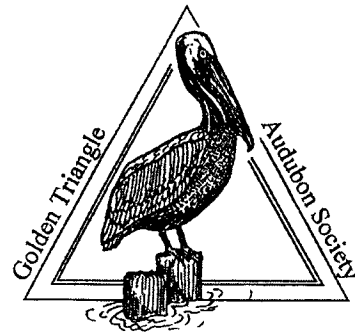


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 14 No. 9

September 2008

Membership Meeting
Thursday, September 18, 2008
7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Bird Banding at Murphree Wildlife Management Area

Tucker Slack
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Tucker Slack graduated from Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School in 1997, and from Texas A&M University in 2001. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Aiken, South Carolina for three years, and has been with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at the J.D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area for just over 4 years now.

He will discuss some of the banding that has been carried out at Murphree and the surrounding area. Mottled Ducks and White-winged Doves have been the focus of the initial studies.

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

Exciting Times

While it is always difficult to recognize historical trends as they are occurring, we are probably currently experiencing a seminal change in attitudes towards the environment. Over a very short period at the beginning of last year, the consensus of the thinking portion of the population in the United States changed from denying that climate change was occurring to one of concern about the difficulties of preventing it from getting much worse. While the population of the United States was, and may well still be, behind that of many other countries, it is nevertheless gratifying to note that the concern has continued. On many other important issues, the pendulum is continuing to swing in the direction of protecting the environment.

Climate change is inextricably intertwined with energy production, because almost all the technologically mature ways of producing energy involve burning some carbon containing fuel, thus producing carbon dioxide. Extracting and collecting the fuel also puts the environment in danger, both from unintended incidents and accidents and from those who would take shortcuts in disposing of associated wastes. Alternative energy sources, preferably those without effect on other important human activities such as food production, must be fast tracked. Solar power, both photovoltaic and other methods using the heat of the sun's rays directly, offer much promise, especially if they are located on non-green surfaces. Wind power will likely play a role, but the locations must be selected with great care.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 14, No.9 September, 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

Paula Shaw (866-0989)

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

Thursday September 18. Membership Meeting. Tucker Slack, Texas Parks and Wildlife, J. D. Murphree Wildlife Management Area will talk on banding being done in the area. Full details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Sherrie Roden, Jennifer Armacost, Jean Beavens, Sherry Gibson and Paula Shaw for providing the refreshments at the August meeting. We also thank a those who made monetary donations to the refreshment fund, which is used when volunteers are not available. **We need volunteers to bring all items for the rest of the 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 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. We are planning a work day at Sabine Woods, mainly for the routine maintenance items; mowing the trails, trimming and pruning to keep the trails clear. Possibly also some work on enhancing the habitat by removing some less desirable plants and trees to allow more desirable species to flourish.

We will plan to start around 7:30 a.m., and will probably work until noon or thereabouts. Sometimes on past fall work days, we have shortened the schedule because of the presence of migrants.

Please bring work gloves and insect repellent, and whatever hand tools you may have – loppers, clippers etc. We have a few, but typically not enough for everybody. We will provide light refreshments.

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.

Bird Sightings – July 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: July is typically the slowest month for sightings. The nesting birds of the Big Thicket are less territorial and therefore less obvious, there are actually relatively few species of nesting shore and water birds, and no migrant species to look for. It may also be that less birding occurs in the hot summer months! We can glean a few noteworthy trends from the sightings. Swallow-tailed Kites are clearly still on the increase, a continuing very welcome development. Mississippi Kites are also being seen more frequently in the Beaumont area. Brown Thrashers are nesting further south. On the negative side, Eastern Kingbirds seem much reduced in numbers this year as are Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. We are on the edge of the normal range of the latter species, so variations are to be expected as the range contracts and expands on its edges. However, we are solidly in the heart of the Eastern Kingbird range, and are at a loss to explain their scarcity as breeding birds.

