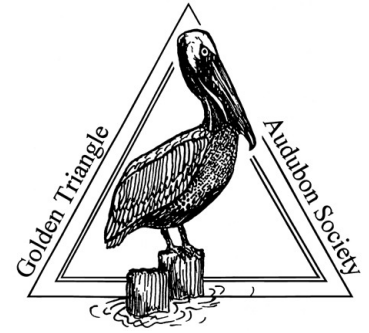


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 19 No. 10

October 2013

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

From Cincloides to Penguins
Birding Central and Southern Chile
Stephan Lorenz

While Chile does not boast the hyper-diversity of birds found in many tropical South American countries, it makes up for it with unique endemics and many specialties. From one of a kind tapaculos, through a plethora of waterfowl, and a variety of shorebirds, a trip to central and southern Chile will not disappoint. It's endemic chasing at its finest against backdrops of snowy volcanoes, primordial southern beech forests, and windswept tundra. Not surprisingly the cold Humboldt Current sweeping past Chile's 2,700 mile coastline hosts a large number of seabirds, from huge albatross to tiny storm-petrels. Due to the unusual geography of Chile, 2,600 miles in length and average 110 miles width, a visit requires quite a bit of travel to cover the country, but efficient and cost effective internal flights make for an enjoyable trip. Join this photographic tour from the balmy matorral around Santiago, to the gray bays of Chiloe, through the icy headlands of Tierra del Fuego. This presentation will focus on traveling and birding in central and southern Chile, highlighting the hotspots, giving detailed information on endemics and specialties, and touching briefly on logistics.

Stephan Lorenz has travelled and birded in every corner of North America from the Aleutians to the Dry Tortugas, from Newfoundland to Baja, and south to the Darien. He has also spent considerable time in South America, South Africa, Australia, Malaysia, and Europe. He has published over thirty articles on natural history, bird identification, and travel. When not traveling or birding he teaches biology at San Jacinto College.

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.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 19, No.10 October 2013
Issue number 200

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Gerald Duhon (409-899-3368)

Vice-President

Gary Kelley (409-697-2346)

Treasurer

Christine Sliva (409-243-2446)

Secretary

John Whittle (409-722-4193)

Directors-at-Large

Edra Bogucki (409-835-7245)

Howard Davis (409-962-1254)

Sherry Gibson (409-385-6302)

John Haynes (409-724-6842)

John Mariani (985-373-5016)

Steve Mayes (409-722-5807)

Sherrie Roden (409-962-7911)

Harlan Stewart (409) 727-4441

Jana Whittle (409-722-4193)

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Program

Jana Whittle (409-722-4193)

Field Trips

Steve Mayes (409-722-5807)

Conservation

Volunteer opportunity!

Membership, Publicity

Volunteer needed

Education

Volunteer needed

Webmaster

Jeff Pittman

(geojeff@geojeff.org)

Newsletter Distribution

Mary Stafford (409-460-3653)

Newsletter Editor

John Whittle (409-722-4193)

(Johnawhittle@aol.com)

The Brown Pelican is

published monthly except July
by the Golden Triangle Audubon
Society, P. O. Box 1292,
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

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

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought or contributed for refreshments in September. Linda and Howard Davis, Sherry Gibson, Steve Mayes, Dana Nelson, Sherrie Roden, Phil Rogers, Gail Slocum, Mary and Herb Stafford. **We need volunteers to bring drinks and desserts for the October meeting.** Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau will be bringing sandwiches. Please call so we can coordinate! Please call Jana Whittle (409-722-4193 or email janafw@aol.com) **as far in advance as possible.**

Thursday October 17. Membership Meeting. See page 1 for details.

Saturday October 19. 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 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 21. Annual Meeting. We will have our annual pot luck dinner, and conduct our elections. The program will be on Raptor identification by Levie Horton.

Saturday November 23. Field Trip to West Jefferson County. The area is well known for its birds of prey, its Sandhill Cranes and its sparrows. In wet years, there can be lots of waterfowl also.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the "north/west" side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of Interstate 10 and FM365 in Fannett, proceed along FM365 (towards Nome) for about six miles. Shortly after you emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. There is a green sign for the G and A Turf Farm on Johnson Road at the intersection. Contact Steve Mayes, sgmayes@hotmail.com, or call 409-722-5807 for further information.



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.

Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch --- 28 September 2013

It is well known that a trip to the Smith Point Hawk Watch is often a boom or bust situation. Some days there are thousands of hawks soaring over the tower. Some days there are very few. It is all very dependent on weather, including weather at Smith Point and at points well north of the area. The Golden Triangle Audubon Society has experienced both of these ends of the spectrum on past trips so what would this year's trip be like? Well, not awful but a lot closer to bust than boom.

The day started well enough. A group of young Mississippi Kites had settled down in the wooded area around the hawk tower on the previous evening and they periodically got into the air on this morning to test the conditions. In fact, this would be something of a theme of the day as these same kites would appear, soar away and then later reappear. Figuring out which birds are returning and which ones are possibly new flocks coming in has to be the most difficult job of the official hawk counter at Smith Point! The nature of the geography of Smith Point is that the hawks get to this area and run out of land. Since most raptors are reluctant to fly over open water, they often just mill about (sometimes all day) before they decide to head over the water toward Galveston county or go back the way they came. Luckily, Smith Point has an expert counter in Tony Leukering who does an excellent job sorting these things out in addition to handling the various identification challenges involved in hawk watching.

Besides the near constant presence of the Mississippi Kites, the hawk watching was, well slow. There were a few Broad-winged Hawks seen but not the hundreds or thousands one might expect at this time of year. A Merlin was seen zipping around the trees and there were a few American Kestrels passing overhead. Peregrine Falcons are always appreciated and a couple of these raptors were seen as they showed no hesitation to head out over the bay. A few Sharp-shinned Hawks and their larger cousins, Cooper's Hawks were well seen. One Red-shouldered Hawk put in an appearance. A couple of Ospreys (one carrying a fish) were noted as was a Northern Harrier but raptors were at a premium on the day. At least the kites were nice!

Smith Point can hold many other good birds during migration whether it is warblers and flycatcher in the oak mottes or soaring flocks of Anhingas and Wood Storks overhead. The group looked for these birds but did not come up with much. Outside of some Brown Pelicans and a few White Ibis, there were not very many birds coming over the tower. The few Magnificent Frigatebirds seen were extremely distant. Even the usual swarms of migrating swallows were absent. The oaks were just as empty. The birders found a Great Horned Owl (briefly), Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Brown Thrasher and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher but very little else.

Deciding that greener pastures might lie elsewhere, the group decided to depart from Smith Point and head toward Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Anahuac is one of the premier birding destinations on the upper Texas coast and nearly always has some excellent finds. A trip around Shoveler Pond provided some of those nice finds. A young

Purple Gallinule was seen by a few while Common Gallinules were enjoyed by all. Both Black-bellied and Fulvous Whistling Ducks were seen along with a few Mottled Ducks. Bright pink Roseate Spoonbills were seen along with a Black Tern and a few Forster's Terns. The road out of Anahuac NWR also proved interesting. A few of nice raptors (not seen at the hawk watch) were located here following a tractor. An adult Swainson's Hawk was the first one spotted as it coursed over the field. A Crested Caracara was also found though it kept its distance from the group somewhat. Perhaps the best find was a young White-tailed Hawk. It showed the dark underparts and white face markings of a first year bird was beginning to develop a more adult-like wing pattern suggesting it may be transitioning into a second year plumage.

The group ended the day at another part of Anahuac NWR, the Skillern tract, named after Grady Skillern a much beloved Golden Triangle Audubon member that we lost much too soon. This area produced some nice birds not seen elsewhere on the day. Carolina Chickadee was found in a small wooded thicket. The marshy areas held numerous Little Blue Herons and a Belted Kingfisher among other birds. A constant parade of passing Blue-winged Teal were obviously looking for a spot to escape the nearby duck hunters. What many considered the bird of the day also came from the Skillern tract. An adult male Vermilion Flycatcher has taken up residence at this spot (as one often does) and will likely stay for the winter. The spectacular little red and black bird made for a terrific end to the day and showed the group (in case there was any doubt) that even when the hawks are slow there are always other birds somewhere in the area! There is no such thing as a bad birding day on the upper Texas coast!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (58); Fulvous Whistling-Duck (58); Mottled Duck (10); Blue-winged Teal (150); Pied-billed Grebe (2); Anhinga (1); Brown Pelican (4); Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (7); Snowy Egret (1); Little Blue Heron (36); Tricolored Heron (11); Cattle Egret (50); Green Heron (1); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); White Ibis (20); Plegadis species Ibis (16); Roseate Spoonbill (10); Black Vulture (5); Turkey Vulture (10); Osprey (3); Mississippi Kite (70); Northern Harrier (3); Sharp-shinned Hawk (9); Cooper's Hawk (6); Broad-winged Hawk (36); Swainson's Hawk (2); White-tailed Hawk (1); Crested Caracara (1); American Kestrel (8); Merlin (1); Peregrine Falcon (3); Purple Gallinule (1); Common Gallinule (29); American Coot (4); Killdeer (2); Black-necked Stilt (2); Willet (1); Lesser Yellowlegs (8); Marbled Godwit (1); "Peep" Sandpiper (10); Long-billed Dowitcher (20); Laughing Gull (6); Black Tern (1); Forster's Tern (5); Eurasian Collared-Dove (4); Mourning Dove (15); Great Horned Owl (1); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (40); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Downy Woodpecker (1); Vermilion Flycatcher (1); Great Crested Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (10); Blue Jay (1); Tree Swallow (2); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1); Barn Swallow (4); Swallow species (50); Carolina Chickadee (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Northern Mockingbird (6); Brown Thrasher (1); Northern Cardinal (2); Blue Grosbeak (1); Red-winged Blackbird (50); Boat-tailed Grackle (13) *Steve Mayes*

