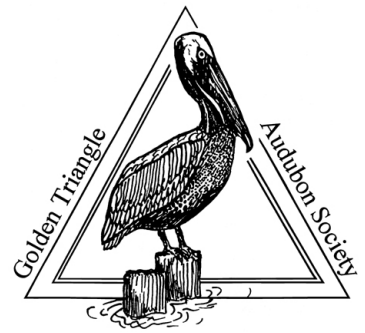


# *The Brown Pelican*



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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Vol. 19 No. 10

October 2012

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## **Membership Meeting**

**Thursday, October 18, 2012; 7:00 PM**

**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Ecuador – Birds and Birding**

**Gerald Duhon and Steve Mayes**

As its name implies, Ecuador lies astride (and mostly just south of) the Equator on the west side of South America, south of Colombia, north of the Peruvian Andes and west of the Selvas of the Amazon basin of Peru around Iquitos. A country half the area of Texas with about half the population, its topography is dominated by the Cordillera Real of the Andes, with Chimborazo at 20,561 feet and the better known active volcano Cotopaxi at 19,347 feet as the two highest peaks. La Costa (the coast) in the northwest is tropical with an intense rainy season. La Sierra (the mountain region) has a temperate, mostly relatively dry climate, while La Amazonia (or El Oriente, the east), which occupies about half the land area, is sparsely populated tropical rainforest which joins the Peruvian Amazon basin.

The program will be illustrated by pictures taken on a recent trip. Common birds include many species of hummingbird, tanagers, antpittas and tropical ovenbirds. Included will be brief details of the logistics of the trip, and the locations visited.

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 Brown Pelican

Vol. 18, No.10 October, 2012  
Issue number 189

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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Volunteer opportunity!

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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)*

**Thursday October 18. Membership Meeting.** Birds of Ecuador. Gerald Duhon and Steve Mayes. See page 1

**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.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Dana Nelson, Gary Kelley, Linda Davis, Sherry Gibson, Cindy Harland, Phil Rogers, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart and all others who brought refreshments in September. **In October, the Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau will be providing the refreshments, but we can always use a desert or side.** November is our annual pot-luck dinner meeting, but we will be looking for volunteers in 2013. Reserve the month you would like to help in now. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please let us know so we can coordinate! 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!

**Saturday October 22. Field Trip to Sabine Woods.** Leader Steve Mayes.

Meet at Sabine Woods, which is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87 at 7:30 a.m. or join the trip in progress in the woods later. Waterproof footwear will probably be a good idea, especially if it is at all wet from previous rain or just heavy early morning dew. Bring mosquito repellent just in case. There are few services available in Sabine Pass, but gasoline is now available and the deli is open on a limited schedule on weekends.

The middle of October is towards the end of fall songbird migration, but often brings a good variety of birds. A cold front may drive down the last of the warblers and the first big push of wintering birds. Some of our winter birds may be arriving, and often the woodland species that winter in the Big Thicket overshoot a little at first.

Although the boardwalk was destroyed in Hurricane Ike, the trails are clear and mostly reasonably wide, and although some care is needed to avoid uneven ground, birding Sabine Woods is relatively easy.

For those so inclined, it is possible, tide permitting, to drive much of the beach of Sea Rim State Park.

**Thursday November 15. Annual Meeting.** We will have our annual pot luck dinner, and conduct our elections. The program will be on the Smith Point Hawk Watch by Dr. Susan Heath.

**Saturday November 17. Field Trip to West Jefferson County.** This has been a very popular trip in past years, finding Sandhill Cranes and a good variety of birds of prey. Full details in next issue.

**Thursday January 17, 2013. Membership Meeting.** Dana Nelson on birds of Africa.



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).

## Christmas Counts

The following dates for local Christmas Bird Counts have been set. Full details will be given in the next issue and will be posted on the GTAS web site as they become available.

**Saturday December 15. Turkey Creek** (Big Thicket area north of Kountze). This count is sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve.

**Thursday December 20. (tentative). Bolivar Peninsula** (High Island and Anahuac NWR areas)

**Saturday December 22.. Beech Creek** (centered on Steinhagen Lake) This count is sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve.

**Saturday December 29. (tentative). Johnson Bayou, La.**

**Tuesday January 1. Orange County.** (This count includes Bridge City, Bessie Heights and surrounding areas.)

**Thursday January 3. Sea Rim State Park** (Sea Rim/J. D. Murphree WMA/Texas Point NWR/McFaddin NWR). This is the count Golden Triangle Audubon sponsors.

