# Brown Pelican

**Scanned from Originals** 

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 12 No. 9

September 2006

## Membership Meeting Thursday, September 21, 2006 6:30 PM, Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

## The Fallout at High Island April 29-30, 2006 Levie Horton

Levie Horton of Vidor began attending Golden Triangle Audubon meetings last fall after reading the Brown Pelican at the Bridge City Public Library. He became interested in bird photography in December 2005 after seeing a program by Sid and Shirley Rucker featuring hummingbirds they photographed for the book Hummingbirds of Texas. Mr Rucker stressed the importance of using professional lenses to produce high quality images. Levie located a company that rents professional lenses for sporting events and made arrangements to rent a professional lens for the weekend of April 29,30 to photograph at the High Island Rookery. Strong storms passing through the area forced him to change plans and switch to the photography blind in Boy Scout Woods where he met two other veteran bird photographers. Riding out the storm in the old barn being used as a photography blind they explained to him the possibility of a fallout following the storm and they convinced him to stay in the blind after the storm. After the storm the trees were filled with birds and soon the water drips were covered with many species of the migrating birds. He will present a slideshow of the photographs he took on April 29 and 30 and a short discussion on the photography equipment he used.

Levie attended Lamar University and has been employed by Southwestern Bell since 1981. He works in Bridge City as a Communications Technician.

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

#### **August Meeting Report**

Although Micah Meyers openly admits he isn't a birder (yet!), he was happy to share some tips and techniques on how to attract wildlife to our very own backyards. Provide food, water, and shelter and they will come. Whether it is trees and plants that can offer both food and shelter, or water from a pond, stream, birdbath, or fountain – variety is the key.

Even though it is hard to imagine at this moment, winter will arrive eventually. Micah advised us to consider trees and plants that will provide both food and shelter during the fall and winter months. Recommendations included Mahonia, Cherry Laurel, Crabapple, (continued on page 3)

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

See Web Site for more information www.goldentriangleaudubon. org

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#### **Calendar of Events**

Saturday September 16. 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 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 to Smith Point Hawk Watch. To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 miles (two miles past the access road for Anahuac NWR) until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left on a shell/limestone oilfield road, bearing left again to the parking area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. Your leaders will be there by 8:30 a.m., but join us when you can.

Broad-winged Hawk migration typically peaks around the 25th-26th-27th of September in southeast Texas, but the exact timing is dependent on weather conditions along the routes the hawks take.

The Smith Point Hawk Watch is conducted by the Gulf Coast Bird Obervatory,

Wednesday September 27. Museum of the Gulf Coast. In association with the exhibition of Audubon art at the Museum of the Gulf Coast, the Port Arthur Historical Society is presenting a talk entitled *A World of Difference: Audubon's World and our Own*, by Dr. Peter Gunter of the University of North Texas at 3 p.m. The Museum is at 700 Proctor Street, Port Arthur, (409) 982-7000; www.museumofthegulfcoast.org

Saturday September 30. Sabine Woods Work Day. We will start about 7:00 a.m., and probably not work beyond noon. There are delayed effects

of Hurricane Rita that will require a chain saw or two to clean up. If you have a riding mower and would be able to mow the main trails in 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.

#### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Bob Collier, Sherry Gibson, Jeannie Lanclos and Christine Sliva for bringing refreshments in August. We need volunteers to bring all items for all other Fall 2006 meetinas. from September onwards. Please do not wait until the last minute to volunteer! 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 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 <=stx@earth.share-texas.org>.

#### **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. We thank those who purchased books at the August meeting. The following are still available. 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. If you wish you can email call in your bid to Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 or janafw@aol.com.

