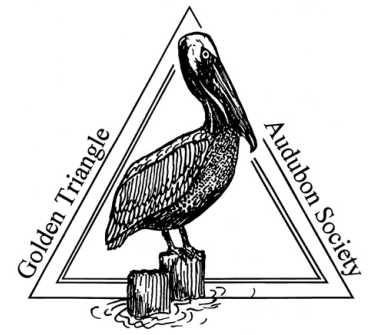


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 1

January 2013

**Membership Meeting
Thursday January 17, 2013
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont 7:00 p.m.**

**African Wildlife
Dana Nelson**

Dana Nelson was born in California, but raised in Colorado. He has lived in Texas for 40 years, and does custom carpentry work for the construction industry. About 12 years ago, he took up photography, and has concentrated on wildlife photography. Recently, he visited South Africa, and spent some time in Limpopo Province. Limpopo Province is part of the historic former Transvaal Province north of Johannesburg and Pretoria, and the Vaal River, and borders Botswana, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. His presentation will include photographs on the wildlife of the area, with special emphasis on birds.

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

Local Conservation Issues

Another year has flown by and is ready for the history books. It was quite an exciting year for birders, especially with the excitement of the Tropical Mockingbird and to a lesser extent, the Golden-fronted Woodpeckers. Sabine Woods and most of the habitat in the immediate Golden Triangle area is, with the exception of some dead and dying trees that have not yet fallen, back to near normal.

An important focus for Golden Triangle Audubon is protection and conservation of habitat. Many times, the impetus for projects that are of concern is development, either residential or commercial/industrial. In the case of the larger scale projects, often the goal of the proponents is to persuade one or other level of government to cover the cost of a significant landscape altering project. Many of these projects fail to pass any reasonable cost/benefit analysis for the region as a whole, although some companies and developers would profit. In 2012, no big environmentally detrimental government projects moved forward, and, given the lack of funds, none seem to be poised to proceed in 2013. The Keystone pipeline is under construction locally, but this section may, in reality, be more a pipeline to facilitate the movement of crude oil from Oklahoma to the Gulf Coast, and any possible use for more hazardous oil from Canadian tar sands is a long way in the future. The pipeline construction itself is, to a significant extent, following existing pipeline rights of way locally and currently is having only a minimal impact on habitat. Of course, all these issues require careful monitoring.

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Important Note: Field Trip notices published here should always be regarded as needing confirmation 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. 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 January 17, 2013. Membership Meeting. Dana Nelson on Wildlife of Africa. Full details on p.1.

Saturday January 19, 2013. Field Trip to Cattail Marsh and Tyrrell Park. Meet at the parking lot for Cattail Marsh at 8:00 a.m. The parking lot is accessed from the loop road round the main picnic areas in Tyrrell Park in Beaumont. Some birds can be seen with minimal walking, but the group will probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh. Walking is on the levees: the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are mowed grass. This will be a good trip for beginning to intermediate birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open water areas.

Directions to Cattail Marsh.

From the south

Go "north" on US69/96/287 around the south side of Beaumont. Take Texas 124 (west towards Fannett -- left turn under the highway). Travel about a mile to the first light. At the first light, turn left onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 1/2 mile. Turn left into Tyrrell Park through the nice new arch. Continue past the Garden Center on your left, past the clubhouse for the golf course further along on your right, and proceed about two-thirds of the way round the loop road. The Cattail Marsh parking area is accessed by means of a signed shell road on your right.

From IH-10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont; Go south on Walden Road for about 1/2 mile to the first light. At the light go straight across Highway 124 onto Tyrrell Park Road and follow the directions above.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for all the spring 2013 meetings.** Please do not wait until the last minute to volunteer! We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate! Even if you would like to bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 (or email her at janafw@aol.com) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can!

Thursday February 21, 2013. Membership Meeting. John Mariani on Pelagic Birding in California..

Saturday February 23, 2013. Field Trip Plans are for a trip to Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes looking for sparrows and waterfowl. The exact routing will be decided nearer the time on the basis of scouting reports. This will be mainly a driving trip.

Saturday March 9, 2013. Sabine Woods Work Day. Please put this date on your calendar. We will prepare the Woods for the upcoming spring migration season. We will have more details of what we need to do in next month's issue.



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

Memorial Benches at Sabine Woods – Part 3

Several members have asked for information on the birders whose contributions are recognized by memorial benches at Sabine Woods. This is the third and final installment.

Merry Charlene Cox (1940 – 2011)

I first met Merry in 1996 when she came to our house to observe an uncommon bird. She had recently returned to Orange, Texas from a stint in the Peace Corp. For a year and a half she taught science to girls in Kenya, Africa. Andy and I had just returned ourselves from a journey to Kenya. This gave us a great deal to discuss. Together we talked and laughed with each other until her death in June, 2011.

