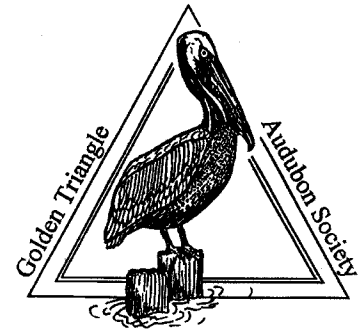


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 10 No. 9

September 2004

Membership Meeting
Thursday, September 16, 2004
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Speaker: Jeff Pittman
Sounds of the Big Thicket

Jeff Pittman has been recording nature sounds for several years, and for the last six months has been doing weekend recording at several sites on the Neches River floodplain north of Spurger. Come hear samples of some of his best recordings and learn about basic techniques for nature recording and field identification by ear.

Jeff teaches Geology and Environmental courses at Lamar University and has been taking graduate coursework in Biology for several years. His work on the Neches River floodplain is part of graduate research studies at Lamar

Refreshments are served at 6:30 p.m. The program begins at 7:15 p.m. As always, the public is invited.

The Birds Need You

The mission of the National Audubon Society is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. Underpinning this mission is a vision of a country in which there is a deeply rooted culture of conservation. Golden Triangle Audubon has focused directly on birds and habitat, and not been particularly active in other important aspects of this mission.

We would like to expand our activities. Among other things, there are a lot of important projects with environmental impact statements expected in the upcoming months. Your officers and board members are all volunteers, but their available time is not unlimited. If we had a much larger group of core volunteers, we could do so much more. Let us know what you would like to do. In many cases, existing volunteers are prepared to help new volunteers learn what needs to be done. New ideas from new people are always wanted! Areas we would like to devote increased effort include a more active membership recruiting program, where new members will be properly welcomed into the Society; more effort in media and other public relations, more active scrutiny of, and where necessary, formal submission of comments on environmental impact statements of local projects. We would welcome submission of articles on local conservation issues for the *Brown Pelican*. Even if you would prefer to help with something that is already being done, please volunteer. The incumbent volunteer will probably be perfectly willing to move on to something new.

While direct contributions of funds can always be put to good use, volunteering your time and labor is extremely valuable. It is not at all easy to hire someone to accomplish many of the tasks that need to be done at Sabine Woods, and even when it is, the cost of such labor, which will never be as good as volunteer labor, can be effectively \$25-30 per actual hour of work. Advocacy efforts can really only be accomplished by motivated volunteers. Please consider volunteering! Call us!

John A. Whittle

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 10, No.9 September 2004

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

**RARE BIRD ALERT AND
SOCIETY INFORMATION
TELEPHONE NUMBER
(409) 728-6957 (728-OWLS)**

**www.goldentriangleaudubon.
org**

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Calendar of Events

Saturday Sept. 11. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza. See hundreds of migrating Ruby-throated Hummingbirds stock up on flower nectar or at feeders as they prepare for their southbound journey to the tropics. We will have speakers on hummingbird biology and gardening. On-going hummingbird banding demonstrations will provide viewers with a close-up view of these tiny jewels and Houston Audubon Society will be on-hand with live birds of prey. Hours: 9 am-3 pm at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory - 103 W. Highway 332, Lake Jackson. A conservation donation of \$2/adult requested.

Directions: From Houston, take 288 south to Lake Jackson. As soon as you arrive in Lake Jackson, take a right onto 2004 west. Continue on 2004 west to the 2nd traffic light, which will be Highway 332 and turn west (right). On 332, you will immediately see the Girl Scout camp on the left, then just before you get to the bridge over Buffalo Camp Bayou take a left onto a semi-paved road. Look for the large white sign with "Gulf Coast Bird Observatory" in blue letters.

Thursday September 16. Membership meeting. Speaker: Jeff Pittman. Full details on page 1..

