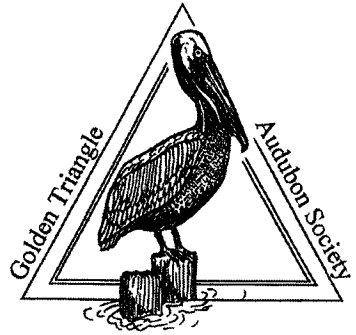


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 14 No. 5

May 2008

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2008
7:00 PM**

Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

**"Life on the Amazon: Ecology and Conservation of
Amazonian River Island Birds"**

**Dr. James Armacost,
Assistant Professor of Biology
Lamar University**

Dr. Armacost has provided the following abstract of his talk:

I studied the mechanisms responsible for the pattern of low species richness and high individual density of birds on Amazonian river islands. I also investigated the role of human habitat disturbance in facilitating the invasion of the mainland by species of birds that were formerly restricted to river islands (river-island specialists). At my study sites on the Amazon River in Peru, competition is the primary mechanism promoting higher bird densities on river islands. Island populations experience less interspecific competition, resulting in ecological release and niche expansion. River islands may also act as refuges from predation, but my data regarding predation are not conclusive. River-island specialists have successfully invaded the mainland where human habitat disturbance mimics the natural disturbance regime of islands. Agricultural disturbance creates early-successional habitats, which can be exploited by river-island specialists because they are not saturated with mainland forest birds. My study is among the first to simultaneously investigate several possible mechanisms of community and population regulation at the same field sites. My study shows that present levels of agricultural disturbance actually benefit Amazonian river-island specialists, but they remain threatened by human alteration of the hydrological regime.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 14, No.5

May 2008

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

See Web Site for more
information

www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Steve Mayes (722-5807)

Vice-President

Jim Armacost (790-6908)

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)

Jeff Pittman (291-1632)

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 May 10. North American Spring Migration Count.

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

Thursday May 17. Membership Meeting.

Details on page 1.

Saturday May 31. Field trip to Hardin County.

We plan to run a field trip to Hardin County to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Pine, Prairie and Swainson's Warblers (and possibly Prothonotary Warbler), Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. Check our website or call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 to confirm the date of the trip if you miss the May Membership Meeting.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US96 north. Take Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right a short distance after crossing the railroad, continue straight ahead on FM92 for about a mile to the shopping center. We will bird the Firetower Road/Gore Store Road/Camp Waluta area and any nearby areas that are brought to our attention as being productive. Unfortunately, many areas along Firetower Road have been clear cut, and we will likely spent most of our time in the northern section of Firetower Road, and along Gore Store Road. We will probably finish about noon.

For those interested in Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow, we have usually recommend a trip to Boykin Springs, site 007 on the UTC Birding Trail. However, large areas in the vicinity of the woodpecker

colony have been burned recently, and we do not know the status of the birds this year. For further details see www.tpwd.state.tx.us/birdingtrails/ As you drive in heading west from Texas 63 north of Jasper along Forest Road 313, after two or three miles, there is a marked Red-cockaded Woodpecker colony on the north side of the road.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Jean Beavens, Pat Jeane, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Christine Sliva and Jana Whittle for providing the refreshments at the April meeting. We also thank a number of others who made monetary donations to .number of people who made monetary donations to the refreshment fund, which when volunteers are not available. refreshments **We need volunteers to bring all items for May and all fall 2008 meetings.** 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 Jennifer Armacost at (409) 790-7222 (or email her at armacostj@yahoo.com) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

Sponsor our Birdathon

As most of you will know, the Chapters in Texas and Louisiana nominated me for the National Audubon Society (NAS) Board of Directors, and I was elected to the board in 2004 and then reelected in 2007 as an at-large member.

One of the most successful means of fundraising for Audubon, and the one I am most able to participate in, is a birdathon. Royce Pendergast has again graciously agreed to join with me in a Spring Birdathon.

A Birdathon is very similar to other "athons" you may be familiar with, such as telethons, walkathons, etc. We got up at the crack of dawn on April 23, and made a run from the coast of east Jefferson County, the woods of Hardin

County, Anahuac NWR, High Island and Bolivar Flats looking for as many species of birds as we could find.. We were hoping for at least 150 species, but, in the event, there were very few migrants around, and we could only find 143 species. It was very slow day for migrants, and we saw more warblers in Hardin County than we did along the coast! Contributors receive a complete account of what we found.

