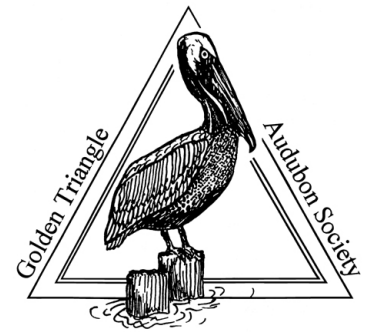


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 7/8

July/August 2012

Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 16, 2012; 7:00 PM
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Birding Mainland Alaska
Jana and John Whittle

John and Jana Whittle will describe and illustrate a recent birding trip led by David Bradford covering most of the accessible parts of mainland Alaska – Alaska west of the Yukon Territory but not any of the islands. Areas covered in addition to the Anchorage area included Homer and Seward in the Kenai Peninsula, the area around Nome (confusingly called the Seward Peninsula), Barrow (the northernmost point in the United States), and south central Alaska around and east of Denali National Park.

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

The Carbon Fuels Controversy

In an area heavily dependent on the oil and petrochemical industry, the future use of the fossil fuels, coal, oil and gas, will always be of significance. Here, we present an analysis for the very long term of issues other than those associated with carbon dioxide and global warming. But first, the immediate environmental issues. Gas, oil and coal all contain, in amounts increasing in that order, substances that either in their existing form or when burned are to some degree or another, toxic. It is therefore essential that when these are used as fuels, effective means are used to reduce the emissions of these pollutants to a reasonably acceptable minimum, regardless of the effect on the relative economics of using each fuel.

These fuels are classified as non-renewable, because the renewal cycle is measured in millions of years. If we use all the current deposits as fuels, converting all the carbon in them to carbon dioxide, what will be the consequences for the future? Currently, almost all of our non-metallic "structural" materials are carbon-based, and virtually all are derived from fossil fuels, with no real alternative source. Sooner or later, we will run out of fossil fuels. When we do, future generations will face the very difficult and extremely energy consuming task of obtaining carbon either from carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, or from carbonates on land or in the sea, or both. For the sake of future generations, we need to stop using them *as fuels* as expeditiously as technological advancement will allow that to be accomplished without unacceptable economic disruption.

John A. Whittle

(Views expressed in signed articles are those of the author and not necessarily those of Golden Triangle Audubon.)

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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 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

Thursday August 16. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Kathi and Richard Orgeron, and all others who brought refreshments in May. **We need volunteers to bring items for all the fall 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! Reserve the month you would like to help in now. Even if you can just 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! We thank all those who brought refreshments over the last year or so!

Saturday August 25. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. The Flats are now very close to full recovery from Hurricane Ike, although the Flats are always changing even in the absence of extreme weather events. A high tide is predicted for 1:31 a.m. that morning, with a very slow fall until about 10 a.m. accelerating thereafter to a low at 4:49 p.m.

Meet leader Steve Mayes at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats at 8:30 a.m. Take Highway 124 south from Winnie about 20 miles through High Island. At the shoreline, turn right along Highway 87 and proceed approximately 25 miles through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you come to the intersection with Loop 108. At that intersection, turn left (south -- the opposite direction from Loop 108) on Rettilon Road to the beach. If conditions permit, drive onto the sand and turn right to the vehicle barrier (about 1/2 mile). It is about a 90-minute drive, with no allowance for stops, from Beaumont or mid-County to the Flats.

We will visit High Island on the way home, checking there for migrants.

You will need a Galveston County Beach Parking Permit, obtainable for \$10 from most merchants on the Peninsula, to park on the beach.

Saturday September 15. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. In this count, we survey as much of the county as we are able, and all are welcome to help, even if you can only spend a few hours in the morning. We do survey in town as well as in the more rural areas, and can accommodate feeder watchers too.

Thursday September 20. Membership Meeting. Tentative: Stephan Lorenz on Birds of Jamaica

Saturday September 29. Field to Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch. Full details and directions to the Hawk Watch site in the next 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.

Bird Sightings – May and June 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: Very little space available this month. Lots of migrants seen in the first half of May this year. June is always a low month for birding, even though most of our summer residents are busily nesting and raising offspring. This applied equally to the two attractions at Sabine Woods seen regularly throughout the period: the Golden-fronted Woodpeckers and the Northern Mockingbird paired with a Northern Mockingbird. Sightings of note include a late Louisiana Waterthrush or Waterthrushes and a late Chuck-will's widow.

