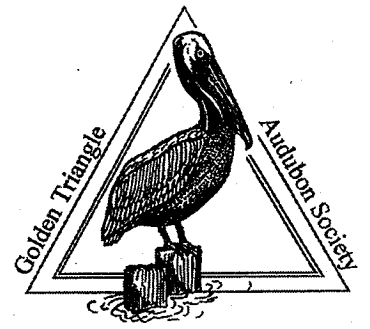


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 23 No. 3

March 2017

Membership Meeting
Thursday March 16, 2017 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

"Birding on Business Trips"
Art MacKinnon

Some of us are fortunate at some point in our careers to travel nationally or internationally on business (i.e. with a company or organization paying all or most of the travel expenses). Inevitably, there are some trips on which there are periods with no business activity which thereby present a birding opportunity. Sometimes it is even possible to extend a trip (at one's own expense) to provide further birding opportunities.

Art MacKinnon grew up in Silsbee and attended Silsbee High School, graduating in 1985. He has birded for 39 years, and recalls starting on the Neches River and along Fire Tower Road. He will illustrate his talk with pictures of and from some of his favorite birding locations.

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.

April Meeting

A Big Year in Alaska -- Lynn Barber will talk about her birding travels all around Alaska during her big year in 2016 and will show slides of a sampling of the over 300 species of birds seen in the Anchorage area, the Homer and Kenai areas, the southeast panhandle, the southern and western islands of Kodiak, Dutch Harbor, Adak, St. Paul and St. Lawrence, central Alaska, and Barrow in the north.

The Brown Pelican

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Issue number 237

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.

Friday March 3, 2017. 10:00 a.m. Groundbreaking for the Wetlands Education Center at Cattail Marsh.

The ceremony will take place in the parking area for Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park.

Directions to Tyrrell Park

From the South

Go "north" on US69/96/287 around the south side of Beaumont.

Take Texas 124 (south or west, whichever it is signed) towards Fannett (left turn under the highway).

Travel about a mile to the first light.

At the first light, turn left onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into Tyrrell Park through the nice new arch.

From IH10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont.

Go south of Walden Road for about 3mile to the first light.

At the light go straight over Highway 124 onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into Tyrrell Park through the nice new arch.

Cattail Marsh

Once in Tyrrell Park, continue along the entrance road, forking right after the Golf Course Clubhouse. Proceed about 2/3 of the way round the loop to the well-marked entrance to Cattail Marsh on the right.

Saturday March 11, 2017. Sabine Woods Work Day Sabine Woods Work Day. We plan to get the Sabine Woods Sanctuary ready for spring migration. Mostly, it will be trail maintenance both inside and outside the woods. We will certainly be able to put riding mowers (the heavier duty the

better) to good use, and we will probably need push mowers to trim round the trees we have planted in the last few years, and parts of the trails where riding mowers are too big. As always, we will need loppers to trim small branches to keep the trails open. We have a few hand tools, but it will help if you bring any that you have. You will probably want to bring insect repellent, and you may want to bring sunscreen.

Sabine Woods is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87. We will be there from about 7:30 a.m. but you will be welcome if you arrive somewhat later. We normally work until noon or a little after, and we will provide drinks and lunch. We plan another Work Day for mid-May. Call 722-4193 with any questions.

Thursday March 16, 2017. Membership Meeting. Speaker: Art MacKinnon see page 1 for details.

Saturday March 18, 2017. Field Trip to Boykin Springs

This is a new destination for one of our field trips. The area is famous in birding circles as **the** area in the region to find Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow. The area also offers the possibility of finding Henslow's Sparrow and White-breasted Nuthatch, although the chances of finding these are significantly lower. Of course, we should also find many of the more common East Texas woodland species as well.

Because the logistics involved in this trip are somewhat complicated, we ask that those intending to participate register in advance by emailing Steve Mayes at sgmayes@hotmail.com or by



EarthShare of Texas represents Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll contribution programs in workplaces throughout Texas. For more information about how you can support Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society at your workplace, call 1-800-GREENTX, or visit www.earthshare-texas.com.

telephone at 409-722-5807. In either case please provide a cell phone number for use in case we have problems assembling on the morning or get separated during the day.

