

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 15 No. 11

November 2009

**Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner
Thursday, November 19, 2009
7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Ecuador – Birds and Birding
Sherrie Roden, Gerald Duhon, John Haynes and Steve Mayes**

As its name implies, Ecuador lies astride (and mostly just south of) the Equator on the west side of South America, south of Colombia, north of the Peruvian Andes and west of the Selvas of the Amazon basin of Peru around Iquitos. A country half the area of Texas with about half the population, its topography is dominated by the Cordillera Real of the Andes, with Chimborazo at 20,561 feet and the better known active volcano Cotopaxi at 19,347 feet as the two highest peaks. La Costa (the coast) in the northwest is tropical with an intense rainy season. La Sierra (the mountain region) has a temperate, mostly relatively dry climate, while La Amazonia (or El Oriente, the east), which occupies about half the land area, is sparsely populated tropical rainforest which joins the Peruvian Amazon basin.

The program, which will be illustrated by pictures taken on the trip, will describe an exploration of the eastern slope of the Andes in the northwest of the country, focusing on the birds seen, the habitat and the lodges. The trip took our speakers from 14,000 ft down to around 2,000 ft in the foothills. The habitats included the páramo, the tropical equivalent of tundra, above the tree line but below the permanent snow line, cloud forest, and semi-tropical rain forest. Common birds include many species of hummingbird, tanagers, antpittas and tropical ovenbirds.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp. This is our annual pot luck dinner meeting and elections, and those who are able are asked to bring a dish or fixings or drinks or a desert.

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Thursday November 19. Membership Meeting. Ecuador – Birds and Birding. (Sherrie Roden, Gerald Duhon, John Haynes, Steve Mayes.) Details on page 1.

Saturday November 21. Field Trip to West Jefferson County. Each successive year, the birding in west Jefferson County seems to get better and better. The recent Migration Count found some changes in the bird populations of that area, but mostly what we will be looking for on this trip are winter residents who don't know about hurricanes! The area is well known for its raptors, its Sandhill Cranes and its sparrows. In wet years, there can be lots of waterfowl also. An *El Niño* has developed in the eastern Pacific and the increased winter rain that this normally brings began on schedule in mid-October.

Meet at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the “north/west” side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of Interstate 10 and FM365 in Fannett, proceed along FM365 (towards Nome) for about six miles. Shortly after you cross over the second of two bridges (this one over Ground Bridge Gully) and emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. There is a green sign for the G and A Turf Farm on Johnson Road at the intersection. Contact Steve Mayes, sgmayes@hotmail.com, or call 409-722-5807 for further information.

Some winter resident birds have been late in arriving this year, so if you are out in the area before the field trip, please let us know what you find. We are always especially interested in knowing where the Sandhill Cranes can be found! The bridge on South China Road over Ground Bridge Gully (close to FM365) is being rebuilt and through travel on that section is not possible. A bridge on Green Pond Road is also under construction also preventing through travel. However, work on bridges on McDermand Road and Thompson Road is complete and these are now fully open again.

Saturday December 5 (Tentative). Sabine Woods Work Day. We are scheduling a special work day to plant trees at Sabine Woods. Gary Kelley, who has been managing our Sabine Woods projects, will be in charge. We will definitely have a good number of mulberry trees to plant, and we may also have other species. Check with John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) or the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org nearer the date for confirmation and further details.

Sunday January 3, 2010. Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count. Faced with a calendar that leaves very few suitable weekend days on which to hold Christmas Counts, we decided that Sunday January 3 was the best day to choose. Please contact John Whittle johnawhittle@aol.com or 722-4193 or an area leader in advance if you would like to participate. Increasingly, there are few good ways to use participants who show up without notice on the morning of the count.

Christmas Bird Counts. Next month, we will have a listing of the dates and contact persons for the other local counts. Compilers seem to be slow to set dates this year and we know of almost no confirmed dates for nearby counts.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments or made contributions for the October meeting. We are currently looking for volunteers for the October meeting. November is traditionally our pot luck dinner meeting, but **we will also need volunteers to bring items for all the spring 2009 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! 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!

Sabine Woods Projects Progress

With funds from the Texas Birding Classic program and Sempra Energy Foundation, projects are underway at Sabine Woods to continue with hurricane recovery and extend the tree cover into the open field on the east end of the preserve. At the end of last month (October), irrigation capability was added for trees that will be planted in the field at the east end of the property. The backflow preventer and valves, which had rusted out, are being repaired and three hose connections were installed along the west side of the field to supply water for future trees. Bids have been received for replacing the metal gates and picnic shelter. Finally, we are searching for a tree nursery to provide live oaks and planting service to cover about 1.7 acres at the front of the east clearing.

