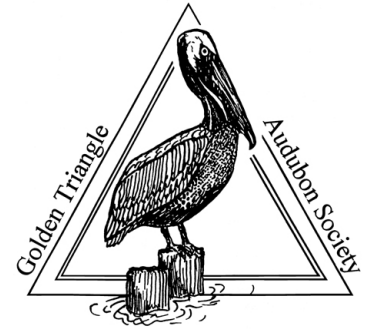


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 5

May 2010

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, May 20, 2010
7:00 PM**

Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

"Mushrooms and Fungi"

David Lewis

David's presentation will cover common and not so common mushrooms of East Texas including edible and toxic ones. He will cover some aspects of identifying them and some of the major groups of fungi that one may encounter in Texas. David will also discuss and explain the Big Thicket National Preserve "All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory" that is an ongoing project.

David Lewis is a retired chemist and avid mycologist. He has a Bachelor and Masters degree from Lamar University, Beaumont, TX, where his thesis was based on a study of East Texas mushrooms. He is a Research Associate with the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, IL, and 5000 collections of his fungi are deposited there. He is an honorary staff member associated with the Tracy Herbarium at Texas A&M University. Since 2006 he has been the Fungal TWIG, the coordinator for mycologists, for the Big Thicket All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory. He is President of the Gulf States Mycological Society, has authored several papers related to mycology, and discovered many new species of mushrooms (three species are named for him).

In November 2009 he received The North American Mycological Association's award for Contributions to Amateur Mycology, a prestigious award showing appreciation for his many years of dedicated work.

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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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

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.

Saturday May 15, 2010. Sabine Woods Work Day. We will start at 7:00 a.m. and typically will work until about noon. There is much to in the way of trail maintenance including removing two downed trees. Despite the lack of rain, there has been surprising growth during the last couple of months. Gas powered Weedeaters will be helpful this time to trim around the new trees. In addition, there will be places where small low hanging branches need to be lopped off.

Thursday May 20. Membership Meeting. See page 1 for details.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Jennifer Armacost, Steve Dillinger, 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 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 22, 2010. Field Trip to Hardin County: We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area –

Hooded, Pine, Prairie and Swainson's Warblers (and possibly Prothonotary Warbler), Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. Some of these species are easier to see on the breeding grounds than on migration. For others the reverse is true. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target of this trip. We have almost always got excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. Yellow-breasted Chats, notorious skulkers in migration, have often been seen perched high up in the open. We have even seen Roadrunners on this trip, and two years ago year, a singing Eastern Towhee was completely unexpected.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north, then Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right a short distance after crossing the railroad, continue straight ahead on FM92 for about a mile to the shopping center. We will bird the Firetower Road/Gore Store Road Camp Waluta area and any nearby areas that are brought to our attention as being productive. Many areas along Firetower Road were clear cut two or three years ago, and while this has undoubtedly reduced the diversity of species, it has created much habitat that should be very attractive to Prairie Warblers. However, we will likely spend much of our time in the northern section of Firetower Road, and along Gore Store Road between Firetower Road and the Beech Creek bridge. We will probably finish about noon.

Call Steve Mayes at 722-5807 to confirm the details of the trip if you miss the May Membership Meeting.



Volunteers Needed to Water the Trees at Sabine Woods

As most of you know GTAS has planted around 150 oak and mulberry trees at Sabine Woods in the last six months with the gracious coordination of Gary Kelley. With the very low amount of precipitation for the month of April (0.34 inches) we all realize that we cannot totally depend on rain alone to keep these newly planted trees alive during this, the first summer after they were transplanted. We are in need of volunteers to help water the trees during these dates listed below. Please consider volunteering to take at least one week shift. We are only asking you to water one time during your shift. We will arrange for you to meet with Gary or one of two or three other volunteers who will be able to show you where the controls for the water are, etc. We could conveniently do this on the May 15 Work Day. The next questions you might be thinking about are:

How long does it take? It takes around four hours by yourself. Gary has done it and knows how long it takes.

What does the work entail? It means that a person will drag hoses for a long distance to get the water to the trees. Also you will need to lug pails of water to water the trees that are inside the woods.