DUCK, Mottled	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(50) SM	
SHOVELER, Northern	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(1) SM	
BOBWHITE, Northern	(4-4)	HAI 1 rep(1)	
GREBE, Pied-billed	(27-27)	JEF-NEDR 7/27(1) JAW	
EGRET, Great	(4-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(6)	
EGRET, Snowy	(4-31)	JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(4)	
HERON, Tricolored	(8-8)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
EGRET, Reddish	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(2)	
EGRET, Cattle	(1-30)	JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 9	
		reps(206); ORA 1 rep(20)	
HERON, Green	(17-29)	JEF 2 reps(2)	
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(3-10)	JEF 4 reps(5)	
IBIS, White	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(8)	
IBIS, Plegadis	(8-8)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
STORK, Wood	(30-30)	JEF-MCF 7/30(28) MCF	
VULTURE, Black	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(1); ORA 1 rep(1)	
VULTURE, Turkey	(4-27)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 1 rep(1)	
KITE, Swallow-tailed	(5-26)	HAI 7/26(1) JM; JAS 7/9(15)	
		LC; JAS 7/10(8) LC; JAS 7/11(5) JFW; JEF-BMT 7/5(1) RHJ	
KITE, Mississippi	(4-29)	HAI-VCSP 7/4(1) JA; JEF-	
		BMT 7/5(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/13(3)	
		RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/15(1) RHJ; JEF-	
		BMT 7/20(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/29(1) RHJ	
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(1-30)	HAI 4 reps(6); JEF 3 reps(3)	
HAWK, Broad-winged	(15-15)	JEF 7/15(1) JAW	
HAWK, Swainson's	(27-27)	JEF 7/27(3) JAW	
HAWK, Red-tailed	(4-4)	JAS 7/4(1) JWW	
MERLIN	(3-3)	HAI-SILS 7/3(1) MG	
KILLDEER	(3-3)	JEF 1 rep(1)	
AVOCET, American	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(20) SM	
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(1) SM	
GODWIT, Marbled	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(6) SM	
KNOT, Red	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(5) SM	
SANDPIPER, Semipalmated	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(1) SM	
SANDPIPER, Western	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(100) SM	
SANDPIPER, Least	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(1) SM	
SANDPIPER, White-rumped	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(1) SM	
DOWITCHER, Short-billed	(27-27)	JEF-PI 7/27(50) SM	
GULL, Laughing	(25-27)	JEF 2 reps(33)	
SKIMMER, Black	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(10)	
PIGEON, Rock	(11-30)	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 5 reps(34)	
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(2-30)	HAI 2 reps(3); JAS 1 rep(2);	
		JEF 13 reps(22)	
DOVE, White-winged	(1-31)	JEF 48 reps(513)	
DOVE, Mourning	(3-31)	HAI 6 reps(36); JAS 1	
		rep(2); JEF 13 reps(38)	
DOVE, Inca	(9-25)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 2 reps(2)	
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(25-25)	JEF 1 rep(2)	
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(22-22)	JEF-NEDR 7/22(1) JFW	
OWL, Banded	(19-19)	HAI-VCSP 7/19(1) JA	
SWIFT, Chimney	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 24	
		reps(156)	
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-31)	HAI 14 reps(27); JEF 27	
		reps(40)	
HUMMINGBIRD species	(21-21)	JEF-NEDR 7/21(1) JAW	
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	(19-19)	HAI-VCSP 7/19(1) JA	
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(1-31)	HAI 13 reps(60); JAS 1	
		rep(1); JEF 9 reps(9)	
WOODPECKER, Downy	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 19	
		reps(22)	
FLICKER, Northern	(19-30)	JEF-BMT 7/19(1) RHJ; JEF-	
		BMT 7/30(1) JAW	
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(4-25)	HAI 5 reps(8); JEF 2 reps(2)	
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(4-4)	HAI 1 rep(1)	
KINGBIRD, Western	(27-27)	JEF 7/27(4) JAW	
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(4-27)	JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 2 reps(8)	
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(2)	
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(4-27)	JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(2)	
VIREO, White-eyed	(4-30)	HAI 3 reps(14); JEF 1 rep(2)	
VIREO, Red-eyed	(4-25)	HAI 2 reps(12); JEF 1 rep(1)	
JAY, Blue	(1-30)	HAI 17 reps(157); JEF 14	
		reps(25)	
CROW, American	(1-27)	HAI 8 reps(24); JAS 1	
		rep(4); JEF 1 rep(3)	
CROW, Fish	(19-19)	HAI-VCSP 7/19(2) JA	
CROW, species	(2-18)	JEF 4 reps(4)	
MARTIN, Purple	(1-27)	JEF 5 reps(48)	
SWALLOW, Barn	(1-28)	HAI 2 reps(13); JAS 1	
		rep(2); JEF 8 reps(54)	
SWALLOW species	(4-4)	JAS 1 rep(6)	
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(1-30)	HAI 13 reps(52); JEF 9	
		reps(11)	
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(2-30)	HAI 9 reps(34)	
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(4-4)	HAI-VCSP 7/4(1) JA	
WREN, Carolina	(3-30)	HAI 9 reps(56); JAS 1	
		rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)	
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(4-30)	HAI-VCSP 7/4(1) JA; HAI-	
		VCSP 7/19(2) JA; HAI-SILS 7/30(2) MG	
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(1-14)	HAI 6 reps(10); JEF 1 rep(2)	
THRUSH, Wood	(9-18)	JEF-BMT 7/9(2) RHJ; JEF-	
		BMT 7/12(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 7/18(1)	
		RHJ	
ROBIN, American	(3-31)	JEF 13 reps(26)	
CATBIRD, Gray	(1-25)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10	
		reps(12)	
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-28)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 20	
		reps(39); ORA 1 rep(2)	
THRASHER, Brown	(1-30)	HAI 13 reps(26); JEF 20	
		reps(21)	
STARLING, European	(1-30)	JEF 10 reps(83)	
WARBLER, Pine	(4-9)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 1 rep(1)	
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(19-25)	JAS 7/19(1) LG; JEF-SW	
		7/25(7) JHH	