We will assemble in the parking lot of the 24-hour Walmart on the west side of Jasper. Most coming from the south will do so by way of Highway 96. In the center of Jasper, turn left along Highway 190 and proceed 1.2 miles to the Walmart on the right. We will meet in the NW corner of the parking lot.

If you approach Jasper on Highway 190, the Walmart is on that highway just east of the point where westbound Highway 63 and westbound Highway 190 diverge southwest of Jasper.

We will caravan the 20 miles or so along Highway 63 to the Boykin Springs area. The entrance road is described as Forest Service Road 313 in most directions, but most on-line maps and probably most GPS show it as County Road 348A. We will focus initially on the various forest roads in the area in search of Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Bachman's Sparrow. You will probably want to bring lunch.

The entrance road leaves Highway 63 just inside Angelina County, but the Campground and Picnic area are in Jasper County.

Thursday April 21, 2017. Membership Meeting. Lynn Barber. A Big Year in Alaska. This should be an exciting talk. Lynn will have copies of her recent book on this big year available for sale at the meeting.

Saturday April 23, 2017. Field Trip to Sabine Woods. This trip will look for Neotropical migrants at the height of spring migration. We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. (You should be able to find the group if you are unable to be there quite that early.) Full details and directions in next month's issue of the *Brown Pelican*.

Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues remain at \$15 per year. We are now accepting 2017 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/ membership blank on the back page.

Dues for all members will be for the period ending on December 31. The memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar year. For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

Golden Triangle Audubon Financial Report

Golden Triangle Audubon Society is in solid financial state. Here is a condensed financial report. A more detailed report is available upon request.

Golden Triangle Audubon Society Condensed Income and Expense January through December 2016

Cash Basis
Jan-Dec
2016

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Shared Revenue	
NAS Chapter Dues Share	\$781.50
Audubon Foundation of Texas	\$75.46
Total Shared Revenue	\$856.96
TOS Sabine Woods Contrib. (note 1)	\$1,407.00
Total Contributions Income (note 2)	\$6,285.00
Legacies & Bequests	\$50.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	\$1,060.00
Total Income	\$9,658.96

Expense

PO Box Rental	\$76.00
Total Program Expense - Meetings	\$465.23
Total Program Expense - Newsletter	\$2,977.56
Total Program Expense - Sabine Woods	\$3,633.95
Total Program Expense - Internet/Web	\$885.00
Total Travel & Ent	\$321.99
Total Expense	\$8,359.73

Net Ordinary Income	\$1,299.23
Net Other Income	\$38.08

Net Income \$1,337.31

Note 1: TOS rebates of 20 percent of Sabine Woods Entrance Donations

Note 2: Includes donations totalling \$3,340.00 directly to GTAS for Sabine Woods maintenance.

An uncondensed Income and Expense Statement is available upon request.

Golden Triangle Audubon Society Balance Sheet December 31, 2016

Cash Basis
Dec 31, 2016

Assets

Checking/Savings EducationFirst FCU	\$38,192.19
Total Current Assets	\$38,192.19
Total Assets	\$38,192.19

Liabilities and Equity

Equity	
Fund balance 12/31/2015	\$36,854.88
Net Income	\$1,337.31
Total Equity	\$38,192.19

Total Liabilities and Equity \$38,192.19

Arctic-Breeding Shorebird Populations Are Plummeting with No Single Culprit

As Arctic shorebird numbers decrease, scientists blame farming, hunting, development, climate change—or all of the above? These are the shorebirds that migrate through our area each spring and fall.

From the Audubon website, by Hannah Waters, January 10, 2017

There are almost 30 species of shorebirds that breed in the Canadian Arctic, and all are strongly migratory. Surely the longest of their migrations must count among the most impressive feats in the natural world. Red Knots, for instance, are only nine inches long. And yet, every year, they fly some 9,000 miles from their summertime Arctic nesting territories to their South American vacation hideaways—and then another 9,000 miles back again.