Where are all the trees? Most of the trees are on the east side of Sabine Woods. Others are inside the woods, and have red tape tied to them.

Do I water if it rains in Sabine Pass that week? No. But please make sure that has rained enough there. For instance, many, many times it has rained in Nederland, but not in Sabine Pass.

To pick a shift, please email Jana at janafw@aol.com or call 409-722-4193. The shifts are numbered to make it easy for you to remember and to let us know for which ones you would like to volunteer.

Shifts to choose from:

- 1 May 23-29
- 2 May 30-June 5

- 3 June 6-12
- 4 June 13-19
- 5 June 20-26
- 6 July 27-3
- 7 July 4-10
- 8 July 11-17
- 9 July 18-24
- 10 July 25-31
- 11 August 1-7
- 12 August 8-14
- 13 August 15-21
- 14 August 22-28
- 15 August 29-Sep. 4
- 16 September 5-11
- 17 September 12-18

Jana Whittle

Birdathon Report

We thank all those who supported our Birdathon benefiting Audubon Texas and for Golden Triangle Audubon. We will post a detailed account of the adventures of the day on the Golden Triangle Audubon web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. Those who pledged will by now have received a copy of the report and a listing of the birds seen.

Subject to final checking, we tallied 163 species in a day that took us from Bolivar Flat to High Island, through Chambers County to Hardin County, and then back down to the Coast at Sabine Woods and McFaddin NWR.

Royce Pendergast and John Whittle

Golden Triangle Audubon at Shangri La Eco-Fest 2010

On Saturday, April 24, Shangri La in Orange held its annual Eco-Fest, wrapping up its Earth Week activities. Many Southeast Texas agencies, businesses and organizations had booths promoting nature and green living. Shangri La staff including managing director Mike Hoke and education director Noelle Jordan took great care of exhibitors, making sure exhibitors had what they needed to get their information and materials out to the public. Shangri La also provided water, coffee and delicious box lunches to everyone working a booth.

Like last year, the GTAS booth was located under the covered walkway in front of the Garden Store, next to the

Native Plant Society table. GTAS members Gary Kelley and Richard and Kathi Orgeron staffed our booth. We enjoyed a lot of traffic, and it was encouraging to hear from almost all visitors that they feed birds in their yards. Many people were able to name their backyard birds. Gary and Richard helped identify mystery birds. Small children pointed fingers at pictures of birds they had in their yards. They all had the "red bird" (cardinal) and the "blue bird" (blue jay). Last year's visitors identified the rose breasted grosbeak as a bird they were seeing in their yards; this year, it was the indigo bunting. Several remarked that they only had one or two hummingbirds this spring.

GTAS gave out handouts on feeding birds in the yard; hummingbird plants; the recipe for hummingbird syrup; and a card with information on GTAS. We also donated door prizes to Shangri La's festivities, and the winners were very excited. It was wonderful to meet people interested in learning more about Southeast Texas birds, answer their bird questions, and share bird knowledge with them. *Kathi Orgeron*

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 Sabine Woods – 17 April 2010

Sometimes a few moments can make a whole trip worth while. Even when the birding is slow, all it takes is that one special event that you have never witnessed before to make the day memorable. This lesson was well illustrated on Golden Triangle Audubon's annual April field trip to Sabine Woods. Spring birding is always unpredictable but it is just that element of the unknown that makes things exciting!

The started with pleasant weather and south/southeast winds. This is very nice weather to bird in but is not likely to produce many birds. Weather is a double edged sword in the spring: north winds (with rain) are great for birders with many birds falling out into the coastal woodlots but very bad for birds while south winds provide an easier time for the migrating birds but do not do much for the birders! But those who love the birds must acknowledge that we need more of these south wind days to ensure better bird populations but on a field trip day (for a field trip leader) it can make things challenging.

But south winds or not, there were still birds to be seen. Warblers are the focus of spring on the Texas coast and the group did get an assortment with a lot of hard work. Olive colored Orange-crowned Warblers contrasted with a brightly colored Yellow Warbler. Male Northern Parulas sang their buzzy songs from a few tree tops while several Worm-eating Warblers gave their "zip" calls from tangles of dead leaves. Dapper black and white Blackpoll Warblers foraged in the trees while a sprightly Hooded Warbler danced in the underbrush. The areas around the ponds held both the golden Prothonotary Warbler and the more subtly attired Northern Waterthrush. Ubiquitous Yellow-rumped Warblers were one of the more common birds seen on the day.