## Important Notice – Membership Dues

With the advent of increasing numbers of the Newsletters being delivered electronically, the existing system of "rolling" membership periods is rapidly becoming very difficult to administer. To simplify the system, and minimize the workload on our volunteers, the board has decided to transition to a system where all memberships will run from January through December. Membership dues will remain at \$15 per year.

Therefore, dues for all members will in future be due in January and memberships will expire in December. For 2013, if you wish, you may deduct \$1.25 from your 2013 dues for each month remaining in your existing membership. However, if you paid in August 2012 or later, we will consider your existing membership to run through December 2013. Going forward, the memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar year. For new

members joining National Audubon using the membership blank printed on the back page of each printed issue of the *Brown Pelican*, we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

As a reminder, dues are voluntary for NAS members living in the Chapter territory, which is defined by zip codes, but basically covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties (We will welcome you if you live in other nearby counties, especially Jasper, Newton and Tyler counties, which are not in the territory of any other current chapter.)

Your dues cover the cost of printing and mailing the *Brown Pelican* to you, and help fund our activities. You probably do not need to be told that printing and especially mailing costs continue to increase, and we urge you to receive your *Brown Pelican* electronically if you do not already. We recommend you letting us send you a pdf copy as an attachment to an email, although we do post it on the website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org), and can merely send you a link if you prefer. The typical issue is about 300 KB so it is not a large file. (This could change in the future if we increase the content and/or include photographs.) If you would rather just check the website yourself each month, we can accommodate that also. Please send an email to [johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) with your request, including the name we are currently sending the printed copy to, and the email address you want us to use. We will continue to print and mail the *Brown Pelican*, but respectfully request you pay the dues if you want a printed and mailed printed copy.

## Elections

Gerald Duhon, whose term as president of GTAS continues through 2013, has appointed a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for other offices and board positions for 2013. The committee is Gerald Duhon, chair, Rose Ann Jordan and Sherry Gibson. Members are invited to contact Gerald at [gernbeck4@cs.com](mailto:gernbeck4@cs.com) before October 15 with suggestions for candidates. The election will take place at the November meeting.

## Sabine Woods Work Day Report 22 September 2012

A very successful work day was held at Sabine Woods on Saturday 22 September with 16 volunteers on hand. Kitty and Jim Anding came all the way from College Station with more than a dozen Hackberry (Sugarberry) trees which they planted in the east area, north of the oaks planted a couple of years back. The volunteers spent the morning mowing the trails and open areas, cutting back encroaching vegetation, clearing a fallen tree from one trail, and thinning down the oaks in an area where the growth following the opening of the canopy during and after Hurricane Ike was altogether too thick. Some small areas of undesired invasive species (Johnson grass, Chinaberry trees) were dealt with.

Although Howard Davis had mowed many of the open areas in August with his tractor and brushhog, growth since then had been extensive, and close the limit of what could be handled by the mowers available, heavy duty though they were. This is in strong contrast to the preceding two years when almost everything was stressed by the drought conditions. There are still some trees killed by Ike that will fall over the next few years. They do not seem to pose an immediate threat to any of the trails, although the restriction to stay out of the wooded areas during high wind and heavy rain conditions and thunderstorms will need to remain in place for a few more years. In any case, it will never be a good idea to be inside isolated woods in thunderstorms.

Other recent improvements have included the installation by Howard Davis and Gary Kelley of new rock basins to catch the drip water and serve as a bathing area for the birds. This appears to have been very successful and is very popular with the birds.

Great thanks are due to the volunteers: Andy Allen, Kitty and Jim Anding, Richard Atkins, Howard Davis, John Haynes, Levie Horton, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, and Jana Whittle.

*John A. Whittle*

# Memorial Benches at Sabine Woods – Part 1

Several members have asked for information on the birders whose contributions are recognized by memorial benches at Sabine Woods. This is the first installment and is about Grady Skillern and Bessie Cornelius. The others honored will be covered in a future issue.

## Grady Skillern

Grady B. Skillern was born in Oklahoma in 1931, and was raised in Tulsa. Our story of part of his life begins when his employer, Conoco, transferred him to Clear Lake City, Texas. There he became part of the Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps. After he retired as Conoco's First Aid and CPR instructor, he moved to Anahuac. He served as an EMT in Anahuac, and later joined the Anahuac Volunteer Fire department. He was instrumental in the founding of the Friends of Anahuac Refuge in 1996, and served as president or vice-president for the rest of his life.

He volunteered extensively on the Refuge, eventually specializing in operating the heavy equipment, mowing, grading roads, planting prairie, disking moist soil units and setting up the pads for the volunteers. He designed, installed, programmed and maintained the radio system for Anahuac, McFaddin, Texas Point and Trinity River National Wildlife Refuges. By the time Grady died in May 2005, he had volunteered 7,300 hours, which is close to what a full time employee works in four years!

