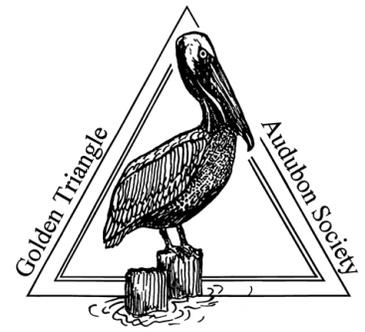


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 16 No. 10

October 2010

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, October 21, 2010
7:00 PM**

Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

**Birds of the Bering Sea
Stephan Lorenz**

Stephan Lorenz spent four summer seasons studying seabirds in the Bering Sea of Alaska, working for the US Fish and Wildlife, Memorial University, and St. Paul Island Tours. He has extensively photographed nesting species, landscapes and rare birds found in the region. The presentation will feature many photos of resident seabirds, depict landscapes, and include some vagrant birds. The talk will highlight the great diversity of seabirds found in the Bering Sea, address general ecology, touching briefly on logistics for a visit and vagrant bird species.

Since receiving a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Houston and a Master of Science from the University of Texas, Stephan has worked on numerous bird research projects, including field work in Jamaica for the Smithsonian Institute, Costa Rica for the Cornell University, and Australia for the Max Planck Institute. In addition he has published several papers on bird distribution and natural history along with articles about his Alaska experiences in *Birdwatcher's Digest* and *WildBird*. He loves to travel and study his favorite group of birds, which happen to be sparrows.

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.

Reminder: GTAS Elections

We will hold our elections at the November Meeting. As noted last month, President Jim Armacost has appointed a Nominating Committee consisting of himself, Gerald Duhon and Rose Ann Jordan. Please contact any of these individuals with your offer to serve or suggestions for others who may be willing. Contact information can be found on page 2, or see one of them at the October meeting. All offices except President and all board positions are up for election. The terms of all officers except the President and board members are one year. We are always looking for new blood and fresh ideas. The duties are not onerous! The board typically meets for two hours in the evening about three times a year, and otherwise operates by email and telephone.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 16, No.10 October 2010
Issue number 167

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Thursday October 21. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Dana Nelson, Jean Beavens, Christine Sliva, Gail Slocum, Joe Tibbs and Jana Whittle (and anyone we have accidentally omitted) for bringing or contributing towards refreshments for the September meeting. The November meeting will be our annual pot luck dinner when we ask those who are able to bring a dish. Please do not wait until the last minute to decide and please call Jennifer Armacost at (409) 790-7222 (or email her at armacostj@yahoo.com) **as far in advance as possible** so we can coordinate! However, we will also need volunteers to bring items for all the spring 2011 meetings.

Saturday October 23. Field Trip to Sabine Woods. Leader Steve Mayes. Meet at Sabine Woods, which is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87 at 7:30 a.m. or join the trip in progress in the woods later. Waterproof footwear will probably be a good idea, especially if it is at all wet from previous rain or just heavy early morning dew. Bring mosquito repellent just in case. There are few services available in Sabine Pass, but gasoline is now available and the deli is open.

The middle of October is towards the end of fall songbird migration, but often brings a good variety of birds. A cold front may drive down the last of the warblers and the first big push of wintering birds. Some of our winter birds may be arriving, and often the woodland species that winter in the Big Thicket overshoot a little at first.

Although the boardwalk was destroyed in Hurricane Ike, the trails are clear and mostly reasonably wide, and although some care is needed to avoid uneven ground, birding Sabine Woods is relatively easy.

For those so inclined, it is again possible to drive the beach of Sea Rim State Park.

Thursday November 18. Annual Meeting. We will have our annual pot luck dinner, and conduct our elections. Details of the program in next month's issue of the *Brown Pelican*.

Saturday November 20. Field Trip to West Jefferson County. Each successive year, the birding in west Jefferson County seems to get better and better. The recent Migration Count found some changes in the bird populations of that area, but mostly what we will be looking for on this trip are winter residents who don't know about hurricanes! The area is well known for its raptors, its Sandhill Cranes and its sparrows. In wet years, there can be lots of waterfowl also. However, this year so far has been rather dry, and without an *El Niño* this year, that may continue.

Meet at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the "north/west" side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of Interstate 10 and FM365 in Fannett, proceed along FM365 (towards Nome) for about six miles. Shortly after you emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. There is a green sign for the G and A Turf Farm on Johnson Road at the intersection. Contact Steve Mayes, sgmayes@hotmail.com, or call 409-722-5807 for further information.