One warbler that was the subject of discussion on the day was the Palm Warbler. This is an attractive and active warbler that is yellow underneath and a bit duller on top. It sports a rusty brown cap and habitually bobs its tail up and down as it bounces in the brush and low branches of trees. Two groups of Palm Warblers are generally recognized in birding circles. The eastern birds are more colorful, often wholly yellow underneath. The western birds tend to have the yellow concentrated in the areas of the throat and undertail. Both groups are seen on the upper Texas coast but the western seems to predominate. The western birds are nearly always the ones seen here in winter while either might be found during migration. But what has been unusual this year has been the number of Palm Warblers seen. An unusually high number of Palms were seen in the winter and this trend continued with good numbers in the spring. A normal spring day, even a good day for warblers, might still produce few if any Palms. But nearly every day this spring has produced multiple Palms even when few other birds were present. Even on this day, a bit slow for migrants, at least six Palm Warblers were seen (all western types). The reason for all these Palms is not clear but they are always welcome for any field trip!

Many other migrant and resident birds were seen on the day. A Purple Martin soared over the woods while House and Carolina Wrens skulked below. A White-eyed Vireo called from deep in the brush while a Red-eyed Vireo foraged higher in the trees. Gray Catbirds were common on the day but Ruby-

throated Hummingbirds were harder to find (but were still found!). Solitary Sandpipers lived up to their name, foraging singly in the ponds while Tree Swallows flew overhead in foraging flocks. Waterfowl made a showing at the woods with Blue-winged Teal, Mottled Duck and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks all being noted. Eastern Wood-Pewee and Eastern Kingbird represented the flycatchers while a few Orchards were the only Orioles located. Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Painted Bunting were all found though not in large numbers. Sparrows made a nice showing in the woods with lots of White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows and a few Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows. A few lucky birders even got looks at single Clay-colored Sparrow and Spotted Towhee. A well seen male Bronzed Cowbird was at once exciting and disturbing.

But the "moment" of the trip came fairly early on. One of the birders located a Great Horned Owl perched in a tree off the Sabine Woods property. As the group assembled to admire this large raptor from a distance, it got even better: a second Great Horned was located perched nearby! But wait, was that a third Great Horned Owl perched near the second? It was! Three Great Horned Owls, likely the family group that has been seen on and off for a while at Sabine Woods. The birders drank in this great view of the birds when it got even more interesting. An adult Peregrine Falcon flew by and did not like what it saw! The falcon began dive bombing the owls! Over and over, the falcon flew at the larger birds veering off at the last second. The owls flinched but held their ground. Again the Peregrine dove at an owl and again the owl would duck. Finally, likely exhausted from its efforts, the Peregrine perched in a dead snag near the owls so that all were in view at once! An unforgettable encounter on, what seemed like it might be, an otherwise forgettable day!

It was another great spring field trip to the Texas Ornithological Society's magnificent Sabine Woods sanctuary if not in the expected fashion. It was not one of those twenty plus warbler species days with buntings and grosbeaks and tanagers dripping from the trees and the birding was not always easy. But, it was an experience these birders will never forget and the story of the encounter with the Peregrine and the owls will likely be remembered longer than a lot of the spring fallouts that all hope for! So get out and bird even if the weather does not look promising, you just never know when that magic moment might occur for you!

The following species were recorded on the trip:
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (6); Blue-winged Teal (2); Tricolored Heron (2); Green Heron (4); White Ibis (6); Turkey Vulture (2); Northern Harrier (2); Peregrine Falcon (1); Solitary Sandpiper (3); Eurasian Collared-Dove (1); White-winged Dove (3); Inca Dove (2); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1); Great Horned Owl (3); Common Nighthawk (2); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Downy Woodpecker (4); Eastern Wood-Pewee (1); Eastern Kingbird (3); White-eyed Vireo (2); Red-eyed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (6); Tree Swallow (20); Barn Swallow (3); Carolina Chickadee (2); Carolina Wren (1); House Wren (1); Sedge Wren (1); Marsh Wren (1);
(Continued on page 7)

Bird Sightings – March 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: An interesting month, with a good selection of winter birds and a very varied selection of Neotropical migrants passing through much earlier than usual. This month, we have not shown the wintering hummingbirds in the detailed format because of the space it would take. Suffice it to note that these wintering birds were wintering in specific yards where feeders were maintained. Bald Eagles are again nesting in Orange County. An Ash-throated Flycatcher was seen in Sabine Woods late in the month.

