## Brown Pelican

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# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 11 No. 3 March 2005

Membership Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2005
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Speaker: Michael W. Hoke, Director Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center

Mike Hoke will talk about the ornithology research projects that have been completed at Shangri La and that are currently under way. These include research on the heronry in the Gardens, and research on habitat density.

Before taking up his current position, Mike was the director of the Nature Classroom, which served school children in Orange and the surrounding area.

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

#### **Local Conservation Issues**

The following is a summary of the more important projects in the local area with possible significant conservation impact that are at some stage of permit consideration before government agencies.

The project to widen and deepen the ship channel and the Neches River all the way to Beaumont is still at the feasibility study stage. Issues of hydrology and disposal of dredge material (as well as cost) are seemingly receiving the most attention. The original proposal was to deepen to 50 feet, but the project may be scaled back, apparently on account of cost and/or dredge disposal issues.

The Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Texas Chenier Plain National Wildlife Refuge Complex (which includes McFaddin and Texas Point NWRs) is still in preparation, and the draft plan should be released for public comment later this year.

There are several applications for permits to site Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) evaporation plants in the area. One application from a Shell Oil affiliate for a plant offshore from southwest Louisiana is apparently in the final stages of required approvals. Concern has been expressed over the environmental consequences of the large volumes of cooled water the plant proposes to return to the Gulf of Mexico. The proposed Cheniere LNG evaporation plant to be sited on an existing area created by dredge material of the Louisiana side of the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel downstream from Sabine Pass is also in the final stages of permitting by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Plans to site LNG evaporation plants on the Texas side of the Sabine-Neches Channel by Golden Pass LNG (ExxonMobil) in the vicinity of the Keith Lake cut, and by Sempra LNG half way between the Keith Lake cut and the Intracoastal Waterway are in earlier stages of the process.

Sabine Woods Work Day Sunday March 20 - please come and help if you can.

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Vol. 11, No.3 March 2005

Golden Triangle **Audubon Society** 

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

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### **Calendar of Events**

Saturday March 12, 2005, Marsh Madness. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge "Open House." There will be programs for all ages, including paddling kayaks, learning to fish and crab, retriever demonstrations and bird identification. For more information about this free event, call the refuge at 409-971-2909.

Thursday March 17, 2005. Membership Meeting. Our speaker will be Mike Hoke of Shangri La Gardens and Nature Center in Orange.

### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Lu and Grady Skillern, Lynn Otto, Jean Hollingsworth, Needa Reed, Sherry and Steve Gibson for bringing refreshments in February. Joan and Dan Harmon, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker and Brad Hoque have volunteered to bring refreshments in March. We need volunteers to bring sandwiches in April and all items for all the remaining 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 vou can!

Saturday March 19, 2005. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. Meet at the vehicle barrier at 8:30 a.m. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the shoreline, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). Turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettilon Road. At the beach, if conditions permit, turn right (west) about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. It takes at least one and a half hours to drive from the Golden Triangle; more if you bird on the way! We will leave the vehicle barrier at about 8:45 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes later than that. The opportunity will exist to visit High Island on the way back.

Sunday March 20, 2005. Sabine Woods Work Day. There being some conflict on every Saturday in March, we are proposing a Sunday work day. We will start about 7:30 a.m., and usually these work days do not run much beyond noon. Sabine Woods is located on Highway 87 about 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass, on the north side of the highway just. We will try to provide refreshments, but bring water and insect repellent. Also bring gloves, heavy duty pruning tools, machetes. We can use riding mowers, the heavier duty the better.

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge Spring 2005 Yellow Rail Walks. March 26, Sat. 7:00 am and 4:00 pm April 3, Sun. 7:00 am and 4:00 pm April 9, Sat. 7:00 am and 4:30 pm April 16, Sat. 7:00 am April 17, Sun. 4:30 pm April 24, Sun. 7:00 am and 5:00 pm

All tours begin at the Visitor Information Station at Anahuac NWR. To reach the Visitor Information Station, proceed south from Winnie on Highway 124 (towards High Island). After about 10 miles, turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed about 10 miles to the well marked access road to the left (south). The Information Station is about 3 miles down this limestone/shell road.

Participants should wear waterproof boots (rubber boots are best). Also recommended are binoculars, insect repellent, and drinking water!

For more information, please contact the Refuge at 409-267-3337.

Saturday April 16. Sea Rim SP Bird Walk. Jointly sponsored by Sea Rim State Park and Golden Triangle Audubon. Meet at Park HQ at 7:30 AM. Easy walking (or driving) to the boardwalk at Willows. Later, drive to Sabine Woods to continue birding for those who wish. Easy walking on the boardwalks at both locations. This field trip is especially suited for not-veryexperienced birders, and those who are unable to walk over rougher ground.

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

### Sponsor our Birdathon!

As most of you will know, the Chapters in Texas and Louisiana nominated me for the National Audubon Society (NAS) Board of Directors, and I was duly elected to the board in 2004.

One of the most successful means of fundraising for Audubon, and the one I am most able to participate in, is a birdathon. Royce Pendergast has again graciously agreed to join with me in a Spring Birdathon.

A Birdathon is very similar to other "athons" you may be familiar with, such as telethons, walkathons, etc. The idea is for us to get up at the crack of dawn on a day in late April — we're planning April 23, with April 24 and 27 as alternate days if the weather does not look as if it will cooperate — and make a run to include the coast of east Jefferson County, Cattail Marsh, the woods and lakeshores of East Texas, perhaps Anahuac NWR, High Island and Bolivar Flats looking for as many species of birds as can be found. We're aiming for at least 150 species.

