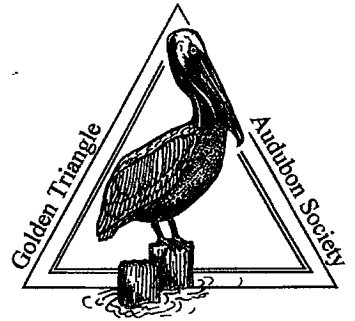


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 20 No. 1

January 2014

**Membership Meeting
Thursday January 16, 2014 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

Alaska Birding

David Bradford

David Bradford has been leading bird tours for Penfeathers since 1989 and has led tours to all the birding hotspots in the US, such as Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Washington, and of course Texas. He has served multiple terms on the boards of the Houston Audubon Society, Ornithology Group of Houston, and the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. He presently teaches biology at Cy-Falls High School in Houston and enjoys birding whenever possible. David and Brandon Percival are leading a tour to West Texas and New Mexico in late December of this year and Alaska in June of 2014.

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.

A New Year

As we begin our twentieth year, it is appropriate to reflect on local conservation issues over that period. Remarkably, while there have been small pluses and minuses, no major man made issues stand out. What does stand out are the changes brought about by the series of hurricanes and storms, including two major hurricanes, Rita and Ike. But, as far as conservation is concerned, these were natural processes. There are a few local areas where significant growth has resulted in habitat loss as land is converted to residential use in sub-divisions. By-and-large, however, birds and other wildlife have not fared badly locally, unlike areas such as those west of Houston where large swaths of habitat have been gobbled up. Habitat loss is probably the major danger facing birds and animals, and we must continue to be vigilant to protect essential habitat

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 20, No.1 January 2014
Issue number 203

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is

published monthly except July
by the Golden Triangle Audubon
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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

Thursday January 16, 2014.
Membership Meeting. Program:
David Bradford: Alaska Birding.
Details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for the January meeting and all subsequent spring 2014 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!

Saturday January 18, 2014. Field Trip. This trip will be to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, including both the main unit and the Skillern Tract, looking primarily for waterfowl but also raptors and sparrows. We may also bird some of the rice field areas in Chambers County mostly north of IH-10. We ran this trip in 2012, and it was spectacularly successful in finding more than 35,000 geese, seven Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle among other species.

We plan to meet at the temporary Visitor Information Station just beyond

the entrance at 8:30 a.m. While it is not anticipated that this field trip will necessitate extensive walking, it is a 400 yard (1/4 mile) walk from the Skillern Tract parking area to the observation platform. All roads that we will use will be easily passable in ordinary vehicles. However, car-pooling is very desirable, especially for the drive round Shoveler Pond because there are only a few pull-offs and most will only accommodate three or four cars. There is space to leave vehicles close to the meeting place.

To reach Anahuac NWR from Winnie, take Highway 124 south to FM1985. (It is 11.0 miles from IH-10 and half a mile less from Highway 73.) Turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed another 11.0 miles to the well-marked Anahuac NWR Access Road on the left (south). The entrance to the Refuge is just over three miles down the access road.

Saturday February 22, 2014. 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.

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.

Hummingbird Mini Field Trip Saturday January 25

We will have an impromptu mini field trip to several people's houses to view their winter hummers on Saturday, January 25th. 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 16th. 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 stop sign. 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 right after you pass 30th Street.

Draft Plan to Allocate \$210,000 of BP Oil Spill Restoration Funds to Sea Rim State Park

The trustees overseeing the distribution of BP oil spill restoration funds will be holding a public meeting at the Bob Bowers Civic Center in Port Arthur on Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to receive public comment on the

draft plan allocating about \$210,000 to Sea Rim State Park for restoration of dunes, marshes, shorelines and park enhancements. A good turnout at the meeting would indicate local interest in the project.

We believe this will be an opportunity to press for restoration of what we called "The Willows at Sea Rim." Prior to recent storms, Sea Rim was a site of a unique area of stop over habitat for land birds that cross the Gulf of Mexico annually during spring and fall migrations. Just west of the entrance, between the dunes and Highway 87, an area of essentially fresh water wetlands and ponds, with an extensive grove of willow trees, was a magnet for passerine migrants arriving on the coast after a 650-or-more-mile non-stop Gulf crossing. The recent hurricanes, in addition to destroying the boardwalk built to provide bird watching opportunities, altered the hydrology of the area, by filling the wetlands with sand, and eliminating the dunes that protected the wetlands from salt water wash over during high tide and strong south winds.

