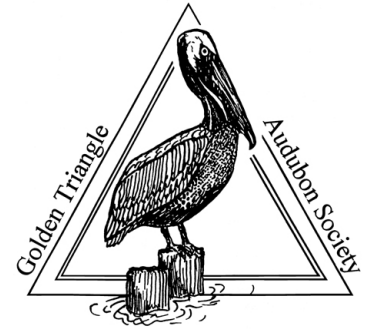


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 3

March 2010

**Membership Meeting  
Thursday, March 18, 2010  
7:00 PM**

**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Mottled Duck Habitat Use and Movements Utilizing Satellite  
Telemetry: Making Sound Management Decisions Based on  
Science**

**Jena Moon  
Wildlife Biologist  
McFaddin/Texas Point National Wildlife Refuges**

Jena will discuss the results to date of an on-going project to track the movements of female Mottled Ducks on Anahuac and McFaddin NWR and surrounding areas using satellite telemetry. Fifteen radios were deployed during the pilot program year (2009), and two local schools have been involved in the project. Jena has been collecting data on distances traveled, water depth, and the presence or absence of aquatic vegetation.

Jena has a B.S. and M.S. from Texas Tech University's Department of Natural Resources Management. While an undergraduate she participated in the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Student Career Experience Program in Roswell, NM working on endangered and wetland species, and on the Kofa NWR in Yuma, AZ, working on big horn sheep and bat conservation. Her master's thesis work with Dr. David Haukos on the survival of female northern pintails wintering in the Playa Lakes region of Northwestern Texas was published in the Journal of Wildlife Management in 2006, and she has several other peer-reviewed articles. After graduation, Jena was the Wetlands and Waterfowl Biologist for the Lower Rio Grande NWR Complex, working in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, Santa Ana and Laguna Atascosa Refuges before joining the staff at McFaddin and Texas Point in 2007. Jena is active in The Wildlife Society and currently serves as the Chair of the Finance Committee of the Texas Chapter.

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

## *The Brown Pelican*

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Issue number 161

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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Volunteer opportunity!

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## Calendar of Events

**Saturday March 13, 2010. Sabine Woods Work Day.** Our four projects funded by grants from Sempra Energy Foundation and the Great Texas Birding Classic have been completed under the able management of Gary Kelley. We thank Gary for all the time and effort that he has put into them.

On this Work Day, we plan to get the trails ready for spring migration. Also, we want to mow around the newly planted tress, and although we hope to do larger areas with a brush hog, we will need push mowers to trim around the trees. We will need one chain saw also.

As always, we will want to cut vines that are threatening the health of oak trees, and perform similar minor tasks.

Please bring work gloves and insect repellent, and whatever equipment or hand tools you may have – heavy duty riding mower, push mower, DR trimmer, loppers, etc. We have a few, but typically not enough. We plan to provide refreshments.

We are planning another Work Day for May 15.

Sabine Woods is on the north side of Highway 87, 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Take Highway 87 from Port Arthur to Sabine Pass, turn right at the stop sign, and go 4.1 miles.

**Thursday March 18, 2010. Membership Meeting.** See details on front page.

### Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank the Lynn Otto, Lu Skillern, and the Parks for the refreshments. **We will gladly accept volunteers to bring items for the March meeting and the remaining spring 2010 meetings.** 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 March 20, 2010. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats.**

*Important Note: Galveston County operates a parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. Any one can drive on the beach for free. But if you park on the beach you must have a parking permit on your windshield. The fee for the permit is \$10.00 a year and permits are obtainable from most merchants on the Bolivar Peninsula.*

This trip occurs as shorebird migration is in full swing. Bolivar Flats is a hemispherically important shorebird location. We know that a lot of birders are intimidated by shorebirds. This trip offers an opportunity to compare many of the "true" shorebirds with lots of help in identifying them.

Meet at the vehicle barrier at 8:30 a.m. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the shoreline, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). Turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettillon Road. At the beach, if conditions permit, turn right (west) about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. It takes at least one and a half hours to drive from the Golden Triangle; more if you bird on the way! We will leave the vehicle barrier at about 8:45 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes later than that. The opportunity will exist to visit High Island on the way back.

Some walking is necessary on this field trip. How much depends on how much mud flat is exposed, and this depends on both the tide and the winds that have prevailed over the previous day or so.

