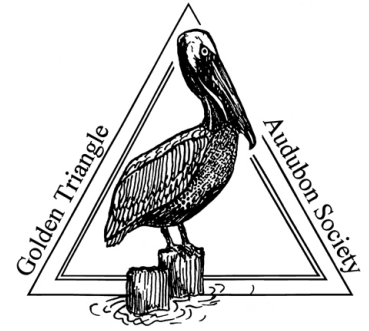


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 17 No. 1

January 2011

**Membership Meeting
Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Use of Chinese Tallow Tree Stands by Resident and
Migrant Birds in Southeast Texas**

**Katy Gifford and Jim Armacost
Biology Department, Lamar University**

Jim Armacost will present this talk based on the research carried out under his direction by Katy Gifford for her Master's degree. Tallow trees are generally considered to be undesirable because they are so invasive and form single-species stands. However, it is important to understand use of these stands by both resident and wintering birds.

This study compared year-round bird use of mature and young tallow stands with bird use of native mixed-species forest stands. Mature and young tallow stands were found to have more a homogenous tree composition than native mixed-species stands, but mature tallow stands had a more complex understory than the other habitat types. The density of all forest birds was higher in native mixed-species stands than young tallow stands in all seasons, but only significantly so in the summer and spring; density did not differ significantly between the native stands and mature tallow stands in any season.

Northern Cardinals preferred native mixed-species and mature tallow stands over young tallow stands in all seasons. Mature tallow stands are important to the winter resident Yellow-rumped Warblers, as evidenced by their high density in mature tallow stands. Overall, native mixed-species stands were used by more species than tallow stands, but mature tallow stands can provide suitable habitat for some permanent resident and seasonally resident species of forest birds

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

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Newsletter Distribution

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Newsletter Editor

John Whittle (722-4193)

3015 Nashville Ave.

Nederland, TX 77627-6749

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Calendar of Events

Thursday January 20, 2011.
Membership Meeting. Details on front page.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for January and all the other spring 2011 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! 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 January 22, 2011. Field Trip.

This trip will be to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and nearby Chambers County, looking primarily for waterfowl but also raptors and sparrows. The refuge is recovering nicely from the recent hurricanes, although, like the rest of the area, it is very dry.

As this is written, there are good numbers of ducks and geese in the area around Teal Slough in Anahuac NWR, although they tend to be somewhat distant from the road. A Golden Eagle has been a winter resident at Anahuac since before Thanksgiving, and on the Bolivar Peninsula Christmas Count, which included Anahuac NWR, the Golden Eagle and seven Bald Eagles were recorded. We will also bird some of the rice field areas in Chambers County mostly north of IH-10. Exactly where we go will depend on scouting reports. We last ran this trip in 2005 (pre-hurricanes!).

We plan to meet at the Visitor Information Station just beyond the entrance at 8:00 a.m. It is anticipated that this field trip will require very minimal walking, and all roads are easily passable in ordinary vehicles.

To reach Anahuac NWR from Winnie, take Highway 124 south to FM1985. (It is 11.0 miles from IH-10 and half a mile less from Highway 73.) Turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed another 11.0 miles to the well

marked Anahuac NWR Access Road on the left (south). The entrance to the Refuge is just over three miles down the access road.

February 18-21, 2011. Great Backyard Bird Count. For details on how to participate in this annual count, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/howto.html>

Thursday February 17, 2011. Membership Meeting. Audubon Texas Education Program. Details in next month's issue.

Saturday February 19, 2011. Field Trip. Tentatively Sheldon Lake State Park. Alternate suggestions welcome.

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.

Christmas Bird Counts

The results of the Sea Rim State Park and Orange County counts are on pages 3 through 5. Accounts of the Turkey Creek and Beech Creek counts have been posted on our website.



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.

Orange County Christmas Bird Count – 1 January 2011

Our 10th annual Christmas Bird Count started out with a record 12 participants. A pretty crisp New Years day greeted us for the 111th Audubon season with the north wind gusting to 25mph. We were able to break into 4 parties and cover more areas this season. Despite the wind and previous days one inch plus rain and drought like summer the extra help kept us at our average of 128 total species. While our high counts of 134 and 132 were seen pre-Rita and Ike, we are slowly getting back to these levels.

We again thank all you helped as well as Entergy Texas for their access and the wonderful people of the Brown Center and Sam Watters at Pinehurst Gardens as well as a new member Lynn Wallace for the boat and the quest of birds in Bessie Heights marsh.

Ducks and geese made a fair showing. All our expected species were found in low numbers. Snow geese, found in large numbers in coastal Louisiana and Jefferson County, are always hard to find here, so the (20) found was rare. A bright spot was the large number of Wood Ducks (86) found on Mansfield Ferry Road. The Morgan Ranch is our reliable spot for Common Goldeneye and Hooded Merganser – these ducks like to winter there. Cormorants, Pelicans, Herons and Egrets were in normal range with once again all the Night-Herons being found at Entergy. The increase in American White Pelican was attributed to the help of the better marsh coverage in the boat.