Once the irrigation system is working, we plan to take delivery of about 100 mulberry trees that have been offered by Jim and Kitty Anding. Please mark your calendars for a mulberry tree-planting work day, planned for Saturday, December 5. Further details will be emailed and will also be available on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

Gary Kelley

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.

Bird Alert

The following is a revised and abridged version of the October 25 Bird Alert, which can be read in full on the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

The first push of arriving winter species usually includes a few that "overshoot" a little on their trip south and stop when confronted with the Gulf. This year was no exception, and on October 25 in Sabine Woods, there was a Brown Creeper, a Pine Warbler and a Golden-crowned Kinglet. Other winter species seen included many Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, at least four Hermit Thrushes, an Orange-crowned Warbler, several Swamp Sparrows and a Lincoln's Sparrow. A Towhee was glimpsed. Several House Wrens were fussing, apparently trying to take over the brush piles that the Carolina Wrens have enjoyed all year. Very encouraging were at least six Barn Owls in the western part of the woods. The birds were in close proximity to each other suggesting a family party. We are encouraged, assuming this is correct, and assuming they nested near the coast, that the pair was able to find enough prey in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike to successfully raise four young. Scissor tailed Flycatchers often linger in November, and small numbers can still be seen migrating through both along the coast and inland.

There may be still a few more after the next front, but fall migration of Neotropical migrants is essentially over for all but the stragglers. The one or two days after the first cold front around the first of November often bring the first of many of the sparrow species. These are often more noticeable near the coast, where they may have slightly overshoot and do not have as much cover as they normally do a little further north. The first Savannah Sparrows are already present in west Jefferson County as well as along the immediate coast. Nelson's Sparrows (relieved as of July of the cumbersome "Nelson's Sharp-tailed" appellation) are already present along the edges of the "road" to where the old Pilot Station used to sit at Texas Point. (We strongly recommend walking the last mile or so, but you can imitate

the fishermen and drive if you are brave and/or have an old exceptionally high clearance vehicle.)

West Jefferson County (the "South China Prairie") has become the place to look for wintering raptors during the last few years. Two adult Bald Eagles were seen on South China Road near Lawhon Road on October 15, but they may have just been passing through. American Kestrels were late to arrive this year. Normally most are here by about the third week in September, but this year, the weekend of October 24/25 was the first time they were in evidence in the usual numbers. Northern Harriers are normally mostly here by the middle of October, but, although there were a few around, there were not anything like the normal numbers late in October. Red-tailed Hawks are notoriously late migrants, with some birds still moving through the northern tier of the United States in December. There are a few around, but not many. (At least one of the Merlins that winter along Highway 87 between Sabine Woods and Sea Rim has returned on schedule.) As best we can tell, the habitat in west Jefferson County, at least north of Highway 73 and away from the bayous that were the conduit for salt water from Ike, is favorable. There appears to be both much sparrow food in drier areas and a lot of standing water where rice farmers have apparently impounded the water from recent heavy rains. There also appears to be a good amount of the short and medium grass areas which have been used in recent years by the Sandhill Crane flock. We look forward to their return, "scheduled" for mid November.

The Blue-winged Teal have come and mostly gone on further. Other migratory waterfowl will begin to arrive in force after the middle of November, but seeing them may be more difficult than usual. Our last report from Cattail Marsh (accessible after signing a liability waiver at the guard hut) was that there was very little water in any of the cells. The City may have to run more water through the marsh if the promised plentiful rain results from the El Niño event. A few flocks of Greater White-fronted Geese are already around, with the odd white goose among them.

John A. Whittle

Climate Change – How Can We Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions?

(This article will attempt to briefly explain the significant factors related to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and attempt to explain in simple terms the various options that are available for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.)

