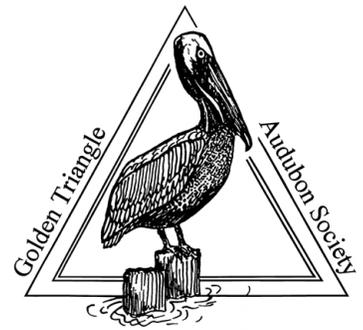


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 4

April 2012

Membership Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2012; 7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Bird Photography
Don and Pat Jeane

Don and Pat Jeane...enough said! ...all kidding aside, it will be a pleasure to welcome this former Golden Triangle couple to our April meeting as they share "BIRDS" with us.

The gracious and generous couple have traveled extensively through the years, partly in order to escape the Texas summertime heat. Somehow, award-winning bird pictures just pop-up after their travels. Several trips to Alaska and others throughout Texas, and to Colorado, New Mexico, Newfoundland, Belize and Costa Rica have added to their joys of birding.

You could be standing right next to them watching the cranes at Bosque de Apache in New Mexico or the Resplendent Quetzal of Costa Rica, but their talent and eye for the camera will renew and heighten your experience. Once again, we are fortunate that one place remains on their trip list---our very own Sabine Woods. Join us for a resplendent evening.

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

Thanks to Our Volunteers

A very successful work day was held at Sabine Woods on March 18th, rescheduled from March 10th because of heavy rain. The Woods are still very wet, and the ponds are completely full, but the temperatures were very pleasant and the wind kept the mosquitoes down. However, we were able to get all the regular mowing, trail and other maintenance work done, and installed three additional benches that Andy Allen built for us. A few more relatively small dead trees were felled for safety reasons.

Our volunteers brought all the equipment we needed, and we are extremely grateful to each and every one of them: Andy Allen, Richard Atkins, Howard Davis, John Haynes, Levie Horton, Harrison Jordan, Denise and Gary Kelley, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, Steve Mayes, Wendy Mires, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Jana Whittle, T.J. Wills.

John A. Whittle

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Important Note: Field Trip notices published here should always be regarded as needing confirmation. Between the notices here being prepared and the field trip date, conditions could change. Our ability to access sites could change; and local bird concentrations could change quite rapidly. We want to be able to make changes and adjustments to take advantage of the latter. Changes will always be posted on the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. Confirmation of the location will also always be available at the Membership Meeting normally two days prior to each trip, or by contacting Field Trip Committee chair, Steve Mayes at 409-722-5807 or sgmayes@hotmail.com

Thursday April 19, 2012. Membership Meeting. Details on p. 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments for the March meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for the two remaining spring 2012 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 April 21. Field Trip to Sabine Woods and Sabine Pass Area.

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants, and does not necessitate extensive walking.

We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. While we may go to Pilot Station Road or the Sea Rim and McFaddin areas, we are likely to be in Sabine Woods for at least the first couple of hours, and you should be able to find the group if you are late.

At Sabine Woods, there is a small parking area, with additional parking is improvised using the roadside verges.

Sabine Woods is on the north side of Highway 87, 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Take Highway 87 from Port Arthur to Sabine Pass, turn right at the stop sign, and go 4.1 miles.

This trip involves relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds. However, Hurricane Ike completely destroyed the boardwalks, and the trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos are still active, so there may be holes to avoid! There is a \$5 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are not members of Golden Triangle Audubon or Texas Ornithological Society. This field trip is especially suited for not-very-experienced birders.

Bring insect repellent. Most participants will bring lunch. Facilities in Sabine Pass are limited, although food and gasoline are now available.

Birding in late April can be exciting. However, we cannot promise anything, as the number of birds in the coastal woodlots is strongly dependent on the weather conditions over the Gulf. Immediately after a cold front passes and the following day are usually considered to be among the most likely days to have a good concentration of migrants at favored coastal locations.

Saturday May 12. Jefferson County Migrations Count. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for details of or offers to help with this county-wide count.

Thursday May 17. Membership Meeting. Details in next month's issue.



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.

Golden Triangle Winter Hummingbirds 2011-2012

The now concluded Golden Triangle winter hummingbird season proved to be exceptional by any standard, far better for hummingbird addicts than could have been hoped. Apparently, a banner breeding season occurred in 2011 for several western hummingbirds, including Rufous, Allen's, and Calliope Hummingbirds.