Raptors seem normal with our resident nesting Bald Eagle making the count again. Coots and Moorhens, easily overlooked, proved so with the miss of American Coot this season. It was a nice surprise to see Sandhill Cranes being found again, reported by two parties. Large flocks are seen both east and west of the circle but rarely here.

Our limited shoreline and mudflats restricts shorebirds to the smaller waders, but the ones we do find are doing well. It was nice see American Woodcock back it seems this is a record year for them with many counts reporting this species. We had two parties reporting some with the Brown Center having them twice in the past years.

Gulls and Terns have the marsh and river to feed and numbers reflect this. Our second well documented Lesser Black-backed gull was found and photographed Doves can tolerate rural urban areas so it is nice to see White-winged doves in larger numbers. Owls and hummingbirds were a no show. We sorely miss our lone Eastern Screech-Owl at the Nelda Stark unit on Bessie Heights. Owls are hard to get anytime but this may be due the New Year's Day count or is it habitat? Hummingbird numbers can be increased with feeder watchers.

Woodpeckers are doing well since the storms with plenty of nesting trees but the miss of Pileated Woodpecker is hard to explain. Jays and crows are doing ok but we missed Fish Crow this year for the first time in 5 years. This may be due to the wind limiting birds calling and moving. We usually get one White-eyed Vireo but the record low Blue-headed count was puzzling if it was condition related. Shrikes, thrushes, thrashers and wrens were in normal range. Both kinglets and chickadees were well represented but the low number of Blue-

gray Gnatcatchers was odd.

Warblers were covered by our winter "fab four" though Common Yellowthroat was on the low side. Wintering sparrows, ever a challenge in the wind, had a good showing with the hard to get Dark-eyed Junco and Eastern Towhee being counted. Overall blackbird and grackle numbers were down; these larger birds tend not to move much in the wind. House Finch was a nice surprise with two parties reporting them.

Species Seen: Snow Goose (20); Ross's Goose (2); Wood Duck (89); American Wigeon (4); Gadwall (333); Green-winged Teal (17); Mottled Duck (2); Northern Shoveler (26); Ring-necked Duck (3); Lesser Scaup (56); Common Goldeneye (21); Bufflehead (1); Hooded Merganser (22); Pied-billed Grebe (14); Neotropic Cormorant (144); Double-crested Cormorant (47); cormorant sp (1); Anhinga (2); American White Pelican (339); Brown Pelican (59); Tricolored Heron (6); Little Blue Heron (22); Snowy Egret (146); Great Blue Heron (29); Great Egret (53); Black-crowned Night-Heron (47); White Ibis (46); Dark Ibis Species (450); Roseate Spoonbill (4); Black Vulture (52); Turkey Vulture (47); Osprey (20); Bald Eagle (1); Northern Harrier (2); Cooper's Hawk (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (15); Red-tailed Hawk (23); American Kestrel (10); Clapper Rail (2); King Rail (2); Sora (1); Common Moorhen (15); Sandhill Crane (15); American Woodcock (3); Wilson's Snipe (1); Greater Yellowlegs (69); Lesser Yellowlegs (12); Spotted Sandpiper (3); Willet (8); Long-billed Dowitcher (802); Dowitcher sp (12); Western Sandpiper (4); Sandpiper species (peeps) (250); Least Sandpiper (207); Dunlin (50); Stilt Sandpiper (3); Black-necked Stilt (40); Black-bellied Plover (17); Semipalmated Plover (20); Killdeer (235); Ring-billed Gull (664); Herring Gull (23); Bonaparte's Gull (20); Laughing Gull (303); Caspian Tern (5); Lesser Black-backed Gull (1); Royal Tern (2); Common Tern (3); Forster's Tern (205); Common Loon (1); Rock Pigeon (120); Eurasian Collared-Dove (23); Mourning Dove (72); White-winged Dove (19); Belted Kingfisher (23); Red-headed Woodpecker (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (26); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (10); Downy Woodpecker (13); Northern Flicker (yellow) (5); Pileated Woodpecker (2); Eastern Phoebe (37); Blue Jay (22); American Crow (14); Crow sp (5); Tree Swallow (531); White-eyed Vireo (1); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Loggerhead Shrike (13); Cedar Waxwing (61); Eastern Bluebird (55); Hermit Thrush (3); American Robin (202); Gray Catbird (3); Northern Mockingbird (38); Brown Thrasher (3); European Starling (372); Brown-headed Nuthatch (5); Brown Creeper (2); Sedge Wren (3); Marsh Wren (1); Carolina Wren (21); Winter Wren (5); House Wren (14); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (26); Golden-crowned Kinglet (9); Carolina Chickadee (57); Tufted Titmouse (7); American Pipit (15); Orange-crowned Warbler (26); Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler (435); Pine Warbler (64); Common Yellowthroat (2); Song Sparrow (29); Lincoln's Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (46); White-crowned Sparrow (1); White-throated Sparrow (120); Dark-eyed Junco (1); Savannah Sparrow (38); Chipping Sparrow (33); Field Sparrow (1); Eastern Towhee (2); Northern Cardinal (29); Red-winged Blackbird (590); Eastern Meadowlark (28); Great-tailed Grackle (195); Boat-tailed Grackle (63); Common Grackle (28); Brown-headed Cowbird (15); House Finch (4); American Goldfinch (119); House Sparrow (30); total species seen (128); total number seen (8846).