Fall Migration Count—21 September 2013

Given the somewhat unfavorable weather, the results of the count were surprisingly normal. Although it was raining everywhere in the county as the day dawned, the rain tapered off to an occasional very light drizzle by about 10 AM in the northern parts but much later along the coast. Early morning rain often causes birds to delay looking for food, but, eventually, hunger overcomes the dislike of rain and they become more active. This was quite noticeable on count day.

The overall species count of 162 was very much in line with the average of recent years, and was, in fact, above the 158 species that was the average for the preceding 16 counts. The number of birds seen was also very close to the average. This was perhaps somewhat surprising, as the number of observers and the number of party-hours was a little lower than average. The count date was as late in September as the count ever is, but birds seem to be arriving from the north a little late this year, and we did not find as many of the birds which come down from the winter as might have been expected.

Duck numbers were very normal, except perhaps for the finding of two "early" Gadwall. Northern Shovelers were below the long term average. Wood Storks are very much hit or miss by mid-September, but a nice flock of 125 or so was feeding in a flooded field along Lawhon Road. The complete absence of any Double-crested Cormorants was very surprising. We used to always get American White Pelicans on the count, but we did not see any in 2011 or 2012, so finding a small group of seven was welcome.

We have only found American Bitterns twice before on this fall count, so one in Cattail Marsh should probably be classified as early. Least Bitterns, on the other hand, are summer residents. Four was a good showing, especially for the late date. Numbers of all herons and egrets, with the notable exception of Cattle Egrets, seem a little low, perhaps a consequence of the dry spell late this summer.

Raptor numbers were, in general, disappointing. No Accipiters were found, and no Northern Harriers. And only two Broad-winged Hawks was the lowest in many years. However, six Swainson's Hawks were probably indicative of increasing numbers of this summer resident. Crested Caracaras first expanded into the area in 2006, and ten this year handsomely eclipsed the previous high of three. By count day, American Kestrels are usually present in numbers, but this year, we were lucky to find the one we did in the western part of the county, as they arrived very late this year.

In a change from many recent counts, some of the true shorebirds – plovers especially – were present in good numbers. Sea Rim has always been a local stronghold of Snowy Plovers, but it was nice to see five Wilson's Plovers and above average numbers of Piping and Semi-palmated Plovers. American Avocets are another species that was not present in numbers normal for the date, even though there was a nice flock in the same field at the Wood Storks.

We only find Upland Sandpipers in one fall count out of four, so finding one was nice. We have been finding Buff-breasted Sandpipers more often on recent counts, and four on a turf farm in the western part of the count were welcome nonetheless. The dry late summer resulted in very little habitat

for "waders" this year, perhaps explaining the relative shortage of the "peeps."

Sandwich Terns were found, but only one Black Skimmer was disappointing after much higher numbers in the last two years. Other terns were present in modest numbers, excepting the 350 Black Terns working Cattail Marsh.

At 762, Mourning Doves set a new high, while White-winged Dove numbers were below recent highs. Eurasian Collared-Dove numbers were a little higher than the recent average, although otherwise, the relative numbers of doves that were not seen in the county in the early years of the count (Eurasian Collared and White-winged) seems to be stabilizing. The fear that the newcomers would squeeze out the Mourning Doves seems not to have come to pass, although it may well be that the Mournings have surrendered the suburban areas to the newcomers, and concentrated on the open agricultural areas, where they were certainly very visible.