Title Mi	n. bid
As Far as the Yukon 1951 (Florence Page Jaques) The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Birds 1977 The Audubon Society Field Guide	\$2 '\$9
to North American Butterflies 1994 The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding	\$10
Ed. John Farrand Jr. (set of three books) The Audubon Society Pocket Guides ; Familiar Birds of	\$60
North America; Western Region 1986 Audubon the Naturalist Vol. 1 of 2 (Francis Hobart Herrick)	\$5 \$40
A Birder's Guide to Florida (ABA) (Bill Pranty)	\$26
Birder's Guide to Texas (Ed Kutac)	\$8
Birdfinding in Forty National Forests 1994 Birding Texas 1998 (Wauer and Elwonger)	\$2 \$5
Birds of America (The red book) 1931 (Frank Ashbrook) Birdwatching with American Women A Selection of	\$10
Nature Writings 1986	\$2
British Columbia A Natural History1996 (Richard Cannings and Sydney Cannings) signed Chasing Warblers 1999 (Vera and Bob Thornton)	\$75 \$16
The Dictionary of American Bird Names 1985 (E. A. Choate)	\$15
J.N. "Ding" Darling's Conservation and Wildlife Cartoons 2002 Enjoying Hummingbirds More 1992	\$15 \$2
Familiar Birds of the Northwest 1981 (Harry B. Nehls)	\$2
Flight into Sunshine 1948 (Helen G. Cruickshank) signed	\$10
How to Study Birds 1910 (Herbert K. Job) Introducing Birds to Young Naturalists 1989 (Ilo Hiller)	\$20 \$3
National Park Guide 1993 (Michael Frome)	\$2
North with the Spring 1979 (Edwin Way Teale)	\$2
Peterson First Guide to Birds 1986 (Roger Tory Peterson) Photo Guide to the Shorebirds of the World 1995	\$2
(David Rosair)	\$30
The Pleasures of Watching Birds 1986 (Lola Oberman) Scaly Babies 1988 (Ginny Johnston and Judy Cutchins)	\$2 \$2
Shadowbirds 1994 (William Burt)	\$4
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	
Hawaii Birds (32 min.) Watching Warblers	\$20 \$30
CD's	
Bird Songs Western (2 CD's) Cornell Lab of Ornithology Bird Songs of the Lower Rio Grande	\$20
Valley and Southwestern Texas (Geoffrey Keller) National Audubon Society Interactive CD ROM	\$10
Guide to North American Birds	\$30
Miscellaneous	
Used Bushnell scope window mount	\$10

#### Sabine Woods Work Day Saturday September 30

As you all must know, Sabine Woods was significantly impacted by Hurricane Rita last September. With a splendid turn out of volunteers last October, we were able to take care of almost all the fallen trees that blocked boardwalks and major paths and trails. This has been the wettest summer in many years along the immediate coast, and we will need another good turn out to take care of a few additional problems – a few more trees and branches need to be removed – and the luxurious growth of both trees and vegetation needs to be dealt with. Some significant pruning of lower tree branches will be necessary. Please contact John Whittle at (409) 722-4193 to volunteer on September 30 or another day of your choosing. Sabine Woods is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87.

#### **Correction to August Brown Pelican**

Last month, on page 6, we inadvertently omitted the citation information on Dr. Gauthreaux's paper. The citation is 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. Vol. 106 (2), pp 317-325 (April 2006). The full article may be accessed at www.springerlink.com

#### August Meeting (continued from page 1)

Euonymus, Firebush, Hackberry, Hawthorn, and of course birds love those Muscadines. Trees providing protection from the elements and a little privacy for nesting include Arborvitae, Hollies, Live Oak, and Yew. Grasses such as Fountain or Pampas are also favored by our feathered friends.

When it comes to providing water for the wildlife Micah encouraged us to "think beyond just providing a puddle of water." Thanks to the popular new trend of using water features in our landscaping, our options are only limited by our imagination. Since many birds are attracted to trickling or dripping water we can create a water source that is not only appealing to the birds but is soothing to the soul and pleasing to the eye. The birds enjoy the water and we enjoy watching the birds! Need a little help or have question? The Jefferson County Extension also offers assistance with aquatic issues.

Micah also gave us a few pointers on attracting butterflies. Try to furnish food and shelter for all three stages (larval, chrysalis, and adult) of a butterfly's life cycle. Remember butterflies do like shallow puddles, edges rather than flat surfaces, and dense trees offer a safe harbor in hot, cold, or windy conditions.

Of course, as always, AVOID USING PESTICIDES in your backyard habitat!

Contact Micah Meyer, County Extension Agent-Horticulture, Texas Cooperative Extension, Jefferson County. Phone: 409-835-8461 Email: cmmeyer@ag.tamu.edu

The meeting was preceded by the beautifully photographed DVD entitled *Birds*, *Birds*, *Birds*! *An Indoor Birdwatching Field Trip* by John Feith available from www.caculo.com/dvd.htm.