Participants: Howard Davis, Terry Ferguson, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Don Jeane, Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherry Roden, Christine Sliva, Ken Sztraky, Jana and John Whittle.

Ken Sztraky

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count – 3 January 2011

Twenty-six participants gathered for the Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count under clear skies but with slightly chilly air. However, there was very little wind initially, and it was a good day to see birds. Conditions in the circle that were disrupted by Hurricane Ike are rapidly returning to normal, but there were some other issues. The South Levee Road on Pleasure Island is still under rebuild and there is work in progress in Murphree Wildlife Management Area which will eventually improve the area for wildlife, but which is having a negative short term effect.

The provisional total number of species is 158, two more than last year. The number of birds seen was very much larger than any year since the count was restarted in 1995, but that was almost exclusively because a huge flock of Snow Geese, estimated at 50,000 birds, was in the sliver of Southwest Louisiana that is in the count circle. That notwithstanding, we did not find Greater White-fronted Geese this year. It is very difficult to pick out Ross's Geese in a flock on the ground, or massing overhead, so it may not be surprising that we only detected a small number of them.

Many duck species were seen in relatively normal numbers, although the numbers over the years have varied widely for many species. Wood Ducks were found this year; this species was last seen on the count in December 2000, but was seen more often in the late 1990s. Mottled Ducks were up over the last three years, while Blue-winged Teal, although not reaching last year's all time high, were the second highest ever. We did not find many Northern Pintails, and those we did tended to be in mixed flocks. Canvasback numbers were low by historical standards, but habitat abnormalities may have forced them away from their favored locations. Bufflehead numbers were very low, perhaps for the same reason. Ring-necked Ducks tend not to be too numerous near the immediate coast, but the number seen was low nevertheless. We have been finding one or two Common Goldeneye much more frequently in recent years, but it was nice to see them this year. Hooded Mergansers were in good numbers even though absent from some usual spots, while Red-breasted Mergansers were very low. Ruddy Duck numbers were also low, although, within the circle, they tend to be very concentrated, and can easily be on some pond close-by but not inside the circle. Common Loons – five is a good number by the standards of recent years – were over in Louisiana this year.

One has to go back to the late nineties to find higher numbers of Pied-billed Grebes. Eared Grebes are expected, but in small numbers. It is now a few years since we have seen any Gannets on the count. Numbers of American White and Brown Pelicans were "high normal." We haven't kept track of the ages of the Brown Pelicans we have seen on the count, but it appears that the percentage of adult birds is steadily growing. In the early days of re-colonization of the area, it was all immature birds that we saw, as they spread out from the then existing colonies. Missing Anhinga was a disappointment.

We always manage to find one or two American Bitterns in McFaddin NWR even though some of the areas there that have the highest concentration are west of the circle. While there were good numbers of herons and egrets, most were in normal numbers except for Little Blue Herons, which have not been seen in such numbers of the count since 2000. Reddish Egrets are typically very numerous at Bolivar Flats, but become progressively more difficult to find to the east. This year, two very pale immature birds were in the ponds inside Texas Point NWR. Cattle Egrets almost all leave for the winter, but we can sometimes, as this year, find one that has stayed for whatever reason. Similarly, Green Herons remain in the area in very small numbers so finding two was nice. Numbers of both Night-Herons were low this year, but better than last year when we missed Yellow-crowned altogether. The number of White Ibis seen was an all-time high, while good numbers of dark Ibis (*Plegadis* species) were seen. Roseate Spoonbill numbers were disappointing.

In the 1980 and early 1990s, Black Vultures were rarely seen on the coast, but we have come to expect them, and, indeed, numbers of both Black and Turkey Vultures were very normal. In the last few years, we have seen more than two Ospreys on the count, but over the entire span of counts, it is about average. White-tailed Kites became scarce after the hurricanes, but seem to be holding their own again. Most of the rest of the raptors were in unremarkable numbers, except for Red-tailed Hawks, which are extremely numerous this year and 121 is more than double the previous high. A pair of Crested Caracaras has made the stretch of Highway 87 from Sabine Pass to Clam Lake Road its hunting grounds, but only one showed. Falcons were pretty much normal, except that we usually find more than one Peregrine Falcon.

Of the usually easier-to-find rails, most were found in near normal numbers, except that only one Sora is low. We know there are Yellow and Black Rails in the marshes in winter, but they are not easy to find. Last year we were lucky to find a Black Rail; this year we flushed two Yellow Rails, recording that species for the seventh time in sixteen years. Common Moorhens still seem to be in low numbers by pre-hurricane standards, while American Coots have declined somewhat from recent highs.

Black-bellied Plovers weren't quite as numerous as we have come to expect, but the Sea Rim beach seems to have become well established as the local stronghold of Snowy Plovers. An encouraging sign was finding 16 Piping Plovers, close to the all time high for this count. Killdeer are always obvious to anyone who listens, but the numbers this year were very high. It was disappointing to miss American Oystercatchers again this year after they seemed to have established a toe-hold in the areas from 2000 to 2006. In what may well be hurricane related, Black-necked Stilt numbers, although up from last years total, were still below average. American Avocets were not numerous, although this may mostly reflect the current conditions on Pleasure Island.

