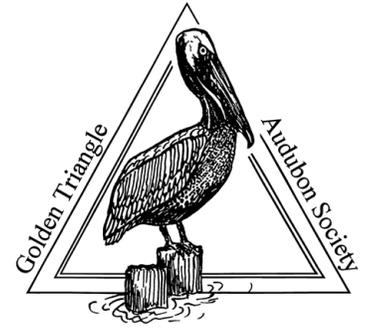


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 1

January 2010

**Membership Meeting  
Thursday, January 21, 2010  
7:00 PM  
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont  
The Relationship of Birds to Water**

**Dr. Lawrence P. (Larry) O'Meallie  
Tulane University School of Medicine**

**Dr. O'Meallie is a native of New Orleans and has been a birder for over 40 years. He will discuss the relationship of birds to water using North American birds to illustrate his talk. About ten years ago, he became interested in photographing hummingbirds in flight, and will also show some of his pictures.**

**In his professional life, Dr. O'Meallie is an interventional cardiologist on the faculty of the Tulane University School of Medicine in the Heart and Vascular Institute where he is director of the Chest Pain Center.**

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

## **Do You Have a Suitable Location for a Bluebird Box?**

We will have three Bluebird Boxes available at the January Membership Meeting and will hold a drawing to give these to three attendees able to install them in suitable locations in our area of Southeast Texas. Audubon unpublished data show a 19% decrease in the population of Eastern Bluebirds in Texas (1966 – 2005) as compared to a 311% increase nationwide and a northward shift of 115 miles, according to Rob Fergus, Senior Scientist for Urban Bird Conservation, National Audubon Society. In our area, Hurricanes Rita in 2005 and Ike in 2008 may have temporarily increased the number of natural cavities in trees, but as these trees fall, and other damaged trees are cut down by home and land owners, a shortage of suitable natural cavities may well develop. See the item on page 3 for details of what constitutes a suitable location and for information on building or purchasing additional boxes.

## The Brown Pelican

Vol. 16, No.1 January 2010  
Issue number 159

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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## Calendar of Events

**Thursday January 21, 2010.**  
**Membership Meeting.** Speaker: See next month's issue for details.

### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for the January meeting and all the spring 2010 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! Even if you would like to bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jennifer Armacost at (409) 790-7222 (or email her at [armacostj@yahoo.com](mailto:armacostj@yahoo.com)) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

**Saturday January 23, 2010 Field Trip to Katy Prairie/West Harris County.**

*[Special note: This Field Trip involves a long drive from the Golden Triangle and will not proceed in the face of an unacceptably adverse weather forecast. Rain and/or high winds that will make birding difficult will cause postponement or cancellation. Check [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org) or call Steve Mayes at 409-722-5807 to confirm. We may be able to make a decision at the January membership meeting.]*

Houston is rapidly advancing towards the heart of this excellent birding area, with its wintering waterfowl, sparrows (including Fox and Harris's) and raptors (including Caracara, Bald Eagle and White-tailed Hawk). Pyrrhuloxia, Great Kiskadee and Couch's Kingbird have been present in recent years. While this trip uses car caravanning to get from place to place, most of the birding is done from the sides of generally lightly traveled but good, mostly paved roads. The meeting time and place will be as in previous years: 7:30 a.m. at the Randall's Supermarket on the northeast corner of Barker-Cypress Road and Clay Road, west of Houston. To reach this location, take IH-10 west though

Houston and across Loop 610 on the west side to Barker-Cypress Road – exit 748. This exit is 15 miles west of Loop 610, is beyond Beltway 8, and just beyond Highway 6 Turn right (north) on Barker Cypress and proceed three miles to the Intersection with Clay.

**February 12-15, 2010. 12th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count**

A joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, this free event is an opportunity for families, students, and people of all ages to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds and report their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Anyone can take part, from novice bird watchers to experts, by counting birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the event and reporting their sightings online at [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org).

**Thursday February 18, 2010. Membership Meeting.** Topic: Native plants; speaker from Native Plant Society.

### 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.



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 [estb@earthshare-texas.org](mailto:estb@earthshare-texas.org).

# Suitable Bluebird Box Locations and Plans/Purchase Information

*On page 1 of this issue, there are details of the drawing for three bluebird boxes at the January Membership Meeting. Here are some excerpts from the Texas Bluebird Society's "Homeowner's Manual" which indicate suitable locations for bluebird boxes. The full version of the Manual and details of the Texas Bluebird Society are available on their website at <http://texasbluebirdsociety.org>.*

Eastern Bluebirds are found in the eastern two-thirds of Texas. Bluebirds usually nest in a somewhat open area with short grass and a few trees nearby (this includes suburban residential areas). The short grass provides an area where they can hunt for insects without cover for predators. Bluebirds appear to prefer a nesting location where they have a high "perch" nearby where they can observe their nest. An extensive dense forest will not suffice for nesting. Urban and suburban habitats that often provide adequate habitat are shaded lawns, parks, cemeteries and golf courses. In the winter, bluebirds gather in flocks and usually stay in protected wooded areas where water is available. A group of bluebirds will sometimes enter a single nestbox for protection on a cold night.

