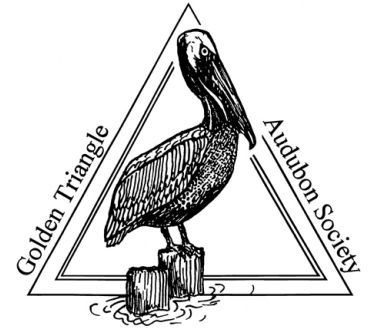


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 17 No. 5

May 2011

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7:00 PM**  
**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**  
**"City of Beaumont's Constructed Wetlands**  
**for Wastewater Treatment"**  
**Karin K. Warren**

Karin K. Warren is the Water Quality Control Manager for the City of Beaumont Water Utilities Quality Control Division. Karin started her work with the City in the wastewater laboratory 20 years ago. Karin now oversees the pretreatment program, cross connection prevention program, and the water and wastewater laboratories as well as performs internal audits of the other Divisions. Karin has a B.S. in Environmental Science from Lamar University and holds a TCEQ Class A Wastewater license.

The presentation will be on the City of Beaumont's Constructed Wetlands for wastewater treatment. The constructed wetlands came online in 1993 as a final polishing of the current treated wastewater discharge. Utilizing a wetland system for treatment presents challenges and benefits that will be discussed.

We plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. with refreshments available shortly thereafter and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

## **Sabine Woods Work Day - Saturday May 7, 2011 et seq**

We realize that this issue of the *Brown Pelican* is unlikely to reach you before this work day, but we wanted to let you know what we plan to do then and in the immediate future. It has been so dry this spring that growth has been limited, and most of the trails have been so well used that there is little vegetation on them. We had hoped that nature would take care of watering the oaks that were planted a little over a year ago, but that was not to be. The rain on May 2 was helpful, but not nearly enough, and probably the most important task needed is watering these and the other recently planted trees. If we do not get significant rains over the next two or three months, we will have to water not only on the May 7 work day, but periodically thereafter. During the hot summer months, we would like to be able to call on volunteers to form crews to move the hoses, so that no one person has to work too long at a stretch. Please contact John Whittle at 409-722-4193 (or email [johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com)) or Gary Kelley at 409-679-1616 (or [gaymke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gaymke@sbcglobal.net)) to volunteer to be added to the pool.

# The Brown Pelican

Vol. 17, No.5 May 2011  
Issue number 174

## Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://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, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday May 7. Sabine Woods Work Day.** We will start at 7:00 a.m. and typically will work until about noon. Unless the rain gods smile on us soon, the most important task on this workday will be to water the young trees. Despite the lack of rain there has been some growth that will need to be trimmed!

**Saturday May 14. North American Spring Migration Count.** Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. This is again the day before Mother's Day! We try to cover all of Jefferson County. Even if you can only help for part of the day, it will be very much appreciated. The early morning hours are by far the best for detecting birds.

**Thursday May 19. Membership Meeting.** Details on page 1.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments in April: Merri and Steve Dillinger, Terry Ferguson, Laura Lee Graber, Pat and Don Jeane, Sherrie Roden, Phil Rogers, Christine Sliva and Gail Slocum **We need volunteers to bring items for the May 2011 meeting.** 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 contact Jennifer Armacost at [armacostj@yahoo.com](mailto:armacostj@yahoo.com) or (409) 790-7222 or **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

**Saturday June 4. Field Trip to Hardin County:** We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Pine, Prairie and Swainson's Warblers (and possibly Prothonotary Warbler), Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer

Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. Some of these species are easier to see on the breeding grounds than on migration. For others the reverse is true. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target of this trip. We have often been rewarded with excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. Yellow-breasted Chats, notorious skulkers in migration, have often been seen perched high up in the open. We have even seen Roadrunners on this trip, and three years ago year, a singing Eastern Towhee was completely unexpected.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US96 north. Take Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right a short distance after crossing the railroad, continue straight ahead on FM92 for about a mile to the shopping center. We will bird the Firetower Road/Gore Store Road Camp Waluta area and any nearby areas that are brought to our attention as being productive. Many areas along Firetower Road were clear cut two or three years ago, and while this has undoubtedly reduced the diversity of species, it has created much habitat that should be very attractive to Prairie Warblers. However, we will likely spend much of our time in the northern section of Firetower Road, and along Gore Store Road between Firetower Road and the Beech Creek bridge. We will probably finish about noon. We normally stay well east of the area of Gore Store Road that burned recently.



