 reps(65)
9/20(31) MC09; JEF 9/20(11) MC11; JEF-TX87 9/21(100)		<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	JEF 3 reps(48)
JAW		<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	JEF 3 reps(40)
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	JEF 21 reps(417)	<b>WILLET</b>	JEF 6 reps(92)
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crested</b>	JEF 9/20(5) MC78; JEF-TP	<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(2) JAW; JEF
9/20(14) MC05; JEF-TXPT 9/28(1) JAW		9/20(1) MC01; JEF 9/20(1) MC09; JEF-PI 9/20(2) MC09;	
<b>ANHINGA</b>	JEF 6 reps(8)	JEF-TP 9/20(2) MC05; JEF-SRSP 9/28(1) JAW	
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	JEF 10 reps(45)	<b>SANDPIPER, Upland</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(1) JAW
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	JEF 21 reps(315)	<b>CURLEW, Long-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	JEF 20 reps(493)	<b>TURNSTONE, Ruddy</b>	JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	JEF 11 reps(55)	<b>SANDERLING</b>	JEF 3 reps(230)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	JEF 8 reps(36)	<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	JEF 6 reps(108)
<b>EGRET, Reddish</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)	<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	JEF 4 reps(34)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	JEF 21 reps(3337)	<b>DUNLIN</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-PI
<b>HERON, Green</b>	JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF 9/20(2)	9/28(35) JAW	
MC01; JEF 9/20(2) MC09; JEF 9/20(1) MC10; JEF		<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	JEF-PI 9/20(1) MC09
9/20(4) MC11; JEF 9/20(2) MC78; JEF-PI 9/20(1) MC09;		<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(3)
JEF-TP 9/20(8) MC05; JEF-SW 9/21(2) JAW		<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(286)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned</b>	JEF 3 reps(6)	<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	JEF 1 rep(15)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned</b>	JEF 5 reps(11)	<b>SNIBE, Common</b>	JEF 9/20(7) MC01
<b>IBIS, White</b>	JEF 15 reps(525)	<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	JEF 11 reps(2287)
<b>IBIS, Glossy</b>	JEF-TP 9/20(1) MC05	<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-TP
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	JEF 1 rep(45)	9/20(28) MC05; JEF-SRSP 9/28(4) JAW; JEF-TXPT	
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	JEF 6 reps(90)	9/28(2) JAW	
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	JEF-TX87 9/14(4) JAW; JEF	<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/14(94) JAW; JEF
9/20(10) MC01; JEF 9/20(1) MC09; JEF 9/20(1) MC10;		9/20(20) MC11; JEF-PI 9/20(25) MC09; JEF-SRSP	
JEF 9/20(1) MC12; JEF 9/20(1) MC78; JEF 9/25(32)		9/28(22) JAW	
JAW; JEF 9/29(3) JAW		<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	JEF 7 reps(471)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	JEF 7 reps(12)	<b>TERN, Royal</b>	JEF 5 reps(259)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	JEF 16 reps(65)	<b>TERN, Sandwich</b>	JEF 1 rep(6)
<b>OSPREY</b>	JEF-TX87 9/27(2) JAW; JEF-PI	<b>TERN, Common</b>	JEF 9/20(4) MC11; JEF-SRSP
9/28(1) JAW		9/28(2) JAW	
<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	JEF 3 reps(5)	<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	JEF 13 reps(461)
<b>KITE, Mississippi</b>	JEF-SW 9/20(19) MC10	<b>TERN, Least</b>	JEF 3 reps(57)
<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	JEF 9/26(1) JAW	<b>TERN, Black</b>	JEF 3 reps(14)
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	JEF-SW 9/28(1) MW	<b>SKIMMER, Black</b>	JEF 3 reps(176)
<b>ACCIPITER species</b>	JEF 9/20(1) MC78	<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	JEF 13 reps(114)
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	JEF 4 reps(6)	<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	JEF 9/1(8) JAW; JEF 9/12(6) JAW;
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	JEF 9/1(1) JAW; JEF 9/13(1) KE;	JEF-TX87 9/14(5) JAW; JEF 9/15(1) JAW; JEF 9/17(3)	
JEF 9/26(1) JAW		JAW; JEF 9/18(2) JAW; JEF 9/19(1) JAW; JEF 9/20(6)	
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	JEF 1 rep(1)	MC01; JEF 9/20(1) MC02; JEF 9/20(2) MC03; JEF	
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	JEF 9/25(1) JAW	9/20(5) MC04; JEF 9/20(1) MC05; JEF 9/20(1) MC78;	
<b>KESTREL, American</b>	JEF 5 reps(8)	JEF 9/24(3) JAW; JEF 9/25(2) JAW; JEF 9/26(25) JAW;	
<b>MERLIN</b>	JEF 9/20(1) MC10; JEF 9/20(1)	JEF 9/27(8) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/27(1) JAW; JEF 9/29(3)	
MC11; JEF-TP 9/20(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW; JEF-		JAW	
TX87 9/28(1) JAW		<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	JEF 11 reps(55)
<b>FALCON, Peregrine</b>	JEF 9/20(1) MC06	<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	JEF 27 reps(502)
<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	JEF 4 reps(20)	<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	JEF 8 reps(13)

