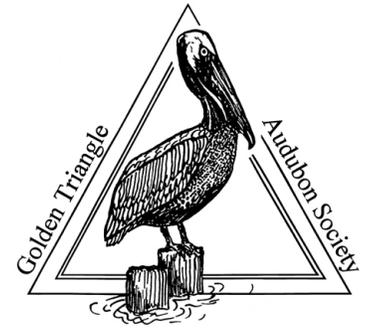


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 5

May 2012

**Membership Meeting  
Thursday, May 17, 2012; 7:00 PM  
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont  
Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge  
Stuart Marcus**

**Stuart Marcus is the first and current Refuge Manager of the 25,000 acre Trinity River National Wildlife located in Liberty, TX. He graduated from the University of Florida in 1977 with a degree in Wildlife Ecology.**

**Stuart worked as a seasonal forester with the U. S. Forest Service in 1977 and 1978 at Pisgah National Forest in western North Carolina. He started his career with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1979 as a Biological Technician at the Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge located in north Florida. He went on to work as an Assistant Refuge Manager at three other refuges, throughout different parts of Florida. He was promoted to Refuge Manager of the Trinity River Refuge in June 1994. For the first five years he worked out of his house, moved to a storefront office in Liberty for 13 years and just in early March moved into a new headquarters office located on the Refuge.**

## **Excitement at Sabine Woods**

We cannot let this month pass without at least a brief comment on the goings on in Sabine Woods. On April 13, John Haynes was birding there, and carefully checked a Red-eyed Vireo like bird and saw the two dark "whisker" marks that indicate that it was actually a Black-whiskered Vireo. While this Florida/Caribbean species has been seen and confirmed in Sabine Woods on several occasions in recent years, it is a much sought after species in Texas.

Then a Tropical Mockingbird was discovered at the Woods. This is a Mexican/Central American species for which there is no currently accepted United States record. It is found in Mexico south and east of Veracruz and the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, in the Yucatan and beyond into Central America. It differs from the Northern Mockingbird principally in not having the white wing patches. James Clark actually commented on an unusual looking mockingbird as early as April 16 or 17 and Don Jeane took some pictures of it on April 18. However, it was not until April 20, when we were with Terry Ferguson when she found it and took some more pictures that we realized that it was possibly a Tropical Mockingbird. That evening, after we were convinced, we put it on our Bird Alert and on Texbirds. More than 70 cars were counted parked at Sabine Woods the next day! The bird has been easily seen each day since then.

*John A. Whittle*

## The Brown Pelican

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### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://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](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org). Confirmation of the location will also normally be available at the Membership Meeting that is usually, but not always, two days prior to each trip, or by contacting Field Trip Committee chair, Steve Mayes at 409-722-5807 or [sgmayes@hotmail.com](mailto:sgmayes@hotmail.com)*

**Saturday May 12. Jefferson County Spring Migration Count.** We have been doing these counts since 1995. The count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We welcome all participants, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from dawn through about 11:00 a.m. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. If you have access to private property that may be worth birding, we would especially appreciate your participation. Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) or 409-722-4193) for details or offers to help.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments for the April meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for the May 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 call Jennifer Armacost at (409) 790-7222 (or email her at [armacostj@yahoo.com](mailto:armacostj@yahoo.com)) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

**Thursday May 17. Membership Meeting.** Details on p. 1.

**Saturday May 19. Sabine Woods Work Day.** We are planning a Work Day with a view to cutting back some of the luxuriant growth that occurred earlier in the spring this year. We will start at 7:00 a.m. and will not work beyond about noon. We particularly will need riding mowers for the areas outside the woods, but we also want to cut *Lantana* and other underbrush to keep it well clear of the trails inside the woods. Because weather and other conditions may change, please check the web-site ([www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)) or directly with us ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) or 409-722-4193) shortly prior to the day.

**Saturday May 26. 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. 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, skulkers in migration, have often been seen perched high up in the open. We have even seen Greater Roadrunners on this trip, and four years ago, 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 is proving very attractive to Prairie Warblers. However, we will likely spend most 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 east of the area of Gore Store Road that burned last year.

## Origins of the Tropical Mockingbird

*Bob Doe posted this thoughtful comment on TEXBIRDS on April 24.*

There seems to be little doubt that the unusual Mockingbird being seen at Sabine Woods is a Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*). However, the origins, and thus the "countability" of the bird remain problematic. I suspect that the Texas Bird Records Committee will have some problems with this one, particularly since it would be a first U.S. (and ABA) record if accepted.

As I see it, there are three mechanisms which would account for the bird being where it is: natural vagrancy (bird flew there by itself), intentional assistance (bird was transported as a captive, and escaped or was released), and un-intentional assistance (bird "hitched a ride" on a ship). There are probabilities and factors which argue for and against each mechanism.