Debbie Bradshaw

## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats - August 19, 2006

Five members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society braved the threat of thunderstorms for the August field trip to the Houston Audubon Society's Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary. Bolivar Flats is one of the few birding destinations that will always produce lots of birds regardless of the time of year. There may be more at sometimes than others and the mix may be a little different but there will always be lots of interesting birds to observe. With that in mind, the birders headed out onto the beach.

Some species of birds can be found at Bolivar Flats at anytime of year. Birds like Laughing Gulls, Willets, Sanderlings and several species of terns are usually present in some numbers here. On this day, the usuals certainly showed up. Sanderling numbers seemed a little low but there were plenty of other common species to make up for it. Black-bellied Plovers were seen in every plumage variation from the breeding black-bellied plumage to the dull winter gray plumage. Plenty of Laughing Gulls were around along with a few Ring-billed Gulls already present. No large gulls were seen on the Flats on this trip. Western and Least Sandpipers were also seen on the Flats. Most likely, there were some Semipalmated Sandpipers hiding among them but the group could pick out no obvious candidates.

Terns are always a good group to study on a Bolivar Flats trip, as you will get several species side by side. Royal Terns were the most numerous on this trip but their larger cousins, the Caspian Terns, were also easily seen. Sandwich Terns, with their yellow-tipped beaks, were eventually spotted among the larger Royal Terns along with a few Forster's Terns. No Common Terns could be located despite checking all of the Forster's Terns carefully. A number of Least Terns were still present on the Flats including some immature birds. Black Terns were also seen in decent numbers and (like the Black-bellied Plovers mentioned earlier) showed every plumage variation from the breeding plumage black to the winter white and gray and everything in between. Black Skimmers, close relatives of the terns and gulls, were also seen on the day including many young birds. Hopefully, that means it was a good breeding year for these unusual looking birds.

Plovers are always of interest at Bolivar Flats as there may be no better place in the world to study North America's small plover species. All four species are usually easily found here (at the proper times of year) and the group saw them all. Wilson's Plovers were numerous, their large bills easily separating them from the other small plovers. It seemed to be a good breeding year for Wilson's Plovers at the Flats, which is an encouraging sign for this threatened species. Semipalmated Plovers were also seen in good number on the day. Endangered Piping Plovers were present having arrived from their northern breeding grounds. One color banded Piping Plover was found on the trip. Color banding is often done by researchers to make it easier to recognize and track individual birds. This particular bird was banded in Saskatchewan, Canada on its breeding grounds last year. The group also spotted at least one Snowy Plover but more should be arriving soon to spend the fall and winter months on the Texas coast.

Reddish Egrets put on an unusually good show for this field trip. This species can be hard to find in Jefferson County but is almost always seen at Bolivar Flats. Still, even for Bolivar Flats, this day was exceptional. More than 30 Reddish Egrets were counted on the day. They were huddled in groups near the grass, wading in the shallow surf and actively feeding on small fish. It is always nice to see that many Reddish Egrets and all of the plumage variations (white morph, dark morph and immature plumages).

Some other interesting birds were also seen at Bolivar Flats on this trip. Several Magnificent Frigatebirds were seen soaring out over the gulf. Long-billed Curlews, with their long decurved bills, were scattered along the Flats while Marbled Godwits with their long, slightly recurved bills, stuck to the shallow water. Horned Larks made a particularly good showing on the day with, seemingly, every

adult bird accompanied by a juvenile. A single Northern Harrier quartered over the marsh behind Bolivar Flats. Odd-looking American Oystercatchers were in good numbers even if they stayed somewhat distant from the group.

Birds were not the only interesting sights at Bolivar Flats on this day. With thunderstorms looming in the distance, the group had a constant, nervous eye on the weather. As storm clouds gathered toward Galveston, a fascinating but unwelcome sight was seen. A funnel cloud danced in the clouds over Galveston Bay, appearing and disappearing several times. At one time, there appeared to be two funnel clouds coming out of the storm. One of the funnel clouds briefly became a waterspout but, luckily, it never moved toward land (or us).

Leaving Bolivar Flats behind, the group explored some of the other birding spots of the Bolivar area. Frenchtown Road was filled with fishermen but very few birds. Yacht Basin Road held Clapper Rails and more Black Terns but not much else. The tide was high at Rollover Pass but there were still some birds to be seen. Juvenile Laughing Gulls loafed in the parking lot along with several Ruddy Turnstones. An Osprey coursed back and forth over the bay looking for a suitable fish dinner. A large group of Brown Pelicans (seen in encouraging numbers all over on the day) was gathered in a group in the shallow water.

