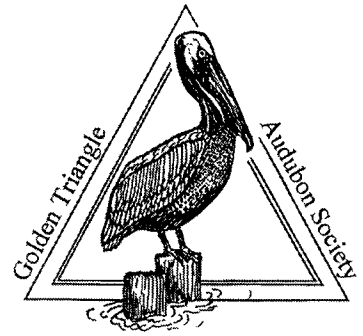


Brown Pelican

Scanned from Originals

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 12 No. 4

April 2006

**Thursday, April 21, 2006
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

My Texas Big Year

Speaker: Lynn Barber

Lynn has had a passion for birding all her life. One reason that she moved to Texas in 2000 was because of its astounding diversity of birds. Her passion for Texas birding led her to drive more than 90,000 miles in 2005 and to break the record set in 2004, which was 511, for the most bird species observed in the state in one year. Her quest, in a year with a remarkable influx of birds from the south, took her to practically every nook, canyon, forest, and beach in Texas. She will speak about the highlights of her Texas Big Year, during which she recorded 523 species, and will show pictures of some of the birds seen that year. She is writing a book about her 2005 achievement entitled "My Great Big Year of Texas Birding."

Lynn E. Barber was born in Wisconsin, and has lived in Alaska, Oregon, North Carolina and, since 2000, Texas. She is a registered patent attorney in solo practice in Fort Worth. She has a Ph.D. in bacteriology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a JD from Duke University Law School (1985). Her avocations include bird-watching, and nature-photography. She has been active in local Audubon organizations for many years, is currently president of the Fort Worth Audubon Society, and is a lifetime member of the Texas Ornithological Society.

As usual, the doors will open no later than 6:30 p.m., but the talk will start at 7:00 p.m. approximately.

Our March Meeting

At our March meeting, John P. O'Neill gave a fascinating talk on the birds of Peru and some of his expeditions to explore remote areas of Peru. He described finding species new to science, and also finding a species of guan that had not been seen for over 100 years. He also touched on the preparation of a shortly to be published new book on the Birds of Peru, and on the preparation of the plates in particular. John also signed copies of his book "Great Texas Birds," published in 2000 by the University of Texas Press. A record 85 members and friends attended the meeting.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 12, No.4 April 2006

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

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

**www.goldentriangleaudubon.
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3015 Nashville Ave.

Nederland, TX 77627-6749

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Texas 77627-1292

Calendar of Events

**Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
Spring 2006 Yellow Rail Walks.**

April 2, Sun. 7:00 am and 4:00 pm

April 8, Sat. 7:00 am and 4:30 pm

April 16, Sun. 7:00 am and 4:30 pm

April 22, Sat. 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 road.

Participants should wear water-proof 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.

Thursday April 20. Membership Meeting. Speaker: Lynn Barber, Fort Worth Audubon on her "Texas Big Year" in 2005. See Page 1

Saturday April 22. Field Trip Sabine Pass area for Spring Migrants. Unfortunately, Sea Rim State Park is still closed. However, we will, as usual, start at the Willows at Sea Rim – the only part of the park that is currently accessible. We will meet at 7:30 a.m. the entrance to the boardwalk at the Willows. This is about 10 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87 and just a short distance beyond the entrance to Sea Rom. We will need to park on the shoulder of the highway, pulling as far off the highway as is reasonably possible. Easy walking on the boardwalk at Willows to look for migrant songbirds. Later, we will drive to Sabine Woods to continue birding for those who wish. Again, easy walking on the boardwalks. There is a \$5 sanctuary pass fee for those who are not members of Texas Ornithological Society. This field trip is especially suited for not-very-experienced birders, and those who are unable to walk over rougher ground. Birding in late April can be exciting. However, we cannot promise anything, as the number of birds in the coastal woodlots is strongly dependent on the weather conditions over the Gulf.

Saturday May 13. North American Spring Migration Count. Contact John Whittle (john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. Note that this is again the day before Mother's Day! We try to cover all of Jefferson County.

Thursday May 18. Membership Meeting. Shaun Sanchez, the new Manager at Anahuac NWR will present a slide show on one of his previous locations, Bosque del Apache NWR in New Mexico.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Lu Skillern and Carol Lynn and Andy Loker for bringing the refreshments in March. We thank all those who have contributed monetarily for refreshments, and Jana Whittle for agreeing to purchase the sandwiches for the April meeting. but still need volunteer(s) to bring chips and dips and desserts. We also **need volunteers to bring all items for May and later 2006 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 far in advance 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.

Avian Influenza

Spring is coming, and recent media reports have made claims that wild birds in Europe or Asia will be bringing bird flu to North America with them in the upcoming migration.

While a few Old World bird species do mingle with North American birds in Alaska and Greenland each summer, none of these species are known to carry the H5N1 bird flu virus on long migratory journeys.