Tropical Mockingbird is generally considered to be a sedentary species and the bird at Sabine Woods is about 800 miles from the nearest population. (*The distance from Sabine Woods to the Yucatan coast is actually only a little over 600 miles – Ed.*) I am not aware of other significant vagrancy in the species. But even within a "sedentary" population, individuals may wander or disperse widely. Mockingbirds (genus *Mimus*) are known to be capable of prolonged over water flights. Northern Mockingbirds have occurred on Guadalupe Island, 150 miles off the coast of Baja California. Socorro Island, 250 miles south of the tip of Baja California has (had?) an endemic mockingbird species presumably derived from mainland birds, and the island has been colonized by mainland birds. Northern Mockingbirds have reached Britain on at least 2 occasions. The Galapagos Islands, 1000 miles from the mainland, have several species of endemic

mockingbirds, presumably derived from mainland stock(s). Tropical Mockingbirds occur on several Caribbean islands, confirming the possibility of over water dispersal, over at least limited distances. And, as Brush has pointed out, there are numerous offshore oil and gas rigs off the northern coast of the Yucatan peninsula and the southern coast of the US which could provide a point of refuge for a vagrant over the Gulf of Mexico. Other "sedentary" tropical species have reached Texas and have been accepted, Yucatan Vireo being probably the most directly comparable. And Sabine Woods seems a "likely" location for a naturally occurring vagrant from the Yucatan to occur.

Whenever a vagrant individual occurs, there is always a question of whether it is a "real" vagrant, or a bird which has escaped or been released from captivity. Tropical Mockingbird is known to be kept as a cage bird and it is known that some caged birds can be transported long distances, either to be sold, or as personal "property". "Caged" birds often show considerable feather wear, and such wear can be used to support the contention that a bird has been recently caged. The Sabine Pass bird does show considerable feather wear, particularly on the tail and wing coverts, indicating that it MAY have been caged. But not all feather wear is the result of captivity.

Martin Reid has provided links to a series of photos of presumably wild Tropical Mockingbirds that show extensive feather wear analogous to the wear on the Sabine Pass bird.

There seems to be an underlying assumption that caged birds are transported by immigrants as they enter the country, and thus a popular cage species is more likely to be an "escapee" rather than a true vagrant. I can understand the rationale and the concern, but I don't think the facts support the assumption. There doesn't seem to be a

"trail of exotics" along heavily traveled immigration routes and the Sabine Woods bird would seem to be pretty far removed from major immigration routes (about 70 miles from Houston area and 25 to the closest approach of I-10). I just don't think it is very likely that a bird transported overland would end up at Sabine Woods. It would be interesting to find out from Border Patrol/USDA how many and what species are seized from immigrants. That would help establish probabilities of captive transport.

Transport by sea is another matter. Mariners have been known to capture or care for pelagic birds and vagrants which may land aboard. There is the possibility that crew members may buy a caged bird in a foreign port, care for it during passage and release it prior to making landfall (knowing it is illegal to land with wildlife aboard). The upper coast (from Houston/Galveston to Lake Charles, LA) is heavily traveled by ships. But again, I think that the general dearth of exotics argues that this doesn't happen very often. With the number of ships visiting the area and their diverse ports of call, if crewmen were releasing birds, I would expect an almost continuous stream of exotics. Most of the exotics we do get seem to be escapees of the domestic cage bird industry, with species origins in Asia or Africa, and not the species which occur in Mexican markets, for example.

Lastly we have to consider the unintentional transport of vagrants. Mexico is the second leading exporter of oil to the US. Virtually all of the exported Mexican oil comes from the northern Yucatan and Bay of Campeche area, and the vast majority of this oil goes to Gulf Coast refineries. It is about a day and a half sail from northern Yucatan to Port Arthur. I can see two plausible scenarios for a bird utilizing unintentional transport to get from the Yucatan Peninsula to Sabine Woods.

*(cont. on page 5)*

## Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 21 April 2012

What do you wish for on a field trip on the upper Texas coast in April? How about a north wind blowing strong? A good diversity of warblers around? A collection of colorful tanagers and buntings? How about a really rare bird or two? All of these and more were present for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's April field trip to Sabine Woods. And one of those rare birds was really something to talk about! As the many, many birders present on the day could tell!

A strong north wind greeted the field trip and, in spring, this can mean lots of great birds dropping in. But this only happens if conditions are right at the birds' take off points in Latin America. If no birds are leaving, obviously, there will be no birds arriving in Texas! This day turned out to be something of a mixed bag. There was a good diversity of birds around but not huge numbers. But there were enough birds (and enough quality birds!) that there would be no complaints on this field trip!

