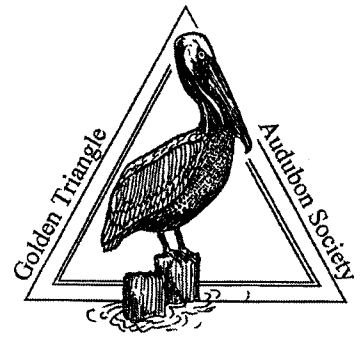


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 13 No. 12

December 2007

## **Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count Saturday December 29, 2007 Meet in Sabine Pass at 7:00 a.m.**

at the intersection of Highway 87 and FM3322 in Sabine Pass. This is at the stop sign in Sabine Pass, where Highway 87 turns west. We will meet in front of the Old Tyme Diner just west of the intersection.

Countdown dinner at 6:00 p.m., location to be confirmed.

Please contact John Whittle 409-722-4193 (H), 409-880-8276 (W) or [john.whittle@lamar.edu](mailto:john.whittle@lamar.edu) and let us know you plan to attend.

## **Orange County Christmas Bird Count Tuesday January 1, 2008 Meet in Orange at 7:15 a.m.**

at the Service Station at the intersection of Highway 105 and FM1442.

Please contact Ken Sztraky 409-385-2835 (H) or [berrysheepfarm@att.net](mailto:berrysheepfarm@att.net)

Please join us for what we hope will be two enjoyable birding days. All are invited, even if you are not an experienced birder or are only able to bird for part of the day. Feeder watchers are welcome to participate. Let us know in advance and we will find a suitable group for you to join. The more pairs of eyes in a group, the more birds will be seen.

Other local counts which will welcome your participation include the Bolivar Peninsula Count on Saturday December 22 (contact Bill Graber 409-866-5452), the Turkey Creek Count (in the Big Thicket north of Kountze) on December 15 (contact Paula Rivers at Big Thicket NP at 409-951-6720 or John Whittle at [john.whittle@lamar.edu](mailto:john.whittle@lamar.edu), the Beech Creek Count (in the Steinhagen Lake area) on January 5 (contacts as for Turkey Creek). More details and other counts in Calendar section on page 2.

## The Brown Pelican

Vol. 13, No.12 December 2007

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

Jeff Pittman (291-1632)

#### Vice-President

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

#### Treasurer

Don Jeane (385-4044)

#### Secretary

John Whittle (722-4193)

#### Directors-at-Large

Sherry Gibson (385-6302)

Frank Giglio (866-4850)

Joe Halbrook (892-3090)

John Haynes (724-6842)

Jeannie Lanclos

Sherrie Roden (962-7911)

Christine Sliva (243-2446)

Jana Whittle (722-4193)

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

#### Program

Jana Whittle (722-4193)

#### Field Trips

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

#### Conservation, Publicity

Joe Halbrook (892-3090)

#### Membership

Volunteer needed

#### Education

Volunteer needed

#### Newsletter Distribution

Mary Stafford (962-8070)

#### Newsletter Editor

John Whittle (722-4193)

3015 Nashville Ave.

Nederland, TX 77627-6749

The Brown Pelican is

published monthly except July  
by the Golden Triangle Audubon  
Society, P. O. Box 1292,  
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday December 29.** Sea Rim  
State Park Christmas Bird Count.  
See page 1 for details.

**Thursday January 17, 2008.**  
**Membership Meeting.** Speaker: Dr.  
Andrew Kasner, Director of Bird  
Conservation for Audubon Texas on the  
Texas Important Bird Area Program.

**Saturday January 19, 2008 Field  
Trip to Katy Prairie/West Harris  
County.** This is always one of our  
most popular trips, looking for  
wintering species such as Merlins, Red-  
breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches in  
Baer Creek Park and waterfowl,  
sparrows, and raptors in areas west of  
there that unfortunately are rapidly  
being consumed by development. Full  
details will be published in next month's  
issues of the *Brown Pelican* and will be  
posted on the web site as soon as  
available. This area is at least a two  
hour drive from the Golden Triangle, so  
reserve the whole day. Car pooling will  
definitely be helpful as we will want to  
minimize the number of vehicles.

## 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. The  
date prefixed by AU is the date your  
National Audubon Society subscription  
expires. 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 repre-  
sents 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  
<[esbc@earthshare-texas.org](mailto:esbc@earthshare-texas.org)>.

## Other Local Christmas Bird Counts 2007

**Saturday December 15.** Turkey Creek  
Christmas Bird Count. (Hardin and  
Tyler Counties; including Turkey Creek  
and Hickory Creek Savannah Units of  
Big Thicket NP). Meet at the Big  
Thicket Visitor Center on US69 at  
FM420, about 7 miles north of Kountze  
at 6:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Big  
Thicket National Preserve. Contact  
Paula Rivers at 409-951-6720 or John  
Whittle ([john.whittle@lamar.edu](mailto:john.whittle@lamar.edu)) for  
more information.

**Saturday, December 22.** Bolivar  
Peninsula Christmas Bird Count.  
(Chambers County – High Island and  
Anahuac NWR area). Meet at the Boy  
Scout Woods HAS Sanctuary, High  
Island at 7:00 a.m. Contact Bill Graber,  
409-866-5452.