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](http://www.earthshare-texas.org)

# April Meeting Report

At our April meeting, Lynn Barber presented an interesting talk on "Extreme Birding," expanding on some of her experiences during her Big Years (Texas and then an American Birding Association (ABA) area one) that are described in her recently published book of the same title. She first explained that the initial working title for the book was "Passionate Birding" but her editor prevailed upon her to use "Extreme" instead. Lynn is a native of Wisconsin, has a Ph.D. in bacteriology, and a law degree from Duke University. She is a past president of Ft. Worth Audubon, a member of the ABA board, and the outgoing president of the Texas Ornithological Society. After describing the goals of a "Big Year," she noted that there were four categories under the "Extreme Birding" classification: going to remote places, pelagic trips, Attu, and foreign travel.

She first described how she waited in the rain from before dawn until 4:30 p.m. to see the Roadside Hawk in the Rio Grande Valley. But owls are clearly one of her favorites, and she described the difficulties she had in finding a Spotted Owl during her big year. She climbed five mountain canyons in Arizona and did not find one. The birds had been seen in Miller Canyon for 12 straight days, and then were not seen for two days. Just after she essentially gave up, she learned that they were being seen again, and she rushed back and found two adults and two babies.

She described a friendly competition between Ft Worth and Dallas County Audubon to see which could amass the greatest number of species in a single day, but lamented that Dallas, which has much more accessible shorebird habitat, always seemed to win by one or two species.

During her Texas Big Year in 2005, she went to Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge and saw a Eurasian Wigeon – easy to find on the west coast in winter but very difficult to find in Texas – only to be told by Mark Lockwood, secretary of the Texas Bird Records Committee that it was suspected on being a hybrid American/Eurasian Wigeon, and thus not "countable" as either species. However, the eventual decision was that it was, in fact, a "pure" Eurasian Wigeon.

She participated in the Great Texas Birding Classic, and noted one of the aspects she like most was deciding where to award the \$10,000 grant for conservation.

During her Texas Big Year, she drove 90,000 miles in two cars. Seeing Crimson-collared Grosbeak was her highlight for the year, and one of her pictures of the bird was published. She was driving with a friend on the Bolivar Peninsula when her friend asked her to turn around, and they found a King Eider on a rock. She had difficulties finding Spotted Owl in the Guadalupe Mountains, but eventually was able to find one of the estimated 50 pairs in the National Park on the Devil's Hall trail. To find one bird, the Snow Bunting, she left her

house at 3 a.m. on Christmas Day to drive to South Padre Island. There was no one on the beach when she arrived, but finally she saw someone looking through binoculars, and got the bird. The bird that put her over the top on her Texas Big Year was a Flamingo at Goose Island State Park.

During her ABA Big Year, she found herself traveling back and forth across the country, from Minnesota to North Carolina, New Jersey, Long Island, Oregon and, of course, Texas. On one trip in January she drove to California for the Morro Bay Birding Festival, birding in New Mexico and Arizona on the way, and took her first pelagic trip of the year. On the way in El Paso, there was a park where people had told her of a tree with 12 to 15 Long-eared Owls. She found the tree and lots of feathers, but no owls. She heard chips and started looking for other birds when suddenly the owls flew up from a ravine and then settled back down. She stopped at Rocky Mountain Park and got the Aztec Thrush, which was a lifer for her. However, she failed to find a Crescent-chested Warbler. She didn't find a Rufous-backed Robin in Catalina State park on the way out, but after waiting a couple of hours on the way back, it appeared. She found all three species of Rosy-Finch at Sandia Crest in New Mexico.

The ABA area is the continental US, Canada and Alaska. Because Alaska is close to Asia, there are many birds that are not found elsewhere in the ABA area. She spent a total of six and one-half weeks in Alaska. Attu in the western Aleutians is as near Asia as you can go and still be in the US, but Adak is as close as one can normally get to Attu nowadays. She flew to Adak and took a very small boat – four people—and suddenly they were surrounded by two or three thousand Whiskered Auklets, a sight she described as spectacular. The trip to see the Gray-headed Chickadee was the most expensive bird to find, because it is only in the North Slope of Alaska and in parts of the Yukon. She had to take a rafting trip on the Canning River, and after running the rapids, they would pull the rafts onshore and tramp off into the brush to find area where something makes holes in the willow trees that the birds use to nest. They found adults coming and going feeding young.

She drove all the way to St. Louis to find a Eurasian Tree Sparrow, and had great difficulty in so doing, as they were not in the places where they normally could be found.