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the principal so called "greenhouse" gas in our atmosphere. The sun's rays strike the surface of the earth, where they heat up the surface. The surface therefore radiates infrared radiation back away from the surface. Much of this infrared radiation "escapes" back into outer space. However, the carbon dioxide in the atmosphere captures of this radiation and thereby retains the heat that it represents in the atmosphere. The more CO₂ there is in the atmosphere, the more heat is retained. Therefore, in the absence of any other effect, increasing concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere will increase the overall temperature of the earth. Analysis of air trapped in polar ice has provided a historical record of atmospheric concentrations going back approximately 800,000 years. During that period, the concentration has averaged about 200 parts per million (ppm) in the colder periods and ice ages, and peaking at about 280 ppm in the warmer (interglacial) periods. Since the beginning of the industrial revolution the concentration has steadily increased from about 280 ppm and is now approaching 400 ppm. Carbon dioxide is not the only greenhouse gas. Methane, produced in significant quantities by cows and other ruminant animals, is a very potent greenhouse gas, but the quantities are very small compared to CO₂ concentrations. Water vapor also absorbs infrared radiation.

CO₂ is an essential component in the atmosphere. It is produced by the natural process of respiration, when animals consume foodstuffs, especially carbohydrates, using oxygen and producing CO₂ and water. CO₂ has always "cycled" in the biosphere. Green plants and most other organisms that are able to undertake photosynthesis use the CO₂ and produce carbohydrates using energy from solar radiation. The CO₂ in the atmosphere is also in equilibrium with CO₂ dissolved in the oceans, lakes and rivers. All other factors being equal, the more there is in the atmosphere, the more will be dissolved in the waters, which will make them more acidic. The processes whereby the deep waters of the oceans mix with the water nearer the surface are thought to be extremely slow, measured in hundreds of years, so it will take a long time for the concentration to stabilize. The increase in CO₂ concentration is accepted as fact by almost everyone. The continuing scientific arguments revolve around the issues in the preceding paragraph, and in particular how the earth's systems will react to the increasing concentration.

Most of the rest of the article will focus on ways of preventing CO₂ from reaching the atmosphere. Almost all anthropogenic CO₂ production comes from burning materials that contain carbon, whether it be gas, oil, coal, or wood. Ethanol contains carbon and is very much comparable to these fossil fuels. Most of what can be done comes in three categories: reducing consumption of energy based on carbon containing fuels, using fuels which contain less carbon, and capturing and sequestering the CO₂ that is produced. There are

often complex interrelationships between the first two, while the third is in the very earliest stages of development. The popular term "carbon footprint" refers to the amount of greenhouse gases produced by the particular activity.

In most of the world, most energy production involves burning carbon containing fuels, mostly the so called fossil fuels – coal, oil and gas. So the simplest approach is to use less energy. Most palatably, this means increasing the efficiency of all energy production and consumption. Mechanical efficiency comes immediately to mind but savings can be had by using less of materials which consume large amounts of energy during production. Production of aluminum uses huge amounts of electricity, but aluminum is among the easiest of materials to recycle. In transportation activities, lighter materials translate into less energy needed to propel the conveyance, and over its life, the savings may greatly exceed any additional energy required to produce the lighter material. Even that is not the whole story, because water, often a conservation concern in its own right because of lack of availability, often requires considerable amounts of energy to collect, treat and transport, so production processes that require a lot of water may outweigh other energy advantages.

While all fossil fuels contain carbon, they are not all equal in CO₂ production. Energy produced from natural gas generally produces less CO₂ per unit of energy produced. This is especially true of electricity production in modern "combined cycle" plants in which the gas is burned in what amounts to a large jet engine, with both the rotational energy so produced and the heat produced being used to generate electricity. Some consideration must also be given to any energy that may be consumed and CO₂ that may be produced during the extraction of the fuel from the ground.

Ethanol is being aggressively promoted by agricultural interests. However, produced from corn, it is probably one of the very worst fuels from a carbon footprint perspective. Growing (subsidized) corn or grain to produce ethanol by fermentation may result in a small energy content gain, but the energy content of the fuel used in growing, harvesting and fermenting the corn or grain usually seems to come very close to equaling the energy content of the ethanol. In addition, ethanol production requires a lot of water, as much as 10 gallons for every gallon of ethanol produced. It seems likely that production of ethanol from corn would not happen in the absence of farm subsidies and mandates to use it. However, ethanol that is produced in other ways may make sense. Ethanol from waste biomass, plant material that is co-produced along with a crop, may well be advantageous. Ethanol from sugar cane seems to be viable in parts of South America.

