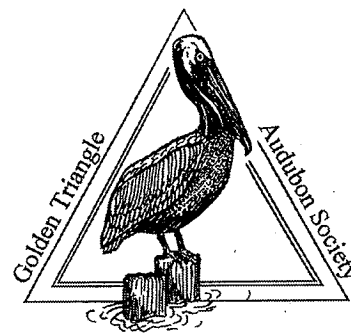


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 21 No. 11

November 2015

Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner Thursday November 19, 2015 7:00 p.m. Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Your Favorite Bird Pictures

At this meeting, we will conduct our annual elections for all officer and board positions.

We will also reinstate something we did in the past—a program where you and other members can show perhaps five to ten of your favorite bird pictures. Since we last did this, technology has changed. Instead of slides, we now have digital pictures, and the opportunity to make a quicker transition from one member's pictures to those of another. Dr. Harlan Stewart has volunteered to prepare all photos submitted in advance into a Powerpoint presentation. Each member's pictures will be prefaced by an introductory "slide" giving the member's name, and any other relevant information the member wants. This could indicate where the pictures were taken, if all at the same place, or that information can be in the caption to each picture, along with other information such as the species of the bird. The contributors of the pictures may, if they desire, talk briefly about their pictures, or they can allow the pictures to stand on their own. The pictures should be bird related, but do not need to be exhibition quality, especially if the subject is especially interesting for any reason. In order to prepare a combined presentation, we will need to have the pictures by Monday November 16. They can be emailed as attachments to Harlan at hstewartmail@gt.rr.com If necessary, send several separate emails to avoid exceeding the limits set by your email provider.

We will also be able to show Powerpoint presentations that you prepare if they are on a flash drive, are in the Powerpoint 2003 Windows format, or are a series of jpg files. Newer versions of Powerpoint do allow you to save in the older format, but some of the additional features introduced since the 2003 version will not be retained.

The Brown Pelican

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Issue number 222

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.

Thursday November 19. Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner. Featuring your favorite bird photos. See page 1 for details

Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank the following for bringing refreshments in September: Jessica Barry, Jean Beavins, Linda and Howard Davis, Girish Doshi, Sherry Gibson, Sheila Hebert, Harrison Jordan, Denise and Gary Kelley, Sherrie Roden, Phil Rogers, Christine Sliva, Joedna Smyth, and Mary and Herb Stafford **We need volunteers to bring items for the spring meetings.** (November is our Pot-luck Dinner Meeting.) Please do not wait until the last minute to volunteer! We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate. Even if you 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 November 21. Field Trip to West Jefferson County. In recent years, this has been one of our most successful field trips. The area is well known for its birds of prey, which in past years have included Bald and Golden Eagles, Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Hawks in addition to the more "normal" Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels. In some years we have seen

White-tailed Kites and Merlins. The area is well known as the wintering ground of what has become a large (about 1,000 strong) flock of Sandhill Cranes and is also one of the best places to see sparrows in the area. In wet years, and this is shaping up to be one, there can be lots of waterfowl including geese and many duck species as well as ibis and other waterbirds. Last year's trip found a Mountain Bluebird, which staying all winter and was visited by birders from all over the region, and a Couch's Kingbird.

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.

Thursday January 21, 2016. Membership Meeting. Topic: Shangri-La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center.

Saturday January 23, 2016. Field Trip. We have tentatively set this field trip for Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. We will confirm the destination a little nearer the time. We will monitor conditions and birdlife at a number of other winter birding locations in case one of them becomes especially attractive.



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

Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas Bird Counts have long been the birding highlight of the holiday season. Here are the dates of local counts.

TBA (Probably December 13 or 14.) Johnson Bayou, LA Centered on Johnson Bayou. This area of Cameroon Parish is recovering from two devastating hurricanes. This count has access to oilfield and Gray Estate properties that are not accessible any other time. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the intersection of Louisiana 82 and Parish Road 536/Middle Ridge Road – the Bayou Convenience Store and the Johnson Bayou High School are at this intersection. Contact Ken Sztraky (409-385-2835 or berrysheepfarm@att.net).