The taxonomic sequence here does not reflect the changes in the July 2012 Fifty-third Supplement to the AOU Checklist.

May 2012

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell. (1-28) JEF 14 reps(228)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (7-16) JEF 9 reps(354)
DUCK, Wood (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(3) MC5
GADWALL (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(2) MC5
MALLARD (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(2) MC5
DUCK, Mottled (5-22) JEF 11 reps(45)
TEAL, Blue-winged (3-18) JEF 11 reps(120)
TEAL species (16-16) JEF 5/16(2) MC1
SHOVELER, Northern (16-16) JEF 5/16(2) MC1
SCAUP, Lesser (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(6) MC5
DUCK, Ruddy (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(1) MC5
BOBWHITE, Northern (6-27) HAI 5/27(1) GPTZ; JEF 5/6(14) CSL; JEF 5/12(4) MC7/8; JEF 5/16(7) MC1; JEF 5/18(2) JAW
GREBE, Pied-billed (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(2) MC5
CORMORANT, Neotropic (1-31) JEF 14 reps(154)
CORMORANT, Double-cr. (12-12) JEF-BMT 5/12(1) MC3D; JEF-TP 5/12(1) MC5
ANHINGA (11-12) JEF 5/11(2) JAW; JEF 5/12(1) MC7/8; JEF-TP 5/12(2) MC5
PELICAN, Amer White (12-12) JEF 5/12(60) MC6
PELICAN, Brown (6-13) JEF 6 reps(119)
BITTERN, Least (12-22) JEF-TP 5/12(5) MC5; JEF-MURW 5/22(1) JA
HERON, Great Blue (12-31) JEF 9 reps(15)
EGRET, Great (5-31) JEF 26 reps(217)
EGRET, Snowy (5-28) JEF 16 reps(236)
HERON, Little Blue (5-26) HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 17 reps(115)
HERON, Tricolored (1-28) JEF 16 reps(68)
EGRET, Cattle (2-31) JEF 25 reps(2023)
HERON, Green (3-31) JEF 23 reps(93)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. (12-16) JEF 7 reps(22)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. (1-31) HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 23 reps(115)
IBIS, White (8-22) JEF 12 reps(161)
IBIS, White-faced (12-20) JEF 4 reps(55)
IBIS, Plegadis (12-28) JEF 4 reps(25)
SPOONBILL, Roseate (1-28) JEF 9 reps(25)
VULTURE, Black (4-31) HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 14 reps(55)
VULTURE, Turkey (1-27) HAI 3 reps(12); JEF 22 reps(94)
OSPREY (12-12) JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10
KITE, Mississippi (12-12) JEF-BMT 5/12(2) MC3D
EAGLE, Bald (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(3) MC5
HAWK, Cooper's (16-16) JEF 5/16(1) MC2
HAWK, Red-shouldered (12-26) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 10 reps(17)
HAWK, Broad-winged (12-26) HAI 5/26(2) FTHC; JEF 5/12(2) MC6; JEF 5/16(1) MC1; JEF 5/21(1) JAW
HAWK, Swainson's (5-22) JEF 5/5(1) RA; JEF 5/12(2) MC6; JEF 5/16(1) MC1; JEF 5/20(2) JAW; JEF 5/22(1) JAW