The arrival of the winter resident birds varies from year to year, so if you are out in the area before the field trip, please let us know what you find. We are always especially interested in knowing where the Sandhill Cranes can be found! All the bridges in the area we usually bird on this trip are open again.



EarthShare of Texas represents Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll contribution programs in workplaces throughout Texas. For more information about how you can support Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society at your workplace, call 1-800-GREENTX, or visit www.earthshare-texas.org.

Sabine Woods Work Day 2 October 2010

We had an exceptionally productive work day at Sabine Woods on October 2. I want, on behalf of Golden Triangle Audubon and Texas Ornithological Society, to most sincerely thank each and every one who helped on the work day. Those of you who have visited the Woods in the last few weeks will know that, despite one of the driest years in recent memory, the vegetation growth inside and outside the woods has been unbelievably luxuriant. With the possible exception of the first work day after Hurricane Ike (when we had twice as many workers), this was the most productive workday we have ever had, or ever needed for that matter! With the right sized equipment for every task, we dealt very effectively with the vegetation overgrowing the trails and threatening to choke the new oaks and mulberries. Howard Davis expertly cut round all the new oaks and mulberries for us with his brushhog the day before, and did a lot more trail cutting on the work day itself. A number of trees and large branches were also removed from the trails. It was so dry we elected to water our new trees again. And, as is becoming a tradition for Sabine Woods Work Days, a good bird, a male Black-throated Blue Warbler, was found by those birding in the afternoon!

All this work has helped keep the Woods in good natural condition for today's birds and helped ensure that good habitat will be available in the future. In addition, all areas of the Woods are again easily accessible to birders. While the birds probably don't care if people are there to see them, and many possibly would prefer they were not, it is essential that people are able to enjoy the birds so that they are willing to support conservation of essential habitat such as Sabine Woods. Help on work days is help in the most direct way possible, hands on conservation work, is very much appreciated, and almost always undervalued. Each of our volunteers has the well being of birds and other wildlife at heart and has far more expertise and knowledge of what is desirable in the habitat than any workers we could hire. Their value to conservation is very much higher than you would ever believe!

We are still seeing consequences of Hurricane Ike. One by one, the trees killed by the salt water of the surge are dropping limbs and eventually falling. We will need to prohibit entry into the woods in high wind conditions for several years to come for safety's sake. Each work day will likely have to deal with branches across trails. The opening

Fall Migration Count – 19 September 2010

Any count in the fall or spring on the Texas coast is subject to being influenced by the short-term weather picture and its effect on migrants. This year, the count day was preceded by several days without large scale rain events. Winds were generally from the south but not strong ahead of a dissipating cold front, so migrants could be expected to continue their southward progress. However, trans-Gulf migrants might wait for more favorable winds. This scenario generally leads to nice concentrations of migrants in Sabine Woods, and, indeed, that was the case on count day.

up of the canopy caused by the gaps left by fallen trees has allowed much underbrush to grow in places that lacked enough sunlight in the past. Species which can tolerate salt better have tended to come back faster, and out-competed some of the less tolerant species. It will take several seasons for the "normal" understory to re-establish.

In the early afternoon of September 5, fires were started east of the Sanctuary, apparently deliberately by an irresponsible person or persons, alleged to be hunters. There were no fire breaks prepared, and no persons or equipment to prevent the fires from spreading beyond the property on which they were set. The east wind spread the fire into the northern part of the sanctuary. By chance, I was there with Levie Horton and we were able to prevent the fire from spreading into the woods themselves using the water outlets and hoses normally used to water the new trees. However, we could not stop the fire from progressing across the northern part of the Sanctuary from east to west. Although there is relatively little critical vegetation in that area, there are a few oaks trees there that were burned. Only time will tell how many will survive. The Port Arthur Fire Department was called, but declined to take any action. We are led to believe it is their policy not to fight grass and marsh fires unless a structure is threatened. We will, with the help of the Sabine Pass Community Development Corporation, be seeking to have that policy changed.

For the future, Jim Anding is propagating willow trees for us, and we will have a work day to plant those, probably in early December. We have grant funds from Audubon Texas to construct and install a Chimney Swift tower. We are continuing to control and remove exotics and invasive species. We have not had to do very much this year, but continue to work on eradicating tallow and chinaberry trees, McCartney rose, mustang grape vines and Johnson grass.

We thank all those who participated in the Work Day: Andy Allen, Jim Armacost, Howard Davis, Cindy and Billy Harland, John Haynes, Levie Horton, Harrison Jordan, Steve Kuritz, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Wendy Mires, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, and Jana Whittle. Thank you again for a most successful work day.

