

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 4

April 2010

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 15, 2010
7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**USDA National Resources Conservation Service
Wildlife Habitat Conservation on
Private Lands through Partnerships**

Dr. Philip J. Barbour

Philip will give a presentation on research projects underway and proposed 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.). The beneficiaries of such projects are the cooperators, the public and importantly – birds and bird populations.

Philip has a Bachelor of Science in Botany, a Master of Science in Plant Pathology and Crop Physiology (Weed Science) both from Louisiana State University. His thesis was on the *Influence of Nitrogen on Phytotoxicity of Fluazifop and Sethoxydim to Johnsongrass (Sorghum halepense)*. In 2006, he obtained his Ph.D. in Forest Resources (Wildlife Ecology) from Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Mississippi State University working on *Ecological and Economic Effects of Field Borders in Row Crop Agriculture Production Systems in Mississippi*.

Philip farmed cotton and soybeans from 1984 to 2001 in Leflore County, Sidon, Mississippi. Philip now works in Madison, MS and goes home to his farm on weekends. He is the originator and compiler of the Sidon, MS Audubon CBC which began in 1989.

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.

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Thursday April 15, 2010. Membership Meeting. Speaker Philip Barbour. See page 1 for details.

Saturday April 17 Field Trip to Sabine Woods and Sabine Pass Area

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants, and does not necessitate extensive walking.

We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m., but we are likely to be in Sabine Woods for the first couple of hours, and you should be able to find the group if you are late. We may also visit the road to the Pilot Station at Texas Point, McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge and/or McFaddin Beach. At Sabine Woods, there is a small parking area, but additional parking is improvised by using the roadside verges beyond the limits of the parking area. Please pull as far off the highway as is reasonably possible.

This trip involves relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds. However, Ike completely destroyed the boardwalks, and the trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos are still active, so there may be holes to avoid! There is a \$5 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are not members of Golden Triangle Audubon or Texas Ornithological Society. This field trip is especially suited for not-very-experienced birders.

Birding in late April can be exciting. However, we cannot promise anything, as the number of birds in the coastal woodlots is strongly dependent on the weather conditions over the Gulf.

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.

Saturday May 8. North American Spring Migration Count. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. This is again the day before Mother's Day! We try to cover all of Jefferson County. Even if you can only help for part of the day, it will be very much appreciated. The early

morning hours are by far the best for detecting birds.

Thursday May 20. Membership Meeting. David Lewis on mushrooms of East Texas. David is the expert on this subject!

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank the Jennifer Armacost, Sherry Gibson, Paula and Paul Shaw, Christine Sliva and Jana Whittle for the refreshments in March. **We will gladly accept volunteers to bring items for the April and May meeting and all Fall 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) as far in advance as possible. Please help if you can!

Saturday May 30. Field trip to Hardin County. We plan to run a field trip to Hardin County to look for the nesting species of the area. Full details in next month's issue, and we will put the details on the website. Check our website or call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 to confirm the details of the trip if you miss the May Membership Meeting.

Saturday May 15, 2010. Sabine Woods Work Day. Details in next month's issue.

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. This is typically a half-day trip.



**Earth Share
OF TEXAS**

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

Sponsor our Birdathon

This year's Birdathon will have different beneficiaries. We will be raising money for Audubon Texas and for Golden Triangle Audubon, so you may be assured that all your contributions will stay at home as it were. Royce Pendergast has again graciously agreed to join with me in this year's Spring Birdathon.

A Birdathon is very similar to other "athons" you may be familiar with, such as telethons, walkathons, etc. The idea is for us to get up at the crack of dawn on a day in late April – we're planning to pick a day, April 26 or 27 probably but we'll make the final decision based on weather prognostications – and make a run to include the coast of east Jefferson County, the woods of East Texas, parts of Jefferson, and Chambers County, High Island and Bolivar Flats looking for as many species of birds as can be found. We're aiming for at least 150 species.