It was decided to move on to High Island from Bolivar and search for a few migrant land birds. The first stop was the Texas Ornithological Society's new Hook's Woods Sanctuary. This small woodlot is in the southern part of High Island and can be a great migrant trap. Unfortunately, on this day, there was little more than Blue-gray Gnatcatcher around. A move on to Boy Scout Woods did not provide much more but Ruby-throated Hummingbirds worked the flowers and a few Orchard Orioles moved through the trees. Otherwise, there was little sign of any migratory action. Of course birding in the middle of the day in August is not the best time for birds (or birders).

Eventually, the group called it quits for the day. Another great trip to Bolivar with lots of great birds! If you want to see Reddish Egrets and Horned Larks this is the place on the Upper Texas coast. If you want all of the small plovers along with godwits and curlews, this is where to look. If you want to see Black Skimmers, Oystercatchers and Magnificent Frigatebirds, this is where to go. Just watch out for the waterspouts.

The following species were recorded on the trip: American White Pelican (1); Brown Pelican (538); Neotropic Cormorant (50); Magnificent Frigatebird (4); Great Blue Heron (5); Great Egret (19); Snowy Egret (31); Little Blue Heron (2); Tricolored Heron (7); Reddish Egret (30); Cattle Egret (36); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (2); White Ibis (50); Roseate Spoonbill (4); Turkey Vulture (1); Osprey (1); White-tailed Kite (3); Northern Harrier (1); Broadwinged Hawk (1); Clapper Rail (3); Black-bellied Plover (15); Snowy Plover (2); Wilson's Plover (31); Semipalmated Plover (50); Piping Plover (25); Killdeer (2); American Oystercatcher (9); Blacknecked Stilt (6); Greater Yellowlegs (1); Willet (2); Lesser Yellowlegs (1); Long-billed Curlew (38); Marbled Godwit (30); Ruddy Turnstone (28); Sanderling (50); Semipalmated Sandpiper (2); Western Sandpiper (500); Least Sandpiper (10); Short-billed Dowitcher (11); Dowitcher species (20); Laughing Gull (275); Ringbilled Gull (2); Least Tern (52); Caspian Tern (10); Black Tern (68); Forster's Tern (3); Royal Tern (500); Sandwich Tern (42); Black Skimmer (30); Eurasian Collared-Dove (2); Mourning Dove (12); Common Nighthawk (5); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (4); Eastern Kingbird (3); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (2); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Blue Jay (1); Horned Lark (6); Barn Swallow (1000); Carolina Wren (1); Northern Mockingbird (4); European Starling (85); Northern Cardinal (1); Meadowlark species (1); Great-tailed Grackle (27); Orchard Oriole (10) Steve Mayes

## **Bird Sightings – July 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." The range of dates for which the species was reported is shown in parentheses in a column before the sighting details or report summaries.

