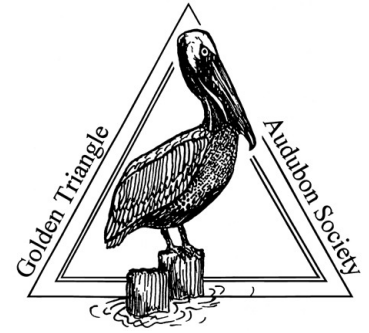


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 20 No. 2

February 2014

Membership Meeting
Thursday February 20, 2014 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Local Birding Pictures

Robert Hurt

Robert plans to show a number of local birding pictures and other aspects of nature that have caught his eye. He notes that he has come to a fonder appreciation of nature, all nature and what all makes up our birding world. He will share thoughts about each picture and where it came from.

Robert was the driving force behind the formation of Golden Triangle Audubon in the mid-nineties, and we are glad he is now able to become more active in the group again.

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.

Editorial

It is not often that we have the luxury of space for comment, and when we do, as this time, it is only a small space. Therefore, we must be brief. We'd love to have more articles on local conservation issues. We thank those of you who have contributed over the years. We understand the difficulties. We often find out the details about local projects with barely three weeks left before the comment period closes. That is not enough time to alert you through these pages. Often, we, the current officers and board, are unable to drop everything else to review the proposals. Please let any officer or board member (contact information is on page 2) know if you have any interest in monitoring local issues with potential environmental, especially habitat, impact. And if you are willing to contribute artless of environmental issues for the *Brown Pelican*, please let me know.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 20, No.2 February 2014
Issue number 204

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

February 14-17, 2014. Great Backyard Bird Count. Details of the count and how to enter your sightings are at www.birdcount.org. The Count is sponsored by National Audubon with Bird Studies Canada and Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

February 20-23, 2014. Whooping Crane Festival in Port Aransas. Details are at www.whoopingcranefestival.org.

Thursday February 20, 2014. Membership Meeting. Details on page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank Kathi and Richard Orgeron, Linda and Howard Davis, Bill Graber, Harrison Jordan, Gary Kelley, Karen McCormick, and anyone we have accidentally omitted for bringing refreshments in January. **We need volunteers to bring items for the February 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 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 birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open water areas.

Directions to Cattail Marsh.

From the south

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

From IH-10

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

Thursday March 20, 2014. Membership Meeting. Rebecca and John Phelps on Birding New Zealand.



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 Anahuac NWR – 18 January 2014

A field trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge in the colder months always produces a good variety of birds, especially waterfowl, but sometimes the show is little short of spectacular. This was one of these times. The wintering geese put on a great performance, and there were many other interesting birds to enjoy.

It was a clear, somewhat cold, although rapidly warming morning as 13 members assembled (loosely) at the entrance to the refuge, exchanging reports of what they had seen on the journey. Reports, as usual for FM1985, included Red-tailed Hawks and Crested Caracaras as well as some waterfowl including Canvasback in a flooded field, and a young Merlin at the north end of the access road.

We first birded between the Visitor Information Station and "The Willows," an area still in the early stages of recovery from the salt water of Hurricane Ike in 2008. Geese could be clearly heard in the distance, but it was the Passerines that were the subject of attention. The winter resident male Vermilion Flycatcher was very obvious. A female a short distance away was somewhat more retiring. Two Cedar Waxwings perched at the top of trees, defying their normal habit of journeying in significant-sized flocks. Other birds included Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Myrtle Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Orange-crowned Warbler, House Wren and Eastern Phoebe, while a large number of itinerant American Robins disappeared as quickly as they had arrived. There were sparrows – Savannah, White-crowned and Swamp, and a number of "fly-bys" – Roseate Spoonbill, Caspian Tern and White and dark Ibis. A somewhat unexpected sound at this relatively dry location was the call of a King Rail.

The group consolidated into the smallest number of vehicles possible and proceeded towards Shoveler Pond. The road round Shoveler Pond was paved as a single lane road two or three years ago, but unfortunately, there are only a very few pullouts and everyone has to proceed at the pace of the slowest vehicles, in this case ours! The refuge has only recently been able to again add water to the Pond, and already the habitat is beginning to improve. There were White Ibis, Common Gallinules, Great Blue Herons, one Little Blue Heron and American Coots among other species. The occupants of one vehicle were lucky and saw an American Bittern. Canvasbacks and Black-crowned Night-Herons were seen by some. The open area in the northwest corner was a little disappointing, and was largely populated by cormorants on the berms, although there were Tree Swallows and Forster's, Gull-billed and Caspian Terns over the marshes. The boardwalk produced a Belted Kingfisher and a few ducks, but the Whistling-Ducks that were there a month prior were absent.