It is still possible to sponsor us and contribute, now with more certainty as to your contribution! We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$1.00 or more, \$.75, \$.50, or (or whatever amount you choose) per bird species. A flat donation is also welcome if you do not want to do the arithmetic. Please take the time to make a pledge today -- your donation to our Birdathon will be earmarked to support Audubon's mission of protecting our natural heritage in Texas and the nation by supporting conservation, education and advocacy. Again this year, half of the funds we raise will be designated for Audubon Texas activities and programs, and the other half for NAS. We appreciate all of you who contributed generously last year, and hope you will consider supporting us again. Please contact me at 3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627 or at john.whittle@lamar.edu or 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H) with any questions or suggestions. Checks should be made out to Audubon Texas and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible. Contributions may be sent to Golden Triangle Audubon at P.O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292.

John A. Whittle

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.

Migration Update

Unfortunately, this issue of the *Brown Pelican* has to go to press a little earlier than usual because of the editor's travel schedule coupled with our meeting on the third Thursday being as early in the month as is possible. Therefore, this is being written before the weekend of April 26/27, which promises to produce yet another weather event at the time which is normally the peak of migration.

The early part of the migration season was characterized by most as being somewhat uneventful, with no really outstanding days. The weekend of April 5/6 brought some migrants, but the weekend of April 12/13, following a frontal passage, saw an excellent variety of warblers in the coastal woodlots.

The best birding of the season so far occurred on April 18th through 21st following the passage of another front. Our field trip coincided with the best day of this event, and a full account starts of page 6.

Book Review

New Novel Takes on Endangered Species and Extinction

How the Dead Dream, a new novel by Center for Biological Diversity staffer Lydia Millet, tells the story of an ambitious young real estate developer in L.A. who, after a personal crisis, becomes obsessed with rare and vanishing animals and starts breaking into zoos at night to be close to them. Millet, an award-winning novelist who also happens to be married to Center for Biological Diversity founder Kieran Suckling, has written one of the very first American novels to approach the emotional and aesthetic implications of the extinction tragedy. How the Dead Dream is notable for its thoughtful engagement with the social and personal

effects of massive species loss:

He soon learned to recognize the signs of an animal's imminent disappearance. Some were tagged or collared or photo-graphed, some monitored by bureau--crats. Some-times a group or individual took up the cause of an animal or a plant and could muster the rationale for a lawsuit, and often the courts favored the victim; but the victim remained a victim and for each victim whose passing was noted thou-sands more slid away in the dark.

As the story's protagonist struggles by night with ideas of human aloneness and what it might mean to be a "last" animal, he's building sprawling subdivisions by day, grappling with his suicidal mother, whose husband has left her to find himself working in a gay bar in Key West, and fending off attacks by his brutal and jealous business partner Fulton.

How the Dead Dream is Millet's sixth novel, and not the first to explore environmental issues; her fifth, *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart*, dealt with the moral, cultural and philosophical legacy of nuclear weapons. Available from publisher Counterpoint in January 2008, *How the Dead Dream* has already been voted one of the top books of the year by both the National Book Critics' Circle and the American Library Association's Booklist.

Earth Share PSA

Earth Share has a new television public service announcement. It is 30 seconds long and called Promises. It is quite striking and the voiceover is provided by Harrison Ford. The PSA is being rolled out across the country through the Ad Council and we have a localized version with the Earth Share of Texas information on it as well. You should be able to view it at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPd_4gPkKXg