continued on page 5

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 23 August 2008

For August, the temperature was relatively moderate when the group, which swelled to 14 members and guests before we had traveled very far into the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, set out. Prior to leaving the vehicle barrier, the participants discussed the birds seen en route to the area. These included Crested Caracara, with three flying along Highway 87, and one seen perched on a power pole just north of the Intracoastal Waterway, two American Golden Plovers, rare fall migrants through our area, seen on the pasture on the north side of Highway 87 between High Island and Rollover Pass, two Gull-billed Terns in the parking area at Rollover Pass, and an Osprey at an unspecified location. Also noteworthy were a couple of egret concentrations west of Highway 124, one near the road that was nearly all Great Egrets, and another more distant that was almost all Snowy Egrets.

A nice mudflat "island" has developed just east of the vehicle barrier, and the first few minutes were spent reviewing the birds on it. Attention was first given to a Piping Plover with legs decorated with colored bands. The upper right leg had a green flag, while the lower left had either two bi-colored or four narrow bands, reading from top to bottom blue/red/black/yellow. The green flag marks it as a bird banded on the Missouri River, downstream of the Gavins Point Dam, which creates the Lewis and Clark Lake. The location is just south of Yankton, S.D. on the border of South Dakota and Nebraska. Further details should be available in due course. Most of the marked Piping Plovers that have been seen wintering on the Upper and Central Texas Coasts have been from the south-east Saskatchewan population, and it is nice to see another population represented in our wintering birds. There was also a nice collection of terns on the island, with Black, Royal, Least and a probable Common Tern. One of very few Ruddy Turnstones seen on the day was there, as were a couple of Neotropic Cormorants.

Heading into the Flats proper, the first of many Wilson's Plovers was seen before attention was drawn to the marsh area north of the Flats, where a female Northern Harrier was coursing over the marsh. This led to the group finding a couple of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers perched on some three-foot high stalks at the vegetation line. It quickly became clear that there were about ten of them in total. A passerine bird with yellow underside was seen flying over the same area, and contrary to expectations, turned out to be a male Dickcissel rather than the Horned Lark that some of the group expected. Indeed we did not, on this occasion, find any Horned Larks. An immature Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was rather uncharacteristically standing on the sand near the vegetation line. On the way back, we this bird was still there, accompanied by an adult bird. Based on the crab claws around the bird, it seems that it was dining on crabs, which were very numerous all over the Flats.

