

# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 9

September 2012

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, September 20, 2012; 7:00 PM**  
**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Birds of Jamaica**  
**Stephan Lorenz**

After receiving a Bachelors of Science from the University of Houston and a Masters of Science from the University of Texas Stephan has worked on numerous bird research projects, including two months field work in Jamaica for the Smithsonian Institute, He has gained experience with the majority of bird species found in Central America through numerous trips to Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Panama. He spent four summer seasons studying seabirds in the Bering Sea of Alaska, working for the US Fish and Wildlife, Memorial University, and St. Paul Island Tours. In addition he has published several papers on bird distribution and natural history along with articles about his Alaska experiences in Birdwatcher's Digest and WildBird. In this presentation, he will describe and discuss the endemic species of Jamaica.

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

## **Editorial – Protection and Conservation of Habitat**

We do not often use the space afforded by our editorial privilege to engage in advocacy. Indeed, even when we do address issues. We most often confine ourselves to laying out the facts, indicating the consequences predicted by the best and most knowledgeable impartial experts, and allowing you, the reader to decide what needs to be done.

Our focus – Audubon's focus – is on birds. We are happy to be able to state that only rarely do we encounter direct threats to birds in the Americas. The threats to birds are most often indirect. By far and away the most important indirect threat is habitat degradation and loss. Not just breeding habitat but wintering habitat, which is often under greater danger of destruction, and migration habitat. Migration stopover habitat is well known to us – it's where we often bird locally – and critically important in our area because it consists of small, often isolated pockets that support temporary, impressive concentrations of migrating birds. Peveto Woods, Sabine Woods, and High Island are the local examples. There are few other places in the world where such small areas are so important, because there are few if any places where historical geologic-geographic factors have resulted in a 600-700 mile over-water crossing by so many land based species in such numbers. We must be vigilant in protecting and conserving them.

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### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

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## The Brown Pelican is

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## Calendar of Events

*Important Note: Field Trip notices published here should always be regarded as needing confirmation just before the date. We want to be able to take advantage of any good concentrations of interesting birds and to adjust in cases where access has changed. Changes will always be posted on the web site 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 September 15. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count.** Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) or 409-722-4193) to volunteer to help in this county-wide count. 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. We can try to pair you up with an experienced observer.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Debbie Bradshaw, Cindy and Billy Harland, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Gail Slocum and Mary and Herb Stafford and all others who brought refreshments in August. **We need volunteers to bring items for the September 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! Reserve the month you would like to help in now. Even if you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 (or email her at [janafw@aol.com](mailto:janafw@aol.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!

**Thursday September 20. Membership Meeting.** Details on page 1.

**Saturday September 22 (tentative date). Sabine Woods Work Day.** As all of you know, after two very dry years, we had a very wet summer. This has resulted in luxuriant growth both in the open areas of the Sanctuary, and inside the Woods. We thank Howard Davis most sincerely for brushhogging the trails, the open areas and around the new trees in the east. However, there is a lot more that we need to do, and we would like as much help as possible on this work day. Riding mowers, especially heavy duty ones, are most valuable for grooming the trails, but there is a lot of trimming of bushes and undergrowth needed on the trails inside the woods. Loppers will be the best tool for much of this. We have a few but if you have your own, so much the better. We also would like to begin a little thinning of the excessive number of small oak trees in some older parts of the Woods and one small chain saw would be helpful in this process. If you have a larger chain saw, check with us a few days prior in case any larger limbs or dead trees may have fallen and need to be cut.

We plan to start around 7:30 a.m., and will probably work until about noon. We hope that perhaps the temperature and the insect population will have diminished by the work day. Sometimes on past fall work days, we have shortened the schedule because of the presence of migrants!

Please bring work gloves and insect repellent, and whatever hand tools you have – loppers, clippers etc. We have a few, but typically not enough. We will try to provide light refreshments.

For more information, please contact John Whittle at [johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) or 409-722-4193.



EarthShare of Texas represents Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll contribution programs in workplaces throughout Texas. For more information about how you can support Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society at your workplace, call 1-800-GREENTX, or visit [www.earthshare-texas.org](http://www.earthshare-texas.org).