HAWK, Red-tailed (5-31) HAI-SILS 5/18(2) MG; HAI 5/26(1) FTHC; JEF 5/5(1) RA; JEF 5/7(1) JJW; JEF 5/12(1) MC6; JEF 5/12(6) MC7/8; JEF 5/16(4) MC1; JEF 5/18(2) JAW; JEF 5/20(1) JAW; JEF 5/31(1) JJW
CARACARA, Crested (3-20) JEF-TX87 5/3(1) JAW; JEF 5/16(1) MC2; JEF 5/20(1) JAW
KESTREL, American (31-31) JEF 5/31(1) JJW
FALCON, Peregrine (12-12) JEF-TXPT 5/12(1) MC9
RAIL, Clapper (12-13) JEF 4 reps(12)
RAIL, King (13-16) JEF-MCFW 5/13(1) JAW; JEF 5/16(2) MC1
SORA (12-22) JEF 2 reps(6)
GALLINULE, Purple (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(22) MC5
GALLINULE, Common (12-12) JEF-TP 5/12(18) MC5
COOT, American (7-12) JEF 2 reps(49)
PLOVER, Black-bellied (12-16) JEF 5 reps(30)
PLOVER, Wilson's (12-12) JEF-SRSP 5/12(12) MC11
PLOVER, Semipalmated (12-12) JEF-SRSP 5/12(88) MC11
KILLDEER (1-28) JEF 23 reps(127)
STILT, Black-necked (1-22) JEF 17 reps(200)
AVOCET, American (3-22) JEF 6 reps(114)
SANDPIPER, Spotted (5-13) JEF 8 reps(28)
SANDPIPER, Solitary (5-5) JEF 5/5(1) RA
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (7-22) JEF 4 reps(23)
WILLET (2-14) JEF 11 reps(53)
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (5-16) JEF 6 reps(66)
WHIMBREL (5-16) JEF 5 reps(84)
CURLEW, Long-billed (12-12) JEF 5/12(7) MC7/8
GODWIT, Hudsonian (5-12) JEF 5/5(1) RA; JEF 5/12(15) MC5A; JEF 5/12(1) MC7/8
GODWIT, Marbled (12-12) JEF-SRSP 5/12(1) MC11
TURNSTONE, Ruddy (12-13) JEF 4 reps(18)
SANDERLING (12-13) JEF 2 reps(150)
SANDPIPER, Semipalmated (12-13) JEF-BMT 5/12(6) MC3B; JEF-SRSP 5/13(1) JAW
SANDPIPER, Western (12-22) JEF 4 reps(42)
SANDPIPER, Least (5-12) JEF 4 reps(31)
SANDPIPER, White-rumped (5-22) JEF 7 reps(136)
SANDPIPER, Peep (12-12) JEF 4 reps(109)
SANDPIPER, Pectoral (5-16) JEF 7 reps(86)
DUNLIN (12-16) JEF 3 reps(38)
SANDPIPER, Stilt (12-12) JEF-BMT 5/12(1) MC3B
SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted (5-5) JEF 5/5(3) RA
DOWITCHER, Short-bill (12-12) JEF-TXPT 5/12(1) MC9
DOWITCHER, Long-bill (12-12) JEF-SRSP 5/12(1) MC11
PHALAROPE, Wilson's (5-12) JEF 5/5(2) RA; JEF 5/12(4) MC6
GULL, Laughing (11-28) JEF 11 reps(201)
GULL, Ring-billed (12-12) JEF 5/12(3) MC6
TERN, Least (12-22) JEF 8 reps(51)
TERN, Gull-billed (12-12) JEF-SRSP 5/12(1) MC11
TERN, Caspian (12-13) JEF 2 reps(2)
TERN, Black (12-16) JEF 3 reps(61)
TERN, Forster's (12-18) JEF 5 reps(19)
TERN, Royal (12-12) JEF 5/12(2) MC6
SKIMMER, Black (3-12) JEF 5 reps(10)