## **Where is the best place to put this nestbox?**

### **How should I mount this nestbox?**

The nestbox should not be mounted on a tree or post where the bluebirds would be very susceptible to predation by snakes, raccoons, squirrels, house cats, and fire ants. Mount it on a smooth pole or EMT conduit. An easy way to mount the nestbox is by attaching it to a six-foot length of 3/4" EMT conduit using 3/4" EMT brackets. Pound a 3- to 4-foot section of 5/8" rebar securely into the ground and slip the conduit with nestbox attached over the rebar. Attempt to make the nestbox as level as possible. The roof is designed to provide both shade and protection from rain. If the nestbox is tilted, particularly upward, the weather protection is compromised. And finally, if the nestbox is to be installed near your home, position it where you can enjoy it from a window.

## **Will other bird species use this nestbox?**

Other species—such as Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Chickadee, Carolina Wren, and Downy Woodpecker (all native birds of Texas)—would enjoy making a home in this nestbox. If this occurs, don't worry; in just a few weeks the tenant will move out and once again there will be an empty cavity for the possibility of bluebird tenants. The nestbox has a 1½" entrance hole, which will exclude many undesirable species. Unfortunately, the alien House Sparrow will fit through

## **What do I do after the nestbox is up?**

If possible, the nestbox should be "monitored" (opened and checked) about once a week during nesting season (February–August). Take notes of what you observe and post your data to NestWatch ([www.nestwatch.org](http://www.nestwatch.org)). NestWatch is a nest-

monitoring project by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Your valuable nest observations will be permanently stored as legacy data along with hundreds of thousands of other nesting records. When combined, these data will provide a wealth of information about breeding birds and the factors that influence their success across different landscapes.

## **When will bluebirds find this nestbox, and what should I do when it happens?**

In most parts of Texas, bluebirds begin nestbox selection in January. Their last nesting is as late as August. Occupancy might be immediate or it may take a couple of years. With luck, a bluebird could occupy your nestbox soon. If so, enjoy watching the process of nestbox selection (as male attempts to get female to accept the nestbox he has picked out), flirtation (wing-waving), nest building, egg laying, incubation (sometimes male will bring food to female), and caring for the nestlings (both parents will bring food). If you're watching at just the right moment, you might witness a young bluebird fledging (leaving the nestbox), taking its maiden flight to a nearby tree or shrub. In Texas, a pair of bluebirds may have as many as four nestings in a year. In the 2nd and 3rd nestings of the season the older siblings sometimes help feed the nestlings.

Complete plans for constructing bluebird boxes are available free on the Texas Bluebird Society web site at <http://texasbluebirdsociety.org/index.php?p=building>. Information on purchasing ready-made bluebird boxes of this design is available on the same website at <http://texasbluebirdsociety.org/index.php?p=sales>. Contact one of the local Texas Bluebird Society representatives for details of local availability and delivery: Debbie Bradshaw, [debbiep@texasbluebirdsociety.org](mailto:debbiep@texasbluebirdsociety.org) or 409-287-4020

Jennifer Fleming, [jennifer@bluebirdsociety.org](mailto:jennifer@bluebirdsociety.org)

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## **Bird Alerts**

Most of the recent birding focus has been on the Christmas counts. Two Great Kiskadees at Sabine Woods have been in the area since early December. Two young White-tailed Hawks were seen on the Sea Rim count along Highway 87 between Sabine Woods and the entrance to McFaddin NWR.

## **Next Month**

Squeezed out this month for lack of space are even brief reports for the other Christmas Counts in the area. It is planned to include them next month's issue. If possible, we will also post them on the website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

# Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count

## 3 January 2010

*This is a condensed report on the count. The full report is being sent to participants and will be posted on the website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)*

Sunday January 3rd was a cold day, with a moderate but biting east wind generally about 10 mph. Although there were a few periods of sunshine, there was a high overcast most of the day. In the two months preceding, the El Niño sent the west to east storm track further south than normal, and mostly over the Upper Texas Coast, resulting in rain events every four or five days. The good aspect of this is that any remaining salt from the storm surge of Hurricane Ike in September 2008 has surely been washed away. The not quite so good is that conditions were very wet underfoot.