Born in Sheffield, Alabama on July 4, 1940, Merry became an avid and skilled observer of birds and mammals. She also trapped insects for research at Lamar University. Additionally, she was a wildlife rehabilitator.

After completing courses at Auburn University and East Tennessee State University Merry earned her BS and MS in biology at Lamar University. She wrote her masters thesis on avian cholera in ducks, thus reflecting her continuing interest in birds. She then taught biology at Lamar University, Orange.

In 1988, the Grimm's Woods that today we know as Sabine Woods was placed on the market. Merry and her husband Bill donated to a fund used to purchase the property that is now owned by the Texas Ornithological Society.

Merry's greatest joy in life was in the gaining of knowledge. She was one of the smartest people I ever knew. Andy and I feel that Merry's contribution to Sabine Woods will long be remembered by the placement of a bench where she loved to sit and watch birds.

Carol Lynn and Andy Loker

Hummingbird Mini Field Trip Saturday January 28

We will have an impromptu mini field trip to several people's houses to view their winter hummers on Saturday, January 28th. The trip will start at the Whittles' house in Nederland at 8:00 AM. Please let us know if you live in the Golden Triangle and have winter hummers that are easy for others to view. We may have more information about which houses we will go to at our meeting on Thursday, January 17th. Please call or email me if you have any questions. janafw@aol.com, 722-4193. Thank you.

Jana Whittle

Brief Directions to Whittles' house, 3015 Nashville Avenue, Nederland.

From Highway 69/96/287, exit at Spurlock Road (just north of the airport, just south of the prison complex).

Take Spurlock Road east (a right turn if you are coming from the south, a left turn if you are coming from the north) and go 1/2 mile to the first stop sign at 27th Street.

Turn right and proceed 2/3 mile to Nashville Avenue on your right (second street to the right after the stop sign at Canal Avenue).

Proceed 2/10 mile along Nashville Avenue. 3015 is the third house on the left after you pass 30th Street.

Membership Dues

Effective January 1, all memberships will run from January through December. Membership dues will remain at \$15 per year. You may pay at the January meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/membership blank on the back page.

Dues for all members will be for the period ending on December. For 2013, if you wish, you may deduct \$1.25 from your 2013 dues for each month remaining on your existing membership. However, if you paid in August 2012 or later, we will consider your existing membership to run through December 2013, to follow the system we will use for future new members. 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 National Audubon Society members living in the Chapter territory, which is defined by zip codes, but basically covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do welcome members in other nearby counties!

Your dues cover the cost of printing and mailing the *Brown Pelican* to you, and help fund our other 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 GTAS website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. 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.) Please send an email to johnawhittle@aol.com with your request, including the name we are currently send the printed copy to, and the email address you want us to send to.

Christmas Count Results

The Sea Rim SP Count results are elsewhere in this issue. To the extent that space permits, we will present brief summaries of other bcal counts in next month's issue, and post them on the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org.

The provisional total at Turkey Creek on December 15 was 72 species, with Green-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, Rock Pigeon(!), Palm Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Purple Finch and Rusty Blackbird as unusual species. At Beech Creek on December 22, the preliminary total was 88 species with Ruddy Duck, Pine Siskin and Herring Gull as unusual species.

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count – 03 January 2013

January 3rd dawned overcast and somewhat chilly as participants began to make their way to their assigned areas. Weather conditions remained reasonably favorable throughout the day, with some sunshine breaking through high cloud in the afternoon. This day followed two days of wet weather, consigning the fall drought to merely a memory, and birds were reasonably active.

Again, we sincerely thank McFaddin and Texas Point NWRs, and especially Patrick Walther, for providing the four-wheeler and airboat and skillfully transporting us throughout Texas Point and the part of McFaddin that is in the count circle. We are also indebted to Jim Sutherlin for allowing us access to Murphree WMA, and thank Texas Parks and Wildlife and the staff at Sea Rim State Park for all their efforts to restore the park after the devastation of Hurricane Ike, enabling us to survey the entire beach.

