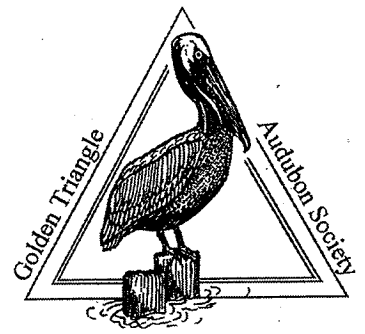


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 22 No. 9

September 2016

Membership Meeting
Thursday September 15, 2016 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Antarctica
Hon. Milton G. ("Mickey") and Jenny Shuffield

The Antarctic continent at approximately 5.4 million square miles has a land mass that is larger than either Europe or Australia. (The Arctic includes no land and is merely frozen ocean.) Ice, averaging 6,200 feet thick, covers 98 percent of Antarctica, excluding only the northernmost reaches of the Antarctic Peninsula. Antarctica is governed as a condominium by the 1959 Antarctic Treaty System, signed by the 12 originating nations, and subsequently by 38 others.

Wildlife includes four or five species of nesting penguins, as well as several species of seals and Right, Blue, Sei, Humpback, Minke, Fin, Sperm and Killer (Orca) whales. Some species of albatrosses, petrels, skuas, gulls and terns nest on the rocky shores during the Antarctic summer (our winter). This program will illustrate some of the birds and mammals of Antarctica seen on a photography trip with a National Geographic guide in 2015.

The Hon. Milton Shuffield is presiding judge of the 136th Civil District Court in Beaumont. Before becoming judge in 1995, he practiced for 14 years in civil litigation with Mehaffy & Weber (1981-1992) and Bernsen, Jamail & Goodson (1992-1995). He is Board Certified in Personal Injury Trial Law. Jenny Shuffield is active in conservation in Southeast Texas, and in the Magnolia Garden Club.

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. 22, No.9 September 2016
Issue number 231

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. Changes will always be posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. Confirmation of the location will also normally be available at the Membership Meeting that is usually, but not always, two days prior to each trip, or by contacting Field Trip Committee chair, Steve Mayes at 409-722-5807 or sgmayes@hotmail.com.

Saturday September 10, 2016. Sabine Woods Work Day. We are planning a Work Day subject to conditions (weather, insect population) being acceptable. The large amount of rain in this summer resulted in luxuriant growth of both ground cover and shrubs. We have been able to have the "outside" areas brush hogged, but the trails need much attention. Other particular needs this time will be riding mowers that will pass through the wider trails, but we will also need loppers to cut back the vegetation on the sides of the trails. If you have hip or chest waders and a willingness to do some relatively light pruning on trees in the large pond, we will be able to use you. Please put this date on your calendar and help us if you can. We do realize that scheduling these work days is very difficult, and this is the only Saturday in September that we have not scheduled something ourselves or is a holiday weekend. Sabine Woods is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on Highway 87. We will start around 7:30 a.m. and work till about noon.

Membership Meeting. Thursday September 15, 2016. Antarctica by Mickey and Jenny Shuffield. More details on p.1

Jefferson County Fall Migration Count. Saturday September 17, 2016. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for details.

Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch. Saturday September 24, 2016. Our leaders will be there from about 8:30 a.m. This trip will be one week later than our normal field trip

schedule. Hopefully, this will be close to the peak of this year's Broad-winged Hawk migration, but there will always be some hawks. Days following a shift of winds to the north are often very productive. Any day from now through mid or late October should produce some migrating hawks

To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 1/2 miles (four miles past the access road for Anahuac NWR) until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 (south) another 14 miles to Smith Point. At the end of FM562, there are usually signs to the Hawk Watch. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left, bearing left again to the parking area next to the Hawk Watch Tower on the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. This Field Trip is much more a come and go as you wish trip, and help on hawk identification is always available on the tower!