DUCK, Wood	(11-20)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(12) AM; HAI-SILS 3/20(2) MG; 3/27(40) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/31(16) AM	HAWK, Red-shouldered	(4-29)	ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 9 reps(10)
GADWALL	(6-31)	JEF 6 reps(127)	HAWK, Swainson's	(28-28)	JEF 3/28(5) MW
WIGEON, American	(6-25)	JEF-TP 3/6(2) SM; JEF- SRSP 3/7(10) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/25(1) RHJ	HAWK, Red-tailed	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(35)
MALLARD	(6-25)	JEF 2 reps(8)	HAWK, Red-tail (Krider's)	(6-6)	JEF 3/6(1) JAW
DUCK, Mottled	(6-31)	JEF 7 reps(34)	CARACARA, Crested	(13-28)	JEF 3/13(1) CSL; JEF- TX87 3/14(1) SM; JEF 3/28(1) CSL
TEAL, Blue-winged	(6-31)	JEF 9 reps(677)	KESTREL, American	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(19)
TEAL, Cinnamon	(6-6)	JEF-TP 3/6(1) SM	MERLIN	(11-31)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(1) AM; JEF-TX87 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/31(1) AM
SHOVELER, Northern	(6-31)	JEF 6 reps(78)	RAIL, Clapper	(16-31)	JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/31(2) AM
PINTAIL, Northern	(6-31)	JEF-TP 3/6(5) SM; JEF- MCFW 3/31(260) AM	SORA	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(1) AM
TEAL, Green-winged	(6-7)	JEF-TP 3/6(25) SM; JEF- SRSP 3/7(100) JAW	MOORHEN, Common	(6-31)	JEF 4 reps(30)
DUCK, Ring-necked	(6-6)	JEF-TP 3/6(5) SM	COOT, American	(6-31)	JEF 6 reps(386)
SCAUP, Lesser	(6-31)	JEF 4 reps(370)	PLOVER, Black-bellied	(6-31)	JEF 3/6(1) JAW; JEF- MCFW 3/31(44) AM
MERGANSER, Red-breasted	(15-31)	JEF-TX87 3/15(1) JFW; JEF-MCFW 3/31(4) AM	GOLDEN-PLOVER, Amer.	(28-28)	ANG 3/28(11) LD; JEF 3/28(575) MW
DUCK, Ruddy	(6-13)	JEF-TP 3/6(5) SM; JEF- MCFW 3/7(45) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/13(10) JAW	KILLDEER	(6-31)	ANG 1 rep(5); HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 6 reps(29)
GREBE, Pied-billed	(7-31)	JEF 5 reps(13)	STILT, Black-necked	(7-31)	JEF 3 reps(44)
PELICAN, Amer. White	(7-25)	JEF 2 reps(21)	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(6-31)	JEF 4 reps(41)
PELICAN, Brown	(7-31)	JEF 5 reps(70)	WILLET	(7-31)	JEF 2 reps(38)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(6-31)	JEF 7 reps(34)	YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(6-31)	JEF 2 reps(21)
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	(7-31)	JEF 3 reps(25)	SANDPIPER, Upland	(28-28)	ANG 3/28(11) LD; JEF 3/28(117) MW
ANHINGA	(11-25)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(1) AM; JEF-TX87 3/25(1) RHJ	CURLEW, Long-billed	(31-31)	JEF-TX87 3/31(4) AM
HERON, Great Blue	(7-31)	JEF 3 reps(8)	SANDERLING	(7-31)	JEF 2 reps(37)
EGRET, Great	(6-31)	JEF 8 reps(58)	SANDPIPER, Semipalmated	(31-31)	JEF-TX87 3/31(14) AM
EGRET, Snowy	(7-31)	JEF 7 reps(152)	SANDPIPER, Western	(15-31)	JEF-TX87 3/15(5) JFW; JEF-TX87 3/31(13) AM
HERON, Little Blue	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(144) AM	SANDPIPER, Least	(6-31)	JEF 3/6(4) JAW; JEF- TX87 3/31(4) AM
HERON, Tricolored	(7-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/7(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/27(3) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/31(37) AM	SANDPIPER, Baird's	(28-28)	JEF 3/28(1) MW
EGRET, Reddish	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(2) AM	DOWITCHER, Long-billed	(6-6)	JEF 3/6(300) JAW
EGRET, Cattle	(12-31)	JEF 3/12(4) JAW; JEF- MCFW 3/31(207) AM	DOWITCHER species	(15-15)	JEF 1 rep(10)
HERON, Green	(18-31)	JEF 4 reps(4)	SNIFE, Wilson's	(6-19)	JEF-TP 3/6(3) SM; JEF 3/13(1) CSL; JEF 3/19(1) CSL
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(7-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(3)	GULL, Bonaparte's	(7-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/7(9) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/31(55) AM
IBIS, White	(7-31)	JEF 6 reps(214)	GULL, Laughing	(6-31)	JEF 5 reps(187)
IBIS, White-faced	(13-31)	JEF 3 reps(60)	GULL, Ring-billed	(6-31)	JEF 7 reps(858)
IBIS, Plegadis	(6-28)	JEF 5 reps(242)	GULL, Herring	(7-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 3/31(17) AM
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(15-31)	JEF 4 reps(25)	TERN, Caspian	(7-7)	JEF 1 rep(1)
VULTURE, Black	(5-28)	HAI 5 reps(98); JEF 3 reps(12)	TERN, Forster's	(7-31)	JEF 2 reps(65)
VULTURE, Turkey	(5-28)	HAI 7 reps(52); JEF 7 reps(45)	TERN, Royal	(7-31)	JEF 2 reps(37)
OSPREY	(7-7)	JEF-MCFW 3/7(1) JAW	PIGEON, Rock	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(12); JEF 6 reps(36)
KITE, Swallow-tailed	(9-31)	JEF-BMT 3/31(1) CLL; ORA-ORG 3/9(2) CSL; ORA 3/28(1) SBE	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 10 reps(24)
KITE, White-tailed	(31-31)	JEF-TX87 3/31(1) AM	DOVE, White-winged	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(55)
EAGLE, Bald	(4-31)	ANG 3/28(1) LD; ORA 3/4(2) JA; ORA 3/31(3) SBE			
HARRIER, Northern	(6-31)	JEF 10 reps(13)			
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(11-13)	HAI 2 reps(2)			
HAWK, Cooper's	(4-28)	ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 1 rep(1)			

