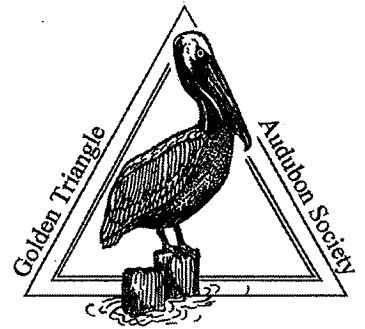


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 23 No. 7/8

July/August 2017

Membership Meeting
Thursday August 17, 2017 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Whatabirders in South Texas

Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart will be presenting photos and anecdotes on the September 2016 trip by the "Whatabirders" to the Rockport Hummerbird Festival, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and the Hazel Bazemore Hawkwatch. The seven Whatabirders include Jana Whittle, Ross Foreman, Royce Pendergast, Girish Doshi, Christine Sliva, Dana Nelson, and Harlan Stewart. The presentation will feature numerous photos by Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart of many subjects, not all avian, beginning in the early morning hour at High Island, through Galveston East Beach, Brazoria NWR, Goose Island State Park, Rockport, a Falfurrias rest stop, Bentsen-Rio-Grande Valley State Park, Santa Anna NWR, National Butterfly Center, Estero Llano Grande State Park, Sabal Palms Sanctuary, South Padre Island, Laguna Atascosa NWR, and the Hawk Watch at Hazel-Bazemore County Park. The Rockport Hummerbird Festival is well known and celebrates unique circumstance where the large population of eastern Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are funneled into the region of the Texas coastal bend during fall migration. The above national and state parks are deservedly major hotspots for birding, allowing birder visitors to observe many species unique to South Texas, such as Green Jays, Plain Chachalacas, White-tipped Doves, Groove-billed Anis, White-tailed Hawks, Aplomado Falcons, Altimira Orioles, Hooded Orioles, Olive Sparrows, and Long-billed Thrashers. The coastal bend phenomenon works for raptor just as it does for Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, allowing one to view amazing flights of large migrants, particularly Broad-tailed Hawks, at the Hazel-Bazemore Hawk Watch.

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.

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Important Note: Field Trip notices published here should always be regarded as needing confirmation just before the date. 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 August 5. Field Trip to Liberty-Dayton Area. During the first half of August each year, Swallow-tailed Kites congregate in the Trinity River bottomlands between Liberty and Dayton for two or three weeks before they migrate south for the winter.

We will meet at 8:00 AM at the McDonalds at 1923 Highway 90 in Liberty. This is on the north side of the Highway at the intersection with Travis Street, one block west of Main St/Highway 227. Carpooling is highly desirable on this trip. The part of the trip looking for kites does not **necessitate** extensive walking, although the group will probably do quite a bit on the trails. The trip will probably not last much beyond noon.

We will check the area along Highway 90 between Liberty and Dayton, perhaps several times, and also the Liberty Municipal Park area. Recently, there have been trail improvements and a new boardwalk has been constructed so that a section of the Trinity River NWR can be easily accessed from the Park. We will check that area for early southbound migrants. In addition to the Swallow-tailed Kites, there are usually Mississippi Kites flying low in the residential areas of Liberty north of US 90. Depending on how wet the area is, there may be other birds characteristic of bottomlands.

For more information, contact Steve Mayes (sgmayes@hotmail.com or 409-722-5807).

Thursday August 17. Membership Meeting. Program will be on a birding trip to South Texas by Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart. See page 1.

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. **We need volunteers to bring items for all 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.

Saturday August 26. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. Meet the leaders at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats at 8:30 a.m. Take Highway 124 south from Winnie about 20 miles through High Island. At the shoreline, turn right along Highway 87 and proceed approximately 25 miles through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you come to the intersection with Loop 108. At that intersection, turn left (south -- the opposite direction from Loop 108) on Rettilon Road to the beach. If conditions permit, drive onto the sand and turn right to the vehicle barrier (about 1/2 mile). It is about a 90-minute drive, with no allowance for stops, from Beaumont or mid-County to the Flats.

You will need a Galveston County Beach Parking Permit, obtainable for \$10 from most merchants on the Peninsula, to park on the beach.

Saturday September 16. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count. This is an all-county count. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com) to offer to help or for more details.



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

Spring 2017 Migration – Sabine Woods

We present here our annual review of spring migration. In recent years, we have focused exclusively on Sabine Woods as the only coastal location that, post the 2005 and 2008 hurricanes, has attracted enough migrants to be birded often enough to make meaningful review and analysis possible.

We employ a methodology unlike that used anywhere else that we are aware of that attempts, to the extent practical, to exclude duplicate sightings of the same birds on the same day. Over the last few years, participation in eBird has increased to the extent that virtually all sightings by birders who keep records are entered into it. We therefore reviewed all plausible entries in eBird from March 1 to May 31 showing Sabine Woods as the location. For each day, we first enter the sightings of migratory species on checklists posted by our core group of local birders into our spreadsheet, entering only the highest number for any given species reported on any of their checklists. There are usually at least three such checklists, except on the fringes of the migration season. We then review all the other checklists in eBird for Sabine Woods for the date, looking for additional species and any numbers that are higher than those already on our spreadsheet. Any such potential additions are reviewed for plausibility, eliminating any from checklists that show numbers for all species that are in excess of those shown by other checklists for the date, and any from checklists that include species that are both highly unlikely in Sabine Woods for the date and not reported by any other birders. It should be noted that this methodology will still count a bird present over several days once each day. Although not included in the spreadsheet, it is easily seen in cases like the Cape May Warbler that stayed four days that it results in four "sightings." No doubt there are many instances when birds remain overnight and are counted on two or more days, but we have no way of even estimating the "duplicate counting" that results.

We include "migratory" species, by which we mean birds that are not normally seen year round at Sabine Woods. This includes winter residents, true Neotropical migrants, and species breeding close to the coast, but departing in winter. We do not include species that do not frequent either the woodlot or nearby grassy areas at Sabine Woods. Some species are excluded because their normal foraging and migratory patterns make it unlikely that the sightings at Sabine Woods are consistent from day to day, week to week or season to season, or their appearances are in the nature of "casual" or "accidental" in the normal terminology of bird listings. We will, however, almost always make mention of these rarities in the narrative accounts. While we do include a few grassland species such as buntings, we generally do not include in the spreadsheet waterfowl, hawks, shorebirds, gulls and terns, swallows, wrens or sparrows.

We have data for Sabine Woods going back to 1996, but our data sources have expanded significantly over the last few years. We believe that it is reasonably valid to look at first of season and last of season dates for the past four years or so, with some allowance for occasional sightings well outside the normal core migratory window as defined by

sightings of multiple birds. Attempting to evaluate the numbers of any given species is much more difficult. First and foremost, sightings at Sabine Woods are highly influenced by local weather conditions that can materially increase or decrease the numbers of migrants electing to stop over. In our analysis, we do make mention of some comparisons of numbers but these should be treated as anecdotal and not scientific.