Unfortunately, shorebird population are hurting across the globe. In North America alone, shorebird populations have plummeted by 70 percent since 1973, and among those, birds that breed in the Arctic are especially threatened, writes journalist Margaret Munro in a recent *Nature* feature. (www.nature.com/news/what-s-killing-the-world-s-shorebirds-1.21232) But a workable solution is hard to come by because the birds face a multitude of threats as they make their way across the Western Hemisphere. Munro writes:

Although the trend is clear, the underlying causes are not. That's because shorebirds travel thousands of kilometres a year, and encounter so many threats along the way that it is hard to decipher which are the most damaging. Evidence suggests that rapidly changing climate conditions in the Arctic are taking a toll, but that is just one of many offenders. Other culprits include coastal development, hunting in the Caribbean and agricultural shifts in North America. The challenge is to identify the most serious problems and then develop plans to help shorebirds to bounce back.

“It's inherently complicated — these birds travel the globe, so it could be anything, anywhere, along the way,” says ecologist Paul Smith, a research scientist at Canada's National Wildlife Research Centre in Ottawa.

Part of the problem is that, when birds migrate, they aren't just winging it; their trips are especially timed to sudden bursts of food resources along the way. The aforementioned Red Knot takes its regular pit stop in southern New Jersey to feast on the eggs of horseshoe crabs as they gather in the surf to mate. Western Sandpipers land in British Columbia's Fraser River estuary to lap bacterial goo (more commonly known as biofilms) with their feathery tongues, right as the mudflats reach maximum slime. And most species lay their eggs so that they hatch concurrently with peak insect populations, which provides ample food for hungry chicks.

These tightly synchronized global patterns determine each species' breeding success for the year. Over the scale of evolutionary time, a missed breeding year here or there doesn't mean much. But today, shorebirds face extraordinary pressure at each juncture of their migrations thanks to rapid environmental changes caused by people.

In her article, Munro takes stock of these pressures as scientists race to understand them in time to help the birds avoid extinction. Red Knots no longer have enough food to refuel for the second leg of their northward journey because people have overharvested horseshoe crabs, leading to a shortage of their energy-rich eggs. (The Rufa Red Knot subspecies is listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.) For Western Sandpipers, a shipping port encroaches on the mudflats from which they scrape together a living on biofilms. A warming Arctic has put insect emergence on a different schedule than hatching chicks, causing malnutrition and breeding failures. And the expansion of cornfields in middle America has caused goose populations to explode and encroach upon the smaller, more finicky shorebirds during nesting season.

Munro's reporting touches on all these pressures facing the birds and more. So go ahead, and give the piece a read. Her findings are not clear-cut, and they can't be. But she does show the complex connections between seemingly disparate human-caused changes to the environment. And, by describing a problem with no easy solution, she presents a challenge to us all. Because ensuring a future with shorebirds in it means restoring habitat and protecting wildlife throughout the Americas, not only where the birds start and end their thousand-mile journeys.

First Wild Whooping Crane Hatches in Louisiana Since WWII

Can one baby crane carry the hopes of an entire endangered species?

From the Audubon Website, by Erica Langston, April 14, 2016 (In all the activity over the shooting of two cranes in Jefferson County last year, this success was not widely publicized!)

The birth of any bird is reason to celebrate, but the arrival of one leggy chick in Louisiana on April 11 is particularly profound: It's the first wild Whooping Crane born in the state in 75 years. **(Update: On April 13, Louisiana's new Whooping Crane parents made history again as they welcomed their second chick into the world.**

The last time these long-necked, crimson-faced birds successfully shackled up in the Bayou State, Franklin D. Roosevelt was president, Ernest Hemingway was churning out novels, and the United States was on the brink of entering World War II. Rampant hunting in the late 19th and early 20th century and severe habitat loss devastated Whooping Crane populations, and by 1941 fewer than two dozen birds were left in the world. When the Endangered Species Preservation Act passed in 1966, the species was among the first to gain federal protection.

Fortunately, a lot has changed in the decades since the Whoopers disappeared from Louisiana's wetlands. Captive breeding programs and wetland restoration projects have helped to bring the number of individuals back up to about 600—the majority of which migrate between Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park and Texas's Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Five years ago the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) teamed up with a coalition of state and federal agencies to bring the bird back to the bayou through a 15-year repopulation program. In the spring of 2011, 10 captive-bred juveniles were released at the White Lake Wetlands Conservation Area in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, and each year since, LDWF has added new juveniles to the cohort. While breeding programs in Wisconsin and Florida train Whoopers to migrate, these year-round residents will spend their life along the Gulf Coast, just like their Louisiana ancestors did for generations. The birds are closely monitored with help from local landowners and conservation allies, and have even taken up residence at Audubon Louisiana's 26,000-acre Paul J. Rainey Wildlife Sanctuary nearby. But the program has suffered a series of setbacks, including failed nestings and the poaching of five cranes.