Government actions have most noticeably focused on proposals to institute a "cap and trade" system. The basic idea is simple enough. CO₂ emissions are capped at or near current levels, and emitters are allowed to trade (sell) allowances (also

called credits) no longer needed to others who want to emit more than their allowances. The expectation is that those facilities which are able to reduce emissions will do so and sell allowances to those who find it more difficult. But none of the systems either in use, principally in Europe, or proposed elsewhere, are pure cap and trade. Other complications are always added, it seems, whether it be provisions designed to remove some of the allowances over time, or systems of "offsets" such as for using alternative (non-carbon consuming) energy sources. Accurately determining current emissions may not be as easy as it sounds. And, perhaps the most significant issue is that from an overall world wide perspective, equally effective limitations or reductions must be applied world wide to achieve the desired result. Some schemes could be politically manipulated to become, in essence, taxes. Straight forward carbon taxes have, in fact, also been proposed. Most opponents fear that cap and trade will inhibit economic growth when industries are unable to increase output.

Looking to the future, one approach that, while not currently economically practical, appears likely to be technically possible, is to capture the CO₂ produced in the combustion of fossil fuels. The main difficulty is what to do with the CO₂ after it has been captured. Carbon dioxide liquefies quite easily under pressure, and injecting it into underground formations as a liquid is one of the currently favored alternatives. Obviously stationary sources will be much more amenable to this "sequestration" process than mobile sources.

Although it is currently dismissed out of hand by most, it may be necessary to consider removing CO₂ from the atmosphere. This process is definitely on the wrong side of the energy curve. Processes that produce CO₂ generally yield lots of energy because the CO₂ molecule intrinsically contains very little energy bound into its structure. It follows that converting CO₂ back into some more reduced carbon containing substance requires lots of energy. However, nature does this simply and elegantly in photosynthesis using energy from the sun, so it is possible! Absorbing the CO₂ out of the atmosphere, while hindered by what is, in terms of normal chemical processes, a very low concentration in the atmosphere, is certainly already possible. The key will be developing the alternative energy sources. There are a number of candidates, each with some environmental issues. These include nuclear, one of the most promising because of the large amounts of energy which can be produced, wind, photovoltaic solar (direct conversion of sunlight into electricity) and a host of others, many based on natural motions of water.

All in all, the issues surrounding CO₂ are both complex and contentious. We will be discussing them for a long time to come.

John A. Whittle



Field Trip to Sabine Woods 17 October 2009

The full report on this very successful field trip is posted on the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. The following describes some of the highlights

In our October field trip, we look for three categories of birds: the tail end of fall migration of Neotropical migrants, the first arrivals of our wintering species, and any birds of species that winter north of the coast but initially overshoot on their push south and stop at the sight of all that open sea to the south. The best days for all three are the first and second days after a cold front pushes through, unless the cold front stall visibly offshore when the Neotrops may wait a few more days to head south. On this occasion, the cold front passed through in the early hours of Friday morning (October 16) and kept going well into the Gulf. Some migrants apparently headed south on Friday night, but there were enough remaining to keep Sabine Woods very interesting.

As soon as we started birding, we saw one, then more Broad-winged Hawks. About 15 apparently spent the night in the Woods. We saw them moving around until about 9:00 a.m. when a couple of small kettles of 10 birds were seen. It was a little after 2 p.m. when we saw a larger kettle of Broad-winged Hawks. This caused us to search the sky even more diligently, and we found, in the medium distance to the west, a large kettle of hawks, which couldn't realistically have been anything other than Broad-winged Hawks. We think in it there were probably about 500 hawks, a very good number of Broad-wings for mid-October.

Warblers are always the star attraction during migration periods, and we eventually found 13 species, including a very rare fall Cape May Warbler. There were not many of any individual species, but enough to keep the birding interesting.

Vireos were not particularly numerous, although we saw a Blue-headed Vireo very early in the day. Later, we found a Yellow-throated Vireo behind the tree at the west end of the pond. Shortly after, a Sharp-shinned Hawk darted through the low trees and emerged with a bright yellow bird – we think it was probably the vireo – in its talons. We also glimpsed a Merlin, and saw eight Peregrine Falcons migrating over.

We knew that a Groove-billed Ani had been resident in the general area of the opening in the western part of the woods for three of four weeks. While we induced it to call on about three occasions during the morning, it stubbornly refused to become visible.

Flycatcher included a few Eastern Wood-Pewees, a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, a couple of Least Flycatchers and at least seven Eastern Phoebe. Then we found an interesting *Myiarchus* flycatcher. After studying it for a while, we decided it was probably an Ash-throated Flycatcher.

Other species sighted included Anhinga, Solitary Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, many House Wrens. Woodpeckers and swallows were also well represented.

