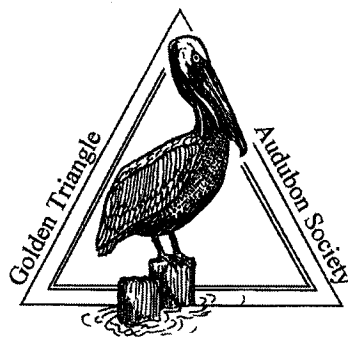


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 14 No. 7/8

July/August 2008

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 21, 2008
7:00 PM**

Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

**Birds & Bottomlands – A Conservation Victory for the
Neches River in East Texas**

**Gina Donovan
Executive Director, Houston Audubon Society**

Gina will discuss the history of the Neches River Protection Initiative, why the Neches bottomlands are important, the recently established Neches River National Wildlife Refuge, birds and other wildlife of the Neches corridor, and what the future holds for the River.

Over the last nine years, Gina Donovan has had significant impact in developing grassroots support for protecting the Neches River in east Texas, which led to the tremendous conservation victory -- establishment of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2006.

An avid outdoorswoman, Gina practically grew up on the banks of the Neches River, fishing, hunting, canoeing, and camping in the river's diverse bottomland forests. She has canoed nearly 400 of the 416 miles of the Neches River's mocha-colored waters, all the while learning and experiencing firsthand the importance of this awesome riverine world.

Gina earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University, and a Master of Science from Stephen F. Austin State University. She served on the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Rivers Conservation Advisory Board, was the Communications Director for the Texas Conservation Alliance, and is currently serving as Executive Director of the Houston Audubon Society.

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

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Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

See Web Site for more
information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Thursday August 21. Membership Meeting. Gina Donovan, Executive Director, Houston Audubon Society on conservation aspects of the Neches River. Full details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank those who provided the refreshments at the May meeting. We also thank a number of others who made monetary donations to the refreshment fund, which is used when volunteers are not available. **We need volunteers to bring all items for 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!

Saturday August 23. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. Meet leader Steve Mayes at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats at 8:30 a.m. or join the group on the flats later. Take Highway 124 south from Winnie about 20 miles through High Island. At the shoreline, turn right along Highway 87 and proceed approximately 25 miles through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you come to the intersection with Loop 108. At that intersection, turn left (south -- the opposite direction from Loop 108) on Rettillon Road to the beach. If conditions permit, drive onto the sand and turn right to the vehicle barrier (about 1/2 mile). It is about a 90-minute drive, with no allowance for stops for birding, from Beaumont or mid-County to the Flats.

Important Note: *Galveston County has a beach parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. Any one can drive on the beach for free. But if you park on the beach in most areas, including the area adjacent to Bolivar*

Flats, you must have a parking permit on your windshield. The fee for the permit is \$10.00 a year. Apparently, most merchants on the Bolivar Peninsula sell them and you should be able to find a convenience store in Gilchrist that is open as you pass through.

Thursday September 18. Membership Meeting. Tucker Slack, Texas Parks and Wildlife, J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area will talk on waterfowl in the area.

Saturday September 20. 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.

Saturday September 27 – 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. Be advised there will also be field trips of other groups at the Hawk Watch site on this day so look for our leader Steve Mayes.

Saturday October 4. Sabine Woods Work Day. Please put date on calendar. Full details in next issue.

Thursday October 16. Membership Meeting. Details in next issue.

Saturday October 18 – Field trip to Sabine Woods and Sabine Pass area.

Thursday November 20. Membership Meeting. Shirley and Sid Rucker on Hummingbirds.

Saturday November 22 – Field trip to West Jefferson County.

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.

Purple Martins

As fall approaches, the migratory birds that spend the summer with us and nearby start preparing to leave. Purple Martins begin to collect in large roosts, and their settling in each evening can be spectacular. The number of birds in a roost generally peaks in late August and early September. This year, as of late July, a

sizable flock was roosting in the trees around the St. Elizabeth Wellness Center, bounded by IH-10 Service road, North Street, 14th St. and Harrison St.

It is also time to put your hummingbird feeders out, as the first migrants are already passing through.

Volunteer Needed

Our current Membership and Publicity Chair, Joe Halbbrook, has asked to retire from this position. We are looking for someone willing to take on this position. The duties involve disseminating information about our meetings and field trips to the local media. We would like to expand the position to include sending a welcome letter to new members, and providing outreach to potential members.