The flats are slowly returning to "normal" after the massive relocation of sand and mud that occurred during Hurricane Ike. There may still not be as much exposed mud flat as was typical pre-Ike and a visit to the North Jetty to view the birds from that side may be indicated.

We expect to stop at Rollover Pass and High Island on the way back. We will check in High Island for any "early" neotropical songbird migrants.

For more information, contact Steve Mayes, or 409-722-5807.

**Thursday April 15, 2010. Membership Meeting. Speaker Philip Barbour.** Topic USDA NRCS Wildlife Habitat Conservation on Private Lands through Partnerships. Philip will discuss research projects under way by the USDA NRCS Agricultural Wildlife Conservation Center, Audubon Arkansas, and others.

The projects range from prairie restoration to Sage Grouse, Northern Bobwhite, grassland birds and many others. Most of these projects are in the context of working lands (e.g., farms, ranches, pastures, etc.)

**Saturday April 17, 2010. Field Trip to Sabine Woods and Sabine Pass area.** Full details in future issues.

**Saturday May 8, 2010. Spring North American Migration Count.** Contact John Whittle (409) 722-4193 for further details.

**Saturday May 15, 2010. Sabine Woods Work Day.** Details in future issues.

**Thursday May 20, 2010. Membership Meeting.** Speaker: David Lewis on Mushrooms of East Texas.

**Saturday May 22, 2010. Field Trip to Hardin County** north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area

## 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.

## Volunteer Opportunities: Conservation, Education, Outreach

This may be an old refrain, but Golden Triangle Audubon is currently without volunteers to spearhead two activities that should be an integral part of our overall program.

We would very much like to have someone monitor local conservation issues as our Conservation Committee chair, and someone develop and lead our educational outreach program as our Education Chair. There will be great flexibility for the volunteers to design and focus these programs to suit their interests. We envisage that the Conservation Chair will stay on top of all local conservation issues, keep the board and membership apprised of important issues and opportunities to provide input. On the Education side, in the past, we have provided "Audubon Adventures" educational materials to selected local schools. To volunteer, or for further information, contact any member of the board.

On a shorter duration basis, we also will be looking for volunteers to help staff the booth we expect to have at Shangri-La's Eco-Fest in Orange on Saturday April 24. There will also be some time commitment on the day before to prepare for this event. The duties are not onerous, consisting of answering questions on birds from those attending and explaining what we in Golden Triangle Audubon do. Expert knowledge is not really required, just the basic knowledge about birds that all of you already have!

## New Members

We are pleased to report that we have experienced a very significant increase in membership over the last few months. We would like to invite those new members to join us at one of our membership meetings, or to come along on one of our field trips. In this part of the world, spring migration brings some of the most exciting birding anywhere in the country. Contact any member of the board for more information. We are an all volunteer organization, made possible by the active participation of its members!

## National Audubon Society Regionally Nominated Director for the Southwest Region

Nine of the thirty-six positions on the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society are filled by election of a candidate by the Chapters in each of the nine Districts. The directors serve three year terms, and the terms of the nine Regionally Nominated Directors are staggered so that three positions are voted in each year. The Districts were divided in the last redistricting about five years ago, so that each region contained very approximately the same number of National Audubon members. The Southwest Region, comprising Texas, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Oklahoma, will vote this year. Chapters are allocated votes to cast in proportion to the number of National Audubon members in the Chapter. Golden Triangle Audubon has one vote to cast prior to April 30, 2010. Three Chapters have nominated candidates for this position for a three year term beginning in January 2011

The three candidates are:

- **Joy Hester** – Houston Audubon Society (TX)
- **Karen La France** – Sonoran Audubon Society (AZ)
- **Howard Anthony "Tony" Wood** – Bexar Audubon Society (TX)

Candidate statements are at <http://www.audubon.org/local/elections/index.html>.

While a formal mail ballot process is not practical, we are mandated to make every effort to obtain member input, and, to that end, we ask you to let our secretary, John Whittle, know before April 16th of your preference. This can be done in person at either the March or April Membership Meetings, by mail, or email ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com)).



## Bird Sightings – December 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:** Our January report is dominated by the Sea Rim State Park and Orange County Christmas Bird Counts. We thank the Jordans for their faithful reporting of their wintering hummingbirds and Melanie Goetsell for her valuable reports of feeder birds in Silsbee. We have included all the details of the wintering hummingbird sightings rather than summarize them to show just how often they can be seen. Bald Eagles are becoming an expected species in winter in the area, and the pair with the nest on FM105 near Vidor have young again this year. The variety of species reported is good, but numbers of many are not high.