Reaching the southwest corner of the Pond, we were able to pull off the road. Southwest of this location were large numbers of geese, mostly white geese (Snow and Ross's) but with some Greater White-fronted as well. It is very difficult to estimate numbers when some were on the ground and others were milling around in the air. We have put down 10,000, but there were somewhere between 5,000 and 15,000. Soon, our eagle-eyed spotter, Christine, found the causes of the commotion among the geese. Over the geese, there were Bald Eagles! We believe there was one adult and three immature birds, but we know for sure that two of them were second-year (immature) eagles, as they obligingly circled overhead our position, not too high, interacting several times with each other. A little later, one immature bird, whether one of the pair or another we know not, circled overhead while eating its lunch on the wing. We could not determine whether its lunch was a mouse or rat, or part of some larger prey. (We know our group was eating its lunch of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at the time.) Also in the area were a large number of Turkey Vultures, several Red-tailed Hawks and one Crested Caracara, while three Wilson's Snipe got up from the marsh.

After finishing the circuit round Shoveler Pond, with a brief stop

to look at the somewhat distant ducks in the western Moist Soil Unit, we went south to look east over the area known as "Deep Marsh." As usual, there were many ducks in this largely shallow water area, but most of them were a long way out. We did identify Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal, Northern Pintail, each in reasonable numbers. Another very distant adult Bald Eagle was detected (and seen by those with younger eyes) while other birds in the area included a Brown Pelican in addition to several American White Pelicans, some Tricolored Herons, and a rather unexpected adult Reddish Egret.

Next on the agenda was a visit to the Skillern Tract, a few miles east of "old Anahuac." En route on FM1985, we saw the young Merlin in the same place as previously reported as well as the usual Red-tailed Hawks, American Kestrels, and two Brewer's Blackbirds in a flock composed largely of Brown-headed Cowbirds. In the Skillern Tract, we found Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, a sleeping Wilson's Snipe, several American Pipits and a White-tailed Kite as we made our way to the parking area. This had previously been a very reliable area to find another wintering male Vermilion Flycatcher, but it was not there on this day. En route to and from the viewing platform, we had Orange-crowned Warbler, Carolina Chickadee, Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and, as the *piece de resistance*, an American Bittern. From the platform, we were able to see about eight Black-crowned Night-Herons roosting in the marsh, a couple of Marsh Wrens, a Little Blue Heron, and some distant ducks (Northern Shoveler, Canvasback, American Wigeon, Blue-winged Teal) as well as lots of Neotropical Cormorants. An adult Bald Eagle flew by, not very close, as did another Crested Caracara and several Northern Harriers.

To finish the trip (and head towards dinner), we proceeded back along FM1985 to Pear Orchard Road, which we traversed, adding Black-necked Stilt to our list, to get to FM1941. This road is always good for raptors and produced Red-tailed Hawks, an immature Cooper's Hawk, several Northern Harriers, several American Kestrels as well as more Eastern Phoebes, and another nice male Vermilion Flycatcher. And that was it. All nine members still with the group then proceeded to a well-known restaurant in Winnie for dinner!

The following list includes birds reported to the leader as being seen after we assembled in the morning, and likely is incomplete, especially as far as numbers are concerned: Greater White-fronted Goose (51); Snow Goose (10000); Ross's Goose (2++); Gadwall (6); American Wigeon (4); Mottled Duck (3+); Blue-winged Teal (5); Northern Shoveler (237); Northern Pintail (29+); Green-winged Teal (60+); Canvasback (6); Ring-necked Duck (20+); Lesser Scaup (2); Ruddy Duck (13); Duck Species (1000+); Pied-billed Grebe (12); Neotropical Cormorant (80); Double-crested Cormorant (3); American White Pelican (11); Brown Pelican (1); American Bittern (2); Great Blue Heron (10); Great Egret (5); Snowy Egret (1); Little Blue Heron (2); Tricolored Heron (3); Reddish Egret (1); Black-crowned Night-Heron (10); White Ibis (177+); White-faced Ibis (1); *Plegadis* species Ibis (27); Roseate Spoonbill (27); Black Vulture (3); Turkey Vulture (42); White-tailed Kite (1); Bald Eagle (6); Northern Harrier (13); Cooper's Hawk (2); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (30); *Buteo* species (2); Crested Caracara (2); American Kestrel (9); Merlin (1); King Rail (1); Common Moorhen (8); American Coot (49); Killdeer (8); Black-necked Stilt (6); Greater Yellowlegs (2); Lesser Yellowlegs (4); Long-billed Dowitcher (2); Wilson's Snipe (4); Ring-billed Gull (2); Gull-billed Tern (1); Caspian Tern (7); Forster's Tern (4); Mourning Dove (18); Belted Kingfisher (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Eastern Phoebe (10); Vermilion Flycatcher (3); Loggerhead Shrike (6); Tree Swallow (35); Carolina Chickadee (1); House Wren (2); Marsh Wren (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (5); American Robin (250); Northern Mockingbird (2); American Pipit (4); Cedar Waxwing (2); Orange-crowned Warbler (3); Common Yellowthroat (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (18); Chipping Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (27); Swamp Sparrow (2); White-crowned Sparrow (3+); Red-winged Blackbird (260); Eastern Meadowlark (11); Brewer's Blackbird (2); Brown-headed Cowbird (100)

John A. Whittle

Local Christmas Bird Counts – Part 2

(Here we present brief accounts of the results of the local Christmas Bird Counts. Fuller accounts, including species seen and numbers, and historical totals are posted on the website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count 3 January 2014

This was an interesting count! While the number of species seen at 150 was a little disappointing, this has not been a year with any significant irruptions. The early winter was cold locally, and we detected almost no lingering migrants. But we did have a few interesting birds, as detailed below.