John A Whittle

Bird Sightings –August 2009

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 johnawhittle@aol.com or call (409) 880-8276. For "very rare" birds, or very much out-of-season species, 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: A very varied selection of fall migrants in this month's report. Not only were there 21 species of warbler seen, but there was a good variety of raptors as well, including a very early Bald Eagle.

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bellied | (5-27) | JEF 7 reps(324) |
| WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(72) MC05 |
| DUCK, Wood | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(2) MC05 |
| DUCK, Mottled | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(6) MC05; |
| | JEF 9/19(2) MC11 | |
| TEAL, Blue-winged | (6-27) | JEF-TP 9/6(5) SM; JEF |
| | 9/19(110) MC05; JEF 9/19(1) MC09; JEF-SRSP 9/27(50) JAW | |
| SHOVELER, Northern | (13-19) | JEF-SRSP 9/13(4) |
| | JAW; JEF 9/19(1) MC05; JEF 9/19(15) MC09 | |
| TEAL, Green-winged | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC05 |
| GREBE, Pied-billed | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(23) MC05 |
| PELICAN, Brown | (5-19) | JEF-TX87 9/5(6) JAW; |
| | JEF 9/19(18) MC09; JEF 9/19(280) MC11 | |
| CORMORANT, Neotropic | (6-27) | JEF 11 reps(199) |
| ANHINGA | (5-19) | JEF 4 reps(9) |
| HERON, Great Blue | (13-27) | JEF 14 reps(33) |
| EGRET, Great | (1-27) | JEF 23 reps(308) |
| EGRET, Snowy | (5-27) | JEF 18 reps(400) |
| HERON, Little Blue | (5-20) | JEF 8 reps(36) |
| HERON, Tricolored | (6-27) | JEF 8 reps(74) |
| EGRET, Reddish | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC09; |
| | JEF 9/19(2) MC11; JEF 9/19(1) MC12 | |
| EGRET, Cattle | (5-27) | JEF 16 reps(3608) |
| HERON, Green | (5-19) | HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8 |
| | reps(22) | |
| NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned | (19-19) | JEF 3 reps(6) |
| NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. | (19-20) | JEF 4 reps(5) |
| IBIS, White | (5-27) | JEF 16 reps(511) |
| IBIS, White-faced | (6-19) | JEF-TP 9/6(5) SM; JEF |
| | 9/13(200) RHJ; JEF 9/19(10) MC04; JEF 9/19(2) MC05 | |
| IBIS, Plegadis | (5-20) | JEF 5 reps(67) |
| SPOONBILL, Roseate | (5-27) | JEF 11 reps(278) |
| STORK, Wood | (5-19) | JEF 9/5(4) JAW; JEF |
| | 9/19(302) MC78 | |
| VULTURE, Black | (6-27) | JEF 6 reps(140) |
| VULTURE, Turkey | (5-27) | JEF 16 reps(91) |
| KITE, White-tailed | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC09; |
| | JEF 9/19(1) MC11 | |
| KITE, Mississippi | (6-6) | JEF-SW 9/6(1) MA |
| EAGLE, Bald | (6-6) | JEF-TP 9/6(1) SM |
| HAWK, Sharp-shinned | (13-19) | JEF-SW 9/13(2) JAW; |
| | JEF 9/19(1) MC06 | |
| HAWK, Cooper's | (3-19) | JEF-BMT 9/3(1) RHJ; |
| | JEF-BMT 9/6(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 9/13(1) RHJ; JEF 9/19(1) MC06 | |
| HAWK, Red-shouldered | (1-19) | HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 |
| | reps(20) | |
| HAWK, Broad-winged | (6-27) | JEF 8 reps(112) |
| HAWK, Swainson's | (5-19) | JEF 9/5(1) JAW; JEF |
| | 9/19(1) MC01; JEF 9/19(1) MC04; JEF 9/19(1) MC78 | |
| HAWK, White-tailed | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC04 |
| HAWK, Red-tailed | (5-19) | JEF 9/5(1) JAW; JEF |
| | 9/19(1) MC06 | |
| CARACARA, Crested | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC01 |
| KESTREL, American | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC01; |
| | JEF 9/19(1) MC02; JEF 9/19(1) MC04 | |
| MERLIN | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC11 |
| FALCON, Peregrine | (7-19) | JEF-SW 9/7(1) JAW; |
| | JEF 9/19(1) MC11 | |
| RAIL, Clapper | (13-19) | JEF 2 reps(21) |
| RAIL, King | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC10 |
| MOORHEN, Common | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(21) MC05 |
| COOT, American | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(2) MC09 |
| PLOVER, Black-bellied | (5-19) | JEF 4 reps(17) |
| PLOVER, Semipalmated | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC11 |
| PLOVER, Piping | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(2) MC11 |
| KILLDEER | (5-27) | JEF 16 reps(375) |
| STILT, Black-necked | (5-27) | JEF 13 reps(281) |

