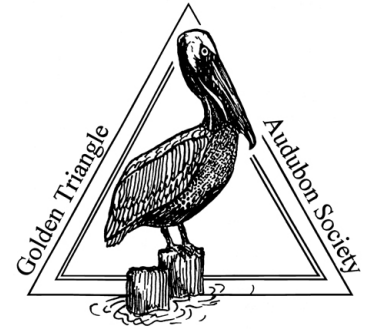


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 6

June 2010

Summer Hiatus!

As usual, there will be no membership meetings in June or July. Our next meeting will be on THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, Texas.

The next issue of the Brown Pelican will be a combined July/August issue, to be published in early August.

The Local Conservation Scene

As we write this, all attention is focused on the massive oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico about 50 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana. The prevailing summer winds will tend to blow surface oil towards the Louisiana coast from Grand Isle eastwards including the offshore islands and along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts and the coast of the Florida Panhandle. Should the flow of oil not be stopped by September or October, the prevailing winds will begin to have more of a northerly component which will tend to move surface oil away from the northern Gulf shores. However, the ocean currents in the Gulf which will move any oil that is below the surface are more complex. The site of the well is considerably east (and somewhat south) of the usual position of the summer dead zone in the Gulf. In fact, the loop current, a clockwise eddy off the main Gulf stream, at times comes close to the site. It seems inevitable that some oil will be picked up and carried round to the southern tip of Florida and eventually up the east coast of the United States before heading across the Atlantic. Likely, any oil that is carried that way will have lost most of its volatile components before approaching any land and will be in the form of semi-solid or solid tar balls. Any oil that is below the surface that makes it close to the shore but does not come onshore will be picked up by the slow moving current that flows westwards along the north shore of the Gulf. While most of the energy of that current is a good distance offshore as it passes the upper Texas coast, the prevailing southerly winds in summer will move some of any oil that is being carried along towards the coast. We might therefore expect that there will be some tar balls on our beaches eventually. Fortunately, while messy, they are much less of a hazard to wildlife and much less harmful to the habitat than liquid or semi-liquid oil.

In a more pleasant vein, we are seeing some signs that the habitat along the immediate coastal plain has recovered significantly from the salt water of the storm surge of Ike. Elsewhere in this issue is an account of what has been, for the birder, one of the most exciting spring migrations in memory. Even though many trees were killed along the coast, those that survived were used by many species, and the understory was satisfactory for the ground dwelling species. Only the fruit eaters found less than ideal conditions, as both many mulberry and hackberry trees did not survive after the storm surge. The land south of Highway 73 that does not normally see any salt water intrusion, while it superficially looks near normal, does not seem to have anything near the normal avian population, particularly lacking the various blackbird species. Indeed the blackbirds and grackle populations in the whole of the western part of Jefferson County fled during or immediately after Hurricane Rita in 2005 and those few that had returned were further affected by Hurricane Ike in 2008. Presumably, we will eventually see a more normal population again.

John A. Whittle

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 16, No.6 June 2010
Issue number 164

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is

published monthly except July by
the Golden Triangle Audubon
Society, P. O. Box 1292,
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Calendar of Events

Thursday August 19. Membership Meeting. To be arranged. If you know of someone with something interesting to present about birds or habitat and possibly willing to be our speaker in August or subsequently, please contact us as soon as possible.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for all the fall 2010 meetings.** Please do not wait until the last minute to volunteer! We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate! If you can just 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! We thank the following for bringing or arranging for refreshments for the May meeting: Jean Beavens, Linda and Howard Davis, Sherry Gibson, Mary and Herb Stafford, and Jana Whittle.

Saturday August 28. (Tentative date). Field Trip. Ordinarily, we elect to go to Bolivar Flats in late August. As we write this, Bolivar Flats is still not fully recovered from Hurricane Ike. There are always mud flats on the North Jetty side, but these are not easily accessed. On the Rettilon Road side, the water comes all the way up to the Spartina grass under some tide conditions, but each passing month brings the area back to nearer its former state. We will try to decide where to go for this field trip in time for the August *Brown Pelican*. We are looking at this date so that we can combine it with a visit to the woods in High Island.

Thursday September 16. Membership Meeting. To be arranged. Details in future issues of the *Brown Pelican*.

Saturday September 25. Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch. Our leaders will be there from about 8 a.m. To coincide with the peak of Broad-winged

Hawk migration, this trip will also be one week later our normal field trip schedule. Full details in the September *Brown Pelican*.

Recent Events

This month we could have filled twice the space we have available! Normally we would have reported on both the Spring Migration Count and the Field Trip to Hardin County. We do have a full report on the Migration Count and will post it on our web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org, probably before you receive this Newsletter.

The day of the **Spring Jefferson County Migration Count** turned out to be an outstanding day as far as migrants at Sabine Woods are concerned. Including the warbler species seen "inland" the count tallied an impressive 23 warbler species. Altogether 181 species were reported, 15 more than last year, and five more than the previous all time high in 1998. Perhaps the two most noteworthy sightings were both in Cattail Marsh. One was a Ruff, and the other three Swallow-tailed Kites, one a juvenile, seen over the natural wetland south of Cattail Marsh. Other species new to the count were Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers, Cerulean Warbler and Blue-headed Vireo.