First, a few notions: for our purposes, the "winter" season actually began in mid summer of 2011! While some hummingbird hosts in the northern parts of Beaumont and regions further north may have some resident Ruby-throated Hummingbirds in the summer months, hosts further south in the area only infrequently see any Ruby-throated Hummingbirds at all in the summer. So it is ironic that we should see a few non-Ruby-throated Hummingbird then. For the Golden Triangle, any hummingbirds other than Ruby-throated Hummingbirds command interest no matter the time of year. Of course, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds count if they're observed in the winter. *Selasphorus* hummers were observed last summer, one as early as July 6! Otherwise, summer *Selasphorus* observations began in August, with sightings continuing throughout the fall and reaching a crescendo in January and February.

Southeast Texas has been blessed with a variety of hummingbirds that may be seen in winter. Typical wintertime visitors include Rufous, Black-chinned, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Buff-bellied are typically seen, but in lower numbers. Anna's Hummingbirds are more rarely seen. Allen's Hummingbirds are likely normally present, but are so similar to Rufous Hummingbirds that they virtually require capture for identification. Indeed, the first Allen's Hummingbird documented in Jefferson County was captured at the Whittles' home this winter.

The account of the hummer season, here only partly described, began with a "one-day (ten minute) wonder" at the Stewart home on July 6, when a *Selasphorus* hummingbird perched on a bare branch in a loquat tree and briefly visited a feeder. As recorded in the Brown Pelican, Christine Sliva observed a *Selasphorus* hummingbird in August, as did Harlan Stewart, and a Broad-tailed Hummingbird by the Jordan's in late August.

September echoed the upbeat activity. A Broad-tailed visited the Jordans in Late September. At least four more Rufous/Allen's were seen in September and October at the Whittle and Stewart homes, one in Sabine Woods by Steve Mayes, and one at Kelley Sampeck's home. And a Black-chinned Hummingbird and a Calliope (!) visited the Jordans in mid-October.

November is considered as the start of the winter season, and at least four more Rufous/Allen's were seen at the Whittle and Stewart homes, a Broad-tailed Hummingbird by Kelley Sampeck and Cody Conway at Sabine Woods, and a Buff-bellied Hummingbird in an unusually early appearance at the Whittles' home, along with a Ruby-throated Hummingbird and a Black-chinned. The Jordans were visited by a Calliope, a Broad-tailed, and a Black-chinned.

December is typically when winter hummingbird sightings begin in earnest. This season did not disappoint. The Buff-bellied Hummingbird accompanied several Rufous/Allen's, a Broad-tailed, a Black-chinned, and a Ruby-throated at the Whittles' home. Two Rufous/Allen's (later developing the orange backs of male Rufous Hummingbirds), a Ruby-throated, a Black-chinned and a Calliope Hummingbird were seen at the Stewart home. The Jordans hosted a Calliope, a Broad-tailed and a Black-chinned.

January was busy. A Ruby-Throated Hummingbird was observed in Orange during the Orange County CBC.

Calliopes were seen both at the Jordans' and the Whittles' homes, a Broad-tailed at the Jordans', an Anna's and a second Buff-bellied at the Whittles. On January 20th, GTAS held its Hummingbird Tour of Homes, where at least three Rufous and a Buff-bellied were seen at the Whittles' home. At the Stewart home two Calliopes and several Rufous and Rufous/Allen's Hummingbirds were seen. The Jordans' home showed off several Rufous and a Black-chinned Hummingbirds. At John Mariani's house, several Rufous Hummingbirds were seen. On a subsequent visit to the Jordans' home on the 22nd, four hummers were seen at a single feeder in 44 minutes (a Rufous, a green backed *Selasphorus*, a Black-chinned, and a Ruby-throated.

February was as active as January, with a second Buff-bellied Hummingbird remaining at the Whittles' home. A total of six Rufous, one female green backed *Selasphorus*, a Ruby-throated and two Calliopes visited the Stewart home.

March marks the transition between the winter hummer season and the Spring Ruby-throated migration. Yet activity continued at the Whittle, Jordan and Stewart homes. A Buff-bellied Hummingbird appeared at the Lokers.

By data mining Dr. Whittle's computer files and other sightings by Carol Lynn and Andy Loker (at least two Calliopes and a Buff-bellied) and Harlan Stewart, a speculative and "daring" figure of perhaps 83 individual hummingbirds representing eight species of winter/western/southern hummingbirds were observed this season through March (Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, Anna's, Rufous, Allen's, Broad-tailed, Calliope, and Buff-bellied).