Saturday September 18 - Fall Migration Count. As usual we will be conducting a county-wide migration count in Jefferson county. We will welcome any assistance, even if it is just for a few hours in the early morning. Contact John Whittle (409-722-4193) as far in advance of the day as possible for more details or to indicate your participation.

Saturday September 25 - Field trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch. To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 miles (two miles past the access road for Anahuac NWR) until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn

left on a shell/limestone oilfield road, bearing left again to the parking area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. Your leaders will be there by 8:30 a.m., but join us when you can.

Broad-winged Hawk migration typically peaks around the 25th-26th-27th of September in southeast Texas, but the exact timing is dependent on weather conditions along the routes the hawks take.

September 25 26. Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Magnificent Migrations Workshops at the Smith Point Hawk Watch. Join official hawk counters and other experts at the Smith Point Hawk Watch Tower located at Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area for a full day of presentations and exhibits on raptor migration. We will have live birds of prey, raptor-banding demonstrations, skin specimens, raptor ID talks, bird walks, nature store sales and much more! Bill Clark, the guru of the raptor world, will be on hand to answer questions, sign books, and give you pointers on the fine art of raptor ID. Workshops will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Directions to Smith Point above.

Wednesday October 6 (7-9 p.m.) and Saturday October 9 (8-10 a.m.) Lamar University Basic Birding Class. (Course # ENVR 3070).

This course will introduce students to birding. They will learn proper techniques for field identification of birds, sorting birds into families, and recognizing birds by their habitat. In addition, students will learn about proper use of binoculars, field guides, bird feeders and houses. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to identify common birds of the area and learn about resources that will allow them to advance further. Bring binoculars and field guide. Instructor: Steve Mayes. Tuition: \$45. Those interested may call 409-880-2233 or go on-line at <http://dept.lamar.edu/continuingeducation>

Thursday October 21. Membership Meeting. Dr. Andrew Kasner of Lamar University Biology Department will talk on the status of colonial waterbirds on the upper Texas coast.

Saturday October 23. Field Trip. Late Migrants in Sabine Woods-Sabine Pass area.

Saturday October 30. Sabine Woods Work day. Please come and help if you can.

Thursday November 18. Annual Meeting. Details in next issue.

Saturday November 20. Field Trip to Cattail Marsh.

Saturday January 1, 2005. Orange County Christmas Bird Count.

Sunday January 2, 2005. Sea Rim state Park Christmas Bird Count.

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.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Pat and Don Jeane, Sherrie Roden and Rose Anne Jordan for bringing the refreshments in August. We thank Caroline Breaux to volunteering to bring the drinks and cookies in **September**, but **we need additional volunteers**. Volunteers are also needed for all the October meeting and all spring 2005 meetings. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate! If you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 as soon as possible. Please help if you can!

Bird Alert

The following is the bird alert message sent out on August 30 to the email list of this who have asked to receive them. Contact John Whittle at john.whittle@lamar.edu if you want to be added to the list. The bird alerts are also posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. Usually, the latest alert will be the top news item with a link on the right hand side of the home page.

The unusually pleasant "cool" weather of two weeks ago having been replaced by more normal August weather, we have fewer reports of late. The last sighting of the Great Kiskadee at Sabine Woods that we know of was August 22; however, Carol Lynn Loker reports hearing it on August 28. There is essentially no water left in any of the ponds at Sabine Woods, so if the bird is still in the vicinity, it is probably around the marsh pool 200-300 yards north of the Woods.

There were a few migrants around over the weekend (August 28-29), with Canada, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Black-and-white, Hooded and Yellow Warblers being reported in ones and twos. There were also Prairie Warblers at Sabine Woods on both Saturday and Sunday, seen most often in the northern section, outside the woods themselves. Massive numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers -- perhaps 200 - - on Saturday were somewhat reduced on Sunday, although still numerous. A Chuck-will's Widow was seen both days. Great-crested Flycatchers were present in small numbers, and Eastern Wood-Pewees were at least heard on both days. One or two Empidonax species were also present. On Sunday, four Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen, three at the same time perched in the bare branches of the tallow trees just north of the northern boundary.