First, we take an overall look at the season as seen by birders. There is little doubt that the first half of the season, through mid-April or a little beyond was disappointing to say the least. In mid-March, a high pressure dome brought several days of winds over the Gulf with a northerly component, and there were reasonable numbers of birds in the Woods, from March 12 through March 16, especially March 16, but these birds were quick to leave. There followed a long spell when, for the most part, fronts failed to penetrate south to the coast. A cold front that stalled along the coast on April 11 brought a lot of Vireos and Warblers (following larger birds the previous day). Many left that night, but more arrived as the front pressed offshore the next day. A cold front that pushed through the night of April 22/23 brought what number wise was probably the heaviest arrival of the season. A cold front that rapidly pushed offshore the night of April 26/27 passed too late to cause the flight on April 26 to pause at the coast, but birding was good on April 27. The wind changed quickly back to southerly, and the birds mostly left that evening. An eastward moving north-south cold front early on April 30 brought strong north winds resulting in arrivals all day. A similar front on May 3/4 apparently resulted in late evening arrivals May 3 that were still present the next day. A late cold front on May 12/13 brought an unusually heavy number of migrants in the Woods. Conventional wisdom is that so late in the season, the driving force for migrants to reach their breeding grounds further north is strong enough to cause them to press on northwards despite somewhat adverse winds. As always, attempts to analyze the potential arrival of migrants must take into account the weather over the entire Gulf, and especially at the jumping off points, presumed to be along the Gulf shores of the Yucatan Peninsula. And on top of that, one would like to be able to know something about the number of migrants waiting to leave the Yucatan, presumably dependent on the weather conditions between the wintering sites in Central American or northern South America along the route to the Yucatan.

Overall, the number of birds of the species we track seen in the spring 2017 season at Sabine Woods was only about two-thirds of the number in 2016, and in our commentary, we allow for this reduced total. We do not suggest that these data indicate that the actual populations have all significantly decreased, as weather is such a variable factor. Comparisons with earlier years are hindered by the absence of strictly comparable data for those years, with significantly less birder effort. It appears that the totals in 2014 and 2015 were somewhat higher than in 2017. Many of the species that were not in reduced numbers this spring were among the later migrating species, likely influenced by a couple of late

weather induced groundings and accompanying increased birder effort and counts. When we refer below to relative numbers, we mean numbers adjusted to reflect the lower overall bird count for the season.

Local birders at often want to know about "unusual" migrants. Four confirmed birds stand out this season. Two are always "expected." A male Black-throated Blue Warbler was seen April 19 and 20. A report for April 30 is without details and unconfirmed. A beautiful male Cape May Warbler was seen by a large number of birders April 20 through 23. Less expected were a somewhat shy Yellow-green Vireo April 22 through 30 (and presumably the same bird June 8 and 9), and a Black-whiskered Vireo May 4 and 5. Several observers reported seeing two simultaneously. Other species seen in such small numbers that they are not shown in the spreadsheet included Great Kiskadee (March 7, April 13 and April 19), Couch's Kingbird (April 22 and 23), and Lesser Nighthawk (May 1). An unconfirmed Lazuli Bunting was seen poorly on May 6. Only six reports of Black-billed Cuckoo were reported (April 24, 27, 29, May 4, 5, 10). Three species that were uncharacteristically rare were Chuck-will's Widow (April 7, 30, and May 5), Prairie Warbler (April 23 and May 6), and Wilson's Warbler (confirmed on April 13 and 14, and reported without details or confirmation on April 19, 21 and May 8). A Western Tanager with an eye injury was present May 2 to 4. Finally, flyover Swallow-tailed Kites were seen March 7, April 13 and 19. The numbers and dates of other species, especially warblers that are present in ones and twos almost every spring are detailed in the narrative below.

April 8 was a little late for the first Yellow-billed Cuckoos, while the first Common Nighthawk on April 11 was right on time. Anecdotally, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were few in number and all gone very early. Normally, the last straggler leaves in early May. This year's last sighting was April 23, and even that was unconfirmed.

Olive-sided Flycatcher sightings are difficult to evaluate because of possible misidentification of somewhat vested Eastern Wood-Pewees. Reports in Sabine Woods on April 23, 24, 26 and 27 are without details, while reports from multiple observers from May 5 on are in the normal migration window. Numbers were good if all reports are valid. We often joke that the first Eastern Wood-Pewee in April pushes out the last Eastern Phoebe. The first pewee was few dates late. Phoebes were in high number, while pewees were normal. Empidonax flycatchers are notoriously difficult to identify. If anything, there were far fewer Acadian Flycatchers than usual, and fewer reports of other Empidonax in April, although extreme care has to be exercised in identifying Empids other than Acadians in April. Two freakishly early Great Crested Flycatchers on March 2 and 3 were followed by a normal rest of the season, although the date of the first spring sighting on this species varies quite a bit. Eastern Kingbirds were on schedule and more numerous than last year.

While White-eyed Vireos can be seen (and heard) throughout the year at Sabine Woods, precluding any analysis of their migration timing. Most found are migrating birds, and the numbers appear to have been reduced over previous years. Yellow-throated Vireos started early, but

were not particularly numerous. Blue-headed Vireos exhibit a bifurcated migration window with a second push, usually during the second and third weeks in April, presumably a population breeding further north. The "gap" was not quite as pronounced this year, although the numbers seen were high. Warbling Vireos were on schedule, but with several early outliers. As seems to be usual common, one early Philadelphia was followed by on-time birds in the main migration window, extending well into May. Red-eyed Vireos got off to a slow start, but overall, the numbers were high.

Most years, Ruby-crowned Kinglets leave around April 20 to 25, apart from any lingerers (that may often be physically impaired), but this year, the last confirmed report was on a very early April 14. As far as migration timing is concerned, Gray-cheeked and Swainson's Thrushes and Veeries all exhibit a very similar window, and so number can be easily compared. This spring, Gray-cheeked Thrushes passed through in, relatively speaking, high numbers, made more obvious by a shortage of Swainson's Thrushes. Veeries were also plentiful, although not quite matching last year's exceptional numbers. Nevertheless, it begins to look as if both Gray-cheeked Thrushes and Veeries are increasing, but the Swainson's Thrush populations that pass through the Woods may be decreasing. Wood Thrush numbers were significantly down over recent years, with a late start and reduced numbers over the rest of the window.

Warblers are the main attraction to many birding the Woods in the spring. There is not a lot of generalization that makes sense with this group, so we will consider most separately. Anecdotally, it seemed like a good Ovenbird year, but the total number was very significantly less than last year. Looking a little deeper, it seems that there was a late start and few birds in the early part of the window through about April 20, then the period that looked good. Worm-eating Warbler numbers were also very significantly down. The first birds were early if anything, but numbers of the species were low until the middle of April and after that dropped off quickly. Always a tricky species to analyze because of frequent misidentification by birders not thoroughly familiar with and observing all the field marks, Louisiana Waterthrushes appear to have passed through in normal numbers. Until a few years ago, it was unusual to see one after the first few days of April. In more recent years, confirmed sightings through the end of April have become commonplace. The species nests only a few miles north of the coast, and it may be that many of the April sightings are bird(s) staying multiple days perhaps evaluating the area as potential breeding territory. That having been stated, the numbers of both Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes seem normal, perhaps a little low on Northern Waterthrush.