Commentary: July always represents a low point in sightings reported to us. The enthusiasm of birders for spring migration has long since "burned up" as the temperature and humidity rises. The breeding passerine birds of our area have become less visible as their offspring begin to feed themselves. There are shorebird species which are breeding season visitors to our area but there is still very limited access to the limited areas of such habitat in our area.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell	(9-23)	JEF 3 reps(25)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	(9-23)	JEF 3 reps(9)
DUCK, Mottled	(9-9)	JEF-TP 7/9(15) HM; JEF-
TP 7/9(15) SM	,	. ( , ,
TEAL, Blue-winged	(9-9)	JEF-TP 7/9(20) HM; JEF-
TP 7/9(20) SM	(3-3)	3E1 -11- 7/9(20) 11M, 3E1-
	(00,00)	IEE TO 7/00/4) LINES
SCAUP, Lesser	(23-23)	JEF-TP 7/23(1) HMS
BOBWHITE, Northern	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(2)
GREBE, Pied-billed	(9-9)	JEF-TP 7/9(1) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(1) SM		
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(24)
ANHINGA	(9-23)	JEF 3 reps(19)
BITTERN, Least	(9-23)	JEF-TP 7/9(3) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(3) SM; JEF-TP 7/23(		021 11 1/0(0) 1 mm, 021 11
HERON, Great Blue	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(2)
EGRET, Great	(1-29)	
		JEF 5 reps(24)
EGRET, Snowy	(9-29)	JEF 5 reps(19)
HERON, Little Blue	(1-29)	JEF 4 reps(18)
HERON, Tricolored	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(8)
EGRET, Cattle	(1-29)	JEF 9 reps(440)
HERON, Green	(1-29)	JEF 4 reps(9)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(10)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(1-29)	JEF 4 reps(6)
IBIS, White	(9-29)	JEF 3 reps(52)
IBIS, White-faced	(9-29)	JEF 3 reps(109)
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(9-29)	JEF-TP 7/9(1) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(1) SM; JEF 7/29(1) J		021 17 770(1) 11 <b>11</b> 1, 021 11
VULTURE, Black	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(4)
KITE, Swallow-tailed	(28-28)	JAS 7/28(1) DMW; NEW
7/28(1) MY	(20-20)	3A3 1120(1) DIVIVV, NEVV
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(9-29)	JEF 3 reps(5)
HAWK, Broad-winged	(5-9)	JEF 7/5(1) JAW; JEF-TP
7/9(2) HM; JEF-TP 7/9(2		JEI 1/3(1) JAVV, JEI -1F
		IEE ED 7/02/4\ LIMO
HAWK, Red-tailed	(23-23)	JEF-TP 7/23(1) HMS
GALLINULE, Purple	(9-23)	JEF-TP 7/9(2) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(2) SM; JEF-TP 7/23(	f	
MOORHEN, Common	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(40)
PLOVER, Semipalmated	(23-23)	JEF-TP 7/23(2) HMS
KILLDEER	(1-29)	JEF 4 reps(13)
STILT, Black-necked	(9-29)	JEF 3 reps(74)
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(23-23)	JEF-TP 7/23(3) HMS
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(23-23)	JEF-TP 7/23(5) HMS
WHIMBREL	(27-27)	JEF 7/27(7) MCF
CURLEW, Long-billed	(27-27)	JEF 7/27(2) MCF
DOWITCHER species	(9-29)	JEF-TP 7/9(5) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(5) SM; JEF-TP 7/23(	10) HMS;	JEF-NEDR 7/29(1) JAW
GULL, Laughing	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(4)
TERN, Least	(23-23)	JEF 1 rep(2)
TERN, Black	(9-23)	JEF 3 reps(110)
TERN, Forster's	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(6)
PIGEON, Rock	(2-31)	JEF 6 reps(23)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian		
	(1-29)	JEF 8 reps(23)
DOVE, White-winged	(1-30)	JEF 15 reps(48)
DOVE, Mourning	(1-31)	JEF 16 reps(195)
DOVE, Inca	(28-29)	JEF 2 reps(3)
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(9-23)	JEF 3 reps(5)
OWL, Great Horned	(9-9)	JEF-TP 7/9(1) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(1) SM		
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(1-1)	JEF 1 rep(1)
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SWIFT, Chimney HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-29) (15-23)	JEF 8 reps(31) JEF-NEDR 7/15(1) JAW;
JEF-SW 7/23(1) DV		
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(1-30)	JEF 6 reps(13)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(9-29)	JEF 4 reps(5)
FLICKER, Northern	(13-13)	JEF 7/13(3) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Least	(23-23)	JEF-SW 7/23(1) DV
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(1-29)	JEF 6 reps(21)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed		JEF 2 reps(4)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(1-29)	JEF 3 reps(19)
VIREO, White-eyed	(9-9)	JEF 2 reps(2)
VIREO, Red-eyed	(23-23)	JEF 1 rep(1)
JAY, Blue	(1-28)	JEF 5 reps(8)
CROW, Fish	(6-28)	JEF 5 reps(20)
CROW, species	(7-29)	JEF 3 reps(5)
MARTIN, Purple	(1-29)	JEF 6 reps(424)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged	(9-9)	JEF-TP 7/9(8) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(8) SM		
SWALLOW, Barn	(1-30)	JEF 7 reps(66)
SWALLOW species	(1-1)	JEF 1 rep(1)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(23-23)	JEF 1 rep(3)
WREN, Carolina	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(1)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(1-1)	JEF 1 rep(2)
ROBIN, American	(2-30)	JEF 8 reps(10)
CATBIRD, Gray	(23-23)	JEF-SRSP 7/23(1) DV;
JEF-SW 7/23(1) DV	(4.04)	IEE 47 (400)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-31)	JEF 17 reps(106)
THRASHER, Brown	(23-23)	JEF-SW 7/23(2) DV
STARLING, European WARBLER, Black-and-white	(1-29)	JEF 9 reps(158)
	(23-23)	JEF-SRSP 7/23(1) DV;
JEF-SW 7/23(10) DV WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	(22.22)	IEE SW 7/22/4) DV
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(23-23) (23-23)	JEF-SW 7/23(1) DV JEF 1 rep(2)
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-30)	
BUNTING, Painted	(9-23)	JEF 6 reps(19) JEF-TP 7/9(6) HM; JEF-TP
7/9(6) SM; JEF-SW 7/23	(3) DV	JEF-17 7/9(0) HIVI, JEF-17
DICKCISSEL	(1-23)	JEF 2 reps(7)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-29)	JEF 6 reps(127)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(1-29)	JEF 2 reps(5)
MEADOWLARK species	(1-29)	JEF 2 reps(11)
GRACKLE, Common	(1-29)	JEF 7 reps(99)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-31)	JEF 17 reps(647)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(1-29)	JEF 2 reps(64)
ORIOLE, Orchard	(23-23)	JEF 1 rep(17)
SPARROW, House	(1-31)	JEF 17 reps(86)
•	(,	,
Number of Species Number of Individuals		89 3730
County Abbreviations: JAS – Jasper; JEF – Jefferson;	NEW – Ne	ewton