Willow trees are not tolerant of salty conditions, and all died in the aftermath of the storm surge of Hurricane Ike. Although many Prickly Ash (a.k.a. Toothache Tree or Hercules Club) have regenerated from the roots in nearby areas, none of the willows have. To restore the area, in addition to rebuilding the dunes, it will be necessary to create some shallow fresh water pools and wetlands, and plant trees to provide shelter and food for the birds. Willow trees are easily propagated and fast growing and would replace the original habitat. If some higher areas are available, it may be possible to also grow some hackberry trees, while slower growing live oaks are also favored by birds, and are much more salt tolerant than the other trees.

Membership Dues

All Golden Triangle Audubon memberships run from January through December. Membership dues are \$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 31. The memberships of new members who join in August or later in a 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.



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.

Local Christmas Bird Counts – Part 1

(Here we present brief accounts of the results of the local Christmas Bird Counts. Fuller accounts, including species seen and numbers will be posted on the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org as soon as practical. Accounts of counts conducted in the later part of the count period will be in next month's issue.)

Turkey Creek Christmas Bird Count 14 December 2013

This year's Turkey Creek CBC had a number of unusual features. However, with 35 years of prior history to look at, there doesn't seem to have been much that hasn't happened before! All the participants found that the birds nearly all went into hiding after about noon, and the lowering cloud base and resulting gloominess probably made that more accentuated. Birds on territory, breeding or wintering, are always more active in the first few hours of the day, but it really seems that birds have an ability to sense an impending adverse weather change.

The weather was obviously a factor, but the front that apparently passed through around mid-day did so relatively slowly, and although the wind increased markedly mid-afternoon, the temperature drop was muted and mostly after the birding day was over. The final count of species at 69 was on the high side of normal. The most obvious unusual feature was the number of American Robins. Robins have always varied greatly, but this year's 2729 has only been surpassed once before, in 1986. The lack of Goldfinches was very noticeable, but again, there have been fewer before, albeit only on the very first count in 1978. The overall number of birds, heavily influenced by the Robin numbers of course, was about the third or fourth highest.

Without any large bodies of water in the count circle, waterfowl are predictably scarce for the most part. Lake Kimball in Wildwood, essentially the source of Village Creek, occasionally has ducks, this year two Hooded Mergansers, a species that is seemingly being found more often wintering in the area. Lake Hyatt, a rather more natural lake with nice vegetation this year had a rather large flock of Ring-necked Ducks, with one Lesser Scaup mixed in.

Without significant water, shorebirds are all but absent from the circle, although a Common Gallinule on Lake Hyatt was, very surprisingly, a new species for the count. Of course, there were Killdeer, although no Wilson's Snipe were found.

Owls were not to be found on this day, although all the expected woodpeckers were present in good numbers. Numbers of both Blue Jays and American Crows were again up over the immediately preceding years. For the most part, the numbers of woodland species were within recent norms.

Ten was a good number of Eastern Towhees, and our observers remarked that Fox Sparrows, seen for only the second time in the last ten years, seemed to be in the same areas as the Towhees. Most areas reported fewer flocks of Chipping Sparrows than normal, although the overall total is not significantly below long-term averages.

Participants: Sherry Gibson, Mary Carter, John Haynes, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Wanda and Charles Smith, Harlan Stewart, Ken Sztraky, John Whittle.

Beech Creek Christmas Bird Count 28 December 2013

This count went very smoothly. The weather cooperated, even if just a little cool in the early morning. The nearest official weather reporting station is Woodville, which reports every 20 minutes. Only twice during the entire day was the wind above calm, and those two showed 3 mph! The results were mixed. Most of our observers found birds to be scarce, and the total of just over 3600, while slightly higher than last year, was significantly below the 7000 odd average of recent years. However, the total number is often influenced by a few species, and this year, American Robin and American Coot numbers were low, accounting for much of the shortfall. American Goldfinches were present in reasonable good numbers, much more so than in Turkey Creek, but concentrated in one area alongside Steinhagen Lake. Eight-six species was at the recent average.

Among the waterfowl, Canvasbacks stand out. These flocks are potentially visible from both banks of the lake, and double counting is always possible. They may have been pushed south into the count circle by hunting pressure in the northern half of the lake. The only other ducks in abnormally large numbers were Gadwall and Ruddy Duck. Cormorants – Double-crested Cormorants in the deeper water of the lake – may also have been pushed south by hunter boat traffic, and there was a large number. Most of the heron species probably similarly favor the northern part of the lake, and may also move south if disturbed by boat traffic, but only White Ibis showed an unusually high number.