The decrease in Ruby-throated Hummingbirds probably reflects some observer bias in the locations that were covered. Rufous Hummingbirds do winter in small numbers in the area, and one had already taken up residence in Beaumont.

Golden-fronted Woodpeckers continue at Sabine Woods, while Pileated Woodpeckers were scarce this year as were Downy Woodpeckers. It may be that more and more of the trees that were casualties in Hurricane Ike have either fallen or been cut down leaving less available habitat.

Essentially all the expected flycatchers and kingbirds were seen although numbers were on the low side. This might well have been weather related. Loggerhead Shrike numbers seem to have completely rebounded from the lows in the immediate aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Ike. Swallows are another species one would expect to have been more affected by the rain, but the numbers do not indicate a problem. It is well known that Cave (and Cliff) Swallows have been expanding eastwards, so finding both these species in good numbers is perhaps not surprising, but it is nice nonetheless to find them.

Many birders look at the number of warbler species, but too much importance should not be placed on a one day count. The number present is a function of the weather during the preceding few days, both here and on the migration paths north of us. We have had days with more than the 13 warbler species we found on count day, but this is close to average.

Some years, a few Savannah Sparrows have arrived by count date, but not this year, so we had to be content with Seaside Sparrows (year-round residents) and one Lark Sparrow. As usual, however, we did find Painted and Indigo Buntings, and large numbers of both Blue Grosbeaks and Dickcissels. Eastern Meadowlarks are often very hard to find in September (during molt?) and we failed to find any again this year. Baltimore Orioles are expected, although numbers this year were low. Orchard Orioles have mostly gone south by count day so it was nice to find one.

The following species were seen on the count (These results are preliminary and subject to correction)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (49); WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (15); DUCK, Wood (4); GADWALL (2);

DUCK, Mottled (55); TEAL, Blue-winged (439); SHOVELER, Northern (9); TEAL, Green-winged (3); DUCK species (4); GREBE, Pied-billed (23); STORK, Wood (125); CORMORANT, Neotropic (171); ANHINGA (17); PELICAN, Brown (184); BITTERN, American (1); BITTERN, Least (4); HERON, Great Blue (30); EGRET, Great (183); EGRET, Snowy (364); HERON, Little Blue (28); HERON, Tricolored (53); EGRET, Cattle (2130); HERON, Green (37); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (17); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (11); IBIS, White (1003); IBIS, White-faced (24); IBIS, Plegadis (245); SPOONBILL, Roseate (134); VULTURE, Black (114); VULTURE, Turkey (106); OSPREY (1); KITE, White-tailed (1); HAWK, Red-shouldered (12); HAWK, Broad-winged (2); HAWK, Swainson's (6); HAWK, Red-tailed (3); CARACARA, Crested (10); KESTREL, American (1); MERLIN (1); RAIL, Clapper (17); RAIL, King (3); SORA (1); GALLINULE, Common (84); COOT, American (38); PLOVER, Black-bellied (11); PLOVER, Snowy (20); PLOVER, Wilson's (5); PLOVER, Semipalmated (14); PLOVER, Piping (9); KILLDEER (155); STILT, Black-necked (129); AVOCET, American (51); SANDPIPER, Spotted (14); SANDPIPER, Solitary (1); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (25); WILLET (18); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (29); YELLOWLEGS, species (23); SANDPIPER, Upland (1); CURLEW, Long-billed (1); GODWIT, Marbled (1); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (4); SANDERLING (44); SANDPIPER, Semipalmated (5); SANDPIPER, Western (67); SANDPIPER, Least (58); SANDPIPER, Peep species (265); SANDPIPER, Pectoral (3); SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted (5); DOWITCHER, Short-billed (1); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (50); DOWITCHER, Species (44); GULL, Laughing (371); GULL, Ring-billed (3); GULL, Species (2); TERN, Least (2); TERN, Gull-billed (2); TERN, Caspian (65); TERN, Black (362); TERN, Forster's (25); TERN, Royal (27); TERN, Sandwich (2); SKIMMER, Black (1); PIGEON, Rock (484); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (80); DOVE, White-winged (98); DOVE, Mourning (762); DOVE, Inca (7); CUCKOO, Yellow-billed (1); OWL, Barn (2); OWL, Great Horned (2); OWL, Barred (2); NIGHTHAWK, Common (53); WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck (4); SWIFT, Chimney (135); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (91); HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (1); HUMMINGBIRD species (2); KINGFISHER, Belted (4);