John A. Whittle

Christmas Bird Counts

The Christmas Bird Count season will soon be upon us, and we will have more information in the November and December issues. However, the **Sea Rim State Park count** has been tentatively scheduled for **Monday, January 3**, and the **Orange County Count** will be held, as usual on **Saturday January 1**.

A good showing of passerines was counterbalanced by low counts of shorebirds, both beach birds and waders. Two factors conspired against a high count – the high tidal conditions, and the lack of accessible inland shorebird habitat. The "tide" at Sea Rim was very high, fueled by the several days of south winds, and there was little sand/mud flat. The lack of inland shorebird habitat reflects both the extremely dry conditions which have prevailed over the county this year, and continuing work at Cattail Marsh drastically reducing what is normally one of the most important areas of shorebird habitat.

We plan to present a more complete account and discussion of the results on the Golden Triangle Audubon web site, but will list some of the most important items here.

There was obviously little opportunity to find ducks, and, apart from one lone Green-winged Teal in Cattail Marsh and the lowest number of Mottled Ducks ever, only the expected Blue-winged Teal and Whistling-Ducks were found in any number. No early Northern Shovelers or Northern Pintails were seen this year. A few White Pelicans had arrived, and a good number of Brown Pelicans were seen, although not as many as last year's nearly 300.

Cormorant numbers were high because a new roost has formed just south of Highway 87 near the Texas Point NWR parking lot, and a large number are presently in the interior of J. D. Murphree WMA.

Least Bitterns thin out considerably by count time, and we cannot always find this sometimes difficult to find species, so three was a good count. Work on habitat restoration inside Murphree resulted, at least temporarily, in large areas of mud flat type habitat very attractive to herons and egrets, and the numbers of Great and Snowy Egrets, and Little Blue and Tricolored Herons were an order of magnitude higher than in any previous count. Reddish Egrets used to be exceedingly rare along the shore in Jefferson County, but after several years of seeing them, we now expect to find them. All of the birds we see are juvenile or immature, so to some extent this is post-breeding dispersal. One very interesting change is that about one-half of the Reddish Egrets were white morph birds. Twenty-five years ago, white morph birds were largely confined to the lower coast.

Raptors were pretty much as expected, except that White-tailed Kites have become much scarcer since the hurricanes. We did not find any of the local Crested Caracaras on count day either on the coast or in west Jefferson County, but they are still resident and we did see some within the count week. A continued slow increase in Swainson's Hawk numbers is evident from the last few years' results.

The bright spot on shorebirds was the continued presence of the good-sized loose flock of Snowy Plovers on Sea Rim, and the highest number of Piping Plovers ever. American Avocets are in the (currently inaccessible) south impoundment of Pleasure Island if they are anywhere, so missing them was hardly surprising. Missing Lesser Yellowlegs altogether was more surprising.

Gull and tern numbers were much as could be expected. Herring Gull is surprisingly difficult to find in September, but an immaculate breeding plumage Lesser Black-backed Gull made up for missing Herring Gull. Black Skimmers are still resident in the county – we just didn't see any on count day.

White-winged Doves continue in high numbers, while Inca Dove numbers are greatly reduced. There may be a connection between these two, as both are prone to reside in suburban areas, and the White-wings are aggressive.

We expect to and did see many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Rufous Hummingbirds are a comparatively rare wintering species in the area, but they seem to have strong wintering site fidelity and a tendency to occupy their wintering homes as early as late August. Two males and a female or young bird at a residence in Beaumont must surely

be related, as Rufous Hummingbirds are very feisty and would surely drive off any non-related competitors. The males are returning birds!

Empidonax flycatchers were very normal, although we do not always find Acadian Flycatcher. Great Crested Flycatchers, although seen, were not in normal numbers, but we suspect this was just a random result. Eastern Kingbird numbers were also low, unlike Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, which occupy very much the same habitat niche, and which were present in record numbers.

Vireos were pretty much as expected. Mid September is a little too early to guarantee either Philadelphia on migration or wintering Blue-headed, but Warbling showed up as usual.

Swallows were found in less than normal numbers, and it was disappointing not to find any Bank Swallows.

There is no such thing as a list of expected warblers for this count, because there are many species that are found to present on only some of the days in mid-September. However, we did find a good variety of warblers both at Sabine Woods and elsewhere in the county.

The only sparrow that is virtually guaranteed is the year-round resident Seaside Sparrow, but a surprise was a Clay-colored Sparrow in Sabine Woods. This species does not winter regularly in the area, but we almost always do find one or two on migration, although not typically until late October.