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR08
<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(72) SR04; JEF 1/3(30) SR05; JEF 1/3(10) SR12
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	(1-17)	JEF 7 reps(6475); ORA 1 rep(29)
<b>GOOSE, White</b>	(17-17)	JEF 1/17(350) JAW
<b>GOOSE, Ross's</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(7) SR04; JEF 1/3(5) SR06; JEF 1/3(2) SR10; JEF 1/3(24) SR05A; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	(23-27)	HAI-SILS 1/23(4) MG; HAI-SILS 1/27(2) MG
<b>GADWALL</b>	(3-24)	JEF 5 reps(604)
<b>WIGEON, American</b>	(3-24)	JEF 1/3(2) SR04; JEF-SRSP 1/24(1) JAW
<b>MALLARD</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(4) SR04
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(1-24)	JEF 6 reps(52); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	(3-24)	JEF 6 reps(423)
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	(1-3)	JEF 4 reps(135); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	(3-3)	JEF 4 reps(387)
<b>TEAL, Green-winged</b>	(3-3)	JEF 6 reps(3800)
<b>CANVASBACK</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1700) SR04; JEF 1/3(50) SR12
<b>REDHEAD</b>	(1-1)	ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>DUCK, Ring-necked</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(300) SR04
<b>SCAUP, Greater</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR12; ORA 1/1(5) OCCBC
<b>SCAUP, Lesser</b>	(1-3)	JEF 5 reps(1142); ORA 1 rep(150)
<b>BUFFLEHEAD</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(300) SR01; JEF 1/3(27) SR04; JEF 1/3(15) SR11; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>GOLDENEYE, Common</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR04; ORA 1/1(31) OCCBC
<b>MERGANSE, Hooded</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(17) SR04; JEF 1/3(3) SR06; JEF 1/3(8) SR07M; ORA 1/1(15) OCCBC
<b>MERGANSE, Red-breast.</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(15) SR01; JEF 1/3(1) SR10
<b>DUCK, Ruddy</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(150) SR01; JEF 1/3(150) SR04; JEF 1/3(275) SR12; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>LOON, Common</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR10; JEF 1/3(1) SR11
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	(1-24)	JEF 9 reps(51); ORA 1 rep(26)
<b>GREBE, Eared</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR04; JEF 1/3(2) SR11
<b>PELICAN, Amer. White</b>	(1-10)	JEF 12 reps(901); ORA 1 rep(50)
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(1-24)	JEF 11 reps(207); ORA 1 rep(14)
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(1-24)	JEF 8 reps(781); ORA 1 rep(92)
<b>CORMORANT, Double-cr.</b>	(1-24)	JEF 7 reps(280); ORA 1 rep(36)
<b>CORMORANT, Species</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(75) SR07M; ORA 1/1(25) OCCBC
<b>ANHINGA</b>	(1-3)	JEF-GROV 1/1(2) OCCBC; JEF 1/3(5) SR04
<b>BITTERN, American</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR12
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(1-24)	JEF 15 reps(67); ORA 1 rep(10)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(1-24)	JEF 14 reps(365); ORA 1 rep(5)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(1-24)	JEF 12 reps(133); ORA 1 rep(13)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(1-3)	JEF 7 reps(12); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(1-3)	JEF 8 reps(54); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>EGRET, Reddish</b>	(3-3)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08A
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(5) SR04; JEF 1/3(1) SR05A
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.</b>	(3-10)	JEF 4 reps(26)
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(1-19)	JEF 7 reps(1120)
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	(1-10)	JEF 1/3(4) SR04; JEF 1/3(100) SR05; JEF 1/10(2) JAW; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(1-10)	JEF 5 reps(157); ORA 1 rep(41)
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(1-10)	JEF 6 reps(215); ORA 1 rep(4)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(11); JEF 4 reps(22); ORA 1 rep(16)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(1-27)	HAI 8 reps(17); JEF 13 reps(106); ORA 1 rep(9)
<b>OSPREY</b>	(1-18)	HAI 1/18(1) JM; JEF 1/3(1) SR02; JEF 1/3(1) SR04; JEF 1/3(1) SR05; JEF 1/3(1) SR12; JEF-TPWR 1/3(1) SR07B; ORA 1/1(12) OCCBC
<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	(3-17)	JEF 1/3(1) SR01; JEF 1/3(2) SR10; JEF 1/3(1) SR08A; JEF-TPWR 1/3(2) SR07B; JEF 1/10(1) JAW; JEF 1/17(1) JAW
<b>EAGLE, Bald</b>	(13-24)	HAI 1/18(1) JM; JEF 1/17(1) RHJ; JEF 1/24(1) CSL; ORA 1/13(1) SBE
<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	(1-24)	JEF 16 reps(73); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>HAWK, Sharp-shinned</b>	(3-17)	JEF 1/3(1) SR06; JEF 1/3(2) SR08; JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF-TX87 1/17(1) JAW
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(1-27)	JEF 7 reps(11); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>HAWK, White-tailed</b>	(3-16)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF-TX87 1/12(1) HD; JEF 1/16(2) GD
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(1-24)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 18 reps(155); ORA 1 rep(8)
<b>EAGLE, Golden (unconf.)</b>	(10-10)	JEF 1/10(1) JAW
<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	(3-17)	JEF 1/3(1) SR06; JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/17(1) JAW
<b>KESTREL, American</b>	(1-24)	JEF 13 reps(81); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>MERLIN</b>	(3-24)	JEF 1/3(2) SR05; JEF 1/3(4) SR10; JEF 1/3(1) SR08A; JEF-TPWR 1/3(1) SR07B; JEF 1/17(1) RHJ; JEF 1/24(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 1/24(1) JAW
<b>FALCON, Peregrine</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05; JEF 1/3(1) SR10
<b>RAIL, Black</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR12
<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(1-3)	JEF 4 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>RAIL, King</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05A
<b>RAIL, Virginia</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR12; JEF 1/3(4) SR05A; JEF 1/3(1) SR07M
<b>SORA</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR10
<b>RAIL species</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR04
<b>MOORHEN, Common</b>	(3-3)	JEF 2 reps(19)
<b>COOT, American</b>	(1-24)	JEF 1/3(420) SR04; JEF 1/3(68) SR10; JEF 1/3(15) SR05A; JEF 1/3(100) SR07M; JEF-SRSP 1/24(200) JAW; ORA 1/1(7) OCCBC

