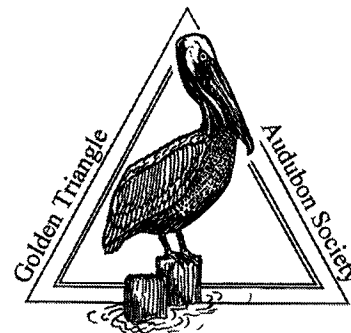


# *Brown Pelican*

**Scanned from Originals**

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 12 No. 7/8

July/August 2006

## Membership Meeting

Thursday, August 17, 2006  
6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

### Landscaping for Wildlife

Micah Meyer, Jefferson County Extension Agent

Micah Meyer grew up in central Texas in a small town called Hico. He graduated from Tarleton State University in Stephenville with a Bachelor's degree in Horticulture. He indicates that the neatest thing I did was to complete an internship with the Walt Disney World Horticulture Program.

After graduation he worked for a landscape company in Dallas before returning to Tarleton for a Master's degree in Management.

This is his first job since receiving his Master's degree. He indicates that he is new to the "Golden Triangle" and is enjoying learning about all the things to do in the area.

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

## Audubon Prints Exhibition at the Museum of the Gulf Coast

The Museum of the Gulf Coast is holding an exhibition of Audubon prints under the title *Art Avien: Audubon Selections from Southeast Texas*. All are invited to the following events to be held in association with the exhibition:

Sunday, August 27, 2:00 p.m.

*Opening Reception*, featuring a live bird presentation given by the Houston Audubon.

Wednesday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.

*Feathered Friends*, a HISTORYtime pre-K session featuring hands-on learning about birds.

Wednesday, September 27, 3:00 p.m.

*A World of Difference: Audubon's World and Our Own*. A guest lecture given by Dr. Pete Gunter of the University of North Texas.

The Museum is located at 700 Proctor Street in Port Arthur. For further information visit the Museum's web site [www.museumofthegulfcoast.org](http://www.museumofthegulfcoast.org), or call 409-982-7000.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 12, No.7/8 Jul/Aug 2006

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

See Web Site for more  
information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

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## Calendar of Events

**Thursday August 17. Membership Meeting.** Landscaping for Wildlife. Micah Meyer, Jefferson County Extension Agent. See front page for details.

**Saturday August 19. Field trip to Bolivar Flats.** Meet leader Steve Mayes at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats at 8:30 a.m. or join the group on the flats later. Take Highway 124 south from Winnie about 20 miles through High Island. At the shoreline, turn right along Highway 87 and proceed approximately 25 miles through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you come to the intersection with Loop 108. At that intersection, turn left (south -- the opposite direction from Loop 108) on Rettilon Road to the beach. If conditions permit, drive onto the sand and turn right to the vehicle barrier (about 1/2 mile). It is about a 90-minute drive, with no allowance for stops for birding, from Beaumont or Nederland to the Flats.

**Sunday August 27. Reception at the Museum of the Gulf Coast.** The Museum of the Gulf Coast is hosting an exhibition of Audubon prints August 27 through October 22, and is inviting all members to the opening reception at the Museum, 700 Proctor Street, Port Arthur, from 2 to 4 p.m..

**Saturday September 16. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count.** Contact John Whittle ([john.whittle@lamar.edu](mailto:john.whittle@lamar.edu) or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count.

**Thursday September 21. Membership Meeting.** One of our members, Levie Horton will show pictures of migrants taken at High Island during the grounding on April 29, 2006.

**Saturday September 23. Field Trip.** Smith Point Hawk Watch.

**Saturday September 30. Sabine Woods Work Day (tentative date)**  
We will start about 7:00 a.m., and probably not work beyond noon. Full details in September *Brown Pelican*. If you have a riding mower and would be able to mow the main trails late in

August or early in September, please contact John Whittle at 409-722-4193.

**Thursday October 19. Membership Meeting.** Gerald Duhon and Steve Mayes will present a program on the birds of Ecuador, based on their recent trip.

**Saturday October 21. Field Trip.** Sabine Pass and Sabine Woods.

**Thursday November 16. Annual Meeting.** Ro Wauer on "Big Bend Superlatives, Birds and Butterflies."

**Sunday, December 31. Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count.**

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We **need volunteers to bring all items for all Fall 2006 meetings, starting in August.** 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.



**Earth Share**  
OF TEXAS

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](mailto:estx@earthshare-texas.org).

## Bird Sightings – May and June 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." This month, we have fully implemented the slight change format mentioned last month. We have added the range of dates for which the species was reported in parentheses in a column before the sighting details or report summaries.