<b>GROUND-DOVE, Common</b>	JEF 9/25(1) JAW	<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	JEF-SW 9/20(1) MC10; JEF-SW
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	JEF 2 reps(3)	9/28(2) MW	
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO	<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	JEF 25 reps(228)
<b>OWL, Barred</b>	JEF-TP 9/18(1) JAW	<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV; JEF-SW
<b>NIGHTHAWK, Common</b>	JEF 3 reps(3)	9/20(1) MC10; JEF-SW 9/22(6) DM; JEF-SW 9/28(5) MW	
<b>WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SW	<b>STARLING, European</b>	JEF 22 reps(1196)
9/15(1) DV		<b>WARBLER, Blue-winged</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(6) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	JEF 7 reps(50)	9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV;	JEF-SW 9/22(1) DM
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated</b>	JEF 25 reps(1191)	<b>WARBLER, Tennessee</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD species</b>	JEF 9/20(1) MC01	9/15(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(6) DM;	JEF-BMT 9/26(1) RAJ; JEF-SW 9/28(3) MW
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	JEF-TX87 9/14(1) JAW; JEF	<b>WARBLER, Orange-crowned</b>	JEF-SW 9/20(1) MC10
9/20(4) MC01; JEF 9/20(1) MC04; JEF 9/20(2) MC06;	JEF 9/20(5) MC09; JEF 9/20(1) MC11; JEF-TX87 9/21(1)	<b>WARBLER, Nashville</b>	JEF-SW 9/15(2) DV; JEF-SW
JAW; JEF 9/25(2) JAW; JEF 9/26(7) JAW; JEF 9/27(1)	JAW; JEF 9/27(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 9/27(2) JAW; JEF-TX87	9/20(3) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(4)	DM; JEF-SW 9/27(2) JAW
9/28(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 9/28(1) JAW; JEF 9/29(1) JAW		<b>PARULA, Northern</b>	JEF 8 reps(18)
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-headed</b>	JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-TP	<b>WARBLER, Yellow</b>	JEF 8 reps(40)
9/20(1) MC05		<b>WARBLER, Chestnut-sided</b>	JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV; JEF-SW
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	JEF 6 reps(12)	9/20(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(1) DM	
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	JEF 7 reps(15)	<b>WARBLER, Magnolia</b>	JEF-SW 9/20(1) MC10; JEF-SW
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	JEF 9/20(1) MC04	9/22(6) DM; JEF-SW 9/28(2) MW	
<b>FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided</b>	JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW	<b>WARBLER, Black-thr. Green</b>	JEF-SW 9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW
<b>WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern</b>	JEF 9 reps(45)	9/15(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/21(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(3) DM;	JEF-BMT 9/28(1) RAJ; JEF-SW 9/28(1) MW
<b>FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SW	<b>WARBLER, Blackburnian</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SW
9/15(2) DV; JEF 9/20(1) MC11; JEF 9/20(2) MC78; JEF-	SW 9/20(1) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(0) JAW; JEF-SW 9/28(1)	9/6(2) HM; JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW	
MW		<b>WARBLER, Yellow-throated</b>	JEF-SW 9/20(3) MC10; JEF-SW
<b>FLYCATCHER, Traill's</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SW	9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(1) DM	
9/20(1) MC10		<b>WARBLER, Prairie</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>FLYCATCHER, Least</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SRSP	9/6(2) HM; JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV; JEF-SW 9/20(3) MC10;	JEF-SW 9/22(3) DM; JEF-SW 9/27(1) GD; JEF-SW
9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(2) DV;	JEF 9/20(1) MC11; JEF-SW 9/20(4) MC10; JEF-SW	9/27(1) JAW	
9/21(6) JAW; JEF-SW 9/28(1) MW		<b>WARBLER, Black-and-white</b>	JEF 10 reps(46)
<b>EMPIDONAX species</b>	JEF 7 reps(42)	<b>REDSTART, American</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SW	9/15(3) DV; JEF-SW 9/20(4) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(3)	JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(6) DM; JEF-SW 9/28(1) MW
9/6(2) HM; JEF-SW 9/13(1) KE; JEF-SW 9/14(3) JAW;	JEF-SW 9/15(10) DV; JEF 9/20(1) MC09; JEF 9/20(3)	<b>WARBLER, Prothonotary</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SW