**Sunday, December 23.** Johnson  
Bayou Christmas Bird Count. Meet  
outside the Johnson Bayou School on  
Highway 82 at 7:00 a.m. Contact Ken  
Sztraky at [berrysheepfarm@att.net](mailto:berrysheepfarm@att.net) or  
(409) 385-2835 (evenings) for details of  
meeting place.

**Wednesday, December 26.** Trinity  
River. (Liberty County, including  
Trinity River NWR) Meet at the  
Valero Gas Station at corner of Hwy  
105 and Hwy 321 meeting at 7:00am.  
Countdown dinner will be in Cleveland.  
Contact Stuart Marcus at  
[stuartma@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stuartma@sbcglobal.net), 936-336-9786,  
(W) or 936-336-3610 (H).

**Thursday, December 27.** Old River.  
Meet in the area between McDonald's  
and DJ's Country Store on the corner of  
I-10 & Hwy 61 (take the Hankamer exit  
off I-10) at 6:30 AM. The countdown  
dinner will be at Iguana Joe's just north  
of I-10 on Hwy 146 in Mont Belvieu.  
We will meet there between 5:00-5:30  
PM. For further details please contact  
Harry Elliott at 832-444-0965 or  
[harry\\_s\\_elliott@yahoo.net](mailto:harry_s_elliott@yahoo.net)

**Saturday, December 29.** Sea Rim  
State Park Christmas Bird Count See  
page 1.

**Tuesday, January 1, 2008.** Orange  
County Christmas Bird Count. See page  
1 for details.

(continued on page 6)

# The 2007 Audubon WatchList

*One quarter of U.S. birds need our help to keep them from slipping toward extinction*

## A Call to Action

Audubon and the America Bird Conservancy have joined forces to rally conservationists around America's most imperiled birds. WatchList 2007, a new analysis from these leading bird conservation organizations, uses the latest available research from the bird conservation community along with citizen science data from the Christmas Bird Count and the annual Breeding Bird Survey to identify 178 species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii that are in need of immediate conservation help. It is a call to action to save species fighting for survival amid a convergence of environmental challenges, including habitat loss, invasive species and global warming.

## A Tool for Conservation

Identifying the species at greatest risk is the first step toward saving them. It helps target public policies, funding support, conservation initiatives and public commitment on the species and habitats that need it most. The newest chapter in Audubon's ongoing State of the Birds Reports, WatchList 2007 lays the groundwork for an "industry standard" to guide conservation priorities among conservation organizations and government agencies. By dividing imperiled birds into 59 continental and 39 Hawaiian "red" species, and 119 "yellow" species, WatchList 2007 helps focus highest attention on the species of greatest concern (red), while also highlighting "yellow" species while there is still time to keep them off the red list. The names of these species may be less familiar than those on Audubon's roster of Common Birds in Decline, but WatchList birds need even more urgent attention. In many cases, by helping them we can also help many of the other birds at risk.

**RED:** species in this category are declining rapidly and/or have very small populations or limited ranges, and face major conservation threats. These typically are species of global conservation concern.

**YELLOW:** this category includes species that are either declining or rare. These typically are species of national conservation concern.

## Which Species? Why?

Birds that rely on virtually every kind of habitat found in the U.S. are found on WatchList. Global warming threatens feeding grounds for seabirds like Xantus' Murrelet and breeding grounds for songbirds like the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow. Drought is having devastating consequences for grassland birds like Gunnison's Sage-Grouse and the Lesser Prairie-Chicken. Hawaiian species are losing ground to invasive, non-native species of animals and plants.

Meanwhile, coastal development, industrialized farming practices, pollution, energy development and suburban sprawl are eliminating and degrading the places many of these species need to feed, rest and breed.

## Together We Can Make a Difference

WatchList is about the power of concerned people to make a difference for birds and for tomorrow. The citizen scientist volunteers who report their observations in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and/or the U.S.G.S Breeding Bird Survey provided the data needed for this comprehensive analysis. Now, the same commitment and dedication that produced the findings is essential to addressing their cause. Only citizen action can fuel the changes that will improve the outlook for WatchList species.

The full list (red and yellow species) may be viewed at <http://web1.audubon.org/science/species/watchlist/browsewatchlist.php> Here are the red list species, with species that are regularly found in southeast Texas bold faced. Interestingly, only two of these are found only as migrants. The rest are, except for the Least Tern and Magnificent Frigatebird, species which winter here.