<b>CRANE, Sandhill</b>	(10-10)	JEF 1/10(85) JAW
<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	(3-24)	JEF 8 reps(114)
<b>PLOVER, Snowy</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR10E; JEF 1/3(18) SR10; JEF-TPWR 1/3(1) SR07B
<b>PLOVER, Semipalmated</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR10E; JEF-TPWR 1/3(13) SR07B
<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR10; JEF-TPWR 1/3(3) SR07B
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(1-24)	JEF 13 reps(96); ORA 1 rep(6)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(10) SR12
<b>AVOCET, American</b>	(1-3)	JEF 4 reps(177); ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(1-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR06; JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	(1-24)	JEF 8 reps(24); ORA 1 rep(13)
<b>WILLET</b>	(1-24)	JEF 9 reps(284); ORA 1 rep(6)
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(3-10)	JEF 6 reps(74)
<b>WHIMBREL</b>	(3-3)	JEF-TPWR 1/3(5) SR07B
<b>CURLEW, Long-billed</b>	(3-10)	JEF-TPWR 1/3(10) SR07B; JEF 1/10(4) JAW
<b>GODWIT, Marbled</b>	(3-3)	JEF-TPWR 1/3(2) SR07B
<b>SANDERLING</b>	(3-3)	JEF 3 reps(114)
<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	(1-10)	JEF 1/3(3) SR10; JEF-TPWR 1/3(52) SR07B; JEF 1/10(1) JAW; ORA 1/1(2) OCCBC
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	(1-3)	JEF 4 reps(95); ORA 1 rep(25)
<b>DUNLIN</b>	(3-10)	JEF 4 reps(775)
<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	(10-10)	JEF 1/10(1) JAW
<b>DOWITCHER, Short-billed</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(50) SR11
<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(3-10)	JEF 1/3(250) SR12; JEF 1/10(50) JAW
<b>SNIPE, Wilson's</b>	(3-10)	JEF 1/3(1) SR05A; JEF 1/3(10) SR07M; JEF-TX87 1/10(2) JAW
<b>GULL, Bonaparte's</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(4) SR01; JEF 1/3(2) SR05A
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(1-24)	JEF 10 reps(1465); ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	(1-24)	JEF 14 reps(910); ORA 1 rep(26)
<b>GULL, Herring</b>	(1-3)	JEF 8 reps(39); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>GULL, Lsr. Black-backed</b>	(1-1)	ORA 1/1(1) OCCBC
<b>GULL, Gull-billed</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR07M
<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	(3-24)	JEF 7 reps(46)
<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(1-24)	JEF 7 reps(113); ORA 1 rep(6)
<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(1-24)	JEF 5 reps(23); ORA 1 rep(6)
<b>SKIMMER, Black</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR01; JEF 1/3(136) SR05; JEF 1/3(3) SR12
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(1-28)	HAI 4 reps(24); JEF 14 reps(293); ORA 1 rep(15)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.</b>	(1-28)	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 4 reps(17)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(2-15)	JEF 8 reps(89)
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(1-31)	HAI 12 reps(62); JEF 14 reps(263)
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(1-31)	HAI-SILS 1/24(2) MG; HAI-SILS 1/27(2) MG; HAI-SILS 1/29(2) MG; HAI-SILS 1/31(2) MG; ORA - BC 1/1(15) OCCBC
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	(3-24)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(2) SR05A; JEF 1/3(3) SR07M; JEF-SW 1/24(1) JAW
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(3) SR05A
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bell.</b>	(1-31)	JEF-BMT 1/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/3(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/4(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/5(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/6(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/9(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/14(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/18(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/24(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/25(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/27(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/28(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/30(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/31(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Black-ch.</b>	(8-17)	JEF-GROV 1/8(1) SR; JEF-GROV 1/10(1) SR; JEF-GROV 1/11(1) SR; JEF-GROV 1/12(1) SR; JEF-GROV 1/15(1) SR; JEF-NEDR 1/16(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/17(1) JAW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Archil.</b>	(3-19)	HAI 1/19(1) JM; JEF 1/3(1) SR08