Sabine Woods

The second place team in the Great Texas Birding Classic has designated a Sabine Woods Motte enhancement project for their \$10,000 award. The project contemplates planting oak, hackberry and mulberry trees in the eastern part of the sanctuary, and the budget provides funding for additional

water outlets and other miscellaneous needs.

Although plans have not yet been finalized, Texas Ornithological Society will likely be looking for a volunteer who can be available to be at Sabine Woods, possibly at relatively short notice, to show contractors what needs to be done, and perhaps undertake other tasks associated with the project. Please contact John Whittle to volunteer.

Conservation Issues

The editor is acutely aware that the *Brown Pelican* has recently lacked balance and in particular, has been short on coverage of local and regional conservation issues.

It would help immensely if there were a few volunteers each following a specific issue, restricted in scope or more expansive, that would be willing to provide the editor with a report every so often on what is happening. While finished articles ready for formatting for the *Brown Pelican* are certainly very, very welcome, the editor will be equally pleased to receive articles in outline form with the essential research completed. Access to the Internet is essential to accomplish this.

Bird Sightings – April 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: As usual for this issue, we have two months to report. May includes the end of spring migration, and, this year, our field

trip to look for breeding birds in Hardin County. Birders are less active during the summer months, even if the birds may not be, and the volume of reports drops off, although we appreciate those who continue to report during these months! There were a good number of reports of Mourning Warblers, which migrate very late, and are not often detected in spring migration. A Brewster's Warbler was reported in early May. Of note in both months this time (and continuing on into July) are kites, both Swallow-tailed and Mississippi. Swallow-tailed Kites are almost certainly nesting in the bottomlands of both the Neches and the Sabine Rivers (up as far north as northern Jasper and Newton Counties), while Mississippi Kites likely are nesting somewhere in the northern part of Jefferson County. The Swallow-tailed Kites will be heading south in the middle of August, and probably will be easiest seen along the Trinity River between Liberty and Dayton, where they congregate during very late July and the first half of August. However, please let us know promptly if any start to congregate in local areas.

May 08


WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell. (3-3) JEF 1 rep(2)
 WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (26-26) JEF 1 rep(1)
 DUCK, Wood (26-26) JEF 5/26(1) JAW
 DUCK, Mottled (3-26) JEF 4 reps(10)
 TEAL, Blue-winged (4-4) JEF 1 rep(30)
 BOBWHITE, Northern (26-26) JEF 1 rep(1)

PELICAN, Brown (3-20) JEF 3 reps(8)
 CORMORANT, Neotropic (1-20) JEF 4 reps(18)
 ANHINGA (3-3) JEF 1 rep(14)
 FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent (9-9) JEF-SW 5/9(1) EB
 BITTERN, Least (26-26) JEF 5/26(1) JAW
 HERON, Great Blue (29-29) JEF 1 rep(1)
 EGRET, Great (1-29) JEF 12 reps(71)