MC78; JEF-SW 9/20(3) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW;	JEF-SW 9/28(1) SM	9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/20(2) MC10;	JEF-SW 9/21(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(8) DM; JEF-SW
<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b>	JEF 11 reps(63)	9/28(1) MW	
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed</b>	JEF 12 reps(82)	<b>WARBLER, Worm-eating</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	JEF 25 reps(216)	9/15(2) DV; JEF-SW 9/21(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(2) DM	
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	JEF 7 reps(15)	<b>OVENBIRD</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>VIREO, Yellow-throated</b>	JEF 3 reps(3)	9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(2) DV;	JEF 9/20(1) MC11; JEF-SW 9/20(2) MC10; JEF-SW
<b>VIREO, Blue-headed</b>	JEF-SW 9/20(2) MC10	9/21(6) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(15) DM	
<b>VIREO, Warbling</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(4) GHO; JEF-SRSP	<b>WATERTHRUSH, Northern</b>	JEF 8 reps(22)
9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV;	JEF-SW 9/20(6) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(2) JAW; JEF-SW	<b>WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(1) GHO
9/22(3) DM		<b>WARBLER, Kentucky</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(4) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>VIREO, Philadelphia</b>	JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW	9/22(1) DM; JEF-SW 9/27(1) JAW	
9/21(1) JAW		<b>WARBLER, Mourning</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>VIREO, Red-eyed</b>	JEF 8 reps(43)	9/6(3) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(2) DV;	JEF-SW 9/20(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/22(8) DM
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	JEF 26 reps(129)	<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	JEF 9 reps(32)
<b>CROW, American</b>	JEF 4 reps(18)	<b>WARBLER, Hooded</b>	JEF 7 reps(20)
<b>CROW, Fish</b>	JEF 9/20(2) MC04	<b>WARBLER, Wilson's</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(4) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>CROW, species</b>	JEF 12 reps(53)	9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(3) DV;	JEF-SW 9/20(3) MC10; JEF-TP 9/20(1) MC05; JEF-SW
<b>MARTIN, Purple</b>	JEF 9/20(3) MC01	9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(2) DM; JEF-BMT 9/26(2) RAJ;	JEF-SW 9/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/28(3) MW
<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	JEF 3 reps(55)	<b>WARBLER, Canada</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(10) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>SWALLOW, Bank</b>	JEF 2 reps(29)	9/6(1) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(3) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(6) DV;	JEF-SW 9/21(5) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(13) DM
<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	JEF 13 reps(636)	<b>CHAT, Yellow-breasted</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(3) GHO; JEF-SW
<b>SWALLOW species</b>	JEF 3 reps(4)	9/6(5) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(5) DV;	JEF-SW 9/20(1) MC10; JEF-TP 9/20(1) MC05; JEF-SW
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	JEF 9 reps(18)	9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/28(2) MW	
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	JEF 1 rep(7)	<b>TANAGER, Summer</b>	JEF 5 reps(5)
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	JEF 8 reps(19)	<b>TANAGER, Scarlet</b>	JEF-SW 9/15(1) DV
<b>KINGLET, Ruby-crowned</b>	JEF-SW 9/28(2) MW	<b>SPARROW, Clay-colored</b>	JEF-SW 9/22(1) DM; JEF-TXPT
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	JEF 9 reps(114)	9/27(1) GD	
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	JEF 2 reps(8)	<b>SPARROW, Lark</b>	JEF-SW 9/22(1) DM
<b>VEERY</b>	JEF-SW 9/6(1) GD	<b>SPARROW, Seaside</b>	JEF 1 rep(38)
<b>THRUSH, Swainson's</b>	JEF-SW 9/21(2) JAW	<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	JEF 15 reps(73)
<b>THRUSH, Hermit</b>	JEF-SRSP 9/15(1) DV		
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	JEF-NEDR 9/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR		
9/3(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/15(1) JAW; JEF 9/19(2) JAW;	JEF 9/20(3) MC04; JEF 9/20(3) MC06; JEF 9/20(1) MC10;		
JEF-NEDR 9/20(2) MC06; JEF-NEDR 9/23(1) JAW; JEF-	NEDR 9/26(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 9/29(1) JAW		

