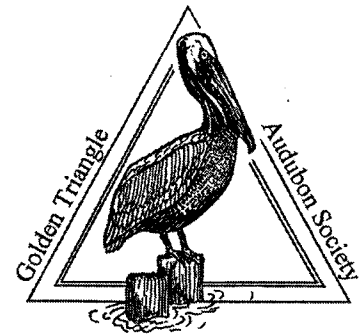


Brown Pelican

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The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 10 No. 12

December 2004

Special Membership Meeting

Thursday, December 9, 2004

6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Manu National Park and Biosphere Reserve

John Arvin

World Birding Center

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

John describes Manu as probably the last place in the western hemisphere and maybe in the world where the ecosystem is completely intact just as it was when European man first set foot in the continent.

John Arvin has served as resident naturalist at the Reserve, currently works for the World Birding Center at Bensen-Rio Grande State Park, and is a former chair of the Texas Bird Records Committee.

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

Note that this meeting is on the second Thursday, not the third!!

November Annual Meeting

Approximately 35 members were present for the Annual Meeting on November 18. John Haynes' term of office as President extends to the end of Calendar Year 2005. Officers elected at the meeting were Vice-President Jeff Pittman; Treasurer: Don Jeane; Secretary; John Whittle. Elected Directors-at-large were Bob Collier, Joe Halbrook, Jeannie Lanclos, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Ken Sztraky and Jana Whittle.

Your officers and board would very much like to have additional members step forward and help with the numerous tasks necessary to keep the Society running smoothly and effectively. The current officers and board members will be happy to help you get started. We are particularly in need of help in furthering our conservation goals. We need someone to monitor local conservation developments – LNG projects, Sabine-Neches Ship channel proposals, Highway 87 between Sabine Pass and High Island. Or, if you wish to monitor things on a State or National level, we can point you in the right direction. There are other things that help make our meetings run well. Would you like to take on the task of coordinating the refreshments at our meetings? Or work on recruiting new members? Or helping out at the Garden Center? Or acting as our public and media relations person? Or writing articles for the Newsletter? Or even serving as Vice President in 2006? If we can spread the workload out a little more, the workload for each person will be much less!

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 10, No.12 December 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

Thursday December 9. Special Membership Meeting. See front page for details.

Saturday December 18. Turkey Creek (north of Kountze-Silsbee) Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Big Ticket National Preserve Visitor Center on US 69 seven miles north of Kountze (at the intersection with FM420) at 6:30 a.m. Contact Merle King at 409-246-2337 or Merle.King@nps.gov for more details, and to notify of your intent to participate.

Thursday December 23. 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 26. Trinity River Christmas Bird Count. Contact Stuart Marcus stuartma@sbcglobal.net or 936-336-3610 for details.

Monday December 27. Old River Christmas Bird Count. Contact Barbara Tilton at jbtilton@imsday.com or 936-258-5807.

Wednesday December 29. Beech Creek (Steinhagen Lake Area) Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the Corp of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 in Town Bluff just north of the intersection with FM1746 at 6:30 a.m. Contact Merle King at 409-246-2337 or Merle.King@nps.gov for more details. Please notify Merle in advance if you plan on participating.

Saturday January 1, 2005. Orange County Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the service station at the intersection of FM105 and FM1442 at 7:00 a.m. Contact Ken Sztraky at 409-385-2835 or kens@ih2000.net for more details.

Sunday January 2, 2005. Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count. Meet at the entrance to the Sabine Pass Battleground Park at 7:00 a.m. Proceed south on TX 87 from Port Arthur to the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Go straight ahead on FM3322 and proceed about a mile to the entrance road. Contact John Whittle at 409-722-4193 or john.whittle@lamar.edu for more details.

Wednesday January 5, 2005. Johnson's Bayou Christmas Bird Count. Contact Ken Sztraky at 409-385-2835 or kens@ih2000.net for more details. Meet at Young's Store in Johnson's Bayou.

Thursday January 20, 2005. Membership Meeting. Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, 7:00 p.m. Charles Post will talk about Bluebirds.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank everyone who brought something for our "pot luck" meeting in November. Leah and Ken Sztraky, and Randy Trahan have volunteered to bring refreshments in December, and Lu and Grady Skillern will bring sandwiches in January. **We need volunteers to bring ice and drinks in January, and for all other 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!