This means that there is a small chance that an infected bird might be able to reach Alaska or Greenland and transmit the virus to American birds, though most ornithologists think that bird flu is much more likely to spread by way of illegal shipments of poultry or poultry products.

Since the virus does not appear to be easily spread even among members of the same wild bird flock (one study in China last winter found only six birds infected out of over 13,000 tested), even if the virus were to appear in ducks or geese in Alaska or Greenland, there is little chance that it would spread throughout North America, or that humans in North America would be at risk.

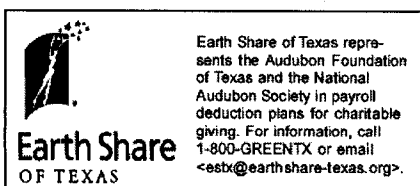
Government scientists will be testing birds in Alaska this summer to watch for the possible arrival of the H5N1 bird flu, and will let us all know what they find, but for now there is no evidence to suggest that backyard birdwatchers should worry about this virus coming to them by way of their backyard birds.

Rob Fergus

*Coordinator, Audubon at Home
National Audubon Science Office*

Bird Alerts

An another early press date this month would result in the Alert being completely out of date when you need this. The latest alert is always posted at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org



Sabine Woods Work Day March 4

We thank Howard Davis, Harrison Jordan, Art MacKinnon, Steve Mayes, Donna and Paul Monk, Sherrie Roden and Jana Whittle for working so hard on the Sabine Woods Work Day (and before). We accomplished a lot of what needed to be done to prepare for the spring season. The boardwalk has been swept clean. A few branches that fell subsequent to the hurricane itself were dealt with. We got all the main trails mowed. We are slowly improving both the habitat and the access to the newer oaks in the west, with control of excess mustang grape, rose etc. The very dry conditions that have prevailed for really the last seven or eight months kept growth of grasses to a minimal level. We got a replacement interpretative poster mounted, and replaced all the signage at the gate and in the kiosk area.

John A. Whittle

Volunteers Needed

Golden Triangle Audubon has now been in existence for more than ten years. The officers and others who have carried out the myriad of tasks that have kept the Society running smoothly would like to engage more of you in our activities.

As a conservation organization, we can and should do more to monitor the environmental impact statements and environmental assessments relating to local projects that various federal agencies are required to submit for public comment. Comments on such documents can help protect local bird habitat by keeping protection of it in the forefront. We need help in finalizing and writing our comment letters.

We would also welcome volunteers to help run the Society and its meetings. Let any officer or member of the board know what you would like to help with. There are many arrangements that have to be made in connection with each speaker and each meeting.

And of course, we will always welcome help in maintaining Sabine Woods. This does not need to be on a work day. Except on April weekends, this work can be accomplished whenever you have time.

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 24, with April 25 and 26 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 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 \$1.00, \$.75, \$.50, or (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 and 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 3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627 or at john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H) with your pledge and your suggestions.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats -- 18 March 2006

Weather has not been a friend to the Golden Triangle Audubon Society of late. The January field trip to the Katy Prairie was threatened by rain. The February field trip to Cattail Marsh hit the bad weather triple crown (cold, rain, wind) and we will not even talk about last September's planned field trip to the Smith Point Hawk Watch (anyone remember Hurricane Rita?). So, perhaps the weather for the traditional March trip to Bolivar Flats should not have been surprising. It was not that cold and the rain held off (for the most part) but with winds howling at 30 mph (and perhaps more), birding was difficult to say the least. Still, eleven birders braved the gusts to venture onto the beach for what is always one of the birdiest field trips of the year.

The group was greeted by sand blowing over the dunes like a scene from some desert disaster movie but also by quick looks at Horned Larks. Bolivar Flats is the most reliable spot in the area to find this western bird. Other usual birds of the Flats were also quickly spotted, including Sanderlings, Willets and unusually high numbers of Ruddy Turnstones. With more birds evident out on the mud flats, the group bundled up and ventured on.

Shorebirds can be difficult on the best of days but on a day when the wind is making even the people a bit unsteady (not to mention the scopes) they become even more of a challenge. Dunlin were immediately evident, still in their dull winter plumage. A single Red Knot (also in winter plumage) was found. Black-bellied Plovers were very evident with many occupying the shoreline. Least and Western Sandpiper put in appearances. The four species of small plovers are always targets of this trip as there is no where better to see them all than Bolivar Flats. On this day, the group found them all. Endangered Piping Plovers were easily found as these mud flats are one of their favorite winter haunts. Only slightly less endangered (official designations aside), the larger Wilson's Plover was also seen in good numbers. Semipalmated Plovers took a little longer to find but eventually turned up showing their darker brown backs that distinguish them from the Piping. Only one Snowy Plover was seen in the difficult conditions though there were likely more around. This pale little plover is sometimes easier found at Sea Rim State Park but Rita has made that option a bit more difficult.