EGRET, Snowy	(1-24)	JEF 8 reps(15)	DOVE, Mourning	(1-31)	HAI 8 reps(57); JEF 11
HERON, Little Blue	(1-26)	JEF 7 reps(19)	DOVE, Inca	(2-27)	HAI 7 reps(16); JEF 2
HERON, Tricolored	(1-11)	JEF 4 reps(16)	PARAKEET, Monk	(29-30)	JEF-PTA 5/29(2) SM; JEF-
EGRET, Cattle	(1-26)	JEF 8 reps(934)	PTA 5/30(2) SM		
HERON, Green	(1-24)	JEF 9 reps(17)	CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(1-31)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 12
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown.	(11-20)	JEF 2 reps(5)	ROADRUNNER, Greater	(26-26)	HAI 5/26(1) JM
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(3-29)	JEF 10 reps(16)	SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(8-31)	HAI 15 reps(20)
IBIS, White	(1-29)	JEF 10 reps(265)	NIGHTHAWK, Common	(3-26)	JEF 8 reps(25)
IBIS, Plegadis	(14-14)	JEF 1 rep(1)	WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-	(11-11)	JEF-SRSP 5/11(1) JAW;
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(1-11)	JEF 4 reps(7)	JEF-SW 5/11(1) JAW		
VULTURE, Black	(3-31)	HAI 4 reps(8); JEF 4 reps(9)	SWIFT, Chimney	(7-27)	JEF 10 reps(42)
VULTURE, Turkey	(1-31)	HAI 7 reps(27); JEF 7	HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-31)	HAI 5 reps(9); JEF 22
OSPREY	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(1) EB	reps(50)		
KITE, Swallow-tailed	(11-28)	HAI 5/11(1) RHJ; HAI	KINGFISHER, Belted	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(1) EB; JEF-
5/28(1) RHJ; ORA 5/25(1) JM			MCFW 5/3(1) SM		
KITE, White-tailed	(14-14)	JEF 1 rep(1)	WOODPECKER, Red-headed	(18-25)	HAI-SILS 5/18(2) MG; HAI-
KITE, Mississippi	(2-2)	JEF-BMT 5/2(2) RHJ	SILS 5/25(1) MG		
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(14-31)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 2 reps(2)	WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(2-31)	HAI 12 reps(27); JEF 1
HAWK, Broad-winged	(3-3)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM	rep(5)		
HAWK, Swainson's	(1-26)	JEF 5/1(1) JAW; JEF	WOODPECKER, Downy	(2-31)	HAI 6 reps(11); JEF 15
5/22(1) JAW; JEF 5/24(2) JAW;		JEF 5/26(2) JAW	reps(23)		
HAWK, White-tailed	(3-4)	JEF-TX87 5/3(1) SM; JEF-	WOODPECKER, Pileated	(3-31)	HAI 7 reps(8); JEF 5 reps(5)
TX87 5/4(1) SM			FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided	(3-15)	JEF-SRSP 5/3(1) SM; JEF-
CARACARA, Crested	(22-22)	JEF 5/22(1) JAW	SRSP 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/15(2)		
FALCON, Peregrine	(25-25)	JEF 5/25(1) JAW	JHH		
RAIL, Black	(11-11)	JEF-MCFW 5/11(1) MCF	WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	(1-17)	JEF 14 reps(59)
RAIL, King	(4-17)	JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM; JEF-	FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied	(3-17)	JEF-SRSP 5/3(1) EB; JEF-
SW 5/17(2) SM			SW 5/15(4) JHH; JEF-SW 5/16(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(2)		
SORA	(3-4)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-PI	JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(1) SM		
5/4(1) SM			FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(4-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)
MOORHEN, Common	(4-26)	JEF 4 reps(5)	FLYCATCHER, Traill's	(11-15)	JEF-SRSP 5/11(1) JAW;
COOT, American	(4-4)	JEF 1 rep(2)	JEF-SW 5/15(2) JHH		
CRANE, Sandhill	(17-17)	JEF-SW 5/17(1) JHH	FLYCATCHER, Least	(15-17)	JEF-SW 5/15(5) JHH; JEF-
PLOVER, Black-bellied	(3-4)	JEF 2 reps(6)	SW 5/16(2) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(1) SM		
PLOVER, Semipalmated	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(6)	EMPIDONAX species	(3-17)	JEF 6 reps(27)
PLOVER, Piping	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(2) SM	FLYCATCHER, Gt Crest	(1-31)	HAI 4 reps(7); JEF 8