Raptor numbers were generally unremarkable. Bald Eagles are now regular winter residents. During the first few years after the eagles began wintering, there were only one or two sightings during a count. Now, five or six seems to be normal, and we are assuming there are certainly multiple eagles. This year, four sightings were of adults, and one was a young bird.

It was nice to find two Greater Roadrunners, breaking a nine-year dry spell. Woodpecker numbers were unremarkable, as were the majority of the other woodland species. Cedar Waxwing flocks were seemingly all but absent from the circle this year, with one party finding two and another party finding one, most unusual for the species. There are plenty of Yaupon berries, and the very few Northern Mockingbirds in the circle will not have any issues to deal with this year. One species which seems to be irrupting south this year is Fox Sparrow, and the one seen was the first in eight years. As usual on this count, House Sparrows, Brown-headed Cowbirds and Great-tailed Grackles were not seen, although one Rock Pigeon was!

Participants: Sherry Gibson, Mary Carter, John Haynes, Wanda and Charles Smith, Ken Sztraky, Jana and John Whittle, Bill Wright.

Bird Sightings – November 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: An interesting month. We have left in details of a good number of species that lingered rather late this fall. A good number of hummingbirds showed up in November. To the extent possible, we have indicated continuing individuals in a concise fashion. However, it is not always possible to identify individual birds from a short sighting at a feeder, and some sightings are reported in normal fashion.