He helped to prepare and complete the grant that allowed the facilities at the East Bay Bayou Tract at Anahuac to be developed, and his volunteer hours accounted for a very large share of the match required by the conditions of the grant. The Tract was later named in his honor as the Skillern Tract.

Not only did Grady help extensively at Anahuac, but when we had Work Days at Sabine Woods, Grady would always show up, always with the right equipment. He would load up what was needed, most often a heavy duty mower, onto a trailer, and drive from Anahuac to Sabine Woods. He was instrumental in ensuring that the trails at the Woods were mowed and usable by birders. Grady and his wife Lu were regulars at our Golden Triangle Audubon meetings, and brought all the refreshments once a year.

## Bessie Cornelius

Bessie Cornelius was born June 30, 1907 in Hale, Jones County, Iowa. Her father, Ernest Engle, who was a farmer, taught her the love of nature. The first binocular bird sighting that she recalls was the Common Flicker on the day she graduated from high school in Lake Benton, Minnesota.

From Minnesota, she went to Cedar Rapids, Iowa where she attended Coe College and Cedar Rapids Business College. She also worked in a law office and was appointed Deputy Clerk of U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa where she worked there from 1937 to 1945. She moved to Oklahoma to get married and there worked in the legal department of Governor Robert Ken. She and her husband moved to Borger, Texas where she worked in the District Attorney's office and had a small tax office of her own. It was there that she did her first volunteer work in trying to get Lake Meredith in Fritch, Texas into a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge. She wrote letters to influence congressmen toward

that, talked to influential people in the county such as Hutchinson. Her husband had to leave to work in Beaumont, so she never saw the end but worked on it 1954-55.

She was astonished by the number of birds when she came to Beaumont in 1956. She met some birdwatchers and started to go to High Island. In 1958 and 59 she joined some birders interested in saving Smith Woods from development. In 1960 she joined the East Texas Nature Club whose prime interest was conservation of land for wildlife. They got Ned Fritz and his organization, The Texas Committee for Natural Resources to help them. He urged the Nature Conservancy to try and influence the Smith heirs to sell, give, or whatever their property with no luck. "We got Russell Clapper, manager of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge to talk to them with no luck. I knew Walter Crawford, a local oil man with interests in High Island and he talked with them. They got Eloise Holland, whose mother knew the mother of the Smith heirs, to talk to each one individually. This meant many trips and lots of time, most of it from 1964 on. I suppose I made more than 10 trips until we gave up. I remember of collecting money for Ned's trips and I remember contributing \$100 at one time."

They did get the good will of the Smith heirs and were happy to have us use the property for birding. They also got the Brannons to live on the property as caretakers. This stopped the shooting of birds. Then they began work in 1981 and 1982 collecting money for Boy Scout Woods. Bessie started working at the sanctuary after it was acquired in 1987. She manned the booth at High Island by selling day passes and patches for more than 12 years for Houston Audubon Society. She received an award in 1982 for her volunteer work and money raised. She also received another award in 1993 for her continuing volunteer work. She was named Texas Audubon Volunteer of the Year in 1999.

Other conservation projects she helped bring to fruition included:

1. Having Bolivar Flats declared a sanctuary while Stennie Meadours was Houston Audubon Sanctuary Chairman. She wrote letters to Galveston County Commissioners and attended meetings.
2. Having Sydney Island in Sabine Lake declared a National Audubon Sanctuary by attending meetings, writing letters, and talking to state representatives at a meeting at Lamar University.
3. Promoting US Fish and Wildlife acquisition of what is now McFaddin NWR by attending meetings, passing out flyers, and calling Congressman Brooks.
4. Various phases of having the Big Thicket declared a National Preserve by attending meetings at the County Courthouses in Jefferson and Hardin counties, and the Federal Courthouse in Beaumont.

Bessie developed her back yard to attract birds. She fought to keep Delaware Street Park in Beaumont as a park. More than once, she was the speaker at a Golden Triangle Audubon Meeting

Bessie died in Beaumont on June 10, 2003 at age 95.

## Fall 2012 Migration Count – 15 September 2012

On a relatively "nice" day, spoiled only by a few heavy showers, especially near Beaumont late in the day, the Fall 2012 Jefferson County Migration Count saw over 16,700 birds of 164 species counted. Without exception, participants reported a slow birding day, with many noting birds were just not moving around. Somewhat paradoxically, the results of the count show a number of species that is exactly the average of the prior ten counts and a number of individuals that is actually somewhat above average. It seems the birds were there, just not flying very much!