We very much appreciate the cooperation of McFaddin and Texas Point NWRs, and especially Patrick Walther for spending all day transporting this observer, mostly by airboat, over the refuges, Jim Sutherlin for access to J.D. Murphree WMA, and Justin Rhodes and Jerry Rashall of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for permission to enter Sea Rim State Park.

The count results clearly show that the habitat conditions are very much returning to normal. However, the sandy beaches were not well populated with birds for reasons that are not totally clear. But the counts from areas just inland, such as Pleasure Island and McFaddin NWR suggests that many of the gulls particularly were a short distance inland, perhaps looking for areas sheltered from the wind.

There were good numbers of ducks, but with a relatively unusual distribution. Most of the Northern Pintail that were seen were flying offshore, and there were relatively few "dabbling" ducks. Two or three concentrations of Gadwall saved the day for that species but Northern Shovelers were very scarce. Encouragingly, Mottled Ducks were seen in average numbers, up from the very low number last year. Diving ducks are usually to be found in the deeper water, and there were many Canvasback in J.D. Murphree. Three Common Goldeneye were not a surprise this year, even though the species is not seen every year on the count. There were many Ring-necked Ducks in J.D. Murphree, and a fair number of scaup in several places. Only a couple of American Wigeon were seen, but Mallards were again seen after being totally absent last year. However, small ducks were plentiful. Pleasure Island had a large number of Bufflehead, and there were teal everywhere. The 423 Blue-winged Teal shattered the previous high of 300. There are often good numbers of Green-winged Teal and this year's count is best classified as "high normal." Ruddy Ducks were also plentiful. Pairs of Hooded Mergansers are commonly found in Texas Point and J.D. Murphree, and the total was on the high side of normal. Red-breasted Mergansers, on the other hand, were on the low side of normal.

Large flocks of Snow Geese, with some embedded Ross's Geese flew over in the early morning heading west, and, as, usual, it is difficult to know if any were counted twice. A few Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in both J.D. Murphree and McFaddin, nice finds after missing the species last year.

No Northern Gannets were seen, but it must be pointed out that conditions were very unfavorable for finding inshore gannets. Access at Pleasure Island is still physically restricted, and Common Loons were not detected there. However, there was one in the corner of Clam Lake that is inside the circle, and two others flew by along the beach. An Eared Grebe in the east cove of Clam Lake was the only one seen.

American White Pelican numbers were somewhat low, perhaps reflecting an unwillingness to fly in the wind. Brown Pelicans were interesting, in that numbers were on the high side, but most of the birds were inland away from the shoreline. Also different from past

years was that a high percentage of the Brown Pelicans were adult birds, whereas before, the vast majority seen were immature birds. Cormorant numbers – both species – were unremarkable. There were not many Anhingas by the standards of recent years, but the number was within the longer range norms.

Heron numbers were pretty much normal except for a low number of Little Blue Herons. Cattle Egret and Reddish Egret were both found this year. Given the relatively cold early December, it was somewhat of a surprise to find six Green Herons, even though that total is often reached. The Black-crowned Night-Heron roost in McFaddin produced fewer birds than normal this year, while no Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were seen.

Over 400 White Ibis is quite a high number by pre-hurricane standards, but less than might have been expected in light of the numbers seen earlier in the year. Dark Ibis, species whose numbers in the count circle are quite variable, were quite low.

By recent standards, the numbers of both species of Vulture were low. We have come to think of four Ospreys as a low count, but Osprey can range quite far, and may have been elsewhere round Sabine Lake. White-tailed Kites left the area in the aftermath of Ike, presumably because the small rodent prey base had been virtually eliminated. Four birds is not a full recovery, but is double the number seen last year. Northern Harriers and Accipiters were found in the usual numbers. White-tailed Hawk was a new species for the count, an addition probably long overdue, as young birds have been in the area on and off for several years. This is likely another example of a species expanding northwards, as is Crested Caracara, three of which were seen after a miss last year. Anyone who has birded anywhere in the area this year will know that Red-tailed Hawks are very numerous, and 56 has been exceeded only once by 60 in 1997. The expected three Falcons were there is near normal numbers. If anything, there were more Merlins but fewer American Kestrels than average.

Because many of the marshes in the count circle are brackish, Clapper Rails have almost always greatly outnumbered King Rails. Calling rails in clearly brackish situations are assumed to be Clapper Rails. King Rail was found in J.D. Murphree. Virginia Rails have apparently returned to near normal numbers. Soras have proven difficult to find in winter, and the bird seen was the first in three years. Common Moorhens seem to have suffered badly in the hurricanes and 20, while an improvement over last year's 7, is low by historical standards. American Coots were present in normal numbers.