**Saturday September 29. Field Trip to the Smith Point Hawk Watch.** Our leaders will be there from about 8:30 a.m. The peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration is "ordinarily" September 25 or 26, but highly dependent on weather conditions on the hawks' migratory route, and never seems to occur early. The hawks tend to wait out adverse weather conditions. This trip will be one week later than our normal field trip schedule.

To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 miles (two miles past the access road for Anahuac NWR) until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch (but since the Hawk Watch is an all volunteer operation again this year, there may not be any this time). Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left on a shell/limestone oilfield road, bearing left again to the parking area next to the Hawk Watch Tower on the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. This Field Trip is much more a come and go as you wish trip, and help on hawk identification is always available on the tower!

Our leaders may lead a group into the nearby woods looking for migrants, but you may stay on the tower if you wish. Mosquitoes are not normally a problem on the tower, although they almost always are in the woods. Food and fuel are limited or not available at Smith Point, so bring your lunch!

If you cannot join us on this day, the Hawk Watch is conducted every day from August 15 through the end of October.

**Thursday October 18. Membership Meeting.** Birds of Ecuador. Gerald Duhon and Steve Mayes.

**Saturday October 20. Field Trip to Sabine Woods.** This trip will be looking for some of the later migrating species, and may include other places in the Sabine Pass area.

**Thursday November 15. Membership Meeting.** Dana Nelson on birds of Africa.

## **Audubon Statement on National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska Announcement**

New York, NY, August 13, 2012 - Following today's National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska announcement by Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, National Audubon Society President and CEO David Yarnold issued the following statement:

"The secretary's plan shows that Americans can protect nature even on lands designated for energy production. It would be a great victory for birds, wildlife and common sense. And it says that some places really are too precious to drill, and there's no better example than the Teshekpuk Lake area, one of the planet's most prolific bird nurseries," said Audubon President and CEO David Yarnold.

### **Background on the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska**

The Department of the Interior is in the process of preparing a comprehensive land management plan (Integrated Activity Plan or "IAP") for the nearly 23-million acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (Reserve) on Alaska's North Slope. The Reserve is the nation's largest public land management unit. It is home to two large caribou herds, musk oxen, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, and dense populations of nesting raptors (Peregrine Falcons, Gyrfalcons, and Rough-legged Hawks). The wetlands of the Reserve support millions of nesting birds that migrate along all four of the nation's major flyways and overwinter from coast to coast. Coastal areas of the Reserve provide vital habitat for various marine mammals including beluga whales, walrus, ice seals, and polar bears.

President Harding established the Reserve in 1923, and Congress transferred management of the Reserve from the Navy to the Department of the Interior under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976 with a statutory mandate to balance future energy development with protection of the Reserve's special

ecological, recreational and subsistence values. Under NPRPA, the Secretary of the Interior is charged with striking a balance to include both production and protection in the Reserve. This mandate was stated clearly in the first IAP adopted for the Northeast portion of the Reserve in 1998. The fundamental purpose of an IAP "is to determine the appropriate multiple use management" of the reserve; NPRPA "encourages oil and gas development in NPR-A while requiring protection of important surface values."

In NPRPA, the Teshekpuk Lake and the Utukok River uplands areas were specifically mentioned as deserving "maximum protection" under the law.

The Teshekpuk Lake area has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA) of Global Significance in recognition of its waterfowl values which include an internationally-important "molting" area where geese annually lose and regrow their feathers leaving them temporarily flightless and extremely vulnerable to disturbance. This area is unique and there are no other known places that support large numbers of four species of molting geese in the circumpolar Arctic. Birds migrate to molt at Teshekpuk Lake from Canada, Russia, and other parts of Alaska. Up to 100,000 Pacific Brant, Canada Geese, Snow Geese, and White-fronted Geese molt their flight feathers in the vicinity of Teshekpuk Lake each summer. Each fall waterfowl migrate south from the Teshekpuk Lake area along all major U.S. flyways from coast to coast as they return to wintering grounds, awaited by bird-watchers.