DOVE, Mourning reps(67)	(1-31)	HAI 9 reps(92); JEF 13	THRUSH, Hermit reps(5)	(7-25)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 4
DOVE, Inca	(25-31)	JEF 5 reps(8)	ROBIN, American reps(73)	(2-31)	HAI 3 reps(189); JEF 22
OWL, Barn	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) AM	CATBIRD, Gray reps(41)	(7-31)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 14
OWL, Great Horned	(13-31)	JEF 8 reps(12)	MOCKINGBIRD, Northern reps(29)	(3-31)	HAI 7 reps(29); JEF 12
OWL, Barred TP 3/27(1) KRO	(26-27)	JEF-TP 3/26(2) KRO; JEF-	THRASHER, Brown reps(31)	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 25
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(19-19)	JEF 3/19(1) CSL	STARLING, European reps(352)	(6-31)	HAI 2 reps(70); JEF 8
SWIFT, Chimney	(27-31)	JEF 6 reps(36)	PIPIT, American	(28-28)	JEF 3/28(60) MW
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied JEF-BMT 3/3(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/4(1) RHJ	(1-4)	JEF-BMT 3/1(1) RHJ;	WAXWING, Cedar reps(161)	(7-31)	HAI 8 reps(370); JEF 10
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. reps(17)	(11-31)	HAI 8 reps(16); JEF 15	WARBLER, Orange-crowned reps(28)	(2-31)	HAI 6 reps(16); JEF 13
HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope	(5-31)	JEF 11 reps(11)	PARULA, Northern JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JFW; JEF-SW 3/18(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/22(5) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/25(1) LB; JEF-SW 3/25(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/26(1) JHH; JEF- SW 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/28(2) MW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) AM	(13-31)	JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JFW; JEF-SW 3/18(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/22(5) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/25(1) LB; JEF-SW 3/25(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/26(1) JHH; JEF- SW 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/28(2) MW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) AM
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed	(9-31)	JEF 12 reps(12)	WARBLER, Yellow-rumped reps(661)	(4-31)	HAI 13 reps(89); JEF 26
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	(1-21)	JEF 10 reps(10)	WARBLER, Y-r (Audubon's) reps(12)	(15-15)	JEF-SW 3/15(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD species	(1-26)	JEF 12 reps(13)	WARBLER, Black-thr. Green reps(12)	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(2) AM
KINGFISHER, Belted	(6-28)	JEF 8 reps(14)	WARBLER, Yellow-throated reps(12)	(11-26)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(2) AM; JEF-SW 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/26(1) JHH
WOODPECKER, Red-headed SILS 3/10(1) MG; HAI-SNDY 3/11(2) AM; HAI-SILS 3/16(1) MG	(9-16)	HAI-SILS 3/9(1) MG; HAI-	WARBLER, Pine reps(12)	(1-31)	HAI 4 reps(20); JEF 10
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied reps(9)	(1-31)	HAI 20 reps(50); JEF 8	WARBLER, Palm reps(12)	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(1) AM; JEF-SW 3/31(2) AM
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied reps(10)	(7-31)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 7	WARBLER, Black-and-wh reps(30)	(6-31)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 16
WOODPECKER, Downy reps(29)	(4-31)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 23	WARBLER, Prothonotary reps(12)	(15-25)	JEF-SW 3/15(1) JFW; JEF-SW 3/18(6) JHH; JEF-SW 3/22(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/25(1) LB; JEF-SW 3/25(2) RHJ
FLICKER, Northern SNDY 3/11(1) AM	(8-11)	HAI-SILS 3/8(1) MG; HAI-	WARBLER, Swainson's reps(12)	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) AM
WOODPECKER, Pileated rep(1)	(1-28)	HAI 9 reps(9); JEF 1	WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana reps(12)	(13-31)	JEF 9 reps(16)
PHOEBE, Eastern reps(7)	(6-25)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 6	WATERTHRUSH, La./N. reps(12)	(22-22)	JEF-SW 3/22(2) RHJ