On the beach at Sea Rim State Park on Sunday August 29 were numerous Snowy Plovers, a good number of Piping Plovers and at least one Wilson's Plover. A pair of Buff-breasted Sandpipers was working the high tide line well west of headquarters. An interesting mud-flat and lagoon has developed on the east beach just east of Headquarters and will bear watching over the next few weeks. There were lots of all the expected terns, Caspian, Royal, Sandwich, Gull-billed, Forster's, Common, Black and Least. The Gull-

billed Terns are again this year favoring the east beach.

The water levels in Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park are a little high in all cells, although Cell 8 - as is often the case -- is where the shorebirds were on Sunday August 29. To reach Cell 8, turn right after entering, continue past the first levee to the left and under the high tension lines, taking the next levee to the left after passing under the lines. When this levee divides into two, take the right fork, and continue to the third cell on your right - the last one before you reach to outer perimeter levee and Hillebrandt Bayou. On Sunday, the birds were in the northern section of this cell - the part that you reach first. Birds included 45 Wilson's Phalaropes, probably 50 Long-billed Dowitchers, a few Stilt Sandpipers, and several of each Yellowlegs species. There were about 60 eclipse plumaged Blue-wing Teal. Two Mottled Ducks flushed as did four other larger ducks which were probably eclipse plumaged Northern Pintails. On the walk to Cell 8, I counted nearly 50 Green Herons, flushing in twos and threes as I walked along the levees. One Least Bittern was seen at a great distance.

Mississippi Kites have been passing through, with birds noted over Beaumont on August 27 and over Nederland on August 28.

John A. Whittle

Sabine Woods Work Day

We got a good deal accomplished on our Work Day on August 28, for which we thank Sherry Gibson, Joe Halbrook, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden and Bobby Schat, Grady Skillern, We do not normally schedule a work day before it cools off later in September, but this year, the wet conditions that followed in the three weeks after the June work day promoted much growth, and we needed to mow again to provide reasonable access before the fall migration began. We are therefore very grateful to those who came and worked under quit hot and humid conditions. There is more to do - there is always more to do! - so we have tentatively scheduled a work day for Saturday October 30, and hope that many more of you will be able to help on that day.

Bird Sightings – July 2004

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 john.whittle@lamar.edu or call (409) 880-8276 or fax to (409) 880-7977. 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: Not much to report on this month as July is normally the least birded month in southeast Texas. A few reports indicate a possible early start to fall migration..

WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	JEF 1 rep(9)	TERN, Royal	JEF 2 reps(236)
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 7/24(14) MW; JEF-PI 7/25(1)	TERN, Sandwich	JEF 2 reps(28)
JAW		TERN, Common	JEF-SRSP 7/25(4) JAW; JEF-TX87
DUCK, Ruddy	JEF-PI 7/25(3) JAW		
PELICAN, Brown	JEF-SRSP 7/18(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP	TERN, Forster's	JEF 3 reps(202)
7/25(6) JAW; JEF-TXPT 7/25(6) JAW		TERN, Least	JEF 3 reps(188)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF 5 reps(94)	TERN, Black	JEF 2 reps(132)
FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent	JEF 1 rep(100)	DOVE, Rock	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 22 reps(99); ORA 1
HERON, Great Blue	JEF 2 reps(4)	rep(5)	
EGRET, Great	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 16 reps(67)	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	HAI 1 rep(10); JEF 27 reps (122)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 11 reps(208)	DOVE, White-winged	JEF 27 reps(380)
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 6 reps(21)	DOVE, Mourning	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 27 reps(457); ORA
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 5 reps(68)	2 reps(7)	
EGRET, Reddish	JEF 1 rep(1)	DOVE, Inca	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(11)
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 22 reps(1176)	CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	JEF 3 reps(5)
HERON, Green	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(23)	NIGHTHAWK, Common	JEF 5 reps(11)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 9 reps(17)	SWIFT, Chimney	JEF 20 reps(78)
IBIS, White	JEF 4 reps(147)	HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	HAI 7/14(3) KS; JEF-TX87 7/11(1)
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF 4 reps(15)	KS; ORA 7/11(2) SBE	
SPOONBILL, Roseate	JEF 7/4(12) JAW; JEF-SW 7/11(3)	WOODPECKER, Red-headed	ORA 7/8(1) SBE; ORA 7/11(3) SBE;
KS; JEF-PI 7/25(50) JAW; JEF 7/27(1) JAW		ORA 7/14(4) KS	
VULTURE, Black	HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 5 reps(24)	WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	JEF 4 reps(11); ORA 3 reps(7)
VULTURE, Turkey	JEF 6 reps(18)	WOODPECKER, Downy	JEF 8 reps(9); ORA 2 reps(3)
VULTURE species	JEF 1 rep(1)	WOODPECKER, Pileated	ORA 1 rep(2)
KITE, Swallow-tailed	NEW 7/10(12) SBE	FLYCATCHER, Acadian	JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Cooper's	JEF 7/4(1) JAW	KISKADEE, Great	JEF 7/26(3) CWE
HAWK, Red-shouldered	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)	KINGBIRD, Western	JEF-TX87 7/11(5) KS; JEF-TX87
HAWK, Broad-winged	JEF 7/6(1) JAW; JEF 7/7(1) JAW;	7/11(4) SM	
JEF 7/21(1) JAW; JEF 7/23(1) JAW; ORA-BC 7/16(1) JAW		KINGBIRD, Eastern	JEF 6 reps(62)
HAWK, Swainson's	JEF-NEDR 7/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR	FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	JEF 4 reps(49)
7/2(1) JAW; JEF 7/4(1) JAW; JEF 7/6(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 7/18(1)		SHRIKE, Loggerhead	JEF 10 reps(86)
JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/22(1) JJW; JEF 7/25(1) JAW; JEF 7/27(1)		VIREO, White-eyed	JEF 3 reps(5)
JAW		JAY, Blue	JEF 13 reps(26); ORA 2 reps(9)
RAIL, Clapper	JEF 1 rep(1)	CROW, American	JEF 1 rep(2)
RAIL, King	JEF 7/24(1) MW; JEF-PI 7/25(1) JAW	CROW, Fish	JEF-SW 7/11(3) KS; JEF 7/18(5)
MOORHEN, Common	JEF 4 reps(10)	JAW; JEF 7/24(6) MW; JEF 7/29(3) JAW	
PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 1 rep(10)	CROW, species	JEF 19 reps(51)
PLOVER, Snowy	JEF-SRSP 7/25(2) JAW	MARTIN, Purple	JEF 14 reps(5724)
PLOVER, Wilson's	JEF 2 reps(22)	SWALLOW, Cliff	JEF 7/4(6) JAW; JEF 7/11(9) JAW;
PLOVER, Semipalmated	JEF-PI 7/18(3) JAW	JEF-SRSP 7/18(2) JAW; JEF 7/24(1) MW	
KILLDEER	JEF 10 reps(39)	SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff	JEF 7/18(3) JAW
STILT, Black-necked	JEF 4 reps(95)	SWALLOW, Barn	JEF 19 reps(231)
AVOCET, American	JEF-PI 7/18(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP	SWALLOW species	JEF 2 reps(5)
7/18(19) JAW		CHICKADEE, Carolina	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(7); ORA 2
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF-TXPT 7/11(1) KS; JEF-TXPT	reps(6)	
7/11(1) SM; JEF-PI 7/18(1) JAW		TITMOUSE, Tufted	HAI 1 rep(4); ORA 2 reps(5)
WILLET	JEF 2 reps(74)	WREN, Carolina	JEF 2 reps(3); ORA 1 rep(1)
SANDPIPER, Spotted	JEF-PI 7/25(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP	GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	HAI 7/14(4) KS
7/25(1) JAW		BLUEBIRD, Eastern	JEF 1 rep(2)
SANDERLING	JEF 1 rep(1)	ROBIN, American	JEF 26 reps(81)
SANDPIPER, Western	JEF-PI 7/18(200) JAW; JEF-PI	MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	JEF 25 reps(267); ORA 2 reps(9)
7/25(200) JAW		STARLING, European	JEF 15 reps(579); ORA 2 reps(7)
SANDPIPER, Peep	JEF-SRSP 7/18(4) JAW	WARBLER, Prairie	JEF-TXPT 7/25(1) JAW
DUNLIN	JEF-PI 7/18(1) JAW	WARBLER, Black-and-white	JEF-BMT 7/27(1) HJ
DOWITCHER, Short-billed	JEF-SRSP 7/18(2) JAW; JEF-PI	YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 3 reps(12)
7/25(6) JAW		TANAGER, Summer	ORA 1 rep(2)
DOWITCHER species	JEF-PI 7/18(8) JAW; JEF-SRSP	SPARROW, Seaside	JEF 2 reps(15)
7/18(4) JAW		CARDINAL, Northern	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(30); ORA 2
GULL, Laughing	JEF 5 reps(449)	reps(38)	
GULL, Ring-billed	JEF-SRSP 7/18(1) JAW	BUNTING, Painted	JEF 7/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 7/11(3)
GULL, Herring	JEF-SRSP 7/18(1) JAW	KS	
TERN, Gull-billed	JEF 2 reps(11)	DICKCISSEL	JEF 4 reps(29)
TERN, Caspian	JEF 2 reps(20)		