Perhaps the highlight of the winter hummingbird season occurred on February 19th. Sumita Prasad, a licensed hummingbird bander from Houston visited Nederland. A total of six of the perhaps fifteen hummingbirds hosted by the Whittle and Stewart households were captured and banded. The banded birds included two Rufous, two Calliope and a Buff-bellied. But the high point of the day had to be the capture and banding of an Allen's Hummingbird at the Whittles' home – the first ever Allen's Hummingbird documented for Jefferson County. While Allen's Hummingbirds are probably fairly frequent visitors to Southeast Texas in the winter, they are so difficult to separate from green backed Rufous Hummingbirds that capture and in-hand examination of the birds is the only practical means of identifying individuals. One important lesson from the banding is that the hummingbirds seem not to be too greatly affected by the indignity of capture. All birds banded at the Stewart and Whittle homes remained, subsequently leaving only for migration. Indeed, the only bird that was captured twice (an immature male Calliope) continued to visit the Stewart home for a month, clearly sporting his jewelry in photographs. One of the banded Rufous Hummingbirds, an immature male, claimed a territory in a loquat tree at the Stewart home that overlooks the only pathway into the right side of the backyard. The bird had become very accustomed to the goings and comings of the host human, and became very approachable, a tolerance that was completely unchanged by the banding. Apparently, hummingbirds don't hold grudges.

Winter's end is, for hummingbird enthusiasts, a rather bittersweet affair. The renewal of spring feeds the soul, yet spring also brings an end to a lusty season punctuated by the chatter of many and varied feathered friends. We obtain some solace from the spring migration of Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds and we look forward with the hope that the beginning of the 2012-2013 "winter" hummingbird season may lie as soon as three months ahead.

Harlan Stewart

March Meeting

As our GTAS President, Gerald Duhon introduced our speaker this month, Levie Horton, Gerald spoke about how hard it is to get really good pictures of birds. He said success in bird photography is 50 percent equipment, 50 percent technique, and about 140 percent luck. Also that you should fill the sensor area with as much of the bird as is possible. Gerald stated that what matters the most is being at the right place at the right time.

That was such a good introduction because Levie stated several times in his presentation that a very stormy, rainy day in 2006 was the very best day that he has had in a photography blind getting really good, close pictures of woodland birds. Levie had gone to a presentation where the photographer said that if you want good photos, you have got to have a quality lens. Levie had been shooting photos since 1976 and had a decent lens, but he didn't really think there could be that much difference. On Saturday April 29th, 2006 he discovered how important a good lens was when taking pictures of small birds especially.

Levie told us about how he had driven to Houston to rent a really nice expensive lens (400mm telephoto lens) to take pictures at the rookery in High Island. On April 29th, as he was driving to the rookery, he heard on the radio announcer say to be prepared to take cover and that there would be severe thunderstorms and rain. He was thinking that this is worst possible day that anyone could pick to take pictures with a new camera lens! At that point, he did not know what to do because he knew that Saturday and Sunday were his only two days to use the lens. He had attached the lens to his Rebel camera. Instead of the rookery, he went to Boy Scout Woods in High Island around 9AM because there is an old barn that Houston Audubon has made into a photo blind. He saw some other photographers go into the photo blind so he did too. Little did he know at that time that this severe weather would be the day of a fall out. Every so often this phenomenon happens near the end of April. Levie said that people drive by bird sanctuaries all the time and don't realize what nice birds stop in the woods after they have flown nonstop across the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan during the spring. The weather conditions and wind have a lot to do with how long it will take them to reach the coast of North America. If there is unfavorable weather down there, the birds will bunch up for several days before they launch. If they have a south wind, it might speed them up, but if there is a north wind, it is much harder on them to fly across. When they get to the coast, the birds have a decision to make. If the winds are still out of the south, they might just keep flying over the coastal birding sanctuaries so they can get to their nesting grounds easier. But if the north winds start, they will rest at the bird sanctuaries until they get a south wind. If it rains when they get to the coast, they will stay there until the rain passes. Typically, they launch at dusk from the Yucatan and arrive on the coast in the afternoon. He said that six years ago he was one of those people who had no idea about how important these sanctuaries are to the birds because that is where they rest, bathe the saltwater off their feathers, eat bugs and berries to regain their strength to fly north to their breeding grounds. They have to combat the weather and wind all the way.

