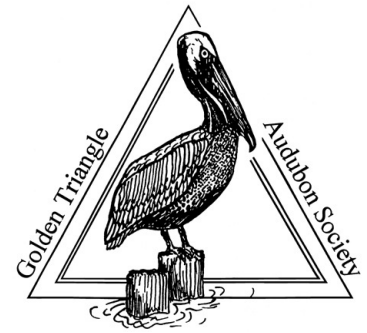


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 5

May 2013

Membership Meeting
Thursday May 16, 2013 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Getting to Know Your Refuge
McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge

Tami Schutter
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Tami Schutter has worked as a Park Ranger for Texas Chenier Plain Refuges Complex for over four years. She is involved mostly in visitor services and recreation on the refuges, but also serves as a collateral wildland firefighter for the refuges. Before coming to U.S. Fish & Wildlife she worked as an advisory specialist for the IRS in Fayetteville, AR and also served in the Texas Army National Guard for six years. She is currently working on a Masters of digital media studies and hopes to educate more people about the refuges through social media.

In her talk, Tami will describe where McFaddin NWR is, what birds and animals can be seen, and what you may do there. She will also describe some of the research projects being completed, and how you can help the Refuge.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp. A light supper will be available from 6:15 p.m.

Sabine Woods Work Day – Saturday May 18, 2013

Please put this date on your calendar and help us if you can. On this work day, we plan to take care of trail mowing and other trail maintenance tasks so that we do not face too daunting a task on our next work day in September. Particular needs this time are for riding mowers, but we will also need loppers to cut back the vegetation to prevent it encroaching on the trails. Sabine Woods is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87. We will start around 7:30 a.m. and work till about noon.

In the longer term, we have a need for brushhogging. Howard Davis has done yeoman service in this regard over the last few years, but no longer has a tractor and brushhog. We are looking for volunteer or inexpensive help in this regard.

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

Saturday May 12. Jefferson County Spring Migration Count. We have been doing these counts since 1995. The count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We welcome all participants, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from dawn through about 11:00 a.m. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would appreciate your help! Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for details or offers to help. We will be out of town May 3 through 10, but will respond to emails.

Thursday May 16, 2013. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1.

Saturday May 18, 2013. Sabine Woods Work Day. 7:30 a.m. to noon. See p.1 for details.

Saturday June 1, 2013. Field Trip to Hardin County: We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Pine, Prairie and Swainson's Warblers (and possibly Prothonotary Warbler), Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. Some of these species are easier to see on the breeding

grounds than on migration. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target of this trip. We have often been rewarded with excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. Yellow-breasted Chats, skulkers in migration, have often been seen perched high up in the open.

This area also has many breeding Prairie Warblers, and many of the areas replanted with pines a few years ago are now at a stage favored by this species, so we will hopefully see several.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US96 north. Take Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right a short distance after crossing the railroad, continue straight ahead on FM92 for about a mile to the shopping center. We will bird the Firetower Road/Gore Store Road/Camp Waluta area and any nearby areas that are brought to our attention as being productive. Many areas along Firetower Road were clear cut two or three years ago, and while this has undoubtedly reduced the diversity of species, it has created much habitat that is proving very attractive to Prairie Warblers. However, we will likely spend most time in the northern section of Firetower Road, and along Gore Store Road between Firetower Road and the Beech Creek bridge. We will probably finish about noon. We normally stay east of the area of Gore Store Road that burned two years ago.

This trip is mostly easy car birding. Bring water!



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.

Whimbrel Migration Routes

(This interesting account of migration tracking results of three Whimbrels was posted on the Internet about April 24.)