Overall on the ABA big year she visited half the states in the US and several Canadian provinces, including a December trip to Newfoundland, in what she described as a very scenic trip to see the Yellow-legged Gull and the Iceland Gull.

For more information or to buy her book, go to Lynn's website at [www.LynnBarber.com](http://www.LynnBarber.com)

*Jana Whittle*

# Bird Sightings – March 2011

**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:** Not very much to comment upon this month. The end of March did bring a couple of days with good numbers of migrants, but as is noted in the Field Trip Report, early April did not provide much good birding. Otherwise, hummingbirds continued to put on a good show, and raptors were plentiful. Swallow-tailed Kites returned early to the area, and the FM105 Eagles nested again. Noteworthy were two Bullock's Orioles found in Tyrrell Park. This was not the first winter this has happened.

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.</b>	(6-31)	JEF 6 reps(228)	
<b>GOOSE, White-fronted</b>	(5-5)	JEF 3/5(200) CSL	
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	(5-13)	JEF 2 reps(338)	
<b>DUCK, Wood</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(2) JAW	
<b>GADWALL</b>	(5-14)	JEF 3 reps(248)	
<b>WIGEON, American</b>	(5-14)	JEF-TX87 3/5(4) JAW; JEF 3/13(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/14(1) JHW	
<b>MALLARD</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(9) JAW	
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(5-13)	JEF 2 reps(8)	
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	(5-31)	JEF 5 reps(341)	
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	(5-13)	JEF 3 reps(259)	
<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(4) JAW	
<b>TEAL, Green-winged</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(500) JAW	
<b>BUFFLEHEAD</b>	(6-7)	JEF-PI 3/6(1) WFRS; JEF-PI 3/7(1) CC	
<b>MERGANSER, Red-breasted</b>	(14-14)	JEF-TX87 3/14(2) JHW	
<b>LOON, Common</b>	(6-15)	JEF-PI 3/6(12) WFRS; JEF-PI 3/7(8) CC; JEF-PI 3/15(3) JAW	
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	(5-26)	JEF 7 reps(13)	
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(5-26)	JEF 4 reps(11)	
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(5-26)	JEF 6 reps(64)	
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crest.</b>	(5-26)	JEF 6 reps(43)	
<b>CORMORANT, Species</b>	(9-23)	JEF 3 reps(14)	
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(5-21)	JEF 4 reps(18)	
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(5-24)	JEF 9 reps(99)	
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(5-26)	JEF 8 reps(69)	
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(5-26)	JEF 6 reps(39)	
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(14-26)	JEF 2 reps(4)	
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(19-31)	JEF 6 reps(201)	
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(13-22)	JEF 3 reps(6)	
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.</b>	(5-14)	JEF 3 reps(8)	
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(5-26)	JEF 6 reps(821)	
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(6-22)	JEF 3 reps(112)	
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(6) FRW	
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(11-26)	ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(4)	
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(3-26)	ANG 1 rep(2); HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 11 reps(60)	
<b>OSPREY</b>	(6-21)	JEF-PI 3/6(1) WFRS; JEF-TX87 3/9(1) JAW; JEF 3/21(1) JAW	
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b>	(19-31)	HAI-BTNB 3/20(1) DMW; ORA 3/19 thru 3/31(2) CHA	
<b>EAGLE, Bald</b>	(1-1)	ORA 3/1(3) SR	
<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	(5-31)	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(35)	
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(6-28)	JEF 7 reps(7)	
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(9-27)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 5 reps(5)	
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(20-27)	HAI-SILS 3/20(3) DMW; JEF-BMT 3/27(1) RHJ	
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	(27-27)	JEF 3/27(1) CSL	
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(3-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 15 reps(87)	
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's)</b>	(10-31)	JEF-NEDR 3/10(1) JJW; JEF-TX87 3/31(1) CC	
<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	(5-31)	JEF 3/5(5) CSL; JEF-TX87 3/15(1) SK; JEF-TX87 3/26(1) FRW; JEF-TX87 3/31(1) CC	
<b>KESTREL, American</b>	(5-23)	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(27)	
<b>MERLIN</b>	(5-29)	JEF-TX87 3/5(1) JAW; JEF-PI 3/6(1) WFRS; JEF-TX87 3/29(1) CK	
<b>FALCON, Peregrine</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(1) JAW	
<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(6-6)	JEF-PI 3/6(1) WFRS	
<b>RAIL, King</b>	(26-29)	JEF-MCFW 3/26(1) FRW; JEF-MCFW 3/29(3) CK	
<b>COOT, American</b>	(5-24)	JEF 5 reps(159)	
<b>CRANE, Sandhill</b>	(1-1)	JEF 3/1(20) CSL	
<b>PLOVER, Black-bellied</b>	(5-26)	JEF 5 reps(37)	
<b>GOLDEN-PLOVER, Amer.</b>	(11-13)	ANG 3/11(4) LDSL; JEF 3/13(19) JAW	
<b>PLOVER, Wilson's</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(30) FRW	
<b>PLOVER, Piping</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(30) FRW	
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(5-31)	JEF 7 reps(58)	
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(5-26)	JEF 6 reps(21)	
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(6-23)	JEF-PI 3/6(6) WFRS; JEF-TXPT 3/23(1) JFW	
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	(5-21)	JEF 4 reps(116)	
<b>WILLET</b>	(6-31)	JEF 5 reps(23)	
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(6-13)	JEF 2 reps(35)	
<b>YELLOWLEGS species</b>	(9-26)	JEF 2 reps(16)	
<b>CURLEW, Long-billed</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(62) JAW	
<b>GODWIT, Marbled</b>	(15-26)	JEF-TX87 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/26(1) FRW	
<b>TURNSTONE, Ruddy</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(10) FRW	
<b>SANDERLING</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(80) FRW	
<b>SANDPIPER, Western</b>	(13-26)	JEF 2 reps(10)	
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(5) JAW	
<b>SANDPIPER, Pectoral</b>	(11-13)	ANG 3/11(4) LDSL; JEF 3/13(200) JAW	
<b>DUNLIN</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(150) FRW	
<b>SANDPIPER, Stilt</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(5) JAW	
<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(300) JAW	
<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	(5-26)	JEF 3 reps(307)	
<b>SNIFE, Wilson's</b>	(6-11)	ANG 3/11(1) LDSL; JEF-PI 3/6(10) WFRS	
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(1-26)	JEF 10 reps(168)	
<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	(5-26)	JEF 6 reps(1062)	
<b>GULL, Herring</b>	(5-26)	JEF 3 reps(20)	
<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(5) JAW	
<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(3) FRW	
<b>TERN, Black</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(2) FRW	
<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(5-26)	JEF 3 reps(55)	
<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(6-26)	JEF 3 reps(57)	
<b>TERN, Sandwich</b>	(26-26)	JEF-SRSP 3/26(20) FRW	
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(6-31)	JEF 6 reps(78)	
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	(9-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 6 reps(14)	
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(1-31)	HAI 3 reps(6); JEF 37 reps(178)	
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(1-31)	HAI 7 reps(60); JEF 22 reps(77)	
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(6-31)	JEF 12 reps(22)	
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(17-31)	JEF-BMT 3/17(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/29(1) CK; JEF-SW 3/30(2) CC; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JAW	
<b>OWL, Barred</b>	(30-30)	HAI-SILS 3/30(2) MG	