Our closest coastal bird sanctuary is owned by Texas Ornithological Society and we maintain the woods. We make sure the trails are cleared, the grass is cut where we walk, provide benches for resting, plant trees to replace the ones taken out by hurricanes, and provide a drip for the birds to bathe. He talked about the importance of looking at the bird sighting log sheet when you go into Sabine Woods. This log sheet helps people greatly to know what other birders have seen that day. Levie also mentioned how much he learned by coming to help on workdays. He said that there are people who are working there that have birded a lot of their lives and they know which paths to clear and which plants attract birds. They can tell you where the really good spots for viewing the birds also. He stated that you learn the trails easily on workdays also. You realize about what a diverse habitat there is for the birds. There is a large pond that now has water in it, and that is where Levi had his first of spring Waterthrush just five days before he spoke to us. The canopy at Sabine Woods seem to be lower so that the birds will be a little more on eye level than some other places. People come from all over the country and all over the world to this sanctuary to bird this time of the year.

The migration timeline is that it begins in early March and peaks at late April. It slows down after that, but last year we had good migration all the way until towards the end of May.

Levie had pictures of the kind that I have never seen before that show every little feather. He kept stating over and over how the lens was great showing the colors and the details of the feathers. He recommends renting lenses for photographers in order to find out which lens is best to purchase for the particular kind of photography that you choose. He does not use a filter and he does not use auto mode. He uses a light meter because he thinks that the camera will be able to focus quicker.

Levie had excellent pictures of many kinds of warblers such as female and male Chest-nut Sided, Yellow, Golden-winged, Magnolia, Blue-winged, Kentucky, Hooded, Orange-crowned, Northern Parula, Worm-eating, Yellow-throated, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Ovenbird. He also included pictures of orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks, and sparrows.

The forty people at the meeting saw many birds very close for one night. It was perfect timing to get us all in the right frame of mind to get out to the woods for some of migrants we saw on the screen that might fly over, or to land and rest someplace in Sabine Woods. *Jana Whittle*

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 a few localities close to those Counties.

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 17 March 2012

Great weather and a great turnout started the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's annual spring field trip to the Bolivar peninsula. Considering that last month's field trip was cancelled due to drenching rains, this was a welcome change! Coming off a year or more of terrible drought, recent rains have brought needed relief but have played some havoc with the birding. Luckily, on this day the weather was near perfect and the birds? Let's just say they cooperated as well.

Starting the day at the Houston Audubon Society's Bolivar Flats sanctuary, some birds were immediately obvious. Marbled Godwits worked the small ponds in between sandbars along with Dunlin while Sanderlings chased the retreating waves. Wilson's Plovers were calling, probably establishing breeding territories already. Piping Plovers took longer to find but were eventually located. Large Long-billed Curlews pulled worms from deep beneath the mud flats while tiny Least and Western Sandpipers picked food from near the surface. Huge American White and Brown Pelicans loafed on the beach while Lesser Scaup and Red-breasted Mergansers patrolled just off shore. Newly arrived eastern-race Willets noisily called from stumps and poles or while doing their fluttering display flights.

Gulls are rarely hard to find at the beach, so seeing Laughing, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls was no surprise. The lone Bonaparte's Gull spotted was hardly rare but a nice sighting anyway. Royal Terns greatly outnumbered the large Caspian Terns as expected. Good numbers of recently arrived Least Terns sat on the beach and hunted over the surf while a Gull-billed Tern zoomed by overhead. Sandwich Terns with their yellow tipped bills were quite easily found but it was the Common Terns that really impressed. Normally, it is considered a victory if one or two winter plumaged Common Terns can be picked out among the more common and similar looking Forster's Terns. On this day, the Common Terns outnumbered the Forster's on the flats! It made for a great tern day even though a Black Tern was never located.

Non-shorebirds are also present at Bolivar Flats. A Barn Swallow hawked for insects over the beach while a White-tailed Kite perched not far away. Northern Harriers cruised over the marsh, making the Green-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers and Mottled Ducks very nervous. An Osprey made a successful dive for a fish while a distant Reddish Egret danced in the surf. One of the highlights of the trip was the great look the group got of a beautiful Horned Lark. Several fleeting glances were had of this species before one bird finally came out for an extended look. Though this species is extremely common in western parts of Texas and in the Panhandle, in the Golden Triangle it is quite a hard to get bird. Bolivar is the closest place with easy access to this species so the great looks were much appreciated.