Certainly the most noticeable bird on the flats was the American Avocet. Actually, I should say Avocets, as there was more than one. Quite a bit more than one, actually. Several thousand to throw out a loose estimate. Unlike some of their duller shorebird cousins, the American Avocet is easily recognized and just a handsome bird to look at. These birds were well on their way to breeding plumage with their rusty heads and necks contrasting with the black wings and white underparts. Their thin, oddly up-curved bills sweeping back and forth through the surf as the birds marched through the shallows in unison. At the close range looks the birds allowed, their blue legs showed more brightly than normally seen. Picking through the massive numbers also allowed views of a few individuals of their close kin, the Black-necked Stilt.

Gulls and Terns are some of the most prominent birds of the shore and they were certainly out on this day. Ring-billed Gulls and Laughing Gulls were the most numerous but large Herring Gulls were also present. Royal Terns and Forster's Terns fished the surf while Sandwich Terns and Caspian Terns loafed on the sand. A lone Least Tern, the first one of the season for most of the group, fought the wind with furiously beating wings. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was a less common gull. Half hidden at times by the huge flock of Avocets was a fairly large gull with a dark gray mantle, brilliant white head and underparts, and bright yellow bill (with a large red spot) and legs. It was quickly identified as an adult Lesser Black-backed Gull, a life bird for several members of the group!

Moving down the beach, other birds were noted. The usual groups of American White Pelicans and Brown Pelicans were seen in

the distance along with numerous Marbled Godwits. Red-breasted Mergansers and Lesser Scaup were seen in the rough surf along with a single Eared Grebe. White Ibis and Northern Harrier were among the species seen flying over the marsh adjacent to the flats.

Though the birding at the Flats is always great, on this day the group was more ready than usual to seek the warmth of their vehicles and get out of the wind! A trip along Frenchtown Road and other Port Bolivar birding stops let the group do a little birding from their cars and also provided the first Reddish Egrets of the day. A little later, a welcome lunch break (with great cheese cake and cookies) was provided at the beach home of Margo Holst (thanks again Margo!) while the birders regained their enthusiasm and energy.

Gregory Park did not yield the hoped for American Golden-Plovers but did turn up a flock of American Pipits. Bob's Road saw another Reddish Egret along with Pied-billed Grebes. Yacht Basin Road did show too much but a perched Broad-winged Hawk was a nice find. Rollover Pass saw Black Skimmers doing what they are named for along with more Avocets, Godwits and other shorebirds.

The Bolivar Flats trip traditionally ends at the Houston Audubon Society's High Island Sanctuaries and this trip was no different. The trees provided nice wind breaks. Boy Scout Woods showed the remaining group Yellow-throated Vireo along with Northern Parula. The highlight at Smith Oaks was, of course, the rookery where Roseate Spoonbills and Great Egrets were already nesting in numbers along with Neotropic Cormorants. Lesser numbers of Tricolored and Snowy Egrets were also seen. Across the pond, many Black-crowned Night Herons gathered and a single Anhinga was noted.

All trips eventually end and so it was with the Golden Triangle Audubon's annual Bolivar Flats trip. Though the cool, exceedingly windy day might have made birding difficult, great birds were still had. As for the birds missed on the day (American Oystercatcher and Pomarine Jaeger among others), they just give an excuse to revisit these sites in the near future!

Field trip list: BF = Bolivar Flats; Bob's Rd = Bob's Road in Crystal Beach; HI = High Island (Boy Scout Woods and Smith Oaks; Pt Bol = Port Bolivar; RP = Rollover Pass; TX87 = Texas 87 between High Island and the Bolivar Ferry, including side roads); YBR = Yacht Basin Road.

Blue-winged Teal (BF 24; Bob's Rd 2; HI 15); Teal species (Bob's Rd 2); Greater Scaup (BF 2?); Lesser Scaup (BF 15); Scaup species (Bob's Rd 30); Red-breasted Merganser (BF 6; Pt Bol 1); Pied-billed Grebe (HI 2); Eared Grebe (BF 1); American White Pelican (BF 100; RP 50); Brown Pelican (TX87 1; BF 15; Bob's Rd 1; RP 15); Neotropic Cormorant (BF 1; Pt Bol 2; Bob's Rd 3; HI 250; RP 6); Anhinga (HI 1); Great Blue Heron (BF 1; Bob's Rd 1); Great Egret (TX87 6; HI 150; RP 50); Snowy Egret (TX87 50; Bob's Rd 3); Little Blue Heron (Bob's Rd 2; HI 2); Tricolored Heron (TX87 2; Bob's Rd 1; HI 1); Reddish Egret (TX87 1; Pt Bol 1; Bob's Rd 1); Cattle Egret (TX87 10); Black-crowned Night-Heron (HI 50); White Ibis (TX87 30; BF 12; HI 5); *Plegadis* Ibis (BF 35); Roseate Spoonbill (TX87 15; HI 200; RP 51); Turkey Vulture (HI 2); White-tailed Kite (TX87 1); Northern Harrier (TX87 1; BF 1); Broad-winged Hawk (YBR 1); Crested Caracara (TX87 3); Clapper Rail (YBR 1); Common Moorhen (HI 3); American Coot (TX87 6); Black-bellied Plover (BF 100); Snowy Plover (BF 1); Wilson's Plover (BF 15); Semipalmated Plover (BF 5); Piping Plover (BF 30); Black-necked Stilt (BF 3); American Avocet (BF 7500; RP 2); Greater Yellowlegs (TX87 1; Bob's Rd 1); Lesser Yellowlegs (TX87 2; Bob's Rd 1); Willet (BF 50; Pt Bol 5; Bob's Rd 24); Spotted Sandpiper (Bob's Rd 1); Whimbrel (RP 1); Marbled Godwit (BF 100; Bob's Rd 1; RP 8); Ruddy Turnstone (BF 200; Pt Bol 3; RP 2); Red Knot (BF 1); Sanderling (BF 200; RP 12); Western Sandpiper (BF 15; Bob's Rd 20); Least