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope</b>	(10-17)	JEF-NEDR 1/10(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 1/16(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 1/17(1) JAW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail.</b>	(1-31)	JEF-BMT 1/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/4(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/9(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/17(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/20(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/31(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous</b>	(26-31)	JEF-BMT 1/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/30(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 1/31(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Selasph.</b>	(3-19)	HAI 1/19(2) JM; JEF 1/3(1) SR08
<b>HUMMINGBIRD species</b>	(1-29)	JEF 18 reps(19)
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	(1-24)	JEF 14 reps(33); ORA 1 rep(7)
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bell.</b>	(1-31)	HAI 16 reps(32); JEF 7 reps(18)
<b>SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell.</b>	(1-3)	JEF 5 reps(8); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(1-31)	HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 14 reps(35)
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(1-9)	HAI-SILS 1/1(1) MG; HAI-SILS 1/9(2) MG; JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(1) SR05A
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(23-23)	HAI-SILS 1/23(1) MG
<b>PHOEBE, Eastern</b>	(1-30)	HAI 7 reps(7); JEF 15 reps(93); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Vermilion</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08
<b>KISKADEE, Great</b>	(1-12)	JEF-SW 1/1(1) ACRG; JEF 1/3(2) SR08; JEF-SW 1/12(1) HD
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(1-24)	JEF 10 reps(74); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR04
<b>VIREO, Blue-headed</b>	(1-24)	JEF 7 reps(16)
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(1-27)	HAI 5 reps(25); JEF 7 reps(30); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>CROW, American</b>	(10-10)	JEF 1/10(1) JAW
<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	(1-24)	JEF 9 reps(651); ORA 1 rep(1100)
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(1-31)	HAI 12 reps(23); JEF 4 reps(9)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(5-31)	HAI 15 reps(30)
<b>CREEPER, Brown</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(1-31)	HAI 16 reps(32); JEF 3 reps(5)
<b>WREN, House</b>	(1-3)	JEF 6 reps(21); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>WREN, Winter</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR04
<b>WREN, Sedge</b>	(1-3)	JEF 4 reps(26); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>WREN, Marsh</b>	(3-3)	JEF 3 reps(17)
<b>KINGLET, Golden-crowned</b>	(3-24)	JEF 1/3(3) SR04; JEF 1/3(2) SR08; JEF 1/3(5) SR05A; JEF 1/3(3) SR08A; JEF-SW 1/12(2) HD; JEF-SW 1/24(2) JAW
<b>KINGLET, Ruby-crowned</b>	(1-31)	HAI 21 reps(23); JEF 11 reps(136); ORA 1 rep(5)
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(1-24)	JEF 8 reps(83); ORA 1 rep(4)
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 7 reps(14); JEF 6 reps(20)
<b>THRUSH, Hermit</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(2) SR04; JEF 1/3(3) SR05A
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(1-31)	HAI 5 reps(2004); JEF 7 reps(95); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(1-12)	JEF 6 reps(12)
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(1-27)	HAI 4 reps(12); JEF 14 reps(103); ORA 1 rep(7)
<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(3-26)	HAI-SILS 1/26(1) MG; JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(1) SR05A
<b>STARLING, European</b>	(1-24)	JEF 12 reps(500); ORA 1 rep(63)
<b>PIPIT, American</b>	(1-17)	JEF 4 reps(9); ORA 1 rep(14)
<b>WAXWING, Cedar</b>	(1-31)	HAI 8 reps(341); JEF 10 reps(139)
<b>WARBLER, Orange-crown.</b>	(1-31)	HAI 18 reps(18); JEF 32 reps(88); ORA 1 rep(5)
<b>WARBLER, Yellow-rumped</b>	(1-31)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 14 reps(186); ORA 1 rep(4)
<b>WARBLER, Pine</b>	(1-31)	HAI 22 reps(41); JEF 19 reps(53)
<b>WARBLER, Palm</b>	(3-3)	JEF 3 reps(13)
<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	(1-3)	JEF 7 reps(33); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>WARBLER, Wilson's</b>	(3-31)	HAI 10 reps(10); JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>SPARROW, Chipping</b>	(1-31)	HAI 23 reps(686); JEF 4 reps(10)
<b>SPARROW, Field</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(2) SR05A
<b>SPARROW, Vesper</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(1) SR10
<b>SPARROW, Savannah</b>	(1-24)	JEF 14 reps(343); ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>SPARROW, LeConte's</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(4) SR05A; JEF 1/3(5) SR07M