Thursday December 17. Bolivar Peninsula. High Island and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge areas. This count was compiled by Bill Graber for fifty years, and has always been among the top counts in the nation. The count circle includes High Island, Rollover Pass and all of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Contact Steve Mayes (sgmayes@hotmail.com or 409-722-5807) for assignment/meeting location and time.

Saturday December 19. Turkey Creek. Centered in the Turkey Creek unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve north of Kountze. Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on Highway 69 about 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 a.m. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193)

Monday December 28. Beech Creek. Centered in the Steinhagen Lake area of Tyler and Jasper counties. In addition to Steinhagen Lake, this count includes all of Martin Dies State Park, and the Corps of Engineers picnic areas and campgrounds around the lake. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic area on FM92 immediately north of Town Bluff. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193).

Wednesday December 30. Trinity River. This count includes the Trinity

River NWR, Tarkington Prairie and Gaylor Lake. Contact: Stuart Marcus (stuart_marcus@fws.gov or 936-336-9786) for meeting place information.

Friday January 1, 2016. Orange County. This count includes much of Orange County between Orange and the Neches River, including Bessie Heights and the Old River Unit. Meet at the gas station at the intersection of FM1442 and FM105 in Orangefield at 7:00 a.m. Contact Ken Sztraky (berrysheepfarm@att.net or 409-385-2835)

Sunday January 3, 2016. Sea Rim SP. Sabine Pass/Texas Point/Sea Rim area. This count is sponsored by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. The count circle includes the southern part of Murphree Wildlife Management Area, all of Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge and Sea Rim State Park, the eastern part of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge as well as Sabine Woods, the Sabine Pass area and a small section of extreme western Cameron Parish including the lighthouse. We can make much better assignments if you contact us at least two or three days in advance of the count. If not already assigned to a group, meet in the parking lot of the Sabine Pass Community Center, located at the stop sign on Highway 87 at 7:00 a.m. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193)

Houston Audubon maintains an excellent list of all Texas CBCs on their web site at

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1149/MenuGroup/CBC.htm>

If you have any difficulty with this long URL, simply enter "Christmas Bird Counts" in the search box on their home page, and select 2015-16 CBCs.

Christmas Bird Counts are all day events in which participants identify and count all the birds they can find in a 15-mile diameter circle, most groups birding from dawn to dusk. Christmas Bird Counts are free and most, including all local counts, are open to anyone. However, in the case of some of the counts with many participants

(Bolivar Peninsula and Sea Rim SP are in this category), it is often difficult to accommodate participants who show up without advance notice in a way that is satisfactory to all and provides the best possible experience for the participant. Such counts are organized into groups in advance and many of the groups go straight to their assigned areas. In most cases in such counts, it is easier to adjust if someone (area leaders excepted!) who has indicated their probable participation in advance is forced to withdraw than to add someone to a group on the morning of the count.

Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships are now on a calendar year basis. Membership dues remain at \$15 per year. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred), use the membership blank on the back page of the hard copy version or simply mail to us at PO Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627.

Dues for all members will be for the period ending on December 31. The memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar year. For new members joining National Audubon using the membership blank printed on the back page of each printed issue of the *Brown Pelican*, we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

Your dues cover the cost of printing and mailing the *Brown Pelican* to you, and help fund our other activities. We urge you to help us do more by receiving your *Brown Pelican* as a PDF attached to an email if you do not already. We will continue to post the Newsletter on the GTAS website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. The typical issue is currently less than 500 KB, although we are now including added additional materials to the electronic version and plan to include pictures in the future, both of which may increase the file size slightly.

What's a Chimney Swift without a Chimney?

North Carolinians are taking big steps to protect their swifts from becoming homeless.