The warblers cooperated pretty well on this trip. This traditional trip to the coastal migrant traps has proved incredibly variable for warblers in the past with less than ten species seen on some days with strong south winds and more than twenty species seen on days with fall out conditions. On this date, the diversity of warblers was good even if the absolute number of birds was not that high. Colorful species like Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler and Northern Parula were found on the day along with some of the less colorful species like Palm Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler and Northern Waterthrush. A sky-colored Cerulean Warbler was cooperative feeding in oak branches and a blazing Blackburnian Warbler was seen by some. A shy Kentucky Warbler was observed along with a slightly bolder Hooded Warbler. A bright, golden Prothonotary Warbler livened up the pond area while Black and White Warblers probed the crevices in tree trunks. Yellow-breasted Chats played hide and seek with birders while Black-throated Green Warblers were easier to see. A Blackpoll Warbler was observed by a few birders while Ovenbirds were surprisingly easy to find.

Other of our wonderful spring visitors also showed off on the field trip. Indigo Buntings were numerous along with several Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. A Blue Grosbeak was a welcome find and the views had of Painted Buntings were treasured as always. Orchard and Baltimore Orioles feasted on ripe mulberries alongside Cedar Waxwings. Brilliant Summer Tanagers feasted on honey bees while the even more brilliant Scarlet Tanagers mostly stuck to fruit. Duller colored but still welcome were the numerous thrushes present at Sabine Woods including Veery, Gray-cheeked, Swainson's and Wood. Common Nighthawks are always nice to see but a Peregrine Falcon cruising over the woods really excited the birders. The group got to enjoy both Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks as they flew to nearby marshland. Yellow-throated Vireos sang while an Acadian Flycatcher remained silent. Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Purple Martins zipped overhead while Gray Catbirds haunted the lantana thickets. A Western Kingbird and a late Eastern Phoebe were good finds.

One of the "rare" birds present had actually been seen semi-reliably for about a week before the field trip. This was

the Black-whiskered Vireo, a Caribbean relative of our more familiar Red-eyed Vireo. The bird was mostly quiet and would come out for a few minutes at a time often giving quite close looks to birders before disappearing for long periods of time. The differences between this species and the Red-eyed are subtle as the whisker marks can be hard to see at times but, good familiarity with our common bird should lead one to more easily pick up on this harder to find species. More common in southern Florida, the Black-whiskered Vireo occasionally turns up on the Texas coast in migration and has been seen at Sabine Woods before but rarely has one stayed around as long as this bird! With patience, most birders out on this day were eventually able to get looks at the subtle but coveted Black-whiskered Vireo.

The other rare bird was completely different in many ways. Tropical Mockingbird. The name alone speaks of a bird that just should not be in Jefferson County, Texas! The story of this bird goes back to a few days before the field trip. Regular Sabine Woods birder James Clark noticed an odd mockingbird hanging around and mentioned this to others but few paid much attention (including yours truly). Let's face it, who spends much time looking at mockingbirds? They are so common. Don Jeane would also find the bird and take a few photos. Eventually, John Whittle and Terry Ferguson took a look at the bird and that is when things started happening. The bird was recognized as a Tropical Mockingbird, a species that should be in the Yucatan not on the upper Texas coast. No record of this species has ever been accepted anywhere in the United States so this is a potential first for the entire country! The word went out about this bird and the internet went aflame with discussions and birders flooded Sabine Woods on Saturday to find the bird. Fortunately, the Tropical Mockingbird proved easy to find. Like our local mockingbirds, the bird often perches in the open and is not especially afraid of people, though it keeps its distance. Later observations would pin this bird as a likely female and it may be keeping company with a local male Northern Mockingbird. With many observers and photographers on the bird, the identity was no longer in question, it was definitely a Tropical Mockingbird – the extra- long tail, the lack of white in the wings – there was no doubt. The question is where did it come from?

Tropical birds do sometimes stray to Texas and other parts of the U.S. We see Golden-crowned Warblers and Blue Buntings crossing the border in the valley and Bananaquits in Florida. Birds like Fork-tailed Flycatcher can turn up just about anywhere in the U.S. But the Tropical Mockingbird is not known to wander much and is not thought to be migratory. They have colonized some islands suggesting that they can disperse over water. Other non-migratory tropical species have occurred on the upper Texas coast in spring, most famously the Yucatan Vireo that appeared near High Island back in the eighties. Some have suggested that wear on the tail and wing feathers mean this is an escaped or released cage bird. Tropical Mockingbirds are sometimes kept as pets in Latin America but in Sabine Pass? It seems less likely. Plus, the bird turned up during spring migration (when birds are known to wander) at a known vagrant trap. It seems likely that an

escaped cage bird would have turned up at a random time of the year in an urban area or closer to the border. The truth of the bird's origins, of course, will never be known for sure. There are arguments to be made for both sides and the good people of the Texas Bird Records Committee will no doubt go through all of them in deciding whether this bird should be "counted" or not. Of course, for all the birders who have seen our mockingbird, they can decide for themselves!