We held our annual **Field Trip Hardin County** to look for the breeding birds of the area on May 22. A record (for this trip) 16 members participated. We found most of the target species, although not always with as good looks as we would have liked. A Swallow-tailed Kite was seen and those in the lead vehicle saw a Roadrunner that the rest only heard.



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The Spring 2010 Migration Season – Notes by Species

In this article, we describe, species by species, the very unusual spring 2010 migration season, concentrating mostly, but not quite exclusively, on Neotropical passerine migrants in Sabine Woods. We have reviewed all the reports and sightings submitted to us directly or indirectly, but we have not included unconfirmed rare or sightings of rare or out of normal date range species, nor is their much to add to the reports of the very rare species already mentioned in last month's update or included in the April sightings report elsewhere in this issue. To add to last month's article, we would note that unusually good numbers and diversity of migrants continued this year through the second week in May. We will present the normal tables showing the numbers for all species, including those not mentioned here, in the Brown Pelican this fall. This article is compiled from the reports of many observers, including Steve Dillinger, Gerald Duhon, Terry Ferguson, John Haynes, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden and Jana Whittle.

First, we will deal with shorebird migration. We hesitate to try to be too detailed because suitable habitat is not in the same place year after year, and there are great differences in birders finding and accessing suitable habitat. Two species certainly deserve mention because they were seen in unusually high numbers. **Upland Sandpipers** were first found on March 28 when unprecedented numbers in excess of 100 were recorded in west Jefferson County. Although most birder attention was focused on the coast during April, over 30 were seen as late as April 26. The other species of note is **Whimbrel**. A few Whimbrel winter along the Jefferson County shore, and so the species can occasionally be seen in small numbers throughout the winter. What was remarkable were the very large numbers seen from April 26 on wards through at least May 8. Over 700 were counted on April 28 while the number on May 8 was 385. Whimbrel were everywhere there was suitable habitat – damp or wet rice fields, and the numbers seen likely reflected only a fraction of those present over the wider area. On the other hand, **Hudsonian Godwits**, although found, were not seen in the usual number, and we do have any local reports of **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**.

Blue-headed Vireos, of course, winter locally in substantial numbers, so ordinarily, it is difficult to determine which are winter residents and which are migrants. The wintering range does extend south well into Mexico, and some we see in spring are certainly migrants. This year, the 25 or more in Sabine Woods on April 27 must almost all have been migrants. Why they concentrated on one day this year is one of the mysteries of migration that we may never solve. The migration of **Yellow-throated Vireos** normally spans from mid to late March to the end of April, and therefore it is relatively rare to see more than one or two on any given day. The 11 reported on April 9 and the 10 on April 18 were both remarkable. Over the last few years, **Warbling Vireos** have been seen more frequently, and this year's numbers were in keeping with that trend, but we have no reports of any after the end of April. **Philadelphia Vireos** used to be much more common in migration than Warbling Vireos, but the tables have been turned, and relatively few were noted this year mostly spread from about April 20 through May 8. The **Red-eyed Vireo** is one of the most common birds over the entire eastern United States, and many passed through from early April to mid-May. Almost as many **White-eyed Vireos** passed through, with the peak a little earlier than the Red-eyed.

Most flycatcher species are both circum-Gulf migrants and late migrants, many species not peaking until well into May. Coverage by birders in May tends to be very limited, so analysis is difficult. **Great Crested Flycatchers** are an exception, passing through in numbers throughout April and the first part of May as well as being considered to be principally trans-Gulf migrants. This year's migration was steady but unspectacular. **Eastern Wood-Pewees** also use the trans-

Gulf route and are usually very obvious on account of their persistent calling in migration. However, passage is over a wide period from early April to late May. The species seemed to peak this year with the April 27-28 influx of migrants. **Eastern Kingbirds** are trans-Gulf migrants, but **Western Kingbirds**, based purely on breeding range considerations, must be expected to be "circum-Gulf" migrants to the extent that individuals move east of 97 ½ degrees west -- the north-south line through the lower Texas coast. Individuals flying direct routes to most of the breeding range in the west will not encounter Gulf waters. This year, however, on the same days (April 24-27) that the area saw large numbers of migrating sparrows, Western Kingbirds were everywhere, mostly in groups of three or more.

This migration season will probably be remembered for a long time for its spectacular thrush migration. **Wood Thrushes** were seen in good numbers from early April, with about 50 present on April 9. Another large pulse came through April 19-21 -- perhaps April 18-23 would describe it more completely -- but the species was strangely almost absent on the April 27, "Swainson's Thrush Day." Wood Thrush passage continued through early May as usual. **Swainson's Thrushes** exhibited a spectacular migration. "Normal" for the species is for passage of most between mid April and mid May or a little later. However, 35 were reported on April 9, and very high numbers continued through the first week in May. On April 20, 75 were reported; on April 27, about 100 were present. Taking just the highest report for any given day, more than 500 were reported. **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** are much less common and on average migrate just a few days later than Swainson's. The species was seen in Sabine Woods first on April 11, and then almost every day through early May. Numbers are harder to analyze, because we suspect that many birders stop looking carefully at Swainson's/Gray-cheeked birds after they find one or two Gray-cheeked on any given day, likely reporting all the rest as Swainson's.