After Bolivar Flats, other locations on the peninsula were explored. Bob's Road revealed a pond full of Redheads along with Gadwall and Pied-billed Grebes. Yacht Basin Road provided Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs along with more Long-billed Curlews and another Osprey. Rollover Pass is always a great spot and it was really hopping on this day. Birds were easy to see, albeit through telescopes, without

having to leave the vicinity of the vehicles! Semipalmated Plovers and Whimbrel were added to the day list along with several American Oystercatchers. Additional Reddish Egrets were found along with a couple hundred Black Skimmers. American Avocets were eventually located while Short-billed Dowitchers were easier to see. Rollover Pass provided birds and a great place to have a tailgate lunch!

No trip to Bolivar would be complete without a stop in the sanctuaries at High Island. Though still early in the migration season, birds could still drop in at any time. Unfortunately, this day was not one of those times! No real neotropical land bird migrants were located in these hotspots but some nice birds like Brown Thrasher, Crested Caracara and a sleepy Barn Owl were still happily taken in. A swallow with a buff rump was seen flying away, but we could not see the throat to determine if it was a Cliff or a cave Swallow. The day ended, as is traditional, at the rookery at the Houston Audubon Society's Smith Oaks sanctuary. Watching hundreds of Great Egrets and Roseate Spoonbills beginning the nesting process with Black-crowned Night-Herons and White Ibis nearby provided a spectacular end to an already great day of birding. And with spring just beginning, the birders all know that there are even better days soon to come!

The following species were recorded on the day:

Gadwall (7); Mottled Duck (1); Blue-winged Teal (10); Northern Shoveler (20); Green-winged Teal (35); Redhead (76); Lesser Scaup (201); Red-breasted Merganser (27); Pied-billed Grebe (4); Neotropic Cormorant (131); Double-crested Cormorant (5); American White Pelican (12); Brown Pelican (100); Great Blue Heron (13); Great Egret (104); Snowy Egret (7); Reddish Egret (3); Black-crowned Night-Heron (50); White Ibis (100); Roseate Spoonbill (156); Black Vulture (1); Turkey Vulture (2); Osprey (4); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (1); Red-tailed Hawk (5); Crested Caracara (1); American Coot (4); Black-bellied Plover (60); Snowy Plover (6); Wilson's Plover (13); Semipalmated Plover (5); Piping Plover (8); Killdeer (2); American Oystercatcher (6); American Avocet (15); Greater Yellowlegs (4); Willet (117); Lesser Yellowlegs (37); Whimbrel (2); Long-billed Curlew (18); Marbled Godwit (30); Ruddy Turnstone (11); Sanderling (60); Western Sandpiper (450); Least Sandpiper (4); Dunlin (35); Short-billed Dowitcher (21); Bonaparte's Gull (1); Laughing Gull (131); Ring-billed Gull (30); Herring Gull (20); Least Tern (50); Gull-billed Tern (4); Caspian Tern (5); Common Tern (40); Forster's Tern (130); Royal Tern (40); Sandwich Tern (10); Black Skimmer (210); Rock Pigeon (2); Eurasian Collared-Dove (2); Mourning Dove (1); Inca Dove (1); Barn Owl (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Downy Woodpecker (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Horned Lark (1); Purple Martin (8); Tree Swallow (1); Cave/Cliff Swallow (1); Barn Swallow (12); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1); Northern Mockingbird (2); Brown Thrasher (1); European Starling (20); Yellow-rumped Warbler (12); Savannah Sparrow (1); Northern Cardinal (3); Red-winged Blackbird (7); Eastern Meadowlark (1); Great-tailed Grackle (10); Brown-headed Cowbird (2)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – February 2012

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: Many of the interesting birds and high numbers reported in January continued into February. Wintering hummingbirds continued in unprecedented numbers, and are the subject of an article elsewhere in this issue. Because of the numbers, and increased efforts to identify individual birds by subtle plumage differences, we have adopted a different and less space consuming approach to recording these birds in the listing. However, we think the format will be easily understood..