Whooping Cranes take their nuptials seriously, which makes matters even more difficult. It can take anywhere from three to five years for a crane to reach breeding maturity and select a life mate, and since pairs often only raise one surviving chick, the loss of a single bird can be a blow for the whole species. The White Lake flock needed a successful mating season badly.

So when one Whooping Crane pair began carefully tending to their nest back in March, conservationists saw a glimmer of hope. "We've had a good feeling about them," Sara Zimorski, LDWF biologist and leader of Louisiana's Whooping Crane project, says. This is the first time the young lovers (just four and two years old) took up roost together, but they've already set the bar high for other nesting couples in the area. "They've been really in sync with incubating and tending to the eggs and the nest. They seem to be a really good pair," Zimorski says. Their first chick finally hatched on Monday.

The new Whooper still has a ways to go before it can be officially added to the population count. "Whooping Cranes take about three months to fledge," Zimorski says. "They grow very quickly, but they are also very vulnerable until they can fly." Currently there are an estimated 42 individuals in the state. Fingers crossed, in three months time, that number will be 43.

Field Trip to Anahuac NWR – 18 February 2017

Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is a popular destination for bird watchers from all over the country and it is no wonder that it is a popular spot for local birders as well. The Golden Triangle Audubon Society's field trips to this spot are always popular and it was no surprise that more than twenty birders gathered for the February field trip to Anahuac. What would await the birders? Well, two different Vermilion Flycatchers present near the entrance station was certainly a good start!

Walking the path from the visitor's station to the area known as "the willows" (not to be confused with the spot at Sea Rim State Park), some birds were immediately obvious. A Northern Mockingbird that did an uncanny Black Rail impersonation was singing happily and the group got a look at the first of several White-crowned Sparrows present nearby. White-crowned Sparrows (and sparrows in general) have been scarce this winter so these birds were nice to see. Yellow-rumped Warblers and a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher were located and a Song Sparrow fed in the path giving great looks to the birders. Certainly the brilliant red Vermilion Flycatchers were still the stars at this location but all good birds none the less.

At this point, it was decided to head down the road to Frozen Point where a special bird has been present all winter but more on that later. The first part of the road gave the group a flock of Snow Geese with a few Greater White-fronted Geese mixed in. Also present in the wet, muddy field were over one hundred American Wigeon and a mixture of other ducks including Mallards and Mottled Ducks. Although anxious to get to the destination, a few birds were noted along the way including Savannah Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe and Northern Harrier. A stop for a soaring raptor did not produce the expected Red-tailed Hawk but instead gave the birders a beautiful adult White-tailed Hawk! A nice bonus for the group though this species is known to be in the area. Hitting the coast revealed a new set of birds. A Brown Pelican sat stately on the water as multiple Forster's Terns dove for fish nearby. A male Red-breasted Merganser showed off his spikey hair-do at incredibly close range and a single American White Pelican sailed overhead. Other species noted in the area included multiple Wilson's Snipe and Least Sandpipers with plenty of Tree Swallows overhead.

Those are all nice species but they are not the special bird the group was looking for. This bird has been a bit shy as it often hides from sight in a hole underneath a piece of concrete so it was no sure thing that it would show itself. But luck was on the side of the birders and its head could be seen peeking out of the hole: Burrowing Owl! This odd, little, long-legged owl does sometimes show up on the upper Texas coast in winter but it is still quite rare and this particular one has wintered at this spot for two straight years. Burrowing Owls are more often seen in western Texas where they often live in abandoned Prairie Dog burrows and hunt for small rodents and reptiles around dawn and dusk. Not truly nocturnal like most owls, the Burrowing Owl is much more likely to be visible during the day thus endearing itself further to birders! The Burrowing Owl on this day was especially accommodating

and eventually came completely out of the hole giving great looks and photographic opportunities to all of the birders present. Another high point on an already great trip!