<b>SPARROW, Nelson's</b>	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(6) SR10
<b>SPARROW, Seaside</b> SR05A	(3-3)	JEF 1/3(7) SR10; JEF 1/3(2)
<b>SPARROW, Song</b>	(3-3)	JEF 5 reps(16)
<b>SPARROW, Lincoln's</b>	(1-24)	JEF 6 reps(19)
<b>SPARROW, Swamp</b>	(1-24)	JEF 10 reps(417); ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>SPARROW, White-throated</b>	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 25 reps(55)
<b>SPARROW, White-crowned</b>	(3-24)	JEF 1/3(1) SR08; JEF 1/3(1)
		SR10; JEF 1/3(15) SR05A; JEF 1/3(1) SR08A; JEF 1/10(4) JAW; JEF-SW 1/24(5) JAW
<b>JUNCO, Dark-eyed</b>	(1-1)	JEF-GROV 1/1(1) OCCBC
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 19 reps(269); JEF 14 reps(39); ORA 1 rep(2)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(1-25)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 20 reps(2417); ORA 1 rep(15)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	(1-17)	JEF 8 reps(37); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	(10-17)	JEF 2 reps(33)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Brewer's</b> JAW	(10-24)	JEF 1/10(1) JAW; JEF 1/24(5)
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(1-24)	JEF 8 reps(255); ORA 1 rep(4)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b> rep(57)	(1-24)	JEF 10 reps(237); ORA 1
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b> rep(25)	(1-27)	JEF 10 reps(1116); ORA 1
<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed</b>	(24-24)	JEF-TX87 1/24(10) JAW
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	(1-24)	JEF 3 reps(1222); ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>ORIOLE, Baltimore</b>	(31-31)	HAI 1/31(1) JM
<b>FINCH, House</b>	(1-31)	JEF 24 reps(67)
<b>GOLDFINCH, American</b> reps(305)	(1-31)	HAI 16 reps(44); JEF 32
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(1-17)	JEF 10 reps(136)
<b>Number of Species</b>		180
<b>Number of Individuals</b>		86984