KILLDEER	(4-26)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 2	reps(12)		
reps(10)			KINGBIRD, Eastern	(1-26)	JEF 17 reps(112)
OYSTERCATCHER, Amer.	(9-9)	JEF-TXPT 5/9(1) MCF	FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	(3-31)	JEF 10 reps(33)
STILT, Black-necked	(3-24)	JEF 4 reps(6)	SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(11-26)	JEF 8 reps(27)
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(20-20)	JEF-PI 5/20(1) SR	VIREO, White-eyed	(3-31)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 5 reps(9)
SANDPIPER, Solitary	(3-3)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) EB	VIREO, Yellow-throated	(3-31)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 2 reps(2)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(3-4)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-	VIREO, Blue-headed	(3-4)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-
PI 5/4(2) SM			SW 5/4(1) SM		
WILLET	(3-7)	JEF 2 reps(2)	VIREO, Warbling	(16-17)	JEF-SW 5/16(1) JHH; JEF-
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(3-4)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(2) SM; JEF-	SW 5/17(1) JHH		
PI 5/4(10) SM			VIREO, Philadelphia	(3-17)	JEF-SRSP 5/3(1) EB; JEF-
WHIMBREL	(3-3)	JEF-SRSP 5/3(2) SM	SW 5/3(4) SM; JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JAW;		
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	(3-4)	JEF 2 reps(4)	JEF-SW 5/16(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(1) SM		
SANDERLING	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(20)	VIREO, Red-eyed	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 13
SANDPIPER, Western	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(2) SM	reps(82)		
SANDPIPER, Peep	(4-4)	JEF-PI 5/4(5) SM	JAY, Blue	(1-31)	HAI 11 reps(52); JEF 10
SANDPIPER, Least	(3-4)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(5) SM; JEF-	reps(26)		
PI 5/4(5) SM			CROW, American	(26-31)	HAI 3 reps(8); JEF 1 rep(6)
SANDPIPER, White-rumped	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(1) SM	CROW, Fish	(3-4)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-PI
DUNLIN	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(4) SM	5/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM		
SANDPIPER, Stilt	(3-4)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(2) SM; JEF-	CROW, species	(22-27)	JEF 4 reps(12)
PI 5/4(10) SM			MARTIN, Purple	(2-27)	JEF 10 reps(57)
DOWITCHER species	(4-4)	JEF-PI 5/4(25) SM	SWALLOW, Tree	(3-11)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(20) SM;
PHALAROPE, Wilson's	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(3) SM	JEF-SW 5/11(5) JAW		
GULL, Laughing	(3-26)	JEF 5 reps(36)	SWALLOW, N Rough-winged	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(2) SM; JEF-
TERN, Least	(3-11)	JEF 3 reps(13)	SW 5/3(5) EB		
TERN, Caspian	(4-14)	JEF 2 reps(3)	SWALLOW, Bank	(3-3)	JEF-MCFW 5/3(2) SM; JEF-
TERN, Black	(3-11)	JEF 2 reps(2)	SRSP 5/3(10) SM		
TERN, Forster's	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(4)	SWALLOW, Cliff	(3-26)	HAI 3 reps(20); JEF 3
TERN, Royal	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(5)	reps(42)		
SKIMMER, Black	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(3)	SWALLOW, Barn	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 9 reps(68)
PIGEON, Rock	(1-30)	HAI 2 reps(6); JEF 5	CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-31)	HAI 17 reps(76); JEF 7
reps(14)			reps(15)		
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(44)	TITMOUSE, Tufted	(6-31)	HAI 12 reps(47); JEF 1
DOVE, White-winged	(1-31)	JEF 23 reps(158)	rep(2)		

NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	(3-31)	HAI 5/3(1) JM; HAI 5/31(2)	JEF-SW 5/15(2) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(2) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(1) SM
FTHC			
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(31-31)	HAI 5/31(6) FTHC	CHAT, Yellow-breasted (31-31) HAI 5/31(4) FTHC
WREN, Carolina	(1-31)	HAI 9 reps(17); JEF 5	TANAGER, Summer (1-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(25)
reps(10)			TANAGER, Scarlet (1-17) JEF 9 reps(36)
WREN, Marsh	(3-26)	JEF 4 reps(8)	TOWHEE, Eastern (31-31) HAI 5/31(1) FTHC
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(4-10)	HAI-SILS 5/4(1) MG; HAI-SILS 5/10(1) MG	SPARROW, Savannah (3-4) JEF-MCFW 5/3(5) SM; JEF-PI 5/4(1) SM
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(4-31)	HAI 5/31(2) FTHC; JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM	SPARROW, Seaside (3-3) JEF 1 rep(1)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(1-31)	HAI 14 reps(49); JEF 3	CARDINAL, Northern (1-31) HAI 10 reps(270); JEF 8
reps(9)			reps(46)
VEERY	(1-8)	JEF 6 reps(15)	GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted (1-23) HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 10
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	(4-17)	JEF-SW 5/4(3) SM; JEF-SW 5/9(1) EB; JEF-SW 5/17(2) SM	reps(30)
THRUSH, Swainson's	(1-17)	JEF 9 reps(46)	GROSBEAK, Blue (3-24) JEF-SRSP 5/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/3(1) EB; JEF-TX87 5/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/15(2) JHH; JEF 5/24(1) JAW
THRUSH, Wood	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(7); JEF 5 reps(5)	BUNTING, Indigo (1-31) HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 11
ROBIN, American	(1-27)	JEF 8 reps(10)	reps(42)
CATBIRD, Gray	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 28	BUNTING, Painted (1-26) JEF 10 reps(17)
reps(114)			DICKCISSEL (3-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(29)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-31)	HAI 9 reps(44); JEF 16	BOBOLINK (3-3) JEF-MCFW 5/3(1) SM
reps(184)			BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (1-26) JEF 8 reps(204)
THRASHER, Brown	(2-30)	HAI 13 reps(20); JEF 17	MEADOWLARK, Eastern (14-26) JEF 4 reps(39)
reps(20)			MEADOWLARK species (22-26) JEF 4 reps(22)
STARLING, European	(1-26)	HAI 3 reps(46); JEF 10	GRACKLE, Common (14-31) HAI 1 rep(38); JEF 8
reps(93)			reps(171)
WAXWING, Cedar	(11-11)	JEF-SW 5/11(2) JAW	GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (7-26) JEF 4 reps(15)
WARBLER, Blue-winged	(3-3)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) EB	GRACKLE, Great-tailed (7-26) HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 10
WARBLER, Golden-winged	(3-4)	JEF-SW 5/3(2) EB; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(2) SM; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM	reps(140)
WARBLER, Brewster's	(3-3)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) EB	GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed. (7-25) JEF 2 reps(4)
WARBLER, Tennessee	(1-17)	JEF 18 reps(85)	COWBIRD, Brown-headed (7-26) HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 5
PARULA, Northern	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10	reps(33)
reps(17)			ORIOLE, Orchard (1-20) JEF 15 reps(188)
WARBLER, Yellow	(1-17)	JEF 16 reps(90)	ORIOLE, Baltimore (1-17) JEF 8 reps(15)
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	(1-17)	JEF 14 reps(65)	FINCH, House (1-30) JEF 12 reps(22)
WARBLER, Magnolia	(1-17)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 21	SPARROW, House (1-29) JEF 12 reps(61)
reps(162)			
WARBLER, Cape May	(3-3)	JEF-TX87 5/3(1) SM	Number of Species 185
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(3-16)	JEF 13 reps(41)	Number of Individuals 8381
WARBLER, Blackburnian	(3-17)	JEF-SW 5/3(3) EB; JEF-SW 5/3(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(6) SM; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/5(7) JHH; JEF-SW 5/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/15(2) JHH; JEF-SW 5/16(2) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/17(2) SM	
WARBLER, Yellow-throated	(31-31)	HAI 5/31(1) FTHC	June 2008
WARBLER, Pine	(11-31)	HAI 4 reps(6); JEF 2 reps(3)	WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell. (17-29) JEF 2 reps(21)
WARBLER, Prairie	(26-31)	HAI 5/26(1) JM; HAI 5/31(5) FTHC	WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (21-29) JEF 2 reps(23)
WARBLER, Palm	(4-4)	JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH	DUCK, Wood (11-11) HAI-SILS 6/11(4) KS
WARBLER, Bay-breasted	(3-16)	JEF 14 reps(63)	DUCK, Mottled (29-29) JEF 6/29(1) JAW; JEF-PI 6/29(4) SM
WARBLER, Blackpoll	(4-4)	JEF-SRSP 5/4(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH	SHOVELER, Northern (29-29) JEF-PI 6/29(2) SM
WARBLER, Cerulean	(4-4)	JEF-SW 5/4(1) EB; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(1) SM	CANVASBACK (29-29) JEF-PI 6/29(1) SM
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(1-17)	JEF 21 reps(59)	GREBE, Pied-billed (17-17) JEF-MCFW 6/17(1) JAW
REDSTART, American	(1-17)	JEF 19 reps(152)	PELICAN, Brown (10-17) JEF 6/10(75) SR; JEF-MCFW 6/17(10) JAW
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(4-26)	JEF 7 reps(7)	CORMORANT, Neotropic (17-29) JEF 2 reps(31)
WARBLER, Swainson's	(31-31)	HAI 5/31(2) FTHC	FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent (3-3) JEF 1 rep(1)
OVENBIRD	(3-17)	JEF 9 reps(27)	HERON, Great Blue (12-29) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(11)
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(3-17)	JEF 18 reps(46)	EGRET, Great (12-30) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(43)
WARBLER, Kentucky	(3-8)	JEF 4 reps(5)	EGRET, Snowy (16-29) JEF 3 reps(24)
WARBLER, Mourning	(3-17)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) EB; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(2) SM; JEF-SW 5/5(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/17(1) JHH	HERON, Little Blue (6-29) JEF 5 reps(16)
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 24	HERON, Tricolored (6-29) JEF 3 reps(5)
reps(97)			EGRET, Cattle (5-30) JEF 12 reps(484)
WARBLER, Hooded	(3-31)	HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 14	HERON, Green (9-29) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(10)
reps(27)			NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown. (17-29) JEF 3 reps(6)
WARBLER, Canada	(3-17)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) EB; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(1) SM; JEF-SW 5/5(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/8(1) EB; JEF-SW 5/11(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/11(3) JHH;	NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. (11-30) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 12
			reps(54)
			IBIS, White (6-29) JEF 5 reps(208)
			IBIS, Glossy (29-29) JEF-PI 6/29(1) SM
			IBIS, White-faced (21-29) JEF 2 reps(26)
			SPOONBILL, Roseate (6-29) JEF 4 reps(29)
			STORK, Wood (15-21) JEF 6/15(10) RHJ; JEF 6/21(3) JA
			VULTURE, Black (11-29) HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 2 reps(13)
			VULTURE, Turkey (6-29) HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 6
			reps(20)