<b>GROSBEAK, Blue</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(4) GHO; JEF-SW 9/15(5) DV; JEF 9/20(7) MC01; JEF 9/20(1) MC02; JEF 9/20(9) MC04; JEF 9/20(1) MC05; JEF 9/20(1) MC78; JEF-TP 9/20(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/21(2) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(4) DM; JEF 9/25(1) JAW
<b>BUNTING, Indigo</b>	JEF-SW 9/6(1) GD; JEF-SW 9/14(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(5) DV; JEF 9/20(1) MC01; JEF-SW 9/20(33) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(25) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(16) DM; JEF-SW 9/28(15) MW
<b>BUNTING, Painted</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(2) GHO; JEF-SRSP 9/13(1) KE; JEF-SW 9/14(7) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(10) DV; JEF-SW 9/20(4) MC10; JEF-TP 9/20(1) MC05; JEF-SW 9/21(5) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(5) DM
<b>DICKCISSEL</b>	JEF 3 reps(14)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	JEF 10 reps(535)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	JEF 17 reps(914)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	JEF 10 reps(302)
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	JEF 25 reps(702)
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	JEF 3 reps(277)
<b>BLACKBIRD species</b>	JEF 1 rep(200)
<b>ORIOLE, Orchard</b>	JEF 6 reps(38)
<b>ORIOLE, Baltimore</b>	JEF-SW 9/5(6) GHO; JEF-SW 9/6(2) HM; JEF-SW 9/14(4) JAW; JEF-SW 9/15(10) DV; JEF 9/20(2) MC09 ;JEF-SW 9/20(4) MC10; JEF-SW 9/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/22(3) DM; JEF-SW 9/28(3) MW
<b>FINCH, House</b>	JEF-NEDR 9/19(2) JAW
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	JEF 13 reps(129)