Recent research indicates that Teshekpuk Lake may have the highest shorebird breeding densities in the entire circumpolar Arctic. Some shorebird species migrate to the area from far-flung locations including Chile, New Zealand, Japan, and Russia. More than two dozen species of shorebird breed in the Reserve and the Teshekpuk Lake area supports globally significant populations of at least three of these species: Black-bellied Plover 10%; Dunlin (*Calidris alpina arctica* subspecies) 19%; and Semipalmated Sandpiper (western population) 10%.

*(continued on page 7)*

## Field Trip to Liberty – 4 August 2012

There are field trips and then there are “field trips”. The Golden Triangle Audubon Society conducts official field trips during most of the year to such diverse places as Bolivar Flats and Sabine Woods. But unofficially, not so secretly, some members of the club have also conducted a few unofficial “field trips” throughout the years. Some of these have become traditional, annual events. One of the best of these is a late July or early August trip to Liberty County for the annual gathering of Swallow-tailed Kites in the Trinity River bottoms.

The Swallow-tailed Kite was once a fairly common bird nesting in the southeastern U.S. Clearing of bottomland forests along with pesticides and other factors decimated the population of this graceful raptor and it disappeared from Texas and most of the rest of the country. In recent years, conservation efforts and recovery of forests has led to a rebound in Swallow-tailed Kite population and they are again nesting in the swamps and along rivers in eastern Texas though still in limited numbers. Because of this, any chance to see one is a special opportunity in Texas and not to be missed. The best place to do so is the bottomland forest along the lower Trinity River in Liberty County and the best time is during the late summer when the Kites stage prior to migration.

With this in mind, more than a dozen birders assembled for hunt! The first place to look is the stretch of Highway 90 between the towns of Liberty and Dayton. This stretch crosses the bottomland flood plain of the Trinity River. It looked as if the birders might be shut out on this early morning run until one young Swallow-tailed Kite was spotted zipping over the tree tops on the south side of the road. A quick pull over and the whole group got looks at this beautiful black and white raptor. Sometimes, the thermals that form later in the day provide better conditions for finding multiple kites, so the group decided to bird elsewhere and check this spot again later.

A nice all around birding spot is Liberty Municipal Park. It provides a bit of forest mixed with open areas and even a couple of ponds for a nice variety of birds. One of the first birds evident was Yellow-billed Cuckoo. It seems to have been an especially good hatch year for this species and they were easily found in the trees and even flying across the roads on this date. Carolina Chickadees were obvious especially in voice and Carolina Wrens were also found. A couple of cooperative Acadian Flycatchers were a nice find. Vireos put on a decent show with White-eyed, Yellow-throated and Red-eyed all being seen (some better than others). An adult male Black and White Warbler gave a few good looks and most of the birders also found at least one of the young Painted Buntings found on the trip. And there were other species: Loggerhead Shrikes, White-eyed Vireos and Northern Cardinals among others.

One of the other target birds for the trip is the Mississippi Kite. This is another bird that has greatly expanded its range in recent years. It also favors riparian environments but has adapted well to suburban areas as well. These lovely raptors plumaged in soft grays soar and circle like a giant Purple

Martin while hunting for large insects like dragonflies and cicadas. The group was able to get good views of a number of these birds in the city of Liberty, along Highway 90 and especially in the park. One lucky birder also saw several Swallow-tailed Kites while in the park.

Another search down Highway 90 revealed more Swallow-tailed Kites. Initially, one bird was seen along the roadside as it landed in a tree. Then another bird was seen circling around. It became obvious that the bird in the tree was a begging youngster as it constantly voiced its displeasure at the other kite. Probably a parent not feeding the young one as often as it would have liked! Eventually three Swallow-tailed Kites were found soaring together along the roadside. Great sightings of a great bird and the day was not over yet!

A stop at the roadside rookery along the Trinity River at I-10 provided many more nice birds. Great Egrets and Cattle Egrets were common in the area and several Anhingas gave good looks. A small, well camouflaged Alligator was a nice diversion but the young Little Blue Herons relentlessly pursuing an adult was even more entertaining. A couple of distant Wood Ducks swam in the duck weed covered water along with a lone American Coot. Red-bellied Woodpeckers gave some nice views and two Fulvous Whistling-Ducks gave a fly by view. There were many Black Terns working over the far side of the pond.