#### **Location Codes:**

NEDR – Nederland; SRSP - Sea Rim State Park; SW - Sabine Woods; TP - Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh

#### **Observer Abbreviations**

DMW - Debby McWhorter; DV - Don Verser; HM - John Haynes and Steve Mayes; HMS - John Haynes, Steve Mayes, Ken Sztraky; JAW - John Whittle; MCF - McFaddin and Texas Pt NWRs (Patrick Walther); MY - Matthew York; SM - Steve Mayes.

## **Spring 2006 Migration Summary**

Once again, we present, largely in tabular form, a summary of the sightings of passerine neotropical migrants. The methodology employed was as follows. We considered four "locations": Sabine Woods, the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, and points elsewhere along Texas 87 west of Sabine Pass. If there were multiple reports for any given location on any given day, the highest count for each species submitted by any of the observers was used. The counts for each of the four locations were added to determine the total of that

species reported on that day. As usual, there were many more reports from Sabine Woods than for any other sites.

We thank the following observers who submitted reports for multiple days: Gerald Duhon, John Haynes, Art MacKinnon; Steve Mayes, Ken Sztraky, and John and Jana Whittle. Others whose reports were used included Lynn Barber, Don Verser, Darrell Vollert, Tex Wells and others who posted on TEXBIRDS. Our apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

We now have data for each year since 1996

compiled under the same procedure. While it would be certainly not be valid to try to use the data to determine overall trends in neotropical songbird migrant numbers – the vagaries of weather conditions make that almost impossible to do based on observations at the coast – there may be interesting information on the relative abundance of species which normally migrate in the same time window. It may be possible to detect if any species are tending to migrate earlier. Copies of all previous years compilations are available from the editor on request.

#### Spring 2006 -- Coast of Jefferson County -- Cuckoos, Flycatchers

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# Spring 2006 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County -- Thrushes, Tanager, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Bobolink

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## Spring 2006 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County -- Vireos and Warblers

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Pine Warbler	40		1									İ		4	1								T	Т		Π.																	$\Box$										41
Prairie Warbler	1		1											2									Т						1	1				1		T			2											T			4
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Northern Waterthrush		+	+	+		+	+		+	$\pm$		+		1	+	+	Н	$\vdash$	+	+	+	+	+	十	_	4	٠,	1 2	2 8	_	1 3	2				12	17	4	51					1			2	+	+-	$\vdash$		20	71
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Address:	
Gift from:	
Check enclosed	Please bill me
Golden Triangle Audi	ubon 7XCH8W25

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Name:			
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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 and copies of emails are available on the 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)	Discontinued
	Abilene	Discontinued
	Austin	(512) 300-2473
	Ft. Worth (N. Cent)	(817) 329-1930
	Lubbock	Discontinued
1	N. E. Texas?	(903) 839-4804
-	Rio Grande Valley	(956) 584-2731
	San Antonio	(210) 308-6788
	Waco	Discontinued
	Louisiana	Discontinued

Golden Triangle Audubon Society P. O. Box 1292 Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

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