<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	(26-31)	JEF-BMT 3/26(10) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/28(10) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/30(2) CC; JEF-NEDR 3/31(4) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(2) JFW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied</b>	(1-20)	JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JFW; JEF-BMT 3/3(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/5(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/7(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/7(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/8(1) JJW; JEF-BMT 3/9(1) RHJ; JEF- BMT 3/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/12(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/20(1) JAW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b>	(4-31)	HAI 7 reps(14); JEF 38 reps(70)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.</b>	(1-22)	JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/8 (1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/10(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/11(1) JFW; JEF- NEDR 3/14(1) JFW; JEF-NEDR 3/15(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/22(1) JFW
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed</b>	(7-20)	HAI-SILS 3/20(1) DMW; JEF-BMT 3/7(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/11(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/12(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/13(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/14(1) RHJ
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous</b>	(1-18)	HAI 3/12(1) JM; HAI 3/18(1) JM; JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JFW; JEF-BMT 3/3(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/8(1) RHJ
<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b>	(5-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(14)
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-headed</b>	(2-28)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- SW 3/28(1) JHHD
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bellied</b>	(2-31)	HAI 14 reps(26); JEF 10 reps(11)
<b>SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied</b>	(2-9)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- SW 3/9(2) JAW
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(2-31)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 27 reps(48)
<b>WOODPECKER, Hairy</b>	(2-2)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(2-17)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- TP 3/15(4) KS; JEF-TP 3/17(1) JAW
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(2-17)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(5)
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(2-27)	HAI 9 reps(12); JEF 9 reps(9)
<b>PHOEBE, Eastern</b>	(5-22)	JEF 7 reps(15)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/31(2) JHH
<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b>	(22-31)	JEF 4 reps(17)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed</b>	(30-30)	JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(5-31)	ANG 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(44)
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	(14-31)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 10 reps(38)
<b>VIREO, Yellow-throated</b>	(2-31)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- SW 3/20(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/31(3) CC; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH
<b>VIREO, Blue-headed</b>	(9-31)	JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/12(1) SWWD; JEF-SW 3/14(1) JHW; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(3) JHH
<b>VIREO, Red-eyed</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(8) JAW; JEF- SW 3/31(7) JHH
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(2-31)	HAI 5 reps(11); JEF 10 reps(18)
<b>CROW, American</b>	(23-31)	HAI 2 reps(5)
<b>CROW, Fish</b>	(31-31)	JEF 3/31(2) CSL
<b>CROW, species</b>	(13-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(8)
<b>MARTIN, Purple</b>	(5-28)	JEF 9 reps(54)
<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	(1-30)	JEF 15 reps(5234)
<b>SWALLOW, N Rough-winged</b>	(5-14)	JEF-SW 3/5(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/14(50) JHW
<b>SWALLOW, Cliff</b>	(26-26)	HAI 3/26(1) CSL
<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	(6-21)	ANG 1 rep(7); JEF 6 reps(35)
<b>SWALLOW species</b>	(13-13)	JEF 1 rep(2)
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(11); JEF 9 reps(14)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(2-31)	HAI 8 reps(15)