A few of the birders stopped by the Anahuac NWR visitor center on the way home. Not only did they get to enjoy that fine new facility (complete with an airboat ride simulation) but added Tufted Titmouse to the day’s list along with a nice flock of Wood Storks kettling over the highway. A nice way to end any birding day! With Wood Storks, Mississippi Kites and Swallow-tailed Kites all in the same day, this unofficial outing might have to become a regular field trip!

The following species were recorded on the day:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (1); Fulvous Whistling-Duck (2); Wood Duck (2); Wood Stork (75); Neotropic Cormorant (6); Anhinga (12); Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (4); Snowy Egret (6); Little Blue Heron (7); Tricolored Heron (2); Cattle Egret (83); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); Roseate Spoonbill (8); Black Vulture (15); Turkey Vulture (7); Swallow-tailed Kite (9); Mississippi Kite (19); Swainson’s Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (2); Common Gallinule (4); American Coot (1); Killdeer (3); Black Tern (25); Eurasian Collared-Dove (2); Mourning Dove (1); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (8); Chimney Swift (2); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Downy Woodpecker (1); Pileated Woodpecker (2); Acadian Flycatcher (2); Least Flycatcher (2); Eastern Kingbird (4); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (2); White-eyed Vireo (2); Yellow-throated Vireo (1); Red-eyed Vireo (1); American Crow (6); Crow species (2); Purple Martin (10); Barn Swallow (62); Carolina Chickadee (6); Tufted Titmouse (2); Carolina Wren (4); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Northern Mockingbird (4); European Starling (5); Black-and-white Warbler (1); Summer Tanager (2); Northern Cardinal (1); Painted Bunting (2); Great-tailed Grackle (5); House Sparrow (10) *Steve Mayes*

## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 25 August 2012

Dodging bad weather is nothing new on Golden Triangle Audubon Society field trips. Heat, rain, cold, none of these things have shut down trips in the past (well, there was that one hurricane ...) so even under a threatening forecast, the August trip to Bolivar Flats went ahead as scheduled. With skies threatening and rain already underway in the Golden Triangle, we still managed a double digit turnout for this eagerly anticipated trip and even had a few new participants coming out for their first field trip.

Of course, shorebirds are the first thought when one heads to Houston Audubon's Bolivar Flats and there were plenty to be found on this date. The high "tide" – more occasioned by the wind than the moon – meant less walking than normal. Marbled Godwits were immediately apparent as they used their long bills to probe deep into the mud. Long-billed Curlews were also seen, mostly in the marshy areas behind the flats, but also on the beach itself. Towards the end of our time on the Flats, a single Whimbrel gave the group a look or two. Willets were common as usual and easy to identify but one wonders how long it will be before they are split into eastern and western species and birders will have to learn to sort them out? A couple of Spotted Sandpipers bobbed on the edge of the flats while a few Short-billed Dowitchers displayed an array of plumage variations. Sanderlings were numerous and a really nice number of Ruddy Turnstones were also seen. Peeps were well represented with Western, Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers all noted. A single Pectoral Sandpiper was located along with a lone American Avocet, unfortunately already in winter plumage.

Plovers are a target of this trip, so the group was on the lookout for them. There was no trouble finding Black-bellied Plovers as they were numerous. Wilson's Plovers were less numerous but still easily seen. A took a little while but, eventually, Semipalmated Plovers were also found. Curiously, not a single Piping or Snowy Plover was located despite intense scrutiny of every little scurrying bird on the flats. Perhaps the high tide and poor weather had them hiding out near the jetty on this date. Killdeer completed our plover set for the day.

Other birds noted from the flats included a nice (though somewhat distant) flock of Black Skimmers that fluttered up at one point. Roseate Spoonbills were noted on a pond behind the flats. A trio of Horned Larks hopped along and around a piece of driftwood. Great looks were had at a Magnificent Frigatebird that soared overhead. A Common Nighthawk gave the group some pause until its identity was firmly established. It looked somewhat small, but it was not a Lesser Nighthawk unfortunately! A Barn Swallow zipped by while a small group of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers hunted along the flats. Reddish Egrets were fairly numerous even if most did not give very close looks. One of the most unusual sights on the flats was a Coyote loping about, possibly in search of an easy meal but it looked like he was just having fun! A Common Tern was a nice find on the way out of the flats.