**Commentary:** There was some carryover of the major April 29 grounding into the first few days of May, and a continued good showing of migrants through the middle of the month. Reports fell off very sharply in the second half of May, and almost all of our regular reporters were out of the area for a significant part of June. The June reports, then, are probably not representative of normal conditions, because of both the lack of reports and the continued lack of access to the beach areas in Jefferson County east of McFaddin Beach.

The Yellow-green Vireo first seen in Sabine Woods on April 30 continued through at least May 11. The Black-whiskered Vireo there

was reported through May 4, and one (continuing or another bird) was seen at the Willows at Sea Rim on May 28. While mindful that a Black-whiskered Vireo was present in Sabine Woods in 2005 from April 24 to May 14, one nevertheless has to speculate that the two or more birds this year were influenced to continue further west than normal by the degraded state of the Louisiana coast habitat in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita last year. The species winters on the Caribbean (north) coast of Colombia, Venezuela and on to Brazil north of the mouth of the Amazon, and breeds in the Antilles, Bahamas and both coasts of southern Florida. It is casual along the coasts further north to Virginia on the east and west to southwestern Louisiana and Texas on the west. The Yellow-green Vireo winters in the western Amazon basin (Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia) and breeds from Panama north to the Mexico-U.S. border. In fact, the Black-whiskered Vireo apparently winters to the east of the bulk of the Red-eyed Vireo population, while the Yellow-green Vireo may well winter to the west of the bulk of the Red-eyed Vireos. Although there is some overlap in the wintering and breeding ranges between the Red-eyed Vireo and each of the others, there does not seem to be anywhere that the Yellow-green Vireo overlaps with the Black-whiskered Vireo and April 30 may represent the first confirmed occurrence of all three species at the same place at the same time.

The White-breasted Nuthatch seen on May 7 was in the Jack Gore Baygall Unit of the Big Thicket NP, and represents a very rare southerly record for this species.

The early part of May brought a good showing of *Empidonax* flycatchers on the coast, and a good early Showing of Canada Warblers.

### May 2006

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell</b>	(1-7)	JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous</b>	(7-14)	JEF 2 reps(21)
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(3-29)	JEF-TX87 5/3(6) JAW;
		JEF-TP 5/29(21) JAW
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	(7-29)	JEF 3 reps(107)
<b>DUCK, Ruddy</b>	(14-29)	JEF-TP 5/14(2) JAW; JEF-
		TP 5/29(2) JAW
<b>BOBWHITE, Northern</b>	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(10)
<b>LOON, Common</b>	(2-2)	JEF-TX87 5/2(1) SR
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(15-15)	JEF-SRSP 5/15(6) JAW
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(1-29)	JEF 7 reps(41)
<b>ANHINGA</b>	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent</b>	(15-15)	JEF-SRSP 5/15(4) JAW
<b>BITTERN, Least</b>	(1-29)	JEF-TX87 5/1(1) JAW;
		JEF-MCFW 5/4(1) MSI; JEF 5/27(1) JAW; JEF-TP 5/29(2) JAW
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(13-13)	JEF 1 rep(2)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(1-29)	JEF 10 reps(52)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(3-29)	JEF 8 reps(130)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(12-29)	JEF 4 reps(17)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(1-29)	JEF 8 reps(15)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(1-29)	JEF 10 reps(638)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(13-27)	JEF 4 reps(7)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown.</b>	(1-15)	JEF 3 reps(54)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crown.</b>	(1-31)	JEF 10 reps(50)
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(1-29)	JEF 5 reps(1102)
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(14-29)	JEF 2 reps(31)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(1-14)	JEF 4 reps(29)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(1-29)	JEF 6 reps(30); ORA 1
		rep(3)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(1-29)	JEF 8 reps(36); ORA 3
		reps(7)
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b>	(7-26)	HAI 5/7(3) JAJM; JAS
		5/21(3) LC; JAS 5/26(1) LC
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(6-28)	JEF 2 reps(2); ORA 2
		reps(2)
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(27-27)	JEF 5/27(1) JAW
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	(7-14)	JEF 5/7(1) SM; JEF 5/12(1)
		JAW; JEF 5/14(1) JAW
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(14-27)	JEF 5/14(1) JAW; JEF
		5/27(1) JAW
<b>MERLIN</b>	(6-6)	JEF-SRSP 5/6(1) DB