Golden-winged Warblers are attractive warblers, eagerly sought by visiting and local birders alike. Last year was a banner year for this species. This year was more normal, but a sparse period between April 12 and 25 contributed to low numbers overall. Blue-winged Warbler numbers were markedly lower than last year, held down by low numbers in the peak of Blue-wing migration in the middle two weeks of April when weather conditions did not cause many birds to pause. Both of the hybrids between these species -- not

included in the spreadsheet – were seen. A Brewster's Warbler was seen on April 26, while a hybrid on April 12 was probably technically a Lawrence's, but likely no more than 25 percent Golden-winged. A "classical" Lawrence's was seen May 8, very late for this form.

Black-and-white Warblers can be a year-round species on the Texas coast, although the majority are merely migrants. Therefore, all we can really examine is the total number observed. The number in spring 2017 is, even when adjusted to match the decreased overall total, substantially lower than in 2016. There must be some reluctance to try to analyze Prothonotary Warbler patterns, because there are sometimes exceptionally large passages in March. A simple comparison with numbers in 2016 shows about one-half while overall migrant numbers were about two-thirds.

In recent years, we have gained experience in locating migrating Swainson's Warblers as they pass through the Woods. The year 2016 was exceptional, and the 2017 total, while impressive, was significantly lower. Tennessee Warblers are likely not to be found singly and to be high in the trees, but are relatively easily counted nonetheless. The numbers in 2017 were very similar to 2016 and the migration window was similar to the previous three years. Determining when the last Orange-crowned Warbler, a wintering species in the area, left is complicated by the difficulty in separating Tennessee and Orange-crowned Warblers. The latest Orange-crowned that was corroborated was on April 14, rather earlier than usual, although the accuracy of the historical record may not be great. Nashville Warbler is a circum-Gulf migrant, and therefore rare in the spring at Sabine Woods. In addition, it is subject to misidentification. There are reports of single birds on April 14, 17 and May 1, and two on April 30. The last three are corroborated by multiple reports. Mourning Warblers are also circum-Gulf migrants and very late migrants as well. Reports from April 30 and May 10 were corroborated or supported by details, while reports on April 27 and May 5 are not. All reports were of single birds.

Kentucky Warblers tend to skulk and are likely undercounted as a result. However, this applies each year, so does not explain the greatly reduced numbers reported compared to 2016. A major factor appears to be the complete absence of any before April 14. Hooded Warblers are one of the commonest migrant warblers, and can typically be found through the season. Numbers in the first three weeks of March were relatively low, but overall, numbers were fairly normal when adjusted for the overall migrant totals. American Redstarts, as a later migrating species not expected before the second week of April, were only a day or two late in first appearing and present in normal relative numbers thereafter. The single Cape May Warbler has been referred to above.

Cerulean Warblers are highly sought after and usually in very small numbers from April 6-12 to April 24-27. This year's appearance of birds on May 5 and 7 was unusual. The total season number was quite low. Northern Parulas are often the first true migrant warbler to appear, and can often be found into May. Numbers in 2017 were quite normal. The appearance of Magnolia Warblers signals that the second half of spring migration is upon us. Excluding a few early

arrivals, the bulk of the species usually passes through starting in mid-April. In 2017, the first confirmed report was not until April 25, and the season total was relatively a little low. Historically, Bay-breasted Warblers pass through in the narrowest window of any reasonably common species. However, in recent years, that window appears to be widening with birds reported this year from April 23 through May 14, with an outlier on May 23. This is relatively similar to the window over the previous three years, April 20 through May 14. The relative total was a little low, with April 30 and May 13 being the only days reaching double figures.

The 2017 season was very normal as far as Blackburnian Warblers, both in the range of dates and the overall number. Yellow Warblers did not seem to be particularly numerous this spring, but when the sightings are reviewed, it can be seen that the first sighting on April 7 was completely normal and the relative total close to last year's. Chestnut-sided Warblers always seem to send two or three in advance of the main push, but both occurred noticeably later this year. Overall relative numbers increased to close to last year on the back of large numbers during the two May frontal events.

The appearances of Blackpoll Warblers over the longer term have been very enigmatic. Large numbers one year, very few the next. Spring 2016 was a year in which there were two days which, for the species, had unusually large numbers but otherwise it was hard to find. This year, the overall numbers were low, but spread more evenly over the second half of April as "normal." The one confirmed Black-throated Blue Warbler (present two days April 19-20) is mentioned above. Palm Warblers, both the yellow Eastern form and the more common (in this area) Western form winter along the coast, and so can be found until they depart by mid-April. As usual, wintering birds are supplemented from mid-March on by birds, presumably birds migrating north from wintering grounds further south. Numbers last year were quite low, this year's were similar.

Yellow-rumped Warblers, when both Myrtle and Audubon's are considered, are probably the most numerous warblers in the United States; certainly they are in this area. As a wintering species, all we can meaningfully look at are the dates the last ones are seen in the spring. And we must do that with caution, as with a species present in such large numbers, the probability that one or more have become physically impaired and unable to leave is greatly increased. Most leave by about the end of the third week in April and the April 18 last sighting this year was about normal. The overall number was somewhat low, even on a relative basis, although much of that may be due to the low number of migrating birds that stopped off during the first part of the season, as bird wintering further south overflowed along with the other migrants. No Audubon's Warblers were reported this season.

Yellow-throated Warblers have a wide migration window, and in addition, breed only a few miles north of the Woods. Add to that, the fact that a very few of the species winter along the Gulf coast complicates any analysis. This spring, the first birds were seen earlier than usual in March and sightings continued well in April as usual, but overall

relative numbers were less than last year. Two sightings of Prairie Warbler, a circum-Gulf migrant were reported on April 23 and May 6.

Some winters, a very few Townsend's Warblers winter along the Gulf coast, but this year, there were no sightings of the species in Sabine Woods or anywhere else along the Gulf coast for that matter. Only a very few Black-throated Green Warblers appeared this year before April 19, making a very late start for the heart of the species' migration window. However, good numbers from then on brought the relative total up to a little over normal. The normal migration route (circum-Gulf or trans-Gulf) of Canada Warblers is not clear, and it may be that some birds follow a modified trans-Gulf route "cutting the corner" of the western Gulf. However, it is clear that the species migrates later than almost all others; only Mourning Warbler may be later. In recent years, an early outlier has often preceded the heart of the migration window, but this year the first sightings were April 24 followed by the usual patterns of sightings every few days through the middle of May, resulting in a relatively high total. Because of confusion with female and even young male Hooded Warblers, reports of Wilson's Warbler need to be treated with caution. A few years ago, Wilson's Warblers wintered in Sabine Woods, but recently, the species has become only a rare migrant at the Woods, confirmed this year only on April 13 and 14 as noted above.

Finally, despite being recently removed from the warbler family, most birders will continue to regard the Yellow-bellied Chat as a "near-Warbler." Highly secretive, but quite characteristically vocal, the species is likely quite accurately censused during migration. Numbers in spring 2017 were quite low, but the migration dates were very normal.