With many species of beautiful warblers, tanagers and orioles present, rare birds like the Black-whiskered Vireo around and the unprecedented appearance of a Tropical Mockingbird, the April field trip has to be considered an unqualified success! It just goes to show that birders should not ignore those common species. One can never be sure when that common mockingbird might turn out to be something really exciting!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (8), Fulvous Whistling-Duck (3), Blue-winged Teal (42), Mottled Duck (1), Neotropical Cormorant (1), Great Blue Heron (1), Great Egret (1), Snowy Egret (1), Little Blue Heron (1), Tricolored Heron (3), Cattle Egret (6), Green Heron (1), White Ibis (1), Turkey Vulture (1), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Peregrine Falcon (1), Sora (1), Greater Yellowlegs (1), Rock Pigeon (1), White-winged Dove (2), Mourning Dove (2), Common Nighthawk (1), Chimney Swift (1), Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2), Red-bellied Woodpecker (5), Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1), Downy Woodpecker (4), Acadian Flycatcher (1), Eastern Phoebe (1), Great Crested Flycatcher (2), Western Kingbird (1), Eastern Kingbird (6), Loggerhead Shrike (1), White-eyed Vireo (1), Yellow-throated Vireo (6), Red-eyed Vireo (3), Black-whiskered Vireo (1), Blue Jay (6), Purple Martin (2), Tree Swallow (10), Northern Rough-winged Swallow (15), Barn Swallow (3), Carolina Chickadee (1), Carolina Wren (1), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1), Veery (1), Gray-cheeked Thrush (1), Swainson's Thrush (7), Wood Thrush (2), Gray Catbird (40), Northern Mockingbird (4), Tropical Mockingbird (1), Brown Thrasher (2), Cedar Waxwing (6), Ovenbird (5), Worm-eating Warbler (2), Northern Waterthrush (1), Black-and-white Warbler (2), Prothonotary Warbler (2), Tennessee Warbler (6), Kentucky Warbler (1), Common Yellowthroat (1), Hooded Warbler (1), Cerulean Warbler (1), Northern Parula (1), Blackburnian Warbler (1), Yellow Warbler (1), Chestnut-sided Warbler (1), Blackpoll Warbler (1), Palm Warbler (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (1), Black-throated Green Warbler (2), Yellow-breasted Chat (2), White-throated Sparrow (3), Summer Tanager (8), Scarlet Tanager (7), Northern Cardinal (4), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (10), Blue Grosbeak (1), Indigo Bunting (10), Painted Bunting (2), Red-winged Blackbird (10), Common Grackle (1), Great-tailed Grackle (1), Brown-headed Cowbird (1), Orchard Oriole (12), Baltimore Oriole (4).

*Steve Mayes*

## Origins of Mockingbird *(cont. from p.3)*

In the first, a natural vagrant over the Gulf gets tired and lands on a "floating island". As the ship approaches the Sabine River, the bird sees land and flies off. In the second scenario, the bird is aboard (maybe asleep) when the ship leaves port, and awakes to find itself surrounded by water. It stays aboard for a day and, approaching land, flies off.

We will never know the true origins of the Sabine Woods bird, unless someone steps up and says "Oh yeah, I released it". The possibility of purely natural occurrence seems quite high (meaning the bird is capable of reaching Sabine Woods unaided), but the probability seems low (I can't even find a Tropical Mockingbird record for Cuba, which is a lot closer to the Yucatan than Texas is). Depending on how you interpret the feather wear, natural occurrence may be even more unlikely. The possibility of the bird being a "captive" is high (they are known to be kept captive), but to me, the probability

that this bird is an "escapee" is very low. As much as I would like this bird to be a natural vagrant, I think the un-intentional transport scenarios are the most likely, as both the means and opportunity are present. However, if this bird is determined to be ship assisted and the record not accepted, then I think the TBRC needs to re-examine some other records (specifically the Yucatan Vireo record, which seems to be very analogous).

I'd love to hear other comments, especially from anyone that might have numbers for species/numbers of birds seized by Border Patrol/USDA, or some insight into number of birds transported by crew aboard ships;

*Bob Doe*

## Spring Migration Summary

Our usual full analysis of spring migration will be compiled and published in the fall. Meanwhile, here is a brief summary of our early impressions based on the reports we have at this time, with special thanks to John Haynes.