**Mottled Duck;** Steller's Eider; Spectacled Eider; Hawaiian Duck; Hawaiian Goose; Laysan Duck; Gunnison Sage-Grouse; Sooty Grouse; Greater Prairie-Chicken; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Laysan Albatross; Black-footed Albatross; Short-tailed Albatross; Bermuda Petrel; Black-capped Petrel; Hawaiian Petrel; Pink-footed Shearwater; Newell's Shearwater; Black-vented Shearwater; Ashy Storm-Petrel; Band-rumped Storm-Petrel; Black Storm-Petrel; Tristram's Storm-Petrel; Least Storm-Petrel; **Magnificent Frigatebird;** **Reddish Egret;** California Condor; Hawaiian Hawk; **Yellow Rail;** **Black Rail;** Hawaiian Coot; Whooping Crane; **Piping Plover;** Mountain Plover; Eskimo Curlew; Rock Sandpiper; **Buff-breasted Sandpiper;** Ivory Gull; **Least Tern;** Kittlitz's Murrelet; Xantus's Murrelet; Craveri's Murrelet; White-crowned Pigeon; Green Parakeet; Thick-billed Parrot; Red-crowned Parrot; Spotted Owl; Lewis's Woodpecker; **Red-cockaded Woodpecker;** Gilded Flicker; Ivory-billed Woodpecker; Bell's Vireo; Black-capped Vireo; Florida Scrub-Jay; Hawaiian Crow; Elepaio; Millerbird; Kamao; Olomao; Omao; Puaiohi; Bicknell's Thrush; Bendire's Thrasher; Bachman's Warbler; **Golden-winged Warbler;** Golden-cheeked Warbler; Kirtland's Warbler; Bachman's Sparrow; Black-chinned Sparrow; Baird's Sparrow; **Henslow's Sparrow;** Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow; **Seaside Sparrow;** Tricolored Blackbird; Laysan Finch; Nihoa Finch; Oupalila; Maui Parrotbill; Oahu Amakihi; Kauai Amakihi; Anianiau; Nukupuu; Akiapolaau; Akikiki; Hawaii Creeper; Oahu Alauahio; Maui Alauahio; Akekee; Akepa; Iiwi; Akohekohe; Poo-uli.

## Bird Sightings – October 2007

**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. 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:** The unusually mild weather this fall meant that the first real spell of northerly winds in late October brought about one of the most abrupt changes in species present that we can remember. Neotropical migrants as evidenced by the number of warblers around were in plentiful supply through almost the whole month and were well represented with 14 species on the coastal hotspots on October 27th and 16 on October 28th. The number of species, however, is perhaps deceptive, as there were likely fewer total individual warblers around on the 28th. What was more indicative was the presence of only a few sparrows on October 27th, and an astounding

14 species in the coastal locations on the 28th. As usually happens in late October or early November, there was a push of sparrows of species that are hard to find on the coast after this initial influx. This would include Grasshopper Sparrow, most of which probably proceed further south in Texas, and Dark-eyed Junco, which probably retreat back 40 or 50 miles north. Although the number of sparrow species remained elevated for a few days thereafter, things soon returned to "early winter normal" although a few more warblers were seen. Included in the variety of other species on October 28th at the Willows at Sea Rim was a perched Lesser Nighthawk.

As fall deepens, we begin to look to west Jefferson County for a variety of wintering species. There will be more in the November report, but already it seems we may have some interesting hawks out there. While the two White-tailed Hawks on the coast along Highway 87 near Sea Rim were seen through the month, there were more confusing (and younger?) White-tailed Hawks in west Jefferson County in November.

Crested Caracaras have become so common, both along the coast and in west Jefferson County that it is now rare to go to either location for a day's birding and not find one or more. This is yet another addition to the guild of species once restricted to south Texas that have become if not common, certainly not unheard of in southeast Texas. Think of Inca Dove, Couch's Kingbird, Great Kiskadee, Least Grebe, even Bronzed Cowbird, and others. What's next? Ringed Kingfisher? Green Jay? Harris Hawk?

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bell.</b>	(2-15)	JEF 3 reps(178)
<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	(27-28)	JEF 2 reps(115)
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	(28-28)	JEF 2 rep(18)
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	(20-20)	JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	(20-20)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>GADWALL</b>	(28-28)	JEF-TXPT 10/28(18) MW
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(7-14)	JEF-MCFW 10/7(3) JAW;
		JEF 10/14(1) JJW
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(2)
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(50)
<b>LOON, Common</b>	(30-30)	JEF-TXPT 10/30(2) JHH
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	(6-6)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>PELICAN, Amer. White</b>	(20-28)	JEF 3 reps(94); ORA 1
		rep(34)
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(6-28)	JEF 6 reps(85); ORA 1
		rep(4)
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(6-28)	JEF 6 reps(114)
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crested</b>	(7-7)	JEF-PI 10/7(2) JAW; JEF-
		TXPT 10/7(2) JAW
<b>ANHINGA</b>	(7-26)	JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>BITTERN, Least</b>	(7-7)	JEF-MCFW 10/7(1) JAW
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(7-28)	JEF 5 reps(21)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(2-28)	JEF 13 reps(116)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(1-28)	JEF 14 reps(130)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(7-14)	JEF 2 reps(6)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(7-25)	JEF 4 reps(24)
<b>EGRET, Reddish</b>	(7-7)	JEF 2 rep(2)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(2-28)	JEF 8 reps(947)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(7-28)	HAI-SILS 10/10(1) MG;
		JEF-TXPT 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(1) MW
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(6-28)	JEF 5 reps(57)
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(14-27)	JEF 2 reps(179)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(6-20)	JEF 5 reps(35)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(6-22)	HAI 4 reps(34); JEF 3
		reps(26)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(6-28)	HAI 3 reps(7); JEF 8
		reps(48)
<b>OSPREY</b>	(7-28)	JEF-PI 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-
		TX87 10/7(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(1) MW
<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	(20-27)	JEF 3 reps(7)
<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	(1-28)	JEF 8 reps(18)
<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	(24-28)	JEF 3 reps(4)