Scientists at the Center for Conservation Biology have tracked three Whimbrels from wintering areas on the coast of Brazil on a nonstop, 4,000 mile (6,400 kilometer) flight to the Gulf of Mexico. This flight represents the third leg of a previously unknown loop migration route and connects four widely scattered locations in the conservation of this declining species. The three birds named Mackenzie (for the river where they breed), Akpik (named for the cloudberry that the birds feed on in the fall) and Pingo (named for an arctic formation caused by permafrost) left their wintering grounds near Sao Luis, Brazil between 9 and 13 April. The birds flew nonstop for 95 to 100 hours averaging 40 miles per hour (67 kilometers per hour) before reaching the Gulf of Mexico. Originally captured and marked on the breeding grounds along the Mackenzie River in far western Canada in June of 2012, the birds took a bold fall migration route flying 2,800 miles (4,500 kilometers) to the east coast of Canada in mid-July to stage for 2 weeks before embarking on a marathon 4,300-mile (6,900-kilometer) flight out over the open ocean to the northern coast of South America. All three birds have spent just over 7 months in the extensive tidal system of the Gulf of Maranhao before initiating their migration north.

All three birds are currently staging in different locations. Akpik is staging in Laguna Madre within the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico a site known to be a critical wintering area for the closely related Long-billed Curlew. Mackenzie is near the Demieres Isles in southern Louisiana. Pingo is in and around Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge south of Houston, Texas the site of a recently discovered spring staging area of hemispheric importance to Whimbrels. *[This site is in the East Unit at the Refuge, and is not open to the public – Ed]* Understanding the

connectivity of this site to breeding areas has become a high priority for the research community. The bird appears to be using farm fields that have been managed over the winter for migrating shorebirds.

Mackenzie, Akpik and Pingo, all from the same breeding location, have now linked sites in far-flung, unexpected regions in their orb of conservation. Important in their own right, each of these sites must be considered collectively for conservation efforts to be effective. Mackenzie, the bird fitted with the recycled transmitter of Machi (a bird shot on Guadeloupe in September of 2011) is now staging in the heart of the area impacted by the Deep Horizon Oil Spill. The spill began on 20 April, during the time of Whimbrel staging in 2010. Such events highlight the fragility of conservation networks and the importance of locations and cultures working together toward common goals. Through these birds we now know that an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico may impact a breeding population on the Mackenzie River, or a staging area in Nova Scotia, or a wintering area around the mouth of the Amazon. Understanding these linkages is a critical step in protecting these networks and the species that depend on them.

The three Whimbrels are part of a larger project that has included 20 additional birds that have been tracked to better understand migratory pathways and locations that are critical for this declining species. The study has tracked Whimbrels for more than 200,000 miles (322,000 kilometers) since 2008. The broader tracking project is a collaborative effort between The Center for Conservation Biology, The Canadian Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, and Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences.

Links to tracking maps and photo here: <http://www.cbbirds.org/2013/04/23/mackenzie-whimbrels-complete-third-leg-of-unknown-loop-migration-route/>

Michael Wilson
Center for Conservation Biology
College of William and Mary &
Virginia Commonwealth University

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 any membership 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. 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's official 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. We urge you to help us do more by receiving your *Brown Pelican* as a PDF attached to an email if you do not already. We will continue to post the Newsletter on the GTAS website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. The typical issue will be about 500 KB so it is not a large file. 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 use.

Contributions to the Brown Pelican

Contributions for the Brown Pelican are always welcome, and we would especially welcome more articles on conservation and related issues, particularly those with a local flavor.

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 20 April 2013

There are days when we question why we go birding. It's too hot, too cold, bugs are too bad and there just aren't enough birds around to make it worthwhile. Then there are those days that remind us why we started birding to begin with. When birds just seem to fall out of the sky in front of you and there is a new bird around every corner. The Golden Triangle Audubon Society has had both of these kinds of days on the April field trip to Sabine Woods. So which kind of trip would it be in 2013? Luckily, the answer was "the good kind"!

Spring is always a boom or bust experience on the coast with the weather dictating the birding experience – at least that's the conventional wisdom. The spring of 2013 has produced some slow days (often on the weekends unfortunately) and some spectacular days but they have not always coincided with the weather that is supposed to control this kind of thing. A frontal passage a couple of days prior to the field trip produced a bounty of birds and, though conditions had become less favorable by the day of the field trip, there were still lots of birds hanging around the coast to be ogled by appreciative birders. The total numbers of birds was not as large as in some of the spectacular "fall outs" that the coast is known for but the diversity was excellent and all present were satisfied with the experience.