As usual, Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings were seen in many places, and a good number of young Painted Buntings were still in Sabine Woods.

Species Seen (cw means seen count week but not count day)

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (76); WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (175); DUCK, Wood (1); DUCK, Mottled (3); TEAL, Blue-winged (546); TEAL, Green-winged (1); DUCK species (10); GREBE, Pied-billed (8); PELICAN, American White (12); PELICAN, Brown (123); CORMORANT, Neotropic (825); CORMORANT, Double-crested (1); CORMORANT, Species (545); ANHINGA (34); BITTERN, Least (3); HERON, Great Blue (15); EGRET, Great (1959); EGRET, Snowy (3015); HERON, Little Blue (546); HERON, Tricolored (1130); EGRET, Reddish (9); EGRET, Cattle (478); HERON, Green (14); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (10); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (15); IBIS, White (1258); IBIS, White-faced (6); IBIS, Plegadis (4); SPOONBILL, Roseate (63); VULTURE, Black (41); VULTURE, Turkey (89); OSPREY (cw); KITE, Mississippi (12); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Cooper's (1); HAWK, Red-shouldered (9); HAWK, Broad-winged (6); HAWK, Swainson's (6); HAWK, Red-tailed (4); CARACARA, Crested (cw); KESTREL, American (4); FALCON, Peregrine (1); RAIL, Clapper (38); SORA (1); MOORHEN, Common (39); PLOVER, Black-bellied (14); PLOVER, Snowy (25); PLOVER, Semipalmated (3); PLOVER, Piping (17); KILLDEER (108); STILT, Black-necked (51); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (5); WILLET (23); SANDPIPER, Spotted (8); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (7); SANDERLING (95); SANDPIPER, Western (5); SANDPIPER, Least (123); DUNLIN (1); SANDPIPER, DOWITCHER, Short-billed (1); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (45); GULL, Laughing (1384); GULL, Ring-billed (1); GULL, Lesser Black-backed (1); TERN, Gull-billed (17); TERN, Caspian (93); TERN, Royal (191); TERN, Sandwich (8); TERN, Common (1); TERN, Forster's (185); TERN, Least (13); TERN, Black (10); SKIMMER, Black (cw); PIGEON, Rock (818); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (27); DOVE, White-winged (100); DOVE, Mourning (440); DOVE, Inca (2); OWL, Barn (2); OWL, Barred (1); WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck (2); SWIFT, Chimney (213); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (251); HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (3); HUMMINGBIRD species (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (8); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (21); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (34); WOODPECKER, Downy (21); FLICKER, Northern (1); WOODPECKER, Pileated (9); WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (12); FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied (3); FLYCATCHER, Acadian (1);

Field Trip to Smith Point – 25 September 2010

Last year on the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's field trip to the Smith Point hawk watch, the group was treated to the sight of tens of thousands of Broad-winged Hawks. Last year the group saw hundreds of Anhingas soaring above the tower. Last year there were over three hundred Wood Storks. And a Bald Eagle. This year, well, things were a little different. But different is not always bad as the group would soon find out.

Going in, it did not seem likely that the group would be treated to a repeat of last year's spectacular showing. Large movements of hawks (and other soaring birds) in the fall usually follow cold fronts with a delay of a day or two. A front was on the way to southeast Texas at the time of the trip but did not arrive until a day or so later, not in time to provide hawks for the trip! But a few hawks did appear early on. As is typical, these early rising raptors were mostly accipiters. Numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks and Cooper's Hawks were seen on the day. As these similar looking short-winged, long-tailed hawks soared by, the subtle field marks that separate them could be easily distinguished: the shape of the leading edge of the wings, the distance the head projects beyond the wings, the shape of the tail tip. All of these things can be seen at a great hawk watch spot like Smith Point. Spend a few days at this migrant hotspot during the fall migration and you can quickly become an expert of differentiating these (and other) raptors!

Other raptors were also prominent on the day. A small group of Mississippi Kites circled the hawk tower on and off throughout the day. These were mostly young birds with streaked underparts and not the elegant gray and white adults but were appreciated nonetheless. A young Swainson's Hawk buzzed the tower with its long, pointed wings outstretched. A resident Red-tailed Hawk perched on a distant post would occasionally make a flight around the area showing off its belly band and dark patagial marks. A few American Kestrels and a distant Peregrine Falcon also put in appearances but did not make it easy on the observers.