Our tentative total, subject to review of the details of some of the unusual species by the Texas CBC regional coordinator, was 156 species, slightly below the long term average, but right on the "post hurricane" average from January 2006 to 2011. The number of individual birds varies quite widely from year to year and is strongly influenced by the numbers of geese and some duck species. These species are quite wide-ranging within the upper Texas coastal area, and are seen in large numbers when they are on the move or in locations within the count circle, but may be recorded in much reduced numbers if most are concentrated outside the count circle. However, the number of birds recorded, when allowance is made for the fact that no large flocks of geese and relatively few flocks of Green-winged Teal were seen, was pretty much normal. Beach birds, continuing a trend we have seen in recent counts and surveys, were relatively low in number. For some reason that is not obvious to us, the current habitat conditions on the Sea Rim and Texas Point beaches seem not to be attractive to gulls and terns. The mud flats deep in Texas Point NWR were more extensive than usual because of the preponderance of fairly strong north winds in the days (and even weeks) preceding the count, and there were many of the shorebirds better classified as "waders" on those flats.

There were a number of unusual birds. Not seen in previous counts were Franklin's Gull, Hairy Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Clay-colored and Harris's Sparrows. Other birds not seen more than once or twice in recent years included Wilson's Plover, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Waterthrush, Spotted Towhee and Rusty Blackbird.

Among the ducks, the relatively low number of Northern Pintail was surprising as they have become more abundant in some other nearby areas. The decline in the number of flocks of Green-winged Teal continues a trend of the last few years. Ring-necked Ducks were everywhere on the coast three years ago, but we did not find a single one this year. Ruddy Ducks were in good supply, suggesting that water levels are now quite high in the ponds in the count circle.

American White Pelicans were very numerous, while Brown Pelicans were relatively low, perhaps because many of them were feeding relatively far offshore.

We found American Bittern again after missing this species last year, even though the areas they favor in

McFaddin NWR are west of the count circle. We failed to find any Reddish Egrets after four consecutive years when they were present. Mostly, we find young birds of this species, probably in post-breeding dispersal, as the count circle is on the eastern edge of the section of local coastline where they are found, and the species becomes much more common to the immediate west. White Ibis numbers were significantly down over recent years, and for the first time since the count was reinstated with the current count circle 17 years ago in 1995, we did not see any dark Ibis (White-faced or Glossy). We have noted over the last few years that White Ibis predominate in Jefferson County while dark ibis (almost all White-faced) predominate in nearby Chambers County. Roseate Spoonbills were also in unusually low numbers.

Raptor numbers were near normal, with Red-tailed Hawks still in good supply, although not quite as numerous as last year. White-tailed Kites have seemingly rebounded or returned to the area as it recovers more fully from the hurricanes of the last decade. Crested Caracaras are now well established locally, and a pair was present along Highway 87. Six Peregrine Falcons represents a new high count.

Rails were very hard to find last year. We did better this year, although Clapper Rails were still below previous norms. The very small population of American Oystercatchers in the Ship Channel area hangs on, with three birds seen after the three immediately prior counts came up empty. On the other hand, the number of American Avocets eclipsed the previous high by a factor of almost two. In 2000, we first found a small mixed group of Whimbrel and Marbled Godwit along the beach near the eastern edge of Texas Point Refuge and the Whimbrel have been there each year since, including this year. Marbled Godwits have been there most years, but their numbers have increased dramatically in the last three years, and they are being seen in a much wider area. Usually there have been a few Long-billed Curlews loosely associating with them, as this year, although this species is often found elsewhere in the count circle.

As noted above, the large area of exposed mud flats in the interior of Texas Point NWR hosted a large number of shorebirds, most notably Western Sandpipers and dowitchers, including a small number of Long-billed Dowitchers. A few Stilt Sandpipers were also present. Sanderlings, as always, preferred the beach, as did a high proportion of the Dunlins.

A Long-eared Owl had been seen occasionally in Sabine Woods in the weeks preceding the count, but despite a large number of observers in the Woods for an hour or so in the early morning, we did not find it. A pair of Great Horned Owls was present in the Woods, perhaps helping explain why the Barn Owls were roosting out in the marsh of Texas Point NWR across the highway. In the fall, as many as ten Barn Owls were to be found in the west section of the Woods. On count day, seven were detected roosting in dry areas of the marsh just across the highway, and another two were encountered in McFaddin NWR. Other Great Horned Owls were found in other wooded areas for a total of eight of that species. No Short-eared Owls were seen this year.

Hairy Woodpeckers are typically found in deeper woods, often in pines, in the Big Thicket area 30 or more miles north

of the count circle. So it was a surprise to find one well documented bird. Less surprising was the Golden Fronted Woodpecker. In April, a male Golden-fronted Woodpecker appeared in Sabine Woods following March reports from the Texas Point NWR parking lot. There was controversy over the Sabine Woods bird because it had two or three flecks of white in the central tail, and a very few dark spots on the rump. Suggestions were it was perhaps a hybrid and perhaps was one quarter or one eighth Red-bellied Woodpecker. Then it was joined by what appeared to be a pure female Golden-fronted Woodpecker. They paired and produced at least one male and at least one female offspring. All four birds are still being seen from time to time, although it is no longer possible to distinguish the adult female from the female offspring. The bird seen on count day was apparently the male offspring, as it had no white in the tail and no black marks on the rump.