We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$.50, \$.75, or \$1.00 (or whatever amount you choose) per bird species. A flat donation is also welcome. Please take the time to make a pledge today -your donation to our Birdathon will be earmarked to support Audubon's mission of protecting our natural heritage in Texas and the nation by supporting conservation, education and advocacy. Again this year, half of the funds we raise will be designated for Audubon Texas activities programs, and the other half for NAS. Checks should be made out to Audubon Texas and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible. Local businesspeople and businesses are often very receptive to this kind of fund raising and we would welcome any suggestions of where we might find receptive potential supporters. We appreciate all of you who contributed generously last year, and hope you will consider Please contact me at iohn.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H) with your pledge and your suggestions.

John A. Whittle

### Bird Alerts and Related Matters

During February, the most noteworthy birds that have been reported to us have been the wintering warblers at Sabine Woods. A male Prairie Warbler, a Magnolia Warbler and a female Black-and-white Warbler have apparently all wintered there. A Red-breasted Nuthatch put in a brief appearance in early February, although one has also patronized feeders in Silsbee since about November.

Pine Siskins and Purple Finches have been seen quite frequently in areas from north Beaumont northwards.

Offshore from Sea Rim State Park in the Gulf, Northern Gannets have been seen several times in unusually high numbers, and scoters have also been reported. Snowy Plovers are again back in encouragingly high numbers, and a flock numbering about 40 can usually be found on the beach just west of the Sea Rim headquarters.

This has been a very poor year for ducks. Who would have ever thought that a field trip to Anahuac NWR in February would not record a single Green-winged Teal! (All is not lost, however, as there are a good number in Cattail Marsh!) There will be much discussion in the coming months as to whether the ducks stopped short, or went further south, or, indeed, whether the flyway population estimates were somehow flawed.

By the time you read these words, many of our winter resident birds will have left us, and we will all be looking forward to spring migration. Already there are some very subtle signs! Cattle Egrets have become a little easier to find again. Lesser Yellowlegs are present in larger numbers than Greater Yellowlegs. Red-tailed Hawks are just a little less numerous.

The hummingbird population is also changing. Some of the Rufous Hummingbirds have left and some *Archilochus* species – probably Black-chinned – have replaced them.

Shorebird migration has probably already commenced; in two or three weeks the first warblers will be arriving. Look for Parula and Prothonotary Warblers, and perhaps a Worm-eating Warbler or a Louisiana Waterthrush.

### Subscription Renewal Reminder

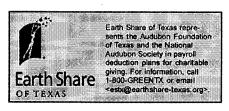
Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by "AU" has passed, or there is no other date, please remit your contribution of \$15 to Golden Triangle Audubon Society at P.O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292. Although this contribution towards the cost of the 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.

### A Thought About This Winter

Posted to TEXBIRDS by Ted Eubanks, January 15

While not willing to delve into the global forces that might be shaping bird populations in Texas this winter. I will offer one observation. Rare birds attract rare birders. More eyes on more birds results in more rare birds seen. Decades ago we talked about a Patagonia Picnic Table effect. While the table is gone for all I know, the truth revealed there remains applicable today. In early winter (late fall, actually) several species were seen in the Rio Grande Valley that attracted an increase in birders searching for the rarities: Blue Mockingbird, Crimson-collared Grosbeak, Green-breasted Mango, Graycrowned Yellowthroat. I am not arguing that there are not a disproportionate number of unusual birds in South Texas this winter (or at least rare birds seen and reported). But I would not underestimate the value of being able to attract not just increased numbers of birders but also those who are singularly focused on seeing the rarities. Rare birds + Rare birders

= More Rare Birds



### **Bird Sightings – January 2005**

dominated by the Sea Rim and Orange County Christmas Count data.

but there are some other interesting sightings. Otherwise a pair of interesting orioles of the Baltimore/Bullock's complex were seen at

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

CORMORANT, Neotropic

the beginning of the month in Tyrrell Park in Beaumont. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were seen at feeders throughout the month. The Broad-tailed Hummingbird identified at a feeder in the south western part of the City of Orange on the Orange County Christmas Count continued throughout the month, as did the one in Nederland. Rufous (or perhaps more accurately in many cases Rufous or Allen's "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) Hummingbirds) are so regular at feeders that we don't receive as many reports as we might. We are at somewhat of a disadvantage in that our database (like essentially all that others) requires an exact on the 5th of July, two (2) birds, reported by observer "ABC. date - it won't take a range of dates, or a month without the day. On Commentary: An interesting January locally, complimenting a spectacular January in the Rio Grande Valley! The listing is the negative side, apart from scoters, the duck section shows a very sparse winter. JEF 2 reps(85); ORA 2 reps(3)