While no two spring migrations are alike, the weather in spring 2012 was unusual, resulting in an unusual migration season. Normally the winds across the Gulf of Mexico are mostly from the south and moderate to occasionally strong. Birders eagerly await the passage of the last few cold fronts that make it all the way to the Gulf, expecting that the disturbed weather and the north winds in their wake will cause the migrants to drop into the coastal woodlots, rather than overfly to points further inland. This year, the winds over the Gulf were to a large extent, light and often easterly. Strong fronts/disturbances came through March 21/22, March 29, April 3/4/5, April 9/10 and April 16/17. The April 3/4/5 event, although occurring before many migrants were crossing the Gulf saw a fair number of birds at Sabine Woods with at least 17 species of warbler reported on April 6 and 18 on April 7. Hooded Warblers were the most numerous. The April 9/10 front saw 100 Hooded Warblers and 25 Worm-eating Warblers among the 16 species of warbler in Sabine Woods on April 9. This, number wise, may have been the largest or second largest one day arrival this spring. Diversity was greater, with at least 19 species, even though overall numbers were lower, on April 10. The April 16/17 front also saw lots of birds at Sabine Woods, with good numbers of warblers as well as many of the larger species, especially Gray Catbirds. As would be expected in mid-April, diversity of species was near a peak with at least 24 species of warbler seen April 17 and again April 18.

Subsequent to the April 16/17 frontal passage, birders seeking migrants have been largely disappointed. The more normal moderate to strong southerly wind flow over the Gulf developed, and few migrants have found it necessary to stop on the immediate coast.

Our forthcoming full analysis will provide more detail, but we will here remark on some species highlights. Cerulean Warblers were unusually easy to find from April 9 to 18. There was a good showing of Golden-winged Warblers in the same time frame, while Blackburnian Warblers were frequently seen April 4 through 20. An unusually high number of Swainson's Warblers was seen, most in the first two weeks of April. We may have become better at finding them, or that may actually be the peak of their migration!

## Bird Sightings – March 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:** Elsewhere in this issue is an account of the spring migration season up to press time, which includes comments on some of the March sightings below..