(continued on page 5)

The Ivory-bill Chronicles, Chapter 2

John C. Arvin, Research Coordinator, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

[The Chronicles are designed to keep the public informed about this important project. They will be issued serially at irregular intervals. This was originally posted to the TEXBIRDS listserv on March 16.]

We are in the midst of moving the project from the planning phase to the activity phase. An important component of the activity phase will be volunteer participation. The GCBO search effort in Texas is part of a larger multistate effort coordinated and funded by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service with cooperation from Cornell University. When word of the GCBO Texas project got out I received a number of offers from people who would like to take part as volunteers. It quickly became apparent to me that in order have a well coordinated effort some form of volunteer orientation was going to be absolutely essential. I am in the process of developing an orientation, which will probably require the better part of a day to present. All field searchers in the project, whether volunteer or staff, will be required to attend an orientation. Tentatively the orientation will take place Saturday April 22 at the Big Thicket Association Field Research Station in Saratoga, Texas. This location is about half way between Houston and Beaumont and so will be relatively convenient for folks from throughout the region.

Some of the issues that need to be covered are:

1. *What we know about the lives of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers and at what point that knowledge becomes conjecture.*
2. *Search protocols to be followed by all participants.*
3. *Identification of birds encountered in the field. Since the original announcement of the Arkansas rediscovery there has been a small segment of the ornithological community that has been less than happy with the quality of the documentary evidence that has been presented to substantiate the sightings. This is inevitable in a scientific setting and everyone involved agrees that stronger documentation is vital. We can be no less demanding of any possible encounters that might occur in our own project.*
4. *How to properly document an encounter ("encounter" here meaning any visual or auditory contact). This will emphasize the need to have a video or still camera, preferably digital and with a lens suitable to the task, with whose operation the user is thoroughly familiar, and/or an audio recording device with suitable microphone, constantly ready to employ.*
5. *The use of GPS to navigate in roadless areas and to establish waypoints to mark possible encounters or other items of interest such as feeding sign on trees and tree cavities.*
6. *Personal safety issues, including getting lost, boating accidents, hypothermia, and encounters with stinging insects or poisonous snakes.*
7. *Land access issues including the regulations of the individual land management entities with which we have working agreements.*
8. *Communication. This includes the necessity to have established communication with someone, usually the project*

coordinator, at all times when in the field. This will primarily be via cell phone, but may include other means where cell phone coverage is inadequate. It also includes communication of project activities to persons outside the project. Some information may be sensitive for a variety of reasons and this topic will be covered.

I know all this sounds a bit intimidating, but each of these topics is important to the overall effort. The personal safety of project participants and the welfare of the potentially existing Ivory-billed Woodpeckers that might be found must be our first priority. There are some important skills that are beyond our ability to instruct, such as canoe handling and water safety. Participants desiring to take part in activities involving such matters are expected to be proficient and knowledgeable.

I will be involved in an aerial reconnaissance of the primary search areas along the Sabine, Neches, and Trinity Rivers during the month of March. The goal is to identify priority areas for ground searches. Preliminary indications seem to be that the cypress-tupelo association that borders the numerous sloughs, bayous, and oxbow lakes withstood Hurricane Rita much better than either the bottomland hardwoods or the upland pine communities. Given the large numbers of trees down in those habitats throughout the whole region most access to search areas is expected to be by boat.

I will post information about the volunteer orientation session(s) as soon as plans are firm. In the meanwhile an excellent way to familiarize oneself with the search effort thus far is to thoroughly review the Cornell website at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/ivory/>. Many of the topics I have listed above are addressed at this site and it makes fascinating reading.