<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(4)
<b>SORA</b>	(4-4)	JEF-MCFW 5/4(1) MSI
<b>GALLINULE, Purple</b>	(29-29)	JEF-TP 5/29(2) JAW
<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	(27-29)	JEF 2 reps(18)
<b>COOT, American</b>	(14-29)	JEF 2 reps(12)
<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(4)
<b>PLOVER, Wilson's</b>	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(14-27)	JEF 4 reps(24)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(12-19)	JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(1) SM
<b>WILLET</b>	(12-15)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(1) SM
<b>TURNSTONE, Ruddy</b>	(13-19)	JEF 2 reps(21)
<b>KNOT, Red</b>	(6-6)	JEF 5/6(2) BTHI
<b>SANDERLING</b>	(19-19)	JEF 1 rep(40)
<b>SANDPIPER, Peep</b>	(27-27)	JEF 5/27(2) JAW
<b>SANDPIPER, White-rumped</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(1) SM
<b>SANDPIPER, Pectoral</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(1) SM
<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(1) SM
<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(1) SM
<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	(13-19)	JEF 2 reps(5)
<b>PHALAROPE, Wilson's</b>	(7-7)	JEF-TP 5/7(50) SM
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(1-19)	JEF 3 reps(24)
<b>TERN, Black</b>	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(2)
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(10-27)	JEF 3 reps(14)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	(2-31)	JEF 4 reps(30); ORA 3
		reps(5)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(1-31)	JEF 9 reps(43)
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(1-31)	JEF 10 reps(213); ORA 4
		reps(11)
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(2-31)	JEF 4 reps(6); ORA 2
		reps(2)
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	(1-28)	JEF 12 reps(93)
<b>CUCKOO, Black-billed</b>	(2-15)	JEF-SRSP 5/2(1) LB; JEF-
		SRSP 5/4(1) CD; JEF-SRSP 5/4(1) MSI; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH;
		JEF-SW 5/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(2) JHH; JEF 5/15(1) JAW
<b>ROADRUNNER, Greater</b>	(13-13)	HAI 5/13(1) AW
<b>OWL, Barred</b>	(14-14)	ORA-ORG 5/14(1) SBE
<b>NIGHTHAWK, Common</b>	(1-29)	JEF 10 reps(13)
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 6
		reps(19)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b>	(1-28)	JEF 4 reps(6); ORA 4
		reps(7)