Among the waterfowl, Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks continue to do well locally. Redheads in three separate locations were unexpected. Ring-necked Ducks seem to stay inland most years, and this year was no exception. Scaup were not particularly numerous, while we did not find any scoters, despite reports from a few miles further east along the Louisiana coast of all three species.

We normally find American Bitterns, but this year's were not in the areas of McFaddin NWR where we normally find them. One was in J.D. Murphree WMA and the other in the marsh adjacent to the Sabine-Neches Waterway. Not finding Reddish Egret was disappointing.

Seven Osprey was a good number, and eight White-tailed Kites, while not as high as the 13 in January 2012, was encouraging nonetheless. Perhaps the most unexpected find was two immature Broad-winged Hawks seen just east of Sabine Woods. Good photographs were obtained, and there is virtually no doubt over the identification. We understand the Venice (Louisiana) CBC tallied eight Broad-wings, an unprecedented number for December, so this was certainly a strange year for the species. Crested Caracara continue to increase locally, and we found eight.

Virginia Rails were in good numbers in the marsh, but Sora were nowhere to be found, although we know they are present. The same could not be said of American Coots, which were everywhere, totaling two or three times normal. The small number of Whimbrel that winter along the shore of the Texas Point NWR were present as usual, while Long-billed Curlews were there as well and elsewhere along the shore. Shorebirds were numerous in the muddy areas within Texas Point NWR and in the areas of Murphree where recent habitat work has produced mudflats. Stilt Sandpipers were in both locations as were both dowitcher species.

Over the last two or three years, the number of gulls and terns, and for that matter, many other beach bird species seen on our various counts has been very low, and this count was no different. The beach and its immediate surrounds was changed substantially by the major hurricanes of 2005 and 2008, and this may be the root cause. Interest this year centered on a gull seen on the beach at Sea Rim. This was an immature bird, probably a first winter bird, features of which suggested Mew Gull. There appears to be a consensus among those who have studied gulls and seen the photographs of this bird that one cannot rule out its being a small Ring-billed Gull and we have included it as such.

An Inca Dove which had been present in Sabine Woods for some time was seen. White-winged Doves have increased

recently in the area and 20 was the highest since 2002.

No Barn Owls were found, either at Sabine Woods or in the marsh. There had been some in Sabine Woods in the fall, but perhaps of the presence of Great Horned Owls has induced the Barn Owls to move elsewhere. Short-eared Owls are doubtless present in the marshes, but difficult for us to find on count day, and none were seen.

One of the two Golden-fronted Woodpeckers that have been present in Sabine Woods for over a year now was seen on count day. Downy Woodpecker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker numbers were on the low side, while Red-bellied Woodpecker and Northern Flickers were in about average numbers.

Carolina Wren was absent for the second consecutive year, but are still present in good numbers a few miles north of the coast. Likewise, Winter Wrens were not seen for a second year, although House, Sedge and Marsh Wrens were plentiful. A Wood Thrush found late in the day in Sabine Woods was probably the most unexpected bird seen on the count.

Only one White-eyed Vireo and only one Blue-headed Vireo were both far below the norms of recent years. The only lingering migrant warbler found was a Black-and-white Warbler present in Sabine Woods for some time. Yellow-rumped Warblers were quite numerous after a few years of diminished numbers along the immediate coast, but only one Wilson's Warbler was seen.

Sparrow numbers were generally unremarkable, although White-crowned Sparrows were in smaller numbers than in the previous two years. It was nice to find both Spotted and Eastern Towhees (in close proximity in the Sabine Woods area!) for the second consecutive year.

Finally, we have to express great surprise that there were no House Sparrows within the circle. The residential areas of Sabine Pass were thoroughly checked on count day, and again in the days immediately following, but none were found.

Participants: Mary Carter, Howard Davis, Nancy and Don Fisher, Sherry Gibson, Bill Graber, John Haynes, Robert Hurt, Gary Kelley, John Mariani, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Jenny Shuffield, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Ken Sztraky, Patrick Walther, Jana and John Whittle. *John A. Whittle*

Johnson Bayou Christmas Bird Count 28 December 2013

This season we added access thanks to land owner Bill Dore that allowed us to vastly improve our duck species. We did count a group of Black-bellied Whistling ducks this season by our dedicated driving group. This species was seen by all our local coastal counts this year. The rainy overcast day prevented us from finding geese on count day but we did tally some count week. We had a good sampling of winter ducks and coots with huge conservative numbers of Gadwall and Northern Pintail and American Coots being turned in. Poor conditions prevented much coverage of the gulf or the beach

continued on page 7

Bird Sightings – December 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: Only rarely do our December sightings reflect the experience of birders in the greater south-east Texas. This is partly caused by the timing of local Christmas counts, in that two major counts within our area are usually scheduled in January, although the two Big Thicket area counts were bot in December this year. However, this has not been a winter season in which several species not normally venturing as far south as the Gulf Coast have done so, and December's lack of unusual species does reflect the experience of local birders. One exception has been Fox Sparrow, which has been present in good numbers just a little north of the Golden Triangle.