We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$1.00 or more, \$.75, \$.50, (or whatever amount you choose) per bird species. A flat donation is also welcome. Please take the time to make a pledge today -- your donation to our Birdathon will be divided one half to support our local projects, especially Sabine Woods, and one half to support Audubon's mission of protecting our natural heritage in Texas by supporting conservation, education and advocacy. (If you wish, you may earmark your contributions for a specific use.) Checks should be made out to Golden Triangle Audubon Society and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Local business people and businesses are often very receptive to this kind of fund raising and we would welcome any suggestions of where we might find receptive potential supporters. We appreciate all of you who contributed generously last year, and hope you will consider supporting us again. Please contact me at 3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627 or at johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-880-8276 (W) or 409-722-4193 (H) with your pledge and your suggestions.

John A. Whittle

Cornell's NestWatch Program Helps Study Climate Change Impact

Ithaca, NY—Collecting information about nesting birds in North America is what the NestWatch project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology is all about — and the new season is just getting underway. Participants submit data about which kinds of birds are nesting, the number of eggs laid, dates eggs were laid, and the numbers of chicks hatched and fledged.

"Collecting this information across the continent over long periods of time is one of the best ways we have to detect widespread changes in bird breeding biology," says Laura Burkholder, the project leader for NestWatch. "Gathering this information takes on new urgency in light of the State of the Birds 2010 Climate Change Report just released by the Department of the Interior earlier this month."

"Nesting birds are vulnerable to climate change. Data show some species, like the Tree Swallow, are laying their eggs more than a week earlier than they did just a few decades ago," says Burkholder. "That could spell big trouble if hatch dates get out of sync with the availability of food."

In addition to its scientific value, NestWatch is fun, free, and open to all. Participation is a great way to connect with nature. Kindergarten students in one New York classroom collected information about bluebirds nesting on school grounds. "This was so exciting for the children and for me too," said teacher Ruth Taylor.

"They named the male Skyboy and the female Bluebell. First we had two eggs and then four eggs in the nest. What a marvelous experience for all of us to enjoy and learn!"

The always-popular NestCams are also back in action. Anyone can get a live peek into nests and nest boxes across the country. Live cameras for Barn Owls, Barred Owls, and Wood Ducks are online right now with Eastern Bluebirds and other species soon to follow at www.nestcams.org.

All NestWatch materials and instructions are available online at www.nestwatch.org, including direct-

ions on how to find nests, how to build and put up nest boxes, and how to monitor nests without disturbing the birds. Use this button on websites, blogs, and in social media to link to NestWatch <http://www.nestwatch.org>. Right-click on the image and save it to your desktop.

The NestWatch project was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology in collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and is funded by the National Science Foundation.

Project Contact: Laura Burkholder, (607) 254-2450, llb93@cornell.edu

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab's web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

*Cornell Lab of Ornithology,
159 Sapsucker Woods Rd,
Ithaca NY 14850. Call us toll-free at (800) 843-BIRD (2473)*

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.

If you move or otherwise change your mailing address, please let us know. To mail at non-profit rates, we have to request the Post Office's Address Service which costs us \$0.50 for each notification we receive. These notifications are often delayed and we may already have mailed the next issue, resulting in another notification.

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats

March 20, 2010

The annual Golden Triangle Audubon spring trip to Bolivar Flats has always been pretty much a guarantee to see lots of birds. However, since Hurricane Ike, things have gotten a bit more variable. There are still lots of birds at this Houston Audubon sanctuary but seeing them has gotten a bit more difficult than in the past. Add to that, the possibility of some threatening weather and, where once there was certainty, you now have a field trip with a very unpredictable outcome. But nine intrepid birders decided to take the risk and it paid off with a nice day of birding – despite some inclement weather.

The day started off nice enough as the birders gathered at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats. A Crested Caracara greeted one of the early birders as it soared over Rettilon Road. Some birds were immediately noticed on the beach as well. A small group of Long-billed Curlews were very cooperative. They were resting and it took some patience before some of them finally untucked their heads from under their wings but the birders were eventually rewarded with great looks at the long, curved bill that gives the bird its name. Sanderlings were also seen early and often. These plump shorebirds chased the edges of the incoming waves in their very pale winter plumage. None of the Sanderlings seen on this day showed any of the rufous breeding plumage they will soon start to display.