Leaving the flats, the group met for lunch at Fort Travis Park and picked up a few more birds. More (distant) Magnificent Frigatebirds were spied out and a shy Yellow Warbler played hide and seek in the Salt Cedars along the

outside wall of the Park. Marbled Godwits in significant numbers were easy to see feeding in the damp grass while Tricolored Herons stalked the marshes. Leaving Fort Travis, a quick trip to Port Bolivar and Frenchtown Road picked up a couple of Clapper Rails but did not produce the looked for American Oystercatcher. Bob's Road revealed Belted Kingfisher and Green Heron. Yacht Basin Road gave the group Black-necked Stilts, more Black Skimmers and the hoped for American Oystercatcher.

Rollover Pass had to be skipped do to a heavy downpour in the area and very high water so the remaining birders headed for Boy Scout Woods in High Island. There was no rain here but the woods were pretty quiet. Diligent searching turned up Worm-eating Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher among a few other birds. Moving on to end the day at Smith Oaks, as is traditional for this trip produced more nice birds. A Prothonotary Warbler gave a brief look for some while an Eastern Wood-Pewee was more cooperative. A distant Swainson's Hawk was a nice find while a Red-eyed Vireo was a bit elusive. Neotropical Cormorants were numerous and Black Terns were easily seen swooping by. A Purple Gallinule peeked out of the reeds to give the birders a brief look.

All birders know that bad weather does not necessarily equal bad birding and vice-versa. Even though there was a bit of weather to deal with on the day, it did not really affect the birding and certainly did not dampen the enthusiasm of the birders. Join us next month at Smith Point for more great birds as we join the annual fall hawk watch. Peregrines, Kites, Hawks and hopefully better weather!

The following species were noted by the trip leaders:

Magnificent Frigatebird (9); Neotropical Cormorant (100); Brown Pelican (62); Great Blue Heron (8); Great Egret (7); Snowy Egret (2); Little Blue Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (6); Reddish Egret (12); Cattle Egret (5); Green Heron (1); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); White Ibis (90); Roseate Spoonbill (47); Turkey Vulture (1); Swainson's Hawk (1); Clapper Rail (2); Purple Gallinule (1); Black-bellied Plover (30); Wilson's Plover (4); Semipalmated Plover (10); American Avocet (1); Spotted Sandpiper (2); Greater Yellowlegs (2); Willet (21); Whimbrel (1); Long-billed Curlew (5); Marbled Godwit (55); Ruddy Turnstone (20); Sanderling (200); Semipalmated Sandpiper (3); Western Sandpiper (14); Least Sandpiper (3); Pectoral Sandpiper (1); Short-billed Dowitcher (15); Laughing Gull (10); Ring-billed Gull (1); Least Tern (20); Caspian Tern (2); Black Tern (25); Common Tern (1); Forster's Tern (7); Royal Tern (7); Sandwich Tern (2); Black Skimmer (42); Mourning Dove (1); Common Nighthawk (1); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (2); Hummingbird species (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (5); Red-eyed Vireo (1); Horned Lark (3); Barn Swallow (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (5); Northern Mockingbird (1); Worm-eating Warbler (1); Prothonotary Warbler (1); Hooded Warbler (1); Yellow Warbler (4); Great-tailed Grackle (14); House Sparrow (3)

*Steve Mayes*

## Bird Sightings – July 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:** July always produces the shortest list. Most of our regular birders greatly reduce their local birding activities, and don't pick up again until fall migration begins in the second half of August. However, there are breeding birds in the area! Eastern Kingbirds, Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Yellow-billed Cuckoos are all widespread. Painted Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks nest in the open areas. Dickcissels are very numerous along rice field edges, while just a little north

of the triangle, Acadian Flycatchers, Great Crested Flycatchers, Brown Thrashers, Hooded and Prairie Warblers and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds become quite common in the appropriate habitats. Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites nest in relatively small but increasing numbers. And there are shore and water birds that we see only in the summer, such as Black and Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers.