WOODPECKER, Red-headed	(2-28)	ORA 5 reps(13)	
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(2-29)	JEF 5 reps(16); ORA 5 reps(13)	
WOODPECKER, Downy	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(28-28)	ORA 1 rep(1)	
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided	(7-11)	JEF-SRSP 5/7(1) SM; JEF- SW 5/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JHH	
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	(1-19)	JEF 7 reps(29)	
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied	(15-28)	JEF-SW 5/15(3) JAW; JEF- SW 5/19(2) DV; JEF-SW 5/28(1) DV	
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(2)	
FLYCATCHER, Alder	(1-15)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) JAW; JEF- SRSP 5/15(1) JAW	
FLYCATCHER, Willow	(1-1)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) JAW	
FLYCATCHER, Traill's	(3-15)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF- SW 5/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 5/15(1) JAW	
FLYCATCHER, Least	(3-19)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF- SRSP 5/6(1) DB; JEF-SW 5/6(3) DB; JEF 5/15(1) JAW; JEF- SW 5/19(1) DV	
EMPIDONAX species	(12-12)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	(12-12)	JEF-SW 5/12(2) JAW	
KINGBIRD, Western	(4-4)	JEF-SRSP 5/4(1) MSI	
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(1-29)	JEF 11 reps(65)	
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail	(6-29)	JEF 6 reps(12)	
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(14-27)	JEF 3 reps(37)	
VIREO, White-eyed	(11-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(12)	
VIREO, Yellow-throated	(3-19)	JEF 6 reps(6)	
VIREO, Warbling	(3-11)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) JHH; JEF- SW 5/11(6) JHH	
VIREO, Philadelphia	(1-15)	JEF 10 reps(27)	
VIREO, Red-eyed	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 19 reps(201)	
VIREO, Yellow-green	(3-11)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF- SW 5/3(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/6(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(2) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JK	
VIREO, Black-whiskered	(1-28)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) JHH; JEF- SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP 5/28(1) DV	
JAY, Blue	(1-31)	JEF 8 reps(28); ORA 5 reps(13)	
CROW, American	(14-14)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
CROW, Fish	(1-29)	JEF 4 reps(9)	
CROW, species	(3-27)	JEF 4 reps(10)	
MARTIN, Purple	(1-27)	JEF 6 reps(66)	
SWALLOW, Bank	(15-15)	JEF-SRSP 5/15(1) JAW	
SWALLOW, Cliff	(14-29)	JEF 5/14(2) JAW; JEF- SRSP 5/15(3) JAW; JEF 5/24(7) JAW; JEF 5/29(10) JAW	
SWALLOW, Barn	(1-29)	JEF 9 reps(96)	
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-28)	JEF 2 reps(6); ORA 5 reps(14)	
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(2-28)	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 5 reps(6)	
NUTHATCH, White-breasted	(7-7)	HAI 5/7(1) JAJM	
WREN, Carolina	(2-29)	JEF 2 reps(5); ORA 3 reps(3)	
WREN, Marsh	(27-27)	JEF 5/27(5) JAW	
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(6-6)	JEF-SRSP 5/6(1) DB	
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(1-1)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) JAW	
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(2-28)	JEF 1 rep(3); ORA 5 reps(16)	
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	(3-19)	JEF-SW 5/3(3) JAW; JEF- SRSP 5/19(1) DV; JEF-SW 5/19(1) DV	
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	(3-19)	JEF 2 reps(5)	
THRUSH, Swainson's	(12-19)	JEF 5 reps(30)	
ROBIN, American	(1-20)	JEF 5 reps(9)	
CATBIRD, Gray	(2-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(35); ORA 1 rep(1)	
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-31)	JEF 12 reps(208); ORA 4 reps(15)	
THRASHER, Brown	(12-12)	JEF-SW 5/12(1) JAW	
STARLING, European	(1-27)	JEF 9 reps(158)	
WARBLER, Blue-winged	(6-6)	JEF-SRSP 5/6(1) DB; JEF- SW 5/6(1) DB	
WARBLER, Tennessee	(1-19)	JEF 13 reps(58)	
PARULA, Northern	(2-27)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 3 reps(4)	
WARBLER, Yellow	(1-19)	JEF 14 reps(168)	
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	(1-19)	JEF 13 reps(41)	
WARBLER, Magnolia	(1-19)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 14 reps(153)	
WARBLER, Cape May	(6-6)	JEF-SW 5/6(1) JHH; JEF- TX87 5/6(1) DB	
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(1-19)	JEF 10 reps(26)	
WARBLER, Blackburnian	(6-19)	JEF 7 reps(14)	
WARBLER, Pine	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(2)	
WARBLER, Prairie	(13-13)	HAI 5/13(1) AW	
WARBLER, Prairie	(13-13)	HAI 1 rep(1)	
WARBLER, Bay-breasted	(3-13)	JEF 6 reps(18)	
WARBLER, Blackpoll	(1-13)	JEF 10 reps(12)	
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(20)	
REDSTART, American	(1-28)	JEF 16 reps(145)	
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(1-13)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)	
OVENBIRD	(1-15)	JEF 7 reps(10)	
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(1-12)	JEF 10 reps(22)	
WARBLER, Kentucky	(9-9)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
WARBLER, Mourning	(9-19)	JEF-SW 5/9(1) JHH; JEF- SW 5/11(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JK; JEF-SW 5/12(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/12(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) JFW; JEF-SW 5/19(1) DV	
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(1-27)	JEF 15 reps(99)	
WARBLER, Hooded	(4-27)	JEF 2 reps(5)	
WARBLER, Wilson's	(6-13)	JEF-SW 5/6(1) DB; JEF- SW 5/6(1) JHH; JEF-TXPT 5/13(2) JFW	
WARBLER, Canada	(11-15)	JEF-SW 5/11(3) JHH; JEF- SW 5/12(4) JHH; JEF-SW 5/15(1) JAW	
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(12-12)	JEF-SW 5/12(2) JHH	
TANAGER, Summer	(2-19)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(17); ORA 1 rep(1)	
TANAGER, Scarlet	(1-19)	JEF 13 reps(72)	
TANAGER, Western	(11-14)	JEF-SW 5/11(1) JHH; JEF- SW 5/11(1) JK; JEF-SW 5/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/13(1) KA; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JAW	
SPARROW, Savannah	(7-7)	JEF 5/7(1) SM	
SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-t.	(4-4)	JEF-TXPT 5/4(5) MSI	
SPARROW, White-throated	(6-6)	JEF-SRSP 5/6(1) DB	
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-29)	JEF 8 reps(52); ORA 5 reps(28)	
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted	(1-15)	JEF 14 reps(81)	
GROSBEAK, Blue	(13-13)	HAI 5/13(1) AW	
GROSBEAK, Blue	(13-13)	HAI 1 rep(1)	
BUNTING, Indigo	(1-19)	JEF 13 reps(137)	
BUNTING, Painted	(1-29)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) JAW; JEF- SW 5/1(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 5/6(1) DB; JEF-SW 5/6(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/12(1) JHH; JEF 5/27(1) JAW; JEF-TP 5/29(2) JAW	
DICKCISSEL	(6-27)	JEF 7 reps(40)	
BOBOLINK	(1-6)	JEF-MCFW 5/1(250) JHH; JEF-MCFW 5/2(10) LB; JEF-MCFW 5/3(160) JHH; JEF-MCFW 5/4(80) JHH; JEF-MCFW 5/4(10) MSI; JEF-MCFW 5/6(1) BTHI; JEF-MCFW 5/6(100) JHH; JEF-TX87 5/6(30) DB	
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-29)	JEF 9 reps(185); ORA 3 reps(9)	
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(14-27)	JEF 2 reps(49)	
MEADOWLARK species	(14-27)	JEF 4 reps(26)	
BLACKBIRD, Yellow-headed	(6-6)	JEF 5/6(1) BTHI	
GRACKLE, Common	(10-31)	JEF 10 reps(194); ORA 2 reps(11)	
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(1-29)	JEF 5 reps(30)	
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-31)	JEF 13 reps(210)	
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	(12-27)	JEF 3 reps(25)	
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(14-27)	JEF 2 reps(12)	
ORIOLE, Orchard	(1-27)	JEF 10 reps(89)	
ORIOLE, Baltimore	(1-12)	JEF 12 reps(87)	
FINCH, House	(2-28)	ORA 5 reps(12)	
SPARROW, House	(2-29)	JEF 8 reps(36); ORA 3 reps(4)	
Number of Species		167	
Number of Individuals		9415	
County Abbreviations:			
HAI - Hardin; JAS - Jasper; JEF - Jefferson; ORA - Orange			