<b>CREEPER, Brown</b>	(2-28)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- SW 3/28(1) JHHD
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(2-31)	HAI 10 reps(21); JEF 6 reps(9)
<b>WREN, House</b>	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(10)
<b>WREN, Sedge</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(5) JAW
<b>KINGLET, Golden-crowned</b>	(5-17)	JEF-SW 3/5(3) JAW; JEF- SW 3/9(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/12(4) SWWD; JEF-SW 3/14(6) JHW; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/17(3) JAW
<b>KINGLET, Ruby-crowned</b>	(5-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(69)
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(14-31)	JEF 7 reps(77)
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(2-31)	HAI 6 reps(15); JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>THRUSH, Hermit</b>	(2-15)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- SW 3/14(1) JHW; JEF-SW 3/15(1) JAW
<b>THRUSH, Wood</b>	(2-31)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) DMW; JEF- SW 3/31(1) JHH
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(5-31)	JEF 20 reps(87)
<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(14-29)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 5 reps(5)
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(5-31)	ANG 1 rep(4); HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 15 reps(103)
<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(2-31)	HAI 12 reps(14); JEF 22 reps(46)
<b>STARLING, European</b>	(5-31)	ANG 1 rep(25); HAI 2 reps(42); JEF 15 reps(638)
<b>PIPIT, American</b>	(11-11)	ANG 3/11(10) LDSL
<b>WAXWING, Cedar</b>	(2-30)	HAI 5 reps(166); JEF 3 reps(45)
<b>WARBLER, Blue-winged</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF- SW 3/31(1) CC; JEF-SW 3/31(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(4) JHH
<b>WARBLER, Tennessee</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) CC; JEF- SW 3/31(1) CC
<b>WARBLER, Orange-crowned</b>	(5-31)	JEF 15 reps(31)
<b>WARBLER, Nashville</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) CC; JEF- SW 3/31(1) JHH
<b>PARULA, Northern</b>	(6-31)	HAI 2 reps(11); JEF 15 reps(53)
<b>WARBLER, Yellow-rumped</b>	(2-31)	HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 24 reps(269)
<b>WARBLER, Y-r (Audubon's)</b>	(15-30)	JEF-TP 3/15(1) KSA; JEF- SW 3/30(1) CC; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH
<b>WARBLER, Yellow-throated</b>	(5-31)	HAI-BTNB 3/20(1) DMW; JEF-SW 3/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/6(2) SM; JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-TP 3/15(1) KSA; JEF-SW 3/29(1) CK; JEF-SW 3/30(1) CC; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(1) CC; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(3) JHH; ORA 3/12(1) JM
<b>WARBLER, Pine</b>	(1-29)	JEF 14 reps(15)
<b>WARBLER, Palm</b>	(6-31)	JEF 10 reps(34)
<b>WARBLER, Black-and-white</b>	(9-31)	JEF 11 reps(73)
<b>WARBLER, Prothonotary</b>	(20-31)	HAI-BTNB 3/20(1) DMW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(1) CC
<b>WARBLER, Worm-eating</b>	(30-31)	JEF 5 reps(32)
<b>WATERTHRUSH, Northern</b>	(29-31)	JEF 5 reps(5)
<b>WATERTHRUSH, Louis.</b>	(11-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(15)
<b>WATERTHRUSH, La.N.</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) JAW
<b>WARBLER, Kentucky</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH
<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	(6-31)	JEF 12 reps(20)
<b>WARBLER, Hooded</b>	(11-31)	JEF 9 reps(74)
<b>TOWHEE, Eastern</b>	(5-31)	JEF 12 reps(21)
<b>SPARROW, Chipping</b>	(2-31)	HAI 20 reps(722); JEF 9 reps(30)
<b>SPARROW, Lark</b>	(11-11)	ANG 3/11(2) LDSL
<b>SPARROW, Lark</b>	(11-11)	ANG 1 rep(2)
<b>SPARROW, Savannah</b>	(5-31)	JEF 11 reps(95)
<b>SPARROW, Song</b>	(5-31)	JEF 8 reps(16)
<b>SPARROW, Lincoln's</b>	(5-31)	JEF 5 reps(6)
<b>SPARROW, Swamp</b>	(5-31)	JEF 10 reps(60)
<b>SPARROW, White-throated</b>	(2-31)	HAI 20 reps(64); JEF 36 reps(226)
<b>JUNCO, Dark-eyed</b>	(15-15)	HAI-SILS 3/15(1) SG
<b>TANAGER, Summer</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) JAW
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 22 reps(792); JEF 18 reps(35)
<b>BUNTING, Indigo</b>	(14-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(27)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(5-31)	ANG 1 rep(10); HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 14 reps(574)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	(5-21)	ANG 3/11(15) LDSL; JEF- MCFW 3/5(2) JAW; JEF 3/13(13) JAW; JEF 3/21(2) JAW
<b>MEADOWLARK species</b>	(6-21)	JEF 2 reps(8)
<b>BLACKBIRD, Rusty</b>	(9-11)	ANG 3/11(6) LDSL; JEF-SW 3/9(1 uncfmd) JAW