Although Tree Swallows were certainly present, numbers appear to be down this year. Belted Kingfishers on the other hand were in good numbers. Given the widespread reports this year of numerous Red-breasted Nuthatches well south of their normal wintering range, it came as no surprise that six were found during the count.

Sedge Wrens were present in the marshes in good numbers. The Sedge Wrens flush readily on traversing the marsh, and so are readily detected. Marsh Wrens on the other hand, prefer the edges of ditches and bayous, and tend to hide rather than flush, so many of them doubtless go unseen. In areas with roads and paths, they are usually detected by call and song, but during the count, the noise of the airboat overwhelms all other sounds, resulting in very few detections in the more remote marsh areas.

Warbler numbers were generally unremarkable, excepting the relatively low number of Yellow-rumped Warblers. Wilson's Warblers were again present, as this species is becoming a regular winter resident all the way to the coast again. Palm Warblers were also present, although not in the numbers of the previous three years.

Last year, the region was overwhelmed with Green-tailed Towhees. This year, none! However, we did find Eastern and Spotted Towhees. Eastern Towhees were very regular in Sabine Woods for several years, so we hope they will return in future years. In the nineties and before, Spotted Towhees were probably as numerous as Eastern Towhees on the immediate coast, although records to validate this are not available because the Spotted and Eastern Towhees were, at the time, lumped as Rufous-sided Towhees. Even since the split, Spotted Towhees were seen in Sabine Woods in the late nineties, so perhaps they are returning as winter residents. Towhees tend to be rather shy, but can be detected fairly easily by call.

LeConte's Sparrows are present in the drier parts of the marshes, and were certainly present in good numbers this year. Because they tend to fly only minimal distances when flushed or even run on the ground, many are doubtless not seen. This was the year of the White-crowned Sparrow, present everywhere in large numbers. It was nice to find a young Harris's Sparrow, and a Clay-colored Sparrow in the sparrow flocks at Sabine Woods. Finally, but not least, it was nice to find the Rusty Blackbird that had been hanging out in Sabine Woods for a couple of weeks.

The following list is provisional pending the usual checks:

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (16); GOOSE, Greater White-fronted (79); GOOSE, Snow (933); GOOSE, Ross's (2); GADWALL (821); WIGEON, American (40); MALLARD (4); DUCK, Mottled (68); TEAL, Blue-winged (34); SHOVELER, Northern (269); PINTAIL, Northern (65); TEAL, Green-winged (1066); CANVASBACK (779); REDHEAD (6); SCAUP, Greater (12); SCAUP, Lesser (713); SCAUP, Species (677); BUFFLEHEAD (28); MERGANSER, Hooded (21); MERGANSER, Red-breasted (25); DUCK, Ruddy (562); DUCK, species (40); LOON, Common (4); GREBE, Pied-billed (57); GREBE, Eared (11); CORMORANT, Neotropic (368); CORMORANT, Double-crested (67); ANHINGA (2); PELICAN, American White (1259); PELICAN, Brown (107); BITTERN, American (2); HERON, Great Blue (98); EGRET, Great (157); EGRET, Snowy (132); HERON, Little Blue (14); HERON, Tricolored (47); HERON, Green (1); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (9); IBIS, White (106); SPOONBILL, Roseate (39); VULTURE, Black (11); VULTURE, Turkey (34); OSPREY (7); KITE, White-tailed (8); HARRIER, Northern (54); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (2); HAWK, Cooper's (3); HAWK, Red-shouldered (1); HAWK, Red-tailed (85); CARACARA, Crested (2); KESTREL, American (27); MERLIN (3); FALCON, Peregrine (6); RAIL, Clapper (5); RAIL, King (3); RAIL, Virginia (2); SORA (1); GALLINULE, Common (20); COOT, American (423); PLOVER, Black-bellied (104); PLOVER, Snowy (11); PLOVER, Wilson's (3); PLOVER, Semipalmated (26); PLOVER, Piping (20); KILLDEER (155); OYSTERCATCHER, American (3); STILT, Black-necked (33); AVOCET, American (1171); SANDPIPER, Spotted (1); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (94); WILLET (173); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (26); YELLOWLEGS, species (40); WHIMBREL (2); CURLEW, Long-billed (3); GODWIT, Marbled (35); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (27); SANDERLING (52); SANDPIPER, Western (1233); SANDPIPER, Least (112); DUNLIN (1735); SANDPIPER, Stilt (4); SANDPIPER species (250); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (181); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (3); DOWITCHER, species (10); SNIPE, Wilson's (4); GULL, Bonaparte's (2); GULL, Laughing (236); GULL, Franklin's (1); GULL, Ring-billed (389); GULL, Herring (26); TERN, Gull-billed (3); TERN, Caspian (26); TERN, Forster's (136); TERN, Royal (39); SKIMMER, Black (4); PIGEON, Rock (12); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (3); DOVE, White-winged (1); DOVE, Mourning (35); OWL, Barn (10); OWL, Great Horned (8); KINGFISHER, Belted (32); WOODPECKER, Golden-fronted (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (11); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (4); WOODPECKER, Downy (21); WOODPECKER, Hairy (1); FLICKER, Northern (4); PHOEBE, Eastern (47); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (3); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (59); VIREO, White-eyed (2); VIREO, Blue-headed (3); JAY, Blue (14); SWALLOW, Tree (10); CHICKADEE, Carolina (4); NUTHATCH, Red-breasted (6); WREN, House (10); WREN, Sedge (107); WREN, Marsh (3); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (17); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (10); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (57); THRUSH, Hermit (4); ROBIN, American (2); CATBIRD, Gray (7); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (49); THRASHER, Brown (9); STARLING, European (260); PIPIT, American (2); WATERTHRUSH, Northern (1); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (51); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (12); WARBLER, Palm (2); WARBLER, Pine (9); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (45); WARBLER, Yellow-r. (Myrtle) (22); WARBLER, Wilson's (3); TOWHEE, Eastern (2); TOWHEE, Spotted (2); SPARROW, Clay-colored (1); SPARROW, Savannah (274); SPARROW, LeConte's (15); SPARROW, Seaside (24); SPARROW, Song (20); SPARROW, Lincoln's (4); SPARROW, Swamp (68); SPARROW, White-throated (45); SPARROW, Harris's (1); SPARROW, White-crowned (130); CARDINAL, Northern (25); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (670); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (58); BLACKBIRD, Rusty (1); GRACKLE, Common (14); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (63); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (381); GRACKLE, species (20); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (200); GOLDFINCH, American (6); SPARROW, House (4); SPECIES, total (156); INDIVIDUALS, total (18811); Observers (19); Parties (9-11); Party-hours total (72.10); Party-miles total (156.05); Party-hours on foot (41.90); Party-miles on foot (20.55); Party-hours by car (21.95); Party-miles by car (70.00); Party-hours by airboat (6.00); Party-miles by airboat (60.00); Party-hours by 4wheeler (2.25); Party-miles by 4wheeler (5.50); Party-hours stationary (5.00).

Participants: Howard Davis, Mike Dupree, Nancy Fisher, Sherry Gibson, Bill Graber, John Haynes, Gary Kelley, Carol Lynn and Andy Loker, John Mariani, David Powell, Sherrie Roden, Paul Shaw, Christine Silva, Harlan Stewart, Ken Sztraky, Patrick Walther, Jana and John Whittle.

Bird Sightings – November 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.

We have not been able to completely continue the modified reporting of hummingbirds described last month because of the number of birds and the fact that a good number are young males with gorgets that are changing as they develop. Possibly we will be able to infer how many different birds are in each location when

photographs can be studied in detail. However, the Buff-bellied Hummingbird in November was a single bird remaining in one location, and is so reported.

Commentary: The outstanding sighting this month was a Long-eared Owl photographed by Gerald Duhon on the road to the site of the former Pilot Station at Texas Point. Presumably was this bird subsequently seen in Sabine Woods, and glimpsed there several times.

The invasion of Red-breasted Nuthatches continued, even though the full extent will probably be more evident in the next two month's reports. Sparrow numbers have been quite high for several of the common species, especially White-crowned Sparrows, but the numbers of sightings of some of the less common ones were a little less in November than we have come to expect for the early part of the wintering season..