Normally, we expect **Blue-winged Warblers** to be among the early migrants late in March. However, this year, it was April 9 before the species was reported. Two were reported on that day, followed by one the next days and one on April 16. Multiple birds were reported in the period April 18-24 with a few birds thereafter. This is one warbler species that was probably less numerous this year. **Golden-winged Warblers**, on the other hand, always in much lower numbers than Blue-winged, were seen on April 20, 21, 22, 24 and on May 2, 4, 6, 7 and 8. The first grouping corresponds to the normal peak passage across the coast, but the second grouping is unusual, perhaps consisting of members of a population of more northerly breeding birds. The breeding range is reported to be continuing to shift northwards.

Tennessee Warblers this year exhibited the classical pattern. A few birds were seen in early April, peaking with large numbers around April 24 and tiling off in May. Since **Orange-crowned Warblers** are normally found in some numbers throughout the winter in Sabine Woods, and can be confused with Tennessee Warblers on a quick look, we have been careful to consider only confirmed sightings. The species was seen consistently up to April 20, after which all are presumed to have departed.

Nashville Warbler is considered to be exclusively a circum-Gulf migrant, and as such is not expected to pass through Sabine Woods in any numbers in the spring. This year, however, birds were seen regularly April 19 through 28, with a large number (at least 14) present on April 24. This movement was later than the normal peak of migration in the second and third week in April, suggesting perhaps birds from the extreme northeast part of the breeding range in New England and southeast Canada.

Northern Parulas have always been the harbinger of spring migration, some probably arriving before there are many birders out

looking for them. The migration window is prolonged, and probably observed in Sabine Woods, where there is not any of the Spanish Moss the Southern populations depend on for nest placement, more easily than almost anywhere else, because the species is a known breeder in central Jefferson County. There was a peak in the first week of April, but birds were observed from mid-March through the first week of May. It seems likely that the Sabine Woods migrants are from the Mexican wintering population rather than the larger West Indian population, but there is little evidence of a double peak that would be expected with the two disjunct breeding populations, one mostly in north of the United States but including Maine, and the other south of about 40 degrees north but including Pennsylvania. Neither range extends much west of 95 degrees west, but the southern range covers the entire southeast United States and some. Birds migrating in early April are not likely to be heading for the northern portion of the breeding range.

Yellow Warblers are well known as a late migrant, not usually seen in Sabine Woods in any numbers until the last week in April, continuing on through the third week in May (when there are few observers to see them). This year there was a relatively early push starting April 16, followed by a steady trickle before the torrent started in early May.

Chestnut-sided Warblers were late in arriving this year, the first not being noted until April 20. Numbers peaked unusually sharply in the first days of May before dropping off by mid May. **Magnolia Warblers** were also late, with only scattered reports, mostly of single birds, April 23-30. More normal numbers were seen through mid-May in the remainder of the normal peak of the migration window.

Yellow-rumped ("Myrtle") Warblers are, of course, a staple part of the local wintering passerine population, and thus difficult to analyze. In addition to the birds that winter locally, many winter further south, and pass through in spring. Reports indicate large numbers, many times the wintering population, in Sabine Woods from about March 22 through about April 13. The population on April 10 was estimated at 100. Smaller numbers were seen through April 24.

Black-throated Green Warblers usually pass through with small numbers as early as mid to late March and many more throughout April and the first half of May. This year, apart from a report of two on March 31 none were reported until April 7, then numbers were very modest, except on April 24 (13) and May 2 (30).

Blackburnian Warblers have seemingly become more common in recent years. Normally peaking during the last two weeks of April and the first week in May, increasingly, more are being seen earlier and later. The first bird seen this year was on April 4, but it was April 19 before the next was reported. As with several other species this year, there were good numbers in the first week in May and additional reports through May 15.

Yellow-throated Warblers exhibit a relatively long migration window, starting as early as the second week in March and continuing through the first week in April. Area wide analysis thereafter is somewhat clouded by the fact that the species breeds in wooded areas down to the shore. Yellow-throated Warblers were reported at Sabine Woods through April 20, with one stray bird on May 8.

Prairie Warbler is regarded as very rare on the Texas Gulf coast in spring. Wintering nearly exclusively in the West Indies, the presumption is that birds nesting in East Texas, and there are many, work their way east from the Florida panhandle. This year, the species was detected in Sabine Woods every day from April 4 to April 10, with two birds confirmed on April 7.

Palm Warbler is not particularly uncommon as a wintering species in southeast Texas, so analysis of migration is difficult. To a great extent, the species occupies moist open areas in winter, and birds in Sabine Woods in spring are likely to be in the course of migration. The Western subspecies (*palmarum*) is much more common than the Yellow (Eastern) subspecies (*hypochrysea*) both in

winter and in migration, and this was reflected in the birds seen this spring. However, not all reports distinguished between the two subspecies, and full separate analysis is difficult. Analysis of migration patterns away from the coast suggests that normal departure from the wintering grounds is the middle two weeks of April. Birds were reported in Sabine Woods from April 3 through April 27, with seven – an unprecedented number – recorded on April 13 and again on April 16. The majority were Western birds but there was often one Yellow subspecies present, and two on April 3.

Bay-breasted Warblers are well known as having a very sharp peak in their migration timing in very late April or very early May. This year, they were a little late, with the first report on May 2, then a little less concentrated with two peaks (May 4 and May 8/9) and stragglers through May 16.

Most **Blackpoll Warblers** are believed to migrate in Spring from South America through the West Indies and Florida. However, some do migrate through Texas, probably circum-Gulf. The numbers seen at Sabine Woods vary from year to year, with the peak in the last week in April. This year was not an outstanding year for the species, but there were several April 16-20, with single birds through May 2 and on May 16/17.