As always, the cited observer is the one whose list was used to prepare this report. We are grateful to all observers including those who were part of a group whose list became available under the name of only one member of the group.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell.	(8-24) JEF 10 reps(604)	NIGHT-HERON, Black-crown.	(2-23) JEF 8 reps(12)
GOOSE, White-fronted	(2-23) JEF 12 reps(903)	NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-cr.	(3-3) JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) TFR
GOOSE, Snow	(2-24) HAI 1 rep(60); JEF 6 reps(518)	IBIS, White	(2-24) JEF 24 reps(2140)
GOOSE, Ross's	(21-24) JEF 11/21(2) JHH; JEF 11/23(3) FTWJ; JEF-SW 11/24(3) JAW	IBIS, Glossy	(17-17) JEF-TP 11/17(1) SM
DUCK, Wood	(11-23) JEF-TP 11/11(2) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(2) SM; JEF-TP 11/17(1) SM; JEF-TP 11/23(2) RW	IBIS, White-faced	(10-21) JEF 6 reps(60)
GADWALL	(3-23) JEF 12 reps(623)	IBIS, Plegadis	(3-23) JEF 8 reps(107)
WIGEON, American	(10-23) JEF 6 reps(28)	SPOONBILL, Roseate	(2-24) JEF 23 reps(206)
MALLARD	(10-23) JEF-TP 11/10(5) RW; JEF-TP 11/11(2) SM; JEF-TP 11/17(3) SM; JEF-TP 11/20(2) MRO; JEF-TP 11/21(2) MRO; JEF-TP 11/23(8) RW	VULTURE, Black	(2-30) HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 2 reps(5); JEF 15 reps(56)
DUCK, Mottled	(2-24) JEF 13 reps(50)	VULTURE, Turkey	(2-30) JAS 3 reps(13); JEF 25 reps(89)
TEAL, Blue-winged	(2-23) JEF 13 reps(1142)	OSPREY	(2-22) JEF 11/2(2) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/3(1) TFR; JEF-BMT 11/6(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/11(1) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(1) SM; JEF-PI 11/22(2) JAW
TEAL, Cinnamon	(17-23) JEF-TP 11/17(2) SM; JEF-TP 11/21(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(1) RW	KITE, White-tailed	(3-24) JEF 4 reps(7)
TEAL species	(23-23) JEF 11/23(35) FTWJ	EAGLE, Bald	(3-21) JEF 11/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/10(1) RW; JEF-TP 11/11(2) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(2) SM; JEF-TP 11/17(1) SM; JEF 11/21(1) JHH; HAI 11/26(1) MT
SHOVELER, Northern	(3-23) JEF 12 reps(1993)	HARRIER, Northern	(1-30) JEF 27 reps(67)
PINTAIL, Northern	(3-23) JEF 12 reps(167)	HAWK, Sharp-shinned	(2-23) JEF 9 reps(11)
TEAL, Green-winged	(10-23) JEF 10 reps(3395)	HAWK, Cooper's	(2-23) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(10)
CANVASBACK	(10-21) JEF-TP 11/10(1) RW; JEF-TP 11/20(3) MRO; JEF-TP 11/21(3) JAW	ACCIPITER species	(11-11) JEF 1 rep(1)
REDHEAD	(10-23) JEF-TP 11/10(20) RW; JEF-TP 11/11(3) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(4) SM; JEF-TP 11/20(1) MRO; JEF-TP 11/23(1) RW	HAWK, Red-shouldered	(3-30) HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(6); TYL 1 rep(1)
DUCK, Ring-necked	(10-23) JEF 10 reps(360)	HAWK, Broad-winged	(1-10) JEF 11/1(1) JJW; JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/10(1) RW
SCAUP, Lesser	(10-23) JEF 9 reps(335)	HAWK, Swainson's	(6-6) JEF 11/6(1) CSL
BUFFLEHEAD	(17-23) JEF-TP 11/17(2) SM; JEF-TP 11/21(1) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(2) RW	HAWK, White-tailed	(23-23) JEF 11/23(1) FTWJ
DUCK species	(23-23) JEF 11/23(10) FTWJ	HAWK, Red-tailed	(1-30) JEF 31 reps(124)
DUCK, Ruddy	(10-24) JEF 11 reps(1203)	CARACARA, Crested	(2-24) JEF 7 reps(18)
BOBWHITE, Northern	(30-30) JEF 11/30(13) CSL	KESTREL, American	(1-30) JEF 23 reps(104)
GREBE, Least	(11-23) JEF-TP 11/11(5) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(5) SM; JEF-TP 11/17(4) SM; JEF-TP 11/21(4) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(2) RW	MERLIN	(7-30) JEF 6 reps(6)
GREBE, Pied-billed	(10-24) JEF 11 reps(42)	FALCON, Peregrine	(6-17) JEF 11/6(1) CSL; JEF-SRSP 11/10(1) RW; JEF-TP 11/17(1) SM
GREBE, Horned	(21-22) JEF-TP 11/21(1) JAW; JEF-PI 11/22(1) JAW	RAIL, Clapper	(2-10) JEF 4 reps(25)
GREBE, Eared	(10-23) JEF-TP 11/10(2) RW; JEF-TP 11/11(2) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(2) SM; JEF-TP 11/23(4) RW	RAIL, King	(24-24) JEF-MCFW 11/24(1) JAW
CORMORANT, Neotropic	(2-24) JEF 17 reps(191)	RAIL, Virginia	(10-23) JEF-SRSP 11/10(1) RW; JEF-TP 11/10(1) RW; JEF-TP 11/17(1) SM; JEF-TP 11/23(1) RW
CORMORANT, Double-crest.	(3-24) JEF 9 reps(66)	SORA	(10-23) JEF 6 reps(27)
CORMORANT, Species	(8-24) JEF 4 reps(67)	GALLINULE, Common	(3-30) JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 8 reps(175); TYL 1 rep(1)
ANHINGA	(3-30) JAS-MDSP 11/30(1) LA; JEF 11/3(1) JAW; JEF 11/23(2) FTWJ	COOT, American	(3-30) JAS 1 rep(10); JEF 13 reps(1597); TYL 1 rep(3)
PELICAN, Amer. White	(2-10) JEF 7 reps(190)	CRANE, Sandhill	(3-24) JEF 11/3(200) CSL; JEF 11/7(160) JJW; JEF 11/11(1070) JAW; JEF-TP 11/17(32) SM; JEF 11/23(281) FTWJ; JEF 11/23(100) RW; JEF 11/24(125) CSL
PELICAN, Brown	(2-30) JEF 12 reps(69)	PLOVER, Black-bellied	(2-23) JEF 8 reps(49)
HERON, Great Blue	(1-30) JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 25 reps(57)	PLOVER, Snowy	(3-10) JEF-SRSP 11/3(30) TFR; JEF-SRSP 11/10(15) RW; JEF-SRSP 11/10(17) SM
EGRET, Great	(1-30) JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 30 reps(189)	PLOVER, Semipalmated	(2-30) JEF 6 reps(106)
EGRET, Snowy	(1-30) JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 28 reps(550)	PLOVER, Piping	(3-30) JEF-SRSP 11/3(3) TFR; JEF-SRSP 11/10(5) RW; JEF-SRSP 11/10(16) SM; JEF 11/30(2) JHKS
HERON, Little Blue	(9-30) JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 5 reps(8)	KILLDEER	(1-30) JEF 17 reps(360)
HERON, Tricolored	(2-24) JEF 13 reps(34)		
EGRET, Reddish	(10-10) JEF-SRSP 11/10(1) RW		
EGRET, Cattle	(3-23) JEF 6 reps(59)		
HERON, Green	(10-10) JEF-TP 11/10(1) RW		