Bird Sightings – March 2008

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: An interesting month. By far the most interesting bird was the Fork-tailed Flycatcher in Sabine Pass. This was thoroughly covered in last month's issue. In a classic example of the "Patagonia Picnic Table Effect" (named after a rest stop in Arizona where observers drawn to the site of a Rose-throated Becard nest discovered Thick-billed Kingbirds and subsequently other unusual species), Royce Pendergast found a pair of Henslow's Sparrows close to where the Flycatcher was being seen. A good variety of wintering Hummingbirds were reported as were the first returning Rubythroats. Brief commentary on the early part of the spring migration season is elsewhere in this issue.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|--|--|
| WIGEON, American | (8-8) | JEF 1 rep(10) | |
| DUCK, Mottled | (16-16) | JEF-MCFW 3/16(5) JAW | |
| TEAL, Blue-winged | (16-30) | JEF 3 reps(141) | |
| PINTAIL, Northern | (8-8) | JEF 1 rep(4) | |
| REDHEAD | (8-8) | JEF-MCFW 3/8(3) GD | |
| MERGANSER, Red-breasted | (16-16) | JEF 1 rep(2) | |
| GREBE, Pied-billed | (16-16) | JEF 1 rep(1) | |
| PELICAN, Amer. White | (8-19) | JEF 3 reps(140) | |
| PELICAN, Brown | (8-29) | JEF 6 reps(30) | |
| CORMORANT, Neotropic | (2-30) | JEF 7 reps(40) | |
| CORMORANT, Double-crested | (16-19) | JEF 2 reps(5) | |
| CORMORANT, Species | (19-19) | JEF 1 rep(3) | |
| HERON, Great Blue | (5-29) | HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 5 reps(7) | |
| EGRET, Great | (2-30) | JEF 12 reps(202) | |
| EGRET, Snowy | (2-30) | JEF 9 reps(252) | |
| HERON, Little Blue | (15-29) | JEF 3 reps(20) | |
| HERON, Tricolored | (19-30) | JEF 4 reps(31) | |
| EGRET, Reddish | (16-16) | JEF 1 rep(1) | |
| EGRET, Cattle | (16-30) | JEF 6 reps(57) | |
| HERON, Green | (29-29) | JEF-MCFW 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/29(5) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/29(1) JAW | |
| HERON, Green | (29-29) | JEF 1 rep(7) | |
| NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown. | (29-29) | JEF 1 rep(1) | |
| NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crown. | (22-22) | JEF 3/22(4) FTBF | |
| IBIS, White | (2-30) | JEF 7 reps(231) | |
| IBIS, Plegadis | (28-29) | JEF 2 reps(52) | |
| SPOONBILL, Roseate | (2-29) | JEF 5 reps(24) | |
| VULTURE, Black | (8-30) | HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(12) | |
| VULTURE, Turkey | (2-30) | HAI 7 reps(16); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(44) | |
| OSPREY | (2-30) | JEF-TX87 3/2(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/6(1) JH; JEF-TX87 3/8(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW | |
| EAGLE, Bald | (25-25) | ORA-ORG 3/25(3) RHJ | |
| HARRIER, Northern | (2-29) | HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(10) | |
| HAWK, Sharp-shinned | (3-3) | JEF-BMT 3/3(1) JAW | |
| HAWK, Cooper's | (1-30) | HAI-SILS 3/1(1) MG; HAI- SILS 3/4(1) MG; JEF-BMT 3/2(2) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/8(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/11(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/17(1) RHJ; JEF-TX87 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/30(1) JAW | |
| ACCIPITER species | (7-7) | JEF-BMT 3/7(1) RHJ | |
| HAWK, Red-shouldered | (2-27) | HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 3 reps(3) | |
| HAWK, White-tailed | (8-9) | JEF-MCFW 3/8(1) GD; JEF-TX87 3/9(1) GD | |
| HAWK, Red-tailed | (2-29) | HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(21) | |
| CARACARA, Crested | (5-13) | JEF 3/5(2) JP; JEF 3/13(2) JP | |
| KESTREL, American | (8-29) | JEF 4 reps(10) | |
| MERLIN | (9-16) | HAI-SILS 3/9(1) MG; JEF- TX87 3/16(1) JAW | |
| MOORHEN, Common | (8-16) | JEF 2 reps(4) | |
| COOT, American | (16-16) | JEF 1 rep(1) | |
| PLOVER, Black-bellied | (21-30) | JEF 3 reps(35) | |
| PLOVER, Snowy | (8-29) | JEF-MCFW 3/8(1) GD; JEF-MCFW 3/29(1) JAW | |
| PLOVER, Semipalmated | (8-29) | JEF 2 reps(4) | |
| PLOVER, Piping | (8-29) | JEF 2 reps(3) | |
| KILLDEER | (2-29) | JEF 3 reps(13) | |
| STILT, Black-necked | (16-30) | JEF 3 reps(27) | |
| YELLOWLEGS, Greater | (16-29) | JEF 2 reps(7) | |
| WILLET | (15-30) | JEF 6 reps(131) | |
| YELLOWLEGS, Lesser | (16-30) | JEF 3 reps(53) | |
| SANDERLING | (16-29) | JEF 2 reps(90) | |
| SANDPIPER, Least | (29-29) | JEF 1 rep(1) | |
| SANDPIPER, Pectoral | (29-30) | JEF-MCFW 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/30(1) JAW | |
| DUNLIN | (16-29) | JEF 2 reps(9) | |
| SNIPE, Wilson's | (29-30) | JEF 2 reps(2) | |
| GULL, Laughing | (16-31) | JEF 6 reps(379) | |
| GULL, Ring-billed | (2-29) | JEF 5 reps(122) | |
| GULL, Herring | (8-16) | JEF 2 reps(7) | |
| TERN, Caspian | (16-16) | JEF 1 rep(2) | |
| TERN, Common | (29-29) | JEF-MCFW 3/29(1) JAW | |
| TERN, Forster's | (2-29) | JEF 6 reps(61) | |
| TERN, Royal | (16-29) | JEF 3 reps(42) | |
| TERN, Sandwich | (29-29) | JEF-MCFW 3/29(4) JAW | |
| PIGEON, Rock | (2-29) | HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(76) | |
| COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian | (10-29) | JEF 4 reps(8) | |
| DOVE, White-winged | (1-31) | HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 24 reps(174) | |
| DOVE, Mourning | (1-29) | HAI 10 reps(54); JEF 12 reps(37) | |
| DOVE, Inca | (1-28) | HAI 18 reps(36) | |
| OWL, Barn | (29-30) | JEF-SW 3/29(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/30(1) JAW | |
| OWL, Great Horned | (2-5) | JEF-TX87 3/2(1) JAW; JEF-GROV 3/5(1) XX | |