Moving down the beach other birds were seen. Gulls are ever present along the shoreline and it was no different on this trip. Laughing Gulls were most common though Ring-billed Gulls and Herring Gulls were also noted on the day. The group scanned for the daintier Bonaparte's Gulls but came up empty. Terns, those dive-fishing relatives of the gulls were also well represented on the day. Royal Terns zipped by while a few Caspian Terns were also seen. These two species can appear quite similar at first but, when seen side by side, the larger size and massive reddish bill of the Caspian become obvious. Small Forster's Terns were obvious (as they usually are) but none of their look-alike cousins, the Common Terns, could be located. Despite their name, Common Terns are not particularly common on the upper Texas coast though, with patience, a few can usually be located. A few Sandwich and Gull-billed Terns were also found on the trip but the Least Terns often spotted here were absent on the day.

Many of these birds were seen from a great distance and some of this is the result of Hurricane Ike. The powerful storm surge from this huge hurricane washed away a good portion of the beach and mud flats that had been built up at Bolivar Flats over the years. It also pounded many of the dune lines flat and scoured the area of vegetation and structures. The storm, of course, had devastating consequences for people but also for wildlife. The loss of beach is a loss of habitat for shore line specialists like Wilson's Plover and the dune lines and beach vegetation help to protect the fresh and brackish water marshes and coastal prairies that lie just beyond them. Many birds depend on these ecosystems so any disturbance can be devastating. For birders, the changes in the shoreline has pushed many of the bird flocks further out onto mud flats between the flats and the Bolivar jetty. This makes the birds more difficult to see and may force birders to walk farther out onto the flats.

But the birds are worth the extra walking at Bolivar! And not all of the birds are on the shore – there are plenty in the water as well. Brown Pelicans could be seen flying off shore, sometimes plunge diving for fish. Gulls and Terns were common on the day but, despite careful observation, no Northern Gannets could be found. A flyby Common Loon was just foreshadowing for the small flock the birders found swimming and diving off shore. All of these large water birds were still in their winter plumage. A flock of Red-breasted Mergansers swimming by included a couple of adult males with their ragged, crested hair-dos. A good number of Marbled Godwits waded in shallow water as they fed in the company of Short-billed Dowitchers and Willets.

Speaking of Willets, the group was fortunate to observe both the "eastern" and "western" versions of this species. At least once on the day, one of each "type" was side by side. This allowed close comparison and demonstrated the taller stature, longer bill and paler plumage of the western birds and the stout bills and marbled breeding plumage of the eastern birds. With the possibility of these birds being split into different species in the near future, this was an excellent chance to get a pre-emptive "lifer"!

A number of other species were well seen at the flats on this outing. Large numbers of long-billed Black Skimmers loafed on the beach while the similarly colored, but a very different looking American Oystercatcher was also located. Ruddy Turnstones were seen feeding amongst the Sanderlings while larger numbers of Dunlin stood in shallow water. Plenty of huge American White Pelicans joined their slightly smaller Brown cousins at the sanctuary along with huge numbers of distant American Avocets, approaching full breeding plumage.

With a front rolling in a rain expected, quick trips were made to other areas of the Bolivar peninsula before the rain could hit. The trip out from the flats revealed at least one American Golden-Plover among the more common Black-bellied Plovers. A view from Fort Travis showed a flock of Lesser Scaup. Bob's Road produced Little Blue Heron while Rollover Pass produced many birds including a couple of Reddish Egrets demonstrating their frenetic feeding style. Then the rain started