Our leaders may lead a group into the nearby woods looking for migrants, but you may stay on the tower if you wish. Mosquitoes are not normally a problem on the tower, although they almost always are in the woods. Availability of food and fuel is limited or non-existent in Smith Point, so bring your lunch!

The Smith Point Hawk Watch is conducted every day from August 1 through the end of October by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments over the last few meetings **We need volunteers to bring items for all remaining fall meetings.** Pick the meeting at which you want to help. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate. Even if you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 (or email her at janafw@aol.com) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can.

Thursday October 20, 2016. Membership Meeting. Subject: Trinity River NWR. Details in future issues.

Saturday October 22, 2016. 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. The deli is no longer open. Bring drinks.

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.

Thursday November 17, 2016. Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner. Bring your favorite bird photos.

Saturday November 19, 2016. 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.com.

Field Trip to Liberty-Dayton Area 13 August 2016

Despite less than favorable weather forecasts, 13 members and friends assembled in downtown Liberty with nothing more alarming than a rather dull overcast sky. As always on this trip, one of the prime targets is Swallow-tailed Kite, so the assembled group returned to their vehicles and proceeded west along Highway 90 to Dayton. Unfortunately no kites were seen either on the outbound or return trips on this busy road, or from quiet Texaco Road, which goes a couple of miles south from Highway 90 just west of Liberty. So, after using the marvels of modern communications equipment to corral a couple of vehicles that had become separated from the main body of the group, we proceeded north along Main Street out to the second location often favored by the kites, Liberty Municipal Park. None were visible there either.

So, thinking perhaps the overcast had kept the kites in their night-time roosts a little longer than usual, the group set out to explore the Trinity River National Wildlife Refuge's Knobby Knees trail, which starts at the northeastern edge of the park. Before we even got away from the parking lot, we had three active Pileated Woodpeckers on the light poles. On the edge of the pond adjacent to the beginning of the trail were a white immature Little Blue Heron as well as a Snowy Egret. A Great Egret and an Anhinga, the first of at least three seen during the day, flew by. The trail showed much evidence of having been under four or five feet of water earlier in the summer, and there was little understory. We proceeded quite a distance before we started to locate any birds. A White-eyed Vireo loudly announced its presence. Moving a little further to the point where the recently constructed boardwalk begins, we found a hotspot of activity. A pair of Prothonotary Warblers, a

Northern Parula, a Tufted Titmouse, a Carolina Chickadee, two Yellow-billed Cuckoos and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher all showed themselves. Another White-eyed Vireo and a more distant Red-eyed Vireo were heard along with an Acadian Flycatcher and a Carolina Wren. The canopy blocked most view of the sky, but Mississippi Kites were seen a couple of times, as well as one or two Wood Storks.

A quick trip round the pond in the park produced a lot of Northern Mockingbirds, and a number of Mallard like ducks, and other ducks of questionable genetic purity. A rather swan-like white goose was also non-countable. On the way out of the pond, a young Mississippi Kite was located in a high bare branch of a tree near the gate.

We decided to make another run on Highway 90 between Liberty and Dayton, and about half-way along, a Swallow-tailed Kite was seen low over the Trinity River bottomlands. Unfortunately, not all of the birders were able to get on it. For such a large bird, the kites can disappear from view very quickly as they descent to close to the tree tops. This was a disappointing result, both in its disappearing from sight so quickly, and in its being the only Swallow-tailed Kite seen. In many past years we have seen several and for much better views. Perhaps many of the kites were already well south of the United States. Next year, we must schedule this trip earlier in August!

Those who paused at the Wood Stork roost on Highway 90 just east of the Liberty County line in the early morning on their way to Liberty were disappointed to find only two Wood Storks rather than the 200 that had been seen in prior days.

Continued on page 7

Here Are the Biggest Changes to the AOU Checklist of North American Birds

By Kenn Kaufman

For serious birders in North America, it's become a July tradition to wait for the annual supplement from the AOU Checklist Committee.