This year will likely be remembered for some time for the showing of **Cerulean Warblers**. More than two Ceruleans on a single day is most unusual, so April 19 and 20, again April 24 and yet again May 2 made for exciting birding with up to six present. Most of these birds were males that were not shy.

Black-and-white Warblers are normally one of the commonest migrants throughout the spring and for most of this season, this was true, but they were few seen between April 10 and 17.

Early **American Redstarts** did not appear this year, but the species was adequately represented through most of its normal heavy migration period in the last week of April and the first half of May. There were not any days with really large numbers as often happens, however.

We have become accustomed to expecting a "**Prothonotary Warbler Day**" in March even though the peak migration period is the middle two weeks of April. Perhaps it is just when there is a good showing on a March day, there are very few other warblers to look at! In any case, there were six or more present on March 18, but there were more than that most days in the April 16-20 period. Overall, there was a good showing of this species this spring.

Worm-eating Warblers have always been an expected species any day in April. This season, there was a slow start in early April, and true to form, no reports in either March or May. But on April 20 there may have been 75 present, with probably 50 the next day. The rest of the month was less spectacular.

Swainson's Warbler is always difficult to see (and they almost never call during migration). Multiple birds were seen on April 19 and one or two on at least four other days in the third week of April.

Ovenbirds are not the easiest birds to find, as they move very quietly across the leaf litter under the trees. Normally reasonably common the last three weeks in April, this year was no exception with good numbers April 16-28, including as many as 20 on April 27. May 2 was a spectacular day for migrants of all kinds, but 18 Ovenbirds is worth noting. There were reports through May 17.

Accurate waterthrush identification comes with experience, the way the bird moves its tail being one of the most reliable and easily observed features. While we have learned to be skeptical of "late" **Louisiana Waterthrushes**, this year, there were some thoroughly verified sightings from April 18 through April 28. Whether most of these sightings were a single bird either considering spending the summer or unwilling to continue for not very obvious physical reasons, we do not know. There were reports of one to three birds many days between March 13 and the end of the month, and on through about April 12. The "normal" migration window for **Northern Waterthrushes** is the last three weeks in April, and the first week in May, and we have reports from April 2 through May 17.

(continued on page 7)