By Jennifer Huizen



Chimney Swift

September 15, 2015

Every September, at dawn and at dusk, Chimney Swifts fill the skies in a one-of-a-kind performance. The birds funnel in and out of the chimneys where they roost, sometimes in flocks of thousands. It's a dizzying display—one that's become scarcer in the last few decades.

The current global population of Chimney Swifts is believed to be around 15 million. Though that may seem large, it's much smaller than historical counts. Between 1966 and 2007, the number of Chimney Swifts in the United States declined 53 percent. During the same time, Canada's population dropped 90 percent. The downward spiral is due to a housing crisis: Chimney capping and a large-scale switch to other heat sources has robbed the birds of their homes—and their namesake. Meanwhile, logging and farming operations are decimating their wintering sites in the tropics.

But conservation pioneers at the Wake Audubon Society in North Carolina are working hard to find homes for their local swifts, whose numbers dipped by 16 percent between 2003 and 2013. After three years, \$36,000 out of pocket, and almost \$50,000 in donations, the group is celebrating the completion of a 30-foot brick structure at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences' Ecostation in West Raleigh. "Time is of the essence," Rick LaRose, the president of Wake Audubon, says. "No other species of American bird is so dependent on humans, our homes, and the physical structures we provide."

The new Prairie Ridge Roost Tower, one of the first of its kind, can accommodate thousands of swifts, says John Connors, a Wake Audubon board member since 1976 and recently retired educator for the museum. What sets it apart from previous projects is that it's specifically built for large flocks of roosting birds. "Researchers in Texas had already built nesting sites, so we wanted to test new waters," says John Gerwin, an ornithologist with the museum and treasurer for Wake Audubon. The tower, which could become a key rest stop for migrating birds, already has other conservation groups talking. Connors says that researchers from Quebec and New Brunswick have reached out to get advice on their own swift housing projects.

Right now there aren't any birds occupying the Prairie Ridge Tower, and it could take a few years to establish a colony. But Gerwin is hopeful; he says that a pair of swifts nested in the tower soon after it was completed. "Now it's a matter of advertising." One way to lure in new tenants is by using sound recordings from swifts—a "vacancy" sign of sorts. Gerwin says he's already noticed birds checking out the site.

Opportunities to view the birds will continue around Raleigh through September and into October, when the birds set off on their migration to the Amazon. And even though the swift-watching parties will die down next month, the volunteers at Wake Audubon have made it clear that their endeavors are far from over. The plan now is to build smaller nesting towers around the main tower and landscape with bird-friendly plants. Gerwin says the main structure could become an observation point for scientists who want to study swift flocks. He also wants to install web cams (pending funding) in the near future.

Connors points out that people can make a difference at home, too. Homeowners can remove chimney caps during nesting season, for instance. For residents who don't have an existing chimney, DIY nesting towers are an option. And anyone who already plays host to the acrobatic birds can help out simply by letting them be: "Fighting to keep existing swift sites is the way to go—if only for costs alone," Connors says. Meanwhile, Gerwin says he's in it for the long haul—a drastic change of heart for the long-time ornithologist. "I wasn't convinced these [once-]common birds deserved time out of my busy schedule, but really, they're holdouts linked to humans," he says. "Today we're kicking them out of their homes during development projects aimed at cleaning up our cities, but there are ways to counter these losses—if enough people have the same change of heart as me." [Chimney Swifts] are amazing fliers, fierce hunters, and when you study them up close, you see how delicate, strong, and exquisite they are," says Anne Runyon, a local artist and board member at Wake Audubon. And with a snazzy new swift hotel in town, Raleigh residents will get a chance to do just that. Once the new neighbors move in (and hopefully they do), conservationists will be one step closer to bringing the Chimney Swift back home.