#### County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

#### Location Codes::

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

#### Observer Abbreviations

ACRG — Anne Curtin and Ruth Games; CSL — Christine Sliva; GD — Gerald Duhon; HD — Howard Davis; JAW — John Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; MG — Melanie Goetsell; OCCBC — Orange County CBC; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE — Sheri Bethard; SR — Sherrie Roden; SR01 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 01; SR02 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 02; SR04 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 04; SR05 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 05; SR05A — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 05A; SR06 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 06; SR07B — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 07 Beach; SR07M — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 07 Marsh; SR08 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 08; SR08A — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 08A; SR10 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 10; SR10E — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 10E; SR11 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 11; SR12 — Sea Rim State Park CBC Area 12

## McFaddin Wildlife Refuge Marsh Madness! Saturday March 27, 2010 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m

This free event for families is planned to include presentations of live birds of prey by Last Chance Forever, Duck Calling Demonstrations, Kayaking, Crabbing and a Retriever Demonstrations. For more information, all the Refuge at 409-736-2371. McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge is about 12 miles West of Sabine Pass on Highway 87.

## Neches River Protected

The U.S. Supreme Court announced February 22 that the Court will not hear the lawsuit brought by the City of Dallas and Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) against the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge. Dallas and TWDB had sought to block the refuge to keep the site available for a potential future reservoir. This ruling means that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmation of the July 2008 decision by Judge Jorge A. Solis in favor of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge stands.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified the site of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge decades ago as a priority site for conserving habitat for wildlife, songbirds, and migratory waterfowl. Plans are in place for the Neches River Refuge to acquire more than 6,000 acres once the case brought by Dallas and TWDB is finalized. In the long term, up to 25,000 acres may be added to the refuge. Biologists say the land within the boundaries of the Neches River National Wildlife Refuge is some of the least disturbed and highest-quality bottomland hardwood forest left in Texas, rated Priority 1 for acquisition by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Texas Conservation Alliance contended that there is enough water in existing reservoirs for Dallas to have all the water it needs for future growth. Dallas could tap Lake Texoma, Wright Patman Reservoir, or Toledo Bend Reservoir for its future supplies. The proposed Fastrill Reservoir was not a particularly good source of water for Dallas. Dallas and other cities in the Metroplex are able to get a lot more water for similar or less cost from existing reservoirs. Using water from already-developed reservoirs will avoid condemning people's land and harming the timber-and agricultural economy of East Texas.

## Bird Alert

The dominant feature of the last few months has been the series of rain events that have "trained" over the area every three or four days. This is actually the result of a typical and seemingly quite strong El Niño in the tropical eastern Pacific. It would certainly have been better if we had had this pattern immediately after Hurricane Ike to wash away the salt!

Nevertheless, waterfowl have not been particularly easy to see in the immediate local area this winter. More than anything, we think they were here, but not in locations that are easy of access. Late in February, we did find a good concentration of ducks and geese on the ponds near Jenkins Road, north of Interstate 10, ten miles west of Winnie. There was a Bald Eagle working the area also, one of many that were seen this winter.

At this time of year, attention usually transfers from the wintering birds in the area to the expectations for the migration season about to start. Apart from Purple Martins, and the earliest report we had locally this year was on February 22, shorebirds are the first migrants to appear, and numbers of Lesser Yellowlegs have been increasing. Songbirds will not be far behind, and soon we will be seeing the first Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warblers as well as Black-and-white Warblers.

## Field Trip to Sheldon Lake February 20, 2010

Texas is blessed with many parks and refuges that show off its natural beauty along with hundreds of species of birds. Some of these parks are famous in the birding world for their rare and abundant wildlife. Names like Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park and Big Bend National Park conjure up images of tropical strays and endangered species. Southeast Texas has its own share of parks where many great birds can be viewed. Members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society traveled to one of these places, Sheldon Lake State Park, for a day of observing birds in this wonderful setting.

Sheldon Lake State Park lies just outside the beltway in Houston, one of the largest cities in the U.S. Despite this, Sheldon Lake is great destination for wildlife viewing with several varied habitats and an excellent educational program. The habitats at Sheldon Lake include extensive grasslands, a manicured garden area, wet forest, small ponds and, of course, the lake itself. The group took the opportunity to visit all of these different habitats to find what birds they offered.

The gardens near the headquarters building include many native trees and plants often labeled to aid in identification. Birds were obvious right away. Cedar Waxwings gave their high pitched calls as they streamed from tree to tree. Yellow-rumped Warblers chipped away while fly-catching from the trees and bushes. A Red-bellied Woodpecker showed off for all to see while a few White-winged Doves sat quietly in the trees. Even a flock of common Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were appreciated by the birders – well, maybe not the Cowbirds!