Bird Sightings – April 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: April is always a month when we have much to report. As indicated in other articles in this issue, the spring 2010 migration season was truly outstanding from a birding perspective. Space considerations have forced us to condense the sightings of almost all the migrant species. However, those who are interested in more detail are referred to the article elsewhere in this issue, and to our website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. On the latter, we will post the complete April listing with full details for all species. We also want to point out that the editor often acted as the compiler of information at Sabine Woods, and the sightings listed below under his initials include many that were joint efforts with a number of other observers credited at the end of this section.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bellied	(3-27)	JEF 13 reps(120)	CARACARA, Crested	(6-16)	JEF 6 reps(7)
GADWALL	(11-19)	JEF 2 reps(2)	MERLIN	(8-25)	JEF 9 reps(13)
MALLARD	(10-10)	JEF-SW 4/10(1) JFW	FALCON, Peregrine	(16-17)	JEF-MCFW 4/16(1) TWJW;
DUCK, Mottled	(8-28)	JEF 17 reps(162)	JEF-SW 4/17(1) FTSW		
TEAL, Blue-winged	(3-26)	JEF 18 reps(387)	RAIL, Clapper	(6-23)	JEF 3 reps(4)
MERGANSER, Red-breasted	(21-21)	JEF-TX87 4/21(1) JHH	RAIL, King	(23-23)	JEF-MCFW 4/23(1) JAW
DUCK, Ruddy	(14-24)	JEF 3 reps(11)	RAIL, Virginia	(16-16)	JEF-MCFW 4/16(1) TWJW
LOON, Common	(14-26)	JEF-MCFW 4/14(1) JAW;	SORA	(8-27)	JEF 4 reps(4)
JEF-MCFW 4/26(1) BTHN			MOORHEN, Common	(13-24)	JEF 6 reps(24)
GANNET, Northern	(11-11)	JEF-MCFW 4/11(12) JAW	COOT, American	(14-24)	JEF 5 reps(46)
PELICAN, Amer. White	(10-24)	JEF 2 reps(12)	PLOVER, Black-bellied	(8-19)	JEF 3 reps(4)
PELICAN, Brown	(2-25)	JEF 10 reps(57)	GOLDEN-PLOVER, Amer,	(4-28)	ANG 4/4(12) LD; JEF-SRSP
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(2-24)	JEF 10 reps(33)	4/16(1) TWJW; JEF 4/26(80) SM; JEF 4/28(3) JAW		
CORMORANT, Double-crested	(14-14)	JEF-MCFW 4/14(13) JAW	PLOVER, Snowy	(19-19)	JEF-SRSP 4/19(1) JAW
CORMORANT, Species	(6-16)	JEF 2 reps(27)	PLOVER, Wilson's	(23-23)	JEF-MCFW 4/23(1) JAW
BITTERN, American	(16-16)	JEF-MCFW 4/16(1) TWJW	PLOVER, Semipalmated	(14-28)	JEF 3 reps(28)
BITTERN, Least	(19-26)	JEF-MCFW 4/19(1) JAW;	PLOVER, Piping	(13-13)	JEF-MCFW 4/13(1) JAW
JEF-MCFW 4/23(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 4/26(2) BTHN			KILLDEER	(3-28)	ANG 1 rep(3); JEF 12
HERON, Great Blue	(5-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(6)	reps(37)		
EGRET, Great	(2-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 14	STILT, Black-necked	(3-29)	JEF 20 reps(148)
reps(32)			AVOCET, American	(9-9)	JEF-TXPT 4/9(7) JFW
EGRET, Snowy	(3-28)	JEF 12 reps(86)	SANDPIPER, Spotted	(14-23)	JEF 2 reps(11)
HERON, Little Blue	(2-28)	JEF 10 reps(49)	SANDPIPER, Solitary	(3-29)	JEF 16 reps(32)
HERON, Tricolored	(6-26)	JEF 21 reps(68)	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(3-23)	JEF 8 reps(48)
EGRET, Cattle	(3-29)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 13	WILLET	(3-24)	JEF 12 reps(117)
reps(859)			YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(8-28)	JEF 12 reps(74)
HERON, Green	(2-28)	JEF 25 reps(112)	YELLOWLEGS species	(3-26)	JEF 3 reps(103)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned	(23-23)	JEF-SRSP 4/23(15) JAW	SANDPIPER, Upland	(2-28)	ANG 4/4(50) LD; JEF-TX87
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr,	(4-25)	JEF 13 reps(33)	4/2(1) JAW; JEF 4/6(30) SMO; JEF 4/6(25) SMO; JEF 4/11(12)		
IBIS, White	(3-26)	JEF 19 reps(119)	CSL; JEF 4/26(31) SM; JEF 4/28(6) JAW		
IBIS, Plegadis	(2-24)	JEF 7 reps(73)	WHIMBREL	(8-28)	JEF-TX87 4/8(1) JAW; JEF
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(2-19)	JEF 4 reps(10)	4/26(200) SM; JEF-MCFW 4/26(15) BTHN; JEF 4/28(750) JAW		
VULTURE, Black	(2-30)	HAI 4 reps(17); JAS 1	GODWIT, Hudsonian	(26-26)	JEF 4/26(1) SM
rep(2); JEF 13 reps(23)			TURNSTONE, Ruddy	(6-19)	JEF 3 reps(5)
VULTURE, Turkey	(3-29)	HAI 5 reps(14); JAS 1	SANDERLING	(6-23)	JEF 8 reps(116)
rep(1); JEF 24 reps(73)			SANDPIPER, Western	(3-3)	JEF-TX87 4/3(1) MW
OSPREY	(10-14)	JEF 2 reps(2)	SANDPIPER, Least	(4-26)	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 3
KITE, Swallow-tailed	(8-26)	HAI 4/26(2) BTHN; JAS	reps(12)		
4/8(1) GL			SANDPIPER, Baird's	(26-28)	JEF 4/26(5) SM; JEF
KITE, Mississippi	(28-28)	HAI-SILS 4/28(11) MG	4/28(1) JAW		
EAGLE, Bald	(8-21)	JAS 4/8(1) GL; JEF 4/21(1)	SANDPIPER, Pectoral	(16-28)	JEF-MCFW 4/16(1) TWJW;
JH			JEF-MCFW 4/23(1) JAW; JEF 4/26(20) SM; JEF 4/28(3) JAW		
HARRIER, Northern	(3-26)	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(9)	SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted	(4-4)	ANG 4/4(3) LD
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(3-3)	JEF-SW 4/3(1) MW	DOWITCHER, Short-billed	(3-10)	JEF 2 reps(9)
HAWK, Cooper's	(1-28)	HAI 3 reps(4)	DOWITCHER, Long-billed	(10-23)	JEF 6 reps(133)
ACCIPITER species	(18-18)	JEF-BMT 4/18(1) RHJ	DOWITCHER species	(6-26)	JEF 6 reps(153)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(1-27)	ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 5 reps(5);	SNIPE, Wilson's	(3-18)	JEF 2 reps(2)
JEF 6 reps(7)			PHALAROPE, Wilson's	(26-28)	JEF 2 reps(31)
HAWK, Broad-winged	(1-8)	HAI 4/4(1) JAW; JEF 4/1(1)	GULL, Bonaparte's	(13-13)	JEF-MCFW 4/13(1) JAW
JAW; JEF 4/8(1) JAW			GULL, Laughing	(3-24)	JEF 14 reps(313)
HAWK, Swainson's	(25-28)	JEF 4/25(1) JAW; JEF	GULL, Ring-billed	(6-23)	JEF 6 reps(56)
4/28(2) JAW			GULL, Herring	(6-19)	JEF 4 reps(12)
HAWK, Red-tailed	(10-12)	JEF 3 reps(3)	TERN, Least	(10-26)	JEF 11 reps(587)
HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's)	(28-28)	JEF 4/28(1) JAW	TERN, Gull-billed	(10-19)	JEF 2 reps(5)

