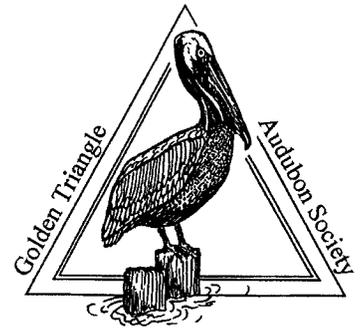


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 11 No. 6

June 2005

## Summer Vacation!

As usual, there will be no membership meetings in June or July. Our next meeting will be on **THURSDAY AUGUST 18, 2005 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, Texas.

**Topic: Ivory-billed Woodpecker**

**Speaker: Chester Moore**

The next issue of the *Brown Pelican* will be a combined July/August issue, to be published in early August.

## May Meeting

Tucker Slack has been working at J. D. Murphree Wildlife Refuge for one year. He grew up in Little Cypress, is a 2001 graduate from Texas A& M University, and at the May meeting, gave us a summary of some of the things that go on at the Refuge.

He explained that they have to take out some non-native invasive plants because they are taking over. Included were tallows, hydrilla and water hyacinth, various weeds that clog up water passages, and a few more.

The Refuge does prescribed burns very carefully and always notifies the correct agencies after they have developed a plan but before starting a burn. They must make sure that the wind is light enough and is blowing from the correct northerly direction.

During duck hunting season, they have to be at the public duck hunting check station at 4:00 am to sign in the duck hunters and make sure that they all have returned by 12:00 noon. When the hunters check out, the Murphree staff have to record the ducks that were shot, and keep track of everything.

Another program that he spoke about involves alligator research and monitoring. The largest alligators can grow to 16 feet. Among other projects has been research on what they eat and this has been very enlightening to them.

They also do bird banding at Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area, which is administered from Murphree. He showed a picture of a Common Yellowthroat that they had banded.

Children are encouraged to come out to Murphree's in September and in October when they have days for them to learn about alligators and ducks. They sponsor youth hunts in the fall and even have places to fish all year round.

Everyone had lots of questions for Tucker and he answered every question directly and left none unanswered. We left knowing what a tremendous job this local refuge does for our environment and our community.

*Jana Whittle*

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 11, No.6 June 2005

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

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## Calendar of Events

**Thursday August 18. Membership Meeting.** Speaker: Chester Moore on the Ivory-billed Woodpecker.

**Saturday September 10. Sabine Woods Work Day (tentative date)**

We will need to prepare the woods for the fall season and mow and prune around the trails after the summer's growth

**Thursday September 15. Membership Meeting.** Speaker: Margaret Pickell on Bird Rehabilitation.

**Saturday September 17. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count.**

Contact John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count.

**Thursday October 20. Membership Meeting.** Speaker John O'Neill.

**Thursday November 17. Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner.**

### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Claire and Bob Collier, Art MacKinnon and Tammy Reed for bringing refreshments in May. We now **need volunteers to bring 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 you can!

### Subscription Renewal Reminder

Please check the mailing label on this issue. If the date on your label NOT prefixed by "AU" has passed, 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.

### Grady Skillern

Grady Skillern passed away in Houston on May 11 after a short illness. Grady was a very active member of Golden Triangle Audubon, always accompanied by his wife Lu and we appreciate them very much. They helped with refreshments every year and also helped on workdays at Sabine Woods. Grady would load up his riding lawnmower in Anahuac, drive all the way to Sabine Woods, unload it and mow. He did this on every work day when he and Lu were in town. Thousands of people from many different states and countries this spring walked right over the places the Grady had mowed for them. Little did they know that such a wonderful, helpful person provided a safer place for them to bird. For you see, in March, Grady came across three long snakes at the entrance where the grass was so high that no one would have been able to see them. He had an upbeat attitude for life and he will be sorely missed. He and Lu have volunteered more than 2,000 hours within the last few years at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. He and Lu had been married more than 40 years. Our hearts go out to Lu at this time of her sadness. Grady is a shining example of how we need to help each other all through life. He will always be remembered as someone who would help if he found out you needed him. Donations in memory of Grady can be made to the Friends of Anahuac.



Earth Share of Texas represents the Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll deduction plans for charitable giving. For information, call 1-800-GREENTX or email <estx@earthshare-texas.org>

## Bird Sightings – April 2005

**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:** The peak month of spring migration is never dull in Southeast Texas! The Black-whiskered Vireo at Sabine Woods created the most internet traffic, although strangely enough, a report of one last year was scarcely noticed. Given the similarity to the very numerous Red-eyed Vireo, the Black-whiskered Vireo along with the Yellow-green Vireo is probably passed over as often as it is noted.

An interesting passage of migrant sparrows was noted April 26 and 27. A Lazuli Bunting was seen briefly near the Willows at Sea Rim SP for the second year in a row. A probable Brewster's Warbler, a Pomarine Jaeger and a report of a Masked Booby round out the month's reports.