As far as tanagers are concerned, it used to be normal for Summer Tanagers to arrive at least a week before Scarlet Tanagers. This year, as in recent years, both species have been arriving almost on the same day. In 2017, both were first reported on April 1, with heaviest migration in late April, about normal. Overall, relative numbers, especially of Scarlet Tanager, were higher than normal.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks can be relied on to arrive April 8 or 9, with an occasional earlier bird some years. This season was no different, and the overall relative totals were higher than normal. Although there were no early outliers this year, Blue Grosbeaks were plentiful from April 8, peaking markedly in the last week of the month. The total number reported was almost twice the previous year. Indigo Buntings frequent the grassy areas at Sabine Woods in large numbers. The first birds were quite late, April 5, as opposed to the normal last week in April, but numbers thereafter were high, totaling more than 700 over the seas, about half as many again as normal. Painted Buntings are a target bird for many birders and Sabine Woods is a good place to find them. The first birds on April 11 were only a day or so later than normal, and again season total was close to one and a half times what would normally have been expected.

Orchard Orioles breed in the Woods, so only arrival dates can be meaningfully reviewed. A report from March 16 is accompanied by a photograph that is unfortunately not clear enough to exclude it being the female Baltimore Oriole that had been present for several weeks and seen well March 4.

Apart from these, Orchard Orioles arrived on schedule in late March, and higher than normal numbers were reported. The first regular migrant Baltimore Oriole was seen April 10, about a week later than normal, but overall, numbers exceeded those of 2016.

We are grateful to all those who entered their sightings into eBird. Our base numbers are compiled from the checklists of local birders who are able to bird the Woods frequently: Michael Cooper, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, John Mariani, Steve Mayes, John Whittle. In addition, we reviewed checklist posted by the following: Jim Ackerman, John Alexander, John Allendorf, Mike Austin, Jessica Barry, Chris Bergmann, Sara Bettencourt, Angela & Chris Bailey, Noreen Baker, Lynn Barber, Mary Ann Beauchemin, J. Berner, Ron Berwick, Gary Binderim, Jean Booth, Justin Bosler, Joanne Bradbury, J & L Bryan, Martin Byhower, Arlene Cain, Donna Cannon, Kris Cannon, Chuck Carlson, Blaine Carnes, Amber Carver, Chris Charlesworth, Sheridan Coffey, Janet Cook, Paul Cordero, Zekiel Cornell, Jeff Corcoran, Gary Davidson, Haward Davis, Carla Dengler, Drew Dickert, Andrew Dickinson, Sandy Dillard, Dianne Duke, Philip Edmundson, Bill Eisele, Sue Elliott, Kathy Ellwood, Frank & Margaet Farese, Eric Faria, Erich & Luella Fickle, Tony Frank, Richard Fried, Sidney Gauthreaux, Myron Gerhard, Doug Ghrist, James Gil, Larry Goodman, Caleb Gordon, Christian Gras, Dean Gregory, Mary Gustafson, Lisa Cancade Hackett, JoAnn Hackos, Carla & Bill Hall, Alician Hall, Donna Hall, Andrew Hamlett, Susan Haney, Peggy Harding, Ken Hartman, Cathy Hay, Rhandy Helton, Janie Henderson, Jodi Henricks, Lisa Holmes, Joseph Hood, Jim Hoverson, Carole Hughes, Eugene Huryn, Jesse Huth, Imre Karafiath, John Kathy Keagle, Denise Kelley, Jared Keyes, Gary Killick, Kendra Kocab, Suska Kocis, Michael & Sarah Kuzio, Eleanor Kwik, Judson Lassiter, Dominic Le Criosette, Jason Leifester, Jan Liang, Duke Liebler, Judy Lin, Stephan Lorenz, Eric Lutomski, Art MacKinnon, Lisa Madry, Robbin Mallett, Karen McBride, Bonnie McKenzie, Sonya Mendoza, Paul & Colette Micallef, Leo Miller, Sam Miller, Mark Martucci, Mark Meyer, Tyler Miloy, David Moffat, Jason Multerer, Jenn Murphy, Derek Muschalek, Anne Mytych, Janet Neath, Laure Neish, Jean Nichols, Janel Nye, Lisa Owens, Sandy Parker, Ceri Pearce, Anne Pelletier, Nan Perkins, Tim Perkins, Sue Peters-Ferree, Jim Peterson, Joseph Pimentel, Carl Poldrack, Tom Pollock, Ilya Povalyayev, Gene Prejean, Nancy Radding, Martin Reid, Albert Ribes, Florence Rice, Kenneth Rieger, James Rieman, Barrett Riess, Robbie Robertson, Carrie Robinson, Mike Rogan, Michelle Rometry, Karen Rubinstein, Chris & Cassidy Ruge, Nina S, Ben Sandifer, David Sarkozi, Mark Scheuerman, Alan Selin, Rick Shaw, Ryan Shaw, Dennis Shepler, Jana Singletary, Ray Steelman, Mark Stratton, Jeremy Stringfield, Rebecca Suomala, Sandi Templeton, Robert Thacker, Felicia Thomas, David Tobias, Fermin Torrez, Kirsten Tucker, Jenny Vogt, Deb & Lee Wallace, Michael Walter, Ron Weeks, Gary Yoder, Sheri Weisiger, Carol Wells, Todd White, Kimberly Williams, Laura Wilson, Terry Wilson, Michael Womer, Janey Woodley, Bill Wright, Linda Wygoda, Aaron Yappert, Fred & Kay Zagst.

John A. Whittle

Spring 2017 Migration -- Sabine Woods

	MARCH																													TOT
	1	2	3	4	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	30					
Green Heron														1						5		2	2	1			11			
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron						3				8	3		8		2		2		20	4							39			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo																														
Common Nighthawk																														
Chimney Swift						1														2							3			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird													1		2	1				5				1	1		11			
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker			2	1		1				1	2		1	1	2	1		1		2							12			
Northern Flicker		1	1	1	3	1	1			1	1		1	1		1	1		1	2							15			
Olive-sided Flycatcher																														
Eastern Wood-Pewee																														
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher																														
Acadian Flycatcher																														
Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)																														
Least Flycatcher																														
Empidonax sp.																														
Eastern Phoebe	2	4	5	5	4	6	5	5	5	6	6	2	5	7	5	5	1			1	1					1	69			
Vermilion Flycatcher																														
Great Crested Flycatcher		2	1																								3			
Western Kingbird																														
Eastern Kingbird																	2			5	1	2	4		3	17				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher																					1	1			1	3				
White-eyed Vireo			2	1		6	2	4	1	3	3	2	7	2	2	12	2	1		4	2	1			1	52				
Yellow-throated Vireo					1			1		3	4	1	2	2	1			1		3				1		13				
Blue-headed Vireo			3	6	3	5	5	4	2	4	6	3	4	3	3	4			2	1	2			1	1	52				
Philadelphia Vireo																														
Warbling Vireo																														
Red-eyed Vireo																						1					1			
Northern Rough-winged Swallow						1	2	2												23	5	4				37				
Purple Martin					2	2	3	4	1				2	2		10			1	8	3	3	4			45				
Tree Swallow			15	75	21	35	25	50	20	26	18	25	20	15	65	45	75	15	35	75	100	30	40	15	12	808				
House Wren				1		1		2	1	1					1	1	1			1						9				
Winter Wren					1		1					1			1					1		1				6				
Carolina Wren			1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1			1	1	1	1		1	25				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1		5	11	6	6	8	7	5	5	8	6	70	5	1	20	3		2	8	2			3	2	171				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet			16	8	8	14	9	10	12	10	14	6	28	12	35	30	6	3	4	12	6	4	2	3	4	232				
Veery																														
Gray-cheeked Thrush																														
Swainson's Thrush																														
Hermit Thrush				2		1	2	8	1	2	1			1		1		1	1	1	2	1				21				
Wood Thrush														1	1								1			3				
Gray Catbird				1		2		1				1			3					2	1				1	12				
Cedar Waxwing			15	1				1	10						22											49				
Ovenbird																										1				
Worm-eating Warbler																1				2		1	1			5				
Louisiana Waterthrush			1					2		5	6	3	4	1	2				1	6	2	1				23				
Northern Waterthrush																				1						1				