Spotted Sandpiper numbers were the highest in more than a decade, while Greater Yellowlegs were at a new all time high. Many other shorebirds were present in fairly low numbers, especially Western Sandpipers and even Sanderlings. Ruddy Turnstones were present, unlike last year, while Least Sandpipers seemed to be everywhere. Stilt Sandpipers have been seen on the count more frequently in recent years, so 29 birds in Texas Point NWR was nice. Dunlins were the common bird along the shore this year. The total number of Dowitchers was normal, but only Short-billed were identified as to species. Finally, there was an American Woodcock, a species last seen on this count from 2003 to 2006, and there are a lot of Wilson's Snipe wintering this year.

The number of gulls seen was very normal, except for Bonaparte's Gulls which have become much less common in recent years. However, the terns seemed to be elsewhere on count day, and numbers counted were low.

Eurasian Collared-Doves were seen again after two years absence, possibly hurricane related. We again found a few (nine) White-winged Doves. The area is not a stronghold for Mourning Doves, but only 28 was quite low.

Owls always elicit much interest. With probably six Barn Owls spending the fall in Sabine Woods, it was surprising to find them mostly in the marshes. Four Great Horned Owls is very much normal. The star owl of the count was Short-eared Owl. One was seen near Sabine Woods in the dawn's early light, while three more were seen in Texas Point NWR, one near the beach, and two up nearer the highway.

There were no hummingbirds found this year, while most of the woodpecker species were seen in normal to low normal, except Red-bellied Woodpeckers, which seem to have been increasing in time within the circle.

Everyone likes to see male Vermilion Flycatchers, but the bird that was staked out at the Sabine Pass Cemetery brought the number of counts with the species only up to six. Eastern Phoebees were seen in decent but not high numbers. Three Horned Larks, flushed immediately inland from the Texas Point beach, were the first ever on the count. Tree Swallows have become a normal sight over the marshes in winter, but this year, the numbers were quite high.

Some woodland species are not easy to find in a count circle that does not provide a continuous connector of wooded areas from areas north of IH-10. However, we do regularly find Brown Creeper – three this year – and Carolina Chickadees in respectable numbers. Carolina Wrens were seen in the highest numbers of the decade, while it was nice to find Winter Wren for only the third time in the past ten years. Sedge Wrens, the staple little brown bird seen from the airboat in the marsh, were back in very good numbers, after some low numbers in the wake of the hurricanes. Marsh Wren numbers, however, were low.

All across the region, Golden-crowned Kinglets have been very obvious this winter, and it is no surprise that 62 came close to equaling the number of Ruby-crowned Kinglets (70). Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, spread out over all patches of suitable habitat were still in "low normal" numbers, perhaps reflecting the not quite complete recovery from the hurricanes of the underbrush.

Eastern Bluebird is a species that rarely makes it all the way to the coast, so finding one was nice. Hermit Thrushes have occasionally irrupted in large numbers in the count circle, but this year's four was perhaps "low normal." American Robins tend to be peripatetic in winter, responding to weather events and food availability. This year's numbers in the count circle were very low, although from what we here from other counts, they are not in any population danger. Brown Thrasher numbers crashed after the hurricanes, especially Ike, reflecting the loss of underbrush, but increased this year to a very modest eight. Cedar Waxwings, seemingly in very low numbers across the region this year, were not seen.

Both Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers were low in number, while Pine warblers, not present last year, were seen again in normal numbers. Ten Palm Warblers is high by recent standards, but not really unexpected after very large numbers were seen in Sabine Woods both spring and well into the fall.

Two Eastern Towhees were seen in two different wooded areas. Of the sparrows associated with woodlands, White-throated were present in very good numbers, Field Sparrows were found, while Chipping Sparrows were not. Of the wet country sparrows, Swamp and Lincoln's were in good numbers; Seaside Sparrows seem to have recovered from the hurricanes, but it was not until late in the day that we found Nelson's Sparrows. White-crowned are not common in the circle, so finding 15 was nice. Savannah sparrows, however, were present in high numbers along the roadsides and along the edge of the beach. Dark-eyed Junco is not an expected species, so finding one was nice.

A female Painted Bunting, in very bright unmistakable female-Painted-Bunting green, made an appearance at the drip in Sabine Woods late in the day. This was a new species for the count.

Blackbird numbers were unremarkable, although 125 Brown-headed Cowbirds made up for last year's lack of any. American Goldfinch numbers were in normal numbers.

Thanks are due to all who helped. We thank Jim Sutherlin for access to Murphree, Tracy Ferguson for Sea Rim, and especially Patrick Walther for providing access to and transportation in Texas Point and McFaddin NWRs.

We thank all who participated: Cody Conway, Howard Davis, Terry Ferguson, Nancy Fisher, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Don Jeane, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Denise and Gary Kelley, Karen McCormick, Art MacKinnon, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Kelley Sampeck, Jenny Shuffield, Christine Sliva, Mary Ann and Don Stockard, Ken Sztraky, Tex Wells, Patrick Walther, Jana and John Whittle, and Bill Wright.