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats *(cont. from page 4)*

Sandpiper (BF 1; Bob's Rd 1); Dunlin (BF 50; Bob's Rd 3); Stilt Sandpiper (TX87 8); Short-billed Dowitcher (BF 6); Long-billed Dowitcher (TX87 20); Dowitcher species (Bob's Rd 30); Laughing Gull (TX87 1; BF 200; Bob's Rd 400; RP 100); Bonaparte's Gull (BF 1; Bob's Rd 15); Ring-billed Gull (TX87 1; BF 25; Bob's Rd 20); Herring Gull (BF 5; Bob's Rd 1); Lesser Black-backed Gull (BF 1); Gull-billed Tern (Pt Bol 2); Caspian Tern (BF 6); Royal Tern (BF 100; Bob's Rd 10; RP 30); Sandwich Tern (BF 8); Forster's Tern (BF 50; Pt Bol 35; RP 20); Least Tern (BF 1; Pt Bol 2); Black Tern (RP 1); Black Skimmer (BF 6; RP 200); Rock Dove (TX87 32); Eurasian Collared-Dove (TX87 3; HI 4); White-winged Dove (TX87 1); Mourning Dove (TX87 2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (HI 1); Eastern Phoebe (HI 2); Loggerhead Shrike (TX87 1); Yellow-throated Vireo (HI 1); Blue Jay (TX87 1; HI 1); Horned Lark (BF 4); Purple Martin (TX87 10; Pt Bol 1); Tree Swallow (HI 205); Swallow species (TX87 1; BF 6); Carolina Wren (HI 1 voice); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (HI 1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (HI 5); Northern Mockingbird (TX87 1; Bob's Rd 1); European Starling (TX87 203; Pt Bol 2); American Pipit (TX87 2); Orange-crowned Warbler (HI 1); Northern Parula (HI 1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (HI 50); Seaside Sparrow (Pt Bol 1; Bob's Rd 1); Northern Cardinal (HI 1); Red-winged Blackbird (Pt Bol 1; Bob's Rd 30; HI 20); Common Grackle (TX87 10); Great-tailed Grackle (TX87 5; Pt Bol 2); Brown-headed Cowbird (TX87 15); House Sparrow (TX87 2; Pt Bol 3)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – February 2006

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: February is usually our slowest winter month. This year, however, we have been able to use the submissions to the Great Backyard Birding Count from our area. Since the bird count submissions provide only the email address of the submitter, we have not been able to credit all the sightings to the actual observer. We have done so where we have been in contact with the observer, or in the case of some of our members where we recognize the email address. Perhaps the most interesting sighting to come out of the count was a wintering male Bullock's Oriole in Orange. Other sightings include several wintering neotrops that have been recorded earlier in the winter.