The interesting birds at Sabine Woods both had fledged offspring during the month. The Tropical Mockingbird, paired with a Northern Mockingbird, fledged two juveniles late in June. These were seen regularly during the month, being fed by the female at least through the middle of the month. We have not included each individual sighting as it is clear that the adult and the two fledglings were present on into August. The Golden-fronted Woodpecker situation is not quite as clear, as the birds spread out into the woods and seemed to be finding their own food upon leaving the nest. As best can be determined, there are two juveniles, both with all black tails and no trace of red on the crown, nape or belly. However, as far as we know, no one has seen both simultaneously. One has more yellow than the other.

Of the other birds, the Black-and-white Warblers and the Canada Warbler in Sabine Woods late in the month were exceptionally early. We have, however, come to expect the first post-breeding dispersal Wood Storks by the end of July.

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bel.</b>	(15-15)	JEF-TX87 7/15(1) JAW
<b>BOBWHITE, Northern</b>	(6-6)	JEF 7/6(3) CSL
<b>STORK, Wood</b>	(25-25)	HAI 7/25(50) JP
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b>	(3-29)	JEF 4 reps(34)
<b>BITTERN, Least</b>	(15-27)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(2) JAW; JEF-MURW 7/27(2) JA
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b>	(3-27)	JEF 4 reps(8)
<b>EGRET, Great</b>	(3-30)	JEF 6 reps(31); ORA 1 rep(1)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b>	(15-30)	JEF 3 reps(150); ORA 1 rep(20)
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b>	(6-27)	JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b>	(3-29)	JEF 4 reps(53)
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b>	(3-30)	JEF 5 reps(76)
<b>HERON, Green</b>	(3-15)	JEF 2 reps(9)
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(3) JA
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr</b>	(15-29)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(3) JAW; JEF-MURW 7/27(2) JA; JEF-SW 7/29(1) JAW
<b>IBIS, White</b>	(6-29)	JEF 7/6(12) CSL; JEF-MURW 7/27(1) JA; JEF-TX87 7/29(2) JAW
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b>	(15-15)	JEF-SW 7/15(1) JAW
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b>	(6-30)	JEF 3 reps(67); ORA 1 rep(30)
<b>VULTURE, Black</b>	(3-15)	JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b>	(15-29)	JEF 2 reps(9)
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b>	(28-28)	JEF-TX87 7/28(1) HM
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b>	(21-21)	HAI-SILS 7/21(1) MG
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b>	(8-8)	JEF-NEDR 7/8(2) JAW
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b>	(2-29)	JEF-NEDR 7/2(1) JJW; JEF 7/29(1) JAW
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b>	(4-22)	HAI-SILS 7/4(1) MG; HAI- SILS 7/6(1) MG; HAI-SILS 7/12(1) MG; HAI-SILS 7/18(1) MG;; HAI-SILS 7/22(1) MG
<b>RAIL, Clapper</b>	(3-3)	JEF-TX87 7/3(1) JAW
<b>RAIL, King</b>	(15-15)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(6) JAW
<b>KILLDEER</b>	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(8)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(14) JA
<b>AVOCET, American</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(25) JA
<b>SANDPIPER, Spotted</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(4) JA
<b>WILLET</b>	(15-27)	JEF 2 reps(8)
<b>SANDPIPER, Pectoral</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(2) JA
<b>GULL, Laughing</b>	(3-30)	JEF 4 reps(11); ORA 1 rep(3)
<b>TERN, Least</b>	(15-27)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(10) JAW; JEF-MURW 7/27(9) JA
<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b>	(15-15)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(1) JAW