Species seen (provisional list) GOOSE, Snow (51519); GOOSE, Ross's (3); DUCK, Wood (8); GADWALL (545); WIGEON, American (5); MALLARD (2); DUCK, Mottled (77); TEAL, Blue-winged (238); SHOVELER, Northern (202); PINTAIL, Northern (26); TEAL, Green-winged (1392); CANVASBACK (870); DUCK, Ring-necked (15); SCAUP, Greater (3); SCAUP, Lesser (1488); SCAUP, sp. (280); BUFFLEHEAD (12); GOLDENEYE, Common (2); MERGANSER, Hooded (24); MERGANSER, Red-breasted (5); DUCK, Ruddy (44); DUCK, sp. (1062); LOON, Common (5); GREBE, Pied-billed (78); GREBE, Eared (3); PELICAN, American White (1240); PELICAN, Brown (100); CORMORANT, Neotropic (329); CORMORANT, Double-crested (287); BITTERN, American (2); HERON, Great Blue (75); EGRET, Great (271); EGRET, Snowy (212); HERON, Little Blue (40); HERON, Tricolored (66); EGRET, Reddish (2); EGRET, Cattle (1); HERON, Green (2); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (10); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (1); IBIS, White (2204); IBIS, White-faced (75); IBIS, Plegadis species (1097); SPOONBILL, Roseate (54); VULTURE, Black (17); VULTURE, Turkey (40); OSPREY (2); KITE, White-tailed (4); HARRIER, Northern (40); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (5); HAWK, Cooper's (5); HAWK, Red-shouldered (4); HAWK, Red-tailed (133); CARACARA, Crested (1); KESTREL, American (12); MERLIN (7); FALCON, Peregrine (1); RAIL, Yellow (2); RAIL, Clapper (14); RAIL, King (8); RAIL, Virginia (4); SORA (1); RAIL, sp. (1); MOORHEN, Common (30); COOT, American (640); PLOVER, Black-bellied (56); PLOVER, Snowy (24); PLOVER, Semipalmated (40); PLOVER, Piping (16); KILLDEER (233); STILT, Black-necked (101); AVOCET, American (49); SANDPIPER, Spotted (9); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (42); WILLET (123); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (32); YELLOWLEGS, sp. (20); WHIMBREL (6); CURLEW, Long-billed (15); GODWIT, Marbled (13); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (3); SANDERLING (159); SANDPIPER, Western (7); SANDPIPER, Least (171); DUNLIN (942); SANDPIPER, Stilt (29); SANDPIPER species (56); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (35); DOWITCHER, species (282); SNIPE, Wilson's (60); WOODCOCK, American (1); GULL, Laughing (1453); GULL, Bonaparte's (8); GULL, Ring-billed (873); GULL, Herring (48); TERN, Caspian (17); TERN, Forster's (86); TERN, Royal (69); SKIMMER, Black (2); PIGEON, Rock (121); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (10); DOVE, White-winged (9); DOVE, Mourning (28); OWL, Barn (3); OWL, Great Horned (4); OWL, Short-eared (4); KINGFISHER, Belted (21); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (22); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (4); WOODPECKER, Downy (24); FLICKER, Northern (3); PHOEBE, Eastern (38); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (1); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (50); VIREO, White-eyed (4); VIREO, Blue-headed (12); JAY, Blue (19); LARK, Horned (3); SWALLOW, Tree (781); CHICKADEE, Carolina (18); CREEPER, Brown (3); WREN, Carolina (11); WREN, House (22); WREN, Winter (2); WREN, Sedge (131); WREN, Marsh (9); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (62); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (70); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (30); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (1); THRUSH, Hermit (4); ROBIN, American (7); CATBIRD, Gray (15); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (50); THRASHER, Brown (8); STARLING, European (432); PIPIT, American (15); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (34); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (102); WARBLER, Pine (23); WARBLER, Palm (10); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (18); TOWHEE, Eastern (2); SPARROW, Field (4); SPARROW, Savannah (493); SPARROW, LeConte's (6); SPARROW, Seaside (28); SPARROW, Song (21); SPARROW, Lincoln's (5); SPARROW, Swamp (201); SPARROW, White-throated (90); SPARROW, White-crowned (15); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (1); CARDINAL, Northern (35); BUNTING, Painted (1); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (1055); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (78); GRACKLE, Common (328); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (929); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (147); GRACKLE, species (82); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (125); GOLDFINCH, American (32); SPARROW, House (21); SPECIES, total (158); INDIVIDUALS, total (75976) Observers (26); Parties (9); Party-hours total (69.00); Party-miles total (98.75).

John A. Whittle

Bird Sightings – November 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: Notable this year in the November transition month are three groups of birds; raptors, notable by their high numbers and the presence of Golden Eagle; owls, again with high numbers and inclusion of Short-eared Owl among the species seen; and Hummingbirds, with four species seen in November and not one of them either Rufous or Ruby-throated!