STILT, Black-necked	(2-24)	JEF 10 reps(151)	
AVOCET, American	(2-30)	JEF 18 reps(924)	
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(2-23)	JEF 6 reps(8)	
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(3-23)	JEF 10 reps(47)	
WILLET	(2-30)	JEF 13 reps(150)	
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(2-24)	JEF 5 reps(18)	
YELLOWLEGS species	(9-9)	JEF 1 rep(5)	
WHIMBREL	(2-2)	JEF-TXPT 11/2(1) JHH; JEF-TXPT 11/2(1) SM	
CURLEW, Long-billed	(23-23)	JEF 11/23(2) RW	
GODWIT, Marbled	(3-30)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(4) TFR; JEF-SRSP 11/10(5) RW; JEF-SRSP 11/10(4) SM; JEF 11/30(3) JHKS	
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	(3-10)	JEF 3 reps(13)	
SANDERLING	(3-30)	JEF 5 reps(79)	
SANDPIPER, Western	(2-30)	JEF 7 reps(53)	
SANDPIPER, Least	(2-10)	JEF 7 reps(66)	
SANDPIPER, Peep	(2-23)	JEF 4 reps(150)	
DUNLIN	(3-10)	JEF 5 reps(174)	
DOWITCHER, Short-billed	(2-24)	JEF-TXPT 11/2(6) JHH; JEF-TXPT 11/2(5) SM; JEF-SRSP 11/3(6) TFR; JEF-TXPT 11/3(2) TFR; JEF-TXPT 11/10(6) RW; JEF-TX87 11/24(5) JAW	
DOWITCHER, Long-billed	(6-9)	JEF 11/6(20) CSL; JEF 11/9(50) SM	
DOWITCHER species	(23-23)	JEF 11/23(4) FTWJ	
SNIPE, Wilson's	(21-23)	JEF 11/21(2) JHH; JEF 11/23(4) FTWJ; JEF 11/23(3) RW	
GULL, Laughing	(2-30)	JEF 21 reps(835)	
GULL, Franklin's	(10-10)	JEF-SRSP 11/10(3) SM	
GULL, Ring-billed	(2-30)	JEF 12 reps(96)	
GULL, Herring	(3-24)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(3) TFR; JEF	
TERN, Caspian	(3-10)	JEF 3 reps(271)	
TERN, Common	(3-10)	JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) TFR; JEF-SRSP 11/10(4) SM	
TERN, Forster's	(2-24)	JEF 11 reps(188)	
TERN, Royal	(2-24)	JEF 6 reps(198)	
PIGEON, Rock	(2-7)	JEF 3 reps(80)	
COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian	(9-23)	JEF 4 reps(21)	
DOVE, White-winged	(2-25)	HAI 6 reps(159); JEF 13 reps(105)	
DOVE, Mourning	(1-24)	HAI 3 reps(16); JEF 24 reps(488)	
DOVE, Inca	(3-21)	HAI-SILS 11/3(3) MT; JEF-NEDR 11/11(3) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/17(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/18(2) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/20(3) JJW; JEF-NEDR 11/21(1) JAW	
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	(8-9)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(2) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(2) JHH; JEF-SW 11/9(2) SM	
OWL, Barn	(2-30)	JEF 12 reps(32)	
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(9-23)	JEF 11/9(2) SM; JEF 11/21(1) JHH; JEF 11/23(2) FTWJ	
OWL, Great Horned	(2-24)	HAI-SILS 11/2(1) MT; JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(1) JHH; JEF 11/24(2) CSL	
OWL, Short-eared	(23-23)	JEF 11/23(1) RW	
WHIP-POOR-WILL, Eastern	(8-8)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW	
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied	(3-30)	JEF-NEDR 11/3 thru 11/30(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 11/9-11/30(1) HS	
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(2-5)	JEF-NEDR 11/2(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/5(1) JJW	
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.	(5-20)	HAI 11/20(1) JM; JEF-NEDR 11/5(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 11/18(1) JAW	
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tailed	(20-25)	JEF-NEDR 11/20(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 11/21(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/22(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/25(1) JJW	
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	(23-30)	HAI 11/23 thru 11/30(1) JM; JEF-NEDR 11/24(1) JAW; JEF-NEDR 11/25(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 11/26(1) JJW	
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf/Allen's	(7-10)	JEF-NEDR 11/7 thru 11/10 (1) HS; JEF-NEDR 11/10(1) HJS	
HUMMINGBIRD, Selasphorus	(17-17)	JEF-NEDR 11/17(1) JAW	
HUMMINGBIRD species	(1-19)	JEF-NEDR 11/1(1) JJW; JEF-NEDR 11/19(1) JJW	
KINGFISHER, Belted	(1-30)	JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(19)	
WOODPECKER, Golden-fr.	(8-24)	JEF-SW 11/8(2) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(2) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(2) JHH; JEF-SW 11/9(2) SM; JEF-SW 11/24(1) JAW	