So what was seen on the day? In April, on the upper Texas coast, it always starts with warblers! Tennessee Warblers flitted through the tree tops while similar Orange-crowned Warblers spent more time a little lower down. Male and female Northern Parulas were located showing off their white eye arcs and green backs while a beautiful male Chestnut-sided Warbler sported black and yellow and rusty colored plumage. A Yellow-throated Warbler crept along the trunks and branches of the oak trees along with the more numerous Black and White Warblers. Black-throated Green Warblers gave their buzzy calls from the trees while Ovenbirds silently crept around the forest floor. A golden Prothonotary Warbler and heavily streaked Northern Waterthrushes kept to the pond while Palm Warblers preferred the fields. American Redstarts zipped about the trees frenetically while a Worm-eating Warbler deliberately searched through clumps of dead leaves. Blue-winged Warblers were one of the most common warblers in the woods on the day but getting a look at a Blackpoll Warbler took a little more work. Kentucky Warblers were fairly common if a bit elusive while only a single Yellow-breasted Chat was (briefly) located. Hooded Warblers flashed their white tail feathers all over the woods while a lucky few birders spotted a single Wilson's Warbler bathing at the drip. The star of the show however was definitely a male Cerulean Warbler. This bird cooperatively hung around all day, often low in the trees. The sky blue plumage combined with the extraordinary close up views were a birders delight and was an especially happy experience for the many photographers present! It's safe to say that photos of this Cerulean Warbler are now decorating web pages and homes all over Texas!

Warblers are not the only migrants that make Sabine Woods the place to be in April. Vireos also put in a good

appearance on the day. White-eyed Vireo chattered from the underbrush while a Yellow-throated Vireo (especially common this spring) sang its slow song from above. Red-eyed Vireos were fairly common while Blue-headed and Warbling Vireos were harder to find. Swainson's Thrushes were common in the leaf litter while Wood Thrush was less common and Gray-cheeked Thrush hard to find at all. Orchard Orioles fed and sang through the refuge while a few brilliant orange and black Baltimore Orioles were also seen. Summer Tanagers staked out the bee hives while fluorescent red and black Scarlet Tanagers attacked the Mulberry trees. Indigo Buntings were in surprisingly short supply and Blue Grosbeaks were present but not numerous. Luckily Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were easy to find as they gorged on hackberries and mulberries. Add in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Common Nighthawks, Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Gray Catbirds and it's clear that a great upper Texas coast migrant day was had by all. This is the reason birders travel to Sabine Woods!

Good days and bad days are possible in any hobby or past time and this is certainly true in birding. A north wind can leave hundreds of colorful birds decorating the trees in the spring while a south wind can leave even the best migrant traps empty. This is the risk and the reward of birding. Sure those bad days may be dull but, when you get a day like this field trip day, there are no doubts! A good birding day at Sabine Woods is a magical experience and sharing a day like that with the members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society makes it that much more special!

The following species were recorded at Sabine Woods by the trip leaders:

Black Vulture (1); Turkey Vulture (3); Solitary Sandpiper (1); White-winged Dove (4); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (4); Common Nighthawk (1); Golden-fronted Woodpecker (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Downy Woodpecker (2); Eastern Wood-Pewee (4); Acadian Flycatcher (3); Eastern Kingbird (2); White-eyed Vireo (2); Yellow-throated Vireo (1); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Warbling Vireo (1); Red-eyed Vireo (6); Blue Jay (6); Tree Swallow (10); Carolina Chickadee (1); Red-breasted Nuthatch (2); Gray-cheeked Thrush (2); Swainson's Thrush (6); Wood Thrush (4); Northern Mockingbird (2); Brown Thrasher (2); Ovenbird (2); Worm-eating Warbler (1); Northern Waterthrush (3); Blue-winged Warbler (5); Black-and-white Warbler (6); Prothonotary Warbler (2); Swainson's Warbler (1); Tennessee Warbler (3); Orange-crowned Warbler (3); Northern Parula (2); Kentucky Warbler (5); Common Yellowthroat (3); Hooded Warbler (10); American Redstart (4); Cerulean Warbler (1); Yellow Warbler (2); Chestnut-sided Warbler (1); Blackpoll Warbler (1); Yellow-throated Warbler (2); (Western) Palm Warbler (2); Black-throated Green Warbler (3); Wilson's Warbler (1); Yellow-breasted Chat (1); Swamp Sparrow (6); White-crowned Sparrow (12); Summer Tanager (7); Scarlet Tanager (10); Northern Cardinal (2); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (11); Blue Grosbeak (2); Indigo Bunting (1); Orchard Oriole (10); Baltimore Oriole (2)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – March 2013