Numbers of shorebirds, both true shorebirds and "waders," actually increased after Hurricane Rita in 2005, but decreased quite dramatically in counts after Hurricane Ike in 2008. (No count could be conducted in 2008 itself as a result of Ike.) It seems as if Ike rearranged the coastline in a way that reduced the attractiveness of the shore areas to the birds, and these changes persist. Otherwise, we can detect no continuing pattern of major change.

The vagaries of weather patterns, especially fronts and their associated wind shifts, can significantly affect the number of neotropical migrants that are in the county and on the coast on the day we count. Most of the reduced number of species (15) this year can be accounted for by about ten fewer warbler species than the exceptional number found last year.

It was nice to see Wood Duck in the list again this year. We find this species, usually in Cattail Marsh about 80 percent of the time. A huge concentration on Pleasure Island (likely avoiding hunters on the first day of the Teal Season) accounted for the increased number of Blue-wing Teal.

There were Wood Storks around the county and nearby this September, but none were found on count day. Anhinga numbers were way down from last year because there weren't any large flocks flying over this year. American White Pelicans were not seen, as the species has apparently been arriving a little later in recent years. Great and Snowy Egret numbers were down from the last couple of years, but Little Blue Herons and Tricolored Herons rebounded. Cattle Egret numbers seem to have stabilized. Green Heron numbers were twice normal, while Night-Heron numbers return to normal levels.

Mid-September is a time when we look for departing "summer" raptors (Swallow-tailed and Mississippi Kites, and Swainson's Hawks), migrating raptors (Broad-winged Hawks) and arriving "winter" raptors (Red-tailed Hawks especially). No migrating kites this year, but we are happy to see White-tailed Kites in the list again. A young White-tailed Hawk along the coast near Sea Rim was a plus.

It was nice to see a better variety of rails than in recent years, and to see American Coots also. Coots winter in very large numbers in the area, but are scarce in the summer, and sometimes still difficult to find in mid-September as we found out in the two immediately preceding counts.

We referred to shorebirds in general above, but would note the presence of Baird's Sandpipers and Stilt Sandpipers, but the absence of Solitary and Upland Sandpipers.

Hummingbirds were in full force, and our reduced number of observers probably meant some known hotspots

were not surveyed this year. An early winter resident Rufous Hummingbird was found, however. Chimney Swifts and Purple Martins were still around in good numbers.

The only species new to the count this year was Golden-fronted Woodpecker, as one bird of a family that bred (and probably four now) in Sabine Woods and has been apparently roaming in and beyond the Woods was seen.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the finding of not one but two young male Vermilion Flycatchers. Upon checking, we find that there apparently is a population of this species that passes through in mid-September before the winter residents arrive beginning in October. This is the fifth time in the last ten years that we have found the species.

Vireos seem to be very hit and miss, and only White-eyed and red-eyed were found on count day, whereas we know that a few days later, six species were present!

Tree Swallows were seen again after being absent last year, and Cave Swallows were seen in a significantly sized flock. This is only the second time this has happened, the previous one being in 2009. Cave Swallows are spreading quite rapidly and extensively in western Louisiana, and these flocks may well represent an expanded migratory route for the species. Neither Cliff nor Bank Swallows were, however, found.

Baltimore Orioles were again plentiful, but Orchard Oriole seem to be leaving earlier than they used to.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (170); DUCK, Wood (3); DUCK, Mottled (15); TEAL, Blue-winged (2414); SHOVELER, Northern (1); TEAL, Green-winged (10); DUCK species (32); GREBE, Pied-billed (26); CORMORANT, Neotropic (89); CORMORANT, Double-crested (1); ANHINGA (10); PELICAN, Brown (62); BITTERN, Least (6); HERON, Great Blue (31); EGRET, Great (222); EGRET, Snowy (48); HERON, Little Blue (47); HERON, Tricolored (70); EGRET, Reddish (4); EGRET, Cattle (1326); HERON, Green (46); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (15); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (14); IBIS, White (405); IBIS, White-faced (31); IBIS, Plegadis (59); SPOONBILL, Roseate (16); VULTURE, Black (42); VULTURE, Turkey (34); OSPREY (2); KITE, White-tailed (1); HARRIER, Northern (2); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Cooper's (1); HAWK, Red-shouldered (11); HAWK, Broad-winged (4); HAWK, Swainson's (1); HAWK, White-tailed (1); HAWK, Red-tailed (2); CARACARA, Crested (1); KESTREL, American (8); MERLIN (2); RAIL, Clapper (21); RAIL, King (1); RAIL, Virginia (1); SORA (2); GALLINULE, Purple (2); GALLINULE, Common (84); COOT, American (10); PLOVER, Black-bellied (3); PLOVER, Snowy (9); PLOVER, Wilson's (1); PLOVER, Semipalmated (4); PLOVER, Piping (5); KILLDEER (66); STILT, Black-necked (39); AVOCET, American (197); SANDPIPER, Spotted (21); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (10); WILLET (23); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (25); YELLOWLEGS, species (1); CURLEW, Long-billed (1); GODWIT, Marbled (13); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (4); SANDERLING (49); SANDPIPER, Western (15); SANDPIPER, Least (144); SANDPIPER, Baird's (5); SANDPIPER, Peep species (10); SANDPIPER, Pectoral (3); SANDPIPER, Stilt (27); SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted (8); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (12); DOWITCHER, Species (18); GULL, Laughing (597); GULL, Ring-billed (6); TERN, Gull-  
(continued on page 7)