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bel. (2-21)	JEF 2 reps(301)	CARACARA, Crested (23-23)	JEF-TX87 2/23(1) JAW
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(17) JAW	KESTREL, American (5-27)	HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 7 reps(30)
GADWALL (2-23)	JEF 3 reps(461)	MERLIN (23-27)	JEF 2 reps(2)
WIGEON, American (21-23)	JEF-TP 2/21(26) JAW; JEF-MCFW 2/23(1) JAW	FALCON, Peregrine (23-23)	JEF-MCFW 2/23(1) JAW
MALLARD (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(13) JAW	SORA (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(2) JAW
DUCK, Mottled (23-27)	JEF 2 reps(12)	GALLINULE, Common (21-21)	JEF 1 rep(12)
TEAL, Blue-winged (2-27)	JEF 4 reps(130)	COOT, American (2-23)	JEF 3 reps(797)
TEAL, Cinnamon (11-21)	JEF-TP 2/11(2) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(2) JAW	CRANE, Sandhill (5-5)	JEF 2/5(28) CSL
SHOVELER, Northern (2-21)	JEF 2 reps(210)	KILLDEER (2-27)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 4 reps(59)
PINTAIL, Northern (21-23)	JEF 2 reps(556)	STILT, Black-necked (21-23)	JEF 2 reps(23)
TEAL, Green-winged (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(376) JAW	YELLOWLEGS, Greater (2-2)	JEF-MURW 2/2(1) JA
CANVASBACK (11-23)	JEF 3 reps(64)	WILLET (2-23)	JEF 2 reps(5)
REDHEAD (11-27)	JEF-TP 2/11(5) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(65) JAW; JEF-MCFW 2/23(1) JAW; JEF 2/27(2) RHJ	YELLOWLEGS species (21-21)	JEF 2/21(50) JAW
DUCK, Ring-necked (5-21)	JEF 2/5(55) CSL; JEF-TP 2/11(1500) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(211) JAW	DOWITCHER, Long-billed (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(12) JAW
SCAUP, Lesser (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(4) JAW	GULL, Laughing (7-21)	JEF 2 reps(254)
BUFFLEHEAD (11-23)	JEF 2 reps(4)	GULL, Ring-billed (2-23)	JEF 4 reps(23)
DUCK, Ruddy (21-27)	JEF 3 reps(225)	GULL, Herring (23-23)	JEF-TX87 2/23(1) JAW
BOBWHITE, Northern (7-7)	JEF 2/7(10) CSL	TERN, Caspian (23-23)	JEF-PI 2/23(1) JAW
GREBE, Least (2-11)	JEF-TP 2/2(4) SMO; JEF-TP 2/11(7) SM	TERN, Forster's (23-23)	JEF-PI 2/23(1) JAW
GREBE, Pied-billed (21-27)	JEF 3 reps(21)	TERN, Royal (2-23)	JEF 2 reps(5)
GREBE, Eared (11-21)	JEF-TP 2/11(1) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(2) JAW	PIGEON, Rock (7-29)	HAI 1 rep(80); JEF 4 reps(56)
CORMORANT, Neotropic (2-23)	JEF 3 reps(29)	COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. (3-21)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(14)
CORMORANT, Double-cr. (21-23)	JEF 2 reps(22)	DOVE, White-winged (1-29)	HAI 7 reps(41); JEF 16 reps(83)
CORMORANT, Species (23-23)	JEF 1 rep(10)	DOVE, Mourning (5-29)	HAI 6 reps(31); JEF 4 reps(73)
PELICAN, Brown (2-23)	JEF 2 reps(7)	GROUND-DOVE, Common (5-8)	HAI 2/8(1) KSA; JEF 2/5(2) CSL
HERON, Great Blue (2-23)	JEF 5 reps(13)	SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (8-29)	JEF 5 reps(5)
EGRET, Great (2-23)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(41)	HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bell. (1-29)	JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/29 (1; poss 2nd bird occasionally) JJW
EGRET, Snowy (2-23)	JEF 3 reps(82)	HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. (1-29)	JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/29 (1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 2/12 thru 2/26(1) RHJ
HERON, Little Blue (2-21)	JEF 2 reps(5)	HUMMINGBIRD, Black-ch. (11-29)	JEF-BMT 2/11(1 thru 29) RHJ
HERON, Tricolored (2-21)	JEF 2 reps(4)	HUMMINGBIRD, Archil. (19-19)	JEF-NEDR 2/19(1) JJW
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. (2-21)	JEF 3 reps(206)	HUMMINGBIRD, Anna's (6-6)	JEF-NEDR 2/6(1) <i>unconfirmed</i> JJW
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. (2-2)	JEF-MURW 2/2(4) JA	HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope (1-29)	JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/29 (1) HS; JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/26 (1 addnl) HS; JEF-BMT 2/7 thru 2/16 (1) RHJ
IBIS, White (2-21)	JEF 2 reps(223)	HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (1-29)	JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/29 (3) HS; JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/28 (one addnl) HS; JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/25 (one addnl) HS; JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/29 (3) JJW; JEF-BMT 2/6 thru 2/28 (1) RHJ;
IBIS, Glossy (11-21)	JEF-TP 2/11(1) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW	HUMMINGBIRD, Allen's (1-25)	JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/25(1) JJW
IBIS, White-faced (21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(3) JAW	HUMMINGBIRD, Selas. (1-29)	JEF-NEDR 2/1 thru 2/29 (1) HS
IBIS, Plegadis (21-21)	JEF 1 rep(82)	HUMMINGBIRD species (4-27)	JEF-BMT 2/4 thru 2/27 (1) RHJ
SPOONBILL, Roseate (2-23)	JEF 3 reps(25)	KINGFISHER, Belted (2-23)	JEF 6 reps(13)
VULTURE, Black (2-27)	HAI 3 reps(12); JEF 4 reps(89)	WOODPECKER, Red-bell. (7-26)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(2)
VULTURE, Turkey (5-27)	HAI 3 reps(12); JEF 4 reps(51)	WOODPECKER, Downy (1-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(14)
KITE, White-tailed (27-27)	JEF 2/27(1) RHJ	WOODPECKER, Pileated (1-29)	HAI-SILS 2/1(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/17(1) MG; HAI-SILS 2/29(1) MG; JEF 2/9(1) CSL
EAGLE, Bald (2-28)	JEF-TP 2/2(1) SMO; JEF-TP 2/11(1) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW; ORA-ORG 2/28(1) RPH; TYL 2/8(1) DD	PHOEBE, Eastern (2-23)	JEF-MURW 2/2(4) JA; JEF 2/5(5) CSL; JEF-TP 2/21(4) JAW; JEF-SW 2/23(1) JAW
HARRIER, Northern (2-27)	JEF 6 reps(27)		
HAWK, Sharp-shinned (16-21)	JEF 2 reps(3)		
HAWK, Cooper's (2-21)	JEF 2 reps(2)		
HAWK, Red-shouldered (5-23)	JEF 8 reps(10)		
HAWK, Red-tailed (2-27)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(65)		