| SWIFT, Chimney | (28-31) | JEF-NEDR 3/28(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/30(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/31(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(2) JAW | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. | (5-31) | HAI 3/5(1) JM; HAI-SILS 3/18(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/19(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/20(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/21(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/22(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/23(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/24(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/25(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/26(3) MG; HAI-SILS 3/27(3) MG; HAI-SILS 3/28(3) MG; HAI-SILS 3/29(3) MG; HAI-SILS 3/30(3) MG; HAI-SILS 3/31(3) MG; JAS 3/23(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/13(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/16(1) RHJ; JEF- NEDR 3/17(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/20(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/21(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/21(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/23(1) RHJ; JEF- NEDR 3/23(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/24(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/25(3) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/25(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/25(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/26(3) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/28(1) RHJ; JEF- | |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| BMT 3/29(3) RHJ; JEF-SRSP 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/30(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/31(1) RHJ | | | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin. (9-31) | JEF-NEDR 3/9(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/10(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/12(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/17(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/18(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/25(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/26(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(1) JJW | | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Archilochus (12-16) | JEF-NEDR 3/12(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW | | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope (7-7) | JEF-NEDR 3/7(1) JAW | | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed (4-12) | JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 3/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/8(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/9(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/10(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/12(1) JAW | | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (1-31) | HAI 3/5(1) JM; JEF-BMT 3/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/3(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/4(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/5(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/7(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/10(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/24(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/25(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/27(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/28(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/29(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/31(1) JJW | | |
| HUMMINGBIRD species (5-26) | JEF-NEDR 3/5(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/13(2) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/17(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/24(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/25(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/26(1) RHJ | | |
| KINGFISHER, Belted (15-29) | HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(14) | | |
| WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (1-31) | HAI 23 reps(44); JAS 1 rep(2) | | |
| SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (8-26) | HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 1 rep(1) | | |
| WOODPECKER, Downy (1-30) | HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 25 reps(29) | | |
| FLICKER, Northern (1-28) | HAI 6 reps(9); JEF 5 reps(6) | | |
| WOODPECKER, Pileated (5-29) | HAI 8 reps(9); JEF 2 reps(3) | | |
| PHOEBE, Eastern (2-21) | JEF 4 reps(6) | | |
| KINGBIRD, Eastern (29-30) | JEF-MCFW 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/29(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW | | |
| FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (23-23) | JEF-TX87 3/23(1) SR | | |
| FLYCATCHER, Fork-tailed (15-18) | JEF-TXPT 3/15(1) JJW; JEF-TXPT 3/16(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/17(1) JFW; JEF-TXPT 3/18(1) GL | | |
| SHRIKE, Loggerhead (3-30) | HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 8 reps(20) | | |
| VIREO, White-eyed (12-29) | HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 7 reps(13) | | |
| VIREO, Blue-headed (2-20) | JEF 5 reps(6) | | |
| VIREO, Red-eyed (29-29) | JEF-BMT 3/29(1) RHJ | | |
| JAY, Blue (1-31) | HAI 15 reps(46); JEF 3 reps(5) | | |
| CROW, American (16-23) | HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 1 rep(2) | | |
| CROW, Fish (30-30) | JEF-SW 3/30(2) JAW | | |
| CROW, species (21-29) | HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 2 reps(6) | | |
| MARTIN, Purple (2-30) | HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(64) | | |
| SWALLOW, Tree (2-30) | JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 7 reps(506) | | |