WHISTLING-DUCK, Blk-bell. (1-17)	JEF 5 reps(1200)	PELICAN, Amer. White (7-28)	J/T 1 rep(9); JEF 4 reps(158); TYL 1 rep(7)
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (1-12)	JEF-TP 12/1(3) SM; JEF-TP 12/12(3) JHH	PELICAN, Brown (7-13)	JEF 5 reps(59)
GOOSE, White-fronted (10-18)	JEF 3 reps(73)	BITTERN, American (22-22)	JEF-TP 12/22(1) JM
GOOSE, Snow (1-26)	JEF 7 reps(1326)	HERON, Great Blue (1-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); J/T 1 rep(7); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 14 reps(28); TYL 6 reps(12)
GOOSE, Ross's (12-12)	JEF-SW 12/12(3) JHH	EGRET, Great (1-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); J/T 1 rep(5); JAS 1 rep(4); JEF 12 reps(54); TYL 3 reps(29)
GOOSE, Canada (12-12)	JEF-TP 12/12(4) JHH	EGRET, Snowy (1-28)	J/T 1 rep(2); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 11 reps(89); TYL 2 reps(12)
DUCK, Wood (1-28)	JAS 1 rep(6); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 5 reps(24)	HERON, Little Blue (7-17)	JEF 3 reps(8)
GADWALL (1-28)	J/T 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(176); TYL 1 rep(39)	HERON, Tricolored (1-17)	JEF 4 reps(17)
WIGEON, American (12-17)	JEF-TP 12/12(4) JHH; JEF-TP 12/17(4) SM	EGRET, Cattle (5-5)	JEF 12/5(6) JAW
MALLARD (1-28)	J/T 12/28(9) BC3&8; JEF-TP 12/1(10) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/12(27) JHH	HERON, Green (1-22)	JEF-TP 12/1(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/22(1) JM
DUCK, Mottled (1-12)	JEF-TP 12/1(8) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(2) JAW; JEF-PI 12/7(2) SM; JEF-TP 12/12(6) JHH	NIGHT-HERON, Black-cr. (1-17)	JEF 3 reps(57)
TEAL, Blue-winged (1-26)	JEF 6 reps(621)	IBIS, White (1-28)	JAS 1 rep(50); JEF 6 reps(98); TYL 2 reps(52)
TEAL, Cinnamon (1-22)	JEF-TP 12/1(2) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/12(1) JHH; JEF-TP 12/22(1) JM	IBIS, Glossy (1-22)	JEF-TP 12/1(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/22(1) JM
SHOVELER, Northern (1-26)	JEF 6 reps(1101)	IIBIS, White-faced (1-26)	JEF 4 reps(50)
PINTAIL, Northern (1-28)	JEF 5 reps(161); TYL 1 rep(2)	IBIS, Plegadis (3-23)	JEF 3 reps(117)
TEAL, Green-winged (1-28)	JEF 6 reps(2590); TYL 1 rep(5)	SPOONBILL, Roseate (1-17)	JEF 4 reps(32)
CANVASBACK (12-28)	J/T 1 rep(156); JAS 1 rep(220); JEF 2 reps(4); TYL 2 reps(172)	TURE, Black (2-28)	HAI 3 reps(12); J/T 1 rep(11); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 9 reps(74); TYL 9 reps(96)
REDHEAD (3-17)	JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF-TP 12/17(1) SM	VULTURE, Turkey (1-28)	HAI 8 reps(66); J/T 1 rep(18); JAS 1 rep(8); JEF 13 reps(219); TYL 12 reps(96)
DUCK, Ring-necked (1-28)	HAI 1 rep(5); J/T 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(221); TYL 6 reps(267)	KITE, White-tailed (10-14)	JEF 4 reps(6)
SCAUP, Greater (3-3)	JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW	EAGLE, Bald (1-29)	HAI-SILS 12/29(1) MTE; J/T 12/28(2) BC3&8; JEF-TP 12/1(2) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(1) JAW; JEF 12/9(1) RHRC; JEF-TP 12/12(2) JHH; JEF-TP 12/22(2) JM; TYL 12/28(1) BC09; TYL 12/28(2) BC10
SCAUP, Lesser (1-28)	J/T 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(112); TYL 3 reps(3)	HARRIER, Northern (1-22)	JEF 14 reps(35)
SCAUP species (7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(40) SM	HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(3); TYL 1 rep(1)
BUFFLEHEAD (1-22)	JEF 6 reps(53)	HAWK, Cooper's (1-19)	JEF 5 reps(5); TYL 1 rep(1)
MERGANSER, Hooded (12-28)	JEF-TP 12/12(2) JHH; TYL 12/14(2) TC8&10; TYL 12/28(2) BC01	HAWK, Red-shouldered (1-28)	HAI 3 reps(3); JEF 5 reps(5); TYL 5 reps(10)
MERGANSER, Red-breast. (7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(36) SM	HAWK, Red-tailed (1-28)	HAI 4 reps(6); JEF 20 reps(125); TYL 5 reps(5)
DUCK, Ruddy (1-28)	JEF 6 reps(540); TYL 1 rep(30)	HAWK, Red-tailed (Kriders) (2-10)	JEF 12/2(1) RHRC; JEF 12/9(1) RHRC; JEF-SRSP 12/10(1) CSX
LOON, Common (7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(4) SM	CARACARA, Crested (5-15)	JEF 5 reps(7)
GREBE, Least (1-22)	JEF-TP 12/1(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/3(2) JAW; JEF-TP 12/12(2) JHH; JEF-TP 12/17(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/22(2) JM	KESTREL, American (1-28)	HAI 5 reps(10); J/T 1 rep(3); JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 13 reps(73); TYL 5 reps(8)
GREBE, Pied-billed (1-28)	HAI 1 rep(1); J/T 1 rep(8); JEF 11 reps(48); TYL 2 reps(6)	MERLIN (9-28)	JEF 12/9(1) RHRC; TYL 12/28(1) BC01; TYL 12/28(1) BC10
GREBE, Horned (7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(14) SM	FALCON, Peregrine (10-10)	JEF 12/10(1) CSX
GREBE, Eared (12-22)	JEF-TP 12/12(2) JHH; JEF-TP 12/22(3) JM	RAIL, Clapper (2-2)	JEF-TXPT 12/2(2) SMI
CORMORANT, Neotropic (1-17)	JEF 8 reps(112)	RAIL, King (1-17)	JEF-TP 12/1(1) SM; JEF-TP 12/12(2) JHH; JEF-TP 12/17(2) SM
CORMORANT, Double-cr. (3-28)	J/T 1 rep(157); JAS 1 rep(40); JEF 4 reps(35); TYL 4 reps(267)	RAIL, Virginia (1-17)	JEF-TP 12/1(10) SM; JEF 12/10(1) CSX; JEF-TP 12/12(5) JHH; JEF-TP 12/17(9) SM
CORMORANT, Species (5-23)	JEF 4 reps(11)	SORA (1-17)	JEF-TP 12/1(12) SM; JEF-TP 12/12(3) JHH; JEF-TP 12/17(10) SM
ANHINGA (3-28)	J/T 1 rep(6); JEF 3 reps(3); TYL 3 reps(3)		