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| AVOCET, American | (13-13) | JEF-SRSP 9/13(7) |
| | JAW | |
| SANDPIPER, Spotted | (13-27) | JEF 5 reps(10) |
| SANDPIPER, Solitary | (5-6) | JEF 9/5(1) JAW; JEF- |
| | TP 9/6(1) SM | |
| YELLOWLEGS, Greater | (5-27) | JEF 9 reps(14) |
| WILLET | (13-27) | JEF 6 reps(43) |
| YELLOWLEGS, Lesser | (5-19) | JEF 2 reps(10) |
| YELLOWLEGS species | (13-13) | JEF 9/13(1) RHJ |
| SANDPIPER, Upland | (5-5) | JEF 9/5(1) JAW |
| SANDPIPER, Upland | (5-5) | JEF 1 rep(1) |
| CURLEW, Long-billed | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(4) MC09 |
| GODWIT, Marbled | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(3) MC09 |
| TURNSTONE, Ruddy | (19-27) | JEF 9/19(2) MC12; |
| | JEF-MCFW 9/27(3) JAW | |
| SANDERLING | (19-27) | JEF 4 reps(102) |
| SANDPIPER, Semipalmated | (13-13) | JEF 9/13(3) RHJ |
| SANDPIPER, Western | (6-19) | JEF 4 reps(13) |
| SANDPIPER, Peep | (19-19) | JEF 3 reps(15) |
| SANDPIPER, Least | (6-19) | JEF 4 reps(26) |
| SANDPIPER, Baird's | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC12 |
| DOWITCHER, Short-billed | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(35) MC09; |
| | JEF 9/19(8) MC11 | |
| DOWITCHER species | (19-27) | JEF 2 reps(11) |
| PHALAROPE, Wilson's | (5-5) | JEF-SRSP 9/5(10) |
| | JAW | |
| GULL, Laughing | (5-27) | JEF 11 reps(1224) |
| GULL, Ring-billed | (19-19) | JEF 2 reps(6) |
| GULL, Lesser Black-backed | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(1) MC11 |
| TERN, Least | (13-13) | JEF-MCFW 9/13(1) |
| | JAW | |
| TERN, Gull-billed | (5-27) | JEF-SRSP 9/5(1) JAW; |
| | JEF-TX87 9/13(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 9/27(6) JAW | |
| TERN, Caspian | (19-27) | JEF 4 reps(229) |
| TERN, Black | (6-19) | JEF-TP 9/6(25) SM; |
| | JEF-SRSP 9/13(2) JAW; JEF 9/19(105) MC05 | |
| TERN, Forster's | (5-27) | JEF 10 reps(118) |
| TERN, Royal | (19-27) | JEF 3 reps(137) |
| SKIMMER, Black | (5-19) | JEF-SRSP 9/5(20) |
| | JAW; JEF 9/19(115) MC11 | |
| PIGEON, Rock | (5-27) | HAI 2 reps(20); JEF 11 |
| | reps(413) | |
| COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian | (5-20) | HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 13 |
| | reps(176) | |
| DOVE, White-winged | (1-27) | HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 24 |
| | reps(261) | |
| DOVE, Mourning | (5-28) | HAI 3 reps(30); JEF 18 |
| | reps(596) | |
| DOVE, Inca | (19-19) | JEF 9/19(2) MC06 |
| CUCKOO, Yellow-billed | (6-13) | JEF 5 reps(9) |
| ANI, Groove-billed | (12-20) | JEF-SRSP 9/12(1) |
| | JJW; JEF-SW 9/20(1) JAW | |
| OWL, Barn | (5-20) | JEF 7 reps(8) |
| OWL, Great Horned | (5-20) | JEF 6 reps(7) |
| WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- | (6-27) | JEF-SW 9/6(3) JAW; |
| | JEF-SW 9/6(1) MA; JEF-SW 9/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 9/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/27(1) JAW | |
| SWIFT, Chimney | (6-24) | JEF 5 reps(53) |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. | (1-30) | HAI 9 reps(25); JEF 41 |
| | reps(1539) | |
| HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus | (24-24) | JEF-BMT 9/24(1) RHJ |
| HUMMINGBIRD species | (5-23) | JEF 2 reps(11) |
| KINGFISHER, Belted | (7-27) | JEF 7 reps(10) |
| WOODPECKER, Red-headed | (1-19) | JEF-BMT 9/1(1) RHJ; |
| | JEF-BMT 9/5(1) RHJ; JEF 9/19(2) MC03 | |

WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (5-19) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11
reps(48)

WOODPECKER, Downy (4-30) JEF 21 reps(41)

FLICKER, Northern (5-18) JEF-BMT 9/5(1) RHJ;

WOODPECKER, Pileated (2-19) HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 5
reps(9)

WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (5-27) JEF 12 reps(37)

FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied (6-19) JEF-SW 9/6(2) MA;

FLYCATCHER, Acadian (7-13) JEF-SW 9/13(2) JAW; JEF 9/19(2) MC10

FLYCATCHER, Alder (6-6) JEF-SW 9/6(3) MA

FLYCATCHER, Traill's (5-20) JEF 6 reps(13)

FLYCATCHER, Least (6-27) JEF 9 reps(18)

EMPIDONAX species (7-27) JEF 7 reps(18)

FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested (3-23) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 12
reps(40)

KINGBIRD, Western (13-19) JEF 9/13(1) RHJ; JEF
9/19(1) MC12

KINGBIRD, Eastern (5-27) JEF 17 reps(111)

FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (5-27) JEF 14 reps(65)

SHRIKE, Loggerhead (5-27) JEF 16 reps(74)

VIREO, White-eyed (6-25) HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 14
reps(41)

VIREO, Yellow-throated (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC09;

VIREO, Blue-headed (24-24) JEF-BMT 9/24(1) RHJ

VIREO, Warbling (6-20) JEF-SW 9/6(1) MA;

VIREO, Red-eyed (6-13) JEF 5 reps(22)

JAY, Blue (5-27) HAI 2 reps(14); JEF 17
reps(172)

CROW, American (19-22) HAI 9/22(1) JAW; JEF
9/19(8) MC02; JEF 9/19(10) MC03; JEF 9/19(4) MC78

CROW, Fish (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC03

CROW, species (19-19) JEF 9/19(8) MC03

MARTIN, Purple (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC02

SWALLOW, Tree (6-19) JEF 8 reps(78)

SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged (6-19) JEF-TP 9/6(1) SM; JEF
9/19(20) MC05

SWALLOW, Bank (6-19) JEF-TP 9/6(5) SM;

SWALLOW, Cliff (6-6) JEF-TP 9/6(2) SM

SWALLOW, Cave (6-19) JEF-SW 9/6(3) MA;

SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff (20-20) JEF 1 rep(1)

SWALLOW, Barn (5-27) JEF 16 reps(487)

SWALLOW species (20-20) JEF 9/20(1) JAW

CHICKADEE, Carolina (3-19) HAI 4 reps(9); JEF 10
reps(54)

TITMOUSE, Tufted (8-28) HAI 5 reps(10); JEF 2
reps(8)

WREN, Carolina (9-28) HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 6
reps(34)

WREN, Sedge (13-13) JEF-MCFW 9/13(1)
JAW

WREN, Marsh (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC09

GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (5-27) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 17
reps(264)

BLUEBIRD, Eastern (4-28) HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 7
reps(48)

VEERY (13-13) JEF-SW 9/13(1) JAW

ROBIN, American (7-22) JEF-NEDR 9/7(1)

CATBIRD, Gray (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC03

MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (5-27) HAI 3 reps(12); JEF 15
reps(216)

THRASHER, Brown (6-19) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6
reps(12)

STARLING, European (5-27) JEF 15 reps(915)

WARBLER, Blue-winged (7-7) JEF-SW 9/7(2) JAW

WARBLER, Tennessee (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC10

WARBLER, Orange-crowned (23-23) JEF-SW 9/23(2) GO

WARBLER, Nashville (10-10) JEF-BMT 9/10(1) RHJ

PARULA, Northern (19-27) JEF 9/19(1) MC10;

WARBLER, Yellow (6-23) JEF 8 reps(31)

WARBLER, Chestnut-sided (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC10

WARBLER, Yellow-throated (7-19) JEF-SW 9/7(1) JAW;

WARBLER, Pine (1-19) JEF 7 reps(14)