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.	(8-13)	JEF 11/8(200) MG; JEF-TX87 11/13(6) JAW
GOOSE, White-fronted	(14-25)	JEF 11/14(70) JAW; JEF 11/20(92) FTWJ; JEF 11/25(60) JJW
GOOSE, Snow	(14-28)	HAI 1 rep(500); JEF 5 reps(6685)
GOOSE, White	(18-18)	JEF 11/18(1000) JP
GOOSE, Ross's	(14-28)	JEF 11/14(2) JAW; JEF 11/20(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/28(3) JAW; JEF-GROV 11/28(1) SR
GOOSE, Canada	(15-15)	ORA-ORG 11/15(16) CSL
GADWALL	(14-14)	JEF 11/14(200) JAW
WIGEON, American	(14-20)	JEF 11/14(2) JAW; JEF 11/20(3) FTWJ
MALLARD	(8-14)	JEF 2 reps(5)
DUCK, Mottled	(14-14)	JEF 11/14(6) JAW
TEAL, Blue-winged	(8-8)	JEF 11/8(200) MG
TEAL species	(21-21)	JEF-MCFW 11/21(300) JAW
SHOVELER, Northern	(14-20)	JEF 2 reps(45)
PINTAIL, Northern	(14-25)	JEF 3 reps(320)
TEAL, Green-winged	(8-20)	JEF 3 reps(130)
MERGANSER, Red-breasted	(13-21)	JEF 2 reps(7)
LOON, Common	(6-6)	JEF-MCFW 11/6(2) FHM
GREBE, Pied-billed	(13-21)	JEF 4 reps(13)
GREBE, Horned	(6-6)	JEF-MCFW 11/6(2) FHM
PELICAN, Amer. White	(20-20)	JEF-MCFW 11/20(7) JFW
PELICAN, Brown	(13-21)	JEF 3 reps(52)
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(13-25)	JEF 3 reps(30)
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	(21-21)	JEF 1 rep(12)
CORMORANT, Species	(20-20)	JEF 1 rep(25)
HERON, Great Blue	(13-28)	JEF 6 reps(31)
EGRET, Great	(4-28)	JEF 9 reps(48)
EGRET, Snowy	(13-25)	JEF 4 reps(28)
HERON, Tricolored	(13-13)	JEF-MCFW 11/13(1) JAW
EGRET, Reddish	(6-6)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM
EGRET, Cattle	(13-25)	JEF 4 reps(63)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(13-13)	JEF-TXPT 11/13(1) JAW
IBIS, White	(13-28)	JEF 5 reps(193)
IBIS, Plegadis	(14-28)	JEF 3 reps(305)
VULTURE, Black	(14-21)	JEF 3 reps(10)
VULTURE, Turkey	(4-25)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 5 reps(56)
OSPREY	(18-28)	JEF 4 reps(6)
KITE, White-tailed	(14-20)	JEF 11/14(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/20(1) JFW
EAGLE, Bald	(14-20)	JEF 11/14(1) JAW; JEF 11/18(2) JP; JEF 11/20(4) FTWJ
HARRIER, Northern	(6-28)	JEF 12 reps(77)
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(6-26)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 5 reps(8)
HAWK, Cooper's	(4-21)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(7)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(8-27)	JEF 12 reps(17)
HAWK, Broad-winged	(4-4)	JEF-SW 11/4(1) CC
HAWK, White-tailed	(14-14)	JEF 11/14(1) JAW
HAWK, Red-tailed	(6-28)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 14 reps(210)
HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's)	(13-21)	JEF-TX87 11/13(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/21(1) JAW
EAGLE, Golden	(5-15)	JEF-SW 11/5(1) KH; JEF-SW 11/6(1) KH; JEF 11/8(1) CCKG; JEF-SW 11/15(1) JHH