GALLINULE, Common	(1-28)	J/T 1 rep(9); JEF 7 reps(104); TYL 2 reps(2)
COOT, American	(1-28)	J/T 1 rep(12); JEF 7 reps(1214); TYL 1 rep(275)
RANE, Sandhill	(1-22)	JEF 5 reps(3394)
PLOVER, Black-bellied	(8-8)	JEF-PI 12/8(1) JAW
PLOVER, Snowy	(10-10)	JEF-SRSP 12/10(2) CSX
PLOVER, Semipalmated	(10-10)	JEF 2 reps(4)
KILLDEER	(2-28)	JAS 1 rep(12); JEF 17 reps(123); TYL 4 reps(6)
STILT, Black-necked	(1-26)	JEF 6 reps(49)
AVOCET, American	(3-26)	JEF 6 reps(139)
SANDPIPER, Spotted	(1-28)	JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 3 reps(5); TYL 1 rep(1)
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	(7-12)	JEF 4 reps(9)
WILLET	(10-10)	JEF-SRSP 12/10(2) CSX
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	(12-12)	JEF 12/12(2) JAW
SANDPIPER, Western	(12-12)	JEF-TP 12/12(12) JHH
DUNLIN	(10-10)	JEF-SRSP 12/10(1) CSX
DOWITCHER species	(7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(50) SM
SNIPE, Wilson's	(12-17)	JEF 2 reps(11)
WOODCOCK, American	(10-10)	JEF 12/10(1) CSX
GULL, Bonaparte's	(7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(8) SM
GULL, Laughing	(1-17)	JEF 9 reps(754)
GULL, Ring-billed	(7-28)	J/T 1 rep(2); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 6 reps(73); TYL 1 rep(2)
GULL, Herring	(10-10)	JEF 1 rep(3)
TERN, Caspian	(7-7)	JEF-PI 12/7(2) SM
TERN, Forster's	(7-28)	J/T 1 rep(6); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 2 reps(28); TYL 2 reps(22)
TERN, Royal	(10-10)	JEF-SRSP 12/10(45) CSX
PIGEON, Rock	(7-28)	HAI 1 rep(4); JEF 7 reps(132); TYL 1 rep(1)
COLLARED-DOVE, Euras.	(2-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 6 reps(22); TYL 1 rep(2)
DOVE, White-winged	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(23); JEF 11 reps(93)
DOVE, Mourning	(2-30)	HAI 5 reps(39); J/T 1 rep(10); JAS 1 rep(40); JEF 13 reps(167); TYL 6 reps(52)
DOVE, Inca	(7-31)	J/T 1 rep(6); JEF 11 reps(27); TYL 2 reps(2)
ROADRUNNER, Greater	(28-28)	JAS 12/28(2) BC4,6&7
OWL, Barn	(14-18)	JEF-SW 12/14(2) J&R; JEF-SW 12/14(2) MCO; JEF-SW 12/18(1) SM
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern	(14-18)	HAI 12/14(2) TC5,6&7; JEF-BMT 12/17(1) HJ; JEF-BMT 12/18(1) HJ; TYL 12/14(1) TC8&10
OWL, Great Horned	(3-26)	HAI 5 reps(6); JEF 8 reps(11); TYL 1 rep(1)
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bell.	(1-31)	JEF-NEDR one 12/1 thru 12/31 JJW; JEF-NEDR second 12/26 thru 12/31JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-thr.	(6-25)	JEF-NEDR one 12/6 thru 12/25 JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Black-chin.	(22-31)	JEF-NEDR one 12/22 thru 12/31(1) HS;
HUMMINGBIRD, Broad-tail.	(1-31)	JEF-NEDR one 12/1 thru 12/31 JJW; second 12/6 thru 12/30 JJW; possibly third 12/7 thru 12/11 JJW
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	(1-31)	JEF-BMT two 12/1 thru 12/31 HJ; JEF-NEDR one 12/1 thru 12/31 HS; JEF-NEDR one 12/7 thru 12/25 HS; JEF-NEDR one 12/31 only; JEF-NEDR one 12/31 and on HS
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruf/Allen's	(10-31)	JEF-NEDR one 12/10 thru 12/31 JJW
KINGFISHER, Belted	(2-28)	J/T 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(8); TYL 3 reps(4)
WOODPECKER, Red-head.	(1-1)	JEF-BMT 12/1(1) HJ
WOODPECKER, Golden-fr.	(12-18)	JEF-SW 12/12(2) JHH; JEF-SW 12/14(1) J&R; JEF-SW 12/18(2) SM
WOODPECKER, Red-bell.	(1-30)	HAI 12 reps(37); J/T 1 rep(12); JAS 1 rep(12); JEF 6 reps(8); TYL 12 reps(45)
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bell.	(10-28)	HAI 4 reps(20); J/T 1 rep(5); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 4 reps(6); TYL 8 reps(11)
WOODPECKER, Downy	(10-28)	HAI 5 reps(18); J/T 1 rep(7); JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 6 reps(14); TYL 8 reps(14)
WOODPECKER, Hairy	(14-28)	HAI 12/14(1) TC04; HAI 12/14(1) TC5,6&7; TYL 12/14(1) TC8&10; TYL 12/28(1) BC10