**Location Codes**

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

AW – Adam Wood et al; BTHI – Bill and Teresa Hitchcock; CD – Carolyn Dill; DB – Devin Bosler; DV – Don Verser; JAJM – John Arvin and John Mariani; JAW – John Whittle; JFW – Jana Whittle; JHH – John H. Haynes; JK – Joseph Kennedy; KA – Keith Anderson; LB – Lynn Barber; LC – Lanet Coleman; MSI – Margaret Simmons; RHJ – Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE – Sheri Bethard; SM – Steve Mayes; SR – Sherrie Roden

**June 2006**

DUCK, Wood	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(2) FTHC
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(1-4)	JEF 2 reps(3)
EGRET, Great	(1-25)	JEF 3 reps(4)
EGRET, Snowy	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(4)
HERON, Tricolored	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(1)
EGRET, Cattle	(4-30)	JEF 3 reps(18)
HERON, Green	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(1)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crown.	(1-25)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5
	reps(16)	
IBIS, White	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(1)
STORK, Wood	(18-18)	HAI-SILS 6/18(100) KS
VULTURE, Turkey	(3-4)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 1 rep(1)
HAWK, Broad-winged	(30-30)	JEF 6/30(1) JAW
HAWK, Red-tailed	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(2) FTHC
RAIL, Clapper	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(1)
WILLET	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(2)
TERN, Forster's	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(1)
PIGEON, Rock	(2-30)	HAI 1 rep(20); JEF 4
	reps(8)	
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(1-23)	JEF 4 reps(13)
DOVE, White-winged	(1-30)	JEF 10 reps(33)
DOVE, Mourning	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(25)
DOVE, Inca	(1-25)	JEF 2 reps(3)
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(1)
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(23-23)	JEF 1 rep(1)
SWIFT, Chimney	(3-26)	HAI 1 rep(7); JEF 3
	reps(20)	
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(18-18)	HAI-SILS 6/18(2) KS
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(2-3)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(3-4)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(4)
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(1)
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(1) FTHC
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(4)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(4-30)	JEF 2 reps(2)
VIREO, White-eyed	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(20)
VIREO, Red-eyed	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(3)
JAY, Blue	(2-3)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)
CROW, American	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(5)
CROW, Fish	(4-4)	JEF-TX87 6/4(1) JAW
CROW, species	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 5 reps(5)
MARTIN, Purple	(24-25)	JEF 2 reps(26)
SWALLOW, Cliff	(4-4)	JEF 6/4(1) JAW; JEF-TX87
	6/4(5) JAW	
SWALLOW, Barn	(2-28)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 4
	reps(14)	
SWALLOW species	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(25)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(3-18)	HAI 2 reps(6)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(9)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(6) FTHC
WREN, Carolina	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(5)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(2) FTHC
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(3-18)	HAI 2 reps(8)
THRUSH, Wood	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(3) FTHC
ROBIN, American	(4-28)	JEF 2 reps(2)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 6
	reps(21)	
STARLING, European	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 5
	reps(68)	