Most of the sensible birders gave up at this point but there are always a couple of diehards who are no so ready to quit! Besides, an approaching front during the spring always conjures up images of fallouts in the birder brain, so a stop at the Houston Audubon sanctuaries in High Island was a necessity! First stop was Boy Scout Woods. The place seemed empty at first of both people and birds but the latter eventually showed. A small flock was located near the front gate of the preserve that included a number of spring migrants. These included Black and White Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Vireo and Northern Parula. Moving on to the Smith Oaks Sanctuary, a similar flock was quickly located. Later, a lone Louisiana Waterthrush was found foraging on the wet ground and a pair of Yellow-throated Warblers were located creeping along the branches of a large oak tree. The rookery was getting geared up as well with Roseate Spoonbills, Great Egrets, Tricolored Herons and other species displaying, building nests and readying for the task of making more little

birds to be enjoyed by future generations. At this point, the rain started coming down harder, the wind really started howling and the temperature dipped so even the diehards had to call it a day. But, despite the weather and the changes wrought by Mother Nature, it was another great trip to Bolivar and the Golden Triangle Audubon Society will be back to bird again next March and probably sooner!

The following species were recorded by the trip leader: Blue-winged Teal (8), Northern Shoveler (10), Lesser Scaup (21), Red-breasted Merganser (7), Common Loon (7), Pied-billed Grebe (3), American White Pelican (275), Brown Pelican (105), Neotropic Cormorant (206), Double-crested Cormorant (1), Great Blue Heron (7), Great Egret (89), Snowy Egret (19), Little Blue Heron (23), Tricolored Heron (7), Reddish Egret (2), Cattle Egret (17), Green Heron (1), Black-crowned Night-Heron (1), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (2), White Ibis (20), Roseate Spoonbill (45), Black Vulture (6), Turkey Vulture (20), Northern Harrier (2), Red-tailed Hawk (2), Crested Caracara (1), American Kestrel (1), Common Moorhen (6), American Coot (20), Black-bellied Plover (71), American Golden-Plover (1), Semipalmated Plover (4), Killdeer (1), American Oystercatcher (4), Black-necked Stilt (4), American Avocet (1000), Willet (56), Long-billed Curlew (15), Marbled Godwit (50), Ruddy Turnstone (25), Sanderling (50), Western Sandpiper (100), "Peep" sp. (600), Dunlin (150), Short-billed Dowitcher (20), Wilson's Snipe (3), Laughing Gull (165), Ring-billed Gull (86), Herring Gull (4), Caspian Tern (6), Royal Tern (31), Gull-billed Tern (2), Sandwich Tern (4), Forster's Tern (24), Black Skimmer (200), Rock Pigeon (1), Mourning Dove (4), Belted Kingfisher (2), Downy Woodpecker (1), Eastern Phoebe (3), White-eyed Vireo (3), Yellow-throated Vireo (4), Blue-headed Vireo (1), Blue Jay (5), Purple Martin (3), Tree Swallow (275), Barn Swallow (20), Carolina Wren (3), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (7), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2), Gray Catbird (3), Northern Mockingbird (1), Brown Thrasher (2), European Starling (10), Orange-crowned Warbler (5), Northern Parula (5), Yellow-rumped Warbler (150), Yellow-throated Warbler (2), Black and White Warbler (8), Prothonotary Warbler (5), Louisiana Waterthrush (1), Seaside Sparrow (1), Swamp Sparrow (1), White-throated Sparrow (1), Northern Cardinal (8), Red-winged Blackbird (52), Eastern Meadowlark (1), Boat-tailed Grackle (24), Great-tailed Grackle (52)

Yellow Rail Walks at Anahuac NWR:

The remaining walks on this year's schedule are

Sunday April 11, 2010: 7 am and 5 pm

Saturday April 17, 2010: 7 am and 5 pm

Sunday April 25, 2010: 7 am and 5 pm

To have the best chance of seeing Yellow Rails, one needs to go out with the group into the marsh. The walking is not easy, but the favored areas are not usually very wet. However, knee boots are certainly advisable. There is a chance of seeing a Yellow Rail from the road as it is flushed by the group. All tours begin at the Visitor Information Station at the entrance reached by way of the access road off of FM1985. For more information, please contact Stephanie Martinez at 409-267-3337