FLYCATCHER, Ash-throat.	(21-21)	JEF-BMT 2/21(1) KS
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(2-23)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 5 reps(24)
VIREO, White-eyed	(2-21)	JEF-MURW 2/2(1) JA; JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW
JAY, Blue	(5-29)	HAI 3 reps(11); JEF 10 reps(17)
CROW, American	(17-27)	HAI 3 reps(11)
CROW, species	(21-21)	JEF 1 rep(1)
MARTIN, Purple	(11-11)	JEF-TP 2/11(1) SM
SWALLOW, Tree	(2-23)	JEF 2 reps(24)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(6-27)	HAI 8 reps(24); JEF 2 reps(2)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(6-24)	HAI 4 reps(9)
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(18-21)	HAI-SILS 2/18(2) SG; HAI-SILS 2/21(1) MG
WREN, Carolina	(6-29)	HAI 4 reps(7); JEF 1 rep(1)
WREN, Marsh	(2-2)	JEF-MURW 2/2(2) JA
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(21-23)	JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW; JEF-SW 2/23(1) JAW
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(2-2)	JEF-MURW 2/2(1) JA
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(5-28)	HAI 4 reps(9); JEF 6 reps(29)
THRUSH, Hermit	(19-19)	HAI 2/19(1) RHJ
ROBIN, American	(3-29)	HAI 12 reps(697); JEF 15 reps(479)
CATBIRD, Gray	(23-23)	JEF-BMT 2/23(1) RHJ
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(5-29)	HAI 3 reps(9); JEF 8 reps(35)
THRASHER, Brown	(7-28)	HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 3 reps(3)
STARLING, European	(2-29)	HAI 5 reps(217); JEF 5 reps(72)
PIPIT, American	(23-23)	JEF-PI 2/23(1) JAW
WARBLER, Orange-crown.	(5-28)	HAI 7 reps(7); JEF 16 reps(20)
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(2-21)	JEF 2 reps(10)
WARBLER, Pine	(1-18)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 7 reps(8)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(2-28)	HAI 1 rep(7); JEF 9 reps(39)
TOWHEE, Green-tailed	(11-21)	JEF-TP 2/11(1) SM; JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW
SPARROW, Chipping	(2-29)	HAI 22 reps(830); JEF 7 reps(40)
SPARROW, Vesper	(21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW
SPARROW, Savannah	(2-23)	JEF 4 reps(71)
SPARROW, Seaside	(2-2)	JEF-MURW 2/2(5) JA
SPARROW, Song	(21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(1) JAW
SPARROW, Swamp	(21-21)	JEF-TP 2/21(4) JAW
SPARROW, White-throated	(3-26)	HAI 8 reps(12); JEF 11 reps(17)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(18-18)	HAI-SILS 2/18(7) SG
CARDINAL, Northern	(2-29)	HAI 22 reps(595); JEF 4 reps(23)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(2-23)	HAI 3 reps(165); JEF 4 reps(563)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(5-5)	JEF 2/5(35) CSL
MEADOWLARK species	(23-23)	JEF 1 rep(3)
GRACKLE, Common	(15-29)	JEF 4 reps(287)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(2-23)	JEF 3 reps(50)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(3-29)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 6 reps(404)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(5-28)	HAI 5 reps(8); JEF 2 reps(215)
ORIOLE, Balt/Bullocks	(10-19)	JEF-TP 2/10(1) GD; JEF-TP 2/19(1) GD
FINCH, House	(4-24)	HAI 2 reps(15); JEF 9 reps(17)
GOLDFINCH, American	(3-28)	HAI 24 reps(2165); JEF 34 reps(516)
SPARROW, House	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(20); JEF 20 reps(318)