PIGEON, Rock reps(179)	(1-28)	HAI 3 reps(28); JEF 18			
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. reps(92)	(1-30)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 16			
DOVE, White-winged reps(303)	(1-30)	HAI 7 reps(29); JEF 40			
DOVE, Mourning reps(555)	(2-28)	HAI 7 reps(50); JEF 30			
DOVE, Inca	(1-29)	JEF 13 reps(22)			
GROUND-DOVE, Common	(12-12)	JEF-SRSP 5/12(1) MC11			
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed reps(169)	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 30			
CUCKOO, Black-billed 5/10(1) JHH	(1-10)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) HJJ; JEF-SW			
ROADRUNNER, Greater 5/27(2) GPTZ	(26-27)	HAI 5/26(1) FTHC; HAI			
OWL, Barn	(16-16)	JEF 5/16(1) MC1			
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(12-12)	JEF 5/12(1) MC6			
OWL, Great Horned 5/12(1) MC3; JEF 5/16(1) MC1	(3-16)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) X; JEF-BMT			
OWL, Barred 5/12(1) MC5; JEF 5/16(2) MC2	(12-16)	JEF 5/12(2) MC7/8; JEF-TP			
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(1-28)	JEF 27 reps(121)			
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- SW 5/27(1) RW	(8-27)	JEF-TX87 5/8(1) JAW; JEF-			
SWIFT, Chimney	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 18 reps(76)			
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr reps(102)	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(7); JEF 29			
KINGFISHER, Belted TXPT 5/12(1) MC9	(12-12)	JEF 5/12(1) MC7/8; JEF-			
WOODPECKER, Red-head.	(12-26)	HAI 2 reps(6); JEF 6 reps(15)			
WOODPECKER, Golden-fr. 5/2(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10; JEF-SW 5/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(2) JJW; JEF-SW 5/15(2) JJW JEF-SW 5/19(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/25(1) HD; JEF 5/27(2) RW	(1-27)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW			
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 19 reps(63)			
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell.	(7-7)	HAI-SILS 5/7(1) MG			
WOODPECKER, Downy reps(53)	(1-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 31			
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(12-26)	HAI 6 reps(9); JEF 6 reps(10)			
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided 5/6(1) X; JEF-SW 5/11(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10; JEF-TP 5/12(1) MC5; JEF-SW 5/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JJW; JEF 5/16(2) MC1	(5-16)	JEF-SW 5/5(1) CD; JEF-SW			
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	(2-28)	JEF 23 reps(159)			
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell. 5/12(3) MC10; JEF-TP 5/12(1) MC5; JEF-TXPT 5/12(1) MC9; JEF-SW 5/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JJW; JEF-SW 5/16(1) X	(11-16)	JEF-SW 5/11(5) JAW; JEF-			
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	(3-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(12)			
FLYCATCHER, Alder 5/12(1) MC7/8	(9-12)	JEF-SW 5/9(1) JAW; JEF			
FLYCATCHER, Willow 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10; JEF-SW 5/13(1) JAW	(9-13)	JEF-SW 5/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW			
FLYCATCHER, Traill's 5/10(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/12(3) MC10; JEF-TP 5/12(1) MC5; JEF-SW 5/13(2) JAW	(9-15)	JEF 7 reps(19)			
FLYCATCHER, Least	(9-16)	JEF 7 reps(30)			
EMPIDONAX species	(1-2)	JEF-SRSP 5/1(1) SGA; JEF-			
FLYCATCHER, Ash-throat. SRSP 5/2(1) SGA	(1-26)	HAI 4 reps(5); JEF 23			
FLYCATCHER, Gt Crested reps(49)	(1-28)	JEF 37 reps(373)			
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(5-31)	JEF 21 reps(114)			
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 25			
SHRIKE, Loggerhead reps(157)	(4-29)	HAI 3 reps(20); JEF 4			