KITE, Swallow-tailed	(2-22)	HAI-SILS 6/2(1) KS; HAI-SILS 6/11(1) KS; HAI-SILS 6/12(3) MG; HAI 6/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/19(1) RHJ	
KITE, Mississippi	(7-24)	JEF-BMT 6/7(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/24(1) RHJ	
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(5-25)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 8 reps(8)	
HAWK, Broad-winged	(3-15)	JEF 6/3(1) JAW; JEF 6/6(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 6/15(1) RHJ	
HAWK, Swainson's SM	(21-29)	JEF 6/21(1) JA; JEF 6/29(1)	
HAWK, White-tailed	(17-17)	JEF-TX87 6/17(1) JAW	
HAWK, Red-tailed	(15-15)	JEF-BMT 6/15(1) RHJ	
RAIL species	(17-17)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
GALLINULE, Purple	(29-29)	JEF 6/29(1) JAW	
MOORHEN, Common	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(2)	
PLOVER, Black-bellied	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(36)	
PLOVER, Semipalmated	(29-29)	JEF-PI 6/29(3) SM	
KILLDEER	(2-29)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 8	
reps(43)			
STILT, Black-necked	(17-29)	JEF 4 reps(28)	
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(10-10)	JEF 6/10(5) SR	
WILLET	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(3)	
WHIMBREL	(30-30)	JEF-MCFW 6/30(2) MCF	
KNOT, Red	(29-29)	JEF-PI 6/29(3) SM	
SANDPIPER, Peep	(29-29)	JEF-PI 6/29(4) SM	
SANDPIPER, Least	(29-29)	JEF-PI 6/29(1) SM	
DOWITCHER, Short-billed	(29-29)	JEF-PI 6/29(30) SM	
GULL, Laughing	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(12)	
TERN, Least	(3-29)	JEF 3 reps(35)	
TERN, Caspian	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(4)	
TERN, Black	(3-29)	JEF 4 reps(24)	
TERN, Forster's	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(3)	
TERN, Royal	(10-29)	JEF 2 reps(20)	
SKIMMER, Black	(6-6)	JEF 1 rep(10)	
PIGEON, Rock	(8-30)	HAI 2 reps(34); JEF 9	
reps(100)			
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(2-29)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 5	
reps(15)			
DOVE, White-winged	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 52	
reps(469)			
DOVE, Mourning	(5-30)	HAI 7 reps(50); JEF 12	
reps(98)			
DOVE, Inca	(20-22)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)	
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(1-4)	HAI-SILS 6/1(2) MG; HAI-SILS 6/2(1) MG; HAI-SILS 6/4(1) MG	
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(10-17)	JEF 2 reps(11)	
SWIFT, Chimney	(1-30)	JEF 24 reps(155)	
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(2-30)	HAI 5 reps(7); JEF 17	
reps(18)			
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(5-30)	HAI 14 reps(35); JEF 1	
rep(1)			
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	(4-4)	HAI-SILS 6/4(1) MG	
WOODPECKER, Downy	(9-30)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 18	
reps(21)			
FLICKER, Northern	(11-29)	HAI-SILS 6/11(1) MG; JEF-NEDR 6/29(1) JAW	
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(6-30)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 5 reps(5)	
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	(9-30)	HAI-SILS 6/9(1) MG; JEF-BMT 6/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/30(1) RHJ	
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(6-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(20)	
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.	(17-29)	JEF 4 reps(11)	
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(6-29)	JEF 6 reps(19)	
VIREO, White-eyed	(8-29)	HAI 4 reps(5); JEF 1 rep(1)	
JAY, Blue	(1-30)	HAI 14 reps(113); JEF 15	
reps(22)			
CROW, American	(13-30)	HAI 5 reps(12)	
CROW, Fish	(6-29)	JEF-BMT 6/6(1) JAW; JEF-PI 6/29(2) SM	
CROW, species	(2-29)	JEF 4 reps(4)	
MARTIN, Purple	(4-30)	HAI 1 rep(15); JEF 21	
reps(223)			
SWALLOW, Cliff	(13-25)	HAI-SILS 6/13(1) MG; HAI-SILS 6/19(8) MG; HAI-SILS 6/25(6) MG	
SWALLOW, Barn	(6-30)	HAI 2 reps(5); JEF 6	
reps(30)			
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(8-30)	HAI 9 reps(42); JEF 3	
reps(3)			
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(8-28)	HAI 9 reps(39)	
WREN, Carolina	(8-29)	HAI 9 reps(21); JEF 7	
reps(14)			
WREN, Marsh	(17-29)	JEF-MCFW 6/17(15) JAW; JEF-PI 6/29(2) SM	
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(4-30)	HAI 13 reps(34); JEF 11	
reps(13)			
THRUSH, Wood	(4-27)	HAI-SILS 6/27(1) MG; JEF-BMT 6/4(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 6/24(1) RHJ	
ROBIN, American	(4-24)	JEF 11 reps(20)	
CATBIRD, Gray	(1-30)	HAI 5 reps(9); JEF 27	
reps(34)			
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 6 reps(21); JEF 24	
reps(133)			
THRASHER, Brown	(1-28)	HAI 14 reps(32); JEF 26	
reps(31)			
STARLING, European	(4-30)	HAI 4 reps(31); JEF 16	
reps(37)			
WARBLER, Pine	(4-28)	HAI 4 reps(5); JEF 4 reps(4)	
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(7)	
TANAGER, Summer	(11-11)	HAI 1 rep(1)	
CARDINAL, Northern	(2-30)	HAI 12 reps(303); JEF 15	
reps(28)			
BUNTING, Painted	(29-29)	JEF-PI 6/29(1) SM	
DICKCISSEL	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(13)	
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(17-30)	JEF 5 reps(147)	
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(17-29)	JEF 3 reps(26)	
MEADOWLARK species	(29-29)	JEF 2 reps(5)	
GRACKLE, Common	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11	
reps(36)			
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(26)	
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(4-30)	HAI 5 reps(41); JEF 20	
reps(181)			
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(6-30)	HAI 5 reps(7); JEF 2	
reps(34)			
ORIOLE, Orchard	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(17)	
FINCH, House	(1-29)	JEF 17 reps(34)	
SPARROW, House	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(18); JEF 17	
reps(129)			
Number of Species		105	
Number of Individuals		5031	
County Abbreviations:			
HAI – Hardin; JEF – Jefferson; ORA – Orange			
Location Codes			
BMT – Beaumont; BTTC – Big Thicket NP - Turkey Creek Unit; GROV – Groves; MCFW – McFaddin NWR; NEDR – Nederland; PI – Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; PTA – Port Arthur; 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			
EB – Erik Breden; FTHC – Field Trip to Hardin County; JA – Jim Armacost; JAW – John Whittle; JHH – John H. Haynes; JM – John Mariani; KS – Ken Sztraky; MCF – McFaddin and Texas Pt NWRs (Patrick Walther); MG – Melanie Goetsell; RHJ – Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SM – Steve Mayes; SR – Sherrie Roden			