As we usually note for our April report, in the interests of conserving space, we present the summary report format for more species than we normally would. We do plan to do our usual analysis of spring migration, and hope to publish this in either the August or September issue. The monthly report presents the "raw" data, and if two or more reports are received for the same rare bird, we will list all reports. It should be noted, however, that if one of our regular local observers knows one of the others (usually the editor!) is submitting a list from a given location, (s)he will often not submit a list that would be largely duplicative. As always, our entire database, which now goes back to 1995, is available to anyone on request. It would be on a CD and can be downloaded into any of the common database formats. The whole database is too large to handle on the common spreadsheet programs.

**WHISTLING-DUCK, Bik-bell.** JEF 4/9(20) SR; JEF-SRSP 4/16(6) FTSR; JEF-TP 4/20(15) AM; JEF-MCFW 4/30(7) SM  
**WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous** JEF-TP 4/20(27) AM  
**DUCK, Wood** JEF 4/10(2) JAW  
**GADWALL** JEF 1 rep(8)  
**DUCK, Mottled** JEF 4/9(6) JAW; JEF-MCFW 4/9(2) JAW; JEF 4/10(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 4/11(1) JAW; JEF 4/17(13) JAW; JEF-TP 4/20(14) AM  
**TEAL, Blue-winged** JEF 12 reps(860)  
**SHOVELER, Northern** JEF 3 reps(94)  
**SCAUP, Lesser** JEF 1 rep(4)  
**MERGANSER, Hooded** JEF 4/23(1) NBL  
**BOBWHITE, Northern** JEF 1 rep(2)  
**LOON, Common** JEF 4/8(1) AM  
**GREBE, Pied-billed** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**BOOBY, Masked** JEF 4/21(1) ER  
**PELICAN, Amer. White** JEF 5 reps(73)  
**PELICAN, Brown** JEF 13 reps(261)  
**CORMORANT, Neotropic** JEF 13 reps(65)  
**CORMORANT, Double-cr.** JEF 4 reps(40)  
**ANHINGA** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**BITTERN, Least** JEF-SRSP 4/8(1) AM; JEF-TXPT 4/23(1) AM; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JG; JEF-TXPT 4/29(1) JG  
**HERON, Great Blue** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(10); ORA 1 rep(1)  
**EGRET, Great** JEF 25 reps(76); ORA 1 rep(1)  
**EGRET, Snowy** JEF 22 reps(110)  
**HERON, Little Blue** JEF 17 reps(45)  
**HERON, Tricolored** JEF 21 reps(112)  
**EGRET, Reddish** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**EGRET, Cattle** JEF 29 reps(602)  
**HERON, Green** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 19 reps(51)  
**NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.** JEF 9 reps(31)  
**NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.** JEF 12 reps(16); ORA 1 rep(1)  
**IBIS, White** JEF 22 reps(338)  
**IBIS, White-faced** JEF 4/8(13) AM; JEF 4/14(1) JAW; JEF 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(14) AM; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JG; JEF-TX87 4/26(1) JAW  
**IBIS, Plegadis** JEF 15 reps(212)  
**SPOONBILL, Roseate** JEF 12 reps(33)  
**VULTURE, Black** ANG 1 rep(5); JEF 19 reps(91); ORA 2 reps(5)  
**VULTURE, Turkey** ANG 1 rep(5); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 15 reps(75); ORA 1 rep(6)  
**OSPREY** JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF 4/8(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) AM  
**KITE, Swallow-tailed** ORA 4/13(19) AM; ORA 4/21(1) KS  
**KITE, White-tailed** JEF 2 reps(3)  
**KITE, Mississippi** JEF 4/1(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/30(1) SM; ORA 4/13(1) AM  
**HARRIER, Northern** JEF 4/1(2) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/16(3) FTSR; JEF 4/26(1) JG  
**HAWK, Red-shouldered** HAI 2 reps(2); ORA 5 reps(6)