In frequently birded locations, it is quite common for our regular observers to bird together for some part of the day, the composition of the group varying as observers arrive and leave. The observer(s) to whom the report is ascribed reflects the observer who submitted the report and many reports include contributions from others not specifically indicated in individual entries.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell. (7-26)	JEF 5 reps(135)		
GOOSE, White-fronted (17-17)	JEF 11/17(6) FTWJ		
GOOSE, Snow (8-17)	JEF-MURW 11/8(125) JA;		
	JEF 11/17(40) FTWJ		
GOOSE, White (17-17)	JEF 11/17(500) FTWJ		
DUCK, Wood (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(6) JM		
GADWALL (17-26)	JEF-TP 11/17(2) WWR; JEF-		
	TP 11/26(35) JAW		
MALLARD (17-26)	JEF-TP 11/17(10) WWR;		
	JEF-TP 11/26(4) JAW		
TEAL, Blue-winged (17-26)	JEF-TP 11/17(15) WWR;		
	JEF-TP 11/26(9) JAW		
TEAL species (5-5)	JEF-TXPT 11/5(30) JAW		
SHOVELER, Northern (17-26)	JEF 11/17(50) FTWJ; JEF-TP		
	11/17(25) WWR; JEF-TP 11/26(105) JAW		
PINTAIL, Northern (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(75) JAW		
TEAL, Green-winged (17-26)	JEF 3reps(485)		
CANVASBACK (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(1) JAW		
DUCK, Ring-necked (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(10) JM		
SCAUP, Lesser (17-26)	JEF-TP 11/17(10) JM; JEF-		
	TP 11/26(6) JAW		
SCAUP species (10-26)	JEF 2 reps(158)		
GOLDENEYE, Common (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(1) JM		
MERGANSER, Hooded (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(4) JM		
DUCK, Ruddy (17-26)	JEF-TP 11/17(10) JM; JEF-		
	TP 11/26(250) JAW		
LOON, Common (8-8)	JEF-MURW 11/8(1) JA		
GREBE, Least (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(2) JAW		
GREBE, Pied-billed (17-26)	JEF 11/17(2) WWR; JEF-TP		
	11/17(6) WWR; JEF-TP 11/26(3) JAW		
GREBE, Horned (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(1) JM		
GREBE, Eared (17-26)	JEF-TP 11/17(5) JM; JEF-TP		
	11/26(4) JAW		
GREBE, Western (24-24)	JEF-TP 11/24(1) JHH		
CORMORANT, Neotropic (3-26)	JEF 5 reps(54)		
ANHINGA (5-8)	JEF 11/5(1) JAW; JEF 11/8(1)		
	JAW		
PELICAN, Amer. White (5-8)	JEF 2 reps(100)		
PELICAN, Brown (3-5)	JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-		
	TX87 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/5(3) JAW		
BITTERN, American (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(1) JAW		
HERON, Great Blue (3-26)	JEF 6 reps(18)		
EGRET, Great (3-17)	JEF 9 reps(22)		
EGRET, Snowy (3-26)	JEF 4 reps(26)		
HERON, Tricolored (5-26)	JEF 4 reps(6)		
EGRET, Cattle (5-12)	JEF-TX87 11/5(2) JAW; JEF		
	11/10(3) JAW; JEF 11/12(5) CSL		
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(1) WWR		
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr. (17-17)	JEF-TP 11/17(1) WWR		
IBIS, White (3-26)	JEF 5 reps(26)		
IBIS, Glossy (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(1) JAW		
IBIS, White-faced (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(20) JAW		
IBIS, Plegadis (10-17)	JEF 4 reps(255)		
VULTURE, Black (3-17)	JEF 3 reps(5)		
VULTURE, Turkey (3-28)	HAI 3 reps(10); JEF 8		
	reps(47)		
OSPREY (17-26)	JEF 11/17(1) WWR; JEF		
	11/26(2) JAW		
EAGLE, Bald (10-17)	JEF-BMT 11/10(2) CSL; JEF		
	11/17(3) FTWJ		
HARRIER, Northern (3-17)	JEF 8 reps(26)		
HAWK, Sharp-shinned (3-15)	JEF 3 reps(5)		
HAWK, Cooper's (3-18)	JEF 4 reps(5)		
HAWK, Red-shouldered (3-17)	JEF 3 reps(3)		
HAWK, Swainson's (5-5)	JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW		
HAWK, Red-tailed (3-28)	JEF 15 reps(87)		
CARACARA, Crested (10-17)	JEF 11/10(1) JAW; JEF		
	11/17(3) FTWJ		
KESTREL, American (3-26)	JEF 11 reps(59)		
MERLIN (3-3)	JEF 11/3(1) JAW		
RAIL, Clapper (5-5)	JEF-TXPT 11/5(5) JAW		
SORA (8-26)	JEF-MURW 11/8(1) JA; JEF-		
	TP 11/26(3) JAW		
GALLINULE, Common (17-17)	JEF 1 rep(2)		
COOT, American (17-26)	JEF 3 reps(130)		
CRANE, Sandhill (10-26)	JEF 11/10(260) JAW; JEF		
	11/17(67) FTWJ; JEF 11/25(16) CSL; JEF-TP 11/26(201) JAW		
PLOVER, Black-bellied (3-5)	JEF 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT		
	11/5(2) JAW		
KILLDEER (3-21)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(87)		
STILT, Black-necked (17-26)	JEF 3 reps(37)		
AVOCET, American (5-26)	JEF-TXPT 11/5(6) JAW; JEF-		
	TP 11/26(4) JAW		
SANDPIPER, Spotted (26-26)	JEF-TP 11/26(1) JAW		
YELLOWLEGS, Greater (3-8)	JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-		
	MURW 11/8(2) JA		
WILLET (3-5)	JEF 2 reps(6)		
SANDERLING (5-5)	JEF-TXPT 11/5(2) JAW		
SANDPIPER, Stilt (17-17)	JEF 11/17(10) FTWJ		
DOWITCHER, Short-billed (5-5)	JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW		
DOWITCHER, Long-billed (17-17)	JEF 11/17(100) FTWJ		
SNIFE, Wilson's (8-17)	JEF-MURW 11/8(1) JA; JEF		
	11/17(1) FTWJ; JEF-TP 11/17(1) WWR		
GULL, Laughing (3-21)	JEF 5 reps(119)		