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GOOSE, White-fronted
                                                                           JEF 1/2(2) SR05A; JEF-MCFW 1/2(6) SR12; JEF-PI 1/2(1000)
GOOSE, Snow
                                                                          SR01; JEF-SRSP 1/2(4) SR10; JEF-SRSP 1/2(2) SR11; JEF-
                               JEF 10 reps(4435); ORA 6
      reps(567)
                                                                          SRSP 1/2(2) SR10A; JEF-TX87 1/2(2) SR05; JEF 1/23(10)
GOOSE, "White"
                               JEF 2 reps(615)
                                                                          JAW; JEF 1/25(5) JAW; ORA 1/1(4) OC08; ORA 1/1(9) OC10;
GOOSE, Ross's
                               JEF-SRSP 1/2(4) SR10; JEF 1/8(3)
                                                                          ORA-BC 1/1(1) OC10
       JAW; JEF-TP 1/9(1) SM; ORA 1/1(2) OC08
                                                                    CORMORANT, Double-crested HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(106);
GOOSE, Canada
                               JEF 1 rep(102); ORA 1 rep(2)
                                                                          ORA 3 reps(31)
DUCK, Wood
                               ORA 1/1(2) OC08; ORA 1/1(3)
                                                                    CORMORANT, Species
                                                                                                   JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 2 reps(230)
       OC12
                                                                    ANHINGA
                                                                                                   JEF 1/2(1) ŚR05A; JEF 1/8(1)
GADWALL
                               JEF 7 reps(1913); ORA 1 rep(49)
                                                                           JAW; JEF 1/9(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(1) OC12
WIGEON, American
                               JEF 2 reps(321)
                                                                    BITTERN, American
                                                                                                   JEF-MCFW 1/2(1) SR12
                               JEF 3 reps(4)
MALLARD
                                                                    HERON, Great Blue
                                                                                                   JEF 15 reps(87); ORA 5 reps(18)
DUCK, Mottled
                               JEF 1/2(12) SR04; JEF 1/2(4)
                                                                    EGRET, Great
                                                                                                   HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(222);
      SR07; JEF 1/2(2) SR05A; JEF-MCFW 1/2(2) SR12; JEF-PI
                                                                          ORA 13 reps(69)
       1/2(20) SR01; JEF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10
                                                                    EGRET, Snowy
                                                                                                   JEF 10 reps(137); ORA 7 reps(29)
TEAL, Blue-winged
                               JEF 6 reps(198)
                                                                    HERON, Little Blue
                                                                                                   JEF 10 reps(31); ORA 1 rep(1)
TEAL, Cinnamon
                               JEF-TP 1/22(1) RP
                                                                    HERON, Tricolored
                                                                                                   JEF 9 reps(56); ORA 2 reps(3)
SHOVELER, Northern
                               JEF 8 reps(534); ORA 2 reps(10)
                                                                    EGRET, Reddish
                                                                                                   JEF 1 rep(1)
PINTAIL, Northern
                               JEF 7 reps(137)
                                                                    EGRET, Cattle
                                                                                                   JEF 3 reps(92); ORA 8 reps(87)
TEAL, Green-winged
                               JEF 5 reps(2978)
                                                                    NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned JEF 4 reps(43)
CANVASBACK
                               JEF 1/2(1500) SR04; JEF-PI
                                                                    NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned JEF 1/2(2) SR05A; JEF-TX87
      1/2(3000) SR01; JEF 1/8(1) JAW; JEF-PI 1/16(25) HM
                                                                          1/2(5) SR05
DUCK, Ring-necked
                               JEF 4 reps(808); ORA 1 rep(12)
                                                                    IBIS. White
                                                                                                   JEF 1/2(12) SR04; JEF 1/2(40)
SCAUP, Greater
                               JEF 1/2(1) SR06; JEF 1/2(1) SR13;
                                                                          SR13; JEF 1/8(50) JAW; ORA 1/1(28) OC08
       JEF-MCFW 1/2(1) SR12
                                                                    IBIS, White-faced JEF 1/8(10) JAW; JEF 1/23(90)
SCAUP, Lesser
                               JEF 10 reps(3862); ORA 1
                                                                          JÄW
      rep(100)
                                                                    IBIS, Plegadis
                                                                                                   JEF 1/2(6) SR13; JEF 1/2(450)
SCAUP species
                               JEF 1 rep(18)
                                                                          SR05A; JEF-SRSP 1/2(200) SR10; JEF 1/8(50) JAW; JEF
SCOTER, Surf
                               JEF-MCFW 1/2(1) SR12
                                                                          1/23(62) JAW
                               JEF-SRSP 1/2(6) SR10
SCOTER, White-winged
                                                                    SPOONBILL, Roseate
                                                                                                   JEF 1/1(7) OC10; JEF 1/2(42)
SCOTER, Black
                               JEF-SRSP 1/2(2) SR10
                                                                          SR04; JEF 1/2(1) SR06; JEF 1/2(1) SR07; JEF 1/2(39)
BUFFLEHEAD
                               JEF 5 reps(330)
                                                                          SR13;JEF 1/2(30) SR05A; JEF-MCFW 1/2(19) SR12; JEF-PI
GOLDENEYE, Common
                               JEF 1/2(1) SR04; JEF-MCFW
                                                                          1/2(4) SR01; JEF-SRSP 1/2(5) SR10; JEF-TX87 1/2(1) SR05;
      1/2(1) SR12; JEF 1/9(1) SM; ORA 1/1(21) OC08; ORA 1/1(6)
                                                                          JEF 1/23(6) JAW; ORA 1/1(7) OC10
                                                                    VULTURE, Black
      OC10
                                                                                                   JEF 8 reps(18); ORA 5 reps(30)
                                                                    VULTURE, Turkey
MERGANSER, Hooded
                               JEF 1/2(6) SR04; JEF 1/9(4) SM;
                                                                                                   JEF 12 reps(82); ORA 5 reps(22)
      ORA 1/1(7) OC10
                                                                    OSPREY
                                                                                                   JEF 1/1(1) OC10; JEF 1/2(2)
MERGANSER, Red-breasted
                                                                          SR04; JEF 1/2(1) SR05A; JEF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10; JEF-TX87
                               JEF 3 reps(11)
DUCK species
                               JEF 1 rep(20)
                                                                          1/2(1) SR05; JEF 1/8(1) JAW; JEF-TP 1/9(1) SM; ORA 1/1(4)
DUCK, Ruddy
                               JEF 9 reps(796)
                                                                          OC08; ORA 1/1(6) OC10; ORA-BC 1/1(1) OC10
LOON, Common
                               JEF 2 reps(5)
                                                                    KITE, White-tailed
                                                                                                   JEF 5 reps(6); ORA 1 rep(2)
GREBE, Least
                               JEF 1/2(1) SR07; JEF 1/9(2) SM
                                                                    EAGLE, Bald
                                                                                                   JEF 1/8(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(1)
GREBE, Pied-billed
                               JEF 6 reps(45); ORA 3 reps(35)
                                                                          OC04; ORA 1/1(1) OC08
GREBE, Horned
                               JEF 1/2(2) SR13; JEF-PI 1/2(1)
                                                                    HARRIER, Northern
                                                                                                   JEF 12 reps(46); ORA 1 rep(1)
      SR01; JEF-PI 1/16(2) HM
                                                                    HAWK, Sharp-shinned
                                                                                                   JEF 1/2(1) SR05A; JEF 1/2(1)
GREBE, Eared
                               JEF 1 rep(1)
                                                                          SR08A; JEF-MCFW 1/2(1) SR12; JEF 1/8(2) JAW
                               JEF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10
GANNET, Northern
                                                                    HAWK, Cooper's
                                                                                                   JEF 1/2(1) SR06; JEF 1/2(1)
PELICAN, Amer. White
                               JEF 9 reps(1082); ORA 6
                                                                          SR05A; JEF 1/2(1) SR08A; JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08; JEF 1/8(1)
      reps(185)
                                                                          JAW;ORA 1/1(1) OC08
PELICAN, Brown
                               JEF 1/2(1) SR04; JEF 1/2(9) SR06;
                                                                    ACCIPITER species
                                                                                                   ORA 1/1(1) OC04
                                                                                                   JEF 5 reps(6); ORA 11 reps(16)
      JEF 1/2(18) SR07; JEF 1/2(7) SR13; JEF-MCFW 1/2(2)
                                                                    HAWK, Red-shouldered
      SR12;JEF-PI 1/2(6) SR01; JEF-SRSP 1/2(69) SR10; JEF-
                                                                    HAWK, Swainson's
                                                                                                   JEF 1/15(2) GD; JEF 1/16(1) HM
      SRSP 1/2(25) SR11; JEF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10A; ORA 1/1(13)
                                                                    HAWK, Red-tailed
                                                                                                   JEF 12 reps(77); ORA 4 reps(8)
      OC10
                                                                    HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's)
                                                                                                   JEF 1/8(1) JAW
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**CARACARA**, Crested