A Caspian Tern was located among the many Royals Terns nearer the water, as well as a few Sandwich Terns. One Black Skimmer was resting. Scattered over the Flats were a number of Long-billed Curlews, and in the shallow water were a number of Marbled Godwits. Four ducks flying away were quickly identified as Fulvous Whistling-Ducks. A White-tailed

Kite was seen perched on one of the taller bushes, and shortly after gave a kiting demonstration. While looking over the marsh, two Common Nighthawks were seen, if somewhat distant. A couple of Orchard Orioles were working the vegetation line. On the water side, the first of a good number of Short-billed Dowitchers was noted, almost all already having molted completely into basic (winter) plumage. A young "red" morph Reddish Egret, still with an all Slate-gray bill was standing some distance from the water, but the next one we found was a nice white morph immature. By the time we left the Flats, we had tallied about 40 Reddish Egrets, an excellent showing. There were probably 150 Brown Pelicans resting on a sandbar. Although we always seem to find a high proportion of young birds with brown hind necks, on this occasion there were scarcely any "white-necked" adults.

One bird that we always look for on this field trip is the Magnificent Frigatebird. We are very rarely disappointed, in large part because the species can be identified at a great distance. There were three or four visible at a time, mostly rather distant, and it is difficult to know whether our list double counts some birds. Later in the day at Fort Travis, two of them came much closer. We even had one soaring at moderate altitude over Boy Scout Woods in High Island at end of the field trip.

We proceeded towards the "point" at the Flats, where the *Spartina* grass extends furthest into the Gulf. A Whimbrel was playing hide and seek along the vegetation edge. We did find a relatively few Western Sandpipers, smaller than the much more numerous Sanderlings. A few Least Sandpipers, slightly smaller still, and much browner, were found, as usual in the muddy areas immediately adjacent to the *Spartina*. Clapper Rails are always present in the marsh, but are more often heard than seen. On this day, three or four walked out fully visible along the edge. The pools that always exist in the *Spartina* marsh had a few White Ibis, and one or two of the group were fortunate to see two American Avocets flying, and later, one Black-necked Stilt. Everyone did see one Roseate Spoonbill that flying by. The wet area in this vicinity was where there was, as usual, the greatest concentration of Semi-palmated Sandpipers, as well as many more Wilson's and Piping Plovers. It took some effort to find a Snowy Plover, but eventually three were identified. A good number of Black-bellied Plovers in all stages of molt were also present. A Sparrow that came very close to us before ducking back into the *Spartina* was a young Seaside Sparrow. Out along the distant marsh edges were a number of Tricolored Herons, while some Great Blue Herons, Great and Snowy Egrets were further out in the water.

The group then returned to the vehicle barrier, and proceeded to Fort Travis for the lunch break. We didn't spend long there, as the mosquitoes were troublesome in the picnic area. Bob's Road was the next location. There we saw more Roseate Spoonbills and Neotropic Cormorants, and a few other birds. Three "peep" sandpipers were good candidates for Semi-palmated Sandpiper, always a difficult call. Another Seaside Sparrow was added to the list.

On to Yacht Basin Road, which contrary to our expectations, held almost no water. (We wonder whether some

surreptitious drainage has been created?) There were half a dozen Clapper Rails along the edge of the road, a couple of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and three eastern Kingbirds in the trees at the end of the road. Three Turkey Vultures were noted.

With the low tide, there was much exposed mud and oyster bed at Rollover Pass, and, finally, but unfortunately at great distance, we found two American Oystercatchers. A thorough scan of all the areas produced a total of six. A white morph Reddish Egret came very close to the group. Black-necked Stilts were seen by all. Otherwise, most of the birds were more of the species we had seen in good numbers at the Flats.