| SWALLOW, Barn (2-30) | JEF-SW 3/2(1) SM; JEF-TX87 3/16(5) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/16(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/19(4) JAW; JEF 3/21(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/21(1) JAW; JEF 3/28(3) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/29(5) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/30(1) JAW | | |
| SWALLOW species (21-21) | JEF 1 rep(2) | | |
| CHICKADEE, Carolina (1-30) | HAI 14 reps(39); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(7) | | |
| TITMOUSE, Tufted (1-26) | HAI 11 reps(26); JAS 1 rep(4) | | |
| CREEPER, Brown (16-23) | JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/23(1) SR | | |
| WREN, Carolina (1-30) | HAI 17 reps(33); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(2) | | |
| WREN, Marsh (16-29) | JEF-TXPT 3/16(3) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/19(3) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/29(2) JAW | | |
| KINGLET, Golden-crowned (8-16) | JEF-SW 3/8(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(2) DPJ; JEF-SW 3/16(2) JAW | | |
| KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (1-30) | HAI 10 reps(11); JEF 11 reps(43) | | |
| GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (2-29) | JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(19) | | |
| BLUEBIRD, Eastern (1-31) | HAI 26 reps(53); JAS 1 rep(1); | | |
| THRUSH, Wood (8-30) | JEF-SW 3/8(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/30(1) LB | | |
| ROBIN, American (1-31) | HAI 3 reps(38); JEF 15 reps(35) | | |
| CATBIRD, Gray (1-28) | HAI-SILS 3/1(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/9(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/13(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/14(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/28(2) MG; JEF-SW 3/2(1) SM | | |
| MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (1-31) | HAI 17 reps(42); JEF 14 reps(24) | | |
| THRASHER, Brown (1-31) | HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(9) | | |
| STARLING, European (3-30) | HAI 9 reps(402); JAS 1 rep(4); JEF 6 reps(23) | | |
| WAXWING, Cedar (1-31) | HAI 10 reps(266); JAS 1 rep(50); JEF 17 reps(756) | | |
| WARBLER, Blue-winged (29-29) | JEF-SW 3/29(1) SM | | |
| WARBLER, Orange-crowned (2-30) | HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 15 reps(28) | | |
| WARBLER, Nashville (15-15) | JEF-SW 3/15(1) SM | | |
| PARULA, Northern (12-22) | HAI 3/22(10) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/12(7) JHH; JEF-SW 3/15(6) JAW; JEF-SW 3/20(2) JHH | | |
| WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (2-30) | HAI 2 reps(21); JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 12 reps(89) | | |
| WARBLER, Yellow-throated (15-30) | HAI-SILS 3/17(1) MG; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/20(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/30(1) SM | | |
| WARBLER, Pine (1-29) | HAI 7 reps(13); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(10) | | |
| WARBLER, Black-and-white (4-29) | JEF-SW 3/4(5) JHH; JEF-SW 3/8(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/12(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/15(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/20(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) SM | | |
| WARBLER, Prothonotary (9-30) | HAI 3/22(4) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/9(1) GD; JEF-SW 3/12(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/20(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/30(1) SM | | |
| WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana (4-23) | JEF-SW 3/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/8(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/12(3) JHH; JEF-SW 3/20(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/23(1) SR | | |
| YELLOWTHROAT, Common (2-30) | JEF 9 reps(23) | | |
| WARBLER, Hooded (16-30) | JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW | | |
| TANAGER, Summer (30-30) | JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW | | |
| SPARROW, Chipping (1-31) | HAI 26 reps(924); JAS 1 rep(20); JEF 1 rep(1) | | |
| SPARROW, Savannah (15-29) | JEF 4 reps(14) | | |
| SPARROW, Henslow's (16-16) | JEF-TXPT 3/16(2) RP | | |
| SPARROW, Seaside (21-21) | JEF 1 rep(1) | | |
| SPARROW, Song (2-30) | JEF 5 reps(14) | | |
| SPARROW, Swamp (2-20) | JEF 3 reps(5) | | |
| SPARROW, White-throated (1-31) | JEF 22 reps(45) | | |
| CARDINAL, Northern (1-31) | HAI 18 reps(616); JAS 1 rep(4); JEF 7 reps(15) | | |
| BUNTING, Indigo (20-31) | HAI-SILS 3/31(1) MG; JEF-SW 3/20(1) JHH | | |
| BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (2-30) | HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 9 reps(233) | | |
| BLACKBIRD, Brewer's (7-7) | HAI-SILS 3/7(250) MG | | |
| GRACKLE, Common (2-23) | HAI 5 reps(135); JEF 1 rep(15) | | |
| GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (2-30) | JEF 8 reps(96) | | |
| GRACKLE, Great-tailed (2-30) | HAI 6 reps(60); JEF 9 reps(136) | | |
| GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed (8-21) | JEF 3 reps(9) | | |
| COWBIRD, Brown-headed (7-29) | HAI 5 reps(16); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(5) | | |
| ORIOLE, Orchard (30-30) | JEF-SW 3/30(1) LB | | |
| FINCH, House (1-23) | JEF-BMT 3/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/3(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/7(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/8(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/10(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/11(1) RHJ; JEF- | | |