1/2(2) SR10

JEF 1/2(2) SR05A; JEF-SRSP

JEF 1/1(8) OC10; JEF 1/2(80)

SR04; JEF 1/2(5) SR06; JEF 1/2(7) SR07; JEF 1/2(1) SR13;

KESTREL, American	JEF 12 reps(95); ORA 6 reps(7)	SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	JEF 1/1(1) OC10; ORA 1/1(1)
MERLIN	JEF 1/2(1) SR08A; JEF-TX87	OC04; ORA 1/1(2) OC08;	ORA-BC 1/1(1) OC10
1/2(1) SR05		OWL, Great Horned	JEF 1/1(1) OC10; JEF 1/2(3)
FALCON, Peregrine	JEF 1/2(1) SR07; ORA 1/1(1)	SR05A; JEF 1/2(1) SR08,	
OC08	` ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' '	HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chinned	IEE 1/29/1) KRO
RAIL, Yellow	JEF 1/2(2) SR07	HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed	
RAIL, Clapper	JEF 4 reps(22); ORA 1 rep(1)		JEF-NEDR 1/18(1) JAW; JEF-
		NEDR 1/20(1) JFVV; JEF-	NEDR 1/21(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR
RAIL, King	JEF 1/2(6) SR05A; JEF-MCFW	1/22(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR	1/23(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/23(1)
1/2(1) SR12; ORA 1/1(2)	OC08	JFW; ORA 1/1(1) OC10	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
RAIL, Virginia	JEF 1/2(2) SR07	HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	JEF-NEDR 1/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
SORA JEF 1/2(1) SR04: JEF 1/2	(3) SR07; JÉF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10		/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/7(1)
RAIL species	JEF 1 rep(1)		
MOORHEN, Common		JAVV,3EF-NEDR 1/8(1) JA	W; JEF-NEDR 1/9(1) JAW; JEF-
	JEF 7 reps(189); ORA 2 reps(41)	NEDR 1/10(1) JAW; JEF-	NEDR 1/14(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR
COOT, American	JEF 7 reps(1124); ORA 1 rep(200)	1/18(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR	1/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/20(1)
CRANE, Sandhill	JEF-TP 1/9(10) SM		JFW; JEF-NEDR 1/21(1) JFW; JEF-
PLOVER, Black-bellied	JEF 4 reps(28)	NEDR 1/22(1) JFW: JFF-	NEDR 1/23(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
PLOVER, Snowy	JEF-SRSP 1/2(35) SR10	1/23/1) IEW: IEE-NEDD	1/24(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/25(1)
PLOVER, Semipalmated	JEF 2 reps(54)		
PLOVER, Piping		JAW; JEF 1/29(1) KRO; C	
· · ·	JEF 1/2(9) SR07; JEF-SRSP 1/2(1)	HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus	JEF-NEDR 1/18(1) JAW; ORA
SR10		1/1(1) OC10	
KILLDEER	JEF 11 reps(324); ORA 6	HUMMINGBIRD species	JEF-NEDR 1/8(1) JAW
reps(115)		KINGFISHER, Belted	HAI 1 rep(1); JÈF 13 reps(42);
OYSTERCATCHER, American	JEF 1/2(2) SR06	ORA 7 reps(19)	10 11 1 10p(1), 0E1 10 10p3(42),
STILT, Black-necked	JEF 4 reps(460); ORA 1 rep(25)		ODA 4/4/4) OOOO ODA 4/4/0)
		WOODPECKER, Red-headed	ORA 1/1(1) OC03; ORA 1/1(3)
AVOCET, American	JEF 2 reps(118)	OC08	
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	JEF 7 reps(106)	WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(9); ORA
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	JEF 1 rep(3)	10 reps(42)	1 ( ),
WILLET	JEF 5 reps(138)	SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	JEF 6 reps(10); ORA 4 reps(13)
SANDPIPER, Spotted	JEF 1/2(4) SR06; JEF-PI 1/2(2)	WOODBECKED Down	JEF 40 reps (20), ORA 4 reps (3)
• •	3E1 1/2(4) 3NOO, 3EF-F1 1/2(2)	WOODPECKER, Downy	JEF 10 reps(28); ORA 5 reps(21)
SR01; ORA 1/1(3) OC10	- <u> </u>	FLICKER, Northern	JEF 5 reps(10); ORA 5 reps(11)
WHIMBREL	JEF 1/2(3) SR07	WOODPECKER, Pileated	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 6 reps(18)
CURLEW, Long-billed	JEF 1 rep(3)	WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	JEF 4 reps(26)	PHOEBE, Eastern	JEF 13 reps(88); ORA 7 reps(30)
SANDERLING	JEF 4 reps(191)	FLYCATCHER, Vermilion	
SANDPIPER, Western	JEF 3 reps(522)		JEF 1/2(1) SR05A; JEF 1/8(1)