<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(14-24)	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(6-30)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 7
		reps(9)
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(6-18)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	(12-14)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>HAWK, White-tailed</b>	(7-28)	JEF-TX87 10/7(2) JAW;
		JEF 10/14(2) JJW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(10-28)	HAI 4 reps(6); JEF 6
		reps(15)
<b>HAWK, Red-tail (Kriider's)</b>	(27-27)	JEF-TX87 10/27(1) JAW
<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	(6-27)	JEF-TX87 10/6(2) JAW;
		JEF 10/11(1) SR; JEF 10/13(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/20(1)
		FTSW; JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW
<b>KESTREL, American</b>	(6-27)	JEF 8 reps(31)
<b>MERLIN</b>	(7-30)	JEF 7 reps(8)
<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(7-28)	JEF 3 reps(12)
<b>RAIL, King</b>	(20-20)	JEF 1 rep(5)
<b>RAIL, Virginia</b>	(13-13)	JEF 10/13(1) GD
<b>RAIL species</b>	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	(6-20)	JEF 3 reps(11)
<b>COOT, American</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	(7-25)	JEF 3 reps(15)
<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	(7-7)	JEF-MCFW 10/7(2) JAW
<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	(7-28)	JEF 3 reps(4)
<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	(7-7)	JEF-MCFW 10/7(8) JAW;
		JEF-SRSP 10/7(1) JAW
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(6-28)	JEF 6 reps(19)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(7-28)	JEF 2 reps(26)
<b>AVOCET, American</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(6)
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(2)
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	(20-28)	JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>WILLET</b>	(7-28)	JEF 3 reps(17)
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(4)
<b>YELLOWLEGS species</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>SANDERLING</b>	(7-25)	JEF 3 reps(57)
<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(25-25)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>WOODCOCK, American</b>	(30-30)	JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) JHH
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(6-28)	JEF 7 reps(258)
<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	(7-20)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	(28-28)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>TERN, Black</b>	(6-6)	JEF-TP 10/6(2) JAW
<b>TERN, Common</b>	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(1)