Saturday January 22. Field Trip to West Harris County. The meeting time and place will be the same location as in previous years: 7:30 a.m. at the Randall's Supermarket on the northeast corner of Barker-Cypress Road and Clay Road, west of Houston. To reach this location, take IH-10 west through Houston and across Loop 610 on the west side to Barker-Cypress Road - exit 748. This exit is 15 miles west of Loop 610, is beyond Beltway 8 and just beyond Highway 6. Turn right (north) on Barker Cypress and proceed just under three miles to the Intersection with Clay. The Randall's parking lot can be entered from Barker-Cypress immediately north of the intersection. Please be sure to check at the Membership Meeting on January 20 or check the web-site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org or call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 two or three

days before to confirm details of both date and meeting place. Although it is a two and one-half hour drive from the Golden Triangle, this has been a very popular trip in past years.

The meeting place is about 105 miles from Beaumont (IH-10 and College St.), and the travel time at that hour of the morning is a little under 2 1/2 hours.

Car pooling from Beaumont is desirable. The fewer cars we have in the rural areas of west Harris County, the better. Maps and the opportunity to arrange car pooling will be available at the February Membership meeting on Thursday January 20.

Should you be late, the plan is to first proceed to Bear Creek Park. We will probably enter the park by turning south off Clay Road, just east of the golf course.

**Tuesday, February 8, 2005.
Whooping Crane Trip: Rockport-Fulton.**

Join Audubon Texas for a day of coastal birding in beautiful Rockport, Texas during the peak of Whooping Crane season. The day will begin with an optional early morning birding trip to Cape Valero to observe the many species of ducks, waders and shorebirds, followed by a talk about the Audubon Texas Coastal Program and "History of the Whooping Crane" given by Audubon Texas Important Bird Areas Coordinator, Ned Wright. Lunch will be provided during the presentation at the Lighthouse Inn. Participants will then meet at the dock in Rockport-Fulton for an afternoon of boating aboard the shallow draft "Skimmer" which allows us to access the best sites in the area for viewing Whooping Cranes, including Audubon-managed Ayres Island sanctuary. Our tour will finish by 5 p.m., and participants will be on their own for dinner and relaxation that evening, or to get an early start home.

2005 tour price: \$150 per person. Tour limited to 25 participants. Price includes light breakfast during the morning field trip, lunch, boat admission, and an Audubon Texas guide.

To make your reservation or for more information, please contact Lk Loflin at Audubon Texas, 512-306-0225 ext 15 or lloflin@audubon.org.

**Thursday February 17, 2005.
Membership Meeting. Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, 7:00 p.m.. Speaker: Jace Stansbury on Purple Martins.**

Christmas Bird Counts

- Dec. 17** - San Bernard
- Dec. 18** - Turkey Creek
- Dec. 18** - Houston
- Dec. 18** - Sabine NWR
- Dec. 20** - Mad Island Marsh
- Dec. 22**- Attwater NWR
- Dec. 23** - Bolivar Peninsula
- Dec. 26** - Trinity River
- Dec. 27** - Old River
- Dec. 29** - Beech Creek
- Jan 1, 2005** - Orange County.
- Jan 2, 2005** - Sea Rim State Park
- Jan 5, 2005** - Johnson Bayou, LA

Bluebird Boxes Needed for January Meeting

It is getting close to the new year of 2005 and we are again asking all the woodworkers in our organization to build at least one bluebird house to be given away at our January meeting. We are having Charles Post speak about bluebirds and it is an excellent way to get new people to come to our meetings. People are very pleased with all of the other houses that we have given away. Remember to bring your receipts for all of the materials that you spend and GTAS will reimburse you. We truly appreciate all of the talent that we have in our organization and this way, you can help people to observe bluebirds better. One lady in Buna who was a recipient of one of our giveaway houses, constantly tells me about how much it means to her. For people who don't understand how this works, we simply give them away to people who want them. If we don't have enough to go around, we have a little drawing for them. If you need plans to build a bluebird house please go to http://nabluebirdsociety.org/e_wbox.htm for very detailed plans. If you do not have a computer, e-mail me at janafw@aol.com and I will mail you a copy. Thank you again for working hard to keep GTAS strong. *Jana Whittle*

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.

Editor's Note: It is our normal practice to restrict items in the Brown Pelican to items related to birds and habitat. However, the pressure to include this recipe for the Crunchy Cole Slaw that Bertie Seitz made for the November Meeting has been so great that we are publishing this recipe. Thanks, Bertie!