Continued on page 5

Ducks Migrating North Found Poor Breeding Conditions

Migrating ducks returning to important nesting areas in the north-central U.S. and southern Canadian prairies this spring were greeted by dry conditions, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's annual waterfowl survey. Although many areas received winter snow, including a late spring snowstorm in the southern portions of the survey area, the snowmelt was absorbed by the parched ground.

In the traditional survey area, known as the Prairie Pothole region, the total duck population estimate (excluding scoters, eiders, long-tailed ducks, mergansers, and wood ducks) was 32.2 million birds. This estimate is 11 percent below last year's estimate of 36.2 million birds, and similar to the 1955-2003 long-term average.

The 'duck factory' in the prairie potholes was much drier this May than last. Unfortunately, the return of water to the short-grass prairie of southern Alberta and Saskatchewan seen last year did not continue, and habitat in these areas went from good last year to fair or poor this year. Areas east of the Great Lakes had plenty of water, and breeding conditions there were better than last year.

The Waterfowl Breeding Ground Population and Habitat Survey, the largest and most comprehensive survey of its kind in the world, samples 1.3 million square miles across the north-central United States, south-central and northern Canada, and Alaska. The survey estimates the number of ducks in the continent's most important nesting grounds, commonly referred to as the traditional survey area.

- Mallard abundance was 7.4 million birds, which was similar to last year's estimate of 7.9 million birds and the long-term average.
- Blue-winged Teal were estimated at 4.1 million birds, 26 percent below last year's estimate of 5.5 million and 10 percent below the long-term average.
- Among other duck species, only Shoveler, at 2.8 million, and Wigeon, at 2.0 million, estimates were significantly different from those of last year. Both of which were 22 percent lower than in 2003 estimates.
- In comparison with long-term averages, the 2004 estimates were higher for Gadwall at 2.6 million (+56 percent), Green-winged Teal at 2.5 million (+33 percent), and Shovelers (+32 percent), and lower for Pintails at 2.2 million (- 48 percent), Scaup at 3.8 million (- 27 percent), and Wigeon (- 25 percent). Redhead, at 605,000, and Canvasback, at 617,000, estimates were similar to their long-term averages.