TERN, Caspian	(16-16)	JEF-MCFW 4/16(3) TWJW	TITMOUSE, Tufted	(4-29)	HAI 9 reps(17); JAS 1 rep(1)
TERN, Forster's	(6-24)	JEF 8 reps(33)	NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(18-18)	JEF-BMT 4/18(1) RHJ
TERN, Royal	(6-24)	JEF 11 reps(464)	WREN, Carolina	(2-30)	HAI 15 reps(34); JEF 17
TERN, Sandwich	(10-19)	JEF 3 reps(15)	reps(18)		
PIGEON, Rock	(1-29)	HAI 3 reps(21); JEF 17	WREN, House	(3-18)	JEF 12 reps(15)
reps(123)			WREN, Sedge	(17-23)	JEF 4 reps(4)
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 10	WREN, Marsh	(4-26)	JEF 4 reps(8)
reps(21)			KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(2-27)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 25
DOVE, White-winged	(1-30)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 51	reps(102)		
reps(410)			GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(2-28)	HAI 3 reps(8); JEF 20
DOVE, Mourning	(1-29)	HAI 13 reps(66); JEF 25	reps(174)		
reps(163)			BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(1-30)	HAI 17 reps(29); JEF 6
DOVE, Inca	(3-26)	JEF 14 reps(23)	reps(6)		
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(4-29)	JEF 19 reps(34)	VEERY	(16-29)	JEF 12 reps(15)
CUCKOO, Black-billed	(19-22)	JEF-SW 4/19(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/20(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/22(2) DPJ; JEF-SW 4/22(1) SD	THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	(11-29)	JEF 13 reps(16)
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(5-30)	JEF 22 reps(22)	THRUSH, Swainson's	(8-29)	JEF 23 reps(403)
OWL, Great Horned	(10-17)	JEF 2 reps(4)	THRUSH, Wood	(3-28)	JEF 23 reps(372)
OWL, Short-eared	(10-10)	JEF-TX87 4/10(1) RHJ	ROBIN, American	(1-29)	JEF 16 reps(29)
OWL, Species	(26-26)	JEF-TX87 4/26(1) BTHN	CATBIRD, Gray	(2-30)	HAI 7 reps(8); JEF 44
NIGHTHAWK, Lesser	(13-26)	JEF-SW 4/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/14(1) HD; JEF-MCFW 4/26(1) BTHN	reps(173)		
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(16-29)	JEF 14 reps(32)	MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-28)	HAI 6 reps(30); JAS 1
SWIFT, Chimney	(1-27)	JEF 13 reps(558)	rep(2); JEF 20 reps(61)		
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(1-30)	HAI 14 reps(26); JEF 29	THRASHER, Brown	(3-29)	HAI 11 reps(14); JEF 33
reps(77)			reps(50)		
HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope	(1-23)	JEF 8 reps(8)	STARLING, European	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(30); JEF 21
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail.	(1-15)	JEF 5 reps(5)	reps(130)		
KINGFISHER, Belted	(4-24)	JEF 12 reps(12)	PIPIPIT, American	(4-4)	ANG 4/4(25) LD
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(3-30)	HAI 20 reps(41); JAS 1	WAXWING, Cedar	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(10); JEF 5
rep(1); JEF 14 reps(18)			reps(72)		
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	(5-28)	JEF 8 reps(8)	WARBLER, Blue-winged	(9-28)	JEF 18 reps(78)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(2-29)	JEF 32 reps(45)	WARBLER, Golden-winged	(20-24)	JEF-SW 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/20(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/22(1) SMO; JEF 4/24(1) CD; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH
FLICKER, Northern	(12-12)	JEF-NEDR 4/12(1) JAW	WARBLER, Tennessee	(2-29)	JEF 33 reps(408)
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(11-29)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 4 reps(4)	WARBLER, Orange-crowned	(2-20)	JEF 18 reps(50)
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	(2-29)	JEF 22 reps(57)	WARBLER, Nashville	(3-28)	JEF 10 reps(36)
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(20-27)	JEF-SW 4/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/21(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/23(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(2) JJW	PARULA, Northern	(2-28)	JEF 30 reps(132)
FLYCATCHER, Willow	(27-27)	JEF-SW 4/27(2) JJW	WARBLER, Yellow	(5-29)	JEF 16 reps(54)
FLYCATCHER, Traill's	(24-28)	JEF 4/24(1) CD; JEF-SW 4/28(2) JAW	WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	(20-28)	JEF 11 reps(15)
FLYCATCHER, Least	(26-28)	JEF-SRSP 4/26(1) BTHN; JEF-SW 4/27(2) JJW; JEF-SW 4/28(2) JAW	WARBLER, Magnolia	(23-28)	JEF 6 reps(11)
EMPIDONAX species	(22-28)	JEF-SW 4/22(1) SD; JEF-SW 4/23(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/27(3) JJW; JEF-SW 4/28(1) JAW	WARBLER, Black-thr. Blue	(24-24)	JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	(3-29)	JEF 11 reps(28)	WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(1-24)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 30
KINGBIRD, Western	(20-28)	JEF 12 reps(73)	reps(562)		
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(3-29)	JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 30	WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(7-29)	JEF 24 reps(74)
reps(195)			WARBLER, Blackburnian	(4-29)	JEF 13 reps(16)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	(3-29)	ANG 1 rep(3); JEF 17	WARBLER, Yellow-throated	(5-23)	JEF 14 reps(20)
reps(26); ORA 1 rep(1)			WARBLER, Pine	(28-28)	JEF-BMT 4/28(1) RHJ
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(3-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(9)	WARBLER, Prairie	(4-26)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 8 reps(9)
VIREO, White-eyed	(1-28)	HAI 7 reps(9); JEF 30	WARBLER, Palm	(3-27)	JEF 23 reps(68)
reps(210)			WARBLER, Blackpoll	(16-24)	JEF 11 reps(23)
VIREO, Bell's	(25-25)	JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW	WARBLER, Cerulean	(11-25)	JEF 13 reps(39)
VIREO, Yellow-throated	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 17	WARBLER, Black-and-white	(3-29)	JEF 32 reps(168)
reps(52)			REDSTART, American	(13-29)	JEF 18 reps(53)
VIREO, Blue-headed	(2-27)	JEF 14 reps(42)	WARBLER, Prothonotary	(3-27)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 28
VIREO, Warbling	(18-29)	JEF 11 reps(31)	reps(124)		
VIREO, Philadelphia	(11-29)	JEF 7 reps(9)	WARBLER, Worm-eating	(3-28)	JEF 33 reps(296)
VIREO, Red-eyed	(2-29)	JEF 29 reps(218)	WARBLER, Swainson's	(11-21)	JEF 6 reps(8)
JAY, Blue	(2-30)	HAI 10 reps(32); JEF 24	OVENBIRD	(4-29)	JEF 18 reps(90)
reps(117)			WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(2-29)	JEF 32 reps(135)
CROW, American	(4-30)	HAI 11 reps(29)	WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	(2-30)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 20
CROW, Fish	(1-11)	JEF 3 reps(6)	reps(27)		
CROW, species	(2-27)	JEF 7 reps(9)	WATERTHRUSH, La./N.	(23-23)	JEF-TX87 4/23(1) JAW
MARTIN, Purple	(2-27)	JAS 1 rep(12); JEF 8	WARBLER, Kentucky	(5-28)	JEF 26 reps(213)
reps(30)			WARBLER, Mourning	(24-28)	JEF-SW 4/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(1) JHH; JEF-SW 4/26(1) SD; JEF-SW 4/28(1) SD
SWALLOW, Tree	(2-29)	JEF 27 reps(2244)	YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(2-29)	JEF 37 reps(104)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged	(3-27)	JEF 5 reps(30)	WARBLER, Hooded	(2-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 36
SWALLOW, Cliff	(3-28)	HAI 4 reps(60); JAS 1	reps(255)		
rep(1); JEF 6 reps(25)			WARBLER, Canada	(24-28)	JEF 4/24(0) CD; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 4/24(2) JHH; JEF-SW 4/27(15) JJW; JEF-SW 4/28(3) JAW
SWALLOW, Barn	(3-30)	HAI 11 reps(35); JEF 17	CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(17-28)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 15
reps(177)			reps(35)		
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(3-30)	HAI 19 reps(41); JAS 1	TOWHEE, Spotted	(8-22)	JEF-SW 4/8(1) HM; JEF-SW 4/10(1) JAW; JEF-SW 4/17(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 4/22(1) JHH
rep(1); JEF 14 reps(25)			TOWHEE, Eastern	(3-3)	JEF-SW 4/3(1) X