**HAWK, Broad-winged** ANG 1 rep(4); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(10)  
**HAWK, Swainson's** JEF 4/1(1) GD; JEF 4/7(2) LW; JEF 4/10(1) JFW; JEF 4/12(3) TW; JEF 4/24(1) JAW  
**HAWK, Red-tailed** HAI 4/23(1) RHJ; JEF-TX87 4/2(1) MW; JEF-TX87 4/6(1) JAW; JEF 4/8(1) AM; JEF-TX87 4/24(1) JAW  
**CARACARA, Crested** JEF 4/1(2) GD; JEF-SW 4/3(1) GD; JEF 4/8(2) AM; JEF-TX87 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/24(2) JAW  
**KESTREL, American** JEF-TX87 4/2(1) MW; JEF 4/8(1) AM; JEF 4/8(1) JAW  
**MERLIN** JEF-SW 4/1(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) MW; JEF 4/8(3) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/9(1) SWI; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-TP 4/20(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/24(1) JAW  
**RAIL, Clapper** JEF 7 reps(21)  
**RAIL, King** JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) AM; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) KS  
**SORA** JEF 4 reps(8)  
**MOORHEN, Common** JEF 4 reps(20)  
**COOT, American** JEF 1 rep(4)  
**PLOVER, Black-bellied** JEF 14 reps(261)  
**GOLDEN-PLOVER, Amer.** ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(218)  
**PLOVER, Snowy** JEF 4/1(60) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/9(6) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/12(1) TW; JEF-SRSP 4/16(9) WWFF; JEF-SRSP 4/20(8) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/23(8) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(14) AM  
**PLOVER, Wilson's** JEF 7 reps(7)  
**PLOVER, Semipalmated** JEF 9 reps(13)  
**PLOVER, Piping** JEF 4 reps(16)  
**KILLDEER** JEF 16 reps(107); ORA 1 rep(2)  
**STILT, Black-necked** JEF 19 reps(173)  
**AVOCET, American** JEF 4 reps(46)  
**YELLOWLEGS, Greater** JEF 12 reps(94)  
**YELLOWLEGS, Lesser** JEF 12 reps(439)  
**SANDPIPER, Solitary** JEF 4/9(9) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM  
**WILLET** JEF 17 reps(191)  
**SANDPIPER, Spotted** HAI 4/23(5) RHJ; JEF 4/9(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/16(1) JJW; JEF-TXPT 4/23(1) AM; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 4/30(1) SM  
**SANDPIPER, Upland** ANG 4/2(35) BD; JEF 4/1(12) GD; JEF 4/10(4) JAW; JEF 4/12(7) TW  
**WHIMBREL** JEF 4/8(13) AM; JEF 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/30(1) SM; JEF-TXPT 4/30(2) SM  
**CURLEW, Long-billed** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**GODWIT, Marbled** JEF 1 rep(1)  
**TURNSTONE, Ruddy** JEF 7 reps(16)  
**KNOT, Red** JEF-SRSP 4/26(2) AM  
**SANDERLING** JEF 12 reps(1517)  
**SANDPIPER, Semipalmated** JEF-MCFW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-MCFW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-TP 4/20(8) AM  
**SANDPIPER, Western** JEF 7 reps(159)  
**SANDPIPER, Least** JEF 10 reps(411)  
**SANDPIPER, White-rumped** JEF 4/1(2) GD; JEF 4/30(1) JBJH  
**SANDPIPER, Baird's** JEF-MCFW 4/2(2) MW; JEF-MCFW

4/7(2) TW; JEF-MCFW 4/8(2) JAW; JEF 4/9(1) JAW; JEF 4/10(2) JAW; JEF 4/16(9) WWFF; JEF-TP 4/20(4) AM; JEF 4/30(1) JBJH

**SANDPIPER, Pectoral** JEF 9 reps(111)

**DUNLIN** JEF 9 reps(438)

**SANDPIPER, Stilt** JEF-MCFW 4/7(2) TW; JEF 4/9(1) JAW; JEF-TP 4/20(2) AM

**SANDPIPER, Buff-breast.** JEF 4/10(7) JAW; JEF 4/17(30) JAW; JEF 4/30(1) JBJH

**DOWITCHER, Short-billed** JEF-MCFW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(11) AM

**DOWITCHER, Long-billed** JEF 4 reps(287)

**PHALAROPE, Wilson's** JEF 4/9(2) JAW; JEF 4/30(1) SM

**JAEGER, Pomarine** JEF 4/24(1) MR

**GULL, Laughing** JEF 21 reps(2049)

**GULL, Franklin's** JEF-SRSP 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(3) AM

**GULL, Bonaparte's** JEF 4/1(60) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/8(35) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/9(49) JAW; JEF-MCFW 4/10(2) JAW; JEF-TP 4/20(4) AM

**GULL, Ring-billed** JEF 14 reps(269)

**GULL, Herring** JEF 9 reps(100)

**GULL, Glaucous** JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) AM

**TERN, Gull-billed** JEF 4/1(1) GD

**TERN, Caspian** JEF 10 reps(50)

**TERN, Royal** JEF 14 reps(829)

**TERN, Sandwich** JEF 10 reps(147)

**TERN, Common** JEF 4/1(4) GD; JEF 4/8(14) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/23(3) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(2) AM

**TERN, Forster's** JEF 11 reps(550)

**TERN, Least** JEF 16 reps(483)

**TERN, Black** JEF-TXPT 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(4) AM

**SKIMMER, Black** JEF 2 reps(26)

**DOVE, Rock** JEF 15 reps(94)

**COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.** JEF 18 reps(38)

**DOVE, White-winged** JEF 23 reps(79)

**DOVE, Mourning** JEF 29 reps(325); ORA 9 reps(36)

**DOVE, Inca** JEF 1 rep(3)

**CUCKOO, Black-billed** JEF-SRSP 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/14(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/30(1) JG

**CUCKOO, Yellow-billed** JEF 16 reps(33)

**OWL, Barn** JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SW 4/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/9(1) SWI; JEF 4/12(1) TW

**OWL, Barred** HAI 4/23(1) RHJ; ORA 4/17(1) KS

**NIGHTHAWK, Common** JEF-SW 4/11(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(2) KS

**WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-** JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(2) DQ; JEF-SRSP 4/17(1) BDE; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM

**WHIP-POOR-WILL,** JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) KS

**SWIFT, Chimney** JEF 16 reps(55); ORA 1 rep(5)

**HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.** HAI 8 reps(8); JEF 17 reps(146); ORA 9 reps(11)

**HUMMINGBIRD, Archiloch.** JEF-NEDR 4/15(1) JAW

**HUMMINGBIRD species** JEF-SRSP 4/16(1) FTSR

**KINGFISHER, Belted** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(16)

**WOODPECKER, Red-head** ORA 4/7(1) SBE; ORA 4/13(1) SBE; ORA 4/14(1) SBE; ORA 4/17(2) KS; ORA 4/17(1) SBE; ORA 4/18(2) SBE; ORA 4/23(1) SBE; ORA 4/25(3) SBE

**WOODPECKER, Red-bell.** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(5); ORA 10 reps(18)

**SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell.** JEF 5 reps(7)

**WOODPECKER, Downy** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 21 reps(31); ORA 3 reps(3)

**WOODPECKER, Pileated** HAI 1 rep(1); ORA 6 reps(7)

**WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern** JEF-SRSP 4/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(14) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) JG; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(5) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(3) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) KS; JEF-SRSP 4/30(2) SM; JEF-SW 4/30(4) SM; JEF-TXPT 4/30(1) SM

**FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell.** JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW

**FLYCATCHER, Acadian** JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW

**FLYCATCHER, Alder** JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW

**FLYCATCHER, Willow** JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW

**FLYCATCHER, Least** JEF-SRSP 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW

**EMPIDONAX species** JEF 1 rep(2)

**FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested** ANG 1 rep(1); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(15); ORA 1 rep(1)

**KINGBIRD, Western** ANG 4/2(1) BD; JEF 4/12(1) TW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(4) JG; JEF-TX87 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 4/27(2) KS; JEF 4/30(1) JBJH; JEF-TX87 4/30(1) SM

**KINGBIRD, Eastern** JEF 33 reps(236); ORA 1 rep(2)

**FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.** JEF 15 reps(33)

**SHRIKE, Loggerhead** JEF 22 reps(86); ORA 1 rep(1)

**VIREO, White-eyed** ANG 1 rep(15); HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 20 reps(53)

**VIREO, Yellow-throat** JEF 5 reps(6)

**VIREO, Blue-headed** JEF-SW 4/1(2) GD; JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-TP 4/3(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/9(1) SWI; JEF-SW 4/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) DQ

**VIREO, Warbling** JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 4/11(6) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JAJEF-SW 4/27(5) JAW

**VIREO, Philadelphia** JEF-SRSP 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/16(1) FTSR; JEF-SRSP 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/25(1) RHY; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(2) JAW

**VIREO, Red-eyed** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 27 reps(139)

**VIREO, Black-whiskered** JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) MA; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JG; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/30(1) JG; JEF-SW 4/30(1) SM

**JAY, Blue** HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 28 reps(95); ORA 10 reps(22)

**CROW, American** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)

**CROW, Fish** JEF 23 reps(80)

**CROW, species** JEF 10 reps(38)

**MARTIN, Purple** JEF 20 reps(183)

**SWALLOW, Tree** JEF 21 reps(5161)

**SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing.** JEF 4 reps(29)

**SWALLOW, Bank** JEF-SRSP 4/1(18) GD

**SWALLOW, Cliff** HAI 4/23(5) RHJ; JEF-SRSP 4/7(2) TW; JEF-SRSP 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/9(30) JAW; JEF 4/16(10) FTSR; JEF 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-TP 4/20(4) AM; JEF 4/24(11) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/26(4) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(25) JG; JEF 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/30(10) SM

**SWALLOW, Cave** JEF-TP 4/20(1) AM

**SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff** JEF 4/10(1) JAW

**SWALLOW, Barn** JEF 24 reps(338)

**SWALLOW species** JEF 2 reps(32)

**CHICKADEE, Carolina** HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 3 reps(4); ORA 4 reps(6)

**TITMOUSE, Tufted** HAI 1 rep(2); ORA 3 reps(4)

**NUTHATCH, Red-breasted** JEF-SW 4/3(1) SM

**WREN, Carolina** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(5); ORA 5 reps(7)

**WREN, House** JEF-SW 4/1(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/8(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM

**WREN, Sedge** JEF 4/16(2) WWFF; JEF-TXPT 4/26(3) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/30(1) SM

**WREN, Marsh** JEF 4/9(2) JAW; JEF 4/9(1) JAW; JEF-TP 4/20(2) AM; JEF 4/26(2) JG; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JG; JEF-TXPT 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JG; JEF-TXPT 4/27(2) JAW

**KINGLET, Ruby-crowned** JEF-SW 4/1(4) GD; JEF-SW 4/2(2) MW; JEF 4/3(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/7(5) LW; JEF-SW 4/7(2) LW; JEF-SW 4/8(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/8(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/16(1) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW

**GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray** ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 22 reps(89)