<b>TERN, Black</b>	(3-27)	JEF-TX87 7/3(1) JAW; JEF- MCFW 7/15(10) JAW; JEF-MURW 7/27(7) JA
<b>TERN, Forster's</b>	(15-27)	JEF 2 reps(13)
<b>TERN, Royal</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(1) JA
<b>SKIMMER, Black</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(5) JA
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b>	(2-29)	HAI 2 reps(8); JEF 3 reps(28)
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.</b>	(1-20)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 2 reps(4)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b>	(1-31)	HAI 5 reps(28); JEF 24 reps(136)
<b>DOVE, Mourning</b>	(1-31)	HAI 4 reps(34); JEF 5 reps(30)
<b>DOVE, Inca</b>	(20-21)	JEF-NEDR 7/20(5) JAW; JEF- NEDR 7/21(1) JAW
<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b>	(3-28)	JEF-SW 7/3(2) JAW; JEF-SW 7/15(7) JAW; JEF-SW 7/28(2) HM
<b>OWL, Barn</b>	(15-15)	JEF-SW 7/15(1) JAW
<b>OWL, Great Horned</b>	(24-24)	JEF-BMT 7/24(1) RHJ
<b>NIGHTHAWK, Common</b>	(15-29)	JEF 3 reps(70)
<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b>	(1-15)	JEF 16 reps(71)
<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b>	(1-31)	HAI 19 reps(47); JEF 41 reps(52)
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-head.</b>	(2-31)	JEF-BMT 7/2(1) RHJ; JEF- BMT 7/31(1) RHJ
<b>WOODPECKER, Golden-fr.</b>	(3-30)	JEF-SW 7/3(1) JAW; JEF-SW 7/17 (2) HS; JEF-SW 7/28(1) HM; JEF-SW 7/30(1) HS
<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bell.</b>	(5-30)	HAI-SILS 7/5(1) MG; HAI- SILS 7/12(1) MG; HAI-SILS 7/17(1) MG; HAI-SILS 7/21(1) MG;; JEF-SW 7/30(1) HS
<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b>	(6-31)	JEF 5 reps(5)
<b>FLICKER, Northern</b>	(8-8)	JEF-NEDR 7/8(1) JAW
<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b>	(12-31)	HAI 8 reps(8)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Least</b>	(28-28)	JEF-SW 7/28(1) HM
<b>EMPIDONAX species</b>	(29-29)	JEF-SW 7/29(1) HS
<b>FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested</b>	(15-15)	JEF-SW 7/15(4) JAW
<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b>	(3-28)	JEF 4 reps(29)
<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail.</b>	(9-15)	JEF-TX87 7/15(4) JAW; ORA 7/9(1) SBE
<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b>	(3-29)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(17)
<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b>	(27-27)	HAI-SILS 7/27(2) MG
<b>JAY, Blue</b>	(1-31)	HAI 12 reps(50); JEF 9 reps(27)
<b>CROW, American</b>	(12-12)	HAI-SILS 7/12(1) MG
<b>CROW, species</b>	(29-29)	JEF 7/29(1) JAW
<b>MARTIN, Purple</b>	(6-15)	JEF 3 reps(94)

<b>SWALLOW, Tree</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(1) JA
<b>SWALLOW, Cliff</b>	(4-4)	HAI-SILS 7/4(10) MG
<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	(4-29)	HAI 3 reps(13); JEF 2
reps(13)		
<b>SWALLOW species</b>	(15-15)	JEF 1 rep(32)
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(2-17)	HAI 7 reps(15); JEF 2 reps(3)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(4-26)	HAI 11 reps(31); JEF 2
reps(3)		
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(11-31)	HAI 3 reps(4)
<b>WREN, Marsh</b>	(15-27)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(6) JAW;
JEF-MURW 7/27(2) JA		
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(28-28)	JEF-SW 7/28(3) HM
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(2-22)	HAI 6 reps(13); JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>ROBIN, American</b>	(3-16)	JEF 7 reps(17)
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(2-29)	HAI 3 reps(15); JEF 20
reps(63)		
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Tropical</b>	(2-28)	JEF-SW (1 – reported by
multiple observers)		
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, N. x Trop.</b>	(2-15)	JEF-SW (2 – reported by
multiple observers)		
<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(1-31)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 13
reps(18)		
<b>STARLING, European</b>	(3-29)	HAI 2 reps(124); JEF 4
reps(66)		
<b>WARBLER, Black-and-wh.</b>	(28-28)	JEF-SW 7/28(3) HM
<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	(15-27)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(3) JAW;
JEF-SW 7/15(1) JAW; JEF-MURW 7/27(3) JA		
<b>WARBLER, Pine</b>	(7-23)	HAI-SILS 7/7(1) MG; HAI-
SILS 7/8(1) MG; HAI-SILS 7/9(1) MG; HAI-SILS 7/10(1) MG;;		
HAI-SILS 7/11(2) MG; HAI-SILS 7/12(2) MG; HAI-SILS 7/12(1)		
MG; HAI-SILS 7/14(1) MG;; HAI-SILS 7/22(1) MG; HAI-SILS		
7/23(1) MG		
<b>WARBLER, Canada</b>	(28-28)	JEF-SW 7/28(1) HM
<b>SPARROW, Seaside</b>	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 7/27(9) JA
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 24 reps(1220); JEF 7
reps(17)		
<b>DICKCISSEL</b>	(15-15)	JEF-MCFW 7/15(1) JAW;
JEF-SRSP 7/15(5) JAW		
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(3-29)	JEF 4 reps(43)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	(6-6)	JEF 7/6(3) CSL
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(6-6)	JEF 7/6(7) CSL
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	(3-29)	JEF 4 reps(66)
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	(2-29)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 3 reps(72)
<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed.</b>	(3-15)	JEF 2 reps(25)
<b>COWBIRD, Brown-headed</b>	(5-15)	HAI 5 reps(12); JEF 1 rep(1)
<b>ORIOLE, Orchard</b>	(3-28)	JEF 4 reps(15)
<b>FINCH, House</b>	(1-31)	HAI 13 reps(51); JEF 19
reps(36)		
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(3-29)	JEF 8 reps(62)