**Crunchy Cole Slaw
Bertie Seitz**

- 2 pkgs Chicken-flavored (or Picante Chicken) Ramen Noodle Soup Mix
- 1 pkg Cole Slaw (16 oz.)
- 1 cup Almonds (sliced and toasted 10 minutes @ 300-350°.) (You can do this in a skillet over low heat.)
- 1 cup Sunflower Seeds
- 1 bunch Green Onions (chopped—including green tops)

Dressing

- 1 cup Vegetable Oil
- 1/2 cup Wine Vinegar
- 1/2 cup Sugar
- 1 tsp. Black Pepper
- 1 Flavor-packet from soup mix

Mix slaw, onions, and dressing. Let stand in refrigerator to marinate for an hour or overnight. Just prior to serving, break up the noodles and add to the slaw. Also add almonds and sunflower seeds. Mix well!

Note: It will last a day or two in the refrigerator.

Bird Sightings – October 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: In a much warmer than normal October, the number of lingering passerine migrants was quite high. Possibly the most noteworthy of these was a well marked Louisiana Waterthrush in early October at Sabine Woods. This species is normally a very early fall migrant. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds lingered throughout the month and into early November, but Rufous Hummingbirds were in the area earlier than usual. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird was seen in Sabine Woods. The Great Kiskadee continued at Sabine Woods, although reports of it are becoming fewer. Least Grebes made a welcome return to Cattail Marsh, and during November have been found in multiple widely separated locations within the Marsh.

GOOSE, Snow	JEF 10/17(10) KS	HAWK, Sharp-shinned	JEF 1 rep(2)
GADWALL	JEF 10/31(1) JAW	HAWK, Cooper's	JEF 2 reps(2)
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 10/2(40) JAW; JEF-TP 10/2(2) JAW; JEF-PI 10/31(4) JAW	ACCIPITER species	JEF 1 rep(1)
TEAL, Blue-winged	JEF 3 reps(726)	HAWK, Red-shouldered	JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF 1 rep(93)	HAWK, Broad-winged	JEF 2 reps(2)
PINTAIL, Northern	JEF 2 reps(10)	HAWK, Red-tailed	JEF 1 rep(2)
TEAL, Green-winged	JEF 1 rep(490)	KESTREL, American	JEF 9 reps(22)
DUCK, Ring-necked	JEF 10/31(18) JAW	MERLIN	JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW; JEF-TX87 10/23(1) RHJ
SCAUP, Lesser	JEF-PI 10/31(8) JAW	FALCON, Peregrine	JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
DUCK species	JEF 1 rep(250)	RAIL, Clapper	JEF 1 rep(11)
DUCK, Ruddy	JEF 10/31(5) JAW	SORA	JEF 1 rep(1)
GREBE, Least	JEF-TP 10/12(2) KH; JEF-TP 10/16(2) KH; JEF 10/31(1) JAW	MOORHEN, Common	JEF 2 reps(21)
GREBE, Pied-billed	JEF 2 reps(16)	COOT, American	JEF 1 rep(144)
PELICAN, Amer. White	JEF 2 reps(64)	PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 1 rep(1)
		KILLDEER	JEF 4 reps(19)
		STILT, Black-necked	JEF 3 reps(375)
PELICAN, Brown	JEF-TX87 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/10(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/24(6) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/30(6) JAW;	AVOCET, American	JEF 3 reps(688)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF-TP 10/2(2) JAW; JEF 10/3(41) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/3(10) JAW; JEF 10/5(30) JAW; JEF 10/10(29) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/10(6) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/10(23) JAW; JEF 10/23(32) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/23(5) JAW; JEF 10/24(47) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/24(8) JAW; JEF 10/30(9) JAW; JEF 10/31(7) JAW; JEF-PI 10/31(1) JAW	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	JEF 1 rep(9)