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: March is a transitional month as many winter residents depart just as the first few spring migrants pass through. Among the raptors, the first Swallow-tailed Kites and

Swainson's Hawks arrived as the wintering species, mostly still present, began to leave. Waterfowl numbers dropped off quite markedly after the middle of the month.

Hummingbirds presented a particular problem this month, as many of the males of the wintering species underwent quite rapid plumage changes, especially to the gorget, making identification of individual birds quite challenging. We thank Harlan Stewart for his efforts in that regard. We have tried to summarize the hummingbirds rather than show each individual report.

Early passerine migrants are well represented in the table, with Yellow-throated Vireos showing up particularly early. Two sightings of a Yellow-breasted Chat at Sabine Woods may represent a bird that wintered nearby rather than a "moving" migrant. Otherwise, the expected early warblers: Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary, Black-and-white, Hooded, and Yellow-throated Warblers all were seen, as well as somewhat less expected Black-throated Green and Nashville Warblers. Next month's report will include the bulk of warbler migration.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.	(2-31)	JEF 10 reps(377)		VULTURE, Turkey	(1-31)	HAI 11 reps(54); JEF 22
GADWALL	(13-13)	JEF-TP 3/13(35) JHH		reps(99)		
WIGEON, American	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(7) JHH		OSPREY	(10-26)	HAI-SILS 3/26(1) MG; JEF-
MALLARD	(13-19)	JEF 2 reps(5)		TX87 3/10(1) JAW; JEF 3/13(1) JHH; JEF-TX87 3/24(1) JAW		
DUCK, Mottled	(9-30)	JEF 6 reps(14)		KITE, Swallow-tailed	(26-28)	JEF 3/26(1) JWHS; ORA
TEAL, Blue-winged	(1-31)	JEF 18 reps(281)		3/28(2) CHA		
TEAL, Cinnamon	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(3) JHH		KITE, White-tailed	(21-21)	JEF-MURW 3/21(1) JA
SHOVELER, Northern	(1-13)	JEF 3 reps(150)		EAGLE, Bald	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(1) JHH
PINTAIL, Northern	(1-19)	JEF 3/1(800) JAW; JEF-		HARRIER, Northern	(1-31)	JEF 14 reps(26)
NEDR 3/19(1) JAW				HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(11-30)	JEF-SW 3/11(1) JHH; JEF
TEAL, Green-winged	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(225) JHH		3/29(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH		
DUCK, Ring-necked	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(4) JHH		HAWK, Cooper's	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(1) JHH
SCAUP, Greater	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(2) JHH		HAWK, Red-shouldered	(1-27)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(5)
SCAUP, Lesser	(1-26)	JEF 10 reps(236)		HAWK, Swainson's	(26-31)	JEF 3/26(1) JWHS; JEF-
GOLDENEYE, Common	(2-2)	JEF-PI 3/2(1) JAW		NEDR 3/31(1) JAW		
MERGANSER, Red-breasted	(2-5)	JEF-PI 3/2(3) JAW; JEF-PI		HAWK, Red-tailed	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 21
3/5(5) JAW				reps(71)		
DUCK, Ruddy	(2-13)	JEF-PI 3/2(32) JAW; JEF-PI		HAWK, Red-tailed (Krider's)	(23-23)	JEF-TX87 3/23(1) JAW
3/5(39) JAW; JEF 3/13(60) JHH				CARACARA, Crested	(9-25)	JEF 5 reps(7)
LOON, Pacific	(2-2)	JEF-PI 3/2(1) JAW		KESTREL, American	(1-26)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11
LOON, Common	(2-5)	JEF-PI 3/2(8) JAW; JEF-PI		reps(50)		
3/5(6) JAW				MERLIN	(25-25)	JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH
GREBE, Least	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(1) JHH		SORA	(13-23)	JEF 3/13(3) JHH; JEF-SW
GREBE, Pied-billed	(2-18)	JEF 4 reps(10)		3/23(1) JAW		
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(10-30)	JEF 9 reps(32)		GALLINULE, Common	(1-26)	JEF 4 reps(43)
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	(2-24)	JEF 8 reps(60)		COOT, American	(13-26)	JEF 3 reps(166)
ANHINGA	(1-31)	JEF 3/1(1) JAW; JEF 3/13(1)		CRANE, Sandhill	(1-1)	JEF 3/1(1) JAW
JHH; JEF-SW 3/31(30) JAW				PLOVER, Black-bellied	(21-21)	JEF-MURW 3/21(1) JA
PELICAN, Amer. White	(2-21)	JEF 5 reps(44)		GOLDEN-PLOVER, Amer.	(26-26)	JEF 3/26(1) JWHS
PELICAN, Brown	(2-30)	JEF 10 reps(57)		KILLDEER	(1-29)	JEF 8 reps(127)
HERON, Great Blue	(1-31)	JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(6)		STILT, Black-necked	(2-25)	JEF 7 reps(26)
EGRET, Great	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 17		AVOCET, American	(2-21)	JEF-PI 3/2(80) JAW; JEF-PI
reps(84)				3/5(50) JAW; JEF-MURW 3/21(1) JA		
EGRET, Snowy	(1-30)	JEF 15 reps(94)		SANDPIPER, Spotted	(2-2)	JEF-PI 3/2(1) JAW
HERON, Little Blue	(21-21)	JEF-MURW 3/21(1) JA		SANDPIPER, Solitary	(20-24)	JEF-SW 3/20(1) JAW; JEF-
HERON, Tricolored	(10-24)	JEF 4 reps(6)		SW 3/24(1) JM		
EGRET, Cattle	(2-31)	JEF 10 reps(119)		YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(1-21)	JEF 2 reps(99)
HERON, Green	(9-31)	JEF 7 reps(18)		WILLET	(2-30)	JEF 5 reps(51)
NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr.	(11-11)	JEF 3/11(2) CSL		YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(1-21)	JEF 3 reps(210)
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(9-31)	JEF 10 reps(16)		SANDPIPER, Upland	(26-29)	JEF 3/26(3) JWHS; JEF
IBIS, White	(2-30)	JEF 5 reps(234)		3/27(1) JAW; JEF 3/29(1) JAW		
IBIS, Glossy	(1-13)	JEF 3/1(2) JAW; JEF 3/13(1)		SANDPIPER, Western	(2-5)	JEF-PI 3/2(2) JAW; JEF-PI
JHH				3/5(250) JAW		
IBIS, White-faced	(13-13)	JEF 3/13(23) JHH		SANDPIPER, Least	(1-21)	JEF 2 reps(75)
IBIS, Plegadis	(25-25)	JEF-TX87 3/25(8) JAW		DUNLIN	(5-21)	JEF 2 reps(70)
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(13-24)	JEF 3 reps(9)		DOWITCHER, Long-billed	(1-1)	JEF 3/1(3) JAW
VULTURE, Black	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 12		DOWITCHER species	(5-5)	JEF-PI 3/5(200) JAW
reps(29)						