For everyone else, the geeky statement above needs some explanation. The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Checklist of North American Birds was first published in 1886. For the last 130 years and through seven editions, it's served as the official authority on classification and names of all bird species on this continent. That redbird you're seeing in the backyard is officially called the Northern Cardinal (scientific name: *Cardinalis cardinalis*) and it's classified in the family Cardinalidae. Why? Because the AOU Checklist says so. When it comes to communicating about birds, it's incredibly helpful to have one standardized list of labels.

Yet names do change sometimes—and so do entire species. Half a century ago, that red bird was just called a "Cardinal"; its scientific name was *Richmondia cardinalis*, and it was classified in the family Fringillidae. The changes reflect how our understanding of birds and their relationships is always improving. The AOU Checklist Committee (technically the Committee on Classification and Nomenclature—North and Middle America) receives formal proposals based on published research, which they then consider and approve only if the evidence is compelling enough.

The most recent edition of the AOU Checklist was published in 1998. In the time since, the committee has issued numerous updates to keep up with the amount of research that'd been released. Since 2002, these supplements have been published annually in the July issue of *The Auk*, the journal of the American Ornithologists' Union.

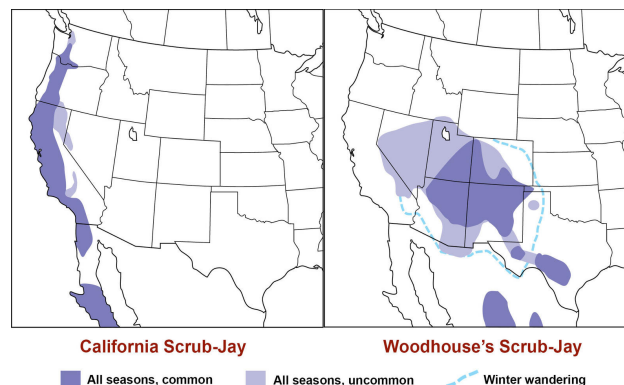
This year's supplement included some major changes in the sequence of birds on the list (yes, the order matters, but more on that later). But for most birders, the biggest news involves a couple of species "splits" and some changes in names.

New Species

Western Scrub-Jay is now split into two species: the California Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) and Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma woodhouseii*). Birders have long recognized that these widespread western jays come in different flavors: a darker, more rich color in California, Oregon, and southwestern Washington, and a somewhat paler, grayer type in the interior West, from Nevada east to Texas. Many field guides already illustrate them separately as "coastal form" (or "Pacific form") and "interior form." They do hybridize where their ranges come together in western Nevada, but studies have shown that such interbreeding is very limited. So now they will be officially recognized as separate species.

Birders who have traveled widely in the West have probably seen both of these already, and will net an automatic "armchair lifer" from the decision. If you've

already seen them, you can go ahead and count them.



Leach's Storm-Petrel is now being split into three species. Most of the ones off the coasts of the U.S. and Canada will continue to be called Leach's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma leucorhoa*). But two forms nesting off the coast of western Mexico are now treated as distinct species: Townsend's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma socorroensis*) and Ainley's Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma cheimomnestes*). Both nest on very small islands off the south end of Guadalupe Island, far off the west coast of Baja. So far, Ainley's Storm-Petrel hasn't been recorded north of the Mexican border. Townsend's Storm-Petrel has been seen in waters off southern California, but identifying it is a major challenge.

Fewer Lumps

One item that the committee was considering was a formal proposal to combine Common Redpoll and Hoary Redpoll into one species. The writing has been on the wall for some time, and there's plenty of evidence for lumping them. The committee, however, decided to hold off on this decision and to examine the evidence for another year. So we have at least one more winter of struggling to ID these tricky feeder birds.

Different Pecking Order

Among the biggest changes in the list—and among the hardest for non-scientists to understand—involve changes in the sequence of orders, families, and species.