Spring 2017 Migration -- Sabine Woods

	MARCH																												TOT
	1	2	3	4	7	8	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	21	23	24	25	26	27	29	30	30				
Golden-winged Warbler																													
Blue-winged Warbler																													
Black-and-white Warbler			3	3	3	2	6	2	2	4	5	2	8	2	1	2	2		1	5	1	2	1	2	1				
Prothonotary Warbler																			1										
Swainson's Warbler																				1	1		1						
Tennessee Warbler																				x?									
Orange-crowned Warbler			6	5	7	8	6	6	5	6	8	5	8	7	4	6	5	1	1	6	3	1		2	3				
Nashville Warbler																													
Mourning Warbler																													
Kentucky Warbler																													
Common Yellowthroat	1			2	2	3	2	3		2	3	1	3	3	3	5	2	1	1	2	4	2	1	3	3				
Hooded Warbler						4							1	1		1	1			5	3	4	2	2	1				
American Redstart																													
Cerulean Warbler																													
Northern Parula			1		5	6	8	8	3	10	17	3	21	10	6	8	1	2	1	7	3			3	1				
Magnolia Warbler																													
Bay-breasted Warbler																													
Blackburnian Warbler																													
Yellow Warbler																													
Chestnut-sided Warbler																													
Blackpoll Warbler																													
Palm Warbler			1				1						4	1	2	2	3		1	6	3	3	1	2	2				
Yellow-rumped Warbler	8		25	30	23	45	55	64	25	35	30	19	95	20	18	18	8		15	50	20	16	21	18	12				
Yellow-throated Warbler				2		1	1	1		2	4	1	2	1						2									
Black-throated Green Warbler													2			1				2									
Canada Warbler																													
Yellow-breasted Chat																													
Lark Sparrow																													
White-throated Sparrow			3	3	4	2	5	6	3		2		14	3	2	1	3		2	5	3			3	2				
Lincoln's Sparrow														2	1				1		1		1						
Summer Tanager																													
Scarlet Tanager																													
Western Tanager																													
Rose-breasted Grosbeak																													
Blue Grosbeak																													
Indigo Bunting																1				7	2								
Painted Bunting																													
Orchard Oriole													1?							2	2		1	1					
Baltimore Oriole				1																									
Totals All migrants - text	15	19	131	184	109	192	178	230	111	166	180	113	376	150	198	218	139	37	103	322	218	113	95	80	71	3280			

Spring 2017 Migration -- Sabine Woods

	APRIL																													
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Green Heron		1	1				3	1	25	1	6	1	1	9	3	5	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	3		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron				1		1	1									1	1			1	3	1		1	1	1	3	1		
Yellow-billed Cuckoo							2	2	2	1	5	2	2	3	8	6	2	1	2	3	8	4		4	3			3		
Common Nighthawk										1		3	2	1	1	3	2	1	1	2	2	3	2	2	5	2	2	3		
Chimney Swift					1			2			1	11	2	4	2		3		1					1	2	1		5		
Ruby-throated Hummingbird				1				1	2	8	25	2	3	2	3	2	3	1				2	1	2				3		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker					1		1										1					1?								
Northern Flicker																														
Olive-sided Flycatcher																						1?		1?	1					
Eastern Wood-Pewee										2	3	1	2	2	3	2	2	1		1	2	1	4	5	4	1	1	15		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher																														
Acadian Flycatcher										1	1						1					1	1		1	3		2		
Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)																														
Least Flycatcher																										1				
Empidonax sp.											1					1						2		1	1			1		
Eastern Phoebe																							1							
Vermilion Flycatcher														1																
Great Crested Flycatcher				2	2	2	1			1	3	2	2	2	1	2	4	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	2	3	3		
Western Kingbird													1												4	2	2			
Eastern Kingbird	5	3	5	2		8	12	9	21	20	6	4	8	10	14	8	6	6	10	6	16	6	9	6	15	8	6	16		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher			4						2	2	1		2					1			1	1		1	1		1	2		
White-eyed Vireo					2	4	10			1	8	3	3		1	3	3	1						1	4			1		
Yellow-throated Vireo					1	1	3		2	20	10			2	2	4						2	2			1		2		
Blue-headed Vireo	1		1	3	3	2	2	1		2	2		1	2		1		2								1		3		
Philadelphia Vireo												1																6		
Warbling Vireo				1	1	2				1	1					1						3	3	2	1	5		10		
Red-eyed Vireo						10	10	1	7	75	45	2	3	4	13	14	2	1		2	100	45	6	5	11	1		10		
Northern Rough-winged Swallow				3	2		2				2		7	14	20	35	18	7	25	30	35	13	29	15	16		15	20		
Purple Martin	3	2	3	6	3	3	10	5	15	2	3	2	4	2				5	1		2		2	3	14	3	3	5		
Tree Swallow	20	10	35	26	25	25	26	17	18	20	50	26	20	18	20	150	15	20	52	25	30	8	5	4	20	1	7	25		
House Wren					1	1				1		1																		
Winter Wren																														
Carolina Wren	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2		
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher				1	1	1	4			3	2	1	1			1	1	1		1	2			1	2					
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	2	2	2	2	4	11	6			2	1	1	1																	
Veery															2	2	3	3	1	5	25	12	7	2	4	1		5		
Gray-cheeked Thrush															1		3	1	1	7	35	20	5	3	7	1	2	4		
Swainson's Thrush			1				1			1	2		1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	50	21	21	11	18	3	3	16		
Hermit Thrush		1	1	1	1	2	1					1										1	1	1	1	2?				
Wood Thrush	5							6	7	1	2	2	1		1	10	1	2		1	10	14	6	3	10			9		
Gray Catbird				1	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	3	6	17	17	11	10	4	3	5	3	55	61	55	9	7		60		
Cedar Waxwing			30			12	25	50	20	65	70	15						3		15	30	50	15		20			11		
Ovenbird							1			1	4	1	1	1		1	2	1			10	7	6	5	6	1	3	11		
Worm-eating Warbler		1			1	2	1	1		6	12	4	5	2	1	2	3	2	1	1	2	2	1		3		1	3		
Louisiana Waterthrush		1		2	1	3	2	1	1	1	1?		1?	1		1	1?				2	2	2	2	2	2				
Northern Waterthrush		1							2	2	3	2	3	4	3	2	3	1	1	1	5	4	3	2	4	2		2		