continued on page 7

## Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 16 April 2011

Migration is always a hit or miss prospect. Get the right weather (north winds, rain) and you get lots of birds (usually). Get the wrong weather (strong south winds) and you get few birds. Golden Triangle Audubon Society April trips to Sabine Woods have seen both the very highs and extreme lows associated with the vagaries of the weather. Last year's trip had the "wrong" weather and produced a very slow birding day. But this year would be very different!

The spring of 2011 has been a strange one. There has always been a tendency for strong south winds to be the norm during the spring. This is why spring migration in birds has evolved the way it has – the south winds provide a strong tailwind to fly across the Gulf of Mexico. But normally these days of south winds are punctuated with numerous calm days and several cold fronts providing north winds. Not so this year! A steady roaring south wind has been the companion for upper Texas coast birders this season. Only a few fronts have made it through to the coast and those have been mostly dry. There have been almost no calm days; it was either high south winds or north wind associated with a front. None of the area birders can remember a spring quite like this but at least all the south winds are good for the birds! Luckily, the field trip day coincided with the north winds from a front that passed about a day before and all of the birders were anticipating a big day and they would not be disappointed.

Good birds of many different species were evident right from the beginning. Yellow-billed Cuckoos lurked quietly in the trees while Eastern Wood-Pewees called and zipped after insects to make themselves obvious. Veery, Swainson's Thrush and Wood Thrush were all located on the day as they hopped about in the underbrush. Gray Catbirds were present in good (but not huge) numbers while Brown Thrashers lurked deeper in the bushes. Lingered Ruby-crowned Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were seen by the group as was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

Many of the other birds we associate with spring migration were also noted on the day. Indigo Buntings were easily seen and Blue Grosbeaks were also obvious. Brilliant, multi-colored Painted Buntings were spotted numerous times on the day. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks munched on mulberries along with numerous Baltimore Orioles. Orchard Orioles were present in good numbers as they will be for the rest of the summer and a few brilliant Summer Tanagers were spotted as well. Acadian Flycatcher was the only "empid" seen on the day, as most of this confusing group of flycatchers migrates a little later. Great Crested Flycatchers made plenty of "weep" calls and gave good showings. Vireos were also present on some numbers, Warbling being the most common but Philadelphia, White-eyed and Yellow-throated were seen as well.