**BLUEBIRD, Eastern** HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 1 rep(2); ORA 4 reps(12)

**VEERY** JEF-SRSP 4/9(1) SWI; JEF-SW 4/11(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/17(1) BDE; JEF-SW 4/23(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(1) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/29(1) JG

**THRUSH, Gray-cheeked** JEF-SRSP 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(3) JG; JEF-SW 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/29(1) JG

**THRUSH, Swainson's** JEF 23 reps(151)

**THRUSH, Hermit** JEF-SW 4/30(2) SM

**THRUSH, Wood** JEF 18 reps(158)

**ROBIN, American** JEF 20 reps(97); ORA 3 reps(10)

**CATBIRD, Gray** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 28 reps(324); ORA 1 rep(1)

**MOCKINGBIRD, Northern** JEF 31 reps(200); ORA 6 reps(26)

**THRASHER, Brown** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 18 reps(59); ORA 1 rep(2)

**STARLING, European** JEF 24 reps(344); ORA 1 rep(8)

**PIPIP, American** JEF 4/1(4) GD

**WAXWING, Cedar** HAI 4/27(22) KS; JEF-NEDR 4/10(20) JAW; JEF 4/13(20) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/29(3) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/30(3) SM; ORA 4/17(10) KS

**WARBLER, Blue-winged** JEF 24 reps(44)

**WARBLER, Golden-winged** JEF-SW 4/11(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(2) JHH; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) KS; JEF-SW 4/29(2) JG

**WARBLER, Brewster's** JEF-SW 4/27(1) GD

**WARBLER, Tennessee** JEF 35 reps(228); ORA 1 rep(2)

**WARBLER, Orange-crown.** JEF-SW 4/1(2) GD; JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SW 4/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) DQ

**WARBLER, Nashville** JEF-SRSP 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(1) JAW

**PARULA, Northern** ANG 1 rep(1); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 20 reps(138)

**WARBLER, Yellow** JEF 17 reps(35)

**WARBLER, Chestnut-sided** JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/20(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/26(4) JG; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(8) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/29(1) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/30(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/30(1) SM

**WARBLER, Magnolia** JEF-SW 4/2(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/30(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/30(2) SM

**WARBLER, Cape May** JEF-SRSP 4/20(1) AM; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JG

**WARBLER, Yellow-rumped** JEF 32 reps(179)

**WARBLER, Black-thr. Green** JEF 14 reps(38)

**WARBLER, Blackburnian** JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/23(3) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(3) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) KS; JEF-SRSP 4/30(3) SM

**WARBLER, Yellow-thr.** ANG 4/2(1) BD; JEF-SW 4/1(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SW 4/7(1) SG; JEF-SW 4/8(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/9(1) SW; JEF-SRSP 4/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/12(1) TW; JEF-SW 4/13(1) SR; JEF-SW 4/14(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/16(1) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM

**WARBLER, Pine** HAI 1 rep(1)

**WARBLER, Prairie** JAS 4/25(1) RHY; JEF-SW 4/1(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SW 4/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/16(2) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/26(1) AM

**WARBLER, Palm** JEF-SRSP 4/11(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP 4/20(1) AM

**WARBLER, Bay-breasted** JEF-SW 4/25(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JG; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(7) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/30(1) SM

**WARBLER, Blackpoll** JEF-SW 4/16(1) FTSR; JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/20(8) AM; JEF-SW 4/23(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(4) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JG

**WARBLER, Cerulean** JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) SM; JEF-SRSP 4/7(1) LW; JEF-SW 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/12(1) TW; JEF-SW 4/13(1) SR; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(2) DQ; JEF-SW 4/23(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(1) RHY; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/29(1) JG

**WARBLER, Black-and-wh.** ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 27 reps(87)

**REDSTART, American** JEF 15 reps(21)

**WARBLER, Prothonotary** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 18 reps(26)

**WARBLER, Worm-eating** JEF 20 reps(57)

**WARBLER, Swainson's** JEF-SRSP 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/23(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JG

**OVENBIRD** JEF-SW 4/10(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/11(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/11(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/14(9) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(4) DQ; JEF-SW 4/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(2) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(10) JAW; JEF-SW 4/30(2) SM

**WATERTHRUSH, Northern** JEF 30 reps(49)

**WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana** JEF 11 reps(13)

**WARBLER, Kentucky** JEF 15 reps(44)

**YELLOWTHROAT, Common** JEF 35 reps(235)

**WARBLER, Hooded** ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 28 reps(195)

**WARBLER, Wilson's** JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/20(1) AM

**WARBLER, Canada** JEF-SW 4/23(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) JG; JEF-SW 4/30(1) SM

**CHAT, Yellow-breasted** JEF 17 reps(81); ORA 1 rep(1)

**TANAGER, Summer** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 29 reps(110)

**TANAGER, Scarlet** JEF 40 reps(221)

**TANAGER, Western** JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 4/3(1) SM

**TOWHEE, Eastern** JEF-SW 4/1(1) GD; JEF-SW 4/2(1) MW; JEF-SW 4/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 4/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW

**SPARROW, Bachman's** JAS 4/25(2) RHY

**SPARROW, Chipping** JEF-TP 4/3(10) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/26(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(4) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(2) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(5) GD; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) JAW

**SPARROW, Clay-colored** JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) GD

**SPARROW, Vesper** JEF-TXPT 4/26(3) JAW

**SPARROW, Lark** ANG 4/2(1) BD; JEF-TXPT 4/26(3) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(4) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) KS; JEF-SW 4/29(1) JG

**SPARROW, Savannah** JEF 10 reps(311)

**SPARROW, Grasshopper** JEF-TXPT 4/26(4) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(3) JAW

**SPARROW, Seaside** JEF 4 reps(4)

**SPARROW, Song** JEF 4/16(1) WWFF; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) JAW

**SPARROW, Lincoln's** JEF-SW 4/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/8(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SW 4/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(1) AM; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/27(1) JAW

**SPARROW, Swamp** JEF 16 reps(44)

**SPARROW, White-throated** JEF 18 reps(117); ORA 5 reps(13)

**SPARROW, White-crowned** JEF-TP 4/10(1) SM

**CARDINAL, Northern** HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 24 reps(84); ORA 11 reps(50)

**GROSBEEK, Rose-breasted** JEF 38reps(146)

**GROSBEEK, Blue** JEF 22 reps(61)

**BUNTING, Lazuli** JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) JHH

**BUNTING, Indigo** HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 48 reps(447); ORA 1 rep(6)

**BUNTING, Painted** JEF-SW 4/11(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 4/14(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/14(1) DQ; JEF-SW 4/23(3) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(10) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(2) AM; JEF-SW 4/26(10) JAW; JEF-SW 4/26(5) JG; JEF-TXPT 4/26(10) JAW; JEF-TXPT 4/26(1) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(5) JAW; JEF-SW 4/29(1) JG; JEF-SRSP 4/30(3) SM; JEF-SW 4/30(1) SM

**DICKCISSEL** JEF 12 reps(30)

**BOBOLINK** JEF-TX87 4/19(2) LB

**BLACKBIRD, Red-winged** JEF 21 reps(1188); ORA 7 reps(17)

**MEADOWLARK, Eastern** JEF 12 reps(51)

**MEADOWLARK species** JEF 5 reps(17)

**BLACKBIRD, Yell-head** JEF-MCFW 4/24(1) RAJ; JEF-MCFW 4/26(1) AM; JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) JG

**GRACKLE, Common** JEF 13 reps(155); ORA 6 reps(20)

**GRACKLE, Boat-tailed** JEF 25 reps(253)

**GRACKLE, Great-tailed** JEF 23 reps(626)

**GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tail.** JEF 3 reps(34)

**COWBIRD, Brown-headed** JEF 12 reps(120); ORA 3 reps(7)

**ORIOLE, Orchard** JEF 32 reps(332)

**ORIOLE, Baltimore** JEF 16 reps(176)

**FINCH, House** JEF 6reps(8); ORA 4 reps(7)

**GOLDFINCH, American** HAI 4/23(2) RHJ; ORA 4/3(2) SBE; ORA4/4(4) SBE; ORA 4/6(3) SBE; ORA 4/7(5) SBE; ORA 4/13(3)

SBE; ORA 4/14(2) SBE; ORA 4/17(3) SBE  
**SPARROW, House** HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 11 reps(18); ORA 3  
reps(15)

**Number of Species** 250  
**Number of Individuals** 29211

**County Abbreviations:**

ANG - Angelina; HAI - Hardin; JAS - Jasper; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange

**Location Codes:**

MCFW - McFaddin NWR; NEDR - Nederland; PI - Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park (incl. Willows); 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**

AM - Art Mackinnon; BD - Nancy Bird and Louis Debetaz; BDE - Bonnie Deming; DQ - Don Quaintance; ER - Ellen Red; FTSR - Field Trip Sea Rim and Sabine Woods; GD - Gerald Duhon; JAW - John Whittle; JBJH - John Baird and Jane Herring; JFW - Jana Whittle; JG - Johnnie Green; JH - Joe Halbrook; JHH - John H. Haynes; JJW - John and Jana Whittle; KS - Ken Sztraky; LB - Lynn Barber; LW - Jeannie Lanclos, Jana Whittle; MA - Mike Austin; MR - Martin Reid; MW - Steve Mayes and John Whittle; NBL - Nick Block; RAJ - Rose Ann Jordan; RHJ - Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; RHY - Rich Hoyer; SBE - Sheri Bethard; SG - Sherry Gibson; SM - Steve Mayes; SR - Sherrie Roden; SWI - Shirley Wilkerson; TW - Tex Wells; WWFF - Jana and John Whittle, Nancy and Don Fisher.

## Notes on Very Rare Species

**Hooded Merganser – Cattail March – 23 April 2005.**

Jessie Barry and Nick Block found a very late female Hooded Merganser in the cell nearest the gate (cell 2) at Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park in Beaumont during the Great Texas Coastal Birding Classic.