Setting off on the trails, the group first visited an area of young forest and underbrush interspersed with small ponds. A nice mix of woodland and water birds were seen in this area. In the ponds, such species as Anhinga and American Coot were easily seen. Common Moorhens and Pied-billed Grebes were located but the hoped for Wood Ducks remained elusive. Northern Cardinals were abundant in the dense thickets and Blue Jays called from overhead. White-throated Sparrow was heard making its thin whistle and, with some work, was eventually seen. A Brown Thrasher dashed across the gravel path while Tree Swallows zoomed overhead. A Hermit Thrush was located in the trees while a Golden-crowned Kinglet was viewed higher up. Gray Catbird was located in one of the dense thickets while it took a visit to a grove of pine trees to find Pine Warbler.

The extensive grasslands in the park were once an agricultural area but are now being restored with native grasses and other plants. Although many sparrows and waterfowl are often found in this area, conditions were a little tougher on this date. Flock of Snow Geese flew over that included both the white and blue forms. Other waterfowl were viewed on some distant ponds including Northern Shoveler, Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal. An American Kestrel watched over the fields from a nearby tree and was soon joined by a second one. These small colorful raptors eat mostly insects and small rodents and are abundant in open habitats in the winter months. No LeConte's Sparrows could be located but other sparrows, including Swamp, Savannah and Song were located on the day. A bird that was located

soaring over the grassland was an adult Bald Eagle. This huge raptor has become increasingly common in recent years and Sheldon Lake is a great place to spot them.

Sheldon Lake provides many recreational opportunities from fishing to birding but it was the birds that were of interest on this date. The most abundant birds on the lake were American Coots and they were everywhere! A few ducks joined the Coots here and there, including several Ring-necked Ducks. A Black-crowned Night-Heron surveyed the scene from a nearby tree while a Red-shouldered Hawk noisily called from across the road. This area across the road from the lake provided a few more species as well. A nice flock of American Pipits wheeled around a baseball park while an Eastern Towhee called from a nearby thicket.

The last habitat visited was an area of wet forest/swamp bisected by the "Yellow-rump trail". This area includes Cypress swamp, some wooded ponds and open areas. Birds observed in and around this area ranged from Great Blue Heron to Carolina Chickadee to American Robin. Eastern Bluebirds were also spotted in this area along with a cruising Northern Harrier.

It was another great day for the Golden Triangle birders in one of the many beautiful parks that Texas has to offer. The opportunity to view species like Bald Eagle and Snow Goose is just one of many reasons to support our parks. Parks provide scenic beauty, many forms of recreation, educational programs and (perhaps most important to us) birds! So get out and enjoy our local parks or take a trip to one of those other famous birding destinations. Either way, you'll have a great time.

The following species were recorded on the trip:

Snow Goose (46); Blue-winged Teal (10); Northern Shoveler (29); Green-winged Teal (18); Ring-necked Duck (18); Pied-billed Grebe (6); Neotropic Cormorant (3); Anhinga (4); Great Blue Heron (4); Great Egret (12); Black-crowned Night-Heron (1); White Ibis (61); Black Vulture (24); Turkey Vulture (10); Bald Eagle (2); Northern Harrier (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (6); Red-tailed Hawk (3); Buteo Species (2); American Kestrel (2); Common Moorhen (20); American Coot (1004); Killdeer (21); Greater Yellowlegs (7); Lesser Yellowlegs (1); Peep Sandpiper (20); White-winged Dove (3); Mourning Dove (4); Red-bellied Woodpecker (7); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (5); Downy Woodpecker (4); Eastern Phoebe (7); Blue-headed Vireo (2); Blue Jay (3); American Crow (9); Tree Swallow (11); Carolina Chickadee (13); Carolina Wren (3); Golden-crowned Kinglet (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (11); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3); Eastern Bluebird (3); Hermit Thrush (4); American Robin (200); Gray Catbird (2); Northern Mockingbird (7); Brown Thrasher (2); European Starling (3); American Pipit (53); Cedar Waxwing (20); Orange-crowned Warbler (8); Yellow-rumped Warbler (63); Pine Warbler (3); Common Yellowthroat (1); Savannah Sparrow (20); Song Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (2); White-throated Sparrow (2); Northern Cardinal (16); Red-winged Blackbird (6); Eastern Meadowlark (4); Brown-headed Cowbird (8); species 62.

*Steve Mayes*

## NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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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