Spring 2017 Migration -- Sabine Woods

	APRIL																													
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Golden-winged Warbler										1												1	2	2	1?		4			
Blue-winged Warbler			1						1	2	10	3		2	1	2				1		1			2			2		
Black-and-white Warbler		1	2		2	4	3	1		8	12	2	3	2	3	6	2	1		1	2	1		1	3	1	3	14		
Prothonotary Warbler	3					1		1		25	19	8	3	3	4	4			1	1		1			1?					
Swainson's Warbler									1	1	2	1	2	1?		1	1	1	1		1	1		1	1		1	1		
Tennessee Warbler			1							10	10		1	2	4	16	1				1	20	4	5	5	9	1	45		
Orange-crowned Warbler		1	2		2	2	1	1				1	1																	
Nashville Warbler													1		1													2		
Mourning Warbler																												1		
Kentucky Warbler											4	2	2	1		2	2					2	4	3	4	4	1	2		
Common Yellowthroat		4	3	2	4	4	8	6	2	4	3	5	2	5	5	5	3	1	9	2	3	2	6	31	60	3	2	7		
Hooded Warbler	1	2	2	1	1	3	4		4	5	22	9	5	4	5	6	5	3	1	3	8	7	5	3	5	1	1	5		
American Redstart									1	6	8	3	2	1	8	3	1	1				4	3	4	4	7	1	1	36	
Cerulean Warbler	1				1						2				1	2												5		
Northern Parula		1	1	1	2					3	4	2	1		1	2	1	1				2		1	1	1		14		
Magnolia Warbler																							1	3	6		2	23		
Bay-breasted Warbler																						2	2	1		8	2	20		
Blackburnian Warbler									2							1						2	1	1		2		14		
Yellow Warbler					1					6	2	2		8	15	4	1		1			10	4	4	7	12	1	2	14	
Chestnut-sided Warbler											1				1		1						1	1	7			27		
Blackpoll Warbler															4	1						2	1					1		
Palm Warbler		1	1			1	3	1			1																			
Yellow-rumped Warbler	35	20	10	3	12	14	2	2	1	3	2	1		1																
Yellow-throated Warbler	1					1				2	5					1														
Black-throated Green Warbler							1															4			2	5		1	80	
Canada Warbler																						1	1		1			6		
Yellow-breasted Chat							1			1	1									1	1	2	1			1		2		
Lark Sparrow																														
White-throated Sparrow	3			1	3	3	3	3		2	2		2			1								1	1					
Lincoln's Sparrow									1						1									1	4	4		1	1	
Summer Tanager	1				1	2	3	3	8	8	9	2	4	6	8	12	6	2	2	3	100	30	30	10	10	8	3	24		
Scarlet Tanager	1					7	7	4	6	15	11	4	3	12	12	9	10	2	6	10	40	17	15	10	6	2	3	15		
Western Tanager																														
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							1	1		2	4	2	1	12	9	13	4	2	4	6	45	29	26	14	24	2	4	20		
Blue Grosbeak							3		3	2	3	3	6	4	3	8	5	2	2	3	18	20	13	19	20	14	11	12		
Indigo Bunting				2	1	1	8	3	5	12	30	30	10	6	6	8	32	32	12	16	70	26	45	25	60	7	8	80		
Painted Bunting										3	1		2	4	4	2	2			1	2	1	4	11	25		2	35		
Orchard Oriole	5				1		1	3	50	10	4	8	7	26	25	22	12	35	15	30	100	42	35	35	38	5	9	22		
Baltimore Oriole									10						6	4	8	2	2	3	1	35	8	55	40	7	3	2	33	
Totals All migrants - text	110	72	131	81	119	173	231	180	254	421	483	217	189	221	269	461	240	188	212	227	901	475	481	440	651	113	151	941		

Spring 2017 Migration -- Sabine Woods

	TOT	MAY																				TOT	TOT
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	19	21	23	24	25	29	31		
Green Heron	82	4	2	3	3	2	2	1	6	5	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	1				42	135
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	17	2	1	1		1																5	61
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	63	7	2	6	4	2	1	2	2	4	3		6	5	1	8	7	4	3		1	68	131
Common Nighthawk	38	9	2	1	3	8	2	3	1	1	1	4	2	1		2	2	1		1		44	82
Chimney Swift	36	3	1		1	4	1		2			1	1				1	2				17	56
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	63	1	4		2			1				2					2	1				13	87
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	3																						15
Northern Flicker																							15
Olive-sided Flycatcher	1				1			1	1	1		1	1				1	1	1			9	10
Eastern Wood-Pewee	52	10	4	3	16	9	5	2	16	6	4	7	23	8		5	10	4	1			133	185
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher					1	1	1		1				2			1	3	1				11	11
Acadian Flycatcher	11	1	1	2	1	1	1		1				3	1		2	2	1				17	28
Alder/Willow Flycatcher (Traill's Flycatcher)		1			1								4	1			2					9	9
Least Flycatcher	1				2				1	1		1	3	1			1					10	11
Empidonax sp.	7				6	3	1		2	2	1	1	6	2		2	5	5				36	43
Eastern Phoebe	1																						70
Vermilion Flycatcher	1																						1
Great Crested Flycatcher	56	6		2	3	3	6	2	3	4	3	3	4	3	2	4	4	4		3		59	118
Western Kingbird	9	1								1			1									3	12
Eastern Kingbird	245	20		5	10	5	9	6	8	9	6	4	17	7		3	1	3	1			114	376
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	19	1			1		2	3			1							2				10	32
White-eyed Vireo	45				5	3	2	1	2				2	1		1	1	2				20	117
Yellow-throated Vireo	52	1	1		1	1	2						2	1			2					11	76
Blue-headed Vireo	27	1																				1	80
Philadelphia Vireo	16	2	1	1	6	4	2		2	2		1	7	4	1		1					34	50
Warbling Vireo	31	2			1			1	1				1									6	37
Red-eyed Vireo	367	3	4	3	6	5	10	5	26	16	2	4	18	14		10	14	6	1			147	515
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	308	10	6	7	8	14																45	390
Purple Martin	101	1		1	6	2	5	2				5	3	2		2	2	3				34	180
Tree Swallow	718	5	2		22	7																36	1562
House Wren	4																						13
Winter Wren																							6
Carolina Wren	58	5	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2		3	2	2				32	115
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	23									1		1	1									3	197
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	34																						266
Veery	72	1	5	2	3	3	3	1	2	3			4	3	1	2	2		1			36	108
Gray-cheeked Thrush	90	2	8	2	4	3	4	1	1				3	2								30	120
Swainson's Thrush	159	7	8	4	8	5	7	20	24	13	8	4	75	11	1	4	3	3	1			206	365
Hermit Thrush	12																						33
Wood Thrush	91	5	2	3	2	3	2	1	4	3	1		2				1					29	123
Gray Catbird	340	70	31	67	46	44	70	20	65	40	37	4	35	9	2	5	6	3	1	1		556	908
Cedar Waxwing	431	3			1		10	2	5				25	40								86	566
Ovenbird	62	3	6	3	6	5	3	1	7	3	2	1	1	2		2	1					46	109
Worm-eating Warbler	57					1																1	63
Louisiana Waterthrush	26																						49
Northern Waterthrush	50	1	5	1	3	2	2	2	5	4	4		2	1		1						33	84