Number of Species 94  
Number of Individuals 7286

#### County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

#### Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA; NEDR — Nederland; SILS — Silsbee; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP

#### Observer Abbreviations

ABK --- Andy Bankert; CSL — Christine Sliva; HM — John Haynes and Steve Mayes; HS — Harlan Stewart; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JP — John Park; MG — Melanie Goetsell; MTA --- Monte Taylor; RBTT — Richard Bello and Terry Thibodeaux; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SBE — Sheri Bethard; SDW --- Shirley and Dan Wilkerson.

## Report on the August Meeting

At the August meeting, more than 40 members heard Jana and John Whittle present a program on the Birds of Mainland

Alaska, illustrated by pictures taken by members of the group of Texas birders who made a trip in June of this year.

The group first birded the Anchorage area, finding a number of nesting and woodland species, before proceeding to Homer. Two highlights there were a Bar-tailed Godwit at Anchor Point, and no fewer than three Yellow-billed Loons on Kachemak Bay. On to Seward and a day-long boat trip finding Common Murres, Horned and Tufted Puffins, other seabirds and a number of whales. Next to Nome, the nearest mainland point to Russia, where Bluethroats, Yellow Wagtails and Gyrfalcon were among the highlights, along with a distant look at a Bristle-thighed Curlew. Barrow, well north of the Arctic circle, is the northernmost point in North America, and is where Snow Buntings replace House Sparrows, and where the star attractions are Snowy Owls and eiders (King, Steller's and Spectacled). Finally the group covered the south central area and Denali National Park, where grizzly bears, caribou and other mammals are the stars.

## 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 printing and mailing the *Brown Pelican* is voluntary for National Audubon Society members living in the official chapter territory, we will appreciate your support. Our official chapter territory is defined by zip codes, but is basically Jefferson, Hardin and Orange Counties and one or two localities close to those Counties.

If you are able, please consider receiving the *Brown Pelican* electronically as an attached PDF file or an emailed link on the website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org). The incremental cost of providing this is zero, while printing and mailing costs continue to increase. Please email your request to [GTAudubon@aol.com](mailto:GTAudubon@aol.com), indicating the email address you want us to use, and your name as we currently have it on our records.

## National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska

(continued from page 3)

The Teshekpuk Lake area also provides the concentrated calving grounds and insect relief area for the approximately 60,000-animal Teshekpuk Lake caribou herd (TCH), a critical subsistence food resource for several Native communities including Barrow, the largest on the North Slope. The TCH is unique, compared to the other herds that calve on the North Slope, as it is the only herd with a large portion of the population that overwinters on the coastal plain. Barrow, Atqasuk, and Nuiqsut are almost exclusively dependent upon the TCH which provides about 95% of the caribou harvested by the communities of Barrow and Atqasuk and about 85% of the caribou harvested by Nuiqsut. Teshekpuk Lake caribou show high fidelity to the calving area surrounding the Lake; caribou that calve in this area have much higher success than caribou outside the area.

## NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

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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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