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Earth Share
OF TEXAS

Field Trip to Hardin County – 31 May 2008

It was an unusually warm day in late May when eleven members and guests assembled in the northern part of Silsbee for the annual pilgrimage to see the breeding birds of Hardin County. The trip starts at the southern end of Firetower Road – a country road that runs from FM418 to Gore Store Road.

The traditional first stop is at the bridge over Dry Creek. This is a small creek, always with some water flowing, but always littered with discarded items ranging from a toilet on downwards in size. However, it is usually "birdy." On this occasion, there were many calls on this early morning, not including Acadian Flycatcher that used to be regular there, but otherwise much more varied than usual. The first bird of real interest was a male Hooded Warbler, which flitted very uncharacteristically from treetop to treetop, eventually affording great views for everyone. A Yellow-throated Vireo was also eventually cooperative. Two Brown-headed Nuthatches came low enough for reasonable views. The Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers were very much expected, but it was a nice treat when two Pileated Woodpeckers sailed by quite low. They did not stop anywhere near, however. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was working high up in the trees, but a male Summer Tanager was much lower and stayed around for some time. A Yellow-billed Cuckoo was more cooperative than most, while Carolina Wrens, Tufted Titmice and a White-eyed Vireo, although vocal, could not be enticed into view. A Ruby-throated Hummingbird (or two), a species we don't always see on this trip was flitting around.