· · ·		JAW; JEF 1/9(1) SM; JEF	
SANDPIPER, Least	JEF 5 reps(637)	KISKADEE, Great	JEF 1/2(1) SR05A
DUNLIN	JEF 5 reps(314)	SHRIKE, Loggerhead	JEF 14 reps(154); ORA 7 reps(25)
SANDPIPER, Stilt	JEF 1/8(3) JAW; JEF 1/9(2) SM	VIREO, White-eyed	JEF 1/2(5) SR04; JEF-SW 1/2(1)
DOWITCHER, Short-billed	JEF 1/2(16) SR06; JEF 1/2(14)	SR08; JEF-TP 1/8(1) GD;	
SR07		VIREO, Cassin's	
DOWITCHER, Long-billed	JEF 2 reps(250)		JEF 1/2(1) SR05A
		VIREO, Blue-headed	JEF 4 reps(12); ORA 4 reps(5)
DOWITCHER species	JEF 2 reps(35)	JAY, Blue	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 13 reps(55);
SNIPE, Common	JEF 3 reps(31)	ORA 9 reps(69)	and the second s
WOODCOCK, American	JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08	CROW, American	ORA 3 reps(24)
GULL, Laughing	JEF 13 reps(467); ORA 1 rep(3)	CROW, Fish	JEF 1/8(14) JAW; JEF-TP 1/11(1)
GULL, Bonaparte's	JEF 2 reps(29)	JAW; JEF-BMT 1/25(2) JA	W/
GULL, Ring-billed	JEF 14 reps(1613); ORA 5	CROW, species	ORA 1 rep(1)
reps(527)	021 1110po(1010), 01010	SWALLOW, Tree	
	IEE 0 name/57): ODA 4 man/4)		JEF 1/1(1) OC10; JEF 1/2(2)
GULL, Herring	JEF 8 reps(57); ORA 1 rep(1)	SR04; JEF 1/2(18) SR0/;	JEF 1/2(175) SR13; JEF 1/2(1)
TERN, Caspian	JEF 7 reps(68); ORA 3 reps(7)	SR05A; JEF-MCFW 1/2(1	0) SR12; JEF-SRSP 1/2(62) SR11;
TERN, Royal	JEF 7 reps(149)	JEF-TP 1/4(10) JAW; JEF	1/8(30) JAW; JEF-TP 1/9(25) SM;
TERN, Sandwich	JEF-SRSP 1/2(8) SR10		-TP 1/11(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(140)
TERN, Common	JEF 1/8(1) JAW; JEF 1/23(1) JAW		7; ORA 1/1(3000) OC10; ORA
TERN, Forster's	JEF 7 reps(41); ORA 1 rep(4)	1/1(200) OC12	77, 3101 171(0000) 3310, 3101
SKIMMER, Black	JEF 1 rep(40)		IEE 44 rene/60\- ODA 0 (00\
		CHICKADEE, Carolina	JEF 11 reps(63); ORA 9 reps(83)
DOVE, Rock	JEF 6 reps(130); ORA 3 reps(65)	TITMOUSE, Tufted	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 7
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	JEF 1/2(58) SR06; JEF-SW 1/2(1)	reps(23)	
SR08; JEF 1/8(13) JAW; J	JEF 1/9(15) JAW; JEF 1/19(1)	NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	HAI 1/13(1) SG
	EF 1/24(2) JAW; JEF 1/25(2) JAW;	NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	ORA 1/1(3) OC02
	/1(6) OC10; ORA-BC 1/1(3) OC10;	CREEPER, Brown	JEF 1/2(1) SR05A
	71(0) 0010, 014-00 171(0) 0010,		
ORA 1/17(1) SBE	IEE 4(4(00) 0040 IEE 014(4(0))	WREN, Carolina	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 7 reps(15); ORA
DOVE, White-winged	JEF 1/1(36) OC10; JEF-SW 1/2(1)	6 reps(61)	
SR08; JEF-NEDR 1/4(2) J	IAW; JEF-NEDR 1/8(4) JAW; JEF-	WREN, House	JEF 1/2(3) SR04; JEF 1/2(3) SR06;
NEDR 1/9(30) JAW; JEF-I	NEDR 1/10(30) JAW; JEF-NEDR	JEF 1/2(9) SR05A: JEF 1/	2(3) SR08A; JEF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10
	1/18(10) JÀW; JEF-NEDR 1/19(10)		F-NEDR 1/20(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR
	JFW; JEF-NEDR 1/21(40) JFW;		
			1/22(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 1/23(1)
	JEF-NEDR 1/23(40) JFW;JEF-		DRA 1/1(1) OC03; ORA 1/1(1) OC10
NEDR 1/24(3) JAW; JEF-I	` '	WREN, Sedge	JEF 1/2(82) SR07; JEF 1/2(1)
DOVE, Mourning	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 20 reps(364);	SR13; JEF 1/2(1) SR05A:	JEF-MCFW 1/2(6) SR12; ORA
ORA 9 reps(176)	. , , ,	1/1(1) OC10	., -,
DOVE, Inca	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 1 rep(6); ORA 2	WREN, Marsh	JEF 1/2(22) SR04; JEF 1/2(1)
	THE TEP(U), OLD TIEP(U), ORA 2		
reps(3)	IEE 4/04/4) ID		01; ORA 1/1(1) OC07; ORA 1/1(1)
CUCKOO, Black-billed	JEF 1/21(1) JP	OC10	
ANI, Groove-billed	JEF 1/2(1) SR05A	KINGLET, Golden-crowned	JEF-PI 1/2(4) SR01; JEF-SW
OWL, Barn	JEF-SW 1/2(3) SR08	1/2(1) SR08; ORA 1/1(5) (	
•	` '	KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	JEF 15 reps(96); ORA 10 reps(68)
	'		

**GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray** JEF 7 reps(44); ORA 1 rep(2) **BLUEBIRD**, Eastern HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 9 reps(104); ORA 4 reps(28) THRUSH, Hermit JEF 1/2(5) SR05A; JEF 1/2(2) SR08A; JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08; JEF-BMT 1/17(1) RHJ; ORA 1/1(2) OC03;ORA 1/1(1) OC08; ORA 1/25(1) SBE ROBIN, American HAI 1 rep(200); JEF 27 reps(3608); ORA 8 reps(3857) CATBIRD, Gray JEF 1/2(14) SR04; JEF 1/2(3) SR06; JEF 1/2(2) SR05A; JEF 1/2(3) SR08A; JEF-PI 1/2(1) SR01; JEF-SRSP 1/2(1) SR10; JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08; ORA 1/1(3) OC03; ORA 1/1(2) OC07; ORA 1/1(10) OC08; ORA 1/1(2) OC10 MOCKINGBIRD, Northern JEF 23 reps(228); ORA 13 reps(147) THRASHER, Brown JEF 5 reps(26); ORA 5 reps(10) STARLING, European JEF 15 reps(570); ORA 4 reps(222) PIPIT. American JEF 2 reps(62); ORA 2 reps(3) WAXWING, Cedar HAI 1 rep(10); JEF 3 reps(58); ORA 6 reps(798) WARBLER, Orange-crowned JEF 12 reps(49); ORA 3 reps(13) WARBLER, Yellow-rumped JEF 15 reps(820); ORA 10 reps(816) WARBLER, Yell-rumped (Aud) JEF 1/2(1) SR08A WARBLER, Pine JEF 12 reps(29); ORA 5 reps(105) WARBLER, Prairie JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08 WARBLER, Palm JEF-PI 1/2(1) SR01; JEF 1/9(2) SM WARBLER, Black-and-white JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08 YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 6 reps(27); ORA 2 reps(8) WARBLER, Wilson's JEF 1/2(1) SR05A; JEF-PI 1/2(1) SR01 **TOWHEE, Spotted** ORA 1/1(1) OC08 TOWHEE, Eastern JEF 1/2(1) SR04; JEF-SW 1/16(2) HM; ORA-BC 1/1(2) OC10 SPARROW, Chipping JEF 2 reps(4); ORA 6 reps(76) SPARROW, Field JEF 1/2(1) SR08A; JEF-SW 1/2(3) SR08; ORA 1/1(2) OC03 SPARROW, Savannah JEF 16 reps(256); ORA 3 reps(45) SPARROW, LeConte's JEF 1/2(38) SR07 SPARROW, Seaside JEF 5 reps(25) SPARROW, Fox JEF-SW 1/2(1) SR08; JEF 1/15(0) RHJ; ORA 1/1(1) OC10 SPARROW, Song JEF 5 reps(22); ORA 4 reps(28). SPARROW, Lincoln's JEF 1/2(1) SR08A; JEF-TP 1/9(1) SM SPARROW, Swamp JEF 8 reps(110); ORA 4 reps(31) SPARROW, White-throated JEF 7 reps(61); ORA 10 reps(58) SPARROW, White-crowned JEF 1/8(3) JAW JUNCO, Dark-eyed JEF 1 rep(1) CARDINAL, Northern HAI 3 reps(20); JEF 15 reps(83); ORA 13 reps(144) **BLACKBIRD**, Red-winged JEF 16 reps(3539); ORA 9 reps(562) MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 7 reps(95); ORA 3 reps(29) **MEADOWLARK** species JEF 2 reps(12) BLACKBIRD, Brewer's JEF 1/9(10) SM **GRACKLE, Common** JEF 8 reps(205); ORA 9 reps(1817) GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 6 reps(487); ORA 1 rep(7) **GRACKLE**, Great-tailed JEF 15 reps(558); ORA 3 reps(102) GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed. JEF 2 reps(154) COWBIRD, Brown-headed HAI 1 rep(15); JEF 8 reps(332); ORA 3 reps(11) **BLACKBIRD** species JEF 1 rep(34) ORIOLE, Bullock's JEF-TP 1/8(1) GD; JEF-TP 1/9(1) SM ORIOLE, Baltimore/Bullock's JEF-TP 1/8(1) GD; JEF-TP 1/9(1) SM; JEF-TP 1/11(1) JAW