Most of the U.S. and Canadian prairies were much drier in May of 2004 than in May of 2003. Total pond numbers were 24 percent lower than last year, and the change was greater in Canada, down 29 percent to 2.5 million ponds, than in the north-central United States, down 16 percent to 1.4 million ponds. Snow and low temperatures during May probably had an adverse impact on early-nesting species and young broods. Although many prairie areas received abundant rain after the May surveys, this water likely did not alleviate the dry conditions, because much of it also soaked into the ground.

The Northwest Territories, Northern Alberta, Northern Saskatchewan, and Northern Manitoba were exceptionally late

in thawing this year, so the birds that over-flew the dry prairies encountered winter-like conditions and nesting may have been curtailed. This is especially true for early-nesting species such as Mallards and Pintails. Late-nesters will have better success.

Alaska birds should produce well because of excellent habitat conditions. Areas south of Alaska's Brooks Range experienced a widespread, record-setting early spring breakup, and flooding due to the rapid thaw was minor.

In the eastern United States and Canada, breeding habitat conditions generally were good to excellent. Although spring was late in most areas, biologists believed that nesting was not significantly affected because of abundant spring rain and mild temperatures.

In the eastern survey area, the 2004 total duck population estimate was 3.9 million birds, similar to both last year and the 1996-2003 average. Estimates for individual species also were similar to those of last year and the 8-year average, with the exception of ring-necked ducks, which was 67 percent above the 2003 estimate, and Wigeon and Goldeneyes, which were 61 percent and 42 percent below their 8-year averages, respectively.

From a USFWS News Release

Bird Sightings (continued from page 4)

BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 6 reps(383)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	JEF 4 reps(27)
MEADOWLARK species	JEF 4 reps(28)
GRACKLE, Common	JEF 24 reps(119)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 3 reps(37)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 25 reps(333)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed	JEF 3 reps(102)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	JEF 3 reps(44); ORA 1 rep(2)
ORIOLE, Orchard	JEF 5 reps(23)
FINCH, House	JEF-NEDR 7/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/4(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 7/13(1) JAW; ORA 7/8(4) SBE; ORA 7/11(6) SBE
SPARROW, House	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 23 reps(125); ORA 3 reps(6)

Number of Species 105
Number of Individuals 14024

County Abbreviations:

HAI – Hardin; JEF – Jefferson; NEW – Newton; ORA – Orange.

Location Codes:

BC - Bridge City; BMT – Beaumont; NEDR – Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TX87 - Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP; TXPT - Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point.

Observer Abbreviations

BE – Beaumont Enterprise report; CWE – Colt Westbrook; GD – Gerald Duhon; HJ – Harrison Jordan; JAW – John Whittle; JJW – John and Jana Whittle; KS –Ken Sztraky; MW – Steve Mayes and John Whittle; SBE – Sheri Bethard; SM – Steve Mayes.

Nominating Committee

President John Haynes has appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of himself, Joe Halbrook and Steve Mayes to prepare a slate of candidates for officers and board members for 2005. Contact any member with your suggestions.

Spring 2004 Migration Summary

Once again, we present, largely in tabular form, a summary of the sightings of passerine neotropical migrants. The methodology employed was as follows. We considered four "locations": Sabine Woods, the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, and points elsewhere along Texas 87 west of Sabine Pass. If there were multiple reports for any given location on any given day, the highest count for each species submitted by any of the observers was used. The counts for each of the four locations were added to determine the total of that

species reported on that day. As usual, there were many more reports from Sabine Woods than for any other sites.

We thank the following observers who submitted reports for multiple days: Gerald Duhon, John Haynes, Art MacKinnon; Steve Mayes, Ken Sztraky, and John and Jana Whittle. Others whose reports were used were Carol Bookout, Gary Hodne, Josh Mitchell, Don Quaintance, Don Verser, and Tex Wells. Our apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

We now have data for each year since 1996

compiled under the same procedure. While it would be certainly not be valid to try to use the data to determine overall trends in neotropical songbird migrant numbers – the vagaries of weather conditions make that almost impossible to do based on observations at the coast – there may be interesting information on the relative abundance of species which normally migrate in the same time window. It may be possible to detect if any species are tending to migrate earlier. Copies of all previous years compilations are available from the editor on request.