CARACARA, Crested	(4-21)	JEF-TX87 11/4(2) CC; JEF 11/8(1) CCKG; JEF 11/20(2) FTWJ; JEF 11/21(2) JAW
KESTREL, American	(4-28)	JEF 8 reps(64)
MERLIN	(4-20)	JEF 5 reps(9)
FALCON, Peregrine	(16-16)	JEF-SW 11/16(1) CC
RAIL, Clapper	(13-13)	JEF 1 rep(3)
RAIL, King	(21-21)	JEF-MCFW 11/21(2) JAW
MOORHEN, Common	(20-20)	JEF-MCFW 11/20(3) JFW
COOT, American	(14-20)	JEF 3 reps(200)
CRANE, Sandhill	(14-28)	JEF 11/14(187) JAW; JEF 11/18(50) JP; JEF 11/20(130) FTWJ; JEF 11/25(23) JJW; JEF 11/28(248) JAW
PLOVER, Black-bellied	(13-21)	JEF 3 reps(28)
PLOVER, Snowy	(13-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/13(5) JAW; JEF-MCFW 11/21(2) JAW; JEF-SRSP 11/21(15) JAW
PLOVER, Semipalmated	(21-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/21(4) JAW
PLOVER, Piping	(21-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/21(1) JAW
KILLDEER	(13-28)	JEF 6 reps(123)
STILT, Black-necked	(6-21)	JEF 4 reps(46)
AVOCET, American	(6-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/6(2) FHM; JEF-SRSP 11/20(5) JFW; JEF-SRSP 11/21(61) JAW
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(13-21)	JEF 4 reps(9)
WILLET	(13-21)	JEF 2 reps(35)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(21-21)	JEF-MCFW 11/21(9) JAW
CURLEW, Long-billed	(21-21)	JEF-TX87 11/21(4) JAW
GODWIT, Marbled	(6-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/6(2) FHM; JEF-SRSP 11/13(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 11/21(1) JAW
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	(21-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/21(3) JAW
SANDERLING	(13-21)	JEF 2 reps(86)
SANDPIPER, Western	(13-13)	JEF-SRSP 11/13(8) JAW
SANDPIPER, Least	(14-21)	JEF 2 reps(7)
DUNLIN	(13-21)	JEF 3 reps(208)
DOWITCHER, Short-billed	(21-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/21(2) JAW
DOWITCHER, Long-billed	(14-14)	JEF 11/14(29) JAW
DOWITCHER species	(21-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/21(20) JAW
SNIPE, Wilson's	(20-20)	JEF 11/20(2) FTWJ
GULL, Laughing	(13-28)	JEF 5 reps(1139)
GULL, Ring-billed	(13-21)	JEF 3 reps(230)
GULL, Herring	(13-21)	JEF 3 reps(45)
TERN, Caspian	(20-21)	JEF 2 reps(6)
TERN, Forster's	(20-25)	JEF 3 reps(44)
TERN, Royal	(13-21)	JEF 3 reps(321)
TERN, Sandwich	(21-21)	JEF-SRSP 11/21(1) JAW
PIGEON, Rock	(13-28)	JEF 4 reps(212)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(7-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(37)
DOVE, White-winged	(13-29)	HAI 2 reps(24); JEF 3 reps(7)
DOVE, Mourning	(4-28)	HAI 2 reps(22); JEF 6 reps(338)
OWL, Barn	(4-21)	JEF-SW 11/4(2) CC; JEF-SW 11/6(1) HE; JEF-TXPT 11/6(2) FHM; JEF-SW 11/7(5) CC; JEF-SW 11/8(5) JAW; JEF-SW 11/13(5) JAW; JEF-SW 11/16(2) CC; JEF-SW 11/21(5) JAW
OWL, Great Horned	(6-29)	JEF-SW 11/6(2) HE; JEF-TX87 11/7(2) CC; JEF-TX87 11/20(1) JFW; JEF-BMT 11/29(1) RHJ
OWL, Short-eared	(6-8)	JEF-SW 11/6(3) HE; JEF-SW 11/7(1) CC; JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW

NIGHTHAWK, Common	(8-8)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-	(7-21)	JEF-SW 11/7(1) CC; JEF-TX87 11/7(1) CC; JEF-SW 11/21(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied	(29-29)	JEF-BMT 11/29(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.	(29-29)	JEF-BMT 11/29(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD, Anna's	(20-20)	HAI 11/20(1) JM
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed	(21-29)	JEF-BMT 11/21(1) RHJ;
		JEF-BMT 11/29(1) RHJ
HUMMINGBIRD species	(1-30)	JEF 13 reps(14)
KINGFISHER, Belted	(13-28)	JEF 7 reps(20)
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(7-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3 reps(6)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	(1-21)	JEF 2 reps(2)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 9 reps(11)
FLICKER, Northern	(1-28)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 2 reps(3)
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(2-15)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 1 rep(1)
PHOEBE, Eastern	(7-28)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 6
		reps(40)
KINGBIRD, Western	(17-17)	JEF-SW 11/17(1) HD
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(13-28)	JEF 7 reps(75)
JAY, Blue	(21-21)	JEF-SW 11/21(3) JAW
CROW, American	(12-20)	HAI-SILS 11/12(1) MG; HAI-SILS 11/18(1) MG; JEF 11/20(4) FTWJ
CROW, species	(14-24)	JEF 11/14(9) JAW
SWALLOW, Tree	(13-28)	JEF 8 reps(640)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-28)	HAI 8 reps(24); JEF 3
		reps(4)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(1-26)	HAI 7 reps(14)
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	(6-6)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM
CREEPER, Brown	(6-14)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM;
		JEF-SW 11/7(1) CC; JEF 11/14(1) JAW
WREN, Carolina	(2-27)	HAI 8 reps(17); JEF 1 rep(1)
WREN, House	(21-21)	JEF-SW 11/21(4) JAW
WREN, Sedge	(6-20)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM;
		JEF-SW 11/7(1) CC; JEF 11/20(5) FTWJ
WREN, Marsh	(6-6)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM
KINGLET, Golden-crowned	(4-21)	JEF-SW 11/4(10) CC; JEF-TXPT 11/6(5) FHM; JEF-SW 11/13(10) JAW; JEF-SW 11/16(15) CC; JEF-SW 11/21(15) JAW
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(8-28)	HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 5
		reps(22)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(13-21)	JEF 4 reps(14)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(14-14)	JEF 11/14(1) JAW
THRUSH, Hermit	(6-21)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(3) FHM;
		JEF 11/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/21(1) JAW
ROBIN, American	(8-28)	HAI 1 rep(50); JEF 3 reps(8)
CATBIRD, Gray	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(3)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(12-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(43)
THRASHER, Brown	(1-28)	HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 3 reps(5)
STARLING, European	(7-28)	HAI 1 rep(50); JEF 6
		reps(1045)
PIBIT, American	(14-20)	JEF 2 reps(31)
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	(12-29)	HAI 8 reps(8); JEF 2 reps(3)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(4-28)	HAI 5 reps(10); JEF 3
		reps(65)
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(16-16)	JEF-SW 11/16(1) CC
WARBLER, Pine	(12-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(5)
WARBLER, Prairie	(8-8)	JEF 11/8(1) KSA
WARBLER, Palm	(4-21)	JEF-SW 11/4(5) CC; JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM; JEF-SW 11/16(20) CC; JEF-SW 11/21(5) JAW
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(21-21)	JEF-SW 11/21(1) JAW
TOWHEE, Eastern	(6-16)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(4) FHM;
		JEF-SW 11/16(1) CC
SPARROW, Chipping	(1-28)	HAI 13 reps(72); JEF 1
		rep(50)
SPARROW, Field	(6-20)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM;
		JEF 11/20(5) FTWJ
SPARROW, Field	(6-20)	JEF 2 reps(6)
SPARROW, Savannah	(13-28)	JEF 5 reps(126)
SPARROW, Nelson's	(6-6)	JEF 1 rep(5)
SPARROW, Song	(6-21)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM;
		JEF 11/20(3) FTWJ; JEF-SW 11/21(1) JAW
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(6-21)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM;
		JEF 11/20(1) FTWJ; JEF-SW 11/21(2) JAW
SPARROW, Swamp	(13-21)	JEF 4 reps(10)