**Number of Species** 186  
**Number of Individuals** 20417

**County Abbreviations:**  
JEF - Jefferson

**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 SP; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point

**Observer Abbreviations:**  
DM - Derek Muschalek; DV - Don Verser; GD - Gerald Duhon; GHO - Gary Hodne; HM - John Haynes and Steve Mayes; JAW - John Whittle; JJW - John and Jana Whittle; KE - Kreg Ellzey; MC01 - Migration Count Area 1; MC02 - Area 2; MC03 - Area 3; MC04 - Area 4; MC05 - Area 5; MC06 - Area 6; MC78 - Area 7/8; MC8A - Area 8A; MC09 - Area 9; MC10 - Area 10; MC11 - Area 11; MC12 - Area 12; MW - Steve Mayes and John Whittle; RAJ - Rose Ann Jordan; SM - Steve Mayes

### Christmas Bird Counts

<b>Dec. 14</b>	Lacassine-Thornwell, LA
<b>Dec. 15</b>	Mad Island Marsh
<b>Dec. 17</b>	Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR
<b>Dec. 19</b>	San Bernard
<b>Dec. 20</b>	Turkey Creek
<b>Dec. 21</b>	Bolivar Peninsula
<b>Dec. 26</b>	Old River
<b>Dec. 27</b>	Spring Creek
<b>Dec. 28</b>	Sea Rim State Park
<b>Jan. 1, 2004</b>	Orange County.
<b>Jan. 3, 2004</b>	Beech Creek
<b>Jan. 4, 2004</b>	Johnson Bayou, LA

*More details in next month's Brown Pelican.*

## Notes on Very Rare Species

**Clay-colored Sparrow-27 September 2003-Gerald Duhon**  
Seen as the only sparrow on the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point. Observed 3:30 to 3:45 p.m. The bird was feeding on weed seed heads on the side of road, often directly on shoulder, hopping up to pick at overhanging stalks. A medium sized sparrow with rather longish, notched tail. Overall sand buff above, with mantle streaked black. Two buffy wing bars, the upper one more prominent, the lower thinner and bordering on a cinnamon color. Wide unbroken gray collar; white median crown stripe running entire length of head. Unstreaked underparts, with buffy-orangish upper breast patches and a hint of buffy color across the remainder of the breast, but very faint. Same color patches on both flanks. A distinct wide-eyed look, with prominent buffy eyestripe and clean lores. The eyeline behind eye not very distinct. The bird displayed the classic "three-striped" look of Clay-Colored, with dark mustache line, bright white "submustache" stripe, and dark malar with a very clean white throat.

## Bird Alerts

As is often the case, the second half of October has produced some interesting sightings. A MacGillivray's Warbler, apparently a female, has been present at Sabine Woods for in excess of ten days, although it is proven to be very shy and difficult to see well. A female Black-throated Blue Warbler was much easier to see for more than a week, although it seems to have left on the night of Monday October 27 on the heels of a cold front and brisk north wind. A Prairie Warbler is still present as of October 30. Black-throated Green Warblers are still coming through, along with smaller numbers of American Redstarts and Tennessee Warblers. Indigo Bunting numbers dropped off sharply after the passage of the cold front.

Of our wintering birds, we seem to be inundated with both Ospreys and Belted Kingfishers. Ducks and geese are starting to arrive. American Kestrels have seemingly not reached the coast in any numbers yet, although they are certainly present as far south as Interstate 10. Several Peregrine Falcons have been seen, and the first Red-tailed Hawks are beginning to arrive.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Sarah Mazio, Claire and Bob Collier and Jana Whittle for providing refreshments in October. In November, we expect everyone who can to bring something for our Annual Meeting. Volunteers are now urgently needed for all meetings in 2004. 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!

## Field Trip to Sabine Woods 18 October 2003

More than a dozen birders appeared very early at the gates of Sabine Woods on October 18 for the Golden Triangle Audubon's annual field trip for Fall migrants. Although the word has long since gotten out that Sabine Woods is one of the best Spring migrant traps around, it is only in the last few years that many have discovered how good this spot can be in the Fall. Big migrant days with the possibility of 15, 17, even 20 species of warblers are possible at this time of year just like in Spring. It may not be quite as good as April but September and October hold some great days for the birder willing to give them a shot. Some species, such as Nashville Warbler, and the elusive Mourning and Black-throated Blue Warblers are actually easier to find in the Fall.

It was with visions of these species in mind that the assembled birders ventured into the woods. Although it was not one of those spectacular upper Texas coast days for which Sabine Woods is famous, a good time was still had by all. Migrants were obvious from the start with Ruby-throated Hummingbirds buzzing around the lantana and Nashville Warblers in the scrubby area just inside the entrance. Indigo Buntings also put in several appearances, though it was usually just a fleeting glimpse of a small brown bird flying out of the grass and deep into the trees. Other migrants took a little more work. Warblers were around but not in big number so some searching was required. The oak trees at the western end of the large pond in the woods (the "Tennessee Trees" as dubbed by John Haynes) were productive giving up Tennessee Warblers in their yellow-green autumn plumage and female American Redstart (or "Yellowstarts" as they could be called). Magnolia Warblers were also discovered, looking very different than their dapper Spring plumage. Black and White Warblers crept up and down trees while several Northern Parulas worked the tree tops. Black-throated Green Warblers were nice to see along with the appropriately named Common Yellowthroats. Sherrie Roden's sharp eyes picked out a shy Ovenbird hiding in the undergrowth.