Many of the areas on either side of Firetower Road have been clear cut in the past year or two, so our stops on the road were fewer than in previous years. The first stop was made in what looked like good Prairie Warbler Habitat – 8 to 10 foot pine trees – but the Prairie Warblers appear not to agree with this assessment. However, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo was more cooperative even than the one at Dry Creek, and a young Red-shouldered Hawk perched in the open, if at some distance. A Carolina Chickadee also investigated the assembled group.

En route to the next stop three Black Vultures, four Turkey Vultures and three Mourning Doves were noted. At the next stop, a Prairie Warbler was heard calling, but it was a pair of Yellow-breasted Chats that drew most attention. A male Indigo Bunting managed eventually was seen by all. Three Brown-headed Nuthatches joined the group and, somewhat unexpectedly, as the habitat was not typical for the species, a Dickcissel called persistently. Just after pulling away from this stop, a Prairie Warbler called close by, and, on stopping, was lured into position for great views for everyone.

A little further up the road, another Prairie Warbler was seen, along with yet another Brown-headed Nuthatch. A pair of Great Crested Flycatchers was intrigued by our group, and a female Pine Warbler inspected us from the top of a tall tree.

The next stop was at a location where Swainson's Warbler and Wood Thrush were both present the previous year, and sure enough, a Swainson's Warbler immediately appeared in answer to a recording of its song. It circled the group, letting everyone see it well. A Wood Thrush was more reticent, and was only seen briefly at some distance, although it did serenade us for some time. Another Swainson's Warbler and another Prairie Warbler could be heard in the distance.

The habitat along Camp Waluta Road is now much less favorable than it was a decade ago, as all the trees are now quite tall. We therefore skipped this, and proceeded west along the famous Gore Store Road. Stopping where there was a calling Common Yellowthroat, the bird was promptly located near at the top of a small pine tree. A male Indigo Bunting, a Prairie Warbler, a Yellow-breasted Chat and a White-eyed Vireo – the only one we saw on anything that resembled an open perch – kept us occupied. But an "unusual" puzzled us for quite some time. After a while, we realized it sounded like a towhee, but were reluctant to believe there could be a towhee in Hardin County on May 31. Eastern Towhees are often quite difficult to lure into view, a nice male Eastern Towhee popped up and responded vigorously to a taped call in defense of its territory. It came up many more times subsequently and sang. Not all sources agree on the breeding range of the Eastern Towhee, although apparently they do breed in the northern half of Louisiana. Nevertheless, we think the chances that this bird found a mate are somewhat remote.

A male Eastern Bluebird and a male Indigo Bunting were seen en route to the last stop of the trip at the Beech Creek crossing on Gore Store Road. This crossing has consistently been productive of interesting birds. It was a little quiet at first, but before we left the stop, we had seen a good variety of species. A pair of Acadian Flycatchers allowed us to see them as they worked a few feet above the creek. In addition to Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers, a few Tufted Titmice were drawn into view. A male Pine Warbler was high up in a tree. We heard a very distant Northern Parula call, but soon had a very strongly marked male in view. It stayed for quite some time. A Red-eyed Vireo also allowed good but short views. Then, in a delayed response to a taped call, a male Yellow-throated Warbler came down to the group.

The trip finished there as it neared high noon, and the temperature continued to climb. A trip seeking breeding birds will never produce the numbers of birds or species that one during migration or even one during winter can. A vehicle "caravan" trip always risks those in the rear missing birds that appear in front of the lead vehicles. But on this trip, we were very fortunate. Very few of the birds were seen while we were moving. Something of interest appeared at every stop we made, and almost always cooperated to allow everyone to see.

Birds seen: Black Vulture (3); Turkey Vulture (6); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Mourning Dove (3); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Downy Woodpecker (3); Pileated Woodpecker (2); Acadian Flycatcher (2); Great Crested Flycatcher (3); White-eyed Vireo (4); Yellow-throated Vireo (1); Red-eyed Vireo (1); American Crow (3); Carolina Chickadee (4); Tufted Titmouse (5); Red-breasted Nuthatch (2); Brown-headed Nuthatch (6); Carolina Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Eastern Bluebird (2); Wood Thrush (2); Northern Mockingbird (2); Northern Parula (1); Yellow-throated Warbler (1); Pine Warbler (3); Prairie Warbler (5); Swainson's Warbler (2); Common Yellowthroat (2); Hooded Warbler (4); Yellow-breasted Chat (4); Summer Tanager (1); Eastern Towhee (1); Northern Cardinal (10); Indigo Bunting (4); Dickcissel (1).

John A. Whittle

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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.

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