## Bird Sightings – August 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:** Most birders begin to look to fall migration in mid August, even though the temperatures are still unpleasant and there are lots of insects around. However, the migration season got off to an impressive start, with several days at the end of the month with excellent diversity of warbler species. However, other families of migrants were not as well represented. Finding good shorebird habitat in the area we cover has been very difficult this fall season, so we do not have many reports. Hummingbirds feature prominently with a couple of Rufous Hummingbirds putting in an early appearance.

<b>WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.</b> (13-31)	JEF 5 reps(85)	<b>DOVE, Mourning</b> (1-31)	HAI 14 reps(93); JEF 11
<b>DUCK, Mottled</b> (11-11)	JEF 8/11(2) JAW	reps(191)	
<b>BOBWHITE, Northern</b> (8-8)	JEF 8/8(2) JAW	<b>DOVE, Inca</b> (1-11)	JEF-NEDR 8/1(2) JAW;
<b>STORK, Wood</b> (11-11)	JEF 8/11(50) RA	JEF-NEDR 8/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/7(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR	
<b>CORMORANT, Neotropic</b> (5-31)	JEF 6 reps(40)	8/11(1) JAW	
<b>PELICAN, Brown</b> (11-31)	JEF-TX87 8/11(1) JAW;	<b>CUCKOO, Yellow-billed</b> (11-31)	JEF 5 reps(25)
JEF-TX87 8/31(13) JAW		<b>OWL, Barn</b> (11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(1) JAW; JEF-
<b>BITTERN, Least</b> (5-5)	JEF-MURW 8/5(1) JA	SW 8/30(1) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHW	
<b>HERON, Great Blue</b> (11-11)	JEF-MCFW 8/11(1) JAW	<b>OWL, Great Horned</b> (30-30)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW
<b>EGRET, Great</b> (5-31)	JEF 7 reps(21)	<b>NIGHTHAWK, Common</b> (11-31)	JEF 6 reps(23)
<b>EGRET, Snowy</b> (5-30)	JEF 6 reps(25)	<b>WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-</b> (30-30)	JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW
<b>HERON, Little Blue</b> (8-11)	JEF 8/8(146) JAW; JEF-	<b>SWIFT, Chimney</b> (6-9)	JEF 4 reps(4)
MCFW 8/11(5) JAW		<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.</b> (1-31)	HAI 19 reps(36); JEF 43
<b>HERON, Tricolored</b> (5-27)	JEF 4 reps(9)	reps(183)	
<b>EGRET, Cattle</b> (4-31)	JEF 9 reps(1016)	<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous</b> (5-31)	JEF-NEDR 8/5(1) JHW;
<b>HERON, Green</b> (4-31)	JEF 9 reps(14)	JEF-BMT 8/21(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 8/22(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 8/25(1)	
<b>NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.</b> (5-31)	JEF 7 reps(10)	RHJ; JEF-BMT 8/26(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 8/28(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT	
<b>IBIS, White</b> (4-31)	JEF 9 reps(408)	8/29(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 8/30(1) RHJ; JEF-BMT 8/31(1) RHJ	
<b>IBIS, White-faced</b> (5-5)	JEF-MURW 8/5(2) JA	<b>HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf/Allen's</b> (31-31)	JEF-SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>IBIS, Plegadis</b> (4-4)	JEF 8/4(3) FTLI	<b>KINGFISHER, Belted</b> (11-13)	JEF-MCFW 8/11(1) JAW;
<b>SPOONBILL, Roseate</b> (5-30)	JEF 3 reps(5)	JEF-TX87 8/11(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/13(2) JAW	
<b>VULTURE, Black</b> (4-31)	JEF 8 reps(18)	<b>WOODPECKER, Golden-fr.</b> (11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(3) JAW; JEF-
<b>VULTURE, Turkey</b> (4-31)	JEF 11 reps(24)	SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW;	