WARBLER, Cerulean (7-7) JEF-SW 9/7(1) JAW

WARBLER, Black-and-white (6-23) JEF 7 reps(13)

REDSTART, American (7-27) JEF 5 reps(7)

WARBLER, Prothonotary (6-13) JEF-SW 9/6(1) MA;

WATERTHRUSH, Northern (6-19) JEF-SW 9/7(1) JAW; JEF-SW 9/13(2) JAW

WARBLER, Kentucky (6-13) JEF 5 reps(5)

WARBLER, Mourning (6-19) JEF 4 reps(5)

WARBLER, Mourning (6-19) JEF-SW 9/6(1) JAW;

YELLOWTHROAT, Common (19-27) JEF 5 reps(10)

WARBLER, Hooded (13-24) JEF-SW 9/13(1) JAW;

WARBLER, Wilson's (7-23) JEF-BMT 9/24(1) RHJ

WARBLER, Canada (6-23) JEF-SW 9/19(2) MC10; JEF-SW 9/23(1) GO

CHAT, Yellow-breasted (6-19) JEF 8 reps(33)

SPARROW, Vesper (19-19) JEF 6 reps(13)

SPARROW, Seaside (19-19) JEF 9/19(1) MC06

TANAGER, Summer (12-19) JEF 9/19(14) MC09

CARDINAL, Northern (5-27) JEF-SW 9/13(2) JAW; JEF 9/19(3) MC03

GROSBEAK, Blue (6-19) HAI 4 reps(150); JEF
15 reps(126)

BUNTING, Indigo (13-19) JEF 8 reps(55)

BUNTING, Painted (19-19) JEF 9/13(1) RHJ; JEF
9/19(1) MC04; JEF 9/19(1) MC05

DICKCISSEL (6-19) JEF 9/19(3) MC10

BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (5-27) JEF-SW 9/19(6) MC01

MEADOWLARK species (5-5) JEF 10 reps(470)

GRACKLE, Common (19-27) JEF 9/5(1) JAW

GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (5-27) JEF 5 reps(87)

GRACKLE, Great-tailed (5-27) JEF 10 reps(223)

GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed (27-27) JEF 13 reps(843)

COWBIRD, Brown-headed (5-19) JEF 1 rep(6)

BLACKBIRD species (27-27) JEF 9/5(10) JAW; JEF
9/19(5) MC02; JEF 9/19(24) MC05; JEF 9/19(18) MC06

ORIOLE, Orchard (6-20) JEF 9/27(4) JAW
reps(5)

ORIOLE, Baltimore (5-30) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3
JAW; JEF-SW 9/6(2) MA; JEF-SW 9/7(4) JAW; JEF-PI 9/20(1)
JAW; JEF-SW 9/20(4) JAW; JEF-BMT 9/30(1) RHJ

FINCH, House (3-24) HAI 7 reps(10); JEF 8
reps(10)

SPARROW, House (13-27) JEF 11 reps(208)

Number of Species 186

Number of Individuals 38282

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson

Location Codes:: BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TP — Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations; GO — Glenn and Claire Ory; JAW — John Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; MA — Mike Austin; MC01 — Migration Count, Area 1 ; MC02 — Migration Count, Area 2 ; MC03 — Migration Count, Area 3; MC04 — Migration Count, Area 4; MC05 — Migration Count, Area 5; MC06 — Migration Count, Area 6; MC09 — Migration Count, Area 9; MC10 — Migration Count, Area 10; MC11 — Migration Count, Area 11; MC12 — Migration Count, Area 12; MC78 — Migration Count, Area 7 & 8; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; WWR — John and Jana Whittle, Sherrie Roden.

Elections

November is the month in which we hold our Annual Meeting and Elections. So far, the Nominating Committee, composed on Steve Mayes, John and Jana Whittle, has been able to make the following nominations.

President (2010-2011 term): Dr. Jim Armacost

Treasurer (2010): Christine Sliva

Secretary (2010): John Whittle

Directors-at-Large (2010): Edra Bogucki, Sherry Gibson, Frank Giglio, John Haynes, Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Paula Shaw, and Jana Whittle.

The Committee has not yet been able to nominate a Vice-President. However, under the Bylaws, any member may nominate a candidate or additional candidate for any of the officer or director positions at the Annual Meeting, provided the person nominated agrees, in person or in writing, to serve if elected.

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Brown Pelican

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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. Archives of the listserv are at <http://lists.texbirds.org/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>.

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