BMT 3/13(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/23(1) RHJ

SISKIN, Pine (1-13) HAI 3/2(2) JP; HAI 3/3(1) JP; HAI 3/4(1) JP; HAI 3/5(2) JP; HAI 3/13(1) JP; JEF-BMT 3/1(1) RHJ

GOLDFINCH, American (1-31) HAI 19 reps(99); JAS 1 rep(50); JEF 23 reps(69)

SPARROW, House (1-31) JEF 13 reps(39)

Number of Species 146

Number of Individuals 9821

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

Location Codes:; BMT — Beaumont; GROV — Groves; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland; ORG — Orange; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP; TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point

Observer Abbreviations; DPJ — Don and Pat Jeane; FTBF — Field Trip to Bolivar Flats; GD — Gerald Duhon; GL — Greg Lavaty; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JH — Joe Halbrook; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; JP — John Park; LB — Lynn Barber; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; RP — Royce Pendergast; SM — Steve Mayes; SR — Sherrie Roden; XX — Unknown.

Notes on Very Rare Species

Henslow's Sparrow — Road to Pilot Station at Sabine Pass — March 16 — Royce Pendergast

While returning from the end of Pilot Station Road, a bird was

seen to fly across the road and land in a Salt Cedar. On pishing in the area where the bird landed, two Henslow's Sparrows came up. The birds each had a central crown stripe that had a yellowish cast leading to a greenish nape and the wings reflected a chestnut color. The backs and breasts were streaked.

Notes on Bird Sightings

We continue to be grateful to all those who send in reports of what they see, especially those who provide comprehensive lists month after month. We do not intentionally disregard any report, but occasionally, we misplace a report, or fail to extract it from an email. We apologize for any such shortcomings. In addition, quite often, a group of us get together spontaneously when we meet at a popular birding location. The list that is entered from such days is usually ascribed to only one of the group, usually the editor, but others contributed to the day's birding. To enter a sighting into the database, we have to have an exact date. If you occasionally see a report that doesn't have an exact date, or has a range of dates, these have been added manually, and, unfortunately, there is no way to keep them in the database. Also, we have to enter an exact numerical value for the number of birds seen. We cannot enter "a few" or "many" or even "several." We thank those who help us in these small but important items!

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Sabine Woods — 19 April 2008

Scheduling our April field trip is always carried out many months in advance. We know the vagaries of spring migration, and we have in the past had our share of good days and, well, disappointing days. The number and variety of neotropical migrants is dependent on many factors, some of which we understand, doubtless some others we don't. Some of the factors that must play a part are not easily monitored. The obvious factors include the date (The photoperiod — the length of night and day — is apparently an important factor in prompting birds to start their annual migrations). We tend to schedule towards the middle of April for a number of reasons, although the peak of migration as observed on the ground along the coast is often around April 25. Our earlier schedule catches the stragglers among the early migrants and the early birds among the later migrants. The weather is less within our control. Most birders know about the influence of cold fronts along the coast. However, many of the birds have to reach their jumping off points in the Yucatan or Honduras or wherever, and adverse weather between there and the wintering areas (which are spread out over Central and South America) will hinder their progress and slow them down. It is not easy to assess whether there will, on any given evening, be a concentration of migrants waiting to depart. Typical departure time for most land bird migrants is one hour after sunset. Assuming there are migrants waiting, it is unlikely that they will depart into adverse winds, so the wind between the surface and 3,000 feet over the southern Gulf of Mexico is an important factor, but something that is known and can be forecast on a short range basis. If the winds remain strongly southerly over the Gulf, and there is no precipitation to deter