SPARROW, White-throated	(2-29)	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 22
		reps(73)
SPARROW, White-crowned	(6-20)	JEF-TXPT 11/6(1) FHM;
		JEF 11/8(2) CCKG; JEF 11/20(8) FTWJ
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(4-4)	JEF-SW 11/4(4) CC
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-28)	HAI 11 reps(180); JEF 2
		reps(4)
BUNTING, Indigo	(16-21)	JEF-SW 11/16(1) CC; JEF-SW 11/21(2) JAW
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(13-28)	JEF 7 reps(734)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(14-20)	JEF 11/14(9) JAW; JEF 11/20(6) FTWJ
MEADOWLARK species	(14-28)	JEF 4 reps(38)
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	(20-20)	JEF 11/20(50) FTWJ
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(13-21)	JEF 2 reps(105)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(13-28)	JEF 6 reps(307)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed	(13-13)	JEF-TX87 11/13(2) JAW
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(14-28)	JEF 4 reps(940)
FINCH, House	(8-29)	JEF 11 reps(55)
GOLDFINCH, American	(15-28)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 4
		reps(11)
SPARROW, House	(11-28)	HAI 1 rep(150); JEF 3
		reps(37)
Number of Species		157
Number of Individuals		41214

County Abbreviations:

HAI—Hardin; JEF—Jefferson; ORA—Orange.

Location Codes:

BMT—Beaumont; GROV—Groves; MCFW—McFaddin NWR; NEDR—Nederland; ORG—Orange; PI—Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; 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:

CC—Cody Conway; CCKG—Cody Conway and Katy Gifford; CSL—Christine Sliva; FHM—Terry Ferguson, John Haynes, Steve Mayes; FTWJ—Field Trip to West Jefferson County; HD—Howard Davis; HE—Harry Elliott; JAW—John Whittle; JFW—Jana Whittle; JHH—John H. Haynes; JJW—John and Jana Whittle; JM—John Mariani; JP—John Park; KH—Keith Hansen; KSA—Kelley Sampeck; MG—Melanie Goetsell; RHJ—Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SR—Sherrie Roden.

Sabine Woods Work Day Report 4 December 2010

We had a good work day at Sabine Woods on December 4. I want, on behalf of Golden Triangle Audubon and Texas Ornithological Society, to most sincerely thank each and every one of the 15 volunteers who helped plant over 80 willow trees in Sabine Woods. Special thanks are due to the Andings for propagating the more than 80 willow trees that we planted. As you all know, the salt water in the storm surge of Hurricane Ike killed all the then existing willow trees in the ponds. The vegetation in the ponds earlier this year included significant quantities of duck weed, which I believe is very salt intolerant, so we are reasonably sure the salt has all been removed. Even a somewhat below normal winter rainfall should keep enough water in the ponds to keep the new willows adequately wet.

We have now completed the major tasks in our immediate Ike recovery plan. There are some areas in the woods where there are large open areas. We will be reviewing these areas in 2011 to determine if they will fill in naturally with desirable trees.

The volunteers were Kitty and Jim Anding, Howard Davis, Terry Ferguson, Bill Graber, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Karen McCormick, Phil and Zia Rogers, Debbie Valdez and Jana Whittle. *John A. Whittle*

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

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Brown Pelican

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To subscribe to the Brown Pelican, please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year. Members with addresses within our official territory are asked to contribute \$15 also if they are able.

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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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Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

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