PARULA, Northern	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Pine	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(18)
WARBLER, Prairie	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(2) FTHC
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Swainson's	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(3) FTHC
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(3)
WARBLER, Hooded	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(13)
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(7) FTHC
TANAGER, Summer	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(1)
CARDINAL, Northern	(3-3)	HAI 1 rep(7)
BUNTING, Indigo	(3-3)	HAI 6/3(1) FTHC
BUNTING, Painted	(3-4)	HAI 6/3(3) FTHC; JEF-SW
	6/4(2) JAW	
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(10)
GRACKLE, Common	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(15)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(5)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-30)	JEF 9 reps(61)
ORIOLE, Orchard	(3-4)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)
FINCH, House	(18-18)	HAI-SILS 6/18(2) KS
SPARROW, House	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(9); JEF 7
	reps(42)	

Number of Species 69  
 Number of Individuals 917

**County Abbreviations:**

HAI – Hardin; JEF – Jefferson

**Location Codes:**

BMT – Beaumont; NEDR – Nederland; SILS – Silsbee; SW – Sabine Woods; TX87 – Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

**Observer Abbreviations:**

FTHC – Field Trip to Hardin County; JAW – John Whittle; KS – Ken Sztraky.

**Fall Access to Birding Spots**

There are a number of items to report.

The bridge over Texas Bayou that gives access to Texas Point Road south of Sabine Pass is currently closed while it is being rebuilt. The piers that support the bridge were apparently almost undermined by Hurricane Rita. The contract calls for the project to be complete by January 1, 2007. It has been stated that the earliest the project could be completed is December 1. (In reality a better course of action would have been to fill in the Texas Bayou channel and allow the Bayou to revert to its original course, but that would doubtless have involved lengthy approval processes.) Unfortunately, the closure will deprive us of practical access to one of the best places to find migrating sparrows in late October and November.

The Sabine Pass Battleground State Historical Park boat ramp has reopened, but there are no camping facilities available.

The TPWD Web-Site indicates that Sea Rim State Park may reopen sometime in August. Check the website before assuming it is open! The Willows continue to be accessible.

Village Creek State Park is open again, although some parts may still be closed.

At Martin Dies State Park, many of the camping sites in the Hen House Ridge unit are open again. However, the Walnut Ridge unit is "not available for camping." There is no mention of the Cherokee Unit on the web site. However, it should be noted that Steinhagen Lake has been drawn completely down (principally to control the water hyacinth) for the summer. The current plan is to start refilling the lake on September 15 with normal levels projected for September 30.

# Silent Auction

Lu Skillern graciously donated many birding/nature books, CD's, tapes, etc. to us. Several of us went on line to find the least expensive that we could locate these items. We then used websites to come up with a minimum bid. These are donations that will go to education in our organization since she and Grady did a tremendous job in volunteering and helping with education. At our August meeting we will have these items laid out for people to sign their names on a silent bid auction. If no one bids on them we will put the same books out until after the October meeting, then we plan to sell them online. Bids may also be mailed (3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627) or emailed (janafw@aol.com) to Jana Whittle in advance of the meeting.

Title	Min. bid
As Far as the Yukon 1951 (Florence Page Jaques)	\$2
The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds 1977	\$9
The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies 1994	\$10
The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding Ed. John Farrand Jr. (set of three books)	\$60
The Audubon Society Pocket Guides; Familiar Birds of North America; Western Region 1986	\$5
Audubon the Naturalist Vol. 1 of 2 (Francis Hobart Herrick)	\$40
A Birder's Guide to Florida (ABA) (Bill Pranty)	\$26
Birdfinding in Forty National Forests 1994	\$2
Birding Texas 1998 (Wauer and Elwonger)	\$5
Birds of America (The red book) 1931 (Frank Ashbrook)	\$10
Birds of the Gulf Coast 2001 (Miller & Fontenol) signed	\$17
Birds 2002 (Robert Bateman)	\$3
Bird Tracks and Signs 2001 (Mark Elbrock and Eleanor Marks)	\$11
Birdwatching with American Women A Selection of Nature Writings 1986	\$2
British Columbia A Natural History 1996 (Richard Cannings and Sydney Cannings) signed	\$75
Chasing Warblers 1999 (Vera and Bob Thornton)	\$16
The Dictionary of American Bird Names 1985 (E. A. Choate)	\$15
J.N. "Ding" Darling's Conservation and Wildlife Cartoons 2002	\$15
Enjoying Hummingbirds More 1992	\$2
Familiar Birds of the Northwest 1981 (Harry B. Nehls)	\$2
A Field Guide to Birds' Nests 1975 (Harrison et.al.)	\$8
Flight into Sunshine 1948 (H. G. Cruickshank) signed	\$10
How to Study Birds 1910 (Herbert K. Job)	\$20
Introducing Birds to Young Naturalists 1989 (Ilo Hiller)	\$3
Life in and Around the Salt Marshes 1972 (Michael J. Ursin)	\$2
Lives of North American Birds 1996 (Ken Kaufman)	\$5
Naming the Birds at a Glance 1963 (Blachly and Jenks)	\$3
National Park Guide 1993 (Michael Frome)	\$2
Naturalist's Big Bend 1973 (Ro Wauer) signed	\$2
North with the Spring 1979 (Edwin Way Teale)	\$2
Penguins (Roger Tory Peterson 1979)	\$3
Peterson First Guide to Birds 1986 (R. T. Peterson)	\$2
Photo Guide to the Shorebirds of the World 1995 (David Rosair)	\$30
The Pleasures of Watching Birds 1986 (Lola Oberman)	\$2
Visitor's Guide to the Birds of the Rocky Mountain National Parks 1993 (Roland H. Wauer) signed	\$2