them, most birds likely will overfly the immediate coast and spread out into the more expansive wooded habitat immediately north of the Golden Triangle. Northerly winds over the northern Gulf typically occur only in connection with fronts, but then the birds, which do not like to fly through precipitation, will be contending with both precipitation and adverse winds. This will result in their descending into any and all trees and shrubs along the coast as soon as they reach it. In many cases, they will stay at least one day. Arrival times are typically between noon and 6 p.m. and most birds that do land in suitable areas will be inclined to stay at least one whole day to feed and rest for the next stage in their migration.

A cold front, with some locally heavy precipitation passed over the coast of Jefferson county on Friday April 18th, bringing northerly winds behind it. There were many birds that descended into Sabine Woods and other coastal spots that afternoon and early evening. Although the north winds behind the front dropped fairly soon after frontal passage — much sooner than forecast — it seems likely that there were still north winds over a good portion of the Gulf.

It was, therefore, not entirely a surprise when the group of members and friends that congregated at the entrance to Sabine Woods early the next morning found lots of birds as soon as they stepped into the woods. We knew it was going to be good when the first bird we saw was a male Cerulean Warbler, and there were two other species of warbler (Blue-winged Warbler and Northern Parula) in close proximity in the same tree! Probably 20 observers were part of the field trip at one time or another, but we did not try to remain as a single group so as not to obstruct boardwalks, and to find as many of

the birds present as possible. So the order in which each small group saw the birds was different. Suffice it to say that long before midday, a total of twenty five species of warbler had been seen by members of our group and another (Yellow-breasted Chat) heard. There was also a reliable report of a female Black-throated Blue Warbler in the woods, but it was seen by very few observers.

After the early find of the Cerulean Warbler, the group trekked out to the Northwest pond to see a male Blackburnian Warbler. Most of the group spent the rest of the morning walking the main section of the woods, finding many migrants. After a lunch break, some went out into the western oaks, on a quest to find one of the more elusive warbler species, the Swainson's Warbler. Although we have had excellent success in finding this species on breeding territory on our annual trip in late May or early June to Hardin County, it is very difficult to find in migration, preferring to skulk on the floor of fairly dense underbrush. We did manage to find two in underbrush in the western oaks, indicating that these oaks are now worthy of much more attention by birders.

The complete list of birds reported to the leaders as seen in Sabine Woods is given below, so we will just comment on some highlights and unusual sightings. Among the warblers, we must mention the large number of Blackpoll Warblers seen, not just on this particular day but throughout the migration season. Perhaps the most admired birds were two beautifully plumaged male Golden-winged Warblers which delighted all observers for most of the afternoon by foraging in the lower branches of old growth oaks almost oblivious to the gallery watching them. Hooded Warblers had been unusually scarce up to this point, but there were many on this day. Also present in numbers for the first time this season were Ovenbirds.

Among the vireos, there were still several Blue-headed Vireos to be found, along with many Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos, and two Warbling Vireos. The last mentioned species is continuing a fairly dramatic rise in sightings in our area. Good numbers of both Scarlet and Summer Tanagers were present. Thrushes were represented by Wood, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes. Flycatchers included a Great-crested and a couple of Eastern Wood-Pewees. Empidonax flycatchers are more difficult, but we were fairly sure that two were Least Flycatchers, and two others were from the Traill's Flycatcher complex (Willow or Alder).

In mid afternoon, some of the group headed west to the entrance to McFaddin NWR. The mini-wetlands there had at least one Blue-winged Teal, the only duck species seen on the trip other than a pair of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks flying behind Sabine Woods. There were both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs in the wetlands. A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher was the only one seen.

On to the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, where there were more warblers and vireos, but no additional species. However, a few observers were able to see one of a few Painted Buntings that were present, but not willing to give good or prolonged looks. Among the numerous Tree Swallows feeding in the marsh across from the Willows, there were a small number of Cliff Swallows (which usually nest under the Sea Rim Headquarters building) and at least one Bank Swallow. A pair of Crested Caracaras seen from there has been in the area for some time now.