Black-bellied Plover is by far the commonest plover on the beach and mudflats. Numbers were close to the long-term average. Snowy Plovers used to be very difficult to find on the Upper Texas Coast until about a decade ago. While not quite as numerous as in some past years, there were, nevertheless a good number on Sea Rim this year. Only six Piping Plover was a little low, although the profile of the beach restricts the amount of damp sand. Semi-palmated Plovers, another species which seems to prefer damp mudflats, were not numerous.

American Oystercatchers had seemingly established a tenuous presence around the Sabine-Neches Waterway, but we did not find any this year. Black-necked Stilts were down more than a little, while American Avocets, more seen in inland locations than usual, were within norms. Only two Spotted Sandpipers is a total well below norms, but lack of access to areas on Pleasure Island may be the cause.

When we first were able to bird the beach along Texas Point NWR in 2000, we were surprised to find Whimbrel wintering in an area. However, we have found them every year since. Often we have

found a small mixed flock of Whimbrel and Long-billed Curlew in roughly the same area of the beach. This year, there was a new twist. The main flock had four Whimbrel, nine Long-billed Curlews and two Marbled Godwits! However, we missed Ruddy Turnstone for the first time in ten years.

There were fewer Sanderlings than normal, perhaps again reflecting the different nature of the sand at the water line. Western Sandpipers were in the eroding vegetation at the water edge in somewhat lower than normal numbers, while observers found more Least Sandpipers than usual, mostly in inland locations. The number of Wilson's Snipe counted was quite low, but the birds sit tight and it is chance whether any given group is flushed.

Laughing Gull numbers were high, but not from any congregations on the beach. Most of those recorded were further inland. Equally unusual, the four Bonaparte's Gulls were "inland" at Pleasure Island. Ring-billed Gulls were seen in normal numbers, again with many away from the shore. Gull-billed Terns are not always found but small numbers are seemingly present in winter. The one seen was over Texas Point NWR marsh. Caspian Terns were normal, some on the beach, some inland as usual. Royal Terns, which pretty much stick to the beach, were scarce, while Forster's Terns were down only a little. Black Skimmers are very gregarious, and the large flock was located this year after being missed last year.

Doves and pigeons are becoming very enigmatic in Sabine Pass. This year, Rock Pigeons were there in numbers but Eurasian Collared-Doves were nowhere to be found. Only one White-winged Dove was observed, while Inca Doves were missed again. A low number of Mourning Doves may reflect the wet conditions in the count circle as much as anything.

The count missed Barn Owl last year but earlier this fall there were certainly at least six in Sabine Woods. The observers there reported only one during the count, but three were flushed from the marsh at Texas Point NWR and another from the McFaddin marsh. Two Great Horned Owls also points to a return to normal.

Hummingbird feeders were hung in Sabine Woods early in December, and it was gratifying when a hummingbird greeted observers in the early morning. When the other observers in the vicinity were summoned, the hummingbird obligingly returned but was immediately "bombed" by another hummingbird which then went to one of the other feeders before perching in good view. Unfortunately, both were females, and we had to settle for *Archilochus* species for one and *Selasphorus* (or Rufous/Allen's) species for the other. A third hummingbird was there but too shy for identification.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers used to be an occasional species on the count, but we have found them five years in a row now, and 16 topped the previous 2002 high of 13. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and Downy Woodpeckers were recorded in normal numbers; Northern Flickers were on the low side.

Only on species of flycatcher can be relied on in the count circle – Eastern Phoebe. It is a good year for that species elsewhere in the area, but 44 was normal for this count. It was good to find a Vermilion Flycatcher for the fourth time in the last six years, and the first time since 2006. There were two Great Kiskadees in Sabine Woods, where they had been for about a month. The "2004" count was the only previous one that found a Kiskadee.

White-eyed Vireos were not to be found in the three previous years, so it was nice to find one again. Blue-headed Vireos were back up to normal numbers after a low count last year. Blue Jays were back up from last year, but still lower than the long term average. Inexplicably, no Tree Swallows showed up last year. This year, they seemingly were everywhere in the circle, and the total is well above the long term average.

Carolina Chickadees were not quite in normal numbers. Somewhat incongruously, we are able to find Brown Creeper in about half the counts, and found one this year, despite the lack of significant stands of pine trees. Similarly, Golden-crowned Kinglets

are found 80 percent of the time, and this year, two or three are apparently wintering in Sabine Woods. Ruby-crowned Kinglets are very numerous everywhere this year, and the total matches the 2005-2007 period highs. It seemed Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were everywhere but the final total is not abnormally high.

Carolina Wrens are fairly localized within the circle and are easiest found in Sabine Woods. Numbers of those and the more widely distributed House Wren were normal. Sedge Wrens are present in the marshes in clusters, but this year, there were areas devoid of them. While the number is still respectable, it is below normal. The second Winter Wren in ten years was found in J.D. Murphree.