A Prairie Warbler was easily viewed at the edge of the woods. This is not in itself an unusual sighting. These birds are often easier to find at this time of the year than in Spring. But this year, Prairie's have been almost abundant. It seems they are being seen on every field trip much more easily than in past years. Early on it was multiple birds being found but one bird has hung around later than normal and (as of the date this report was written) is still at Sabine Woods. There is hope that perhaps the bird will over winter at the woods as some Prairie Warblers have been known to do in Florida. Wouldn't that be a nice bird to find on the Christmas Count?

Warblers were not the only migrants sighted though. A female Rose-breasted Grosbeak was good to see and a female Baltimore Oriole was welcome. Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were seen outside the woods while a Least Flycatcher worked the inside. White-eyed Vireos were easily found along with one Summer Tanager.

Raptors were also on display. A distant Osprey flew east of the woods but its distinctive silhouette was still identified. A Cooper's Hawk soared near the trees while Merlins zipped quickly overhead looking for a prey opportunity. The

Tennessee Warblers in the "Tennessee Trees" were quieted when an unruly Sharp-shinned Hawk blasted in. It was unclear whether his attack was successful but it certainly scared all of the small birds.

Inevitably, Fall leads to Winter. This means cold weather (well, cold for southeast Texas anyway) and shorter days. It also means new birds coming to spend the winter in our area. These winter birds were evident on the field trip. Waterfowl were represented by a flock of Greater White-fronted Geese flying by. A lone Yellow-rumped Warbler foreshadowed the horde of these birds still to come. The first Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Eastern Phoebe of the season showed up along with numerous Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was well seen by all and a male Wilson's Warbler showed his black cap to the group. Hopefully, more of their winter brethren will come to stay in Sabine Woods in the weeks to come.

All in all, the field trip recorded 13 species of warblers, not too bad for mid-October. Although winter is on the way, this just means more and varied birding opportunities. It is the season of Christmas Counts and waterfowl and raptors. And the best thing about winter birding? No mosquitos!

The following birds were recorded by the field trip leader:

Great Blue Heron (1), Great Egret (2), Tricolored Heron (2), Cattle Egret (10), White Ibis (5), Plegadis Ibis (10), Black Vulture (10), Turkey Vulture (5), Greater White-fronted Goose (50), Osprey (1), Sharp-shinned Hawk (2), Cooper's Hawk (1), Merlin (2), Dunlin (?) (20), White-winged Dove (4), Mourning Dove (10), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (5), Belted Kingfisher (2), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Downy Woodpecker (4), Least Flycatcher (1), *Empidonax* sp. (1), Eastern Phoebe (1), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (4), Loggerhead Shrike (1), White-eyed Vireo (4), Blue Jay (7), Tree Swallow (4), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (10), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (6), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (10), Gray Catbird (6), Northern Mockingbird (2), Brown Thrasher (10), European Starling (20), Tennessee Warbler (6), Nashville Warbler (4), Northern Parula (3), Yellow Warbler (1), Magnolia Warbler (3), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (2), Prairie Warbler (1), Black and White Warbler (2), American Redstart (4), Ovenbird (1), Common Yellowthroat (3), Wilson's Warbler (1), Summer Tanager (1), Northern Cardinal (4), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1), Indigo Bunting (10), Red-winged Blackbird (60), Boat-tailed Grackle (10), Great-tailed Grackle (10), Baltimore Oriole (1).

*Steve Mayes*

### New Local Hotline

New Golden Triangle Audubon telephone hotline is (409) 728-6957 or (409) 728-OWLS. This is a cell phone with voice messaging capabilities, so that the tasks associated with it can be shared!



## NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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.

<b>Golden Triangle</b>	<b>(409) 728-6957</b>
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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