GULL, Ring-billed (3-26) JEF 3 reps(8)
GULL, Herring (5-5) JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW
TERN, Caspian (5-5) JEF-TXPT 11/5(15) JAW
TERN, Forster's (3-5) JEF 2 reps(61)
PIGEON, Rock (3-17) HAI 3 reps(30); JEF 2
reps(102)
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras. (5-14) JEF 4 reps(21)
DOVE, White-winged (2-30) JEF 12 reps(57)
DOVE, Mourning (3-30) HAI 4 reps(21); JEF 7
reps(137)
OWL, Great Horned (9-25) JEF 4 reps(4)
OWL, Barn (3-8) JEF-SW 11/3(4) JAW; JEF-
SW 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/8(10) JAW
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (17-17) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
OWL, Long-eared (3-8) JEF-TXPT 11/3 approx (1)
GD; JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied(7-30) JEF-NEDR 11/7 thru 11/30(1)
JJW;
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-ch. (11-30) JEF-NEDR 11/11(1) JAW;
JEF-NEDR 11/14(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/15(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
11/16(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/18(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/19(4)
JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/20(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/26(2) JAW; JEF-
NEDR 11/27(1) HS; JEF-NEDR 11/27(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR
11/28(1) HS; JEF-NEDR 11/28(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/29(1)
JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/30(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Archil. (1-26) HAI-SILS 11/26(1) MG; JEF-
NEDR 11/1(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/3(1)
JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/4(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-
NEDR 11/9(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail. (13-30) JEF-BMT 11/13(1) RHJ; JEF-
NEDR 11/27(1) HS; JEF-NEDR 11/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR
11/28(1) HS; JEF-NEDR 11/29(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/30(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (2-28) JEF-BMT 11/2 thru 25(1)
RHJ; JEF-NEDR 11/26(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/27(1) HS; JEF-
NEDR 11/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/28(1) HS
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf/Allen's (19-30) JEF-NEDR 11/19(1) JFW;
JEF-NEDR 11/30(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasph. (4-4) JEF-BMT 11/4(1) CLL
HUMMINGBIRD species (2-26) JEF 12 reps(12)
KINGFISHER, Belted (3-26) JEF 9 reps(25)
WOODPECKER, Red-head. (10-24) JEF 5 reps (5)
WOODPECKER, Golden-fr. (5-5) JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (9-29) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 5 reps(6)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell. (17-17) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
WOODPECKER, Downy (2-29) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 6 reps(7)
FLICKER, Northern (17-17) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
WOODPECKER, Pileated (2-29) HAI 14 reps(14); JEF 1 rep(2)
PHOEBE, Eastern (3-26) HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 9 reps(33)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (3-17) JEF 11/3(1) JAW; JEF
11/17(1) FTWJ
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail. (3-5) JEF-TX87 11/3(1) JAW; JEF
11/5(2) JAW; JEF-TX87 11/5(2) JAW
SHRIKE, Loggerhead (3-29) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(34)
VIREO, White-eyed (17-30) HAI-SILS 11/29(1) MG; HAI-
SILS 11/30(2) MG; JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
JAY, Blue (3-29) HAI 6 reps(22); JEF 4
reps(11)
CROW, American (10-28) HAI 3 reps(6); JEF 2 reps(5)
SWALLOW, Tree (5-17) JEF 6 reps(579)
CHICKADEE, Carolina (7-30) HAI 16 reps(33); JEF 4
reps(8)
TITMOUSE, Tufted (13-30) HAI 11 reps(22)
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted (9-30) HAI-SILS 11/11(1) MG; HAI-
SILS 11/30(1) MG; JEF-BMT 11/6(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR 11/9(1)
JAW; JEF 11/17(3) FTWJ; JEF-BMT 11/9(1) RHJ; JEF-NEDR
11/29(1) JAW
CREEPER, Brown (17-17) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
WREN, Carolina (11-30) HAI 7 reps(9); JEF 1 rep(1)
WREN, House (5-5) JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW
WREN, Sedge (5-17) JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW; JEF
11/17(1) FTWJ
WREN, Marsh (5-17) JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-
TP 11/17(1) WWR
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (3-17) JEF 4 reps(11)
KINGLET, Golden-crowned (5-17) JEF 4 reps(12)

KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (3-29) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 4 reps(18)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern (10-26) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(17)
THRUSH, Hermit (17-17) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
ROBIN, American (8-8) JEF 2 reps(5)
CATBIRD, Gray (5-8) JEF-SW 11/5(3) JAW; JEF-
MURW 11/8(1) JA
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (3-30) HAI 12 reps(32); JEF 10
reps(50)
THRASHER, Brown (3-30) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 3 reps(5)
STARLING, European (3-28) HAI 2 reps(114); JEF 5
reps(1581)
PIPIT, American (17-26) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ; JEF-TP
11/26(6) JAW
WARBLER, Orange-crown. (3-30) HAI 9 reps(9); JEF 7 reps(11)
WARBLER, Nashville (5-5) JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW
YELLOWTHROAT, Common (3-3) JEF-SW 11/3(1) JAW
WARBLER, Pine (6-30) HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 3 reps(6)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (5-30) HAI 5 reps(13); JEF 5
reps(35)
WARBLER, Wilson's (5-5) JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW
SPARROW, Chipping (2-30) HAI 25 reps(418); JEF 1
rep(1)
SPARROW, Field (5-5) JEF 11/5(1) JAW
SPARROW, Vesper (17-17) JEF 11/17(2) FTWJ
SPARROW, Lark (17-17) JEF 11/17(1) FTWJ
SPARROW, Savannah (3-26) JEF 6 reps(109)
SPARROW, Henslow's (5-5) JEF-SW 11/5(1) JAW (uncfmd
ID)
SPARROW, LeConte's (17-17) JEF 11/17(10) FTWJ
SPARROW, Nelson's (5-5) JEF-TXPT 11/5(1) JAW
SPARROW, Seaside (5-5) JEF 11/5(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT
11/5(1) JAW
SPARROW, Song (17-17) JEF 11/17(3) FTWJ
SPARROW, Lincoln's (3-17) JEF-SW 11/3(1) JAW; JEF
11/17(1) FTWJ
SPARROW, Swamp (5-17) JEF 3 reps(23)
SPARROW, White-throated (2-30) HAI 13 reps(25); JEF 8
reps(19)
SPARROW, White-crowned (5-17) JEF-TXPT 11/5(2) JAW; JEF
11/10(6) JAW; JEF 11/17(14) FTWJ
JUNCO, Dark-eyed (8-8) JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW
CARDINAL, Northern (3-30) HAI 23 reps(582); JEF 2
reps(3)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (3-26) JEF 8 reps(519)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern (17-17) JEF 11/17(24) FTWJ
MEADOWLARK species (10-17) JEF 3 reps(21)
GRACKLE, Common (8-13) JEF 2 reps(153)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (3-10) JEF 5 reps(13)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed (5-17) JEF 4 reps(147)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed (3-21) JEF 4 reps(63)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed (5-17) JEF 4 reps(645)
FINCH, House (2-23) HAI 4 reps(7); JEF 1 rep(2)
GOLDFINCH, American (17-29) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 1 rep(1)
SPARROW, House (10-30) JEF 10 reps(123)

Number of Species 155
Number of Individuals 20537

County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; JEF — Jefferson

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA; NEDR —
Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SW —
Sabine Woods; TP — Tyrrell Park incl. Cattail Marsh; TX87 — Texas
87 Pt. Arthur-Sabine Pass-Sea Rim SP, TXPT — Road to Pilot Station
at Texas Point

Observer Abbreviations

CLL — Carol Lynn Loker; CSL — Christine Sliva; FTWJ — Field Trip
to West Jefferson County; GD — Gerald Duhon; HS — Harlan Stewart;
JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH
— John Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani;
MG — Melanie Goetsell; RHJ — Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; SM
— Steve Mayes; WWR — John and Jana Whittle, Sherrie Roden;

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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 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 www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include all recent postings. Postings for the last two weeks are also available at <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/TX>.

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>.