There was a bit of a southwestern theme on the day as well. Though there were no super rarities seen at Sabine Woods on this day some species scarce in Jefferson County were seen. A Western Kingbird was noted among the much more numerous Eastern Kingbirds. At least two Nashville Warblers were present and gave some good looks. On a perhaps less encouraging note, at least one and possibly more

Bronzed Cowbirds showed off for the some of the group. These birds were formerly confined to south Texas but have been spreading up the coast. Unfortunately, they are nest parasites (laying their eggs in the nest of other birds) like their Brown-headed cousins and I'm sure our songbirds do not welcome their presence!

But warblers are the main focus of a spring Sabine Woods trip and they put on quite a show! Over twenty species of these little woodland gems were located on the day providing the best day of the spring so far. Lingered Yellow-rumped and Palm Warblers were still around, having stayed at the woods all winter. Black-and-white Warblers crept along tree branches along with a similarly behaving (but very different looking) Yellow-throated Warbler. An American Redstart flitted about actively in search of insects while Worm-eating Warblers deliberately poked through groups of dead leaves. Overbirds walked quietly through the understory while a Northern Waterthrush was noisier feeding near the water. Bold Hooded Warblers were easy to locate as they flashed their white outer tail feather throughout the woods while a female Cerulean Warbler made it a bit tougher. Blue-winged Warblers were numerous while a beautiful Golden-winged Warbler was a bit tougher to observe but still well seen. Kentucky Warblers were shy but gave a few good looks, more than the Yellow-breasted Chats did anyway!

Two species of warbler, normally hard to find in the spring gave good looks on the day. Canada Warblers are normally late migrants and quite scarce on the coast in spring. They are usually not expected until late April and then only in small numbers. It was quite a pleasant surprise to find at least three cooperative Canada Warblers at Sabine Woods on the day of the trip but one that the birders were happy to experience. Swainson's Warblers are probably fairly common during spring migration but are so shy, sticking to the ground in dense underbrush, that they are rarely seen. Several Swainson's Warblers were seen on this trip with one bird in particular being very cooperative (for a Swainson's anyway)! At least one of these birds stuck to the same little patch underneath an oak tree surrounded by underbrush for much of the day. Many birders, with patience, got great looks at the little warbler as it fed in the leaf litter under the oak. A special moment for any birder who experienced it!

With all of this plus species like Prairie Warbler, Merlin, Blackburnian Warbler (a wow bird if there ever was one) being seen by the group on the day, all would agree it was one of the best April field trips in memory. It just shows that, with the right conditions, very special days like this one are fairly reliable. We can all only hope that next year's trip has equally good luck with the weather and the birds!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Tricolored Heron (4), Green Heron (3), Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1), Black Vulture (2), Turkey Vulture (2), Swainson's Hawk (1), Merlin (1), Killdeer (1), White-winged Dove (4), Mourning Dove (1), Inca Dove (2), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (2), Chimney Swift (2), Ruby-throated Hummingbird

(2), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Downy Woodpecker (3), Eastern Wood-Pewee (8), Acadian Flycatcher (4), Great Crested Flycatcher (2), Western Kingbird (1), Eastern Kingbird (8), Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1), White-eyed Vireo (6), Yellow-throated Vireo (1), Warbling Vireo (20), Philadelphia Vireo (1), Red-eyed Vireo (1), Blue Jay (6), Fish Crow (1), Tree Swallow (15), Carolina Chickadee (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (5), Veery (1), Swainson's Thrush (6), Wood Thrush (2), American Robin (1), Gray Catbird (10), Northern Mockingbird (3), Brown Thrasher (2), Blue-winged Warbler (15), Golden-winged Warbler (1), Tennessee Warbler (5), Nashville Warbler (2), Northern Parula (8), Yellow Warbler (2), Yellow-rumped Warbler (6), Black-throated Green Warbler (2), Blackburnian Warbler (3), Yellow-throated Warbler (1), Prairie Warbler (2), Palm Warbler (5), Cerulean Warbler (1), Black and White Warbler (12), American Redstart (1), Worm-eating Warbler (10), Swainson's Warbler (3), Ovenbird (4), Northern Waterthrush (1), Kentucky Warbler (6), Common Yellowthroat (8), Hooded Warbler (25), Canada Warbler (3), Yellow-breasted Chat (2), Lincoln's Sparrow (1), Savannah Sparrow (2), Swamp Sparrow (2), White-throated Sparrow (10), White-crowned Sparrow (1), Summer Tanager (5), Northern Cardinal (1), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3), Blue Grosbeak (10), Indigo Bunting (20), Painted Bunting (6), Red-winged Blackbird (20), Bronzed Cowbird (1), Brown-headed Cowbird (8), Orchard Oriole (15), Baltimore Oriole (6).