<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(7-20)	JEF 2 reps(16)	<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b>	(6-7)	JEF-TX87 10/6(1) JAW;
<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(7-20)	JEF 2 reps(181)			JEF 10/7(1) JAW
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(2-30)	HAI 5 reps(52); JEF 9	<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed</b>	(1-30)	JEF-BMT 10/1(5) RHJ; JEF
reps(370)					10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/12(8) SR; JEF 10/13(5) JAW; JEF
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Euras</b>	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 6			10/14(17) JJW; JEF-SRSP 10/20(13) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/20(6)
reps(49)					FTSW; JEF-TX87 10/20(30) FTSW; JEF-TXPT 10/20(5)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(1-28)	JEF 11 reps(45)			FTSW; JEF-BMT 10/22(1) RHJ; JEF-TX87 10/24(15) JHH;
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(6-28)	HAI 6 reps(80); JEF 9			JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 10/28(2) MW; JEF-SW
reps(257)					10/30(3) JHH
<b>GROUND-DOVE, Common</b>	(14-14)	JEF 10/14(1) JJW	<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(6-28)	JEF 9 reps(71)
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	(12-24)	JEF-SW 10/12(1) SR; JEF-	<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	(2-26)	HAI 5 reps(10); JEF 4
SW 10/24(1) JHH			reps(10)		
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	(20-27)	JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW;	<b>VIREO, Yellow-throated</b>	(24-24)	JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW;
JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW		JEF 10/27(1) JAW	JEF-SW 10/24(2) JHH		
<b>SCREECH-OWL, Eastern</b>	(7-7)	JEF-NEDR 10/7(1) JJW	<b>VIREO, Blue-headed</b>	(20-28)	JEF-SW 10/20(4) FTSW;
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(2-27)	HAI-SILS 10/2(1) MG; JEF-	JEF-SW 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP		JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW
SW 10/27(1) JAW			10/28(4) MW; JEF-TX87		10/28(1) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(4) JHH
<b>NIGHTHAWK, Lesser</b>	(28-28)	JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW	<b>VIREO, Warbling</b>	(24-24)	JEF-SRSP 10/24(1) JHH
<b>WHIP-POOR-WILL,</b>	(24-24)	JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW;	<b>VIREO, Philadelphia</b>	(6-6)	JEF-SW 10/6(2) JAW
JEF-SW 10/24(1) JHH			<b>VIREO, Red-eyed</b>	(25-25)	JEF-BMT 10/25(1) RHJ
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	(1-18)	HAI-SILS 10/18(4) MG;	<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(2-28)	HAI 3 reps(18); JEF 7
JEF-NEDR 10/1(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR		10/2(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR	reps(29)		
10/3(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/4(15) JAW;		10/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 10/8(1) JAW	<b>CROW, American</b>	(25-25)	HAI 1 rep(6)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b>	(1-22)	HAI-SILS 10/2(2) MG; HAI-	<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	(14-28)	JEF 4 reps(466)
SILS 10/3(2) MG; HAI-SILS 10/8(2) MG;		HAI-SILS 10/10(1) MG; HAI-SILS	<b>SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged</b>	(13-28)	JEF 3 reps(70)
10/18(1) MG; JEF-BMT 10/1(4) RHJ;		JEF-NEDR 10/1(6) JAW; JEF-BMT	<b>SWALLOW, Cliff</b>	(14-20)	JEF 10/14(1) JJW; JEF-
10/2(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/3(10) RHJ;		10/2(10) RHJ; JEF-NEDR	TXPT 10/20(2) FTSW		
10/2(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/3(10) RHJ;		10/3(3) JAW; JEF-BMT	<b>SWALLOW, Cave</b>	(14-14)	JEF 10/14(15) JJW
10/4(5) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 10/4(3) JAW;		10/5(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT	<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	(6-28)	JEF 5 reps(56)
10/5(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/6(4) RHJ;		10/6(4) RHJ; JEF-NEDR	<b>SWALLOW species</b>	(14-14)	JEF 1 rep(3)
10/6(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 10/7(5) RHJ;		10/7(3) JAW; JEF-	<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(6-30)	HAI 5 reps(37); JEF 6
BMT 10/8(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR		10/8(3) JAW; JEF-BMT	reps(9)		
10/8(3) JAW; JEF-BMT		10/9(4) RHJ; JEF-NEDR	<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(18-31)	HAI 3 reps(15)
10/9(2) JAW; JEF-BMT		10/10(4) RHJ; JEF-	<b>NUTHATCH, Red-breasted</b>	(20-30)	JEF-SRSP 10/20(2) FTSW;
BMT 10/11(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT		10/12(3) RHJ; JEF-NEDR	JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW; JEF-SW		10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP
10/12(1) JAW; JEF-BMT		10/13(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT	10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SRSP		10/30(1) JHH
10/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT		10/15(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT	<b>CREEPER, Brown</b>	(27-30)	JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW;
10/16(2) RHJ; JEF-		BMT 10/17(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT	JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SRSP		10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW
10/17(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT		10/20(2) RHJ; JEF-SRSP	10/30(2) MLI; JEF-SRSP		10/30(1) JHH
10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-BMT		10/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(16-30)	HAI 3 reps(8); JEF 3
10/22(1) RHJ			reps(3)		
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.</b>	(12-12)	JEF-BMT 10/12(1) RHJ	<b>WREN, House</b>	(12-28)	JEF-SW 10/12(1) SR; JEF
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Archilochus</b>	(28-28)	JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW	10/14(1) JJW; JEF-SRSP		10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/20(2)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed</b>	(23-23)	JEF-BMT 10/23(1) RHJ	FTSW; JEF-TXPT 10/20(1) FTSW;		JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW;
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous</b>	(7-30)	JEF-NEDR 10/7(1) JAW;	JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW		10/27(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP
JEF-BMT 10/9(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT		10/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	10/28(2) MW; JEF-SW		10/28(1) MW
10/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT		10/30(1) RHJ	<b>WREN, Marsh</b>	(28-30)	JEF-TXPT 10/28(3) MW;
<b>HUMMINGBIRD species</b>	(23-30)	JEF-NEDR 10/23(1) JAW;	JEF-TXPT 10/30(2) MLI		
JEF-NEDR 10/24(1) JAW; JEF-BMT		10/25(2) RHJ; JEF-NEDR	<b>KINGLET, Golden-crowned</b>	(24-30)	JEF-SRSP 10/24(2) JHH;
10/25(1) JAW; JEF-BMT		10/27(2) RHJ; JEF-NEDR	JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SW		10/28(1) MW; JEF-SRSP
10/27(1) JAW; JEF-BMT		10/28(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT	10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW		10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW
10/29(1) RHJ; JEF-		10/29(1) RHJ; JEF-	JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) JHH		10/30(2) JHH;
BMT 10/30(1) RHJ			<b>KINGLET, Ruby-crowned</b>	(12-30)	HAI 5 reps(7); JEF 7
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	(6-28)	JEF 8 reps(31)	reps(131)		
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	(2-31)	HAI 10 reps(16)	<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(4-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 11
<b>SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied</b>	(3-30)	HAI 10/3(1) JM; HAI-SILS	reps(60)		
10/12(2) MG; HAI-SILS		10/13(1) MG; HAI-SILS	<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(5-27)	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 4
10/15(1) MG; HAI-SILS		10/30(1) MG; JEF-SW	reps(9)		
10/30(1) MG; JEF-SW		10/13(1) GD; JEF-SRSP	<b>THRUSH, Gray-cheeked</b>	(30-30)	JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) MLI
10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP		10/28(3) MW; JEF-SW	<b>THRUSH, Swainson's</b>	(24-27)	JEF-SW 10/24(1) JHH;
10/28(2) MW; JEF-BMT		10/29(1) RHJ; JEF-SRSP	<b>THRUSH, Hermit</b>	(24-30)	JEF 5 reps(218)
10/30(2) MLI			<b>THRUSH, Wood</b>	(24-30)	JEF-SW 10/24(7) JHH;
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(1-30)	HAI 6 reps(8); JEF 10	JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW		10/28(1) MW; JEF-SW
reps(15)			10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW		10/30(1) JHH
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(11-31)	HAI 10/11(1) JM; HAI-SILS	<b>THRUSH, Wood</b>	(24-30)	JEF 4 reps(10)
10/12(4) MG; HAI-SILS		10/13(1) MG; HAI-SILS	<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(5-30)	JEF-BMT 10/5(1) RHJ;
10/18(3) MG; HAI-SILS		10/26(3) MG; HAI-SILS	JEF-BMT 10/10(5) RHJ; JEF-NEDR		10/12(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
10/31(2) MG; JEF-SW		10/12(1) SR; JEF 10/13(1) GD;	10/30(10) JAW; JEF-SRSP		10/30(1) MLI
10/12(1) SR; JEF 10/13(1) GD;		JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-	<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(2-30)	HAI 6 reps(10); JEF 13
TX87 10/20(2) FTSW; JEF-TX87		10/24(1) JAW; JEF-BMT	reps(430)		
10/25(1) RHJ; JEF-SW		10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP	<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(2-28)	HAI 6 reps(14); JEF 10
10/28(2) MW; JEF-SW		10/28(2) MW	reps(53)		
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(2-31)	HAI 7 reps(12)	<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(7-28)	HAI 3 reps(8); JEF 8
<b>WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern</b>	(2-27)	HAI 8 reps(10); JEF 8	reps(21)		
reps(23)			<b>STARLING, European</b>	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 10
<b>FLYCATCHER, Least</b>	(27-27)	JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW	reps(1005)		
<b>EMPIDONAX species</b>	(20-27)	JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW;			
JEF-TX87 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP		10/27(1) JAW			
<b>PHOEBE, Eastern</b>	(5-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 8			
reps(45)					
<b>KINGBIRD, Western</b>	(20-20)	JEF-SRSP 10/20(1) FTSW			