Typically, the list is arranged with the most ancient forms at the beginning and the most recent ones at the end; but any linear list is going to be unrealistic, because evolution doesn't proceed in a linear way. Still, the goal is to go from primitive to advanced, with closely related forms nearer to each other on the list.

At one time, the arrangement was based on superficial similarity. More recently, DNA testing has made it possible to measure the relationships among different species, families, and orders, and this has led to major shakeups in the order of the list. Consider the sequence of bird families between the turkeys and the trogons of North America.

Previous sequence

1. Loons
2. Grebes
3. Flamingos
4. Albatrosses
5. Shearwaters & Petrels
6. Storm-Petrels
7. Tropicbirds
8. Storks
9. Frigatebirds
10. Boobies & Gannets
11. Cormorants
12. Anhingas
13. Pelicans
14. Herons, Egrets, & Bitterns
15. Ibises & Spoonbills
16. New World Vultures
17. Ospreys
18. Hawks & Eagles
19. Rails, Gallinules, & Coots
20. Limpkins
21. Cranes
22. Stilts & Avocets
23. Oystercatchers
24. Plovers
25. Jacanas
26. Sandpipers
27. Jaegers & Skuas
28. Auks, Murres, & Puffins
29. Gulls, Terns, & Skimmers
30. Pigeons & Doves
31. Cuckoos
32. Barn Owls
33. Typical Owls
34. Nightjars
35. Swifts
36. Hummingbirds

New sequence

1. Flamingos
2. Grebes
3. Pigeons & Doves
4. Cuckoos
5. Nightjars
6. Swifts
7. Hummingbirds
8. Rails, Gallinules, & Coots
9. Limpkins
10. Cranes
11. Stilts & Avocets
12. Oystercatchers
13. Plovers
14. Jacanas
15. Sandpipers
16. Jaegers & Skuas
17. Auks, Murres, & Puffins
18. Gulls, Terns, & Skimmers
19. Tropicbirds
20. Loons
21. Albatrosses
22. Shearwaters & Petrels
23. Storm-Petrels
24. Storks
25. Frigatebirds
26. Boobies & Gannets
27. Cormorants
28. Anhingas
29. Pelicans
30. Herons, Egrets, & Bitterns
31. Ibises & Spoonbills
32. New World Vultures
33. Ospreys
34. Hawks & Eagles
35. Barn Owls
36. Typical Owls

[Ed.note: The ducks, geese and quail still come first before any of the families listed.]

Notice some differences? The kicker is that this is just a fraction of the changes on the list. Several songbird families, including wagtails and pipits, true finches, and the House Sparrow and Eurasian Tree Sparrow, were moved to a new position after the Olive Warbler and before the longspurs. Species have also been rearranged within the sandpiper family, and a few were moved around in the vireo family and in the New World quail family.

There are further classification changes south of the border as well (the area covered by the AOU Checklist extends down through Panama and the Caribbean). For example, in Mexico and Central America, the Blue-crowned Motmot, Plain Wren, Three-striped Warbler, and Gray-necked Wood-Rail were all split into multiple species. Birders venturing into the tropics now have even more species to chase!

Fresh Names

Detailed studies sometimes lead to changes in scientific names—new information may show that a bird should be classified in a different genus. Common names are also tweaked at times to better capture the spirit of the species. Changes in English names include:

Green Violetear (*Colibri thalassinus*) becomes the **Mexican Violetear**. This actually reflects a species split as well. The birds found from Costa Rica southward into South America are now split into a new species called the Lesser Violetear (*Colibri cyanotus*). The Mexican Violetear, common in the mountains of Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras, often wanders north into the United States and has even reached Canada several times.

Sky Lark (*Alauda arvensis*) becomes the **Eurasian Skylark**. (There are established populations around Victoria, British Columbia, and strays often appear in Alaska.) This name is already in use elsewhere in the world, and it helps to reflect this bird's kinship to another *Alauda* species, the Oriental Skylark, of southern Asia.