Eastern Bluebirds were not found in the circle this year. Hermit Thrushes were found in normal numbers. Some years, a large flock of American Robins makes it to the coast. This is not one of those years, and we were probably lucky to find the three that we did. Numbers of both Gray Catbirds and Northern Mockingbirds were close to long-term averages. This does not seem to have been a year for Brown Thrashers although two were found. A flock of American Pipits is usually located somewhere, but this year only four birds were confirmed. Six is also a small flock of Cedar Waxwings, but the species does seem to be more scattered this year than normal.

We did not find any lingering neotropical migrant warblers, perhaps not surprising after early December cold weather and frosts. Of the wintering species, numbers of Orange-crowned Warblers were on the high side, while Yellow-rumped were somewhat low, although certainly present everywhere. Pine Warbler was missed for the first time since 1995. This may not be very significant, and may just reflect chance. Thirteen Palm Warblers represented a new high for the count. Common Yellowthroats were where they should be, while the Wilson's Warbler was only the fourth in ten years.

For the third consecutive year, no Towhees were found. Field Sparrow is found about half the time while the Vesper Sparrow was the third in the last ten years. LeConte's Sparrows are mostly found in Texas Point NWR where many light sparrows seen from the airboat have to go unidentified. The numbers confirmed certainly represent a fraction of those actually present. Nelson's Sparrows are very easy to find in the *Spartina* marshes in November and again in the spring, but can be elusive during the count period. We were happy to find the ones we did. The two Seaside Sparrows that were found were surprisingly far inland. We missed Song Sparrow last year, but numbers are back to normal. Thirteen Lincoln's Sparrows is a high count, while 362 Swamp Sparrows exceeds the previous high of 277 in 1995 by a considerable margin. White-throated Sparrows have been noted as in low numbers on many other counts and eighteen is very low. White-crowned Sparrows are not located every year, and 19 is a good total. Twenty-four Northern Cardinals is an improvement over the very low 17 of last year, but is well below the average.

Red-winged Blackbirds were again under 1000, but not by much. Eastern Meadowlarks were located in normal numbers. We failed to find House Finches again this year, but, probably on the favorable side, we saw no Brown-headed Cowbirds. House Sparrow numbers were back up after last year's single bird.

We thank all those who participated in the count: Howard Davis, Gerald Duhon, Nancy and Don Fisher, Garrett Gauthier, Bill Graber, John Haynes, Don Jeane, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Gary Kelley, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Karen McCormick, Art Mackinnon, Steve Mayes, Royce Pendergast, Alice Richardson, Sherrie Roden, Jenny Shuffield, Christine Sliva, Ken Sztraky, Patrick Walther, Tex Wells, Jana Whittle, John Whittle.

Birds seen:(subject to rechecking)

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (3); GOOSE, Greater White-fronted (112); GOOSE, Snow (6375); GOOSE, Snow (White) (200); GOOSE, Snow (Blue) (10); GOOSE, Ross's (38); GADWALL (612); WIGEON, American (2); MALLARD (4); DUCK, Mottled (46); TEAL, Blue-winged (423); SHOVELER, Northern (155); PINTAIL, Northern (387); TEAL, Green-winged (4500); CANVASBACK (1750); DUCK, Ring-necked (300); SCAUP, Greater (1); SCAUP, Lesser (1142); BUFFLEHEAD (342);

(Continued on page 7)

## Bird Sightings – November 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:** November birding in the Golden Triangle was good, even if not punctuated by any truly rare species. It is nevertheless nice to see the "South China Prairie" in west Jefferson County well populated by raptors and sparrows. Numerous fall and winter hummingbird reports are becoming normal. Four species were reported even with many observers prudently leaving many not seen well as "not identified as to species." Not as obvious from the listing, however, is a shortage of reports of waterfowl, especially ducks. With Cattail Marsh under extensive reconstruction, there are not many places locally to observe waterfowl in places they are not shot at. Christmas counts in the area do suggest that the distribution of the various species is somewhat unusual this year.