On to Houston Audubon's Boy Scout Woods Sanctuary, still showing all to many signs of the effects of recent hurricanes and tropical storms. Flycatchers were the most obvious birds here. Identifying *Empidonax* flycatchers to species is a tricky proposition. Nevertheless, we concluded that one was a Least Flycatcher, another a Yellow-bellied, and a third a Traill's Flycatcher (i.e. Willow or Alder). Then we found a flycatcher perched on the second highest branch of a leafless snag. There was not unanimity in the group as to the identity of this bird. The two choices were Eastern Pewee (and there were a couple of birds that were obviously Pewees to compare with) and Olive-sided Flycatchers. The sides of the breast and belly were marked with bold brown streaks very typical of the Olive-sided; the choice of perch and flycatching style were classic Olive-side, although Pewees behave very similarly. We looked very hard to see if we could see the two white tufts on the lower back that would confirm Olive-sided but did not see any. The white patches do not often show on a perched bird – they are usually covered by the wing – but they are usually visible as the bird takes off and lands. Also in the Woods were a number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, two female or young Yellow Warblers, and a White-eyed Vireo. There were a fair number of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds around.

Estimating the number of each species of bird on Bolivar Flats when there is a lot of exposed mud is not easy, but the following list represent a best estimate. Quite likely, there are some species that were seen on the field trip itself by some participants that we did not hear about. BF is Bolivar Flats, YBR is Yacht Basin Road, RP is Rollover Pass and HI is High Island.

Fulvous Whistling-Duck (BF 4); American White Pelican (RP 1); Brown Pelican (BF 150; Ft Travis 10; RP 50); Neotropic Cormorant (BF 12; Bob's Road 9; YBR 3; RP 20); Magnificent Frigatebird (BF 8; Ft Travis 3; HI 1); Great Blue Heron (BF 8; RP 10); Great Egret (BF 5; RP 5); Snowy Egret (BF 10; Bob's Road 2; YBR 1; RP 10); Tricolored Heron (BF 8; Bob's Road 3; YBR 1; RP 2); Reddish Egret (BF 42; RP 4); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (BF 2); White Ibis (BF 3; Bob's Road 3); Roseate Spoonbill (BF 2; Bob's Road 5); Turkey Vulture (YBR 3; En route 4); White-tailed Kite (BF 1); Northern Harrier (BF 2); Clapper Rail (BF 4; YBR 6); Black-bellied Plover (BF 50; Bob's Road 4; RP 10); Snowy Plover (BF 3); Wilson's Plover (BF 21); Semipalmated Plover (BF 40); Piping Plover (BF 32); Killdeer (Ft Travis 1); American Oystercatcher (RP 6); Black-necked Stilt (BF 1; RP 6); American Avocet (BF 2); Spotted Sandpiper (Bob's Road 1); Greater Yellowlegs (BF 1; RP 1); Willet (BF 23; Bob's Road 1; YBR 1; RP 6); Whimbrel (BF 1); Long-billed Curlew (BF 8); Marbled Godwit (BF 31); Ruddy Turnstone (BF 1; RP 2); Sanderling (BF 150; RP 20); Semipalmated Sandpiper (Bob's Road 3); Western Sandpiper (BF 17; Bob's Road 2); Least Sandpiper (BF 3; En route 1); Short-billed Dowitcher (BF 71; Bob's Road 2);