Orange Bishop (*Euplectes franciscanus*) becomes the **Northern Red Bishop**, which is what it's called in its native Africa. Feral populations of this bird are locally common in southern California, and are sometimes seen around Houston and Miami. Most of us don't count these pockets of bishops on our life lists yet, but if they become firmly established, we'll know what to call them.

(Posted on the National Audubon web site 11 July 2016)

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats and High Island -- 20 August 2016

A week of rain grudgingly gave way to a pretty decent looking Saturday just in time for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's August field trip to Bolivar Flats. After being cooped up for some long the fifteen birders who turned out for the trip were eager to see some birds and the flats never disappoints! There aren't many spots that can always guarantee good numbers of birds but Bolivar Flats is one of them and the group quickly took advantage.

It all starts with shorebirds at Bolivar Flats so a Long-billed Curlew near the parking area was a good way to begin. The long, curved bill is the eye catching feature on this, our largest shorebird. The group also was able to make good comparisons between the curlew and its closest local relative the Whimbrel. Though smaller than the curlew with a shorter bill, the Whimbrel could still be mistaken for it without careful observation. Luckily, one of the curlews present insisted on chasing a Whimbrel around allowing anyone to see the structural and color differences in the species. Sanderlings were present in good numbers as is usually the case here with most already in their pale winter plumage. A Wilson's Plover was spotted allowing looks at the large bill that easily separates it from the other small plovers and further exploration down the beach found several others of this species. Speaking of the other small plovers, all three were eventually found. Semipalmated Plovers were common and easy to locate but Snowy Plover was scarce and Piping Plover was perhaps not quite as abundant as is often seen here. Also, no banded plovers were detected on the day which is a bit unusual for recent years.

Ruddy Turnstones, one of our most colorful shorebirds were present though not in large numbers but large, long billed Marbled Godwits were well represented. Noisy Willets were no trouble to find while a couple of Spotted Sandpipers far down the beach near the water's edge were only seen by part of the group. "Peep" sandpipers are notoriously difficult to identify but a little studying allowed the group to find Least, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers. Short-billed Dowitchers were present feeding in the shallow water of the flats while Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets were more easily located in a wet area along Rettillon Road. This spot also produced both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs.

But shorebirds are not the only reason to visit Bolivar Flats. Dark and white morph Reddish Egrets did their feeding dances in the surf. Mottled Ducks were gathered in good numbers along Rettillon Road and a Clapper Rail was incredibly cooperative near the edge of the flats. All of the usual terns were present with Royal especially in good numbers but larger Caspian Terns were also found and there were still several tiny Least Terns around. A Black Tern (no longer in all black plumage) was spotted along with a couple of Common Terns and the similar Forster's Terns. A couple of Sandwich Terns disappeared soon after being spotted but Gull-billed Terns were much more cooperative. A flock of Black Skimmers loafing on the beach was a nice find. The usual summer gulls were found including lots of Laughing Gulls and fewer Herring and Ring-billed Gulls. A nice surprise was a

single first year Lesser Black-backed Gull. No trip to Bolivar Flats would be complete without a few Horned Larks and the group eventually got glimpses of a couple of these birds but they did not make it easy! The larks insisted on darting along and through the edges of thick vegetation making only quick looks possible but the birder's patience was eventually rewarded.

Moving on from the flats has its own rewards as there are other great birding areas nearby. A Magnificent Frigatebird was present at the lunch stop. Bob's Road produced a number of good birds including Little Blue Heron and an immature Crested Caracara. A Green Heron was flushed when the group first pulled up while Brown Pelicans soared by overhead. The best find here was a pair of Redheads in one of the ponds on the road. Not that unusual for the date and location but still a nice bird to see in the summer.