GOOSE, White-fronted	JEF 1 rep(100)	JEF-TXPT 2/26(1) SM; NEW 2/18(1) DMG
GOOSE, Snow	JEF 1 rep(100)	
DUCK, Wood	ANG 2/18(2) GB24; SAA 2/19(4)	KITE, White-tailed JEF 4 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(1)
GB15; SAA 2/20(2) GB29		EAGLE, Bald NEW 2/18(1) DMG
GADWALL	JEF 4 reps(106)	HARRIER, Northern JEF 9 reps(20)
WIGEON, American	JEF 2 reps(11)	HAWK, Sharp-shinned JEF 2/11(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 2/11(1)
MALLARD	JEF 2 reps(27); SAB 1 rep(19)	JAW; JEF-TP 2/18(1) FTCM
DUCK, Mottled	JEF 2/11(2) JAW; JEF 2/12(8) JAW;	HAWK, Cooper's JEF-BMT 2/17(1) HJ
JEF-TP 2/12(2) JAW; JEF-TP 2/18(8) FTCM; JEF 2/19(2) JAW		HAWK, Red-shouldered HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(10); ORA 1
TEAL, Blue-winged	JEF 3 reps(157)	rep(2)
SHOVELER, Northern	JEF 6 reps(1445)	HAWK, Red-tailed HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(79); NEW
PINTAIL, Northern	JEF 2 reps(48)	1 rep(1); ORA 2 reps(4)
TEAL, Green-winged	JEF 3 reps(250)	HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's) JEF 2/19(1) JAW
CANVASBACK	JEF-PI 2/11(250) JAW; JEF-TP	CARACARA, Crested JEF-SW 2/26(1) SM
2/12(1) JAW; JEF-TP 2/18(25) FTCM; JEF-TP 2/19(6)		KESTREL, American JEF 6 reps(39)
GB19; JEF-PI 2/26(30) SM		MERLIN JEF 2/19(2) JAW; SAA 2/20(1) GB29
DUCK, Ring-necked	JEF 2 reps(285)	SORA JEF-TP 2/12(1) JAW; JEF-TP 2/18(1)
SCAUP, Greater	JEF-TP 2/12(3) JAW; JEF-TP 2/18(1)	FTCM
FTCM		MOORHEN, Common JEF 1 rep(2)
SCAUP, Lesser	JEF 3 reps(252)	COOT, American ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(2878); SAA
DUCK, Long-tailed	JEF-MCFW 2/10(1) MCF	1 rep(36); SAB 2 reps(2)
BUFFLEHEAD	JEF 4 reps(61)	CRANE, Sandhill JEF 2/8(76) JP; JEF 2/12(12) JAW;
GOLDENEYE, Common	JEF 2/26(3) MCF	JEF 2/19(44) JAW; JEF 2/25(59) JAW; JEF 2/26(15) JAW; JEF
MERGANSE, Hooded	HAI 2/11(3) CSL; JEF-TXPT 2/26(2)	2/26(72) MW
SM		PLOVER, Black-bellied JEF 3 reps(4)
MERGANSE, Red-breasted	JEF 2 reps(2)	PLOVER, Snowy JEF 2/19(20) JFW
DUCK, Ruddy	JEF 4 reps(770); SAB 2 reps(9)	KILLDEER JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(212); ORA
BOBWHITE, Northern	ANG 1 rep(3)	1 rep(2); SAA 2 reps(3)
LOON, Common	JEF 2 reps(2)	AVOCET, American JEF 3 reps(430)
GREBE, Least	JEF-TP 2/12(3) JAW	YELLOWLEGS, Greater JEF 5 reps(20)
GREBE, Pied-billed	JEF 3 reps(18)	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser JEF 5 reps(23)
GREBE, Horned	JEF-PI 2/26(1) SM	GODWIT, Marbled JEF-TXPT 2/25(1) GD; JEF-PI
PELICAN, Amer. White	JEF 4 reps(30)	2/26(9) SM
PELICAN, Brown	JEF-PI 2/11(4) JAW; JEF-TXPT	SANDERLING JEF 1 rep(15)
2/19(1) JFW		SANDPIPER, Western JEF 2 reps(15)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	JEF-PI 2/11(10) JAW; JEF-TP 2/12(2)	SANDPIPER, Least JEF 4 reps(61)
JAW; JEF 2/17(12) SR; JEF-TP 2/18(2) FTCM		DUNLIN JEF 4 reps(39)
CORMORANT, Double-crested	JEF 2 reps(2); SAA 3 reps(335); SAB	DOWITCHER, Long-billed JEF 5 reps(48)
3 reps(3)		DOWITCHER species JEF 2 reps(225)
ANHINGA	NEW 2/18(2) DMG	SNIPE, Common JEF 5 reps(14)
HERON, Great Blue	ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 8	GULL, Laughing JEF 6 reps(462)
reps(17); NEW 1 rep(10); SAA 1 rep(1); SAB 2 reps(2)		GULL, Bonaparte's JEF 2 reps(8)
EGRET, Great	ANG 2 reps(4); JEF 10 reps(78);	GULL, Ring-billed JEF 6 reps(154)
NEW 1 rep(2); SAB 1 rep(1)		GULL, Herring JEF 2 reps(20)
EGRET, Snowy	JEF 6 reps(32); SAB 1 rep(2)	TERN, Caspian JEF 1 rep(1)
HERON, Little Blue	JEF 2 reps(11)	TERN, Royal JEF 1 rep(1)
HERON, Tricolored	JEF 3 reps(10)	TERN, Forster's JEF 1 rep(5)
EGRET, Reddish	JEF 1 rep(1)	DOVE, Rock HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 12 reps(148)
EGRET, Cattle	ANG 1 rep(4); JEF 3 reps(25)	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian JEF 6 reps(26); ORA 1 rep(2)
IBIS, White	JEF 2/17(53) SR; JEF-TP 2/18(2)	DOVE, White-winged JEF 18 reps(113)
FTCM; JEF 2/25(8) JAW		DOVE, Mourning ANG 2 reps(17); HAI 2 reps(4); JAS 1
IBIS, White-faced	JEF 2/26(1) MW	rep(2); JEF 25 reps(174); NEW 3 reps(10); ORA 5
IBIS, Plegadis	JEF 2/12(30) JAW; JEF-TP 2/12(11)	reps(33); SAA 3 reps(13); SAB 3 reps(19)
JAW; JEF-TP 2/18(500) FTCM		DOVE, Inca JEF 3 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(5)
VULTURE, Black	JEF 3 reps(42); ORA 1 rep(3); SAA 4	GROUND-DOVE, Common JEF 2/11(2) JAW
reps(29)		PARAKEET, Monk ORA-ORG 2/17(1) DJN
VULTURE, Turkey	ANG 1 rep(6); HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7	OWL, Great Horned JEF-SW 2/19(1) JFW
reps(40); NEW 1 rep(3); ORA 3 reps(6); SAA 3 reps(16); SAB		OWL, Burrowing JEF-MCFW 2/11(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW
2 reps(7)		2/25(1) GD; JEF-MCFW 2/26(1) MCF
OSPREY	JEF 2/26(1) MW; JEF-PI 2/26(1) SM;	OWL, Barred JEF-TP 2/16(1) JAW; ORA-ORG
		2/20(1) BB

HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail. JEF-BMT 2/17(1) HJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous HAI 2/17(1) GB21; HAI 2/19(1) GB22;
 JEF-BMT 2/17(1) HJ; JEF-NEDR 2/19(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR
 2/19(1) LO; JEF-NEDR 2/20(1) LO; JEF-NEDR 2/26(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus JEF-NEDR 2/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
 2/4(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 2/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/7(1)
 JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/11(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD species JEF-NEDR 2/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
 2/22(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/25(1) JAW
KINGFISHER, Belted ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(10); SAB 1
 rep(1)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed JAS 2/17(1) GB06; JEF-BMT 2/19(1)
 GB12
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied ANG 4 reps(4); HAI 2 reps(2); JAS 1
 rep(2); JEF 14 reps(15); NEW 3 reps(4); ORA 8 reps(14); SAA
 4 reps(8); SAB 4 reps(5)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied JEF 2 reps(2)
WOODPECKER, Downy ANG 1 rep(1); HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 8
 reps(14); ORA 4 reps(7); SAA 1 rep(1); SAB 1 rep(1)
WOODPECKER, Red-cockad. ANG 2/26(1) TK
FLICKER, Northern JEF 1 rep(2)
WOODPECKER, Pileated HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 1 rep(1); NEW 1
 rep(1); ORA 3 reps(6); SAA 1 rep(2)
PHOEBE, Eastern HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(28); ORA 4
 reps(4)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion JEF 2/8(1) JP; JEF 2/12(1) JAW; JEF
 2/19(1) JAW
SHRIKE, Loggerhead JEF 10 reps(51); ORA 1 rep(1)
VIREO, Blue-headed JEF 1 rep(3)
JAY, Blue ANG 3 reps(6); HAI 2 reps(5); JAS 1
 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(25); NEW 3 reps(9); ORA 5 reps(14); SAA
 2 reps(4); SAB 4 reps(9)
CROW, American ANG 1 rep(6); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 2
 reps(21); NEW 1 rep(18); ORA 4 reps(9); SAA 4 reps(34); SAB
 1 rep(2)
CROW, Fish JEF-TP 2/12(13) JAW; JEF-ORG
 2/17(1) GB01
CROW, species JEF 1 rep(2)
MARTIN, Purple JEF-NEDR 2/17(1) LO; JEF-BMT
 2/24(1) MM; SAA 2/20(1) GB29
SWALLOW, Tree JEF-TP 2/18(20) FTGM; JEF-TP
 2/19(46) GB19; NEW 2/18(1) DMG
CHICKADEE, Carolina ANG 5 reps(8); HAI 3 reps(15); JAS 1
 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(29); NEW 4 reps(6); ORA 7 reps(21); SAA
 1 rep(1); SAB 3 reps(10)
TITMOUSE, Tufted ANG 3 reps(5); HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 1
 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(11); NEW 4 reps(4); ORA 5 reps(15); SAB 3
 reps(7)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed ANG 2/26(1) TK; HAI 2/17(1) GB21;
 SAA 2/20(2) GB29
WREN, Carolina ANG 2 reps(3); HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 10
 reps(20); NEW 3 reps(4); ORA 5 reps(23); SAA 2 reps(4); SAB
 1 rep(25)
WREN, House JEF-SW 2/26(1) SM
WREN, Winter JEF 2/19(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/25(1)
 GD
WREN, Marsh JEF-TP 2/18(3) FTGM
KINGLET, Golden-crowned JEF-SW 2/19(1) JFW; JEF-SRSP
 2/26(1) SM; JEF-SW 2/26(2) SM
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned HAI 3 reps(3); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 2
 reps(4); NEW 2 reps(2); ORA 3 reps(8); SAB 2 reps(3)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray JEF 3 reps(8)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 4
 reps(13); NEW 3 reps(4); ORA 1 rep(2); SAA 4 reps(25)
THRUSH, Hermit ORA 5 reps(5)
THRUSH, Wood JEF-SRSP 2/25(1) GD
ROBIN, American HAI 2 reps(9); JAS 1 rep(89); JEF 6
 reps(44); NEW 1 rep(40); ORA 3 reps(7)
CATBIRD, Gray JEF-SW 2/26(2) SM
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 21
 reps(122); ORA 9 reps(19); SAA 4 reps(6); SAB 1 rep(2)
THRASHER, Brown JEF 4 reps(9); NEW 2 reps(2); ORA 1
 rep(1)
STARLING, European HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 11 reps(345);
 NEW 1 rep(16); ORA 4 reps(21); SAA 1 rep(6)
PIPIT, American JEF 6 reps(86)
WAXWING, Cedar JAS 1 rep(31); NEW 1 rep(4); ORA 2
 reps(23); SAA 1 rep(17)