Broad-winged Hawks are the center of things at the Smith Point hawk watch. These are the most numerous raptors at this hotspot every year and can come through on a given day (like last year) in incredible numbers. These small, crow-sized buteos nest across much of eastern North America including southeast Texas in small numbers. Peaking in late September, hundreds of thousands of Broadies migrate through the eastern U.S. eventually pouring through Texas and into Mexico. And, no doubt, the Broad-wings will come through Smith Point in big numbers but it was not on this day. We did manage a few kettles of Broad-winged Hawks so there were some around. In fact, there were almost always a few in view from the tower throughout the day, just no really big numbers at any one time. (The official counter recorded over 6,000 on the day, indicating that she concluded that we were seeing one kettle after another and not the same kettle over and over.) Luckily, Broad-winged Hawks were not the only thing happening at Smith Point on that day!

The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory and the Hawk Watch people put together a terrific hawk and migrant centered event at Smith Point that included food, books and birding items for

sale and bird banding. The bird-banding demonstration provided the group with a whole new perspective on a lot of familiar birds. Dozens on tiny Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were banded along with even tinier Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. It is hard to understand just how small these creatures really are until you hold one in your hand as several in the group got to do. These species were followed by other familiar birds like Indigo Bunting, Carolina Chickadee and Northern Cardinal. But not every species banded was familiar to the group. An Eastern Whip-poor-will was one of the first birds banded on the day and it was a rare look at the nocturnal insect eater.

Flycatchers were also prominent among the birds banded. Great Crested Flycatchers were among the most numerous and certainly the loudest! Each one banded complained loudly at the indignity! Several Eastern Wood-Pewees were banded along with many confusing Empidonax flycatchers. Even in the hand, the subtle differences between Least, Yellow-bellied, Willow and Alder Flycatcher were difficult to discern. Even the experts on hand banding the birds could not separate every Willow and Alder Flycatcher present, having to leave them as "Traill's" Flycatcher in their records.

Warblers and vireos, always sought after in migration, were also among the banded birds. Four species of vireos were captured, allowing close examination, including Red-eyed, White-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated. Wilson's Warbler was among the first seen by the group on the day, its black cap showing prominently. Larger Yellow-breasted Chats were also banded somehow looking so small in the hand when they seem much larger in the bush! Bright yellow Blue-winged and Prothonotary Warblers were captured and released along with several individuals of the aptly named Black and White Warbler. Flashy American Redstarts were examined along with a great look at an Ovenbird, a shy species not usually seen at this close of range! Female Common Yellowthroat and Magnolia Warbler were confusing but were eventually identified.

Even though this field trip was intended to coincide with the peak of the Broad-winged Hawk migration and to concentrate on soaring raptors, things did not completely work out that way. Hawk migration is up and down and cannot be predicted months in advance when the field trip dates are decided. Luckily, the good people at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, Texas Parks and Wildlife and Hawk Watch International put on a great show for the crowds present and there was always something to do. The bird banding demonstration was a big hit allowing a chance to see familiar birds from a whole new perspective. With the chance to learn first-hand from bird experts about the raptors and songbirds migrating through, the trip to Smith Point was a big hit even without thousands of hawks! And next September, we get to do it all over again!

The following species were recorded by the field trip leaders: Mottled Duck (6), Brown Pelican (22), Anhinga (175), Magnificent Frigatebird (9), White Ibis (67), Black Vulture (22), Turkey Vulture (13), Osprey (2), Mississippi Kite (9), Sharp-shinned Hawk (5), Cooper's Hawk (7), Broad-winged Hawk (up to 6,000), Swainson's Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (3),

(continued on page 7)