Scaly Babies 1988 (Ginny Johnston and Judy Cutchins)	\$2
Shadowbirds 1994 (William Burt)	\$4
Sibley Guide to Bird Life and Behavior 2001 (David Allen Sibley)	\$25
Sibley's Birding Basics 2002 (David Allen Sibley)	\$8
Texas Wildlife Photographs From TPW Magazine	\$2
Watching Birds 1977 (Roger F. Pasquier)	\$2
What Bird is This? The Birdwatcher's Quiz Book 1961 Henry Hill Collins	\$2
The Wind Master 1995 (Pete Dunn)	\$23
Wings of the Wilderness 1947 (Allan D. Cruickshank 1 <sup>st</sup> ed.)	\$3

## Videos

5 tape set of National Audubon Society's Video Guide to Birds of North America	\$50
Hawaii Birds (32 min.)	\$20
Watching Warblers	\$30

## CD's

Bird Songs of Alaska (2 CD's)	\$20
Bird Songs Eastern/Central US	\$10
Bird Songs Western US (2 CD's)	\$20
Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Songs of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Southwestern Texas (Geoffrey Keller)	\$10
National Audubon Society Interactive CD ROM Guide to North American Birds	\$30

## Miscellaneous

Binocular strap (new)	\$2
Used Bushnell scope window mount	\$10

# Trans Gulf Migration

A paper of great interest to those of us who bird the upper Texas Coast was published recently by Professor Sidney Gauthreaux of Clemson University in The Journal of Ornithology (Atmospheric trajectories and spring bird migration across the Gulf of Mexico by Sidney A. Gauthreaux Jr., Carroll G. Belser and Christopher M. Welch; J. Ornithol. 2006, . The full article may be accessed at

This paper describes the results of studies of 2001 through 2004 migration using data from the ten NWS Doppler Radars from Brownsville to Key West. It is reasonably obvious and has been shown that the north-south component of the wind influences the length of time it takes a migrant to traverse the Gulf and thus the time of day at which it arrives on the Gulf Coast. In this study the authors attempted to assess the impact of the east-west component of the wind on the longitude (east-west position) on the coast. They were able to access historical wind data at 500 m, 1500 m and 2500 m (approx 1650, 4950 and 8250 feet). Somewhat to their surprise, they found that the variance in the longitude of the peak density of arrival of flights was less than the variance in the east-west component of the winds aloft. The authors suggest that it is possible that birds have some capability to gauge the crosswind component and correct for it in order to stay on their historical and genetically imprinted preferred track. The authors speculate that the preferred track was the shortest distance at the end of the last ice age, when sea levels were much lower than they

now are, and where the shallow areas that now are off the Upper Texas Coast and off the northwestern Yucatan coasts were dry land.

As a part of this study, the longitude of coastal arrival of the peak density of flights was recorded and reported, and we can perhaps gain some useful insight from these data. In each of the study years the greatest frequency was at 95°W (more than 50 percent of the flights); the next greatest frequency was at 94°W, but usually less than 30 percent of the flights. There were low frequencies east to about 88W, and lower still frequencies to 98°W. The number of flights in any given season is small – about 50 – and the number of flights with peak density at anything other than 94 or 95°W is very small. The mean longitude of arrival was in the range 93.12 to 93.84°W for the four years, and the median in the range 94.07 to 94.23°W. For reference, Sabine Woods is at 93.97°W; High Island about 94.3°W, Peveto Woods about 93.5°W

Although we know that Professor Gauthreaux has made extensive efforts over many past seasons to "ground truth" the radar returns, there are still concerns that the radar detects larger birds more effectively, and that because of the angle of transmission of the radar beam, the birds at different altitudes are detected with different efficiencies. Nevertheless as the authors themselves note, "the vast majority of flights arrive along the upper Texas and southwestern Louisiana coasts" and "(e)fforts should be enhanced to protect terrestrial and aquatic stopover habitats in this corridor between Houston and Lake Charles, Louisiana, where the greatest concentrations of trans-Gulf migrants consistently make their landfall on the northern Gulf coast. If these areas are degraded and lost, the consequences to trans-Gulf migration and the Neotropical-Nearctic migration system could be catastrophic."