CORMORANT, Double-crested	JEF 10/31(1) JAW	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF 1 rep(1)
CORMORANT, Species	JEF 10/31(2) JAW	WILLET	JEF 2 reps(7)
ANHINGA	JEF 2 reps(2)	SANDPIPER, Spotted	JEF 10/31(2) JAW
HERON, Great Blue	JEF 6 reps(15)	KNOT, Red	JEF-PI 10/31(1) JAW
EGRET, Great	JEF 12 reps(229)	SANDPIPER, Western	JEF 1 rep(55)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 10 reps(266)	SANDPIPER, Peep	JEF 1 rep(200)
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 2 reps(2)	SANDPIPER, Least	JEF 1 rep(10)
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 4 reps(13)	DUNLIN	JEF-PI 10/31(10) JAW
EGRET, Cattle	JEF 10 reps(597)	SANDPIPER, Stilt	JEF 10/31(5) JAW
HERON, Green	JEF-TP 10/2(3) JAW; JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW	DOWITCHER, Long-billed	JEF 1 rep(51)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned	JEF 1 rep(1)	DOWITCHER species	JEF 1 rep(400)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned	JEF-TXPT 10/10(1) JAW	PHALAROPE, Wilson's	JEF 10/31(3) JAW
IBIS, White	JEF 5 reps(269)	GULL, Laughing	JEF 9 reps(342)
IBIS, White-faced	JEF-TP 10/2(5) JAW; JEF 10/31(28) JAW	GULL, Ring-billed	JEF 2 reps(2)
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF-TP 10/2(5) JAW; JEF 10/31(12) JAW	TERN, Gull-billed	JEF 10/31(1) JAW
SPOONBILL, Roseate	JEF 10/2(1) JAW; JEF 10/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/10(8) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/10(5) JAW; JEF 10/31(38) JAW	TERN, Caspian	JEF 2 reps(24)
STORK, Wood	ORA 10/12(300) CBR	TERN, Royal	JEF 1 rep(1)
VULTURE, Black	JEF 4 reps(17)	TERN, Forster's	JEF 4 reps(47)
VULTURE, Turkey	JEF 5 reps(18)	DOVE, Rock	JEF 15 reps(119)
VULTURE species	JEF 1 rep(2)	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	JEF 10/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/3(3) JAW; JEF 10/4(15) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/8(5) JAW; JEF 10/9(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/10(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/18(2) JAW; JEF 10/21(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/24(3) JAW; JEF 10/26(2) JAW
OSPREY	JEF-TX87 10/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-TP 10/12(1) KH; JEF 10/23(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/23(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/24(1) JAW; ORA 10/22(1) SBE	DOVE, White-winged	JEF-NEDR 10/1(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/3(6) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/9(2) JAW; JEF 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/13(24) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/18(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/19(10) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/22(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/23(10) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/25(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/29(1) JAW
KITE, White-tailed	JEF 1 rep(2)	DOVE, Mourning	JEF 20 reps(291); ORA 1 rep(2)
HARRIER, Northern	JEF-SRSP 10/10(4) JAW; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW	DOVE, Inca	JEF 1 rep(1)
		CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW
		OWL, Barn	JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW
		SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	JEF-NEDR 10/9(1) JFW
		OWL, Great Horned	JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
		WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW

SWIFT, Chimney	JEF-NEDR 10/1(6) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(4) JAW; JEF 10/3(2) JAW; JEF 10/8(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied	JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	HAI 10/20(5) KS; JEF-NEDR 10/1(8) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(7) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 10/3(250) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/4(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/5(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/9(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/10(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/11(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/12(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/13(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/18(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/19(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/21(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/23(100) FTSW; JEF-NEDR 10/24(6) JAW; JEF-SW 10/24(50) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/25(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/26(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/28(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/29(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/30(5) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/31(1) JAW; ORA 10/6(3) SBE; ORA 10/11(3) SBE; ORA 10/22(4) SBE
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	JEF-NEDR 10/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/4(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/12(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/13(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/18(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD species	JEF-NEDR 10/28(1) JAW
KINGFISHER, Belted	JEF 7 reps(22)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	ORA 10/22(1) SBE
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	JEF 6 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(1)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	ORA 10/22(1) SBE
WOODPECKER, Downy	JEF 8 reps(13)
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	JEF 4 reps(15)
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Traill's	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Least	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM
EMPIDONAX species	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(2) FTSW
PHOEBE, Eastern	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(3) JHH; JEF 10/17(1) KS; JEF-SW 10/23(4) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/30(1) JAW; JEF 10/31(2) JAW; ORA 10/13(1) KS
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH
KISKADEE, Great	JEF-SW 10/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	JEF 10/2(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/10(1) JAW; JEF 10/23(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/23(8) JAW; JEF 10/24(17) JAW; JEF 10/24(2) KS; JEF-TX87 10/24(44) JAW; JEF 10/30(5) JAW; JEF-SW 10/30(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/30(31) JAW; JEF 10/31(12) JAW; ORA 10/22(1) SBE
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	JEF 12 reps(53)
VIREO, White-eyed	JEF 7 reps(58)
VIREO, Yellow-throated	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW
VIREO, Blue-headed	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
VIREO, Philadelphia	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW
VIREO, Red-eyed	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/9(5) SM; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW
JAY, Blue	JEF 19 reps(62); ORA 2 reps(2)
SWALLOW, Tree	JEF 7 reps(252)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged	JEF 2 reps(14)
SWALLOW, Barn	JEF 2 reps(6)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	JEF 5 reps(5); ORA 2 reps(3)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	ORA 2 reps(3)
WREN, Carolina	JEF 6 reps(6); ORA 2 reps(2)
WREN, House	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM; JEF-SW 10/23(3) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/30(3) JAW
WREN, Marsh	JEF-TXPT 10/10(2) JAW; JEF 10/31(1) JAW
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	JEF-SW 10/23(2) FTSW; JEF-BMT 10/28(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/30(3) JAW
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	JEF 5 reps(42)
VEERY	JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW
THRUSH, Swainson's	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/9(2) SM; JEF-SW 10/10(2) JAW
THRUSH, Wood	JEF-SW 10/9(1) GD
ROBIN, American	JEF 10/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/1(14) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/2(9) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/13(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/18(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/19(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/22(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/23(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/25(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/29(1) JAW; ORA 10/12(12) KS
CATBIRD, Gray	JEF 6 reps(20)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	JEF 14 reps(59); ORA 2 reps(4)
THRASHER, Brown	JEF 5 reps(43)
STARLING, European	JEF 11 reps(428)
PIBIT, American	JEF-TP 10/2(1) JAW; JEF 10/31(1) JAW
WARBLER, Golden-winged	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JHH
WARBLER, Tennessee	JEF 7 reps(28)
WARBLER, Nashville	JEF-SW 10/3(4) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/4(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/15(5) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(2) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/25(2) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/30(1) JAW
PARULA, Northern	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/4(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(3) JH; JEF-BMT 10/25(1) RHJ
WARBLER, Yellow	JEF-SW 10/3(5) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(7) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/10(1) JAW
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	JEF 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Magnolia	JEF 7 reps(11)
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	JEF 5 reps(18)
WARBLER, Yellow-throated	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
WARBLER, Prairie	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH
WARBLER, Palm	JEF-SW 10/3(1) GD; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH
WARBLER, Black-and-white	JEF 5 reps(22)
REDSTART, American	JEF-SW 10/3(9) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(7) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(3) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(4) FTSW; JEF-BMT 10/28(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/30(2) JAW
WARBLER, Worm-eating	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW
OVENBIRD	JEF-SW 10/3(5) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(3) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(4) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(1) JHH
WARBLER, Kentucky	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW
WARBLER, Mourning	JEF-SW 10/3(1) GD
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	JEF 6 reps(26)
WARBLER, Hooded	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(5) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(6) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
WARBLER, Wilson's	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/15(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
WARBLER, Canada	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	JEF-SW 10/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH
TANAGER, Summer	JEF 4 reps(4)
TANAGER, Scarlet	JEF-SW 10/9(1) SM; JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW
SPARROW, Grasshopper	JEF-TXPT 10/9(1) GD
SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-tail.	JEF-TXPT 10/9(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 10/10(2) JAW
SPARROW, Seaside	JEF 1 rep(20)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	JEF-TXPT 10/10(4) JAW
SPARROW, White-throated	JEF-BMT 10/28(1) RHJ
CARDINAL, Northern	JEF 7 reps(15); ORA 3 reps(30)
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted	JEF-SW 10/23(1) FTSW
GROSBEAK, Blue	JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/9(10) SM; JEF-SW 10/10(11) JAW; JEF-SW 10/15(2) JHH
BUNTING, Indigo	JEF 9 reps(146)
BUNTING, Painted	JEF-SW 10/4(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/10(1) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	JEF 8 reps(232)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	HAI 1 rep(1)
GRACKLE, Common	JEF 11 reps(403)

GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	JEF 6 reps(437)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	JEF 20 reps(1341)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	JEF 2 reps(147)
BLACKBIRD species	JEF 5 reps(945)
ORIOLE, Baltimore	JEF-SW 10/3(2) JAW
SPARROW, House	JEF 4 reps(12)

Number of Species	169
Number of Individuals	12767

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; 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

CBR — Charles Bryant; FTSW — Field Trip to Sabine Woods; GD — Gerald Duhon; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; KH — Keith Hansen; KS — Ken Sztraky; RHJ —

Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE — Sheri Bethard; SM — Steve Mayes; X — Unknown.

Bird Alert

It is always risky to attempt any bird alert in the *Brown Pelican* because of the delay that unavoidably elapses between these words being written and your reading them. For various reasons, the delay in this issue will be even longer. Here, however, are a few items from recent Bird Alerts that may still be of value. All alerts are posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org and are emailed to those who have requested to be on the list.

Least Grebes are present in multiple areas of Cattail Marsh. Sandhill Cranes have arrived in west Jefferson County, and have been seen in the vicinity of Willis Road and League Road. Thompson Road, which runs south from US90 to Mason Road, harbored many White-crowned Sparrows and a male Vermilion Flycatcher.

State of the State – November 2004

by Terry Austin, Executive Director of Audubon Texas

On October 16th the 2004 Audubon Texas Assembly of chapters convened in Dallas, Texas, to address the goals and priorities established by delegates during our 2003 Assembly. Those of you who attended in 2003 may recall those priorities: Water – Quality and Quantity, Urban Sprawl and Development and its Impact on Habitat, and Education – Creating a Culture of Conservation.

During the past year, Audubon Texas has moved progressively forward in addressing these priorities and we continue to strive for improvement. Our Important Bird Area program, led by Ned Wright, IBA Coordinator, has established a committee that is fully engaged in the process of identifying IBAs in Texas and has conducted four landowner workshops. The Texas Quail and Grassland Bird Initiative is in full swing with Coordinator, Jason Hardin engaging landowners across the State, creating quail co-ops and conducting landowner workshops. We have strengthened the Coastal Stewardship Program with better predator control actions, enhanced coastal partnerships and implemented habitat enhancement strategies. Our most recent conservation initiative is the tri-state “Restoring the Rio” Initiative that is being developed by the Audubon State Offices in Colorado, New Mexico and Texas in collaboration with numerous partners and stakeholders. The goal for this program is to control invasive species/restore natives, repair infrastructure, protect floodplain from over development, control pollution and protect biodiversity in the Rio Grande Basin.

To address Audubon’s goals for conservation education we continue to work with partners and constituents to develop education centers in the State. One of our great achievements this year was the opening of Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in South San Antonio. Mitchell Lake has been a premiere bird sanctuary with more than 300 documented species. It is an important stopover for migrating waterfowl and is becoming an internationally known birding destination. Mitchell Lake

Audubon Center opened to the public on September 25th after a grand opening ceremony with National Audubon Society President, John Flicker, San Antonio Water System, Mitchell Lake Wetlands Society, local press and community leaders.

The Sabal Palm Audubon Center and Sanctuary in Brownsville continues to be a premier birding spot in the State and was visited by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter over the summer. In addition, Audubon recently acquired a critical 30-acre piece of land with the historic home that greets visitors on their way into Sabal Palm, thanks to sizable gifts from Frank and Mary Yturria and the landowner, Genevieve Vaughan. In addition to conducting habitat restoration to the 30 new acres, we will be raising funds to refurbish the historical home to use as an additional facility for Sabal Palm education programs.

We are also making considerable strides with the development of a center at Dogwood Canyon in Dallas. Our development team has done an incredible job raising funds and we received a generous grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for \$281,000 for the purchase of land. We are planning a month-long fundraising event in Dallas for Dogwood Canyon scheduled in March 2005.

Another potential project on the horizon is the Great Trinity Forest Project. The City of Dallas has invited Audubon to participate in the planning and development of a future nature center there and to serve as its “partner” in managing and operating the facility. The City of Dallas has earmarked \$18 million for construction of an Interpretive Center, Equestrian Center, and trails. Audubon has, in turn, presented the City with a proposal that would provide for start-up funding and assistance with expenses during the first 3 to 5 years of operations. This proposal is currently under consideration by the City of Dallas.

All of this is very exciting news for Audubon. I will be updating you throughout the year on various projects.

The Changing Bird Scene

This article will attempt to review some of the changes that have occurred over the last ten to twenty years and have affected the birds that we see locally. An attempt has been made to include both the "new" birds that we now see and the "old" birds that we no longer see. There may be some evidence for global warming in this article!