Spring 2004 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County -- Flycatchers

Date	MARCH					APRIL															APRIL															MAY															MAY	GRAND					
	19	21	24	28	31	MAR	1	2	3	4	6	7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	AP1	16	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	AP2	1	2	3	5	7	8	9	10	12	14	15	16	28	29	30	31			TOT	TOT			
Number of Reports	2	1	2	1	2	2	TOT	1	3	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	2	2	TOT	3	2	1	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	TOT	2	2	2	2	1	4	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	TOT	TOT
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed					1	1			2			1		1			1			5	1		1	5	4		4		1	1	1			18	1		1	2	1				2	1	1	1	10	34									
KINGBIRD, Eastern	1	3	4	5	8	11	32	10	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	6	5	1	35	2	2	1	1	4	2	6	12	2	2	1	4	39	4	6	2	3	4	1	1	1	6	3	30	2	6	1	70	176								
KINGBIRD, Western																											1	1	1	1			4	1	2	2	1	1									13	17									
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested					2	2						2			1	5	3		11				2				1					3					1	1									3	19									
PHOEBE, Eastern	2	2	4	1			47	1											1																													48									
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided																																															1	1									
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern													1	1		2	2	1	7						2	1	4	1	2	2		1	3	16	6	4	4		4		5	10	1		34	57											
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied																2	2	1	8						1	2	2					4		1			1									7	9										
FLYCATCHER, Acadian												1		2		2	2	1	8																												3	15									
FLYCATCHER, Trail's														2					2							1	1					2			4				1							5	9										
FLYCATCHER, Least																											1	1			1	3	2	2					1		1						6	9									
Empidonax species																				1						2	2	2	1			2	10	4	3	1			2		1					11	21										

The March totals include numerous Eastern Phoebes before March 19

Spring 2004 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County -- Nightjars, Thrushes, Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Buntings

Date	MARCH											APRIL															APRIL															MAY															MAY	GRAND
	6	8	15	19	21	24	28	29	30	31	MAR	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	AP1	16	17	18	20	21	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	AP2	1	2	3	5	8	9	12	14	15	TOT	TOT							
VEERY																																															16	37										
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked																																															19	31										
THRUSH, Swainson's													1												1	1	1	2	3	5	6	20	1	1											25	50	92	132										
THRUSH, Hermit	1					1	1																																								3	3										
THRUSH, Wood							1	2	13	16		4	1	2	1												1	25	1	1	1	1	1			4	4	5		3							21	65										
CATBIRD, Gray					1		1	1							3	2	6	5	1	2																											37	509										
THRASHER, Brown	1	1	4	2	4	2	5	1							3	2	10	2	1																													34	64									
TANAGER, Summer																																																31	85									
TANAGER, Scarlet																																																	7	54								
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted																																																	9	62								
GROSBEAK, Blue																																																	10	28								
BUNTING, Indigo																																																	118	380								
BUNTING, Lazuli							6	2	7	9	24	4	4	1		2																																1	2									
BUNTING, Painted																																																	9	45								

Not included are Chuck-will's-Widow (1 on Apr 26 and 1 on May 2); Bobolink (1 on Apr 24, 6 on Apr 25, 16 on Apr 26, 15 on May 2)

May totals include 1 Gray Catbird May 28, 1 Summer Tanager May 29, 1 Blue Grosbeak May 29, 2 Painted Buntings May 16, 1 on May 29, 1 on May 31.

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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) 728-6957
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	(956) 584-2731
San Antonio	(210) 308-6788
Waco	(254) 299-8175
Louisiana	(504) 768-9874

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