## AOU Checklist Changes

The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) maintains a Checklist of North American Birds which is regarded as the authoritative list of all birds occurring in North America, their taxonomy, and their scientific and common names. The AOU defines North America as including the United States (including Alaska, the Hawaiian Islands and Puerto Rico), Canada, Mexico, all of Central America, the West Indies (including the Bahamas, the Greater Antilles, Leeward and Windward Islands, and the Lesser Antilles south to Grenada), Bermuda and various other islands logically within the general area described. The "list" attempts to place all species in sequence from the most primitive to the most highly evolved. In practice, this involves an effort to place the various orders in such a sequence, and, within each order, the families in such order, and so on with the genera and finally the species. The list of species currently known from the Checklist area numbers 2,041. The Supplements and the list of species can be accessed on or downloaded from the web at [www.AOU.org/aou/checklist/index.php3](http://www.AOU.org/aou/checklist/index.php3)

The Check-list was last published in book form as the Seventh Edition in 1998. Supplements are now published each July in *The Auk*, describing the AOU Checklist Committee's decision since the preceding Supplement. Modern biochemical methods are making available indications of close or distant relationships that are often more persuasive

than anatomical and morphological indicators. In particular, sequencing of mitochondrial DNA (now replacing earlier less definitive DNA-DNA hybridization methods as the method of choice) is likely to result in many more changes in the future.

The 2003 Supplement published the Checklist Committee's decision to move the Anseriformes (ducks, geese, swans) and the Galliformes (chachalacas, pheasants, grouse, quail, etc) to a position immediately following the tinamous at the beginning of the list. No other major change in the sequence of orders has been published since the Seventh Edition.

The following describes the changes in the 2006 supplement that affect species occurring on the mainland of the United States and Canada.

The genus *Asturina* is merged into *Buteo*, thus changing the Gray Hawk to *Buteo nitidus* and moving it to a position immediately following the Broad-winged Hawk.

The Blue Grouse is split into the Dusky Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) and the Sooty Grouse (*Dendragapus fuliginosus*) on the basis of voice and subtle tail feather markings. (Sibley in "Guide to Birds" shows the two separately).

The genus *Tringa* is expanded by the merger of *Catoptrophorus* (including only the Willet) and *Heteroscelus* (including the Gray-tailed and Wandering Tattler) into it. The resulting re-sequencing of the species within the subfamily moves Spotted Sandpiper to a position ahead of the Green and Solitary Sandpipers, and the Willet to a position between Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

In the only move of a whole family in this Supplement, the Skuas and Jaegers (elevated from a subfamily within Laridae -- gulls and terns) are moved to follow the Laridae.

Extensive changes within the terns and noddies will probably be the most frequently noticed changes in our sightings reports. The noddies are moved from a position following the terns to a position preceding them. The terns are now classified in six genera in the Subfamily Sterninae in the following sequence: *Onychoprion* (Sooty, Bridled and Aleutian Terns); *Sternula* (Least Tern), *Gelochelidon* (Gull-billed Tern), *Hydroprogne* (Caspian Tern, *Chlidonias* (Black Tern), *Sterna* (Roseate, Common, Arctic and Forster's Terns) and *Thalasseus* (Royal, Sandwich and Elegant Terns). This process, which divided the old *Sterna* genus into five genera, drastically changes the sequence, which formerly was essentially from largest species to smallest species!

The domesticated Ringed Turtle-Dove (African Collared-Dove) is renamed *Streptopelia roseogrisea* conforming to an international agreement to use the name of the wild species when it predates the assignment of a separate name for the domesticated form.

The cuckoos in the genus *Coccyzus* are re-sequenced (along with a merger into it of other genera not found in the mainland U.S. or Canada), so that the sequence will now be Yellow-billed, Mangrove, then Black-billed Cuckoo.

Two new species are added to the U.S./Canadian list: the Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) which will appear between the Great Kiskadee and the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher — we know, you wonder if that species can follow the other two up from the Valley to Sabine Woods — and the Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus mexicanus*) which will appear between Townsend's Solitaire and Veery.



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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)	Internet only
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
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