Spring 2017 Migration -- Sabine Woods

	TOT	MAY																			TOT	TOT	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	13	14	19	21	23	24	25	29			31
Golden-winged Warbler	10	2	1		4	5	1					3									16	26	
Blue-winged Warbler	28	1			2	1	1									1					6	34	
Black-and-white Warbler	78	8	4	3	15	16	6	2		2	1	2	10	4			2				75	204	
Prothonotary Warbler	74					1															1	76	
Swainson's Warbler	16																					19	
Tennessee Warbler	135	6	5	5	16	5	1		8	4		4	7	3		1					65	200	
Orange-crowned Warbler	11				1																1	107	
Nashville Warbler	4	2																			2	6	
Mourning Warbler	1										1										1	2	
Kentucky Warbler	33	1	1	2	1																5	38	
Common Yellowthroat	191	14	4	3	5	8	8	1	2	2	3	1	4	2		3	3	2		2	67	305	
Hooded Warbler	121	1	5	2	6	3	3	1	2	1	2		1				1				28	174	
American Redstart	94	3	16	5	40	20	5		5	7	16	2	34	9		12	1	1			176	270	
Cerulean Warbler	12				1				1												2	14	
Northern Parula	39			1	4	3							5								13	149	
Magnolia Warbler	35	7	5	4	35	19	20	1	4	4	4	5	23	12		1	10	5			159	194	
Bay-breasted Warbler	35	5	3	1	7	7	6	3	1	2	3		17	6			2				63	98	
Blackburnian Warbler	25	2		1	5	7	1	1	1	1		1	13	4		1	11				49	74	
Yellow Warbler	94	3	15	5	9	3	1	1	27	20	14		1			8	2			1	110	204	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	39	3	3	4	19	10	2		1	1		1	17	5		1	7				74	113	
Blackpoll Warbler	9																					9	
Palm Warbler	8																					24	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	91	1																			1	591	
Yellow-throated Warbler	10																					21	
Black-throated Green Warbler	96	6			8	11	1	1	1	1		2	5	2			5		1		44	145	
Canada Warbler	9	2			1		2					2	1				10	5			23	32	
Yellow-breasted Chat	11	3			1	1	1									1					7	18	
Lark Sparrow		5			3	2															10	10	
White-throated Sparrow	25																					89	
Lincoln's Sparrow	13	2			1	2	1														6	25	
Summer Tanager	295	8	5	5	8	4	3		9	4	4	1	3	2							56	351	
Scarlet Tanager	227	4	11	2	8	4	1	2	3	4	1		1	2							43	270	
Western Tanager			2	1																	3	3	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	225	24	8	6	9	6	4	3	11	14	9	1	4	3		1					103	328	
Blue Grosbeak	174	20	3	2	2	3	6							1							37	211	
Indigo Bunting	535	40	14	8	31	16	20	2	25	4	4	2	8	10		1	2	1			188	733	
Painted Bunting	99	25	2	2	2	2	3		3	3	1	3		1			3				50	149	
Orchard Oriole	540	33	12	8	14	11	12	6	21	15	19	5	12	11	2	9	10	5	1	5	211	757	
Baltimore Oriole	219	23	4	35	12	3	1	1	7	8	5		3								102	322	
Totals All migrants - text	8613	534	237	238	504	349	293	117	336	226	175	141	479	184	13	117	171	90	13	23	2	4241	16134

Field Trip to Hardin County

Late in May or early in June each year, we make a pilgrimage to the southern reaches of the Big Thicket in Hardin County north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of this region. For many passerine species, this is the closest area to the cities of the Golden Triangle that they nest. This area, with mostly pine woods, but with cleared areas in the early stages of regrowth, hosts several species of migrant warblers, vireos, buntings, tanagers as well as the year-round resident woodpeckers, cardinals and other species.

Therefore, approximately 15 members and friends assembled in the north part of Silsbee early on the morning of Saturday June 3 with a view to exploring the region. As is often the case, there was the prospect of showers, especially after daytime heating gets under way, but we were able to complete our usual itinerary without the showers significantly affecting the birding. In recent years, we have first proceeded along the famous Gore Store Road. We cover this road from FM92 to the Beech Creek crossing, as the area further west is generally not as birdy, is still recovering from a fire several years ago, and the road can be either soft sand or muddy. A lot of the birding in the area is by ear. It was not long before everyone knew the calls of Hooded Warblers and White-eyed Vireos, but two or three Hooded Warblers uncharacteristically perched where they could be seen. The White-eyed Vireos were not as cooperative. A couple of Swainson's Warblers, one of the target species for this trip, were glimpsed as well. Even a Pine Warbler posed for us. Of course, Cardinals, American Crows, Blue Jays, and Mourning Doves were around, and less expected were a Mississippi Kite and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron.

We descended down to the Beech Creek bridge, and spent some time there, as it has always in past years produced a good variety of birds. The birds were a little slow to appear this year, but interesting none the less. A number were heard only. Most notable were a Hairy Woodpecker and a Kentucky Warbler, the latter not very cooperative. Prothonotary Warbler this year was represented by a heard only bird. A pair of Great Crested Flycatchers was normal there, but the usually reliable Acadian Flycatcher was slow to appear.

The pine trees along Camp Waluta Road have grown quite tall, and the bird life there reflects that. Pileated Woodpeckers could be heard calling. However, the somewhat open area at the entrance to Camp Waluta at the end of the road produced

two Brown-headed Nuthatches and another Great Crested Flycatcher.

We then proceeded to the other famous road in the area Firetower Road. This road was originally called Smart School Fire Tower Road, but that won't fit on any standard street sign, so it was shortened. The habitat on the road is now mostly monocultures of same-age slash pines, although there are always a few areas recovering from clear cutting. We were finally able to persuade two Prairie Warblers to ascend to visible perches in a section of young pines. A Brown Thrasher was also seen. The southern part of Matigwa Road has become a must stop part of any birding trip down Firetower Road, and it did not disappoint this year. A male Prothonotary Warbler, rather far from any water we could see, put on a good show. We also found a male Blue Grosbeak. We heard two Yellow-breasted Chats, but we did not see them. Perhaps they had heard the American Ornithological Society (successor to the AOU) was about to expel them from the Warbler family! Calling Wood Thrush and Indigo Bunting plus more visible Prairie Warblers and an Orchard Oriole rounded out the other notable finds along this road. The southern part of Firetower Road was disappointing, and the Field Trip came to an end as rain threatened.