VIREO, White-eyed reps(16)	(3-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(20)			
VIREO, Yellow-throated	(15-15)	JEF-SW 5/15(3) JHH; JEF-			
VIREO, Blue-headed SW 5/15(5) JJW	(12-12)	JEF 5/12(1) MC7/8; JEF-TP			
VIREO, Warbling					
			5/12(1) MC5		
VIREO, Philadelphia	(9-19)	JEF 11 reps(30)			
VIREO, Red-eyed reps(234)	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 27			
JAY, Blue reps(126)	(1-29)	HAI 6 reps(23); JEF 30			
CROW, American reps(43)	(2-26)	HAI 2 reps(13); JEF 3			
CROW, Fish	(12-16)	JEF 6 reps(39)			
CROW, species	(11-28)	JEF 10 reps(27)			
MARTIN, Purple	(11-28)	JEF 21 reps(262)			
SWALLOW, Tree 5/12(13) MC7/8; JEF-BMT 5/12(10) MC3B	(12-12)	JEF 5/12(125) MC6; JEF			
SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing.	(12-12)	JEF-TP 5/12(8) MC5			
SWALLOW, Bank	(5-13)	JEF 7 reps(142)			
SWALLOW, Cliff reps(668)	(2-28)	HAI 4 reps(44); JEF 14			
SWALLOW, Cave	(12-12)	JEF 5/12(54) MC6			
SWALLOW, Barn reps(393)	(1-31)	HAI 5 reps(26); JEF 27			
SWALLOW species	(12-22)	JEF 4 reps(220)			
CHICKADEE, Carolina reps(58)	(2-29)	HAI 14 reps(45); JEF 9			
TITMOUSE, Tufted reps(14)	(5-26)	HAI 8 reps(17); JEF 5			
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(26-26)	HAI 5/26(3) FTHC			
WREN, Carolina reps(31)	(2-31)	HAI 10 reps(17); JEF 10			
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray reps(26)	(1-26)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 15			
BLUEBIRD, Eastern reps(59)	(3-31)	HAI 6 reps(21); JEF 12			
VEERY	(1-15)	JEF 12 reps(31)			
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	(1-16)	JEF 16 reps(47)			
THRUSH, Swainson's	(1-16)	JEF 18 reps(218)			
THRUSH, Wood	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(10)			
ROBIN, American	(1-28)	JEF 16 reps(27)			
CATBIRD, Gray	(1-25)	JEF 23 reps(193)			
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern reps(751)	(1-31)	HAI 3 reps(24); JEF 34			
MOCKINGBIRD, Tropical multiple observers	(1-31)	JEF-SW 5/1 thru 5/31(1 adult)			
THRASHER, Brown reps(89)	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 36			
STARLING, European reps(481)	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 26			
WAXWING, Cedar	(8-16)	JEF 6 reps(39)			
OVENBIRD	(1-16)	JEF 20 reps(61)			
WARBLER, Worm-eating	(1-12)	JEF 7 reps(11)			
WATERTHRUSH, Louis. 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10; JEF-SW 5/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/25(1) HD	(7-25)	JEF-SW 5/7(1) HS; JEF-SW			
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(1-16)	JEF 23 reps(58)			
WARBLER, Golden-winged	(3-3)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) JHH			
WARBLER, Black-and-wh.	(1-16)	JEF 19 reps(54)			
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(10)			
WARBLER, Tennessee	(1-16)	JEF 26 reps(106)			
WARBLER, Mourning SW 5/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/11(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/13(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/14(1) JJW	(10-14)	JEF-SW 5/10(1) JHH; JEF-			
WARBLER, Kentucky	(12-12)	JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10			
YELLOWTHROAT, Common reps(81)	(1-29)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 29			
WARBLER, Hooded reps(10)	(1-27)	HAI 2 reps(13); JEF 7			
REDSTART, American	(1-19)	JEF 25 reps(272)			
WARBLER, Cape May 5/1(2) JAW; JEF-SW 5/2(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/2(5) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/6(1) X	(1-6)	JEF-SW 5/1(2) HJJ; JEF-SW			
PARULA, Northern	(1-13)	JEF 14 reps(42)			
WARBLER, Magnolia	(1-25)	JEF 28 reps(258)			
WARBLER, Bay-breasted	(2-19)	JEF 21 reps(128)			
WARBLER, Blackburnian	(3-16)	JEF 19 reps(105)			
WARBLER, Yellow	(1-28)	JEF 27 reps(211)			

WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	(3-19)	JEF 19 reps(81)
WARBLER, Blackpoll	(1-14)	JEF 13 reps(35)
WARBLER, Black-thr. Blue	(1-12)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) HJJ; JEF-SW 5/1(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/2(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/2(5) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(3) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/4(3) JHH; JEF-SW 5/5(1) CD; JEF-SW 5/12(1) MC10
WARBLER, Palm	(3-3)	JEF-SW 5/3(1) X
WARBLER, Pine	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(7); JEF 7 reps(15)
WARBLER, Yell-rump (Aud)	(1-3)	JEF-SW 5/1(1) HJJ; JEF-SW 5/2(1) JHH; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 5/3(1) JHH
WARBLER, Yellow-throated	(12-26)	HAI 5/26(2) FTHC; JEF 5/12(2) MC7/8; JEF-TP 5/12(1) MC5
WARBLER, Prairie	(26-27)	HAI 5/26(3) FTHC; HAI 5/27(1) GPTZ
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(2-16)	JEF 18 reps(52)
WARBLER, Canada	(10-16)	JEF 9 reps(78)
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(2-27)	HAI 2 reps(10); JEF 4 reps(5)
TOWHEE, Eastern	(27-27)	HAI 5/27(1) GPTZ
SPARROW, Bachman's	(27-27)	ANG 5/27(5) GPTZ
SPARROW, Chipping	(2-2)	JEF-SW 5/2(1) JCL
SPARROW, Savannah	(5-16)	JEF 6 reps(23)
SPARROW, Seaside	(8-22)	JEF 3 reps(16)
TANAGER, Summer	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 19 reps(43)
TANAGER, Scarlet	(1-28)	JEF 16 reps(52)
CARDINAL, Northern	(2-31)	HAI 19 reps(344); JEF 27 reps(221)
GROSBEAK, Rose-breast	(1-14)	JEF 13 reps(71)
GROSBEAK, Blue	(1-27)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 11 reps(14)
BUNTING, Indigo	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 24 reps(163)
BUNTING, Painted	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 16 reps(36)
DICKCISSEL	(1-28)	JEF 25 reps(242)
BOBOLINK	(1-2)	JEF-SW 5/1(35) HJJ; JEF-SW 5/2(20) JHH
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(2-28)	JEF 29 reps(643)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(5-22)	JEF 13 reps(191)
MEADOWLARK species	(7-7)	JEF 5/7(1) JJW
GRACKLE, Common	(1-27)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 28 reps(512)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(3-28)	JEF 12 reps(103)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-28)	HAI 2 reps(13); JEF 27 reps(457)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	(3-18)	JEF 5 reps(28)
COWBIRD, Bronzed	(2-12)	JEF-SW 5/2(1) JCL; JEF-SW 5/2(1) X; JEF-SW 5/12(2) MC10
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(1-31)	HAI 14 reps(43); JEF 23 reps(162)
BLACKBIRD species	(22-22)	JEF 5/22(4) JAW
ORIOLE, Orchard	(1-29)	JEF 25 reps(262)
ORIOLE, Baltimore	(1-12)	JEF 13 reps(50)
FINCH, House	(5-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 26 reps(65)
SPARROW, House	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 28 reps(305)
Number of Species		219
Number of Individuals		40180