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	(2-30)	HAI 9 reps(20); JAS 2 reps(3); JEF 13 reps(30)	
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied	(3-30)	HAI 2 reps(8); JAS 3 reps(4); JEF 12 reps(22); TYL 1 rep(1)	
WOODPECKER, Downy	(7-24)	HAI 1 rep(3); JEF 14 reps(29)	
FLICKER, Northern	(2-24)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 14 reps(24)	
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(3-30)	HAI 16 reps(19); JAS 1 rep(3)	
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	(7-7)	JEF-SW 11/7(1) JHH	
PHOEBE, Eastern	(1-30)	HAI 2 reps(6); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 29 reps(168)	
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion	(9-23)	JEF 11/9(1) JAW; JEF 11/9(1) SM; JEF 11/11(1) JAW; JEF 11/21(1) JHH; JEF 11/23(1) FTWJ	
KINGBIRD, Western	(3-23)	JEF-SW 11/3(1) TFR; JEF 11/6(2) CSL; JEF-TXPT 11/10(1) RW; JEF 11/23(1) RW	
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	(2-7)	JEF-TX87 11/2(1) JAW; JEF-TXPT 11/2(4) JHH; JEF-TXPT 11/2(4) SM; JEF-SRSP 11/3(1) TFR; JEF 11/6(50) CSL; JEF-SW 11/7(2) JHH	
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(1-30)	JEF 19 reps(105)	
VIREO, White-eyed	(23-23)	JEF-TP 11/23(1) RW	
VIREO, Blue-headed	(7-17)	JEF 7 reps(11)	
JAY, Blue	(2-27)	JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 21 reps(109)	
CROW, American	(3-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 3 reps(17); JEF 2 reps(12); TYL 1 rep(1)	
CROW, Fish	(11-17)	JEF 3 reps(52)	
CROW, species	(23-23)	JEF 11/23(2) FTWJ	
RAVEN, Common	(23-23)	JAS 11/23(1) BRH	
SWALLOW, Tree	(2-23)	JEF 18 reps(1072); TYL 1 rep(20)	
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged	(2-11)	JEF-TXPT 11/2(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/3(2) TFR; JEF-TP 11/11(2) JHH	
SWALLOW, Barn	(2-11)	JEF-SRSP 11/2(2) JAW; JEF-TP 11/11(1) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(1) SM	
SWALLOW species	(3-23)	JEF 3 reps(56)	
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-30)	HAI 15 reps(48); JAS 1 rep(6); JEF 6 reps(10); TYL 1 rep(1)	
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(2-30)	HAI 17 reps(66); JAS 2 reps(6); JEF 2 reps(9); TYL 1 rep(1)	
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	(3-3)	JEF-SW 11/3(1) TFR	
CREEPER, Brown	(7-23)	JAS 11/23(2) BRH; JEF-SW 11/7(2) JHH; JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 11/9(1) SM	
WREN, Carolina	(3-30)	HAI 8 reps(11); JAS 2 reps(5); JEF 2 reps(5)	
WREN, House	(2-23)	JEF 10 reps(16)	
WREN, Winter	(3-3)	HAI-BTTC 11/3(1) GF	
WREN, Sedge	(9-23)	JEF 7 reps(14)	
WREN, Marsh	(2-23)	JEF 9 reps(18)	
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(1-24)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 16 reps(61)	
KINGLET, Golden-crowned	(3-30)	JAS 1 rep(12); JEF 15 reps(78)	
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(2-30)	HAI 1 rep(6); JAS 2 reps(10); JEF 23 reps(182); TYL 1 rep(1)	
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(11-11)	JEF 11/11(2) JAW	
THRUSH, Hermit	(2-24)	HAI 2 reps(6); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 10 reps(58)	
ROBIN, American	(3-30)	HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(9); JEF 6 reps(88)	
CATBIRD, Gray	(3-17)	JEF 6 reps(12)	
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-25)	JEF 18 reps(88); TYL 1 rep(1)	
THRASHER, Brown	(2-23)	HAI 1 rep(1); JEF 12 reps(38)	
STARLING, European	(2-24)	HAI 1 rep(20); JEF 15 reps(1461)	
PIPIT, American	(7-23)	tab JEF-SW 11/7(1) JHH; JEF 11/9(20) SM; JEF-SRSP 11/10(2) RW; JEF-TP 11/11(2) JHH; JEF-TP 11/11(3) SM; JEF-TP 11/21(13) JAW; JEF-TP 11/23(2) RW (7-23)	
PIPIT, Sprague's	(23-23)	JEF 11/23(1) RW	
WAXWING, Cedar	(8-8)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW	
WARBLER, Black-and-white	(16-17)	JEF-SW 11/16(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/17(1) J&R	
WARBLER, Tennessee	(9-10)	JEF-SW 11/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(2) JHH; JEF-SW 11/9(2) SM; JEF-SW 11/10(1) RW	
WARBLER, Orange-crowned	(2-30)	HAI 11 reps(11); JEF 19 reps(82); TYL 1 rep(1)	
WARBLER, Nashville	(9-23)	JAS 11/23(1) BRH; JEF-SW 11/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 11/9(1) SM	
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(1-30)	JEF 13 reps(524)	