FLYCATCHER, Ash-throated	(27-27)	JEF-SW 3/27(1) JAW	YELLOWTHROAT, Common reps(12)	(16-31)	JEF 5 reps(20)
KINGBIRD, Eastern JEF-TX87 3/28(1) MW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) AM	(22-31)	JEF-SW 3/22(1) RHJ;	WARBLER, Hooded reps(12)	(22-31)	JEF-SW 3/22(10) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/25(1) LB; JEF-SW 3/25(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/26(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) AM
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed JEF 3/28(1) MW; JEF-TX87 3/31(2) AM	(27-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/27(1) JAW;	WARBLER, Wilson's rep(1)	(1-24)	HAI 19 reps(19); JEF 1
SHRIKE, Loggerhead reps(32)	(6-31)	ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 9	CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) AM
VIREO, White-eyed reps(39)	(16-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7	TOWHEE, Eastern reps(12)	(14-31)	JEF-SW 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(1) LB; JEF-SW 3/31(1) AM
VIREO, Yellow-throated JEF-SW 3/22(1) RHJ	(13-22)	JEF-SW 3/13(1) JAW;	SPARROW, Chipping rep(6)	(1-31)	HAI 29 reps(1001); JEF 1
VIREO, Blue-headed	(7-22)	JEF 2 reps(2)	SPARROW, Savannah	(6-31)	JEF 8 reps(93)
JAY, Blue reps(37)	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(29); JEF 9	SPARROW, Nelson's	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(12) AM
CROW, American rep(1)	(3-11)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 1	SPARROW, Seaside	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(4) AM
CROW, Fish JEF-TP 3/6(10) SM	(6-11)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(3) AM;	SPARROW, Song MCFW 3/31(1) AM	(7-31)	JEF-SW 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-
MARTIN, Purple JEF-TP 3/6(30) SM; JEF-BMT 3/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/31(1) RHJ	(6-31)	HAI-SILS 3/21(2) MG;	SPARROW, Lincoln's	(7-31)	JEF 10 reps(60)
SWALLOW, Tree	(6-31)	JEF 8 reps(878)	SPARROW, Swamp	(7-28)	JEF 7 reps(29)
SWALLOW, Barn	(14-31)	JEF 5 reps(38)	SPARROW, White-throated reps(243)	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(94); JEF 33
CHICKADEE, Carolina reps(5)	(1-31)	HAI 9 reps(25); JEF 3	SPARROW, White-crowned	(16-28)	JEF 7 reps(33)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(3-31)	HAI 9 reps(33)	JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(11-11)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(34) AM
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(11-11)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(3) AM	CARDINAL, Northern reps(30)	(1-31)	HAI 27 reps(786); JEF 10
WREN, Carolina reps(8)	(1-31)	HAI 15 reps(42); JEF 5	BUNTING, Indigo reps(12)	(30-31)	HAI-SILS 3/31(1) MG; JEF-BMT 3/30(2) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/31(12) AM
WREN, House reps(6)	(7-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5	BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(6-28)	JEF 7 reps(156)
WREN, Winter SW 3/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/28(1) MW	(7-28)	JEF-SW 3/7(1) JAW; JEF-	MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(15-31)	JEF 3 reps(71)
WREN, Sedge	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(4) AM	MEADOWLARK species	(6-28)	JEF 2 reps(64)
WREN, Marsh	(31-31)	JEF-MCFW 3/31(2) AM	BLACKBIRD, Yellow-headed	(14-14)	JEF 3/14(1) CSL
KINGLET, Golden-crowned JEF-SW 3/7(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/16(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/18(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/22(1) RHJ	(7-22)	HAI-SNDY 3/11(4) AM;	GRACKLE, Common reps(107)	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(40); JEF 5
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned reps(61)	(1-31)	HAI 13 reps(25); JEF 11	GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(6-31)	JEF 7 reps(867)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray reps(272)	(7-31)	HAI 5 reps(14); JEF 12			
BLUEBIRD, Eastern reps(7)	(1-31)	HAI 18 reps(65); JEF 5			