<b>KITE, Swallow-tailed</b> (4-25)	JEF-BMT 8/4(3) X; JEF	JEF-SW 8/31(3) JHW	
8/25(1) CSL		<b>WOODPECKER, Red-bell.</b> (9-30)	HAI-SILS 8/17(1) MG; HAI-
<b>KITE, Mississippi</b> (27-30)	JEF-GROV 8/27(2) SR;	SILS 8/20(1) MG; JEF-NEDR 8/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW	
JEF-SW 8/30(8) JHW		<b>WOODPECKER, Downy</b> (7-31)	JEF 11 reps(19)
<b>HAWK, Cooper's</b> (18-18)	HAI-SILS 8/18(1) MG	<b>WOODPECKER, Pileated</b> (2-30)	HAI 8 reps(8)
<b>ACCIPITER species</b> (27-27)	JEF-TX87 8/27(1) JAW	<b>FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided</b> (13-30)	JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-
<b>HAWK, Red-shouldered</b> (8-8)	JEF 8/8(2) JAW	SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW	
<b>HAWK, Broad-winged</b> (11-31)	JEF-TX87 8/11(1) JAW;	<b>WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern</b> (11-31)	JEF 5 reps(22)
JEF-SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(4) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(6)		<b>FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell.</b> (11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(1) JAW; JEF-
JHW		SW 8/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHW	
<b>HAWK, Swainson's</b> (4-30)	JEF 8/4(1) FTLI; JEF-TX87	<b>FLYCATCHER, Alder</b> (31-31)	JEF-SW 8/31(1) JHW
8/30(2) JAW		<b>FLYCATCHER, Traill's</b> (30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF-
<b>HAWK, Red-tailed</b> (1-11)	HAI-SILS 8/1(1) MG; HAI-	SW 8/31(2) JHW	
SILS 8/6(1) MG; JEF 8/8(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/11(1) JAW		<b>FLYCATCHER, Least</b> (11-31)	JEF-MCFW 8/11(1) JAW;
<b>CARACARA, Crested</b> (12-13)	JEF 8/12(2) JAW; JEF-	JEF-SW 8/11(3) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1)	
TX87 8/13(1) JAW		JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(6) JHW	
<b>RAIL species</b> (13-13)	JEF-TX87 8/13(1) JAW	<b>EMPIDONAX species</b> (11-31)	JEF 4 reps(16)
<b>KILLDEER</b> (8-30)	JEF 5 reps(9)	<b>FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested</b> (11-31)	JEF 5 reps(28)
<b>STILT, Black-necked</b> (5-17)	JEF 2 reps(11)	<b>KINGBIRD, Western</b> (13-13)	JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW
<b>SANDPIPER, Solitary</b> (27-27)	JEF-SW 8/27(1) JAW	<b>KINGBIRD, Eastern</b> (5-31)	JEF 7 reps(19)
<b>YELLOWLEGS, Greater</b> (5-11)	JEF-MURW 8/5(4) JA; JEF-	<b>FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail</b> (8-8)	JEF 8/8(6) JAW
MCFW 8/11(1) JAW		<b>SHRIKE, Loggerhead</b> (6-31)	JEF 9 reps(41)
<b>SANDPIPER, Least</b> (5-5)	JEF-MURW 8/5(4) JA	<b>VIREO, White-eyed</b> (2-30)	HAI 8 reps(12); JEF 1
<b>GULL, Laughing</b> (5-31)	JEF 8 reps(1089)	rep(1)	
<b>TERN, Least</b> (5-5)	JEF-MURW 8/5(2) JA	<b>VIREO, Red-eyed</b> (30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW; JEF-
<b>TERN, Gull-billed</b> (5-5)	JEF-MURW 8/5(1) JA	SW 8/31(1) JHW	
<b>TERN, Forster's</b> (5-31)	JEF 3 reps(14)	<b>JAY, Blue</b> (2-31)	HAI 7 reps(27); JEF 8
<b>TERN, Royal</b> (11-11)	JEF-MCFW 8/11(3) JAW	reps(47)	
<b>PIGEON, Rock</b> (4-31)	JEF 6 reps(13)	<b>CROW, American</b> (23-23)	HAI-SILS 8/23(4) MG
<b>COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.</b> (2-25)	HAI-SILS 8/17(2) MG; JEF-	<b>CROW, Fish</b> (1-1)	JEF-NEDR 8/1(1) JAW
NEDR 8/2(5) JAW; JEF 8/8(11) JAW; JEF 8/25(3) JAW		<b>CROW, species</b> (4-31)	JEF 8/4(1) FTLI; JEF 8/8(2)
<b>DOVE, White-winged</b> (1-31)	HAI 14 reps(64); JEF 15	JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/11(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 8/31(1) JAW	
reps(97)			