**WARBLER, Tennessee** (6-6) JEF 1 rep(1)  
**WARBLER, Orange-crowned** (24-30) JEF-SRSP 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(5) MW; JEF-SW 10/28(5) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(4) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(6) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(7) JHH  
**WARBLER, Nashville** (14-28) JEF 10/14(2) JJW; JEF-SW 10/20(4) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/27(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(2) MW; JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(1) MW  
**PARULA, Northern** (6-30) JEF-SW 10/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/12(1) SR; JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW 10/30(1) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) JHH  
**WARBLER, Yellow** (27-28) JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 10/28(1) MW  
**WARBLER, Magnolia** (24-30) JEF 7 reps(17)  
**WARBLER, Black-thr. Blue** (20-20) JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW  
**WARBLER, Yellow-rumped** (24-30) JEF-SRSP 10/24(5) JHH; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/27(10) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(10) MW; JEF-SW 10/28(5) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(3) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(4) MW; JEF-BMT 10/29(5) RHJ; JEF-BMT 10/30(4) RHJ; JEF-SW 10/30(21) JHH  
**WARBLER, Black-thr. Green** (20-30) JEF 7 reps(11)  
**WARBLER, Yellow-throated** (24-24) JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW  
**WARBLER, Pine** (2-30) JEF 7 reps(7)  
**WARBLER, Palm** (20-30) JEF-SRSP 10/20(2) FTSW; JEF-TXPT 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-TXPT 10/27(1) GD; JEF-TXPT 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) JHH  
**WARBLER, Bay-breasted** (30-30) JEF-TX87 10/30(1) JHH  
**WARBLER, Blackpoll** (30-30) JEF-SW 30/10(1) JHH  
**WARBLER, Black-and-white** (12-28) JEF 7 reps(16)  
**REDSTART, American** (6-30) JEF-SW 10/6(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/20(2) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/24(3) JHH; JEF-SW 10/25(1) JFW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/30(2) MLI; JEF-SW 10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW 10/30(7) JHH  
**OVENBIRD** (24-27) JEF-SW 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW  
**WATERTHRUSH, Northern** (24-28) JEF-SW 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW  
**YELLOWTHROAT, Common** (6-28) JEF 10 reps(46)  
**WARBLER, Hooded** (20-30) JEF-SRSP 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/27(3) JAW; JEF-SW 10/30(2) JHH  
**WARBLER, Wilson's** (12-30) JEF-SW 10/12(1) SR; JEF-SRSP 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-TXPT 10/30(1) JHH  
**CHAT, Yellow-breasted** (2-2) JEF 1 rep(1)  
**TANAGER, Summer** (20-28) JEF 7 reps(15)  
**TANAGER, Scarlet** (24-28) JEF-SRSP 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/25(2) JFW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW  
**SPARROW, Chipping** (27-30) HAI-SILS 10/27(3) MG; HAI-SILS 10/29(3) MG; HAI-SILS 10/30(11) MG; HAI-SILS 10/31(10) MG; JEF-SRSP 10/28(8) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(4) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(1) MW; JEF 10/30(10) JHH  
**SPARROW, Field** (28-28) JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(2) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/30(3) JHH  
**SPARROW, Vesper** (28-30) JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(3) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/30(3) JHH  
**SPARROW, Lark** (30-30) JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) JHH  
**SPARROW, Savannah** (14-30) JEF 10/14(5) JJW; JEF-TXPT 10/20(6) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(2) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(12) MW; JEF 10/30(40) JHH  
**SPARROW, Grasshopper** (28-30) JEF-TXPT 10/28(2) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/30(1) JHH  
**SPARROW, LeConte's** (13-13) JEF-TP 10/13(1) GD  
**SPARROW, Nelson's Sharp-t.** (20-30) JEF-TXPT 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(3) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/30(5) MLI; JEF-TXPT 10/30(2) JHH  
**SPARROW, Seaside** (7-30) JEF 3 reps(25)  
**SPARROW, Song** (28-30) JEF-SRSP 10/28(2) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(2) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(4) JHH