Important Public Meeting to Provide Input on Redevelopment of Sea Rim State Park

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 13 at 6:00 p.m. to take public comment about how Sea Rim State Park should be redeveloped and used for recreational purposes in the future. The meeting will be held in the Teaching Theater at the Sabine Pass School, 5641 South Gulfway Drive, Sabine Pass, Texas. For further information, contact Joelynn Barclay at (512) 389-4660 Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

We would encourage all who can to attend this meeting to show support for the park. Just being there will help! For those who can not attend we will post the address to send written comments to or a link to that information on our website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org as soon as it becomes available to us.

This is an important opportunity to let TPWD know what you would like to see, and perhaps what you would like not to see in the park. All the park buildings were destroyed or damaged beyond repair in Hurricane Ike. The development of new buildings in the style of those destroyed is, we think, unlikely to find favor, but more rudimentary and more storm resistant basic facilities could be provided.

Before Ike, the beach to the west of the main entrance was available for normal beach use and vehicular travel (by street legal vehicles!) was allowed. The beach to the east beyond a quarter mile of so was off limits to vehicles, mostly because the sand is sometimes treacherously soft, and because deep cuts often developed as water drained back into the Gulf after very high tides and Tropical Storms. Although beachgoers may walk along the beach, this beach, which goes east for more than two miles, provides good habitat for true shorebirds ("beach birds"), free of frequent or mechanized disturbance.

The Gambusia trail, a long boardwalk through the marsh on the east side, fared remarkably well in Ike, possibly because it went underwater very early in the storm surge, but also, we suspect, because its supports were well anchored. We understand needed minor repairs to some boards will be accomplished and the trail reopened.

"The Willows" (officially Willow Pond) was an excellent birding area, as trans-Gulf migrants making landfall were attracted to it. A boardwalk, constructed as an enhancement for the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail, did not fare nearly as well, and it was essentially destroyed. As we found out in Ike, willows do not survive salt water immersion, so the water that was always between The Willows and the beach must have been close to fresh. However, the recent storms significantly changed that area, and moved lot of sand around. If it is viable, we would like to see the area returned to its former avian glory! At Sabine Woods we have resisted cutting down the dead willows as they provide perches and food for the migrants as the wood begins to rot. At The Willows at Sea Rim, it may be necessary to do some preliminary preparation of the area before new willows can be planted. Tallow trees were becoming a problem there, but they do not like salt, so perhaps they are gone. The remnants of the old boardwalk will need to be cleared, and it probably will be convenient to clear the dead trees also.

Bird Sightings – February 2010

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: First, we apologize for the incorrect heading of last month's report. It covered January 2010 as noted in the commentary, not December 2009 as the heading indicated.

February brought a fairly good selection of birds, but relatively few reports, as id normal for the month that usually produces weather than is not conducive to birding. This year, it was both cold and we had El Niño induced rain events every four days or so.

We have noted previously, although ducks were likely present in near normal to even above average numbers in most areas in our reporting area, many of the locations where we are usually able to find them are not normal and thus not where the ducks are this year.

Wintering hummingbirds are as faithful and as varied as we ever remember in the area. There seems little doubt that the same birds or their offspring are returning year after year, and making flowers and feeders available assists in their survival even in relatively severe winter such as the one that has just passed.

Although the usually abundant Savannah Sparrows were apparently not here in excess numbers, we nevertheless had a good variety of other sparrow species, with Sabine Woods hosting an unusually wide variety in significant numbers. Beach habitat is being slow to return to normal, and again we have access issues with Sea Rim State Park not routinely accessible.