WARBLER, Orange-crowned HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(16); NEW 2
 reps(2)
PARULA, Northern JEF-SW 2/25(1) GD; JEF-SW 2/26(1)
 SM
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped HAI 2 reps(27); JEF 10 reps(61);
 ORA 3 reps(13); SAA 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green JEF-SW 2/25(1) GD; JEF-SW 2/26(1)
 SM
WARBLER, Pine ANG 2 reps(4); HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 20
 reps(79); NEW 4 reps(15); ORA 5 reps(9); SAA 2 reps(14); SAB
 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Prairie JEF-SW 2/26(1) SM
WARBLER, Palm JEF-TP 2/12(2) JAW
YELLOWTHROAT, Common JEF 3 reps(4)
SPARROW, Chipping ANG 3 reps(81); HAI 3 reps(73); JAS
 1 rep(6); JEF 6 reps(107); NEW 4 reps(280); ORA 7
 reps(94); SAA 3 reps(77); SAB 4 reps(47)
SPARROW, Field JEF 2/26(1) MW
SPARROW, Vesper JEF 2/11(1) JAW; JEF 2/19(7) JAW
SPARROW, Savannah JEF 7 reps(232)
SPARROW, Nelson Sharp-tail JEF 2 reps(3)
SPARROW, Seaside JEF 1 rep(3)
SPARROW, Song ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(21)
SPARROW, Lincoln's JEF 3 reps(12)
SPARROW, Swamp ANG 1 rep(4); JEF 2 reps(3)
SPARROW, White-throated ANG 1 rep(6); JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 3
 reps(7); NEW 3 reps(24); ORA 2 reps(9)
SPARROW, White-crowned JEF 4 reps(45)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed ANG 2/20(2) GB23; NEW 2/20(1)
 DMG; SAA 2/18(1) GB09
CARDINAL, Northern ANG 4 reps(21); HAI 3 reps(12); JAS
 1 rep(2); JEF 20 reps(91); NEW 4 reps(27); ORA 8
 reps(58); SAA 3 reps(60); SAB 4 reps(12)
BUNTING, Indigo JEF-SW 2/26(1) SM
DICKCISSEL JEF-NEDR 2/4(1) JFW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged ANG 2 reps(112); HAI 3 reps(187);
 JEF 22 reps(1631); ORA 5 reps(591); SAB 2 reps(160)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern JEF 5 reps(11)
MEADOWLARK species JEF 4 reps(59)
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's JEF 2/19(15) JAW
GRACKLE, Common HAI 2 reps(30); JEF 19 reps(435);
 ORA 5 reps(309)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed JEF 6 reps(317); ORA 4 reps(18)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed JEF 13 reps(556); ORA 4 reps(33)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 11 reps(384);
 ORA 5 reps(241); SAB 2 reps(5)
ORIOLE, Bullock's ORA-ORG 2/17(1) DJN
FINCH, House JEF-BMT 2/17(1) HJ; JEF-GROV
 2/17(2) SR; JEF-NEDR 2/17(1) LO; JEF-GROV 2/18(2)
 SR; ORA-ORG 2/17(2) DJN
GOLDFINCH, American ANG 5 reps(92); HAI 2 reps(35); JAS
 1 rep(1); JEF 29 reps(757); NEW 4 reps(206); ORA 5
 reps(537); SAA 4 reps(400); SAB 4 reps(76)
SPARROW, House HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 23 reps(190); ORA
 5 reps(78)

Number of Species 161
Number of Individuals 22015

County Abbreviations:

ANG – Angelina; HAI – Hardin; JAS – Jasper; JEF – Jefferson; NEW –
 Newton; ORA – Orange; SAA – San Augustine; SAB – Sabine.

Location Codes:

BMT – Beaumont; GROV – Groves; MCFW – McFaddin NWR; NEDR
 – Nederland; ORG – Orange; 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:

BB – Bruce Bishop; CSL – Christine Sliva;
 DJN – Dennis and Johnnie Dale Norris; DMG – Donna and Michael
 Gaesemann; FTGM – Field Trip to Cattail Marsh; GB01 thru GB35 –
 Great Backyard Bird Count Submissions; HJ – Harrison Jordan; JAW
 – John Whittle; JFW – Jana Whittle; JP – John Park; LO – Lynn Otto;
 MCF – McFaddin and Texas Pt NWRS (Patrick Walther); MM – Marilyn
 McClelland; MW – Steve Mayes and John Whittle; SM – Steve Mayes;
 SR – Sherrie Roden; TK – Tom Kihn.

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.

Golden Triangle	(409) 728-6957
Texas (Houston)	(713) 369-9673
Abilene	Discontinued
Austin	(512) 300-2473
Ft. Worth (N. Cent)	(817) 329-1930
Lubbock	Discontinued
N. E. Texas ?	(903) 839-4804
Rio Grande Valley	(956) 584-2731
San Antonio	(210) 308-6788
Waco	Discontinued
Louisiana	Discontinued

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