FLICKER, Northern	(1-28)	HAI 4 reps(16); J/T 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(5); TYL 6 reps(7)
WOODPECKER, Pileated	(2-28)	HAI 9 reps(23); J/T 1 rep(4); JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 5 reps(5); TYL 7 reps(20)
PHOEBE, Eastern	(1-28)	HAI 3 reps(11); J/T 1 rep(6); JAS 1 rep(3); JEF 17 reps(45); TYL 9 reps(19)
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion	(5-18)	JEF 12/5(1) JAW; JEF 12/18(1) JAW
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(1); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 22 reps(62)
VIREO, White-eyed	(12-12)	JEF-SW 12/12(1) JHH
VIREO, Blue-headed	(12-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); J/T 1 rep(1); JEF 4 reps(7); TYL 1 rep(1)
JAY, Blue	(2-31)	HAI 4 reps(42); J/T 1 rep(8); JAS 1 rep(11); JEF 26 reps(60); TYL 10 reps(39)
CROW, American	(5-28)	HAI 8 reps(91); J/T 1 rep(10); JAS 1 rep(51); JEF 2 reps(3); TYL 15 reps(204)
CROW, Fish	(17-17)	JEF-TP 12/17(1) SM
SWALLOW, Tree	(1-26)	JEF 8 reps(155)
SWALLOW species	(12-12)	JEF 1 rep(1)
CHICKADEE, Carolina	(2-30)	HAI 13 reps(52); J/T 1 rep(10); JAS 1 rep(20); JEF 6 reps(10); TYL 10 reps(64)
TITMOUSE, Tufted	(2-30)	HAI 13 reps(51); J/T 1 rep(8); JAS 1 rep(7); JEF 1 rep(1); TYL 8 reps(26)
NUTHATCH, Red-breasted	(28-28)	TYL 12/28(1) BC10
NUTHATCH, Brown-headed	(14-28)	J/T 12/28(2) BC3&8; TYL 12/14(6) TC8&10; TYL 12/14(2) TC13; TYL 12/28(2) BC10
CREEPER, Brown	(12-28)	HAI 12/14(2) TC04; JEF-SW 12/12(1) JHH; TYL 12/28(2) BC10
WREN, Carolina	(1-28)	HAI 9 reps(20); J/T 1 rep(6); JAS 1 rep(6); JEF 4 reps(5); TYL 8 reps(40)
WREN, House	(1-31)	HAI 1 rep(3); J/T 1 rep(4); JAS 1 rep(1); JEF 11 reps(15); TYL 4 reps(5)
WREN, Winter	(14-28)	HAI 12/14(1) TC04; J/T 12/28(2) BC3&8; TYL 12/28(1) BC05
WREN, Sedge	(12-26)	JEF 4 reps(5)
WREN, Marsh	(1-12)	JEF-TP 12/1(10) SM; JEF 12/10(1) CSX; JEF-TP 12/12(3) JHH
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	(10-28)	J/T 1 rep(1); JEF 6 reps(22); TYL 1 rep(2)
KINGLET, Golden-crowned	(12-28)	HAI 2 reps(8); J/T 1 rep(8); JEF 4 reps(10); TYL 2 reps(6)
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	(1-31)	HAI 6 reps(27); J/T 1 rep(22); JAS 1 rep(7); JEF 16 reps(62); TYL 8 reps(43)
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	(3-28)	HAI 6 reps(76); J/T 1 rep(3); JAS 1 rep(10); JEF 5 reps(15); TYL 13 reps(155)
THRUSH, Hermit	(10-28)	HAI 2 reps(18); J/T 1 rep(2); JEF 5 reps(35); TYL 7 reps(9)
ROBIN, American	(10-28)	HAI 4 reps(1514); J/T 1 rep(31); JAS 1 rep(19); JEF 6 reps(21); TYL 11 reps(1367)
CATBIRD, Gray	(14-28)	HAI 2 reps(2); J/T 1 rep(1); JEF 2 reps(3); TYL 1 rep(1)
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	(1-28)	HAI 4 reps(14); J/T 1 rep(3); JAS 1 rep(9); JEF 23 reps(75); TYL 9 reps(32)
THRASHER, Brown	(10-28)	HAI 3 reps(10); J/T 1 rep(3); JAS 1 rep(4); JEF 7 reps(20); TYL 1 rep(3)
STARLING, European	(1-31)	HAI 2 reps(8); JAS 1 rep(22); JEF 17 reps(939); TYL 3 reps(60)
PIPIT, American	(1-26)	JEF 5 reps(56)
WARBLER, Black-and-wh.	(12-18)	JEF-SW 12/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 12/14(1) MCO; JEF-SW 12/18(1) SM
WARBLER, Orange-crown.	(5-31)	HAI 10 reps(18); J/T 1 rep(3); JEF 25 reps(50); TYL 2 reps(3)
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	(1-26)	JEF 9 reps(22)
WARBLER, Palm	(12-14)	JEF-SW 12/12(1) JHH; JEF-SW 12/14(2) MCO
WARBLER, Pine	(2-31)	HAI 17 reps(46); J/T 1 rep(40); JAS 1 rep(5); JEF 12 reps(20); TYL 11 reps(57)
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped	(1-31)	HAI 4 reps(37); J/T 1 rep(50); JAS 1 rep(35); JEF 24 reps(130); TYL 14 reps(139)
TOWHEE, Eastern	(14-28)	HAI 12/14(5) TC04; HAI 12/14(3) TC5,6&7; JAS 12/28(2) BC4,6&7; TYL 12/14(2) TC8&10; TYL 12/28(1) BC10
SPARROW, Chipping	(2-30)	HAI 17 reps(306); JAS 1 rep(100); JEF 1 rep(20); TYL 8 reps(304)