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk.-bell.</b>	(3-21) JEF 5 reps(560)	
<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous</b>	(3-3) JEF-TP 3/3(5) JAW	
<b>GOOSE, Snow</b>	(10-16) HAI-SILS 3/16(8) MG; JEF	
	3/10(600) MG	
<b>GADWALL</b>	(4-6) JEF 2 reps(22)	
<b>WIGEON, American</b>	(3-3) JEF 1 rep(6)	
<b>MALLARD</b>	(3-4) JEF 2 reps(212)	
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b>	(3-22) JEF 3 reps(40)	
<b>TEAL, Blue-winged</b>	(3-22) JEF 7 reps(692)	
<b>TEAL, Cinnamon</b>	(3-3) JEF-TP 3/3(1) JAW	
<b>SHOVELER, Northern</b>	(3-21) JEF 3 reps(154)	
<b>PINTAIL, Northern</b>	(3-15) JEF 3 reps(455)	
<b>TEAL, Green-winged</b>	(3-3) JEF 1 rep(255)	
<b>CANVASBACK</b>	(3-3) JEF 1 rep(35)	
<b>REDHEAD</b>	(3-18) JEF-MCFW 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-	
	SRSP 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 3/3(10) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/18(6) FWH	
<b>DUCK, Ring-necked</b>	(3-3) JEF 1 rep(205)	
<b>SCAUP, Lesser</b>	(3-18) JEF 2 reps(6)	
<b>MERGANSER, Red-breasted</b>	(4-18) JEF-PI 3/4(5) RA; JEF-SRSP	
	3/18(4) FWH	
<b>DUCK, Ruddy</b>	(3-4) JEF-MCFW 3/3(25) JAW;	
	JEF-TP 3/3(50) JAW; JEF-PI 3/4(60) RA	
<b>BOBWHITE, Northern</b>	(24-24) JEF 3/24(14) CSL	
<b>LOON, Common</b>	(4-4) JEF-PI 3/4(2) RA	
<b>GREBE, Pied-billed</b>	(3-21) JEF 7 reps(12)	
<b>GREBE, Horned</b>	(4-4) JEF-PI 3/4(10) RA	
<b>GREBE, Eared</b>	(3-3) JEF-MCFW 3/3(25) JAW	
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(3-21) JEF 5 reps(35)	
<b>CORMORANT, Double-crested</b>	(3-10) JEF 2 reps(2)	
<b>CORMORANT, Species</b>	(3-10) JEF 2 reps(41)	
<b>PELICAN, Amer. White</b>	(18-18) JEF-SRSP 3/18(30) FWH	
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b>	(3-18) JEF 3 reps(33)	
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(3-21) JEF 9 reps(23)	
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(3-22) JEF 10 reps(68)	
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(3-22) JEF 9 reps(159)	
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(3-18) JEF 2 reps(42)	
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(18-22) JEF 3/18(4) SR; JEF-SRSP	
	3/18(4) FWH; JEF-TXPT 3/20(5) GD; JEF-TX87 3/22(7) JAW	
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(10-22) JEF-SW 3/10(1) HM; JEF-SW	
	3/21(2) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(2) JAW	
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown.</b>	(3-3) JEF-TP 3/3(90) JAW	
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.</b>	(10-22) JEF 7 reps(44)	
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(3-21) JEF 8 reps(282)	
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b>	(3-15) JEF 2 reps(35)	
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(3-18) JEF 5 reps(78)	
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(3-21) JEF 6 reps(72)	
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(3-15) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(46)	
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(3-22) HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 10 reps(85)	
<b>OSPREY</b>	(6-10) JEF 3/6(1) JAW; JEF-SW	
	3/10(1) MHW	
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b>	(4-22) HAI-SILS 3/4(1) KS; JEF-BMT	
	3/10(1) KS; JEF-BMT 3/19(1) CSL; ORA 3/22(4) CHA	
<b>KITE, White-tailed</b>	(3-18) JEF-MCFW 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-	
	TX87 3/3(3) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/18(1) FWH	
<b>HARRIER, Northern</b>	(3-22) JEF 10 reps(38)	
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b>	(3-22) JEF 3 reps(3)	
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(30-30) JEF 3/30(1) SM	
<b>HAWK, White-tailed</b>	(10-10) JEF 3/10(1) RA	
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(3-24) ANG 1 rep(1); HAI 1 rep(1);	
	JEF 15 reps(152)	
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed (Kriders)</b>	(4-4) JEF 3/4(1) JAW	
<b>CARACARA, Crested</b>	(4-21) JEF 3/4(1) JAW; JEF 3/10(1)	
	RA; JEF 3/15(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 3/21(1) JAW	
<b>KESTREL, American</b>	(2-29) HAI 6 reps(6); JEF 15	
	reps(117)	
<b>MERLIN</b>	(10-22) JEF 3/10(1) RA; JEF-SRSP	
	3/22(1) JAW	
<b>SORA</b>	(3-21) JEF-TP 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW	
	3/21(1) FHSW	
<b>GALLINULE, Common</b>	(3-15) JEF 3 reps(3)	
<b>COOT, American</b>	(3-15) JEF 5 reps(468)	
<b>GOLDEN-PLOVER, American</b>	(6-10) ANG 3/6(4) LD; JEF	
	3/10(120) RA	
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(3-22) ANG 1 rep(15); JEF 9	
	reps(98)	
<b>OYSTERCATCHER, American</b>	(18-18) JEF-SRSP 3/18(2) FWH	
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(3-21) JEF 5 reps(69)	
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(12-18) JEF-BMT 3/12(3) JAW; JEF-	
	SRSP 3/18(1) FWH	
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b>	(3-15) JEF 4 reps(41)	
<b>WILLET</b>	(3-18) JEF 3 reps(76)	
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Lesser</b>	(3-21) JEF 5 reps(48)	
<b>YELLOWLEGS species</b>	(18-18) JEF 3/18(2) SR	
<b>CURLEW, Long-billed</b>	(15-15) JEF 3/15(50) JAW	
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b>	(22-22) JEF-SRSP 3/22(2) JAW	
<b>SANDPIPER, Peep</b>	(4-4) JEF-TX87 3/4(50) JAW	
<b>SANDPIPER, Pectoral</b>	(10-10) JEF 3/10(1) RA	
<b>DOWITCHER, Long-billed</b>	(3-3) JEF-TP 3/3(30) JAW	
<b>DOWITCHER species</b>	(18-18) JEF-SRSP 3/18(5) FWH	
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(3-21) JEF 4 reps(245)	
<b>GULL, Ring-billed</b>	(3-10) JEF 3 reps(184)	
<b>GULL, Herring</b>	(3-18) JEF 2 reps(13)	
<b>TERN, Caspian</b>	(3-3) JEF 1 rep(2)	
<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(3-18) JEF 4 reps(32)	
<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(3-18) JEF 2 reps(2)	
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(3-21) HAI 1 rep(60); JEF 7	
	reps(174)	
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian</b>	(4-29) HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 6 reps(10)	
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(1-30) HAI 3 reps(29); JEF 20	
	reps(93)	
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(3-30) HAI 9 reps(70); JEF 10	
	reps(57)	
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(1-22) JEF-NEDR 3/1(1) JAW; JEF-	
	SW 3/18(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/21(2) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(2) JAW	
<b>ROADRUNNER, Greater</b>	(3-3) HAI-SILS 3/3(1) KS	
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	(21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW	
<b>SCREECH-OWL, Eastern</b>	(2-12) JEF-BMT 3/2(1) RHJ; JEF-	
	BMT 3/12(1) RHJ	
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(3-3) JEF-SW 3/3(1) JAW	
<b>OWL, Short-eared</b>	(4-4) JEF 3/4(1) JAW	
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied</b>	(5-21) JEF-NEDR 3/5 thru 21(1) JAW	
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throat.</b>	(6-30) HAI-SILS 3/27(1) MG; HAI-	
	SILS 3/30(1) MG; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 19 (HS); JEF-BMT 3/6(1)	
	RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/7(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/8(2) RHJ; JEF-BMT	
	3/10(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/11(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 3/11(3) SM; JEF-	
	BMT 3/12(3) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/13(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 3/14(1) RHJ;	
	JEF-BMT 3/16(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/16(1) JAW; JEF-BMT	
	3/17(3) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/18(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/22(1) JAW	
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.</b>	(3-17) JEF-BMT 3/3 thru 17(1) RHJ	
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Archilochus</b>	(21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW	