<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	(3-29)	JEF 11/3(2) JA; JEF 11/21(60) FTWJ; JEF 11/29(25) JAW
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	(21-29)	JEF 11/21(1055) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(295) JAW; JEF 11/28(100) RHJ; JEF 11/29(2200) JAW
<b>GOOSE, Ross's</b>	(21-29)	JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(2) JAW; JEF 11/29(15) JAW
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(6) FTWJ
<b>HOVELER, Northern</b>	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ
<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(14) FTWJ
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	(29-29)	JEF 11/29(2) JAW
<b>PELICAN, Amer. White</b>	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 11/14(30) JAW
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(29-29)	JEF 11/29(1) JAW
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(29-29)	JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>ANHINGA</b>	(15-15)	JEF 11/15(1) JAW
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(14-29)	JEF 6 reps(34)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(3-29)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 7 reps(75)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(9-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(101)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(14-15)	JEF-TX87 11/14(1) JAW; JEF 11/15(1) JAW
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(29-29)	JEF 11/29(26) JAW
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(15-22)	JEF 11/15(89) JAW; JEF 11/21(6) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(201) JAW
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(15-22)	JEF 11/15(10) JAW; JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(15-22)	JEF 11/15(15) JAW; JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(4) JAW
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(4-15)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 2 reps(12)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(2-29)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 6 reps(75)
<b>OSPREY</b>	(14-15)	JEF-TX87 11/14(2) JAW; JEF 11/15(1) JAW
<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ
<b>EAGLE, Bald</b>	(12-29)	HAI 11/12(1) JM; JEF 11/29(1) LH
<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	(3-29)	JEF 8 reps(63)
<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(10-21)	JEF-BMT 11/10(1) RHJ; JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(3-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(21)
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(1-1)	JEF-SW 11/1(1) GD
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(10-29)	JEF 8 reps(81)
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed (Kriger's)</b>	(15-15)	JEF 11/15(1) JAW
<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	(21-29)	JEF 11/21(3) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1) JAW; JEF 11/29(1) JAW
<b>KESTREL, American</b>	(14-29)	JEF 6 reps(102)
<b>MERLIN</b>	(21-29)	JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ; JEF 11/28(1) RHJ; JEF 11/29(1) JAW
<b>COOT, American</b>	(15-15)	JEF 11/15(2) JAW
<b>CRANE, Sandhill</b>	(19-29)	JEF 11/19(20) CSL; JEF 11/21(507) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1089) JAW; JEF 11/28(3) RHJ; JEF 11/29(959) JAW
<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	(14-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/14(1) JAW; JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ
<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 11/14(1) JAW
<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 11/14(1) JAW
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(10-29)	JEF 6 reps(390)
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	(21-22)	JEF 11/21(3) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(15) JAW
<b>WILLET</b>	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 11/14(1) JAW
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(15-22)	JEF 11/15(1) JAW; JEF 11/22(9) JAW
<b>CURLEW, Long-billed</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(12) JAW
<b>SANDERLING</b>	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 11/14(9) JAW; JEF-SRSP 11/14(2) JAW
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	(21-22)	JEF 11/21(5) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(120) JAW
<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(30) JAW
<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	(14-22)	JEF 3 reps(298)
<b>SNIFE, Wilson's</b>	(21-29)	JEF 11/21(5) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(7) JAW; JEF 11/29(1) JAW
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(14-22)	JEF 3 reps(45)
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(9-14)	HAI 2 reps(38); JEF 1 rep(4)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.</b>	(10-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(63)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(14-22)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(57)
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(6-29)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 6 reps(383)
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(4-4)	HAI-SILS 11/4(1) MG
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	(14-21)	JEF 2 reps(5)
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(1-26)	HAI-SILS 11/26(1) MG; JEF-BMT 11/1(1) RHJ
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	(14-14)	JEF-BMT 11/14(3) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied</b>	(16-27)	JEF-BMT 11/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/24(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/27(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b>	(1-2)	HAI-SILS 11/1(2) MG; HAI-SILS 11/2(1) MG
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail</b>	(22-22)	JEF-BMT 11/22(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous</b>	(1-1)	JEF-BMT 11/1(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD species</b>	(2-30)	JEF 19 reps(25)
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	(14-29)	JEF 5 reps(12)
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	(2-26)	HAI 10 reps(17); JEF 2 reps(7)
<b>SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell.</b>	(12-22)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(14-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(4)
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(12-21)	HAI-VCSP 11/12(1) JA; JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(1-29)	HAI 5 reps(6); JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>PHOEBE, Eastern</b>	(2-29)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 8 reps(128)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Vermilion</b>	(15-29)	JEF 11/15(1) JAW; JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(3) JAW; JEF 11/29(1) JAW
<b>KINGBIRD, Western</b>	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 11/14(1) JAW
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.</b>	(28-28)	JEF 11/28(1) RHJ
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(14-29)	JEF 11/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 11/14(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/14(3) JAW; JEF 11/15(23)