GRACKLE, Great-tailed reps(399)	(2-31)	HAI 6 reps(76); JEF 11
COWBIRD, Brown-headed reps(272)	(3-31)	HAI 23 reps(49); JEF 2
FINCH, House	(1-25)	JEF 5 reps(8)
GOLDFINCH, American reps(185)	(1-31)	HAI 19 reps(63); JEF 20
SPARROW, House	(7-31)	JEF 9 reps(46)

Number of Species 170
Number of Individuals 31954

County Abbreviations

ANG – Angelina; HAI – Hardin; JEF – Jefferson; ORA – Orange

Location Codes

BMT – Beaumont; GROV – Groves; MCFW – McFaddin NWR; NEDR – Nederland; ORG – Orange; SILS – Silsbee; SNDY – Nature Conservancy Sandyland Sanctuary; SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 – Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations

AM – Art Mackinnon; CLL – Carol Lynn Loker; CSL – Christine Sliva; GD – Gerald Duhon; JA – Jim Armacost; JAW – John Whittle; JFW – Jana Whittle; JHH – John H. Haynes; JM – John Mariani; KRO – Kathi and Richard Orgeron; LB – Lynn Barber; LD – Louis Debetaz; MG – Melanie Goetsell; MV – Steve Mayes and John Whittle; RHJ – Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE – Sheri Bethard; SM – Steve Mayes; SR – Sherrie Roden