From Frozen Point, the group headed back toward the Shoveler Pond Loop. This is the most well known area for birders at Anahuac NWR and for good reason. A haven for water fowl, the Shoveler Pond area is always worth a look. Right away, Common Gallinules and American Coots were obvious and it did not take long to add Gadwall to the day list. A single Fulvous Whistling-Duck, rare in the winter, was spotted by some of the birders. Other water birds soon followed. A large group of Roseate Spoonbills loafed on a high point while Northern Shovelers swam nearby. Pied-billed Grebes were easy to see as were White and White-faced Ibis. Ring-necked Ducks were located along with a single Ruddy Duck. Another highlight of the trip was the close views of at least seven Cinnamon Teal that were present on the loop. Great looks were had at these western ducks that are usually scarce in our area but were easily seen here along with more common Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal.

Some of the birders left after completing the Shoveler Pond loop but riding out of the main part of the refuge did not end the field trip for everyone. The exit road gave some nice birds in the form of Hooded Mergansers and Long-billed Dowitchers. A driver down toward the Skillern Tract of the refuge did not produce the hoped for Say's Phoebe but White-tailed Kite and another Vermilion Flycatcher were still nice to see. The Skillern Tract gave the group good looks at Anhinga, Black-crowned Night-Heron and Northern Pintail. A Marsh Wren or two put in an appearance along with Great and Snowy Egrets. A few songbirds like Orange-crowned Warbler and Northern Cardinal finished off a great day of birding.

There are few better all-around birding locations that Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Waterfowl, raptors, songbirds, it has them all and can be exceptional at any time of year. February is often thought of as a lackluster month for birding since many winter birds start to leave and the spring migrants have not yet arrived but no one would call this trip lackluster! With multiple Vermilion Flycatchers and Cinnamon Teal along with White-tailed Hawk and Burrowing Owl, this was a February field trip that all of the birders will remember!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Fulvous Whistling-Duck(1); Greater White-fronted Goose(10); Snow Goose(150); Ross's Goose(3); Gadwall(104); American Wigeon(107); Mallard(3); Mottled Duck(9); Blue-winged Teal(40); Cinnamon Teal(7); Northern Shoveler(50); Northern Pintail(4); Green-winged Teal(13); Ring-necked Duck(15); Hooded Merganser(5); Red-breasted Merganser(3); Ruddy Duck(1); Pied-billed Grebe(20); American White Pelican(1); Brown Pelican(2); Neotropic Cormorant(11); Double-crested Cormorant(10); Anhinga(3); Great Blue Heron(6); Great Egret(10); Snowy Egret(20); Little Blue Heron(3); Tricolored Heron(2); Black-crowned Night-Heron(3); White Ibis(25); White-faced Ibis(60); Roseate

Continued on next page

Spoonbill(92); Black Vulture(5); Turkey Vulture(22); Osprey(2); White-tailed Kite(3); Northern Harrier(8); Sharp-shinned Hawk(1); White-tailed Hawk(1); Red-tailed Hawk(6); King Rail(1); Common Gallinule(77); American Coot(250); Black-necked Stilt(45); American Avocet(2); Killdeer(108); Greater Yellowlegs(17); Lesser Yellowlegs(30); Least Sandpiper(12); Dunlin(50); Long-billed Dowitcher(50); Wilson's Snipe(12); Laughing Gull(20); Ring-billed Gull(5); Caspian Tern(2); Forster's Tern(15); Mourning Dove(6); Burrowing Owl(1); Belted Kingfisher(2); Crested Caracara(1); American Kestrel(1); Merlin(1); Eastern Phoebe(4); Vermilion Flycatcher(3); Loggerhead Shrike(4); Blue Jay(1); Tree