WOODPECKER, Red-headed (5); WOODPECKER, Golden-fronted (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (12); WOODPECKER, Downy (7); WOODPECKER, Pileated (3); WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (20); FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied (2); FLYCATCHER, Acadian (2); FLYCATCHER, Traill's (1); FLYCATCHER, Least (1); FLYCATCHER, Empidonax (6); FLYCATCHER, Great Crested (14); KINGBIRD, Eastern (22); FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed (35); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (106); VIREO, White-eyed (21); VIREO, Red-eyed (13); JAY, Blue (89); CROW, American (19); CROW, Fish (4); CROW, Species (3); MARTIN, Purple (18); SWALLOW, Tree (88); SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged (16); SWALLOW, Bank (25); SWALLOW, Cliff (127); SWALLOW, Cave (49); SWALLOW, Barn (406); CHICKADEE, Carolina (7); TITMOUSE, Tufted (3); NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (1); WREN, Carolina (9); WREN, Marsh (1); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (28); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (19); ROBIN, American (11); CATBIRD, Gray (3); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (239); THRASHER, Brown (5); STARLING, European (1487); WATERTHRUSH, Northern (13); WARBLER, Black-and-white (1); WARBLER, Prothonotary (1); WARBLER, Swainson's (1); WARBLER, Tennessee (2); WARBLER, Nashville (1); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (3); WARBLER, Hooded (4); REDSTART, American (3); PARULA, Northern (2); WARBLER, Blackburnian (1); WARBLER, Yellow (4); WARBLER, Pine (3); SPARROW, Lark (1); SPARROW, Seaside (10); TANAGER, Summer (1); CARDINAL, Northern (96); GROSBEAK, Blue (50); BUNTING, Indigo (7); DICKCISSEL (56); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (421); GRACKLE, Common (162); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (59); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (792); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (23); ORIOLE, Orchard (1); ORIOLE, Baltimore (3); FINCH, House (15); SPARROW, House (179); TOTAL (14257); Number of species (162); Number of Observers (13); Number of Parties (7); Number of Party-Hours (45.2); Party hours on foot (11.1); Miles on foot (7.5); Party-hours by automobile (34.1); Miles by automobile (355.1)

Participants 2013: Linda Davis, Howard Davis, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Zach Hutchinson, Harrison Jordan, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Ken Sztraky, John Whittle.

Sabine Woods Work Day Report -- 29 September 2013

A very successful work day was held at Sabine Woods on Sunday September 29 with 10 volunteers on hand. The volunteers spent the morning mowing the trails and open areas, cutting back encroaching vegetation, clearing a fallen tree from one trail, other miscellaneous maintenance tasks. Some small areas of undesired invasive species (mostly Johnson grass,) were dealt with. The long threatened rain event for the day held off a little more than long enough, and it was after 3 PM before there was any rain along the coast in the Sabine Pass area, though it certainly rained earlier only a little further north.

Most of the maintenance we have done recently has been routine, including relatively light duty bush hogging round the

young oaks in the east that have been bush hogged regularly. However, we now need to bush hog the northern third of the sanctuary (about 10 acres) and it is quite overgrown, mostly with baccharis. It probably will need a 40 or greater h.p. tractor and at least a medium duty bush hog. We would welcome any offers or leads that will enable us to accomplish this at minimal and economical cost. Please contact johnawhittle@aol.com.

Great thanks are due to the volunteers: Andy Allen, Howard Davis, John Haynes, Zach Hutchinson, Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, and Harlan Stewart.

John A. Whittle

Bird Sightings – August 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: August is when most shorebird species' migration reaches its peak. However, in our area, especially when, as this year, the late summer is very dry, it is difficult to find habitat that supports the traditional "waders" among the shorebirds. In the last few days of the month, fall passerine migration begins. Louisiana Waterthrushes are among the earliest, most having passed through by the end of the month. Other species whose migration begins early include Canada Warbler and Mourning Warbler, both well represented below. In addition to being early migrants, these last two species are circum-Gulf migrants, which results in many more being seen on the Upper Texas coast in fall than in spring as they head generally south and don't turn west until reaching the Gulf.