[Editorial Note: Four or five years ago, Golden Triangle Audubon was awarded a grant by Audubon Texas to build a Chimney Swift Tower at Sabine Woods. Made of wood and somewhat simpler than the one described in the above article, it was constructed by a group of members spearheaded by Gary Kelley and Howard Davis. We were disappointed at not seeing Chimney Swifts in the years immediately following construction. However, this spring, we saw a Chimney Swift several times in the vicinity. When the bottom was opened this (continued on page 5)

Saving Important Bird Areas

Central Flyway Migration Corridor

Conservation impact on 1 million U.S. acres; improved outcomes for five priority bird species. Many of North America's migratory birds, especially Whooping and Sandhill Cranes and waterfowl like the Redhead, rely on the Central Flyway's diverse marsh and wetland habitats for their spring and fall journeys. That migration corridor is shaped like an hourglass: wide at the northern end of the flyway, it narrows in the middle as it passes through Nebraska, then widens again as it passes through Oklahoma and Texas. Each point of this migration corridor presents unique conservation challenges—challenges that Audubon can address.

North

In the Dakotas, both on-the-ground conservation strategies and targeted energy-policy work have the potential to positively impact millions of acres. These vast agricultural lands have major implications for many grassland- and wetland-dependent birds. Working with government agencies and private landowners in the Prairie Pothole region, Audubon is promoting collaborative solutions to some of the most critical issues facing birds in the region.

Central

The migration corridor's hourglass narrows to a "funnel" in Nebraska, at the Platte River, one of our nation's most important spring migration staging areas for both Whooping and Sandhill Cranes (above). Audubon Nebraska and its partners, including Big Bend Audubon, have long been instrumental in restoring this key stopover site along the Central Flyway. Working with partners and volunteers, staff from Audubon's Lillian Annette Rowe Sanctuary are restoring habitat and clearing nearly 14,000 acres of invasive phragmites, work that will open miles of the Platte River channel vital to nearly 80 percent of the population of Sandhill Cranes and important for other wildlife.

In addition to hands-on work to maintain this important river channel, Audubon builds community and national support for its restoration efforts through sustainable ecotourism. Each spring visitors from around the globe witness the amazing spectacle of the crane migration at the sanctuary's Iain Nicolson Audubon Center. Emerging threats to the corridor include the proposed Keystone XL pipeline, and Audubon has mobilized its far-ranging network in opposition to the pipeline and its inherent dangers.

The migration corridor also includes precious prairie grasslands, among them 800 acres of native tallgrass prairie at the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center near Lincoln, Nebraska. Audubon is also leveraging additional conservation through collaborative efforts with the Mississippi Flyway on the Prairie Bird Initiative, an effort to work at landscape-scale geographies with beef producers and public agencies.

South

In Texas, the migration corridor contains a wide range of rich habitats for birds, particularly along the Gulf of Mexico's coastal plain—prime real estate for such resident coastal birds as the Reddish Egret and such long-distance migrants as the Red Knot. Audubon and the Houston Audubon Society manage a series of important island nesting colonies throughout South Texas's 103-mile-long Laguna Madre, which includes 13,000 acres of the largest nesting colonies of Reddish Egrets and Roseate Spoonbills in the world. In collaboration with government agencies and other partners, Audubon is working to ensure the long-term preservation of this biologically unique and valuable region.

Partnership with other stakeholders is also instrumental in Audubon's work to safeguard the health of Texas bays and estuaries, especially those feeding San Antonio and Aransas bays, the wintering home of the only wild flock of Whooping Cranes left in North America. Both the Mitchell Lake Audubon Center in San Antonio and the Trinity River Audubon Center in Dallas are introducing their diverse communities to the importance of protecting the watershed.

Theory of Victory: Audubon will protect the array of priority habitats and birds that shape the Central Flyway through a multi-pronged approach that engages our network and our partners all along the way. Together they will shape sound energy policy and address other threats.