On this field trip, we concentrated exclusively on migrant land birds, and did not go on to the beach or on the roads into the marshes of McFaddin NWR. Nevertheless, we recorded 91 species, without including some species that probably everyone saw – Boat-tailed and Great-tailed Grackles, European Starlings, Mourning Dove and several others. There are not many places in the United States where one can see close to 100 species in basically one habitat type!

Birds recorded

(SRSP = Willows at Sea Rim State Park; SW = Sabine Woods; TX87 = Highway 87 between Sabine Pass and McFaddin NWR; MCFW = McFaddin NWR)
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (SW 2); Blue-winged Teal (MCFW 1); Brown Pelican (SRSP 10; SW 4); Double-crested Cormorant (TX87 4); Great Egret (TX87 2); Snowy Egret (TX87 2); Cattle Egret (TX87 1; SRSP 1); Green Heron (SW 3); White Ibis (TX87 10); Roseate Spoonbill (SW 2; TX87 3); Black Vulture (SW 2); Turkey Vulture (SRSP 2; SW 15; TX87 2); Crested Caracara (SRSP 2); Sora (SW 2); Killdeer (MCFW 1); Black-necked Stilt (MCFW 10); Greater Yellowlegs (MCFW 1); Lesser Yellowlegs (MCFW 3; SRSP 1); Laughing Gull (MCFW 5); Ring-billed Gull (MCFW 1); Caspian Tern (SRSP 2); Royal Tern (SRSP 5); Mourning Dove (TX87 4); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (SW 2); Chuck-will's-widow (SW 1); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (SRSP 5; SW 10); Belted Kingfisher (TX87 1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (SW 1); Downy Woodpecker (SW 1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (SW 2); Traill's Flycatcher (SW 2); Least Flycatcher (SW 2); Great Crested Flycatcher (SW 1); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (MCFW 1); Loggerhead Shrike (TX87 2); White-eyed Vireo (SRSP 2; SW 5); Blue-headed Vireo (SW 4); Warbling Vireo (SW 2); Red-eyed Vireo (SRSP 2; SW 10); Blue Jay (SW 2); Fish Crow (SW 1); Purple Martin (SW 5); Tree Swallow (SRSP 50; SW 10; TX87 20); Bank Swallow (SRSP 1); Cliff Swallow (SRSP 1); Carolina Wren (SW 1); Marsh Wren (SW 1); Gray-cheeked Thrush (SW 2); Swainson's Thrush (SW 3); Wood Thrush (SW 2); Gray Catbird (SW 6); Northern Mockingbird (TX87 1); Brown Thrasher (SW 1); Blue-winged Warbler (SRSP 1; SW 6); Golden-winged Warbler (SW 2); Tennessee Warbler (SRSP 5; SW 10); Orange-crowned Warbler (SW 1); Nashville Warbler (SRSP 1; SW 1); Northern Parula (SRSP 2; SW 6); Yellow Warbler (SW 2); Chestnut-sided Warbler (SW 2); Magnolia Warbler (SW 1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (SW 1); Black-throated Green Warbler (SRSP 2; SW 5); Blackburnian Warbler (SW 1); Yellow-throated Warbler (SW 1); Blackpoll Warbler (SRSP 2; SW 5); Cerulean Warbler (SW 1); Black-and-white Warbler (SRSP 2; SW 10); American Redstart (SW 4); Prothonotary Warbler (SW 2); Worm-eating Warbler (SW 8); Swainson's Warbler (SW 3); Ovenbird (SW 7); Northern Waterthrush (SRSP 5; SW 10); Kentucky Warbler (SW 2); Common Yellowthroat (SW 5); Hooded Warbler (SRSP 3; SW 15); Yellow-breasted Chat (SW 1); Summer Tanager (SW 8); Scarlet Tanager (SW 6); Lincoln's Sparrow (TX87 1); White-throated Sparrow (TX87 1); Northern Cardinal (SW 2); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (SW 4); Blue Grosbeak (SRSP 3; SW 2); Indigo Bunting (SRSP 5; SW 10); Painted Bunting (SRSP 2); Red-winged Blackbird (TX87 1); Orchard Oriole (SRSP 25; TX87 25); Baltimore Oriole (SRSP 15; TX87 15); 91 species)

John A. 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/tebirds.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.

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