FINCH, Purple

FINCH, House

Number of Species 198 Number of Individuals 66133

**County Abbreviations:** 

HAI -- Hardin; JEF -- Jefferson; ORA -- Orange; Location Codes:; BC -- Bridge City; 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

#### **Observer Abbreviations:**

GD -- Gerald Duhon; HM -- John Haynes and Steve Mayes; JAW -- John Whittle; JFW -- Jana Whittle; JJW -- John and Jana Whittle; JP -- John Park; KRO -- Kathi and Richard Orgeron; OC02 -- Orange County CBC Area 2; OC03 -- Orange County CBC Area 3; OC04 -- Orange County CBC Area 4; OC07 -- Orange County CBC Area 7; OC08 -- Orange County CBC Area 8; OC10 -- Orange County CBC Area 10; OC12 -- Orange County CBC Area 12; RAJ -- Rose Ann Jordan; RHJ -- Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; RP -- Royce Pendergast; SBE -- Sheri Bethard; SG -- Sherry Gibson; SM -- Steve Mayes; SR01 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 1; SR02 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 2; SR04 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 4; SR05 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 5A; SR05A -- Sea Rim CBC Area 6; SR07 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 7; SR08 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 8; SR08A -- Sea Rim CBC Area 8A; SR10 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 10; SR10A -- Sea Rim CBC Area 104; SR11 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 11; SR12 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 12; SR13 -- Sea Rim CBC Area 13;

#### **Details of Rare Birds**

Bullock's and Baltimore Bullock's Orioles – January 1, 2005 – Gerald Duhon

TWO Bullock's Orioles, one possibly a Baltimore/Bullock's hybrid seen in Tyrrell Park.

These birds were foraging with a very large mixed flock of bluebirds, Pine Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, etc just where the loop road begins down from the golf course. Specifically, where the exit road from the Recreation Center joins the main road. The birds were closely associating with each other, and were first seen right alongside the road, foraging in a low oak.

The second bird seems very likely to have been a first year male Bullock's Oriole but both birds had the orange parts of the plumage a very clear, bright orange, unlike the somewhat washed out tones shown in Sibley's guide. This bird had a very orange head, upper/middle breast and neck. The mantle ground color was buffygrayish, with very distinct, short pen-like black streaking. This was one of the characteristics as well as the (diagnostic?) "tri-colored" underparts of Bullock's - orange upper and mid/breast, grayish-buff lower chest and breast, and orange again around the extreme lower breast and vent. The bird had this look in spades, with clear lines of demarcation with the coloration. The face pattern was a very orange face, black eye-line and orange supercilliary, although the supercillary was quite short, and the black eye-line was there but not esp ecially prominent. This bird had two white wing bars, but the uppermost was more definitely like a rectangle-shaped whitish patch.

The first bird, possibly a hybrid, was "funny looking." The upper wing bar was like a cream-colored patch -- it did seem to have two bars, but that aspect was not particularly noted that aspect. The back was very much like the above bird, but the face and head was essentially orange, with a really dark black, circular well-defined cheek spot, and some black mottling around the bill. The bills of both birds had evenly tapered, medium length bills without strong tapers or curves. The orange on this bird was a very bright and clear orange.

HAI 1/8(1) RAJ; HAI 1/30(2) JP;

HÁI 1/13(5) SG; JEF 1/2(8) SR06;

HAI 1/31(3) JP; JEF-BMT 1/15(5) RHJ; ORA 1/1(1) OC03;

JEF-NEDR 1/20(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 1/21(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR

1/22(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 1/23(1) JFW; ORA 1/1(2) OC03; ORA

ORA 1/7(2) SBE; ORA 1/25(3) SBE

### Field Trip to Lake Charlotte and Anahuac NWR, February 19, 2005

Bald Eagles are special. Not just because they are our national symbol but also because they are a magnificent bird of prey that are not always easy to come by in the Golden Triangle. In one of the best attended Golden Triangle Audubon field trips in recent memory, a search for nesting Bald Eagles was on the agenda. Unfortunately, nobody bothered to inform the eagles.