(From the National Audubon Website)

Chimney Swifts *(continued from page 4)*

fall to do a little maintenance, it was discovered that a nest had been built. We do not know if it was successful, but we will check closely next year! Our intent was to provide a nesting site for Chimney Swifts and not, as in the North Carolina project described in this article, a communal post-breeding roosting sites, The Chimney Swifts that nest in the chimney at the editor's house leave long before they begin migration, and there are some well-known locations in Liberty and Harris Counties where Chimney Swifts form communal roosts in late summer.]

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 17 October 2015

The Golden Triangle Audubon Society's October field trip to Sabine Woods can produce a lot of surprises. October is a transitional month with summer birds leaving, winter birds arriving and some fall migrants still passing through. Given all of those possibilities it is difficult to predict what exactly will be present on the day of the trip. Will there be lots of migrating warblers and vireos passing through? Will there be some lingering breeding birds hanging around? Maybe a front will blow some wintering birds in early. Or the best of all options, why not some of all of these?

The previous few days sightings at the Woods did not portend a great day, and things started out a little slow for the group but birds would begin to pop up here and there throughout the day. Summer and resident species were well represented by species like Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay and Downy Woodpecker showing up. Our resident Golden-fronted Woodpecker ("Baby Boy") showed off for the group, displaying little fear of people – he should be used to us by now! Red-bellied Woodpecker was also noted on the day, perhaps the one the Golden-fronted has paired up with. Brown Thrashers are nesting birds at Sabine Woods but their numbers always greatly increase at this coastal refuge in the fall as migrants pour in and this phenomenon was witnessed on the trip. A lingering Yellow-billed Cuckoo was a good find as most have already left the country for points south. Gray Catbird can be found just about any month out of the year at Sabine Woods so it was no surprise to see and hear a couple of these mockingbird relatives on the day. A few Scissor-tailed Flycatchers perched out on the back fence, a last stop before heading for Latin America perhaps.

Migrants also put on a good show on the day though it took a little while for them to start becoming obvious. A Nashville Warbler flitted about in a mixed flock making good views difficult while an American Redstart was easier to see. A lovely black and yellow Magnolia Warbler was seen by some while Black-throated Green Warblers were more numerous and more easily seen. A Northern Parula was seen in the tree tops while Indigo Buntings were scattered through the woods and clearings. A Bay-breasted Warbler was a nice treat as they are scarce in the fall and, in their dull basic plumage, can be hard to recognize. Luckily, this Bay-breasted Warbler was well marked and gave enough close up, good looks to the group so that all were sure of the identity. A Black-and-white Warbler was no trouble to identify for those who got a look at it and a couple of Pine Warblers made it convenient for the birders by hanging out in the pine trees. A couple of Broad-winged Hawks hunted over the woods, fattening up for their trip to South America. An Olive-sided Flycatcher was a nice bonus as most of the individuals of this species passed through weeks ago.

But resident and migrating species were not the only ones present. The timely arrival of a fall cold front had also pushed down some wintering birds. One of the first observed was a lone (but vocal) Greater White-fronted Goose flying over. A Northern Flicker was also quite vocal and eventually visible as well. Northern Harriers cruised over nearby fields and marshes while an Eastern Phoebe hawked insects near the pond. A

Yellow-rumped Warbler was glimpsed as it zipped by while some were able to spy out a Lincoln's Sparrow half hidden in the grass by the side of the main pond. A Hermit Thrush worked the area around the drip while an American Kestrel preferred to hunt from the power line along the highway. House Wrens made their presence known (though, as usual, more by voice than by sight) while Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were also obvious. A few Golden-crowned Kinglets were heard giving their high pitched calls and some eventually revealed themselves to the birders. This was a good find for so early a date, and gives rise to hopes that this species may also be easy to find this winter. A couple of Wilson's Warblers were also located on the trip and hopefully they will also stick around for the winter as they do some years instead of continuing south. At least two Brown Creepers were seen circling their way up the oak trunks in search of small insects in their characteristic fashion. This is very much an "overshooting" species at Sabine Woods and doubtless will retreat back north fairly quickly.