SPARROW, Field	(18-28)	J/T 12/28(1) BC3&8; JAS 12/28(10) BC4,6&7; JEF-SW 12/18(1) SM
SPARROW, Vesper	(14-14)	HAI 12/14(1) TC5,6&7
SPARROW, Savannah	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(10); JEF 15 reps(231)
SPARROW, Fox	(14-28)	HAI 12/14(4) TC04; TYL 12/14(1) TC02; TYL 12/28(1) BC05
SPARROW, Song	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(4); J/T 1 rep(1); JEF 7 reps(15); TYL 2 reps(4)
SPARROW, Lincoln's	(14-18)	JEF-SW 12/14(1) MCO; JEF-SW 12/18(1) SM
SPARROW, Swamp	(1-28)	HAI 2 reps(4); JEF 8 reps(65); TYL 2 reps(7)
SPARROW, White-throated	(1-31)	HAI 13 reps(48); J/T 1 rep(45); JAS 1 rep(2); JEF 13 reps(38); TYL 8 reps(77)
SPARROW, White-crowned	(1-17)	JEF 3 reps(20); TYL 3 reps(22)
JUNCO, Dark-eyed	(14-28)	HAI 1 rep(4); J/T 1 rep(11); TYL 4 reps(16)
CARDINAL, Northern	(2-31)	HAI 18 reps(764); J/T 1 rep(17); JAS 1 rep(52); JEF 15 reps(33); TYL 12 reps(138)
BUNTING, Indigo	(12-12)	JEF-SW 12/12(1) JHH
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	(1-28)	HAI 1 rep(2); J/T 1 rep(60); JEF 16 reps(1219); TYL 1 rep(2)
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	(5-28)	JAS 1 rep(15); JEF 4 reps(28); TYL 1 rep(9)
BLACKBIRD, Rusty	(14-14)	HAI 12/14(5) TC5,6&7
BLACKBIRD, Brewer's	(5-5)	JEF 12/5(18) JAW
GRACKLE, Common	(2-28)	JAS 1 rep(31); JEF 2 reps(5); TYL 1 rep(40)
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	(10-10)	JEF-SRSP 12/10(6) CSX
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	(1-23)	JEF 11 reps(255)
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	(5-9)	JEF 2 reps(80)
BLACKBIRD species	(8-9)	JEF 2 reps(300)
FINCH, House	(18-31)	JEF 9 reps(15)
GOLDFINCH, American	(8-31)	HAI 9 reps(31); J/T 1 rep(38); JAS 1 rep(13); JEF 13 reps(87); TYL 6 reps(140)
SPARROW, House	(2-31)	HAI 1 rep(6); JEF 25 reps(261); TYL 1 rep(1)