With Frenchtown Road and Rollover Pass producing little, the birders were on to the sanctuaries in High Island. August may still seem like summer in southeast Texas but to the birds it is the start of the fall migration so songbirds were now on the agenda. The first stop was Boy Scout Woods but it proved to be pretty quiet. Some patient birding produced Inca Dove and a couple of Hooded Warblers but not much else. Moving on the Smith Oaks, the rookery provided lots to look at for the remaining birders. The nesting trees were still filled with Neotropic Cormorants, Roseate Spoonbills and Great Egrets trying to finish off raising a last brood of chicks. A few Common Gallinules were also trailing youngsters while the Black and Turkey Vultures soared overhead looking for an easy meal. A Louisiana Waterthrush (or two) were heard and eventually seen along with the usual Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays. It looked like it would be pretty thin on warblers at this spot too but, just before the group left, an active flock appeared! Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Yellow Warblers soon gave way to Hooded Warbler and Black and White Warbler. Sorting through more of the flock soon produced American Redstart and Kentucky Warbler as well. Throw in a couple of young White-eyed Vireos and it made a great end to an excellent day of birding!

Southeast Texas has many excellent birding sites but there are few better than Bolivar Flats. When one adds in all of the other nearby birding areas, the possibilities are magnified. Shorebirds, gulls, terns, raptors and songbirds can all be present in good numbers. Even in August (not exactly the best time to be outdoors in this area), there is good birding to be had. So get out and enjoy the beginning days of "fall" migration and maybe all the rain will at least cancel out the heat!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders: Mottled Duck(15); Redhead(2); Pied-billed Grebe(3); Magnificent Frigatebird(3); Neotropic Cormorant(62); Brown Pelican(46); Great Blue Heron(3); Great Egret(16); Snowy Egret(22); Little Blue Heron(1); Tricolor Heron(4); Reddish Egret(6); Cattle Egret(10); Green Heron(2); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron(3); White Ibis(3); Roseate Spoonbill(30); Black *continued on page 7.*

Bird Sightings – August 2016

For this column, we review, looking for rare and very rare species, all credible eBird and other records for the Texas counties we have always covered – Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine and Tyler. We also review, looking for very rare or vagrant species only, records for Chambers, Galveston (High Island and Bolivar only) and Liberty Counties in Texas, and Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes (west of the Calcasieu River only) in Louisiana.

The format of the listing is Species – Date – County-more precise location if available – (number) – Observer(s) with sometimes a comment on the reason it is noteworthy other than being a rare species for the area.

Commentary: A very slim list this month, mostly of early fall migrants in the early part of the month. Remarkably few migrant species are rare in the second half of August, even though birder activity is usually not great. In addition, because of Labor Day and the very early date of our September meeting, it was necessary to close this section for press on August 25. Anything noteworthy reported in the last few days of the month will be included in next month's column.

Our immediate area is not the only area in the region that has apparently breeding Least Grebes. There is photographic evidence of young birds and nesting in both El Franco Lee Park in Houston, and on Davis Estates Road near Brazos Bend State Park in Fort Bend County.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Least Grebe	Aug 1-17+	JEF-TP (5) J&L Bryan, HS, JHH, JJW, JM, Mike Rogan, SH
Osprey	Aug 10	JEF-SRSP (1) SH
	Aug 17	JEF-McFaddin NWR (1) Art MacKinnon
	Aug 19	JEF-SW (1) JHH (rare summer)
Swallow-tailed Kite	Aug 1	TYL-US287 S of Woodville (1) Cynthia Worthington, Bob Delinger
	Aug 4	JEF-Nederland (1) SM
Swainson's Hawk	Aug 7	JEF-Pt Arthur (1) SM (rare)
	Aug 7	JEF-WJC (1) RL (rare summer)
Red-tailed Hawk	Aug 8	TYL-Lake Hyatt (1) SH (rare)
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Aug 7	JEF-WJC (1) RL (v. early fall)
	Aug 11	JEF-Doguet Turf Farm (43) JHH
Pectoral Sandpiper	Aug 11	JEF Doguet Turf Farm (75) JHH
Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird	Aug 17-20	JEF-Nederland (1 fem) SM
Tree Swallow	Aug 3	JEF-TP (13) HS (rare summer)
	Aug 7	JEF-SW (2) SM