So a good mix of summer, fall and winter were on hand for the October field trip. It was a nice snapshot of the current season with a glimpse of what is to come, and much more interesting than it seemed it might be at the beginning of the day. As the birders look forward to the holidays (and Christmas Count Season), it was nice to get a last little glance at summer birds while adjusting to our local winter specialties. Many more of the winter bird species will be on hand for the November field trip to west Jefferson County so join us there on what has always been an exciting trip!

The following species were observed by the trip leaders:

Greater White-fronted Goose (2); Neotropic Cormorant (1); Great Egret (3); White Ibis (50); *Plegadis* species Ibis (12); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (4); Northern Harrier (3); Broad-winged Hawk (3); Crested Caracara (1); American Kestrel (1); Killdeer (1); White-winged Dove (6); Mourning Dove (7); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1); Barn Owl (2); Great Horned Owl (1); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Golden-fronted Woodpecker (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Northern Flicker (2); Downy Woodpecker (3); Olive-sided Flycatcher (1); Eastern Phoebe (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (9); Loggerhead Shrike (2); White-eyed Vireo (3); Blue-headed Vireo (4); Blue Jay (5); Tree Swallow (2); Barn Swallow (1); Brown Creeper (2); House Wren (4); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (10); Golden-crowned Kinglet (4); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (10); Hermit Thrush (1); Gray Catbird (3); Brown Thrasher (5); Northern Mockingbird (2); Black and White Warbler (1); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Nashville Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (1); American Redstart (1); Northern Parula (1); Magnolia Warbler (2); Bay-breasted Warbler (1); Pine Warbler (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (1); Black-throated Green Warbler (3); Wilson's Warbler (2); Lincoln's Sparrow (2); Northern Cardinal (2); Indigo Bunting (8); Red-winged Blackbird (20); Common Grackle (1); Brown-headed Cowbird (1).

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – September 2015

In this section of the Newsletter, we now generally limit the report to birds justifiably shown as rare or very rare on the published Upper Texas Coast checklist for the week of the sighting, but we also try to mention any particularly high numbers as well as any sightings that may be of special interest for reasons other than those mentioned.

We have reviewed all credible eBird and other submitted records for the Texas counties we have always covered – Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine and Tyler. We also reviewed, looking for very

rare or vagrant species only, records for nearby counties or parts of counties that are easily accessible to and often birded by birders in our core Golden Triangle Audubon area. These are 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 reason it is noteworthy.

No room for commentary this month!