**HUMMINGBIRD, Calliope** (1-16) JEF-BMT 3/14(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/16(1) HS  
**HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous** (1-31) JEF 3/1(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/21(1) JJW; 3/1 thru 3/31(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/16 (1) HS; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/21 (1) HS; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/31 (1) HS  
**HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf./Allen's** (1-21) JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 21 (1) HS  
**KINGFISHER, Belted** (3-22) JEF 7 reps(18)  
**WOODPECKER, Red-headed** (18-18) HAI-SILS 3/18(1) MG  
**WOODPECKER, Red-bellied** (3-26) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 7 reps(10)  
**WOODPECKER, Golden-front.** (17-17) JEF 3/17(1) CSM  
**SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied** (10-22) JEF-SW 3/10(1) MHW; JEF-SW 3/21(4) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(1) JAW  
**WOODPECKER, Downy** (1-22) JEF 11 reps(17)  
**FLICKER, Northern** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW  
**WOODPECKER, Pileated** (2-29) HAI 6 reps(7); JEF 2 reps(2)  
**PHOEBE, Eastern** (3-10) JEF 3 reps(9)  
**FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW  
**KINGBIRD, Eastern** (31-31) JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH  
**FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed** (20-28) JEF-TXPT 3/20(1) GD; JEF-TX87 3/21(1) JAW; JEF 3/28(1) CSL  
**SHRIKE, Loggerhead** (3-22) JEF 13 reps(112)  
**VIREO, White-eyed** (10-31) HAI-SILS 3/18(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/21(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/26(6) MG; JEF-SW 3/10(3) MHW; JEF-SW 3/21(100) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(15) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) TF; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH  
**VIREO, Yellow-throated** (11-31) JEF-SW 3/11(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(8) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) TF; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH  
**VIREO, Blue-headed** (10-21) JEF 2 reps(2)  
**JAY, Blue** (3-22) HAI 2 reps(10); JEF 8 reps(13)  
**CROW, American** (24-29) HAI 3 reps(7)  
**CROW, Fish** (3-12) JEF 3 reps(8)  
**CROW, species** (6-15) JEF 3 reps(6)  
**MARTIN, Purple** (1-22) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(35)  
**SWALLOW, Tree** (3-22) JEF 3 reps(130)  
**SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged** (10-21) JEF 4 reps(10)  
**SWALLOW, Barn** (4-18) JEF 3/4(2) JAW; JEF 3/6(1) JAW; JEF 3/15(7) JAW; JEF-SRSP 3/18(2) FWH  
**CHICKADEE, Carolina** (3-29) HAI 2 reps(7); JEF 7 reps(9)  
**TITMOUSE, Tufted** (6-14) HAI 2 reps(4)  
**CREEPER, Brown** (10-10) JEF-SW 3/10(1) MHW  
**WREN, Carolina** (10-21) JEF 4 reps(5)  
**WREN, House** (10-21) JEF 2 reps(3)  
**WREN, Sedge** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW  
**WREN, Marsh** (3-3) JEF-TP 3/3(1) JAW  
**GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray** (3-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(38)  
**KINGLET, Golden-crowned** (10-10) JEF-SW 3/10(5) MHW  
**KINGLET, Ruby-crowned** (3-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(37)  
**BLUEBIRD, Eastern** (3-26) HAI 4 reps(7); JEF 7 reps(18)  
**THRUSH, Hermit** (10-10) JEF-SW 3/10(1) MHW  
**THRUSH, Wood** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(0) FHSW  
**ROBIN, American** (1-21) HAI 1 rep(30); JEF 16 reps(226)  
**CATBIRD, Gray** (3-22) HAI-SILS 3/3(1) MG; JEF-SW 3/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/22(1) JAW  
**MOCKINGBIRD, Northern** (3-25) HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 10 reps(142)  
**THRASHER, Brown** (3-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(22)  
**STARLING, European** (1-30) ANG 1 rep(40); HAI 5 reps(136); JEF 8 reps(148)  
**WAXWING, Cedar** (7-7) JEF-NEDR 3/7(40) JJW  
**WARBLER, Worm-eating** (30-31) JEF-SW 3/30(1) TF; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH  
**WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana** (10-31) JEF-SW 3/10(1) HM; JEF-SW 3/11(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(3) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/21(6) SM; JEF-SW 3/22(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) TF; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH  
**WARBLER, Blue-winged** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW  
**WARBLER, Black-and-white** (4-31) HAI-SILS 3/4(1) KS; JEF-SW 3/10(4) MHW; JEF-SW 3/11(1) SM; JEF-SW 3/20(3) JAW; JEF-TXPT 3/20(3) GD; JEF-SW 3/21(25) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(10) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH  
**WARBLER, Prothonotary** (21-31) JEF-SW 3/21(3) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH  
**WARBLER, Swainson's** (30-30) JEF 3/30(1) SM