<b>MARTIN, Purple</b>	(2-2)	JEF-BMT 8/2(15000) JJW
<b>SWALLOW, Barn</b>	(11-31)	JEF 4 reps(13)
<b>SWALLOW species</b>	(25-25)	JEF 8/25(20) JAW
<b>CHICKADEE, Carolina</b>	(5-31)	HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(2)
<b>TITMOUSE, Tufted</b>	(3-21)	HAI 6 reps(12)
<b>WREN, Carolina</b>	(1-20)	HAI-SILS 8/1(1) MG; HAI- SILS 8/12(1) MG; HAI-SILS 8/16(1) MG; HAI-SILS 8/20(1) MG
<b>WREN, Marsh</b>	(5-5)	JEF-MURW 8/5(3) JA
<b>GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray</b>	(11-31)	JEF 6 reps(89)
<b>BLUEBIRD, Eastern</b>	(6-12)	HAI-SILS 8/6(1) MG; JEF 8/12(15) JAW
<b>CATBIRD, Gray</b>	(11-30)	JEF-TX87 8/11(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW
<b>MOCKINGBIRD, Northern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 2 reps(10); JEF 15 reps(83)
<b>THRASHER, Brown</b>	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(7)
<b>STARLING, European</b>	(2-31)	JEF 8 reps(280)
<b>OVENBIRD</b>	(11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(1) JAW; JEF- SW 8/30(1) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Worm-eating</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW; JEF- SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>WATERTHRUSH, Louis iana</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>WATERTHRUSH, Northern</b>	(27-31)	JEF-SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF- SW 8/30(4) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Blue-winged</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW; JEF- SW 8/31(3) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Black-and-wh.</b>	(11-31)	JEF 5 reps(38)
<b>WARBLER, Prothonotary</b>	(6-31)	HAI-SILS 8/6(1) MG; JEF- SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Nashville</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 8/31(4) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Mourning</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW; JEF- SW 8/31(5) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Kentucky</b>	(27-31)	JEF-SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF- SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>YELLOWTHROAT, Common</b>	(5-31)	JEF-MURW 8/5(3) JA; JEF- SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Hooded</b>	(11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(1) JAW; JEF- SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>REDSTART, American</b>	(11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(1) JAW; JEF- SW 8/30(4) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(4) JHW
<b>PARULA, Northern</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF- SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Yellow</b>	(11-31)	JEF 5 reps(24)
<b>WARBLER, Yellow-throated</b>	(17-31)	JEF-SW 8/17(1) JHW; JEF- SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Canada</b>	(11-31)	JEF-SW 8/11(1) JAW; JEF- SW 8/30(2) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(12) JHW
<b>WARBLER, Wilson's</b>	(31-31)	JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHW
<b>CHAT, Yellow-breasted</b>	(30-31)	JEF-SW 8/30(3) JHW; JEF- SW 8/31(3) JHW
<b>TANAGER, Summer</b>	(17-30)	JEF-BMT 8/17(1) RHJ; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHW
<b>TANAGER, Scarlet</b>	(30-30)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHW
<b>TANAGER, Western</b>	(17-17)	JEF-SW 8/17(1) HD; JEF- SW 8/17(1) JHW
<b>CARDINAL, Northern</b>	(1-31)	HAI 20 reps(990); JEF 9 reps(21)
<b>GROSBEAK, Blue</b>	(8-31)	JEF 8/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/13(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/31(1) JHW
<b>GROSBEAK, Blue</b>	(8-31)	JEF 3 reps(3)
<b>BUNTING, Indigo</b>	(17-30)	JEF-SW 8/17(1) JHW; JEF- SW 8/30(2) JHW
<b>BUNTING, Painted</b>	(11-31)	JEF 5 reps(23)
<b>DICKCISSEL</b>	(8-30)	JEF 8/8(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/30(1) JAW
<b>BLACKBIRD, Red-winged</b>	(5-30)	JEF 4 reps(35)
<b>MEADOWLARK, Eastern</b>	(8-8)	JEF 8/8(1) JAW
<b>GRACKLE, Common</b>	(17-31)	JEF 5 reps(61)
<b>GRACKLE, Boat-tailed</b>	(11-31)	JEF 6 reps(33)
<b>GRACKLE, Great-tailed</b>	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 11 reps(275)
<b>GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed.</b>	(11-11)	JEF 1 rep(4)
<b>ORIOLE, Orchard</b>	(5-31)	JEF 4 reps(10)
<b>ORIOLE, Baltimore</b>	(27-31)	JEF-SW 8/27(3) JAW; JEF- SW 8/30(12) JHW; JEF-SW 8/31(6) JHW

<b>FINCH, House</b>	(1-30)	HAI 18 reps(52); JEF 9 reps(11)
<b>SPARROW, House</b>	(2-31)	JEF 5 reps(72)

<b>Number of Species</b>	122
<b>Number of Individuals</b>	42996

#### County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson.

#### Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; GROV — Groves; MCFW — McFaddin NWR  
MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA, west of Taylor Bayou; NEDR —  
Nederland; SILS — Silsbee; SW — Sabine Woods; TX87 — Texas 87  
Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP.