SNIPE, Wilson's	(9-23)	JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF 3/13(17) JHH; JEF-TX87 3/23(1) JAW
GULL, Laughing	(2-28)	JEF 11 reps(315)
GULL, Ring-billed	(5-31)	JEF 6 reps(176)
TERN, Caspian	(20-20)	JEF-TX87 3/20(1) JAW
TERN, Forster's	(2-25)	JEF 5 reps(176)
TERN, Royal	(2-29)	JEF 4 reps(13)
SKIMMER, Black	(5-5)	JEF-PI 3/5(200) JAW
PIGEON, Rock	(1-30)	HAI 14 reps(135); JEF 12 reps(130)
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(7-26)	HAI 4 reps(5); JEF 4 reps(6)
DOVE, White-winged	(1-31)	HAI 41 reps(249); JEF 30 reps(168)
DOVE, Mourning	(1-31)	HAI 40 reps(310); JEF 22 reps(88)
DOVE, Inca	(21-25)	HAI-SILS 3/21(1) MG; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH
OWL, Great Horned	(1-31)	JEF 17 reps(39)
SWIFT, Chimney	(23-30)	JEF 4 reps(15)
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied	(2-28)	JEF-NEDR 3/2 thru 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/1 thru 3/18(1) HS
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr	(15-31)	HAI-SILS 3/16 thru 24(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/25 thru 31(2) MG; JAS 3/31(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/15(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/17(3) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/19(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/20(3) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/21(4) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/24 thru 3/31(1+) JJW; JEF-SW 3/20(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/24(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(2) JHH; JEF-NEDR 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/28(1) JJW; JEF 3/29(2) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(2) JAW;; JEF-SW 3/30(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(6) JHH; JEF 3/31(3) JHH
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-ch	(2-31)	JEF-NEDR 3/2 thru 3/31(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/2 thru 3/27(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/2 thru 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/28 thru 3/31(1); could be continuation of one of the above) JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tl	(2-23)	JEF-NEDR 3/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/3(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/15(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/20(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/21(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/23(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	(2-31)	(Because of rapidly changing plumage, birds could not be identified as to individual birds) JEF-NEDR 3/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/3(2) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/4(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/6(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/10(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/12(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/17(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/19(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/20(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/21(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/22(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/23(1) JAW; JEF 3/24(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/26(1) JWHs; JEF-NEDR 3/27(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/28(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/30(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/31(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Allen's	(15-15)	JEF-NEDR 3/15(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf/Allen's	(3-3)	JEF-NEDR 3/3(1) JJW; NEDR 3/14(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 3/15(1); JEF-NEDR 3/25(1) JAW
HUMMINGBIRD species	(2-30)	JEF 11 reps(21)
KINGFISHER, Belted	(2-30)	JEF 13 reps(16)
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	(1-27)	HAI-SILS 3/1(2) MG; HAI-SILS 3/12(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/27(1) MG
WOODPECKER, Golden-fr.	(2-31)	JEF 13 reps(18)
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(1-31)	HAI 31 reps(52); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(15)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	(2-20)	HAI-SILS 3/2(1) MG; HAI-SILS 3/18(1) MG; JEF-SW 3/20(1) JAW