Birds Seen: Cattle Egret (8); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (2); Black Vulture (1); Turkey Vulture (3); Mississippi Kite (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (2); Broad-winged Hawk (1); Mourning Dove (5); Eastern Screech-Owl (1); Chimney Swift (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Hairy Woodpecker (1); Pileated Woodpecker (2); Acadian Flycatcher (1); Great Crested Flycatcher (3); Eastern Kingbird (2); White-eyed Vireo (14); Red-eyed Vireo (3); Blue Jay (2); American Crow (3); Purple Martin (3); Barn Swallow (1); Tufted Titmouse (1); Brown-headed Nuthatch (2); Carolina Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1); Wood Thrush (1); Northern Mockingbird (1); Brown Thrasher (1); Prothonotary Warbler (2); Swainson's Warbler (5); Kentucky Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (1); Hooded Warbler (19); Pine Warbler (6); Prairie Warbler (3); Yellow-breasted Chat (4); Northern Cardinal (8); Blue Grosbeak (1); Indigo Bunting (3); Orchard Oriole (2); House Sparrow (1).

John A. Whittle

Sentences for Killing Whooping Cranes

Jefferson County Case

On July 13, in a hearing to revoke probation for numerous violations including illegal hunting, U.S. Magistrate Judge Zack Hawthorn sentenced Trey Joseph Frederick, III to 11 months confinement in Federal prison, one year supervised release in addition to the standard and special conditions of his original sentence for his violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act on January 22, 2016 by killing two Whooping Cranes of the Louisiana flock. The only exception is that he waived the 200 hours of community service. The reason for waiving the

community service is that he wants all of his time, when he is released, spent working to obtain the money to pay the original restitution of \$12,907.50 each to the International Crane Foundation and to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation. Kudos to The Honorable Joe Batte, the prosecuting attorney and to the US District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, The Honorable Magistrate Judge Zack Hawthorn for pursuing this case and seeing that justice was served. The sending of letters and the courtroom *continued on page 7*

Bird Sightings – June and July 2017

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

Peninsula 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)

Commentary: The summer doldrums!

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Gadwall	Jul 30	JEF-TP (1) HS, Gary Kelley
Green-winged Teal	thru Jun 17	JEF-TP (2 on Jun1, 1 thru Jun17) HS, (crippled birds)
Common Loon	Jun 11	JEF-Port Acres (1) Steve Mayes
Least Grebe	thru Jul 30	JEF-TP (up to 10) HS, SH et al
Swallow-tailed Kite	Jun 5-13	JEF-Nederland (1) Steve Mayes
	Jun 15-Jul 10	ORA-Vidor (1) SH, Neil Cotham
	Jun 20	JEF-Beaumont (1) Paul Simpson
	Jul 8	JEF-Beaumont Pine Is Bayou (1) Jana Winberg
	Jul 24	JEF-Beaumont, Delaware St (1) JB
	thru Jul 27	JEF-Nederland, Doornbos Park area (up to 3) and Nederland Ave/Gaga Ave area (1) mult obs
	Jul 29	JEF-Beaumont, TX105 (2) (JB)
Cooper's Hawk	Jun 17-Jul 9	JEF-Groves (1) Howard Davis
	Jul 6	JEF-Beaumont, Leffler Park (1) Sheila Hebert
Wood Stork	Jun 3	HAI-Old Sour Lk Rd (3) SH
	Jun 6	ORA-Claiborne West Pk (26) Sheila Hebert
	Jun 28	JEF-Hwy 90 Nome (177) SH
	Jul 5	JEF- Hwy 90 Nome (50) JJW
Crested Caracara	Jun 10	HAI-Old Sour Lk Rd (1) SH
Merlin	Jun 2	JEF-FM1009 (1) John Whittle (imm)
N. Rough-wing. Swallow	Jun 17-Jul 16	JEF-TP (up to 116) HS, SH
Tree Swallow	Jun 1-Jul 18	JEF-TP (up to 2) HS
	Jun 9	JEF-Beaumont (6) SH
Bank Swallow	Jul 18	JEF-TP (1) HS
	Jul 30	JEF-TP (2) HS
Cave Swallow	Jun 3	HAI-FM770 (1) Bob White
	Jun 27	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (3) John Mariani
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Jun 9	JEF-SW (1) JHH

Yellow-green Vireo	Jun 8-9	JEF-SW (1) JHH et al
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Jun 8	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Swainson's Thrush	Jun 8	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Cedar Waxwing	Jun 18	JEF-Groves (8) Howard Davis
Magnolia Warbler	Jun 8	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Yellow Warbler	Jun 8	JEF-SW (1) JHH

Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Surf Scoter	May 30-Jun7	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Katie Barnes
Common Loon	Jun 11	GAL-Bob's Rd (1) Michelle Summers, Laurie Lawler
Wood Stork	Jul31	CHA-ANWR (14) JAW
Northern Gannet	Jul 22	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Kathleen Nelligan (immature bird)
Glossy Ibis	Jun 1	CHA-ANWR (1) John Whittle
	Jul 16	CHA-ANWR (1) Kris Petersen
Franklin's Gull	Jun 2	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover
Great Kiskadee	thru Jul 22	CHA-Augusta St, Northpoint (1) Carl Poldrack et al
Fish Crow	Jun 4	CHA-Beach City (2) Carl Poldrack
Cape May Warbler	Jun 2	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover (female)
Savannah Sparrow	Jul 28	CHA-ANWR-Willow trail (1) Kyle Jones

Abbreviations used: ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BF – Bolivar Flats; BTNP – Big Thicket National Preserve; CAL – Calcasieu Parish; CAM – Cameron Parish; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAW – John Whittle; JB – Jessica Barry; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; JM – John Mariani; LIB – Liberty County; MC – Michael Cooper; NEDR – Nederland; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur; RL – Randy Lewis; SAB – Sabine County; SH – Sheila Hebert; SM – Steve Mayes, SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TH – Thomas Hellweg; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TXPT – Texas Point NWR; TYL – Tyler County; WJC – West Jefferson County

Whooping Cranes *continued from page 6*

attendance of members of the Golden Audubon Society, the Houston Audubon Society as well as the International Crane Foundation were recognized by Judge Hawthorn in supporting his decision. Special thanks to those who attended the various hearings. We understand that the Jefferson County District Attorney, Bob Wortham is considering pursuing a state case against Frederick for hunting while his hunting license was revoked or denied. It is important that we have a letter writing campaign on that matter. His mailing address is: Honorable Bob Wortham, Criminal District Attorney, 1085 Pearl Street Suite 300, Beaumont, Texas 77701.

Louisiana Case

A Gueydan man pleaded guilty on July 7, 2017 in Federal Court in Lafayette for migratory bird violations that occurred in Vermilion Parish. Judge Carol B. Whitehurst of the Western District Court accepted the guilty plea of Lane T. Thibodeaux,

21, for taking a whooping crane for which there is no season, taking migratory game birds out of season, from a moving vehicle and without a Louisiana hunting license, and wanton waste of migratory game birds. [This occurred on or before November 4, 2014 in Gueydan, Louisiana.] Judge Whitehurst sentenced Thibodeaux to serve 45 days in Federal Prison for each of the five convictions to run concurrently and a \$2,500 fine. He must pay his fine in full within one year or he will have to serve 45 days in Federal Prison for each of the five convictions to run consecutively.

During the investigation agents also learned that Thibodeaux threatened the informants to not give any information to Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries agents about the whooping crane he shot. Agents arrested Thibodeaux on charges of felony witness intimidation on March 4, 2015 and those charges are still pending at this time. It is also reported that a drug charge will also likely be filed.

From reports by Sherrie Roden and on LABIRD.

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

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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>.