Field Trip *(continued from page 4)*

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3); Gray Catbird (8); Northern Mockingbird (1); Brown Thrasher (2); Cedar Waxwing (5); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Northern Parula (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (5); Palm Warbler (6); Blackpoll Warbler (2); Prothonotary Warbler (2); Worm-eating Warbler (5); Northern Waterthrush (1); Hooded Warbler (2); Yellow-breasted Chat (1); Spotted Towhee (1); Clay-colored Sparrow (1); Lincoln's Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (5); White-throated Sparrow (10); White-crowned Sparrow (2); Blue Grosbeak (1); Indigo Bunting (5); Painted Bunting (1); Red-winged Blackbird (10); Bronzed Cowbird (1).
Steve Mayes

The Migration Season So Far

This has undoubtedly been one of the most unusual migration seasons. Here we present a brief synopsis of the good days and the not-so good days. In the next issue, we plan to review the major Neotropical migrant species and how they appeared this spring (which for many species was far from normal). Then in August or September, we will present our usual compilation of spring migration sightings and numbers. For the most part, all we can report on is the songbird migration, because there are currently very few shorebird areas with suitable habitat that are readily accessible.

We have no reports of significant number of migrants along the coast until about the middle of March. The weekend of March 13/14 brought probably the first real signs of migration with Northern Parulas in particular in evidence.

The first real front during the spring migration season passed through during the weekend of March 20/21 and brought a reasonable number of migrants into the coastal woodlots, including good numbers of Prothonotary Warblers. The second cold front of the season passed through late on

March 27 but did not produce any surprises. As expected for late March, there were Northern Parula, Louisiana Waterthrushes, Hooded Warblers and Black-and-white Warblers around. This front was perhaps more notable for shorebirds, and there were unprecedented concentrations of Upland Sandpipers in west Jefferson County and high numbers of American Golden Plovers.

A front failed to reach the coast before dissipating April 2/3, but the warbler list contained 13 species on each day, with Northern Parula again the most numerous. Both Nashville Warbler and Prairie Warbler were among the warblers seen, presaging a season with incredible numbers of circum-Gulf migrants usually very hard to find in the spring. The first tanagers of the season appears, along with good numbers of Indigo Buntings. April 4 brought a few more "good" birds, including a Blackburnian Warbler and Palm Warbler, another circum-Gulf migrant. Migrant numbers decreased over the next two or three days, but species diversity remained good, with 14 and 15 warbler species being confirmed most days.

A front came through on the night of April 7 with strong north winds behind it, but birds seemed to just pass through and continue on during the following day. The front continued deep into the Gulf, and may have been responsible for unusual migration patterns in the days that followed. On a day when winds were northerly and quite strong over most of the Gulf, large numbers of migrants arrived in Sabine Woods during the afternoon of April 9. The most likely explanation is that these birds, on encountering the front, headed west to reach the central and lower Texas coasts, and then proceeded the next day to fly round the coast to their original planned landfall point. If they did, it would be very unusual daytime migration over land. Many of these birds were apparently still there April 10, and were joined by larger birds, including many Thrushes.

For the next few days, the wind flow across the Gulf changed to easterly, but with disturbances moving off the lower Texas coast across to Florida, numbers of migrants reaching the coast were modest until April 16, when birds began arriving in numbers around 2 p.m. Eighteen species of warbler were confirmed. The only explanation for this heavy flight must be that there was a build up of birds on the Yucatan (on account of bad weather there) that all left when the weather cleared. Bad weather in the Yucatan is the only reasonable explanation for the lack of migrants on April 17, as numbers increased again the following day slowly decreasing thereafter. April 21 through 27 were all days with good and increasing numbers of birds and impressive species diversity, with several days with over 25 warbler species. Thrushes, especially Swainson's Thrushes were exceptionally numerous from about April 26 on. April 24 through 27 brought another unusual pattern. There were Western Kingbirds everywhere along the coast, and high numbers of Lark, Chipping and even Clay-colored Sparrows.

April 28 was perhaps an average day for late April, while April 29 and 30 were on the slow side. Migrants picked up in number on May 1, and May 2 and May 3 were exceptionally good days. The species diversity began to decrease and, while still excellent on May 3, that was Yellow Warbler day with an estimated 50 present. May 4 was Bay-breasted Warbler Day, while May 5 was Gray Catbird day! Flycatchers were beginning to pass through in numbers by May 5.

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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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