Number of Species 180
Number of Individuals 62582

County Abbreviations

HAI — Hardin; J/T — Jasper or Tyler; JAS — Jasper; JEF — Jefferson; TYL — Tyler.

Location Codes

BMT — Beaumont; BTHC — Big Thicket NP - Hickory Creek Savannah; BTNB — Big Thicket NP - Neches Bottom and Jack Gore; BTTC — Big Thicket NP - Turkey Creek Unit; NEDR — Nederland; PI — Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SILS — Silsbee; SNDY — Nature Conservancy Sandyland 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; VCSP — Village Creek State Park.

Observer Abbreviations

BC01 — Beech Creek CBC Area 01; BC02 — Beech Creek CBC Area 02; BC3&8 — Beech Creek CBC Areas 3 & 8; BC4,6&7 — Beech Creek CBC Areas 4, 6 & 7; BC05 — Beech Creek CBC Area 05; BC09 — Beech Creek CBC Area 09; BC10 — Beech Creek CBC Area 10; CSX — Chuck Sexton; HJ — Harrison Jordan; HL — H. P. Langridge; HS — Harlan Stewart; J&R — Jessica and Randy; JAW — John Whittle; JBA — Joe Baldwin; JHH — John H. Haynes; JJW — John and Jana Whittle; JM — John Mariani; MCO — Michael Cooper; MRO — Mike Rogan; MTE — Melanie Tennison; RHRC — Renee Hebert and Rita Czek; SM — Steve Mayes; SMI — Shawn Miller; TC01 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 1; TC02 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 2; TC03 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 3; TC04 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 4; TC5,6&7 — Turkey Creek CBC Areas 5, 6 & 7; TC8&10 — Turkey Creek CBC Areas 8 & 10; TC09 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 9; TC11 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 11; TC12 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 12; TC13 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 13; TC14 — Turkey Creek CBC Area 14.

Christmas Bird Counts *(cont. from page 4)*

and as such many mergansers, shorebirds, gulls and terns were missed. Also, no vulture species were found on count day. We did record a Krider's Red-tailed Hawk again this season again behind the Gray Estate ranch house. A pair of Crested Caracaras was a nice find and this species also was seen on all costal counts this year. Of the unusual birds seen count day, a Stilt Sandpiper marked the second time in 10 years that this species was found. A lone male Vermilion Flycatcher was a nice find making it the third in 10 years. But a rarer find was the Couch's/ Tropical Kingbird seen on another part of the Gray Estate. One of the many oddities of the day was the total absence of American Robins, making it the first time we have not seen this species. But we record two Tufted Titmouse, one each by two separate groups the first for this costal count. We also recorded a lone Harris's sparrow, our first ever. An equally good find was a pair of Fox Sparrows seen on a back chenier behind the ranch house that was keeping company with male and female Eastern Towhees. Blackbirds and their kin were in usual numbers. Thanks again to all our land owners for access, and to all participants.

Participants: Steve Mayes, Sherry Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Ken Sztraky, John Whittle *Ken Sztraky*

Orange County Christmas Bird Count 1 January 2014

This season's count total of 124 was slightly less than our past 12 year average of 126 species. In our constant search for land owners a new area this season yielded two new species, Field Sparrow and House Finch, both not seen elsewhere this day. Duck species were down this season but we did add a new one in 11 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks; this species was seen on all our local counts – range expansion? This addition made up for the rare miss of Wood Duck.

Heron species and numbers were ok and it seems the Entergy's large numbers of Black-crowned Night-herons have moved to the LaQuinta in Bridge City as only one was seen at Entergy. Hawks numbers were normal with the Crested Caracara being tallied again. This species was also seen on all our local Christmas Bird counts. Rails and Gallinules were average, but not a single American Coot was found, they seem to all be somewhere else this year. The new spoil area helped in the search for shore birds with good numbers and species. Our winter resident Lesser Black-backed Gull was seen again on the same post and spot as four of the last five years.

Hummingbirds were absent this season a rare miss, We generally get one species. Woodpeckers and Starling and Eastern Bluebirds numbers are doing great all taking advantage of the dead trees due to past storms. Tree Swallow numbers were up from the past few years hinting at a large roost in the nearby area. Resident and wintering woodland birds species were average. Sparrows and blackbirds were on average but we failed to find any Eastern Meadowlarks this season, a rare miss.

Participants: Bruce Bishop, Sherry Roden, Sherry Gibson, Keith Hackland, Steve Mayes, John Haynes, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Ken Sztraky, Jana Whittle, John Whittle.

Ken Sztraky

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Brown Pelican

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

Unfortunately, almost all the local and regional telephone Rare Bird Alerts have been discontinued in favor of various Internet distribution.

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> Email alerts are also available for a fee. Most rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include all recent postings. Postings for the last two weeks are also available at <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/TX>.

Transcriptions of many current and recent email alerts are available on the Siler's Birding on the Net at <http://birdingonthe.net/hotmail.html> Detailed information (maps and text) on birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast is also available on the Web at <http://www.texasbirding.net..>