SPARROW, Chipping reps(331)	(1-26) HAI 15 reps(450); JEF 5
SPARROW, Clay-colored	(11-25) JEF 4 reps(28)
SPARROW, Vesper	(24-25) JEF 2 reps(26)
SPARROW, Lark	(4-26) ANG 1 rep(2); JEF 4
SPARROW, Savannah	(3-26) JEF 9 reps(85)
SPARROW, Grasshopper	(16-16) JEF-MCFW 4/16(1) TWJW
SPARROW, Nelson's TXPT 4/18(10) SM	(11-18) JEF-SW 4/11(15) BDE; JEF-
SPARROW, Seaside	(16-16) JEF-MCFW 4/16(9) TWJW
SPARROW, Song	(19-19) JEF-SW 4/19(1) JAW
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(2-27) JEF 23 reps(96)
SPARROW, Swamp	(2-23) JEF 18 reps(146)
SPARROW, White-throated reps(181)	(2-29) HAI 4 reps(7); JEF 34
SPARROW, White-crowned	(3-28) JEF 22 reps(101)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(18-18) JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW
TANAGER, Summer	(2-28) JEF 34 reps(203)
TANAGER, Scarlet	(5-29) JEF 22 reps(88)
TANAGER, Western SW 4/30(1) JHH	(22-30) JEF-SW 4/22(1) DPJ; JEF-
CARDINAL, Northern reps(77)	(1-30) HAI 29 reps(1033); JEF 20
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted reps(139)	(9-30) HAI 6 reps(7); JEF 25
GROSBEAK, Black-headed	(13-25) JEF 2 reps(2)
GROSBEAK, Blue reps(259)	(9-26) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 17
BUNTING, Lazuli	(25-25) JEF-SW 4/25(1) JAW
BUNTING, Indigo reps(776)	(3-30) HAI 19 reps(165); JEF 44
BUNTING, Painted reps(93)	(6-29) HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 12
DICKCISSEL	(22-28) JEF 7 reps(1179)
BOBOLINK	(25-25) JEF-MCFW 4/25(1) JK
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged reps(455)	(2-29) JAS 1 rep(10); JEF 26
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(28-28) JEF 4/28(5) JAW
MEADOWLARK species	(9-28) JEF 2 reps(4)
BLACKBIRD, Yellow-headed JEF-MCFW 4/25(6) JK; JEF-TX87 4/25(5) JK; JEF-TX87 4/29(1) JAW	(25-29) JEF-MCFW 4/25(3) JAW;
GRACKLE, Common reps(56)	(3-28) HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 10
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(2-29) JEF 16 reps(96)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed reps(32); JEF 21 reps(154)	(1-30) ANG 1 rep(1); HAI 9
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed.	(3-28) JEF 5 reps(50)
COWBIRD, Bronzed 4/17(1) FTSW; JEF-SW 4/18(1) JAW	(8-18) JEF-SW 4/8(1) HM; JEF-SW
COWBIRD, Brown-headed reps(167)	(1-29) HAI 12 reps(25); JEF 14
ORIOLE Orchard	(3-29) JEF 27 reps(375)
ORIOLE, Hooded(uncfmd)	(16-16) JEF-SW 4/16(1) JAW
ORIOLE, Bullock's	(24-24) JEF-SW 4/24(1) SM
ORIOLE, Baltimore	(10-29) JEF 17 reps(92)
FINCH, House	(11-30) JEF 8 reps(19)
GOLDFINCH, American rep(200); JEF 21 reps(76)	(1-29) HAI 9 reps(18); JAS 1
SPARROW, House rep(10); JEF 17 reps(57)	(1-29) HAI 1 rep(10); JAS 1