Bird Sightings – August 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) 722-4193. 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: Most of the interest in August is in the last few days of the months, when the first waves of fall migrants pas through. Possibly the most noteworthy was a very early Chestnut-sided Warbler on the 27th. Mention must be made of the good numbers of Mourning Warblers seen. This species seems to have been doing very well over the last year or so.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bellied (15-29) JEF-TX87 8/29(15) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(4) JAW;	SANDERLING (15-29) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(68) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(83)
DUCK, Mottled (15-15)	JEF-MCFW 8/15(1) JAW	SANDPIPER, Western (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(7) JAW
GREBE, Pied-billed (7-7)	JEF-TX87 8/7(1) JJW	SANDPIPER, Least (29-29)	JEF-SRSP 8/29(1) JAW
PELICAN, Brown (15-29) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(2) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(16)	GULL, Laughing (1-29)	JEF 5 reps(343)
CORMORANT, Neotropic (1-29)	JEF 4 reps(28)	GULL, Ring-billed (29-29)	JEF-SRSP 8/29(2) JAW
ANHINGA (1-1)	JEF 8/1(5) JAW	TERN, Least (15-29) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(59) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(30)
BITERN, Least (15-15)	JEF-MCFW 8/15(2) JAW	TERN, Gull-billed (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(1) JAW
HERON, Great Blue (29-29)	JEF-SRSP 8/29(1) JAW	TERN, Caspian (15-29) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(1) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(23)
EGRET, Great (1-29)	JEF 5 reps(114)	TERN, Black (15-29) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/29(1) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(41)
EGRET, Snowy (1-29)	JEF 5 reps(88)	TERN, Common (15-15)	JEF-MCFW 8/15(1) JAW
HERON, Little Blue (1-1)	JEF 8/1(6) JAW	TERN, Forster's (15-29)	JEF 2 reps(57)
HERON, Tricolored (1-15)	JEF 2 reps(7)	TERN, Royal (15-29)	JEF 2 reps(94)
EGRET, Reddish (15-29) JEF-SRSP 8/29(8) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(7) JAW;	TERN, Sandwich (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(74) JAW
EGRET, Cattle (1-29) reps(1034)	HAI 1 rep(5); JEF 8	SKIMMER, Black (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(33) JAW
HERON, Green (15-28) JAW; JEF 8/28(1) SRJW	JEF-MCFW 8/15(1)	PIGEON, Rock (3-29) reps(96)	HAI 1 rep(50); JEF 4
NIGHT-HERON, Yell-cr (7-29) JEF-MCFW 8/15(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/28(1) SRJW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(3) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/7(3) JJW;	COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (1-28) reps(16)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 8
IBIS, White (15-29)	JEF 2 reps(21)	DOVE, White-winged (1-29) reps(394)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 37
IBIS, Plegadis (15-15)	JEF-MCFW 8/15(2) JAW	DOVE, Mourning (1-30) reps(53)	HAI 6 reps(50); JEF 5
SPOONBILL, Roseate (1-1)	JEF 8/1(2) JAW	DOVE, Inca (8-29) JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW	JEF-NEDR 8/8(1) JAW;
STORK, Wood (1-7) BMT 8/7(50) RHJ	JEF 8/1(107) JAW; JEF-	CUCKOO, Yellow-billed (5-29) JEF-SW 8/15(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/17(1) CC; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW	JEF-SW 8/5(3) JHH;
VULTURE, Black (15-15)	JEF-MCFW 8/15(2) JAW	CUCKOO, Black-billed (29-29)	JEF-SW 8/29(2) JAW
VULTURE, Turkey (15-29)	JEF 3 reps(15)	OWL, Barn (27-29) SW 8/29(1) JAW	JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF-
KITE, Mississippi (7-12) JEF-BMT 8/8(1) RHJ; JEF 8/12(1) RHJ	JEF-BMT 8/7(1) RHJ;	OWL, Great Horned (5-27) JEF-SW 8/17(1) CC; JEF 8/27(1) JHH	JEF-SW 8/5(2) JHH;
HAWK, Cooper's (6-6)	JEF-BMT 8/6(1) RHJ	NIGHTHAWK, Common (7-15) JEF-MCFW 8/15(5) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/15(5) JAW	JEF-TX87 8/7(2) JJW;
HAWK, Red-shouldered (7-28)	JEF 5 reps(5)	WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck - (27-29) SW 8/29(1) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(5) JAW
HAWK, Broad-winged (12-12)	JEF 8/12(1) RHJ	SWIFT, Chimney (1-31)	JEF 5 reps(24)
HAWK, Swainson's (15-28) 8/28(1) SRJW	JEF 8/15(1) JAW; JEF	HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. (1-31) reps(189)	HAI 20 reps(46); JEF 44
HAWK, Red-tailed (27-28) 8/28(1) SRJW	JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF	HUMMINGBIRD species (1-1)	JEF-BMT 8/1(1) RHJ
FALCON, Peregrine (27-27)	JEF 8/27(1) JHH	WOODPECKER, Red-headed (4-31) JEF-BMT 8/5(1) RHJ; JEF 8/28(1) SRJW; JEF-BMT 8/31(1) RHJ	JEF-BMT 8/4(1) RHJ;
RAIL, Clapper (29-29)	JEF-SRSP 8/29(1) JAW	WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (1-29) reps(4)	HAI 8 reps(19); JEF 3
MOORHEN, Common (15-15)	JEF-MCFW 8/15(2) JAW	WOODPECKER, Downy (1-31)	JEF 31 reps(33)
PLOVER, Black-bellied (15-29) JEF-SRSP 8/29(7) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(4) JAW;	WOODPECKER, Pileated (8-27) JEF-BMT 8/27(1) RHJ	JEF-BMT 8/8(1) RHJ;
PLOVER, Snowy (15-29) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(21) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(11)	FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided (15-15) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/15(1) JAW	JEF-MCFW 8/15(1)
PLOVER, Wilson's (15-29) JAW; JEF-SRSP 8/29(4) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(17)	WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (27-29) 8/28(1) SRJW; JEF-SW 8/29(6) JAW	JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF
PLOVER, Semipalmated (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(14) JAW	FLYCATCHER, Acadian (29-29)	JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW
PLOVER, Piping (15-29) JEF-SRSP 8/29(1) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(2) JAW;	FLYCATCHER, Traill's (29-29)	JEF-SW 8/29(6) JAW
KILLDEER (7-29)	JEF 3 reps(16)	FLYCATCHER, Least (29-29)	JEF-SW 8/29(3) JAW
STILT, Black-necked (15-15)	JEF-TX87 8/15(1) JAW	EMPIDONAX species (27-27)	JEF 8/27(1) JHH
SANDPIPER, Solitary (7-7)	JEF-SRSP 8/7(3) JJW		
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (7-7)	JEF-SRSP 8/7(1) JJW		
WILLET (7-15)	JEF 2 reps(32)		
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(3) JAW		
GODWIT, Marbled (15-15)	JEF-SRSP 8/15(4) JAW		
TURNSTONE, Ruddy (15-29) JEF-SRSP 8/29(8) JAW	JEF-SRSP 8/15(6) JAW;		

FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	(5-29)	JEF-SW 8/5(4) JHH; JEF-SW 8/17(5) CC; JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(3) JAW
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(1-29)	JEF 7 reps(70)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(1-29)	JEF 8/1(1) JAW; JEF-MCFW 8/15(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/15(2) JAW; JEF 8/28(5) SRJW; JEF-TX87 8/29(1) JAW
VIREO, White-eyed	(22-27)	HAI-SILS 8/22(1) MG; JEF 8/27(1) JHH
VIREO, Red-eyed	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW
JAY, Blue	(1-30)	HAI 12 reps(108); JEF 5 reps(9)
CROW, American	(18-18)	HAI-SILS 8/18(2) MG
CROW, Fish	(6-6)	JEF-BMT 8/6(1) JAW
CROW, species	(1-28)	JEF 2 reps(14)
MARTIN, Purple	(11-25)	JEF 4 reps(40,000)
SWALLOW, Barn	(2-28)	JEF 4 reps(10)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(1-30)	HAI 11 reps(30); JEF 4 reps(6)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(2-30)	HAI 9 reps(20)
WREN, Carolina	(5-29)	HAI 4 reps(6); JEF 4 reps(8)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(15-30)	HAI 7 reps(15); JEF 3 reps(62)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(1-28)	HAI 6 reps(10); JEF 2 reps(4)
ROBIN, American	(3-28)	JEF-NEDR 8/3(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/28(1) SRJW
CATBIRD, Gray	(1-20)	HAI-SILS 8/8(2) MG; HAI-SILS 8/20(1) MG; JEF-BMT 8/1(1) RHJ
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-29)	HAI 3 reps(13); JEF 8 reps(34)
THRASHER, Brown	(1-29)	HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 6 reps(7)
STARLING, European	(1-28)	JEF 3 reps(348)
WARBLER, Blue-winged	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(2) JAW
PARULA, Northern	(27-27)	JEF 8/27(4) JHH
WARBLER, Yellow	(5-29)	JEF-SW 8/5(3) JHH; JEF-SW 8/17(3) CC; JEF 8/27(15) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(6) JAW
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	(27-27)	JEF 8/27(1) JHH
WARBLER, Yellow-throated	(27-27)	JEF 8/27(1) JHH
WARBLER, Pine	(28-28)	JEF-BMT 8/28(1) RHJ
WARBLER, Prairie	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(3) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(6) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(6) JAW
REDSTART, American	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(2) JAW
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(3) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(6) JAW
OVENBIRD	(29-29)	JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(10) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(4) JAW
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	(5-5)	JEF-SW 8/5(1) JHH
WARBLER, Kentucky	(5-29)	JEF-SW 8/5(1) JHH; JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW
WARBLER, Mourning	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(3) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(3) JAW
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(27-27)	JEF-SW 8/27(1) JHH
WARBLER, Hooded	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(4) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(3) JAW
WARBLER, Canada	(27-27)	JEF 8/27(5) JHH
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(6) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JAW
TANAGER, Summer	(6-23)	HAI-SILS 8/6(1) MG; HAI-SILS 8/23(1) MG
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-30)	HAI 20 reps(1200); JEF 5 reps(10)
BUNTING, Indigo	(27-29)	JEF 8/27(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(2) JAW
BUNTING, Painted	(5-29)	JEF 4 reps(28)
DICKCISSEL	(5-15)	JEF 2 reps(21)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-15)	JEF 2 reps(3)
MEADOWLARK species	(28-28)	JEF 8/28(2) SRJW
GRACKLE, Common	(1-29)	HAI 8 reps(48); JEF 1 rep(2)

GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(7-29)	JEF 3 reps(38)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-29)	JEF 6 reps(143)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	(15-29)	JEF 2 reps(22)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(15-28)	JEF 2 reps(103)
BLACKBIRD species	(1-1)	JEF 8/1(10) JAW
ORIOLE, Orchard	(5-29)	JEF 5 reps(74)
ORIOLE, Baltimore	(9-9)	JEF-BMT 8/9(1) RHJ
FINCH, House	(1-31)	HAI 7 reps(11); JEF 18 reps(56)
SPARROW, House	(1-15)	JEF 3 reps(8)
Number of Species		136
Number of Individuals		92782

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson

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.

bserver Abbreviations

CC — Cody Conway; JAW — John Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SRJW — Sherrie Roden, John Whittle

Migration Count *(continued from page 4)*

(26); TITMOUSE, Tufted (11); WREN, Carolina (32); WREN, Marsh (1); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (cw); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (68); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (19); ROBIN, American (16); CATBIRD, Gray (1); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (214); THRASHER, Brown (10); STARLING, European (871); WARBLER, Tennessee (1); WARBLER, Nashville (5); PARULA, Northern (6); WARBLER, Yellow (12); WARBLER, Chestnut-sided (1); WARBLER, Magnolia (2); WARBLER, Black-throated Green (1); WARBLER, Blackburnian (1); WARBLER, Yellow-throated (2); WARBLER, Pine (9); WARBLER, Prairie (1); WARBLER, Black-and-white (3); REDSTART, American (4); WARBLER, Prothonotary (3); OVENBIRD (cw); WATERTHRUSH, Northern (7); WARBLER, Mourning (1); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (6); WARBLER, Hooded (1); WARBLER, Wilson's (3); WARBLER, Canada (1); CHAT, Yellow-breasted (9); SPARROW, Clay-colored (1); SPARROW, Seaside (52); CARDINAL, Northern (96); GROSBELLY, Blue (10); BUNTING, Indigo (5); BUNTING, Painted (12); DICKCISSEL (13); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (192); GRACKLE, Common (165); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (123); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (567); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (97); ORIOLE, Orchard (1); ORIOLE, Baltimore (2); FINCH, House (12); SPARROW, House (189); TOTAL (18940); Number of species (155); Number of Observers (15); Number of Parties (10-12); Number of Party-Hours (50.9); Party hours on foot (23.25); Miles on foot (15.25); Party-hours by automobile (27.15); Miles by automobile (318.5); Party-hours feeder watching (0.5); Participants: Andrea Ayers; Althea Bythewood; Cody Conway; Terry Ferguson; Bill Graber; John Haynes; Harrison Jordan; Rose Ann Jordan, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Royce Pendergast, Sherrie Roden, Kelley Sampeck, Billie Smith, Ken Sztraky, Jana Whittle, John Whittle.

Field Trip *(continued from page 5)*

American Kestrel (6), Peregrine Falcon (2), Dowitcher species (30), Caspian Tern (3), Whip-poor-will (1), Red-headed Woodpecker (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Eastern Wood-Pewee (1), Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (2), Alder Flycatcher (2), Traill's Flycatcher (3), Common Flycatcher (4), Great Crested Flycatcher (10), White-eyed Vireo (1), Yellow-throated Vireo (1), Warbling Vireo (1), Red-eyed Vireo (1), Blue Jay (6), Tree Swallow (2), Carolina Chickadee (1), Carolina Wren (1), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (20), Northern Mockingbird (5), Blue-winged Warbler (1), Magnolia Warbler (1), Black-and-white Warbler (4), American Redstart (3), Prothonotary Warbler (1), Ovenbird (1), Common Yellowthroat (1), Hooded Warbler (1), Wilson's Warbler (2), Yellow-breasted Chat (2), Northern Cardinal (2), Indigo Bunting (1). *Steve Mayes*

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Brown Pelican

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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 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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