The list below includes some early Red-tailed Hawks as well as summer resident Swainson's Hawks. Mississippi Kites seem to be increasing in the local area.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk.-bell	(3-28)	JEF 8 reps(102)	
DUCK, Mottled	(20-20)	JEF-MCFW 8/20(1)	
JAW			
STORK, Wood	(10-18)	JEF 8/10(5) JAW; JEF-SW 8/16(11) JHH; JEF 8/17(345) FTLLI; JEF-BMT 8/18(20) HJ	
STORK, Wood	(10-18)	JEF 4 reps(381)	
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(9-28)	JEF 7 reps(68)	
ANHINGA	(8-25)	JEF 8/8(1) JAW; JEF 8/10(5) JAW; JEF 8/15(1) JAW; JEF 8/17(13) FTLLI; JEF 8/25(2) JAW	
PELICAN, Brown	(9-9)	JEF-TX87 8/9(1) JAW	
HERON, Great Blue	(7-22)	JEF 5 reps(6)	
EGRET, Great	(3-28)	JEF 19 reps(41)	
EGRET, Snowy	(3-30)	JEF 18 reps(51)	
HERON, Little Blue	(9-27)	JEF 11 reps(13)	
HERON, Tricolored	(10-28)	JEF 8 reps(17)	
EGRET, Cattle	(1-30)	HAI 1 rep(50); JEF 19 reps(1852)	
HERON, Green	(3-31)	JEF 16 reps(31)	
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(9-27)	JEF 4 reps(9)	
IBIS, White	(7-31)	JEF 20 reps(463)	
IBIS, White-faced	(17-20)	JEF 8/17(1) FTLLI; JEF-SW 8/18(3) DDO; JEF-MCFW 8/20(1) JAW	
IBIS, Plegadis	(8-20)	JEF 8/8(4) JAW; JEF-MCFW 8/20(2) JAW	
SPOONBILL, Roseate	(1-27)	JEF 6 reps(8)	
VULTURE, Black	(10-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(15)	
VULTURE, Turkey	(7-31)	JEF 29 reps(84)	
OSPREY	(15-15)	JEF-TX87 8/15(1) JAW	
KITE, Swallow-tailed	(1-3)	HAI-SILS 8/1(1) SG;	
HAI-SILS			
KITE, White-tailed	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 8/27(1) JA	
KITE, Mississippi	(27-27)	JEF-SW 8/27(3) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(3) JHH	
HAWK, Cooper's	(30-30)	JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHH	
ACCIPITER species	(29-29)	JEF-BMT 8/29(1) HJ	
HAWK, Red-shouldered	(7-31)	HAI-SILS 8/20(1) MG; JEF 8/7(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/18(1) DDO; JEF-TX87 8/31(1) JAW	
HAWK, Broad-winged	(12-30)	JEF 10 reps(14)	
HAWK, Swainson's	(9-17)	JEF 8/9(1) JAW; JEF 8/17(1) FTLLI	
HAWK, Red-tailed	(4-27)	HAI-SILS 8/27(1) MG; JEF-SW 8/4(1) SM; JEF 8/10(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/15(1) JAW	
CARACARA, Crested	(10-17)	JEF 8/10(1) JAW; JEF 8/17(2) FTLLI	
RAIL, Clapper	(20-28)	JEF-MCFW 8/20(1) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/28(1) JAW	
SORA (27-27)		JEF-MURW 8/27(6) JA	
KILLDEER	(7-28)	JEF 9 reps(72)	
STILT, Black-necked	(7-28)	JEF 5 reps(9)	
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(7-27)	JEF 8/7(1) JHH; JEF 8/27(1) JAW	
SANDPIPER, Solitary	(9-30)	JEF 15 reps(16)	
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(17-22)	JEF 8/17(1) FTLLI; JEF-SW 8/22(1) JHH	
WILET	(9-28)	JEF 4 reps(5)	
SANDERLING	(9-9)	JEF-PI 8/9(1) JAW	
SANDPIPER, Least	(7-7)	JEF 8/7(6) JHH	
SANDPIPER, Pectoral	(7-7)	JEF 8/7(2) JHH	
SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted	(7-8)	JEF 8/7(125) JHH; JEF 8/8(50) JAW	
DOWITCHER species	(31-31)	JEF-SW 8/31(2) JHH	
GULL, Laughing	(3-28)	JEF 18 reps(206)	
TERN, Least	(3-10)	JEF 4 reps(13)	
TERN, Caspian	(27-27)	JEF-MURW 8/27(2) JA	
TERN, Black	(9-20)	JEF-PI 8/9(7) JAW; JEF-MCFW 8/20(1) JAW	
TERN, Common	(9-9)	JEF-PI 8/9(1) JAW	
TERN, Forster's	(9-9)	JEF-PI 8/9(4) JAW; JEF-TX87 8/9(2) JAW	
TERN, Royal	(9-27)	JEF-TX87 8/9(2) JAW; JEF-MURW 8/27(2) JA	
PIGEON, Rock	(8-28)	JEF 11 reps(108)	
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.	(1-29)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 7 reps(31)	
DOVE, White-winged	(4-31)	HAI 10 reps(262); JEF 31 reps(182)	
DOVE, Mourning	(2-31)	HAI 11 reps(190); JEF 30 reps(355)	
DOVE, Inca	(8-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 3 reps(3)	
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(4-31)	JEF 15 reps(28)	
OWL, Barn	(24-24)	JEF-SW 8/24(1) JAW	
OWL, Great Horned	(8-27)	JEF 9 reps(13)	