June 2012

GADWALL	(22-22)	JEF-TP 6/22(2) JHH
DUCK, Ruddy	(22-22)	JEF-TP 6/22(1) JHH
GREBE, Least	(22-22)	JEF-TP 6/22(2) JHH
BITTERN, Least	(22-22)	JEF-TP 6/22(4) JHH
EGRET, Cattle	(21-21)	JEF 6/21(20) JJW
HERON, Green	(30-30)	JEF-SW 6/30(2) RPO
IBIS, White	(24-25)	JEF 6/24(5) JJW; JEF 6/25(50) JJW
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(24-24)	JEF 6/24(1) JJW
VULTURE, Turkey	(24-25)	JEF 2 reps(3)
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(2-21)	HAI 2 reps(2)
HAWK, Swainson's	(25-25)	JEF 6/25(1) JJW
HAWK, Red-tailed	(21-21)	JEF 6/21(1) JJW
GALLINULE, Purple	(22-22)	JEF-TP 6/22(22) JHH
WHIMBREL	(13-13)	JEF-SRSP 6/13(1) BWR
PIGEON, Rock	(20-21)	HAI 2 reps(31)
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.	(6-6)	HAI-SILS 6/6(2) MG

DOVE, White-winged	(2-25)	HAI 7 reps(41); JEF 3 reps(12)
DOVE, Mourning	(2-24)	HAI 10 reps(69); JEF 1 rep(1)
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(30-30)	JEF-SW 6/30(2) RPO
OWL, Great Horned	(1-1)	JEF-BMT 6/1(1) RHJ
NIGHTHAWK, Common	(21-21)	JEF 6/21(1) JJW
SWIFT, Chimney	(3-30)	HAI 1 rep(8); JEF 28 reps(59)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr	(6-30)	HAI 6 reps(10); JEF 15 reps(19)
WOODPECKER, Red-head.	(2-26)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 2 reps(3)
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(3-23)	HAI 4 reps(4)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(2-27)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 8 reps(8)
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(6-30)	HAI 6 reps(6)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(3-18)	HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 2 reps(2)
VIREO, White-eyed	(3-3)	HAI-SILS 6/3(1) MG
JAY, Blue	(2-25)	HAI 10 reps(57)
CROW, American	(12-30)	HAI 3 reps(7)
SWALLOW, Cliff	(2-20)	HAI-SILS 6/2(6) MG; HAI-SILS 6/4(14) MG; HAI-SILS 6/15(22) MG; HAI-SILS 6/20(32) MG
SWALLOW, Barn	(2-20)	HAI 4 reps(12)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-28)	HAI 4 reps(10); JEF 2 reps(4)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(2-27)	HAI 7 reps(15); JEF 5 reps(10)
WREN, Carolina	(2-2)	HAI-SILS 6/2(2) MG
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(2-30)	HAI 5 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(4)
ROBIN, American	(25-25)	JEF-NEDR 6/25(2) JJW
CATBIRD, Gray	(19-28)	JEF 3 reps(3)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(2-25)	HAI 5 reps(22); JEF 2 reps(3)
MOCKINGBIRD, Tropical	(1-30)	JEF-SW 6/1 thru 6/30(1 adult multiple observers; JEF-SW 6/20 thru 6/31 (2 juvenile hybrids with Northern Mockingbird); various observers.
THRASHER, Brown	(2-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(18)
STARLING, European	(3-4)	HAI 2 reps(24)
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(30-30)	JEF-SW 6/30(1) RPO
WARBLER, Pine	(12-21)	HAI 6 reps(7); JEF 1 rep(1)
CARDINAL, Northern	(2-30)	HAI 19 reps(742)
BUNTING, Painted	(22-22)	JEF-TP 6/22(5) JHH
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(21-21)	JEF 6/21(2) JJW
GRACKLE, Common	(12-12)	HAI-SILS 6/12(6) MG
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(2-2)	HAI-SILS 6/2(12) MG
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(2-29)	HAI 16 reps(46)
ORIOLE, Orchard	(30-30)	JEF-SW 6/30(5) RPO
FINCH, House	(4-30)	HAI 13 reps(29); JEF 3 reps(3)
SPARROW, House	(21-25)	JEF 4 reps(19)
Number of Species		53
Number of Individuals		3108

County Abbreviations:

ANG — Angelina; HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson.

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; BTLN — Big Thicket NP - Lower Neches River Corridor; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA, west of Taylor Bayou; NEDR — Nederland; SILS — Silsbee; SNDY — Nature Conservancy Sandyland Sanctuary; 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

ABK — Andy Bankert; BWR — Bill Wright; CD — Carolyn Dill; CSL — Christine Sliva; FTHC — Field Trip to Hardin County; GPTZ — Greg Page and Teri Zambon; HD — Howard Davis; HS — Harlan Stewart; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle; JCL — James Clark; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; MC1 — Migration Count, Area 1; MC2 — Area 2; MC3 — Area 3; MC3A — Area 3A; MC3B — Area 3B; MC3C — Area 3C; MC3D — Area 3D; MC4 — Area 4; MC5 — Area 5; MC5A — Area 5A; MC6 — Area 6; MC7/8 — Areas 7/8; MC9 — Area 9; MC10 — Area 10; MC11 — Area 11; MC12 — Area 12; MG — Melanie Goetsell; MPE — Michael Pease; MTA — Monte Taylor; RA — Richard Atkins; RBTT — Richard Bello and Terry Thibodeux; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; RPO — Ray Porter; RW — Ron Weeks; SDW — Shirley and Dan Wilkerson; SGA — Sidney Gautreaux; TF — Terry Ferguson; X — Unknown (Sabine Woods Sightings Sheet).

Spring 2012 Migration Summary

Once again, we present, largely in tabular form, a summary of the sightings of passerine Neotropical migrants. We have combined all the species into a single table, even though we know this results in small print. (If you have access, the pdf version of the *Brown Pelican* on the web at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org can be made larger quite easily.) The species are listed in the American Ornithological Union's "taxonomic" order, including the changes published in the July 2011 in the Fifty-second Supplement to the Checklist of North American Birds. It does not reflect changes detailed in the Fifty-third Supplement, published a few days before this issue went to press. A quick review suggests that changes in sequence detailed in this new supplement do not affect any of the species listed in the table.

There are a few species that we have covered in some past year's tables that we have not been able to cover this year, because including them would excessively expand the number of days in March in the Table. These are species that winter in numbers such as Yellow-rumped and Orange-crowned Warblers, and Blue-headed Vireo. We were able to include Wilson's Warbler, Gray Catbird and Palm Warbler, even though these species do winter in the area.