Steve Mayes

## Fund Raiser for our Education Programs

We will be holding a raffle for three items to be awarded at the conclusion of the May membership meeting on May 19, 2011.

Wild Birds Unlimited has donated a Vortex Stokes Sandpiper 65 mm spotting scope (with 15 to 45 zoom eyepiece) that is now discontinued but was sold for at least \$300. I have seen it listed online for \$359.99. The reviews I have read about this scope are very good. It comes with a cloth, zippered cover, a mini table-top tripod, and it is in the original box. This is a brand new scope, but the big lens cover is missing. The person that wins this will need a tripod or a window mount. This scope will be displayed at the March, April and May meetings.

The second item is a weekend at a beach cabin overlooking Bolivar Flats. This would be a Friday and Saturday night in a two bedroom beach cabin that has a porch where you can sit and look at shorebirds on the beach. This weekend was donated by Max and Edith Watson who live on the same street and own this cabin. Edith prefers birders to stay at her cabins. This weekend cabin stay would be at least \$400 if you just rented a cabin in that area. The weekend is the first weekend in June.

The third item is a pair of Zen Ray binoculars donated by Gerald Duhon. These binoculars are brand new also and are worth \$200. These binoculars will be displayed at the meetings in March, April, and May.

Our raffle tickets will cost ten dollars each. You may

purchase them at the March, April, or May membership meetings or from Jana Whittle by calling 409-722-4193. Tickets cannot be mailed. The drawings will be held at the end of the May meeting. You do not need to be present to win. We will contact you to let you know if you won. We will write your name and phone number on each ticket. *Jana Whittle*

## March 2011 Sightings *(continued from page 5)*

<b>BLACKBIRD, Brewer's</b>	(11-11)	ANG 3/11(6) LDSL
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(7-21)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 3 reps(80)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	(5-31)	JEF 10 reps(73)
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	(5-31)	HAI 3 reps(17); JEF 13 reps(359)
<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed.</b>	(5-24)	JEF 8 reps(135)
<b>COWBIRD, Bronzed</b>	(14-14)	JEF-GROV 3/14(1) SM
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	(2-30)	HAI 15 reps(50); JEF 13 reps(690)
<b>BLACKBIRD species</b>	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(10) JAW
<b>ORIOLE, Orchard</b>	(29-31)	JEF-SW 3/29(3) CK; JEF-SW 3/30(10) JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(8) JHH
<b>ORIOLE, Bullock's</b>	(15-15)	JEF-TP 3/15(2) KSA
<b>FINCH, House</b>	(6-31)	JEF-NEDR 3/6(2) JJW; JEF-BMT 3/14(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/15(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/24(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/31(2) RHJ
<b>SISKIN, Pine</b>	(21-21)	HAI 3/21(3) JP
<b>GOLDFINCH, American</b>	(1-31)	HAI 11 reps(182); JEF 23 reps(178)
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(1-31)	JEF 23 reps(198)
<b>Number of Species</b>		191
<b>Number of Individuals</b>		40684

### County Abbreviations:

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

### Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; BTNB — Big Thicket NP - Neches Bottom and Jack Gore; GROV — Groves; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TP — Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP; TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point

### Observer Abbreviations

CC — Cody Conway; CHA — Cindy Harland; CK — Cody Conway and Kelley Sampeck; CSL — Christine Sliva; DMW — Debby McWhorter; FRW — Terry Ferguson, Sherrie Roden, Jana Whittle; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JHHD — John Haynes and Howard Davis; JHW — John Haynes and John Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; JP — John Park; KSA — Kelley Sampeck; LDSL — Louis Debetaz and Susie Lower; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SG — Sherry Gibson; SK — Steve Kuritz; SM — Steve Mayes; SR — Sherrie Roden; SWWD — Sabine Woods Work Day participants; WFRS — Jana Whittle, S Roden, T Ferguson, H Stewart.

## 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 such 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.

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## *Brown Pelican*

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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>.