Laughing Gull (BF 50; Ft Travis 1; Bob's Road 18; YBR 1; RP 150); Least Tern (BF 7; Ft Travis 2; RP 3); Caspian Tern (BF 7; RP 2); Black Tern (BF 2; YBR 4; RP 5); Common Tern (BF 3); Forster's Tern (BF 5; YBR 1; RP 5); Royal Tern (BF 100; RP 150); Sandwich Tern (BF 3; Ft Travis 1; RP 2); Black Skimmer (BF 2; YBR 2; RP 3); Rock Pigeon (BF 20; YBR 4); Eurasian Collared-Dove (Bob's Road 1); Mourning Dove (BF 5; YBR 3; En route 5); Common Nighthawk (BF 3); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (HI 5); Hummingbird species (YBR 2); Olive-sided Flycatcher (HI 1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (HI 2); Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (HI 1); Least Flycatcher (HI 1); Eastern Kingbird (YBR 3; HI 3; En route 2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (BF 10; En route 1); Loggerhead Shrike (Bob's Road 1; En route 3); White-eyed Vireo (HI 1); Blue Jay (HI 1); Barn Swallow (BF 5); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (Ft Travis 1; YBR 2; HI 10); Northern Mockingbird (Bob's Road 1; YBR 3; HI 1; En route 1); European Starling (En route 20); Yellow Warbler (HI 2); Seaside Sparrow (BF 1; Bob's Road 1); Northern Cardinal (HI 1); Dickcissel (BF 1); Boat-tailed Grackle (BF 2); Great-tailed Grackle (RP 1); Orchard Oriole (BF 2; HI 2); 73 species.

John A. Whittle

Bird Sightings – July 2008 (cont. from page 3)

WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	(25-25)	JEF-SW 7/25(1) JHH
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(25-25)	JEF 1 rep(1)
WARBLER, Hooded	(4-19)	HAI 2 reps(2)
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(4-4)	HAI-VCSP 7/4(1) JA
TANAGER, Summer	(4-19)	HAI 2 reps(5); JAS 1 rep(1)
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 16 reps(464); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 17 reps(33); ORA 1 rep(2)
BUNTING, Indigo	(4-19)	HAI-VCSP 7/4(8) JA; HAI-VCSP 7/19(6) JA
BUNTING, Painted	(25-27)	JEF-SW 7/25(1) JHH; JEF-PI 7/27(3) SM
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(8-27)	JEF 2 reps(31)
MEADOWLARK species	(27-27)	JEF 1 rep(2)
GRACKLE, Common	(2-29)	JEF 19 reps(84)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(8-8)	JEF 1 rep(1)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 15 reps(119)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(4-4)	HAI 1 rep(2)
ORIOLE, Orchard	(25-25)	JEF 1 rep(5)
FINCH, House	(2-30)	HAI 6 reps(8); JEF 11 reps(16)
SPARROW, House	(2-31)	JEF 22 reps(126)
Number of Species		94
Number of Individuals		3817

County Abbreviations:


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

Location Codes:

BMT—Beaumont; MCF—McFaddin NWR; NEDR—Nederland; PI—Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS—Silsbee; SW—Sabine Woods; VCSP—Village Creek State Park

Observer Abbreviations:

JA—Jim Amacost; JAW—John Whittle; JFW—Jana Whittle; JHH—John H. Haynes; JJW—John and Jana Whittle; JM—John Mariani; LC—Lanet Coleman; LG—Lana Gau; MCF—McFaddin NWR (Patrick Walther); MG—Melanie Goetsell; RHJ—Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SM—Steve Mayes;



Earth Share of Texas represents the Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll deduction plans for charitable giving. For information, call 1-800-GREENTX or email <estx@earthshare-texas.org>

Earth Share
OF TEXAS

Spring 2008 Migration Summary

Once again, we present, largely in tabular form, a summary of the sightings of passerine neotropical migrants. This year, we have combined all the species into a single table, and hope we have accomplished this without making the print too small. The methodology employed was as follows. We considered four "locations": Sabine Woods, the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, and points elsewhere along Texas 87 west of Sabine Pass. If there were multiple reports for any given location on any given day, the highest count for each species submitted by any of the observers was used. The counts for each of the four locations were added to determine the total of that species reported on that day. As usual, there were many more reports from Sabine Woods than for any other sites. This year, many reports were the combined efforts of several observers compiled at the time, so the number of reports may appear less than in previous years without there being much actual difference in observer time spent.

We thank the following observers who submitted reports for multiple days: John Haynes, Steve Mayes, and John and Jana Whittle. Others whose reports were used included Lynn Barber, Erik Breiden, Merri and Steve Dillinger, Gerald Duhon, Carol Ferguson, Don and Pat Jeane, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Joseph Kennedy, Greg Lavaty, Royce Pendergast, Brenda Prothro, Sherrie Roden, Tex Wells, and others who posted on TEXBIRDS. Our apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

There were a few sightings that do not fit into the normal category of migrant. These included the Fork-tailed Flycatcher March 15 through 18, and a Kiskadee, which is probably wide-ranging yet really resident, reported April 5 through 11. Analysis is not attempted for species that winter in or close to the area.