	JAW; JEF-BMT 11/15(1) RHJ; JEF 11/21(5) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(27) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/22(1) JAW; JEF 11/29(17) JAW	
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>VIREO, Blue-headed</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(3-22)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 4 reps(6)
<b>CROW, American</b>	(21-22)	JEF 11/21(9) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>CROW, species</b>	(15-29)	JEF 3 reps(10)
<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	(3-29)	HAI 1 rep(7); JEF 5 reps(785)
<b>SWALLOW species</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(3) JAW
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(2-27)	HAI 7 reps(14); JEF 3 reps(6)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(1-27)	HAI 8 reps(15)
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(1-29)	HAI 14 reps(26); JEF 2 reps(7)
<b>WREN, House</b>	(3-29)	JEF 11/3(2) JA; JEF 11/10(2) JA; JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(2) JAW; JEF 11/29(1) JAW
<b>WREN, Sedge</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(3) JAW
<b>KINGLET, Golden-crowned</b>	(12-12)	HAI-VCSP 11/12(1) JA
<b>KINGLET, Ruby-crowned</b>	(3-29)	HAI 4 reps(8); JEF 8 reps(18)
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(10-22)	JEF 11/10(3) JA; JEF-SW 11/14(2) JAW; JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(13-29)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 4 reps(23)
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(12-21)	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 1 rep(2)
<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(3-21)	HAI-SILS 11/4(2) MG; HAI-VCSP 11/12(2) JA; JEF 11/3(2) JA; JEF 11/21(3) FTWJ
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(1-29)	HAI 6 reps(22); JEF 6 reps(54)
<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ
<b>STARLING, European</b>	(9-29)	HAI 1 rep(23); JEF 5 reps(472)
<b>PIPIT, American</b>	(15-22)	JEF 11/15(3) JAW; JEF 11/21(7) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(35) JAW
<b>WARBLER, Orange-crown</b>	(3-30)	JEF 11 reps(11); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>WARBLER, Yellow-rumped</b>	(3-28)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 7 reps(92)
<b>WARBLER, Pine</b>	(12-28)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 3 reps(5)
<b>WARBLER, Palm</b>	(22-22)	JEF-TX87 11/22(2) JAW
<b>WARBLER, Black-and-wh.</b>	(5-5)	HAI-SILS 11/5(1) MG
<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(1) FTWJ
<b>TOWHEE, Eastern</b>	(12-12)	HAI-VCSP 11/12(2) JA
<b>SPARROW, Chipping</b>	(2-28)	HAI 16 reps(87); JEF 4 reps(14)
<b>SPARROW, Savannah</b>	(10-29)	JEF 11/10(20) JA; JEF 11/15(18) JAW; JEF 11/21(21) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(156) JAW; JEF 11/28(1) RHJ; JEF 11/29(3) JAW
<b>SPARROW, Savannah</b>	(10-29)	JEF 6 reps(219)
<b>SPARROW, Song</b>	(21-22)	JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(2) JAW
<b>SPARROW, Swamp</b>	(21-22)	JEF 11/21(2) FTWJ; JEF-TX87 11/22(1) JAW
<b>SPARROW, White-throated</b>	(3-30)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 14 reps(22)
<b>SPARROW, White-crowned</b>	(1-22)	JEF-TXPT 11/1(1) GD; JEF 11/21(16) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1) JAW
<b>JUNCO, Dark-eyed</b>	(5-5)	ORA 11/5(20) MSM
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(3-27)	HAI 8 reps(27); JEF 5 reps(16)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(3-29)	JEF 6 reps(504)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	(3-29)	JEF 5 reps(108)
<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	(15-29)	JEF 5 reps(58)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Brewer's</b>	(22-22)	JEF 11/22(2) JAW
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(14-22)	JEF 3 reps(335)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 11/14(58) JAW
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	(14-29)	JEF 4 reps(270)
<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed</b>	(14-15)	JEF 2 reps(7)
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	(15-29)	JEF 11/15(4631) JAW; JEF 11/21(50) FTWJ; JEF 11/22(1220) JAW; JEF 11/29(2035) JAW
<b>BLACKBIRD species</b>	(29-29)	JEF 11/29(500) JAW
<b>FINCH, House</b>	(21-30)	JEF-BMT 11/21(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/26(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/30(5) RHJ
<b>GOLDFINCH, American</b>	(21-24)	JEF 11/21(3) FTWJ; JEF-BMT 11/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 11/24(1) RHJ
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(15-22)	JEF 2 reps(31)

**Number of Species** 124  
**Number of Individuals** 42376

**County Abbreviations:**

HAI—Hardin; JEF—Jefferson; ORA—Orange

**Location Codes:**

BMT—Beaumont; MCFW—McFaddin NWR; NEDR—Nederland; 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; VCSP—Village Creek State Park

**Observer Abbreviations**

CSL—Christine Sliva; FTWJ—Field Trip to West Jefferson County; GD—Gerald Duhon; JA—Jim Armacost; JAW—John Whittle; JJW—John and Jana Whittle; JM—John Mariani; LH—Levie Horton; MG—Melanie Goetsell; MSM—Martha Simmons; HJ—Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan

**Sea Rim CBC** (continued from page 5)

GOLDENEYE, Common (3); MERGANSER, Hooded (30); MERGANSER, Red-breasted (24); DUCK, Ruddy (575); LOON, Common (3); GREBE, Pied-billed (50); GREBE, Eared (2); PELICAN, American White (854); PELICAN, Brown (167); CORMORANT, Neotropic (716); CORMORANT, Double-crested (278); CORMORANT species (76); ANHINGA (5); BITTERN, American (2); HERON, Great Blue (55); EGRET, Great (317); billed (50); GREBE, Eared (2); PELICAN, American White (854); PELICAN, Brown (167); CORMORANT, Neotropic (716); CORMORANT, Double-crested (278); CORMORANT species (76); ANHINGA (5); BITTERN, American (2); HERON, Great Blue (55); EGRET, Great (317); EGRET, Snowy (113); HERON, Little Blue (12); HERON, Tricolored (54); EGRET, Reddish (2); EGRET, Cattle (1); HERON, Green (6); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (24); IBIS, White (418); IBIS, White-faced (104); IBIS, Plegadis species (151); SPOONBILL, Roseate (216); VULTURE, Black (7); VULTURE, Turkey (37); OSPREY (4); KITE, White-tailed (4); HARRIER, Northern (43); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (4); HAWK, Cooper's (7); HAWK, Red-shouldered (5); HAWK, White-tailed (3); HAWK, Red-tailed (56); CARACARA, Crested (2); KESTREL, American (14); MERLIN (8); FALCON, Peregrine (2); RAIL, Black (1); RAIL, Clapper (24); RAIL, King (1); RAIL, Virginia (8); SORA (1); RAIL, species (2); MOORHEN, Common (20); COOT, American (703); CRANE, Sandhill (2); PLOVER, Black-bellied (111); PLOVER, Snowy (20); PLOVER, Semipalmated (22); PLOVER, Piping (6); KILLDEER (59); STILT, Black-necked (20); AVOCET, American (179); SANDPIPER, Spotted (2); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (16); WILLET (210); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (21); WHIMBREL (5); CURLEW, Long-billed (10); GODWIT, Marbled (2); SANDERLING (114); SANDPIPER, Western (63); SANDPIPER, Least (96); DUNLIN (476); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (50); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (250); DOWITCHER, species (10); SNIPE, Wilson's (11); GULL, Laughing (1336); GULL, Bonaparte's (6); GULL, Ring-billed (864); GULL, Herring (39); TERN, Gull-billed (1); TERN, Caspian (41); TERN, Forster's (95); TERN, Royal (18); SKIMMER, Black (141); PIGEON, Rock (157); DOVE, White-winged (1); DOVE, Mourning (45); OWL, Barn (6); OWL, Great Horned (3); HUMMINGBIRD, [Archilochus] (1); HUMMINGBIRD, [Selasphorus] (1); HUMMINGBIRD species (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (25); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (16); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (7); WOODPECKER, Downy (25); FLICKER, Northern (2); WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (10); PHOEBE, Eastern (44); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (1); KISKADEE, Great (2); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (26); VIREO, White-eyed (1); VIREO, Blue-headed (14); JAY, Blue (19); SWALLOW, Tree (638); CHICKADEE, Carolina (4); CREEPER, Brown (1); WREN, Carolina (3); WREN, House (21); WREN, Winter (1); WREN, Sedge (26); WREN, Marsh (17); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (13); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (120); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (67); THRUSH, Hermit (5); ROBIN, American (3); CATBIRD, Gray (8); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (47); THRASHER, Brown (2); STARLING, European (266); PIPIT, American (4); WAXWING, Cedar (6); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (47); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (80); WARBLER, Yellow-r.(Myrtle) (80); WARBLER, Palm (13); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (32); WARBLER, Wilson's (1); SPARROW, Chipping (5); SPARROW, Field (3); SPARROW, Vesper (1); SPARROW, Savannah (259); SPARROW, LeConte's (9); SPARROW, Nelson's (6); SPARROW, Seaside (9); SPARROW, Song (17); SPARROW, Lincoln's (13); SPARROW, Swamp (362); SPARROW, White-throated (18); SPARROW, White-crowned (19); SPARROW, species (1); CARDINAL, Northern (24); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (958); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (44); GRACKLE, Common (151); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (226); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (123); GOLDFINCH, American (29); SPARROW, House (11); SPECIES, total (156); INDIVIDUALS, total (30112); Observers (26); Parties (9); Party-hours total (70.50); Party-miles total (130.50).

John A. Whittle

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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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