We elected to start the analysis on March 10, the first day on which there were species present that do not over-winter. Analogously, we did not include May 29, because the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Painted Bunting and Orchard Orioles reported on that date were of species that bred in Sabine Woods this summer.

Certain species that are only seen on two or three days are not included in the table, but are indicated here: an **Ash-throated Flycatcher**, a species that is probably as much a winter resident as a migrant in the area, was seen on May 1 and May 2. **Black-billed Cuckoos** were noted Apr30, May 1 and May 10. The only species that we have reported for May 7 was a Louisiana Waterthrush, and it is included in the totals in the table even though that day is not shown. (This may have been the same individual that was present May 11 to May 14, suggesting a bird looking for somewhere to breed.)

The methodology, similar to that employed in previous years, was as follows. We considered four "locations": Sabine Woods, the road to the former Pilot Station at Texas Point, Sea Rim State Park and Highway 87 west of the entrance, and points elsewhere on Texas 87 west of Sabine Pass. (There were very few reports of passerine migrants again this year from the road to the Pilot Station or from Highway 87 west of Sea Rim, because these areas have still not recovered from Hurricane Ike, but we retain the ability to consider these locations in the future.) If there were multiple reports for any given location on any given day, the highest count for each species submitted by any of the observer groups was used. This process probably does not produce a perfect result, but we believe it eliminates most "double counting" of birds that would otherwise occur. The counts for each of the three locations were added to determine the total of that species reported on that day. It should be noted that a bird that stays for more than one day may show up on the table for each of the days that it is present. No attempt has been made to

account for such extended stays. This is probably most obvious for the Black-whiskered Vireo, as it seems almost certain that it was one bird seen over an extended period.

We have noted in past years the challenges of evaluating results of the sightings in May. Radar observations confirm that there are many birds that migrate across the Gulf of Mexico in the first half of May, but the numbers that are reported at the coastal stopover sites are usually quite small. The winds in May are generally consistently more favorable – have a greater southerly component – and fronts bringing northerly winds at the coast become very rare. In addition, it is suggested that the inherited pressures to reach the breeding grounds become stronger as the days lengthen. Both tend to cause birds that are able to continue to bypass the coastal sites and continue further north before stopping to rest and refuel. But our observer corps seems increasingly to be recognizing the continuation of migration into May resulting in more May reports each year. Thus the numbers reported for May may be increasing as much because of increased observer effort as anything else.

As each year since Hurricane Ike, there were many more reports from Sabine Woods than any other site. Many reports were the combined efforts of several observers, compiled on site at the time or very shortly afterwards, so the number of actual reports does not in any way reflect the number of observers or observer groups. Mostly, we include only "first hand" reports to one of our regular observers, although postings to TEXBIRDS are used where appropriate. We have, albeit selectively and mostly towards the beginning and end of the season, also used postings on the sightings list at Sabine Woods. We do try very hard to include all credible reports that we receive, but it is sometimes very difficult to keep up, especially in the second half of April, and we apologize to any whose reports did not make it into our database. We thank the following observers who regularly submitted reports or contributed to the combined reports: John Haynes, Howard Davis, Steve Dillinger, Terry Ferguson, Steve Mayes, and Jana Whittle. Others whose reports were used include: Kitty and Jim Anding, Richard Atkins, Rick Bello, Ty and Ida Boumaan, Cody Conway, Louis Debetaz, Carolyn Dill, Gerald Duhon, Jon Dunn, Pat and Don Jeane, Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan, Steve Kuritz, Carol Lynn Loker, Sally and Chuck Moffet, Ray Porter, Sherrie Roden, Kelley Sampeck, Harlan Stewart, Ron Weeks, Tex Wells and others who posted on TEXBIRDS. Our apologies to anyone we may have omitted.

We now have data for each year since 1996 compiled under the same procedure. Estimating overall populations is not something that it is possible to do, since the fraction of migrants detected along the coast is strongly affected by weather. However, the data should allow comparisons of relative populations if species migrating within the same time period are compared. Because of the loss of many coastal trees and shrubs in the storm surge of Ike, more migrants may be concentrating in Sabine Woods, where they are more likely to be detected and reported. Copies of all previous compilations are available upon request as .pdf files.

John A. Whittle

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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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