NIGHTHAWK, Common (8-31) JEF 19 reps(61)
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck- (16-31) JEF 13 reps(23)
SWIFT, Chimney (12-26) JEF 6 reps(26)
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr. (2-31) HAI 13 reps(25); JEF 44 reps(133)
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail. (17-17) JEF-NEDR 8/17(1) FTLI
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous (14-31) JEF 9 reps(9)
HUMMINGBIRD species (24-24) JEF-SW 8/24(1) JAW
KINGFISHER, Belted (17-17) JEF 8/17(1) FTLI
WOODPECKER, Red-head (24-28) JEF-BMT 8/24(1) HJ; JEF-BMT 8/26(0) HJ; JEF-BMT 8/27(1) HJ; JEF-BMT 8/28(1) HJ
WOODPECKER, Golden-fr. (14-27) JEF 8 reps(12)
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (4-31) HAI 4 reps(4); JEF 21 reps(26)
WOODPECKER, Downy (2-31) JEF 24 reps(50)
FLICKER, Northern (3-3) JEF-SW 8/3(1) HH
WOODPECKER, Pileated (11-30) HAI 6 reps(6); JEF 1 rep(1)
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided (11-27) JEF 12 reps(15)
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern (15-31) JEF 11 reps(24)
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bell. (16-30) JEF 9 reps(10)
FLYCATCHER, Acadian (20-30) JEF-SW 8/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(2) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(2) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(2) JHH; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHH
FLYCATCHER, Alder (19-29) JEF-SW 8/19(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JHH
FLYCATCHER, Traill's (15-31) JEF 12 reps(18)
FLYCATCHER, Least (10-31) JEF 11 reps(16)
EMPIDONAX species (10-31) JEF 16 reps(33)
FLYCATCHER, Gt. Crested (4-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 25 reps(73)
KINGBIRD, Eastern (3-31) JEF 27 reps(76)
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tail. (8-28) JEF 7 reps(25)
SHRIKE, Loggerhead (4-31) HAI 2 reps(2); JEF 28 reps(74)
VIREO, White-eyed (13-27) HAI 3 reps(5)
VIREO, Yellow-throated (30-30) JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHH
VIREO, Red-eyed (10-30) JEF 10 reps(33)
JAY, Blue (2-31) JEF 24 reps(98)
CROW, American (12-28) HAI 3 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(5)
CROW, Fish (5-28) JEF 4 reps(25)
CROW, species (10-25) JEF 3 reps(5)
MARTIN, Purple (9-18) JEF 5 reps(185)
SWALLOW, Tree (15-24) JEF 2 reps(37)
SWALLOW, Bank (30-30) JEF-SW 8/30(30) JHH
SWALLOW, Cliff (8-30) JEF 8/8(5) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(20) JHH
SWALLOW, Cave (8-8) JEF 8/8(10) JAW
SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff (28-28) JEF 8/28(30) JAW
SWALLOW, Barn (1-30) JEF 17 reps(346)
SWALLOW species (25-25) JEF 8/25(3) JAW
CHICKADEE, Carolina (4-31) HAI 7 reps(14); JEF 20 reps(24)
TITMOUSE, Tufted (8-30) HAI 10 reps(30)
WREN, Carolina (20-27) HAI 2 reps(2)
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (10-31) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 20 reps(221)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern (17-30) HAI-SILS 8/30(2) MG; JEF 8/17(1) FTLI; JEF 8/25(2) JAW
ROBIN, American (9-24) JEF 4 reps(6)
CATBIRD, Gray (4-30) JEF 10 reps(15)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (3-31) HAI 3 reps(16); JEF 35 reps(155)
THRASHER, Brown (4-31) JEF 18 reps(36)
STARLING, European (7-28) JEF 15 reps(411)
OVENBIRD (27-31) JEF 5 reps(5)
WARBLER, Worm-eating (27-27) JEF-SW 8/27(1) JHH

WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana (8-29) JEF-SW 8/8(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/10(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/10(1) SM; JEF-SW 8/20(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/29(1) JHH
WATERTHRUSH, Northern (15-31) JEF 17 reps(28)
WARBLER, Blue-winged (19-30) JEF-SW 8/19(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/30(2) JHH
WARBLER, Blue-winged (19-30) JEF 2 reps(3)
WARBLER, Black-and-wh (3-31) JEF 21 reps(42)
WARBLER, Prothonotary (18-19) JEF 3 reps(6)
WARBLER, Swainson's (30-30) JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHH
WARBLER, Mourning (29-31) JEF 4 reps(6)
WARBLER, Kentucky (10-31) JEF 11 reps(15)
YELLOWTHROAT, Common (10-29) JEF 15 reps(32)
WARBLER, Hooded (14-31) JEF 16 reps(32)
REDSTART, American (18-30) JEF 10 reps(24)
PARULA, Northern (16-19) JEF-SW 8/16(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/16(1) JHH; JEF-SW 8/19(1) JHH
WARBLER, Yellow (3-31) JEF 20 reps(64)
WARBLER, Pine (11-19) HAI-SILS 8/11(1) MG; JEF-SW 8/19(1) JHH
WARBLER, Prairie (8-8) JEF-SW 8/8(1) JHH
WARBLER, Canada (18-31) JEF 10 reps(28)
CHAT, Yellow-breasted (14-31) JEF 7 reps(10)
SPARROW, Seaside (27-27) JEF-MURW 8/27(6) JA
TANAGER, Summer (18-27) JEF-SW 8/18(1) DDO; JEF-SW 8/27(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/27(1) JHH
CARDINAL, Northern (2-31) HAI 14 reps(840); JEF 27 reps(96)
GROSBEAK, Blue (17-17) JEF 8/17(2) FTLI
BUNTING, Indigo (15-30) JEF-SW 8/15(1) JAW; JEF-SW 8/30(1) JHH
BUNTING, Painted (4-31) JEF 16 reps(57)
DICKCISSEL (14-25) JEF-SW 8/14(2) JHH; JEF 8/17(11) FTLI; JEF 8/25(3) JAW
DICKCISSEL (14-25) JEF 3 reps(16)
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (3-31) JEF 21 reps(136)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern (10-25) JEF 2 reps(2)
GRACKLE, Common (10-31) JEF 17 reps(238)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (15-28) JEF 8 reps(120)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed (3-30) JEF 23 reps(228)
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat tailed. (10-27) JEF 5 reps(23)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed (8-18) JEF 3 reps(44)
ORIOLE, Orchard (3-31) HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 16 reps(134)
ORIOLE, Baltimore (15-31) JEF 6 reps(8)
FINCH, House (9-30) HAI 10 reps(33); JEF 10 reps(14)
SPARROW, House (1-28) JEF 8 reps(204)

Number of Species 147
Number of Individuals 20084

County Abbreviations:
HAI—Hardin; JEF—Jefferson

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

Observer Abbreviations
CSL—Christine Sliva; DDO—David Dolan; FTLI—Field Trip Liberty; HH—Huck Hutchens; HJ—Harrison Jordan; JA—Jim Armacost; JAW—John Whittle; JHH—John H. Haynes; JJW—John and Jana Whittle; MG—Melanie Goetsell; RHJ—Rose Ann and Harrison Jordan; RWBL—Ron Weeks and Brad Lirette; SC—Sheridan Coffey; SG—Sherry Gibson; SM—Steve Mayes

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 12
Groves, Texas

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to National Audubon Society, P.O. Box 422250, Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from: _____

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon C3ZW250Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please complete this form or include the information on or with your check. Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. Subscriptions from National Audubon members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$15 per year (Jan-Dec). Members with addresses within our official territory are also asked to contribute \$15 if they are able.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

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..>