WOODPECKER, Downy	(2-31)	HAI 3 reps(4); JEF 19 reps(53)
FLICKER, Northern	(21-21)	HAI-SILS 3/21(1) MG
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(1-22)	HAI 12 reps(13)
PHOEBE, Eastern	(1-31)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 17 reps(53)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion	(1-1)	JEF 3/1(3) JAW
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested	(20-30)	JEF 4 reps(4)
KINGBIRD, Eastern	(19-31)	JEF 9 reps(24)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 23 reps(104)
VIREO, White-eyed	(6-31)	HAI 5 reps(7); JEF 16 reps(47)
VIREO, Yellow-throated	(10-31)	JEF-SW 3/10(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF 3/31(2) JHH
VIREO, Blue-headed	(6-31)	JEF 11 reps(18)
VIREO, Red-eyed	(30-30)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH
JAY, Blue	(1-31)	HAI 21 reps(61); JEF 23 reps(95)
CROW, American	(1-28)	HAI 5 reps(18)
CROW, Fish	(13-22)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(9)
CROW, species	(5-31)	JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(14)
MARTIN, Purple	(1-31)	HAI 2 reps(12); JAS 1 rep(15); JEF 13 reps(57)
SWALLOW, Tree	(1-31)	JEF 22 reps(864)
SWALLOW, N. Rough-wing.	(1-30)	JEF 5 reps(12)
SWALLOW, Barn	(1-31)	JEF 14 reps(56)
SWALLOW species	(2-22)	HAI 1 rep(40); JEF 3 reps(4)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(1-31)	HAI 29 reps(60); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 17 reps(18)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(1-31)	HAI 26 reps(46)
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	(2-31)	JEF-NEDR 3/2(1) JFW; JEF-SW 3/9(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/10(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/11(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/19(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/24(2) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JAW; JEF 3/29(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(19-19)	HAI-SILS 3/19(1) SG
WREN, Carolina	(2-30)	HAI 13 reps(16); JEF 1 rep(1)
WREN, House	(23-23)	JEF-SW 3/23(1) JAW
WREN, Sedge	(9-31)	JEF-SW 3/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/19(5) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(5) JAW; JEF 3/31(2) JHH
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(2-31)	HAI 2 reps(3); JEF 16 reps(124)
KINGLET, Golden-crowned	(2-12)	JEF 6 reps(12)
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(2-31)	JEF 17 reps(118)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(1-31)	HAI 21 reps(48); JAS 1 rep(4); JEF 4 reps(12)
THRUSH, Hermit	(2-11)	JEF 5 reps(5)
THRUSH, Wood	(30-30)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH
ROBIN, American	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(1942); JEF 21 reps(54)
CATBIRD, Gray	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(25)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-31)	HAI 25 reps(117); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 34 reps(157)
THRASHER, Brown	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(75)
STARLING, European	(1-31)	HAI 26 reps(3501); JAS 1 rep(4); JEF 15 reps(412)
PIPIT, American	(1-13)	JEF 3/1(32) JAW; JEF 3/13(4) JHH
WAXWING, Cedar	(1-27)	HAI 20 reps(1630); JEF 6 reps(199)
WARBLER, Worm-eating	(24-30)	JEF-SW 3/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	(6-31)	JEF 10 reps(20)
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	(25-29)	JEF-SW 3/25(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/29(1) JAW
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(6-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 13 reps(107)
WARBLER, Prothonotary	(24-30)	JEF-SW 3/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JHH; JEF-SW 3/30(3) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(3) JHH
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	(2-31)	HAI 7 reps(8); JEF 20 reps(70)
WARBLER, Nashville	(30-31)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH; JEF 3/31(1) JHH
WARBLER, Kentucky	(30-30)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) JHH
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(9-31)	JEF 13 reps(24)
WARBLER, Hooded	(10-31)	JEF 8 reps(21)
PARULA, Northern	(6-31)	JEF 7 reps(15)
WARBLER, Palm	(11-31)	JEF 7 reps(8)
WARBLER, Pine	(1-31)	HAI 17 reps(33); JEF 2 reps(4)

WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(1-31)	HAI 23 reps(123); JEF 20 reps(192)
WARBLER, Yellow-throated	(10-31)	JEF 6 reps(13)
WARBLER, Black-thr. Green	(20-30)	JEF-SW 3/20(1) KH; JEF- SW 3/24(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/25(1) JEF-SW 3/30(2) JHH
WARBLER, Wilson's	(2-31)	JEF 11 reps(15)
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	(10-19)	JEF-SW 3/10(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/19(1) JAW
TOWHEE, Eastern	(2-31)	JEF 9 reps(11)
SPARROW, Chipping	(1-31)	HAI 34 reps(1623)
SPARROW, Vesper	(1-18)	JEF 3/1(11) JAW; JEF 3/18(1) JAW
SPARROW, Savannah	(1-26)	JEF 12 reps(151)
SPARROW, Seaside	(21-21)	JEF-MURW 3/21(2) JA
SPARROW, Song	(1-2)	JEF 2 reps(6)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(2-31)	JEF 10 reps(20)
SPARROW, Swamp	(9-31)	JEF 16 reps(81)
SPARROW, White-throated	(2-31)	HAI 12 reps(18); JEF 17 reps(221)
SPARROW, Harris's	(2-12)	JEF-SW 3/2(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/6(1) JHH; JEF-NEDR 3/12(1) HS
SPARROW, White-crowned	(1-31)	JEF 19 reps(266)
TANAGER, Summer	(31-31)	JEF-SW 3/31(1) JAW
CARDINAL, Northern	(1-31)	HAI 42 reps(1370); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 21 reps(64)
BUNTING, Indigo	(29-30)	JEF 3/29(4) JHH; JEF-SW 3/29(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW; JEF-SW 3/30(5) JHH
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(293); JEF 24
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(1-26)	JEF 6 reps(99)
MEADOWLARK species	(15-18)	JEF 2 reps(2)
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	(1-26)	JEF 3/1(23) JAW; JEF 3/15(8) JAW; JEF 3/18(34) JAW; JEF 3/26(7) JWHS
GRACKLE, Common	(1-31)	HAI 13 reps(1956); JEF 15 reps(127)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(1-30)	JEF 11 reps(63)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(2); JEF 15 reps(410)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed	(15-30)	JEF 5 reps(20)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(1-31)	HAI 10 reps(36); JEF 6 reps(357)
BLACKBIRD species	(12-30)	JEF 5 reps(5205)
ORIOLE, Orchard	(30-30)	JEF-SW 3/30(1) JAW; JEF- SW 3/30(1) JHH
FINCH, House	(1-31)	HAI 25 reps(113); JEF 21 reps(62)
SISKIN, Pine	(1-31)	HAI 31 reps(618)
GOLDFINCH, American	(1-31)	HAI 33 reps(306); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 1 rep(1)
SPARROW, House	(1-31)	HAI 7 reps(98); JAS 1 rep(10); JEF 16 reps(190)