Number of Species 129
Number of Individuals 30800

County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange; TYL — Tyler

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA, west of Taylor Bayou; NEDR — Nederland; ORG — Orange; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SW —

Sabine Woods; TP — Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

Observer Abbreviations

CSL — Christine Sliva; DD — Dorothy Dodson; GD — Gerald Duhon; HS — Harlan Stewart; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; KS — Ken Sztraky; KSA — Kelley Sampeck; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; RPH — Rebecca Phelps; SG — Sherry Gibson; SM — Steve Mayes; SMO — Sally Moffet;

Sponsor our Birdathon

Once again, we will be raising money for Golden Triangle Audubon and for Audubon Texas in our Birdathon. You may be assured that all your contributions will stay close to home as it were. Royce Pendergast will again be joining with me in this year's Spring Birdathon.

A Birdathon is very similar to other "athons" you may be familiar with, such as telethons, walkathons, etc. The idea is for us to start birding at the crack of dawn on a day in mid to late April and make a run from the woods of the Southern Big Thicket through to the coast of east Jefferson County. This is a little different from previous years in that this year we plan to restrict our area to Hardin, Jefferson and Orange counties. We're aiming for at least 120 species. We will pick an exact date guided by the weather forecasts. Our preferred period will towards the end of April.

We're hoping you will sponsor us at \$1.00 or more, \$0.75, \$0.50, or (or whatever amount you choose) per bird species. A flat donation is also welcome. Please take the time to make a pledge today -- your donation to our Birdathon will be earmarked to support Audubon's mission of protecting our natural heritage in Texas and the nation by supporting conservation, education and advocacy. This year, we plan on designating three quarters of the funds for Golden Triangle Audubon projects and the other quarter for Audubon Texas activities and programs. (If you wish, you may earmark your contributions for a specific use.) Checks should be made out to Golden Triangle Audubon Society and all contributions are, of course, tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. Local business people and businesses are often very receptive to this kind of fund raising and we would welcome any suggestions of where we might find receptive potential supporters. We appreciate all of you who contributed generously last year, and hope you will consider supporting us again. Please contact me at 3015 Nashville Ave, Nederland, TX 77627 or at johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193 with your pledges and your suggestions.

John A. Whittle

Contributions to the Brown Pelican

I would like to thank those who contributed items for this issue of the Brown Pelican, Sherrie Roden for the upcoming program information, Steve Mayes for the Field Trip Report, Harlan Stewart for the Hummingbird article, and Jana Whittle for the March Meeting Report. Please keep it up! If you have something about birds, habitat or conservation in general that you want to write about, please let me know as early in the month as possible, and we reserve the space!

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

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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