Least Grebes, until about nine or ten years ago, were birds that one had to go all the way to the Rio Grande to have any real chance of seeing. In 1995, a small number took up residence in Cattail Marsh in Beaumont, but then were not seen again. Now in 2004, Least Grebes are appearing all over the Upper Texas Coast, including a good number in Cattail Marsh.

Within the time frame covered by this article, we have to mention the recovery of Brown Pelican populations. As is well known, Brown Pelican populations plummeted precipitously in the 1950s and 1960s. Locally the reoccupation of the former range began in 1989 and has continued since.

In times past, there was very little overlap in the ranges of Glossy and White-faced Ibis, with the dividing line being somewhere in Louisiana. We do not know if White-faced Ibis have moved east significantly, but Glossy Ibis have certainly moved west, starting most notably in the mid 1990s, and the species now breeds as far west as the Central Texas Coast.

There is no doubt that Wood Storks are seen more often and in larger numbers than they used to be. Although we do not know of any breeding locally, it is probably only a matter of time. Woods Storks do breed in the Panhandle of (and elsewhere in) Florida, and along the Gulf coast just south of Brownsville. The conventional wisdom used to be that the birds we saw were post-breeding wanderers from Florida, but it now seems that those we see regularly now in the Central and Upper Texas coast are from the Mexican population.

Waterfowl populations are among the most intensively surveyed of all bird families. However, most of these surveys focus on the birds that breed in the northern United States and Canada. But the most dramatic change in range of any duck species has been the spread of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks from being a Rio Grande Valley specialty to a species seen over most of Texas where there is water.

A more local change, but a change nonetheless has been the spread of Black Vultures from the Pineywoods all the way down to the coast in Jefferson County. However, vultures (of either US species) are still very rare on Galveston island.

Among the birds of prey, several changes are evident. Bald Eagles, both the migratory and resident populations, have continued to increase over the period. White-tailed Kites, after a fairly dramatic increase in population in the late 1980s and early 1990s, have fallen back a little, but are still much more common than they used to be. In one of the most eagerly followed increases, Swallow-tailed Kites have greatly increased their presence, particularly in the Trinity and Sabine River bottoms.

Northern Bobwhites, never particularly numerous in the "wet" coastal plains unfortunately seem to be continuing a decline that is observed throughout their range.

Of the plovers, Piping Plover populations seem not to be changing rapidly locally, although the species is certainly not

out of trouble by any measure. An encouraging sign over the last two or three years has been a very dramatic increase in Snowy Plovers on local beaches.

Perhaps the most dramatic increase in the number of local species can be found in the doves. Back twenty years ago, only Mourning Doves and what were then called Rock Doves (a.k.a. Pigeons) could be found locally. In the intervening period, Inca Doves have moved in from the west, White-winged Doves have spread from their South Texas strongholds to cover most of the state, and Eurasian Collared-Doves, originally entering the United States in the Fort Lauderdale, Florida area have exploded across virtually the whole of Texas. If we include Common Ground-Doves, always uncommon southeast Texas, we have gone from three dove species to six over the period of the last fifteen years.

Without doubt, more Rufous Hummingbirds are wintering along the Gulf Coast in increasing numbers, particularly in Louisiana, possibly in response to backyard hummingbird habitats and feeders. Whether or not other species are also increasing in winter or whether they are being studied more carefully is not clear. Certainly more of a wide variety of western species are being reported.

Both Cave and Cliff Swallows are clearly spreading east into our area. Interestingly, although they occupy very similar breeding sites, and often are found in mixed colonies, Cave Swallows are much less migratory, wintering just south of the Rio Grande (and in small numbers north of it), while Cliff Swallows go much further south.

In a trend which is still relatively local, and not experienced to the same extent either to our east or to our west, American Robins are expanding their breeding range south almost to the Gulf Coast. Previously, breeding was confined to certainly areas north of Interstate 10, and for the most part, a good distance north of it.

Twenty years ago, Brown-headed Nuthatches were difficult to find, although fairly widely distributed in the areas of the Big Thicket. Now, they are much more easily found.

One species that has definitely withdrawn from wintering locally is the Purple Finch, although early reports from elsewhere in Texas suggest that this winter may see more in the area than have been seen in a good number of years. This may also apply to a number of other wintering species, somewhat enigmatic in a years when a good part of the country seems to have experienced a warmer than usual late fall.

An interesting series of changes in what is a relatively short period of time as evolutionary and climate changes go!



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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
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