**SPARROW, Lincoln's** (20-30) JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(3) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(1) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(5) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(1) MLI; JEF-SW 10/30(2) JHH  
**SPARROW, Swamp** (20-30) JEF-TXPT 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-TX87 10/24(4) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/27(4) JAW; JEF-SW 10/27(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(2) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(2) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(3) MW; JEF 10/30(35) JHH  
**SPARROW, White-throated** (24-30) JEF-SW 10/24(5) JHH; JEF-SW 10/25(1) JFW; JEF-BMT 10/27(1) RHJ; JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(18) JHH  
**SPARROW, White-crowned** (20-30) JEF-SRSP 10/20(3) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(10) MW; JEF-SW 10/28(5) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(5) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/28(25) MW; JEF-TXPT 10/30(2) MLI; JEF 10/30(22) JHH  
**JUNCO, Dark-eyed** (28-28) JEF-SRSP 10/28(2) MW; JEF-TX87 10/28(2) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/30(2) JHH  
**CARDINAL, Northern** (6-30) HAI 5 reps(42); JEF 9 reps(29)  
**GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted** (20-30) JEF-SRSP 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 10/20(1) FTSW; JEF-SRSP 10/24(10) JHH; JEF-SW 10/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 10/24(5) JHH; JEF-SW 10/25(7) JFW; JEF-SRSP 10/27(12) JAW; JEF-SRSP 10/28(2) MW; JEF-SW 10/28(3) MW; JEF-SW 10/30(2) JHH; JEF-SRSP 10/30(10) JHH  
**GROSBEAK, Blue** (24-30) JEF-SW 10/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 10/28(1) MW; JEF-SRSP 10/30(1) JHH  
**BUNTING, Indigo** (6-28) JEF 12 reps(207)  
**BUNTING, Painted** (13-28) JEF-TP 10/13(1) GD; JEF-SRSP 10/28(1) MW  
**BLACKBIRD, Red-winged** (6-28) JEF 7 reps(518)  
**MEADOWLARK, Eastern** (7-20) JEF 4 reps(8)  
**MEADOWLARK species** (7-14) JEF 3 reps(34)  
**GRACKLE, Common** (7-31) JEF 4 reps(94)  
**GRACKLE, Boat-tailed** (6-28) JEF 6 reps(481)  
**GRACKLE, Great-tailed** (2-31) HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 11 reps(907)  
**GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed** (6-13) JEF 3 reps(92)  
**COWBIRD, Brown-headed** (7-28) JEF 4 reps(47)  
**BLACKBIRD species** (6-7) JEF 2 reps(400)  
**ORIOLE, Baltimore** (24-24) JEF-SW 10/24(1) JAW  
**ORIOLE, "Northern"** (28-28) JEF-TX87 10/28(1) MW  
**FINCH, House** (1-30) JEF 21 reps(45)  
**SPARROW, House** (2-22) HAI 1 rep(21); JEF 3 reps(8)

**Number of Species** 184  
**Number of Individuals** 12654

#### County Abbreviations:

HAI— Hardin; JEF— Jefferson; ORA— Orange

#### Location Codes

BMT— Beaumont; MCFW— McFaddin NWR; NEDR— Nederland; PI— Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS— Silsbee; 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

FTSW — Field Trip to Sabine Woods; GD — Gerald Duhon; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; MG — Melanie Goetsell; MLI — Michael Lindsey; MW — Steve Mayes and John Whittle; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SR — Sherrie Roden;

## Notes on Very Rare Species

**Lesser Nighthawk -- 28 October 2007 -- Willows at Sea Rim -- Gerald Duhon, Steve Mayes and John Whittle**

A nighthawk was found perched on a horizontal branch near the east end of the boardwalk at the Willows at Sea Rim State Park on the morning of October 28. The bird was clearly a nighthawk, but was lighter and more buffy overall than

expected for a Common Nighthawk. Noticeable were two rows of almost square "buff" "windows" along the wing coverts as seen on the perched bird. The bird had a light throat and upper breast. The bird remained on the branch for several hours and was not seen to fly.

#### **Blackpoll Warbler -- 30 October 2007 -- Sabine Woods -- John Haynes**

A largish, deliberate warbler observed at close to mid range (15 to 50 feet) in good light for about 15 minutes in Sabine Woods (Jefferson County). Bird foraged from 10 to 30 feet up. Bird appeared stocky and short-tailed. Bird had two strong white wing bars and was washed strongly with lemony yellow on throat and breast. Undertail coverts were pure white. Sides had light and diffuse streaks. Back also had faint streaking. Legs were dark, with noticeably lighter feet and toes. There was a discernable eye-line. Primary and tertial tips were whitish. Sibley's Guide to the Birds and Dunn and Garrett's Warblers (Peter Field Guides) were consulted during observation.