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Cinnamon Teal	Oct 28	JEF-TP (2) HS (rare)
Redhead	Oct 28	JEF-TP (10) HS (early)
Ring-necked Duck	Oct 28	JEF-TP (25) HS (good number for so early in season)
Eared Grebe	Oct 28	JEF-TP (1) HS (early)
Wood Stork	Oct 2	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (30) JM
	Oct 10	JEF-Pilot Stn Rd (1) William Zwartjes (late)
	Oct 26	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (26) JM
Least Bittern	Oct 4	JEF-Pilot Stn Rd (1) MC, TH
Glossy Ibis	Oct 21	JEF-TP (1) HS (rare)
Bald Eagle	Oct 10	JEF-SW (1) JB, MC, RL, SM, unusual in that location)
White-tailed Hawk	Oct 3	JEF-SW (2) JB, MC, RL, SM, TH (rare – one adult, one imm)
Red Knot	Oct 11	JEF-McFaddin Beach (3) JB, RL (becoming rare)
Pectoral Sandpiper	Oct 23	JEF-SRSP (2) Greg Massey (late)
Com. Ground-Dove	Oct 2-3	JEF-TX87 W of SRSP (up to 4) D. Muschalek, R. Thacker, JB, MC, JH, RL, SM, TH, (rare)
	Oct 14, 19	JEF-TX87 W of SRSP (1) JH
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct 17	JEF-SW (1) GTAS (late)
	Oct 19	HAI-Village Creek SP (1) Tiffany Linbo
Whip-poor-will	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) JH (rare, late)
Rufous Hummingbird	Sep 14-Oct 27	JEF-Nederland (1) HS
Rufous/Allen's Humm.	Oct 10-11	JEF-Nederland (1) HS (rare)
	Oct 17	JEF-Nederland (1) SM
Blk-chinned Humm.	Oct 27	JEF-Nederland (1) HS (rare, not fully confirmed)
Buff-bellied Humm.	Oct 9	JEF-SW (1) JH, JAW
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Oct 17	JEF-SW (1) GTAS (late)
Say's Phoebe	Oct 26	JEF-McFaddin NWR (1) Steve Nord
Vermilion Flycatcher	Oct 11	JEF-TX87 SW-SRSP (2) JB, RL, SM, JAW (early)
	Oct 13	JEF-TX87 SW-SRSP (1) MC
	Oct 19	JEF-TX87 SW-SRSP (1) JH
Sulphur-bellied Flycat.	Oct 1	JEF-SW (1) JH (very rare)
Brown Creeper	Oct 17	JEF-SW (2) GTAS (early) others seen thru Oct 29
Winter Wren	Oct 21	JEF-SW (1) JH, Dennis Shepler, Sue Orwig, Nina Rach others seen Oct 27, 29 JH, HD
Golden-cr. Kinglet	Oct 17	JEF-SW (5) GTAS (early)
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 17	JEF-SW (1) GTAS (rare) seen thru Oct 21

Cape May Warbler	Oct 21	JEF-SW (1 male) JH, Dennis Shepler, Sue Orwig, Nina Rach, David Sarkozi
Clay-colored Sparrow	Oct 16	HAI-BTNP Turkey Creek S (10) Tiffany Linbo (rare)
White-cr. Sparrow	Oct 17	JEF-SW (1) GTAS (early)
Brewer's Blackbird	Oct 23	JEF-SRSP (1) Greg Massey

Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Mississippi Kite	Oct 2-11	CHA-SPHW (up to 5) (late)
	Oct 17	CHA-ANWR (2) Christina Snitkin (late)
	Oct 29	GAL- High Is. Smith Oaks (1) Tyler Smith
Groove-billed Ani	Oct 28	GAL-High Is. Boy Scout Woods (1) Laura Danyah (no details)
	Oct 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Lewis Burke, Dan O'Malley, Van Remsen, Timothy White
Say's Phoebe	Oct 16	CHA-ANWR Skillern (1) Brett and Lareina Niland (rare)
Great Kiskadee	Oct 2	CAL-Hidden Ponds RV(1) Dannya Dobbs
Field Sparrow	Oct 10	CHA-SPHW (1) Hank George (no details)
Spotted Towhee	Oct 24	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) David Muth, Mac Mayers. Jane Patterson, Dave Patton
Eastern Towhee	Oct 24	CAM-Peveto Woods (3) multiple observers
Blk-head. Grosbeak	Oct 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Matt Brady, Ray Duffy, Patty Jaacks, Maggie MacPherson, Ryan Terrill
Bronzed Cowbird	Oct 28	CAM-Gulf Breeze Dr (1) Timothy White, Van Remsen

Abbreviations used: ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BTNP – Big Thicket National Preserve; CAM – Cameron Parish, LA; CHA – Chambers County; CS – Christine Sliva; GAL – Galveston County; GTAS – Golden Triangle Audubon field trip; HAI – Hardin County; HD – Howard Davis; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JB – Jessica Barry; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; JM – John Mariani; MC – Michael Cooper; MDSP – Martin Dies State Park; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Island; RL – Randy Lewis; SPHW – Smith Point Hawk Watch; SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TH – Thomas Hellweg; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; WJC – West Jefferson County.

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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..>