**Masked Booby – Sabine Pass – 21 April 2005.**

Ellen Red posted a report on *TEXBIRDS* of a "very sick-looking Masked Booby" near Sabine Pass. Unfortunately, the directions given for the exact location were incomplete. However, the next day, many birders searched all over the likely area from the Sabine Pass Battleground to end of the road to the Pilot Docks at Texas Point without re-finding the bird.

**Glaucous Gull – Sea Rim Beach – 26 April 2005.**

Art MacKinnon reported a second basic (second winter) plumaged Glaucous Gull on the Beach at Sea Rim State Park

**Pomarine Jaeger – Sea Rim SP – 24 April 2005.**

Martin Reid reported observing a Pomarine Jaeger flying close off shore from the Sea Rim State Park headquarters building.

**Hermit Thrush – Sabine Woods – 30 April 2005.**

Steve Mayes reports two very late Hermit Thrushes in Sabine Woods on 30 April. Martin Reid has posted a number of *Catharus* thrush pictures on his web site at [www.martinreid.com](http://www.martinreid.com) and very gently raised some interesting issues related to identification of these thrushes. Bicknell's Thrush, recently split from the Gray-cheeked Thrush primarily on bill color and vocalization differences, is a significantly "warmer" brown and may even begin to show some reddish tones in the tail. Bicknell's Thrush is a very unlikely species for any part of Texas, breeding as it does in a very restricted area in New England and wintering only, as far as is known, in the West Indies. The Gray-cheeked Thrush breeds in the far north of North America and in Siberia, and is a very widespread species, even if it is the least common thrush on migration through the Upper Texas

Coast. There seems to be some appreciable variation in color and tone among Gray-cheeked Thrushes.

**Black-whiskered Vireo – Sabine Woods – 24 April 2005 on.**

This bird was first identified by Mike Austin in Sabine Woods on the morning of April 24. A superb picture of this bird is on Martin Reid's website at [www.martinreid.com](http://www.martinreid.com). Although not easy to find, this bird has been seen about once every few days through at least May 27.

There was some speculation after the sightings on the first day that there may have been two birds involved, based primarily on apparent differences in the width of the black mustachial line.

It is interesting to speculate whether this species is overlooked among the large number of very similar Red-eyed Vireos each spring. Our records for last year include a Black-whiskered Vireo seen at Sabine Woods on 28 April 2004 by an experienced observer, although there were no further reports.

**Bewster's Warbler – Sabine Woods – 27 April 2005.**

Gerald Duhon found an apparent female Brewster's Warbler near the west end of the main pond at Sabine Woods. Gerald describes the bird as having yellow underparts, with a noticeable yellow capped appearance, as well as a strong yellow patch forming two barely distinct but run together golden wing bars. Gerald notes that it is very difficult to be sure that this was a "true" (first) generation Brewster's or a back cross or some kind.

**Lazuli Bunting – Sea Rim Willows – 26 April 2005.**

John Haynes found a male Lazuli Bunting at the Willows at Sea Rim State Park. Like last year's bird, it did not stay around very long.

## Thanks for the help on the Sabine Woods Work Days

On May 16 and 17, we had two very productive work sessions at Sabine Woods. Thanks are due to Marty Bray and the staff of the McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge, Bob Collier, Sherry and Steve Gibson, John Haynes, Sherrie Roden, and also to others who have helped in numerous ways on other days. We fully understand that scheduling on a weekday in mid-May made it impossible for many who wanted to help to do so. However, we always need to try to do a work session after spring migration birding is nearly over but before it gets too hot and the deer flies proliferate as they typically do in early June. This year we just ran out of available Saturdays!

In these sessions, we did the main trail round the woods, relocating it in several places so that it now goes round a number of additional trees instead of between some. This included taking it over some higher ground on the "back" (north) side, hopefully making it less susceptible to requiring wading through water after heavy rains! These new parts of the trail may be a little "rougher" until they have been mowed a number of times, but we believe it will be advantageous in the long run. We also maintained the fire break along the northern fence, and cut the vegetation in the northwest corner and around the pond there that had not been mowed in several years. And of course, the narrower trails through the old growth and newer woods received needed attention.

Looking ahead to the fall, we have tentatively scheduled a work day for September 10. Please mark your calendars! Thanks very much to all who helped.

*John A. Whittle*

## National Audubon Board of Directors Meets in Park City, Utah

Audubon's Board of Directors held its second annual Board Retreat May 20th through 22nd in Park City, Utah. The Board Retreat brings together leadership from Audubon State Boards, the National Board and key staff to share information, develop ideas for implementation directions, and review lessons learned from ongoing conservation work. At last year's retreat discussions revolved around building a framework to help us better focus programs and initiatives around our bird conservation outcomes, assess our progress, and identify priorities.

This year's retreat included sessions on: 1) conservation actions focused on birds; 2) engaging people as our key strategy; and 3) building capacity to do the work. National Board members, State Board leaders, State Executive Directors and Home Office staff all worked together to refine and share ideas.