REDSTART, American	(7-7)	JEF-SW 11/7(1) JHH
PARULA, Northern	(7-7)	JEF-SW 11/7(1) JHH
WARBLER, Palm	(9-9)	JEF-SW 11/9(1) JHH
WARBLER, Pine	(2-30)	HAI 13 reps(14); JEF 12
reps(45)		
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(2-30)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 19 reps(176)
WARBLER, Y-r (Audubon's)	(9-9)	JEF-SW 11/9(1) SM
WARBLER, Wilson's	(23-23)	JEF 11/23(1) RW
TOWHEE, Spotted	(10-17)	JEF-SW 11/10(1) RW; JEF-SW
11/17(2) J&R		
TOWHEE, Eastern	(10-10)	JEF-SW 11/10(1) RW
TOWHEE, Eastern/Spotted	(8-8)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW
SPARROW, Chipping	(3-30)	HAI 17 reps(94); JEF 8
reps(47)		
SPARROW, Clay-colored	(8-8)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW
SPARROW, Field	(3-3)	JEF-SW 11/3(1) TFR
SPARROW, Vesper	(9-23)	JEF 11/9(1) JAW; JEF 11/9(1)
SM; JEF 11/21(2) JHH; JEF 11/23(1) RW		
SPARROW, Savannah	(1-24)	JEF 20 reps(328)
SPARROW, Grasshopper	(2-3)	JEF-TXPT 11/2(1) JHH; JEF-
TXPT 11/2(1) SM; JEF 11/3(1) JAW		
SPARROW, LeConte's	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(1) JHH
SPARROW, Nelson's	(2-10)	JEF 4 reps(13)
SPARROW, Seaside	(2-2)	JEF 3 reps(10)
SPARROW, Song	(8-23)	JEF 9 reps(16)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(1-27)	JAS 11/27(1) JSS; JEF 11/1(1)
JJW; JEF-SW 11/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/10(1) RW		
SPARROW, Swamp	(2-23)	JEF 15 reps(148)
SPARROW, White-throated	(2-30)	HAI 15 reps(33); JEF 10
SPARROW, White-crowned	(1-23)	JEF 10 reps(27)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(9-9)	JEF-SW 11/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW
11/9(1) JHH; JEF-SW 11/9(1) SM		
CARDINAL, Northern	(3-30)	HAI 19 reps(1026); JAS 1
rep(3); JEF 14 reps(43)		
BUNTING, Indigo	(3-10)	JEF-SW 11/3(4) TFR; JEF-SW
11/8(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(1) JAW; JEF-SW 11/9(2) JHH;		
JEF-SW 11/9(1) SM; JEF-SW 11/10(1) RW		
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-23)	JEF 19 reps(1226)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(7-23)	JEF 6 reps(52)
MEADOWLARK species	(1-23)	JEF 5 reps(27)
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	(21-21)	JEF 11/21(25) JHH; JEF-TP
GRACKLE, Common	(7-23)	JEF 5 reps(29)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(2-30)	JEF 9 reps(60)
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-23)	JEF 13 reps(249)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(3-21)	JEF 5 reps(2893)
BLACKBIRD species	(8-24)	JEF 3 reps(2050)
ORIOLE, Baltimore	(8-8)	JEF-SW 11/8(1) HS; JEF-SW
11/8(1) JAW		
FINCH, House	(19-19)	HAI-SILS 11/19(1) MT
GOLDFINCH, American	(8-23)	JEF 6 reps(35)
SPARROW, House	(5-23)	HAI 1 rep(200); JEF 4 reps(39)