We now have data for each year since 1996 compiled under the same procedure. It may be possible to detect if any species are tending to migrate earlier. Copies of all previous compilations are available.

Spring 2008 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County

Date	APRIL										MAY										GRAND TOTAL																										
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28	29	TOT	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Cuckoos	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo					2																																										
Black-billed Cuckoo																																															
Flycatchers																																															
Olive-sided Flycatcher																																															
Eastern Wood-Pewee																																															
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher																																															
Acadian Flycatcher																																															
Willow Flycatcher																																															
Trail's Flycatcher																																															
Least Flycatcher																																															
Empidonax species																																															
Great Crested Flycatcher																																															
Western Kingbird																																															
Eastern Kingbird																																															
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher																																															
Vireos																																															
White-eyed Vireo																																															
Yellow-throated Vireo																																															
Warbling Vireo																																															
Philadelphia Vireo																																															
Red-eyed Vireo																																															

Spring 2008 Migration -- Coast of Jefferson County (cont)

Date	APRIL							MAY							GRAND TOTAL								
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT	TOT
Thrushes																							
Veery							2											11	2	1	8	2	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush																		6		3			
Swainson's Thrush							2	5	3	7								35	1	4	5	2	2
Wood Thrush	1						1	1	30	2	6							85	1	1			
Gray Catbird							11	55	51	15								302	20	15	20	6	6
																						5	1
Warblers																						6	4
Blue-winged Warbler							2																
Golden-winged Warbler																							
Brewster's hybrid Warbler																							
Tennessee Warbler																							
Nashville Warbler																							
Northern Parula							6	20	22	24	8	10	2					164	1	3	2	1	1
Yellow Warbler							1											217	4	15	5	6	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler																		6	1	64	39	24	16
Magnolia Warbler																		133	1	20	10	5	1
Cape May Warbler																		150	1	25	39	6	2
Yell-rump (Audubon's) Warbler																		3	1				
Black-throated Green Warbler							1	1										2					
Blackburnian Warbler																		56	5	5	3	1	1
Yellow-throated Warbler							1	1										15	6	1	7		
Prairie Warbler																		8					
Palm Warbler							1	1	2									5					
Bay-breasted Warbler																		11					
Blackpoll Warbler							4	3										92					
Cerulean Warbler																		16					
Black-and-white Warbler							3	9	8	7	5	6						158	1	11	11	2	2
American Redstart							1	1	5	1								209		3	1	2	2
Prothonotary Warbler							1	2	8	3	2	6	14	3	1	4	5	221	4	4	5	2	4
Worm-eating Warbler							1	2										67					
Swainson's Warbler																		58					
Ovenbird																		10					
Northern Waterthrush							1	2	8	3	5	2	5	1	5	8	2	109	5	8	2	1	2
Louisiana Waterthrush																		145	8	5	3	1	3
Kentucky Warbler																		23					
Mourning Warbler																		51					
Hooded Warbler																		3					
Wilson's Warbler																		1					
Canada Warbler																		1					
Yellow-breasted Chat																		28					
Tanagers																							
Summer Tanager																		97	4	5	4		
Scarlet Tanager																		87	3	5	14		
Grosbeaks																							
Rose-breasted Grosbeak																		108	5	6	3		
Blue Grosbeak																		26	2	1			
Buntings																							
Indigo Bunting																		289	5	7			
Painted Bunting																		14	2	3			
Blackbirds																							
Bobolink																		16					
Orchard Oriole																		442	50	14	16		
Baltimore Oriole																		225	2	2	2		

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/> Email alerts are also available for a small fee. Most rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. The archives of this listserv are at <http://listserv.uh.edu/archives/texbirds.html> It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include postings up to the most recent..

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..>

-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