The National Board held their regular business meeting as well and took the following actions:

1. Approval of Audubon's proposed FY 2006 budget.
2. Approval of the following real estate transactions:
3. Acceptance of the Pine Tree Conservation Society's offer to transfer ownership of four parcels of land within or adjacent to Audubon Centers in Maine and Connecticut to Audubon. This will enable Audubon to ensure that future uses of these land parcels will be compatible with our conservation mission,
4. Acceptance of a conservation easement consisting of 170 acres of eagle habitat and wetlands in Florida, offered by developer Ginn Development Company,
5. Acceptance of a 21-acre parcel of mitigation land from Cephalon, an international pharmaceutical company. The land is adjacent to the Lee Creek Natural Area located on the south shore of the Great Salt Lake in Utah. Cephalon will also provide funding for long-term management.
6. Approval of Election Region Changes. The Board of Directors has approved changes to better equalize the number of Chapters and members included in each Regional Director election region. Additional details may be found on the Audubon Web site at <http://www.audubon.org/nas/board/regional/changes.html>
7. Approval of the initiation of construction for a new building at Spring Creek Audubon Center in Denton, Nebraska.

The Board also heard and enthusiastically embraced the report of Audubon's Marketing and Communications task force, and unanimously passed a resolution acknowledging the significant contributions made by Tamar Chotzen during her tenure at Audubon. Tamar's achievements were also celebrated with special recognition at a dinner attended by national and state Board members. In addition, at this meeting the Callison Award for outstanding achievement in conservation was bestowed on two individuals who have significantly advanced the Audubon mission in the field. Those honored with the Callison Award were Otter Creek Audubon Society and Audubon Vermont Board member and long-time volunteer Warren King, and Stan Senner, Executive Director of Audubon Alaska.

## The Ivory-billed Woodpecker An Opportunity

by Fred Collins

From 1969 through the early 70s I tracked the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Texas. I believe that the species was in Texas at that time. I wrote a paper (*The Ivory-billed Woodpecker in Texas*) about the status of the species in Texas as a research report for a technical writing class as an undergraduate at A&M in 1970. Recent sightings in the Pearl River basin in southern Louisiana and now a confirmed and 6:00 p.m. news broadcast confirmation of the species in Arkansas has me thinking of a great opportunity for us Texans to preserve our last great hope for the species in Texas, the bottomland forest between the Neches and Angelina Rivers north of Lake Steinhagen. This area is 1000 plus contiguous acres of mostly virgin bottomland hardwood and is mostly owned by the Federal Government. The Feds have pledged 20 million and have it matched by private funds totally 20 million for the recovery effort of the Ivory-bill. That's 40 million pledged before the announcement! I think with all this money flying around, transferring some existing federal holdings to create a new wildlife refuge or an addition to the Big Thicket National Park would be a lobe pitch. Further, private funds might be able to expand and buffer this area.

Even if the Ivory-bill is not still there, the area is habitat for Swallow-tailed Kite, Bald Eagle, Black Bear, Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat, Southeastern *Myotis* Bat, Alligator Snapping Turtle, Timber/Canebreak Rattlesnake all listed as threatened or species of concern as defined by TPWD. If the species eventually is recovered, this would be the best place in the state to reintroduce them. Of all the places I visited in the 60s and 70s where Ivory-billed Woodpeckers had been reported, including the Sternberg Tract (now part of the Kirby Nature Trail in the BTNP) where John Dennis "verified" the bird with sound recordings (never conclusively distinguished from Blue Jay imitations) and "workings" (which I photographed and put in my report (2)), the Steinhagen Lake tract was and is the only place which could actually support a pair or two of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. This tract still exist as it was in 1970 and if the Arkansas (Louisiana Singer Tract birds) managed to survive for 60 years then just maybe too have the birds reported in 1970 at Lake Steinhagen.

If you are interested in acting to get this site preserved please contact me ([fred\\_collins@HCTX.NET](mailto:fred_collins@HCTX.NET)). I will begin efforts with the Houston Audubon Society to assist this effort and perhaps organize a field trip to this site next year the first week of March for a good old fashioned Texas Ivory Bill Chase (without any bloated badgers).

(1) Why would Blue Jays imitate Ivory-billed Woodpeckers unless they had heard them in their lifetime or more recently? Has anyone out there ever heard a Blue Jay imitate an Ivory-bill?

(2) Unfortunately the focus on the photos of the Ivory-bill workings was poor and details are difficult to see, however in my now 40 plus years of experience in the field I have never again seen anything like these woodpecker workings. They are generally accepted to be probable Ivory-billed workings.

(From a post on the *TEXBIRDS Listserv*)

## NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, TX 77627-1292. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

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## RARE BIRD ALERTS

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

<b>Golden Triangle</b>	<b>(409) 728-6957</b>
Texas (Houston)	(713) 369-9673
Abilene	(915) 691-8981
Austin	(512) 926-8751
Ft. Worth (N. Cent)	(817) 329-1930
Lubbock	(806) 797-6690
N. E. Texas	(903) 839-4804
Rio Grande Valley	(956) 584-2731
San Antonio	(210) 308-6788
Waco	(254) 299-8175
Louisiana	(504) 768-9874

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