Bachman's Sparrow	Aug 1	HAI-BTNP-Turkey Creek Unit (2) Cynthia Worthington, Bob Delinger
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Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Red Knot	Aug 16	GAL-Ft Travis (17) Laura Wilson
	Aug 19	GAL-BF (2) Fred Collins
Baird's Sandpiper	Aug 16	GAL-BF (1) Lawrence Hailer
Lsr. Black-backed Gull	Aug 20	GAL-BF (1) GTAS Field Trip
	Aug 21	GAL-BF (1) Joe Fischer
Western Kingbird	Aug 7	GAL-BF (1) Todd White

Abbreviations used: ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BF – Bolivar Flats; BTNP – Big Thicket National Preserve;; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; JM – John Mariani;; RL – Randy Lewis; SH – Sheila Hebert; SM – Steve Mayes, SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TYL – Tyler County; WJC – West Jefferson County.

Bolivar Flats *(continued from page 6)*

Vulture(6); Turkey Vulture(17); Accipiter sp.(1); Broad-winged Hawk(1); Clapper Rail(1); Common Gallinule(4); Black-necked Stilt(15); American Avocet(10); Black-bellied Plover(12); Snowy Plover(2); Wilson's Plover(8); Semipalmated Plover(20); Piping Plover(2); Killdeer(4); Spotted Sandpiper(4); Greater Yellowlegs(1); Willet(22); Lesser Yellowlegs(10); Whimbrel(4); Long-billed Curlew(4); Marbled Godwit(15); Ruddy Turnstone(8); Sanderling(30); Least Sandpiper(10); Semipalmated Sandpiper(2); Western Sandpiper(12); Short-billed Dowitcher(10); Laughing Gull(35); Ring-billed Gull(1); Herring Gull(1); Lesser Black-backed Gull(1); Least Tern(19); Gull-billed Tern(2); Caspian Tern(6); Black Tern(9); Common Tern(2); Forster's Tern(5); Royal Tern(40); Sandwich Tern(2); Black Skimmer(30); Eurasian Collared-Dove(4); Mourning Dove(7); Inca Dove(4); Yellow-billed Cuckoo(1); Common Nighthawk(3); Ruby-throated Hummingbird(2); Downy Woodpecker(1); Crested Caracara(1); Empidonax sp.(1); Eastern Kingbird(1); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher(3); Loggerhead Shrike(1); White-eyed Vireo(2); Blue Jay(4); Horned Lark(2); Carolina Wren(3); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher(3); European Starling(25); Louisiana Waterthrush(2); Black and White Warbler(1); Kentucky Warbler(1); Hooded Warbler(3); American Redstart(1);

Yellow Warbler(2); Seaside Sparrow(1); Northern Cardinal(9); Eastern Meadowlark(2); Great-tailed Grackle(10)

Steve Mayes

Field Trip to Liberty-Dayton *(cont. from p.7)*

Less surprisingly, there were none there on the way back. However, both times, the Doguet Turf Farm on Highway 326 at Highway 90 produced a good number of shorebirds, mostly reasonably near the road. There were over 30 Upland Sandpipers, over 30 Buff-breasted Sandpipers and a slightly smaller number of Pectoral Sandpipers feeding in the grass.

Species seen or heard on Field Trip (in Liberty-Dayton area only). Wood Stork, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, White Ibis, Glossy/White-faced Ibis, Roseate Spoonbill, Black Vulture, Swallow-tailed Kite, Mississippi Kite, Killdeer, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Prothonotary Warbler, Northern Parula, Northern Cardinal, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, House Sparrow.

John A. Whittle

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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>.