Number of Species 200
Number of Individuals 78182

County Abbreviations:

HAI — Hardin; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson; TYL — Tyler

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; BTTC — Big Thicket NP - Turkey Creek Unit; MCFW — McFaddin NWR; MDSP — Martin Dies State Park; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; PTA — Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SNDY — Nature Conservancy Sandlyand Sanctuary; SRSP — Sea Rim State Park; 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

ACL — Carol Lynn and Andy Loker; BRH — Bryce and Robert Hardway; CSL — Christine Sliva; FTWJ — Field Trip to West Jefferson County; GF — Graham Floyd; HS — Harlan Stewart; J&R — Jessica and Randy; JAW — John Whittle; JHH — John H. Haynes; JHKS — Jason Heinen and Kathryn Stedman; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; JSS — Jason St. Sauver; LA — Linda Arredondo; MRO — Mike Rogan; MT — Melanie Tennison; RW — Ron Weeks; SM — Steve Mayes; TFR — Tony Frank.

Wind Power and Eagles

David Yarnold, President and CEO of National Audubon Society released this statement, slightly abridged here, on Tuesday December 10.

As you know, Audubon took a strong stand in the wake of Friday's announcement by the Interior Department of a new rule that would grant wind energy companies 30-year permits to kill Bald and Golden Eagles. Since the media coverage reflects a stronger tone than most of our balanced messaging on wind power, I want to make our position clear.

First, there is no doubt that the greatest threat to both birds and people is climate change. We need to deploy renewable energy sources aggressively and use conventional sources more efficiently if we are to meet the challenge of our lifetime. Consistent with our Board-approved policy, Audubon strongly supports properly-sited wind power as a clean alternative energy source that reduces the threat of global warming.

Audubon has a long history of involvement in wind-wildlife interaction issues, including efforts to develop state guidelines for wind development in California, Washington, Pennsylvania, and New York; providing substantive input regarding the Bureau of Land Management's policy for wind development on public lands; and working cooperatively to improve the siting, design, and management of wind facilities across the country.

We believe that birds and conservation have to be central to energy siting decisions. That is why we are speaking out strongly about the new 30-year rule, and actively challenging the Interior Department on their commitment to monitor and enforce current bird protection laws including the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

We spent the better part of the last year working with the wind industry and a few other leading green groups to develop a workable permitting process that included eagle conservation as a fundamental tenet. The agreement we were able to reach with our NGO partners and the wind industry would have been a win-win and in keeping with Audubon's best traditions and values.

In mid-summer, we put forward a joint recommendation to the Department of the Interior. But the Department walked away from this potentially game-changing deal--and instead moved forward with a 30-year rule that has highly questionable conservation value. The key point Interior makes is that the new rule allows for reviews every five years but we think those assurances are bureaucratic vapor.

On Friday of last week, I sent a letter to Secretary Jewell reinforcing all of these concerns. At this point, we think the best way for us to create balance is to do what NGOs are uniquely suited for: to push back publicly by mobilizing our members and friends. Send a message to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell online or via mail to: Secretary Sally Jewell, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington DC 20240.

We will continue to fight this battle--to ensure a sound future for eagles and other birds we're entrusted to protect while building a clean energy future.

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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>.