DUCK, Wood	(14-14)	HAI-SILS 2/14(3) MG
GADWALL	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 2/14(28) JAW
WIGEON, American	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 2/14(4) JAW
DUCK, Mottled	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(3) JFW
TEAL, Blue-winged	(14-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(30) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(30) JFW; JEF-MCFW 2/28(5) SM
SHOVELER, Northern	(14-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(5) JFW; JEF-MCFW 2/28(5) SM
TEAL, Green-winged	(28-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/28(5) SM
SCAUP, Lesser	(14-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(11) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(11) JFW; JEF-MCFW 2/28(1) SM
SCAUP species	(27-27)	ORA-TX87 2/27(20) JAW
GOLDENEYE, Common	(28-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/28(2) SM
MERGANSER, Red-breasted	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 2/14(1) JFW
DUCK, Ruddy	(28-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/28(10) SM
BOBWHITE, Northern	(13-13)	JEF 2/13(29) CSL
GREBE, Pied-billed	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 2/14(3) JAW; JEF-TX87 2/14(1) JAW
PELICAN, Amer. White	(14-14)	JEF 4 reps(70)
PELICAN, Brown	(14-14)	JEF 4 reps(47)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(14-28)	JEF 5 reps(95)
CORMORANT, Double-crested	(14-14)	JEF 3 reps(31)
HERON, Great Blue	(14-28)	JEF 5 reps(21)
EGRET, Great	(14-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(35)
EGRET, Snowy	(14-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(24)
HERON, Little Blue	(14-14)	JEF 2 reps(16)
IBIS, White	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 2/14(4) JAW
IBIS, White-faced	(14-14)	JEF-SRSP 2/14(2) JFW
IBIS, Plegadis	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(7) JAW
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(27-27)	ORA-TX87 2/27(1) JAW
VULTURE, Black	(1-26)	HAI 3 reps(29); JEF 2 reps(7)
VULTURE, Turkey	(7-28)	HAI 8 reps(30); JEF 4 reps(31)
OSPREY	(3-14)	HAI-SILS 2/3(1) MG; JEF-MCFW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(1) JFW
EAGLE, Bald	(22-22)	JEF 2/22(1) JWE
HARRIER, Northern	(14-28)	JEF 5 reps(20)
HAWK, Cooper's	(14-14)	HAI-SILS 2/14(1) MG; JEF-NEDR 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-TX87 2/14(1) JAW
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(5-28)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 8 reps(9)

HAWK, Red-tailed	(6-28)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 9 reps(37)
KESTREL, American	(6-28)	JEF 8 reps(25)
MERLIN	(21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(1) GD
SORA	(14-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-SRSP 2/28(1) SM
MOORHEN, Common	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(2) JFW
COOT, American	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(220) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(3) JFW
PLOVER, Black-bellied	(28-28)	JEF 2/28(25) JAW
PLOVER, Snowy	(28-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/28(6) SM
KILLDEER	(13-21)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(533)
STILT, Black-necked	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(19) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(19) JFW; JEF-TX87 2/14(3) JAW
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(14-28)	JEF-TX87 2/14(2) JAW; JEF 2/28(25) JAW
WILLET	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 2/14(3) JAW
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(28-28)	JEF 2/28(50) JAW
SANDERLING	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(1) JAW
SANDPIPER, Western	(14-28)	JEF-MCFW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(1) JFW; JEF 2/28(1) JAW
DUNLIN	(28-28)	JEF 2/28(1000) JAW
DOWITCHER, Long-billed	(28-28)	JEF 2/28(1000) JAW
GULL, Laughing	(14-14)	JEF 4 reps(16)
GULL, Ring-billed	(14-27)	JEF 4 reps(121); ORA 1 rep(1)
GULL, Herring	(14-14)	JEF 2 reps(2)
TERN, Forster's	(14-14)	JEF 4 reps(58)
TERN, Royal	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 2/14(6) JAW; JEF-TXPT 2/14(4) JFW
PIGEON, Rock	(2-28)	HAI 4 reps(65); JEF 7 reps(197)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(13-28)	HAI 2 reps(6); JEF 6 reps(57)
DOVE, White-winged	(1-27)	HAI 4 reps(9); JEF 7 reps(101)
DOVE, Mourning	(1-28)	HAI 17 reps(152); JEF 8 reps(36); TYL 1 rep(1)
DOVE, Inca	(1-24)	HAI 14 reps(24)
OWL, Barred	(20-20)	TYL-BTLR 2/20(1) RHJ
WHIP-POOR-WILL,	(28-28)	JEF-SW 2/28(1) SM
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied	(1-28)	JEF-BMT 2/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/5(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/6(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/7(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/9(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/11(1) RHJ;; JEF- BMT 2/13(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/17(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/18(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/22(1)

RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/23(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/24(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/27(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/28(1) RHJ		
HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope (14-26) JEF-NEDR 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 2/24(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 2/26(1) JAW		
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed (1-26) JEF-BMT 2/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/5(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/15(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/26(1) RHJ		
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (1-25) JEF-BMT 2/1(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/2(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/6(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/8(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/9(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/16(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/17(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/19(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/22(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/23(1) RHJ;; JEF-BMT 2/25(1) RHJ		
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus (24-24) HAI 2/24(1) JM		
HUMMINGBIRD species (1-28) JEF 6 reps(6)		
KINGFISHER, Belted (6-27) JEF 5 reps(10); ORA 1 rep(1)		
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (2-28) HAI 19 reps(34); JEF 5 reps(10); TYL 1 rep(1)		
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (5-21) HAI-SILS 2/5(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/10(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/16(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/17(1) MG;; JEF-BMT 2/21(1) RHJ; TYL-BTHC 2/20(1) RHJ		
WOODPECKER, Downy (2-28) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 11 reps(13); TYL 2 reps(4)		
FLICKER, Northern (13-21) HAI-SILS 2/13(3) MG; JEF-TP 2/21(2) GD		
WOODPECKER, Pileated (2-21) HAI-SILS 2/2(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/5(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/13(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/16(1) MG;; HAI-SILS 2/17(1) MG; JEF-BMT 2/18(1) RHJ; TYL-BTHC 2/20(1) RHJ; TYL-BTHC 2/21(1) JAW		
PHOEBE, Eastern (4-28) HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 6 reps(16)		
SHRIKE, Loggerhead (14-28) JEF 5 reps(24)		
VIREO, Blue-headed (14-14) JEF-SW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW		
JAY, Blue (1-28) HAI 5 reps(23); JEF 6 reps(14); TYL 1 rep(1)		
CROW, American (21-21) HAI 2 reps(8)		
MARTIN, Purple (28-28) JEF-GROV 2/28(5) SR		
SWALLOW, Tree (14-28) JEF-MCFW 2/14(8) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(8) JFW; JEF 2/28(2) JAW; ORA-TX87 2/27(5) JAW		
CHICKADEE, Carolina (5-27) HAI 12 reps(26); JEF 3 reps(13); TYL 1 rep(6)		
TITMOUSE, Tufted (1-27) HAI 14 reps(27); TYL 1 rep(3)		
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (14-20) HAI-SILS 2/14(1) SG; TYL-BTHC 2/20(1) RHJ		
WREN, Carolina (1-28) HAI 21 reps(57); JEF 3 reps(9); TYL 1 rep(5)		
WREN, House (14-14) JEF-SW 2/14(3) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(3) JFW		
KINGLET, Golden-crowned (14-14) JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW		
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (2-27) HAI 17 reps(17); JEF 2 reps(18); TYL 1 rep(1)		
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (14-14) JEF-SW 2/14(2) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(2) JFW		
BLUEBIRD, Eastern (2-28) HAI 10 reps(19); JEF 6 reps(15); TYL 2 reps(3)		
THRUSH, Hermit (3-25) HAI-SILS 2/3(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/25(1) MG; TYL-BTHC 2/21(3) JAW		