## **Field Trip to West Jefferson County 17 November 2007**

Sixteen birders showed up on a pleasant mild morning for our annual exploration of west Jefferson County. Starting at the corner of FM365 and Johnson Road, the group first tried to coax sparrows out of the field at that corner and south of Johnson Road. A large number of Sedge Wrens were the first to respond, along with a number of Savannah Sparrows, but eventually, a little further along the road, the real target species, LeConte's Sparrow was seen. This field contained a lot of Bushy Bluestem, one of the species favorite food sources. The area had not seen rain in a good while and was very dry. The first of several flocks of white geese flew over and, as is no longer unusual, there were about five Ross's Geese among the Snow Geese in flocks totaling about 90 geese.

Moving along to the wooded area where Johnson Road meets Heisig Road, a few more sparrow species, including Song, White-throated and White-Crowned. A pair of Northern Flickers was moving about the area, and there were both Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers in the taller trees. Some American Goldfinches were heard and seen as distant specks as they flew over. A chickadee out in an appearance. Then the faint distant sounds of Sandhill Cranes were detected, and when the ground reached the southern edge of the woods on Heisig, the cranes were detected visually. There were about 50 of them, but unfortunately they had found a field that was as far away from a public road as they could. Before long, they decided to move on, and were actually seen better as they flew away. We did not see them again. Several more flocks of Snow Geese with Ross's tagging along flew over and then one large and one small Greater White-fronted Geese.

The area is know for its wintering raptors, and we saw a good number of Red-tailed Hawks and Northern Harriers. Several American Kestrels were seen, and along old League Road, a dark Hawk which we concluded was an immature White-tailed Hawk. One white-tailed Kite was also seen.

After a lunch stop in Nome, we headed to Thompson

Road. This road is often birdy, and a careful study of a group of sparrows on a fence there determined that about half of them (seven) were Vesper Sparrows. None of us had ever seen that many Vespers in Jefferson County in one place before. Further down, there were more sparrows, mostly White-crowned, and probably 30 American Pipits.

As the trip came near to a close we were becoming a little perturbed that we had not, up to that that time, found a Crested Caracara. So leaders Steve Mayes and John Haynes took us to a location on Lawhon Road just east of South China Road, where John had seen one the previous day. Lo and behold, there were two Crested Caracaras there. (In fact, these birds seem to have unusually fidelity to that spot.) Satisfied, the group called it a day.

The following species were seen on this trip:

Greater White-fronted Goose (155); Snow Goose (296); Ross's Goose (33); Neotropic Cormorant (2); Great Blue Heron (3); Great Egret (6); Plegadis species Ibis (70); Turkey Vulture (2); White-tailed Kite (1); Northern Harrier (8); Accipiter probably Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Accipiter probably Cooper's Hawk (1); White-tailed Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (19); Red-tailed (Kridler's) Hawk (1); Crested Caracara (2); American Kestrel (8); Peregrine Falcon (1); American Coot (3); Sandhill Crane (50); Killdeer (16); Eurasian Collared-Dove (76); Mourning Dove (21); Belted Kingfisher (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (4); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Northern Flicker (2); Eastern Phoebe (7); Loggerhead Shrike (4); American Crow (3); Crow species (1); Tree Swallow (24); Swallow species (1); Carolina Chickadee (2); Carolina Wren (2); House Wren (1); Sedge Wren (30); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Gray Catbird (1); Northern Mockingbird (7); European Starling (30); American Pipit (35); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Vesper Sparrow (8); Savannah Sparrow (51); LeConte's Sparrow (10); Song Sparrow (3); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (2); White-throated Sparrow (2); White-crowned Sparrow (23); Northern Cardinal (13); Red-winged Blackbird (500); Eastern Meadowlark (7); Brown-headed Cowbird (180); American Goldfinch (5); House Sparrow (14)

*John A. Whittle*

## **Christmas Bird Counts (cont from p.2)**

**Saturday, January 5, 2008.** Beech Creek Christmas Bird Count (Tyler and Jasper counties at Steinhagen Lake including Beech Creek unit of Big Thicket National Preserve and Martin Dies State Park). Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 immediately north of the intersection with FM1746 in Town Bluff at 6:30 a.m. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Contact Paula Rivers at 409-951-6720 or John Whittle ([john.whittle@lamar.edu](mailto:john.whittle@lamar.edu)) for more information.

## **Election Results**

We held our elections at the November meeting. The following officers were elected for 2008: President Steve Mayes; Vice-President Dr. James Armacost; Treasurer Don Jeane and Secretary John Whittle. The following were elected to at large positions on the board: Sherry Gibson, Dr. Frank Giglio, Joe Halbrook, John Haynes, Jeff Pittman; Sherrie Roden; Christine Sliva; Jana Whittle.



# NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

## Membership Form

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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gift from: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon 7XCH8W25

# *Brown Pelican* SUBSCRIPTION FORM

To subscribe to the Brown Pelican, please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year. Members with addresses within our official territory are asked to contribute \$15 also if they are able.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

# RARE BIRD ALERTS

Unfortunately, almost all the local and regional telephone Rare Bird Alerts have been discontinued in favor of various Internet based means of distribution.

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> and each new alert is posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. The archives of this listserv can be accessed at <http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/texbirds.html> It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives.

Transcriptions of many current and recent email alerts 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 very early issues.

-8-

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 12  
Groves, Texas