Number of Species 235
Number of Individuals 49638

County Abbreviations:

ANG — Angelina; HAI — Hardin; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson;
ORA — Orange

Location Codes: BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR;
NEDR — Nederland; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park;
SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea
Rim SP; TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point

Observer Abbreviations: BDE — Bonnie Deming; BTHN — John
Whittle, Royce Pendergast's Birdathon; CD — Carolyn Dill; CSL —

Christine Sliva; DPJ — Don and Pat Jeane; FTSW — Field Trip to
Sabine Woods; GD — Gerald Duhon; GL — Greg Lavaty; HD —
Howard Davis; HM — John Haynes and Steve Mayes; JAW — John
Whittle (includes contributions from many other observers at Sabine
Woods, including especially Steve Dillinger, Gerald Duhon, Terry
Ferguson, John Haynes, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden and Jana
Whittle); JD — Jon Dunn; JFW — Jana Whittle; JH — Joe Halbrook;
JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JK — Joseph
Kennedy; KRO — Kathi and Richard Orgeron; KSA — Kelley
Sampeck; LD — Louis Debetaz; MDI — Merri Dillinger; MG — Melanie
Goetsell; MW — Steve Mayes and John Whittle; RHJ — Rose Ann and
Harrison Jordan; SBE — Sheri Bethard; SD — Steve Dillinger; SM —
Steve Mayes; SMO — Sally Moffet; SR — Sherrie Roden; TF — Terry
Ferguson; TWJW — Tex Wells and Jana Whittle; X — Unknown

Spring Migration Season *(continued from p. 4)*

A peak number of 25 or so occurred on April 24 when many the birds
were unable to find any un occupied shoreline and were to be found
anywhere in the woods.

Kentucky Warblers were a good deal more easily found than
usual this spring. Unusually, none were reported in late March, and
only one or two in the first week in April, but thereafter were seen in
good numbers. Upwards of 75 were present on April 20, with 25 the
following day.

Many years, we do not see any **Mourning Warblers** during
spring migration, probably partly because the species is a circum-
Gulf migrant. But this year was different. We were surprised when
one was seen briefly in the dense underbrush on April 24 and the
same bird or others on April 26 and April 28. The normal period for
passage of this species is the first three weeks of May. Incredibly
enough, the species was then seen in Sabine Woods on each of the
first eight days of May, often a male bathing in full view. On several
of these days, there were multiple birds present; including four on
May 2 and May 3 and two on May 4.

Hooded Warblers are usually almost the commonest and
easiest-to-see warblers in Sabine Woods. The normal migration
window is from the last week in March through about the end of
April. The first report from Sabine Woods this year was March 22,
perhaps a little later than normal. The species was then seen in
throughout April and the first 10 days of May, with peak numbers of
perhaps 25 on April 20 (when it was atypically greatly outnumbered
by Kentucky and Worm-eating Warblers).

Canada Warblers cannot be expected before the last week in
April, and often we don't see any until May. This year the first
reports were from April 24 (two birds) and April 27 (an
unprecedented – for the spring – 15 birds). Reports of the species
continued through May 9, but somewhat surprisingly, none were
reported later in May.

This was probably not an outstanding year for **Yellow-breasted
Chats**. The first report – a little late – was April 17, but there were
good numbers towards the end of April, with ten reported April 27
and seven the following day.

It was probably about an average tanager year, without any large
numbers on any one day. This species and **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks**
seemed not to stay in the woods as long as usual, probably reflecting
the lack of mulberry and hackberry fruit.

Indigo Buntings were very much normal, while this was a good
year for **Painted Buntings**. At least 16 were present on April 16,
while upwards of 40 were seen on April 24. Most of these were
males, and many of them bathed in full view.

Although most sparrow species winter along the Gulf coast,
there was one migration related event this year without precedent. On
April 24 and continuing through about April 27, there were large
numbers of migrant sparrows along Highway 87 and along Clam
Lake Road in McFaddin NWR. **Lark Sparrows** and **Chipping
Sparrows** were present in flocks, but there were also a few **Vesper
Sparrows** and more than a few **Clay-colored Sparrows** reported.

John A. Whittle

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

Unfortunately, almost all the local and regional telephone Rare Bird Alerts have been discontinued in favor of various Internet based means of distribution.

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> Email alerts are also available for a 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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