#### Observer Abbreviations

CSL — Christine Sliva; DHA — David Hartgrove; FTLI — Field Trip to  
Liberty (en route); HD — Howard Davis; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW —  
John Whittle; JHW — John Haynes and John Whittle; JJW — John  
and Jana Whittle; MG — Melanie Goetsell; RA — Richard Atkins; RHJ  
— Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SR — Sherrie Roden; X —  
Unknown.

## Migration Count *(continued from page 5)*

billed (4); TERN, Caspian (7); TERN, Black (68); TERN, Forster's (78);  
TERN, Royal (101); SKIMMER, Black (231); PIGEON, Rock (124);  
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (113); DOVE, White-winged (148);  
DOVE, Mourning (593); DOVE, Inca (2); CUCKOO, Yellow-billed (7);  
OWL, Barn (cw); OWL, Great Horned (1); OWL, Barred (2);  
NIGHTHAWK, Common (1); WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck (3); SWIFT,  
Chimney (193); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (165); HUMMING-  
BIRD, Rufous (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (9); WOODPECKER, Red-  
headed (7); WOODPECKER, Golden-fronted (1); WOODPECKER,  
Red-bellied (32); WOODPECKER, Downy (13); WOODPECKER,  
Pileated (10); FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided (1); WOOD-PEWEE,  
Eastern (5); FLYCATCHER, Acadian (1); FLYCATCHER, Traill's (1);  
FLYCATCHER, Least (1); FLYCATCHER, Empidonax (3);  
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (2); FLYCATCHER, Great Crested (5);  
KINGBIRD, Eastern (24); FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (42); SHRIKE,  
Loggerhead (72); VIREO, White-eyed (18); VIREO, Red-eyed (1); JAY,  
Blue (112); CROW, American (12); CROW, Fish (12); CROW, Species  
(4); MARTIN, Purple (5540); SWALLOW, Tree (30); SWALLOW, N.  
Rough-winged (20); SWALLOW, Cave (30); SWALLOW, Barn (81);  
CHICKADEE, Carolina (17); TITMOUSE, Tufted (7); NUTHATCH,  
Brown-headed (3); WREN, Carolina (16); WREN, Marsh (2);  
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (46); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (29); ROBIN,  
American (3); CATBIRD, Gray (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (216);  
THRASHER, Brown (6); STARLING, European (270);  
WATERTHRUSH, Northern (2); WARBLER, Black-and-white (8);  
WARBLER, Orange-crowned (1); WARBLER, Nashville (1);  
WARBLER, Mourning (2); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (16);  
REDSTART, American (2); PARULA, Northern (4); WARBLER,  
Magnolia (1); WARBLER, Yellow (2); WARBLER, Pine (2); WARBLER,  
Yellow-throated (2); WARBLER, Prairie (1); WARBLER, Canada (3);  
WARBLER, Wilson's (2); CHAT, Yellow-breasted (2); SPARROW, Lark  
(1); SPARROW, Seaside (34); SPARROW species (13); TANAGER,  
Summer (2); CARDINAL, Northern (74); GROSBEAK, Blue (5);  
BUNTING, Indigo (5); BUNTING, Painted (4); DICKCISSEL (5);  
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (371); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (1);  
GRACKLE, Common (268); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (90); GRACKLE,  
Great-tailed (343); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (80); ORIOLE, Baltimore  
(32); FINCH, House (6); SPARROW, House (78); TOTAL  
INDIVIDUALS (16734); Number of species (164)

Number of Observers (13); Number of Parties (9); Number of Party-  
Hours (52.13); Party hours on foot (19.18); Miles on foot (18.4); Party-  
hours by automobile (31.95); Miles by automobile (518.7); Party-hours  
by bicycle (1); Miles by bicycle (1); Party-hours stationary/feeder  
watching (not included in totals) (3.5)

Participants 2012: Richard Atkins, Althea Bythewood, Everett Culver,  
Linda and Howard Davis, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Rose Ann and  
Harrison Jordan, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Ken Sztraky, John  
Whittle.

*John A. Whittle*

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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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