Swallow(100); House Wren(2); Sedge Wren(2); Marsh Wren(5); Ruby-crowned Kinglet(1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher(3); Northern Mockingbird(6); Brown Thrasher(1); European Starling(30); Orange-crowned Warbler(2); Yellow-rumped Warbler(30); Common Yellowthroat(5); Savannah Sparrow(30); Seaside Sparrow(2); Song Sparrow(1); Swamp Sparrow(2); White-crowned Sparrow(8); White-throated Sparrow(2); Northern Cardinal(3); Red-winged Blackbird(130); Eastern Meadowlark(20); Boat-tailed Grackle(25); Great-tailed Grackle(2); Brown-headed Cowbird(15); House Sparrow(2)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – February 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 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: As will be the case for most of the first half of

this year, we had to go to press several days before it was possible to fully cover the last few days of the month. Each month we will therefore include those sightings in the last few days of the previous month that were not available when that month's column went to press. In order that you receive your copy of the *Brown Pelican* in good time prior to the membership meeting each month, we cannot postpone the press date. We have decided it is better to be as up to date as possible and include as many of the current month's sightings as possible, even if it means that sightings the last few days of the month may have to wait until the following month's column.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Cinnamon Teal	Feb 1-28	JEF-TP (up to 7) multiple obs.
Least Grebe	Feb 1-28	JEF-TP (up to 8) multiple obs.
Brown Booby	Feb 7	JEF-Pleasure Is (1) Art MackKinnon
Glossy Ibis	Feb 8	JEF-TP (1) JHH
	Feb 24	JEF-TP (1) JHH
Bonaparte's Gull	Feb 12	JAS-Sam Rayburd Overlook Park (1) Greg Cook, Steve Glover
Lsr. Black-backed Gull	Feb 7	JEF- Pleasure Is (1) Art MackKinnon
Common Ground-Dove	Feb 18	JEF-BMT-Easley Dr (1) John Garcia (no details)
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Jan 28-Feb 10	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
	Feb 7-15	JEF-NEDR (1) HS
	Feb 17-19	JEF-NEDR (1) JJW
Black-chinned Humm	Jan 28-Feb 10	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
	Feb 2	JEF-NEDR (1) JHH
Rufous Hummingbird	Jan 28-Feb 22	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
Rufous/Allen's Humm.	Jan 28-Feb 22	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
	Feb 4-26	JEF-NEDR (1) SM
	Feb 7-15	JEF-NEDR (1) HS
Buff-bellied Humm.	Feb 7-27	JEF-NEDR (1) HS
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Feb 24	HAI-Sandyland (1) JM
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Feb 28	JEF-TP (1) HS, JHH
Bachman's Sparrow	Feb 3-21	JAS/ANG-Boykin Springs Area (up to 5) multiple observers
	Feb 12-26	JAS-Sam Rayburn Ebenezer Park (up to 3) multiple obs.
Grasshopper Sparrow	Feb 11	JEF-SRSP (1) Briana All, Bernadette Rigely (no details)
Henslow's Sparrow	Feb 8-26	HAI-BTNP HQ Area (1) JM , multiple observers
Baltimore Oriole	Jan 12	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
	Jan 14	JEF-SW (1) JHH, MC, SM, TH
Bronzed Cowbird	Feb 7	JEF-SW (4) Art MackKinnon

Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Canada Goose	Feb 3	CHA-ANWR Willows (13) Patrick McMahon (no details)
Blue-wing x Cinnamon Teal hybrid	Jan 30	ANWR-Shoveler Pond (1) Laura Snider
Surf Scoter	Jan 26-Feb 19	CAM-Holly Beach (up to 45) Paul Conover, multiple observers
	Feb 12	GAL-Rettillon Rd (5) Jill Wussow, Cullen Hanks
White-winged Scoter	Jan 24-Feb 4	CAM-Holly Beach (up to 3) Paul Conover, multiple observers
	Feb 12	GAL-Rettillon Rd 1) Jill Wussow, Cullen Hanks
Black Scoter	Jan 24-Feb19	CAM-Holly Beach (up to 45) Paul Conover, multiple observers
Red Knot	Feb 3	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) R.Martin, M. Dorriesfield, T.Hagedorn
Burrowing Owl	Jan22-Feb26	CHA-ANWR (1) multiple obs
Say's Phoebe	Jan 31-Feb 4	CHA-FM1985 (1) MC, Ron Berwick, TH
Ash-throated. Flycatcher	Jan 22	CHA-ANWR (1) Susan Gayle
	Feb 26	CHA-Turtle Bayou Nature Preserve (1) Marcy Brown

Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; 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; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; 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

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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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..>