A gray day started at the McDonald's at the Hankamer exit of I-10 with the birders gathering inside and outside the restaurant. A beautiful Red-headed Woodpecker showed off before the group caravanned over to a nearby Christmas Tree farm. This has been the site of a Bald Eagle nest for a few years and was the first stop of the day. The nest was easily found near the top of a large pine tree. Eagles build huge stick nests which they add to every year. Old nests may be more than 6 feet across and weigh more than a ton! As obvious as the nest was, the birds themselves were absent. Southern Bald Eagles start nesting early, often by December. It is very possible that by mid-February, the young birds have already fledged and the nest would be already abandoned. Whatever the reason, the birds were gone and the group moved on. Some comfort was taken in the Eastern Bluebirds, Inca Doves and many American Gold-Finches that were present at the site. One could hardly miss the Robins this winter.

The next stop was Lake Charlotte itself. Eagles often hunt on the lake so the group set to scanning the skies and nearby trees for the distinctive birds. Unfortunately, the eagles did not show up here either. An Osprey tried to make up for his cousin's absence by making a spectacular dive and coming up with a fish for the group to see. Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren and Red-bellied Woodpecker were just a few of birds seen in the wooded area along the lake shore. Out on the lake, Anhinga and Double-crested Cormorant were recorded along with a lone Ruddy Duck and some distant Scaup. A few Wood Duck, making their characteristic weird calls, flew back into some flooded timber, while others were seen along the edge of the lake. Great Blue Heron flew over the water while a lone American Pipit gave a great look in the grassy area of the nearby park.

Well, if you can't find your day's target bird just make up for it with lots of other birds! With that in mind, the group headed for Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, one of the premier birding destinations of the upper Texas coast. First stop (after the visitor's center) was the "Willows". This reliable hot spot brought Song and Lincoln's Sparrows to the group along with Eastern Phoebe.

The group continued along to the Shoveler Pond loop and the moist soil unit. The edge of Shoveler Pond should be known as "Bittern Row" as this is one of the most reliable spots to get great looks at this normally shy species. This day was no different as three bitterns were spotted in short order. American White Pelicans soared by and a few Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen at a distance. Some of the first Purple Martins of the year showed that spring was not far off by flying by.

Waterfowl are some of the main stars at Anahuac and several species showed off on this day. Northern Shoveler, Mottled Duck and Blue-winged Teal were expected. The half dozen or so Canvasbacks in the moist soil unit were a nice bonus. American Wigeon are always nice to see but the good numbers of Mallards found on the trip was a real highlight. Some very tame Greater White-fronted Geese gave great looks while a couple of Fulvous Whistling-Ducks stayed more distant. This notwithstanding, the variety and especially the number of ducks was well below the norm for February on the refuge. Very unusual was the absence of absence of Greenwinged Teal.

Eventually, the trip had to end and it ended with no Bald Eagles. But with lots of other great birds on the day, the birders were not too disappointed. If there is one thing a birder is always looking for, it is motivation to get back out for another birding trip. So the search for the elusive eagles will surely continue for all these birders on future trips to Lake Charlotte, the Katy Prairie, even to Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn Reservoirs, and any other place the magnificent Bald Eagle calls home!

The following birds were recorded on the trip: WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (3); GOOSE, White-fronted (2); DUCK, Wood (3); MALLARD (26); DUCK, Mottled (2); TEAL, Blue-winged (44); SHOVELER, Northern (120); PINTAIL, Northern (1); CANVASBACK (6); DUCK, Ring-necked (1); GREBE, Pied-billed (10); PELICAN, American White (10); CORMORANT, Neotropic (10); CORMORANT, Double-crested (3); ANHINGA (5); BITTERN, American (3); HERON, Great Blue (8); EGRET, Great (6); EGRET, Snowy (2); HERON, Little Blue (13); HERON, Tricolored (3); HERON, Green (2); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (3); IBIS, White (82); IBIS, Glossy (1); IBIS, White-faced (1); IBIS, Plegadis (19); SPOONBILL, Roseate (25); VULTURE, Turkey (20); OSPREY (4); HARRIER, Northern (5); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Red-tailed (1); KESTREL, American (2); RAIL species (1); MOORHEN, Common (32); COOT, American (85); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (1); YELLOWLEGS species (2); DOWITCHER species (20); TERN, Caspian (1); TERN, Forster's (3); KINGFISHER, (1): Belted WOODPECKER, Red-headed WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (1); WOODPECKER, Downy (2); WOODPECKER, Pileated (2); PHOEBE, Eastern (3); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (5); CROW, American (5); CROW, species (3); MARTIN, Purple SWALLOW, Tree (21); CHICKADEE, Carolina (2); TITMOUSE, Tufted (1); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (2); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (3); ROBIN, American (16); PIPIT, American (1); WARBLER, Orange-crowned WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (5); SPARROW, Chipping (2); SPARROW, Savannah (11); SPARROW, Song (3); SPARROW, Lincoln's (2); SPARROW, Swamp (1); CARDINAL, Northern (2); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged MEADOWLARK species (1); GOLDFINCH, American (10); Number of Species 70; Number of Individuals 747

Steve Mayes

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### **RARE BIRD ALERTS**

Below is a listing of Rare Bird Alert telephone numbers for nearby areas. Transcriptions of some current tapes are available on the World Wide Web on Siler's Birding on the Net at http://birdingonthe.net/hotmail.html Detailed information (maps and text) on birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast is also available on the Web at http://www.texasbirding.net. This includes all the Jefferson County hotspots published in early issues.

Golden Triangle	(409) 728-6957
Texas (Houston)	(713) 369-9673
Abilene	(915) 691-8981
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