**WARBLER, Tennessee** (31-31) JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH  
**WARBLER, Orange-crowned** (1-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(15)  
**WARBLER, Nashville** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW  
**YELLOWTHROAT, Common** (3-31) JEF 4 reps(6)  
**WARBLER, Hooded** (20-31) JEF-TXPT 3/20(15) GD; JEF-SW 3/21(50) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(2) TF; JEF-SW 3/31(3) JHH  
**PARULA, Northern** (3-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(141)  
**WARBLER, Blackburnian** (31-31) JEF-SW 3/31(1) JHH  
**WARBLER, Palm** (22-31) JEF-SW 3/22(4) JAW; JEF-SW 3/31(3) JHH  
**WARBLER, Pine** (4-12) JEF 3/4(1) JAW; JEF-BMT 3/12(1) RHJ  
**WARBLER, Yellow-rumped** (3-22) JEF 12 reps(175)  
**WARBLER, Yellow-throated** (10-22) JEF-SW 3/10(6) MHW; JEF-SW 3/11(2) SM; JEF-SW 3/21(10) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(1) JAW  
**WARBLER, Black-thr. Green** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(6) FHSW  
**WARBLER, Wilson's** (3-22) JEF-SW 3/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/10(1) MHW; JEF-SW 3/21(1) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/22(1) JHH  
**TOWHEE, Green-tailed** (21-21) JEF-SW 3/21(1) SM  
**SPARROW, Chipping** (2-30) HAI 15 reps(450); JEF 6 reps(26)  
**SPARROW, Field** (3-22) JEF-SW 3/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/22(3) JAW  
**SPARROW, Savannah** (3-20) JEF 6 reps(114)  
**SPARROW, Nelson's** (20-20) JEF-TXPT 3/20(10) GD  
**SPARROW, Seaside** (18-18) JEF 2 reps(2)  
**SPARROW, Song** (3-4) JEF 2 reps(4)  
**SPARROW, Lincoln's** (18-18) JEF-SRSP 3/18(1) FWH  
**SPARROW, Swamp** (10-31) JEF 3 reps(7)  
**SPARROW, White-throated** (3-31) HAI 8 reps(17); JEF 8 reps(13)  
**SPARROW, White-crowned** (3-3) JEF-TP 3/3(5) JAW  
**CARDINAL, Northern** (3-30) HAI 14 reps(306); JEF 10 reps(26)  
**BUNTING, Indigo** (21-31) JEF-SW 3/21(4) FHSW; JEF-SW 3/31(2) JHH  
**BLACKBIRD, Red-winged** (3-22) JEF 11 reps(428)  
**MEADOWLARK, Eastern** (3-17) JEF 5 reps(177)  
**MEADOWLARK species** (4-15) JEF 3 reps(27)  
**BLACKBIRD, Brewer's** (4-15) JEF 3/4(17) JAW; JEF 3/6(15) JAW; JEF 3/10(5) RA; JEF 3/15(6) JAW  
**GRACKLE, Common** (4-17) JEF 5 reps(72)  
**GRACKLE, Boat-tailed** (3-21) JEF 6 reps(27)  
**GRACKLE, Great-tailed** (1-29) HAI 4 reps(22); JEF 13 reps(756)  
**GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed** (15-21) JEF 2 reps(30)  
**COWBIRD, Brown-headed** (4-30) HAI 9 reps(35); JEF 4 reps(630)  
**GOLDFINCH, American** (3-16) HAI 3 reps(28); JEF 3 reps(18)  
**SPARROW, House** (7-21) JEF 6 reps(10)  
**Number of Species** 172  
**Number of Individuals** 24976  
**County Abbreviations:**  
 ANG — Angelina; HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange  
**Location Codes**  
 BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TP — Tyrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP, TXPT — Road to Pilot Station at Texas Point.  
**Observer Abbreviations**  
 CHA — Cindy Harland; CSL — Christine Sliva; CSM — Charles Smith; FHSW — Terry Ferguson, John Haynes, Harlan Stewart, John Whittle; FRW — Terry Ferguson, Sherrie Roden, Jana Whittle; FWH — Terry. Ferguson and Jana Whittle; GD — Gerald Duhon; HM — John Haynes and Steve Mayes; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; KS — Ken Sztraky; LD — Louis Debetaz; MG — Melanie Goetsell; MHW — Steve Mayes, John Haynes, John Whittle; RA — Richard Atkins; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SM — Steve Mayes; SR — Sherrie Roden; TF — Terry Ferguson.

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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>.

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