Number of Species 186
Number of Individuals 67792

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson; ORA — Orange

Location Codes

GROV — Groves; MURW — J. D. Murphree WMA, west of Taylor Bayou; 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 former Pilot Station at Texas Point

Observer Abbreviations

CHA — Cindy Harland; CSL — Christine Sliva; DKE — Denise Kelley; HS — Harlan Stewart; JA — Jim Armacost; JAW — John Whittle; JFW — Jana Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; JWHS — John Whittle and Harlan Stewart; KH — Keith Hansen; MG — Melanie Goetsell; SG — Sherry Gibson; SM — Steve Mayes.

Audubon Launches Citizen Science Project

New Mobile App to ID Birds and the Blooms that Feed Them

New York, NY -Published: Apr 17, 2013

As flowers bloom earlier because of warming temperatures, the impact on hummingbirds which rely on nectar could be severe. The National Audubon Society has launched a new Citizen Science project to document hummingbird sightings across the country, using a free mobile app that identifies bird species as well as the plants that feed them. Starting this week, Hummingbirds at Home, will welcome observations from March to June each spring. The project joins Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count as part of a plan to grow Citizen Science programs year-round, and entice young people and non-birders to become stewards for nature.

"Every year, many hummingbird species make a remarkable journey north during springtime," said Dr. Gary Langham, Chief Scientist for Audubon; "but will their arrival time be in sync with the blossoms?" Dr. Langham says the new research will help Audubon focus its conservation efforts on where birds are most affected. Data will be shared with the Pollinator Partnership who note that pollinators such as birds, bees and bats "are responsible for bringing us one out of every three bites of food."

Participants can get involved year round by making recommended changes to their local hummingbird habitats, plus take steps to stem the impact of Climate Change. "Increasingly people are seeing the impact of Climate Change in their own backyards, from early blossoms to extreme weather," said Dr. Langham; "This is a fun, family-friendly citizen science project that works in the classroom or in the kitchen."

Find out more at www.hummingbirdsathome.org

See also how to create a healthy backyard and info on hummingbird feeders.

Goals of Hummingbirds at Home include:

- Teach scientific method to a variety of audiences.
- Engage families and classroom teachers.
- Deliver real, scientifically valid results that will focus conservation.
- Discover if feeders/non-native plants support hummingbirds at a level that native plants do not.
- Pinpoint where/when hummingbirds are most vulnerable due to a scarcity of nectar resources.
- Determine consequences of hummingbirds going extinct for pollination systems.
- Determine consequences on hummingbirds of some flowers going extinct.

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Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ 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 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..>