ROBIN, American (6-28) HAI 9 reps(578); JEF 12 reps(203); TYL 2 reps(6)		
CATBIRD, Gray (14-28) JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-SW 2/28(6) SM		
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (8-28) HAI 4 reps(13); JEF 7 reps(30)		
THRASHER, Brown (14-14) JEF-SW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW		
STARLING, European (13-28) JEF 6 reps(151); ORA 1 rep(3)		
PIPIT, American (14-14) JEF-MCFW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(1) JFW		
WAXWING, Cedar (5-28) HAI 10 reps(246); JEF 12 reps(324)		
WARBLER, Orange-crowned (1-28) HAI 25 reps(25); JEF 24 reps(30)		
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (2-28) HAI 8 reps(23); JEF 15 reps(65)		
WARBLER, Pine (1-28) HAI 23 reps(40); JEF 12 reps(50); TYL 2 reps(10)		
YELLOWTHROAT, Common (14-14) JEF-MCFW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-SW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW		
WARBLER, Wilson's (1-28) HAI 26 reps(26)		
SPARROW, Chipping (1-28) HAI 28 reps(845); JEF 1 rep(2); TYL 1 rep(10)		
SPARROW, Savannah (6-28) JEF-TP 2/6(5) RHJ; JEF 2/13(9) CSL; JEF 2/21(13) JAW; JEF 2/28(4) JAW; JEF-SW 2/28(5) SM		
SPARROW, Nelson's (28-28) JEF-TXPT 2/28(1) SM		
SPARROW, Song (14-28) JEF-SW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-SW 2/28(2) SM		
SPARROW, Lincoln's (14-28) JEF-SW 2/14(7) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(7) JFW; JEF-SW 2/28(5) SM		
SPARROW, Swamp (14-28) JEF 5 reps(51)		
SPARROW, White-throated (1-28) JEF 27 reps(110); TYL 1 rep(1)		
SPARROW, White-crowned (14-28) JEF-SW 2/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/14(1) JFW; JEF-SW 2/28(2) SM		
CARDINAL, Northern (1-28) HAI 25 reps(484); JEF 7 reps(21); TYL 2 reps(5)		
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (13-28) HAI 3 reps(700); JEF 9 reps(96)		
MEADOWLARK, Eastern (13-28) JEF 2/13(14) CSL; JEF 2/21(6) JAW; JEF 2/28(1) JAW		
MEADOWLARK species (21-28) JEF 2 reps(4)		
BLACKBIRD, Rusty (14-28) JEF-SW 2/14(1) unconfirmed) JAW; JEF-SW 2/28(1) unconfirmed) SM		
GRACKLE, Common (13-28) HAI-SILS 2/14(12) MG; HAI-SILS 2/15(15) MG; JEF 2/13(27) CSL; JEF 2/21(225) JAW; JEF 2/28(1) JAW		
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (14-14) JEF 4 reps(22)		
GRACKLE, Great-tailed (14-28) JEF 8 reps(332); ORA 1 rep(45)		
COWBIRD, Brown-headed (13-24) HAI-SILS 2/23(6) MG; HAI-SILS 2/24(1) MG; JEF 2/13(40) CSL; JEF 2/21(66) JAW		
BLACKBIRD species (23-23) HAI-SILS 2/23(200) MG		
ORIOLE, Baltimore (21-21) JEF-TP 2/21(1) GD		
FINCH, House (1-22) HAI-SILS 2/22(1) MG; JEF-BMT 2/1(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/2(4) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/13(1) RHJ		
SISKIN, Pine (13-14) HAI-SILS 2/13(1) SG; HAI-SILS 2/14(1) SG		
GOLDFINCH, American (1-28) HAI 27 reps(390); JEF 25 reps(493)		
SPARROW, House (13-28) JEF 4 reps(57)		
Number of Species 122		
Number of Individuals 22524		
County Abbreviations:		
HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange; TYL — Tyler		
Location Codes		
BC — Bridge City; BMT — Beaumont; BTHC — Big Thicket NP - Hickory Creek Savannah; BTLC — Big Thicket NP - Lance Rosier Unit; GROV — Groves; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland; 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; TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point		
Observer Abbreviations :		
CSL — Christine Sliva; GD — Gerald Duhon; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; JWE — Jim Westgate; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SG — Sherry Gibson; SM — Steve Mayes; SR — Sherrie Roden.		

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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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