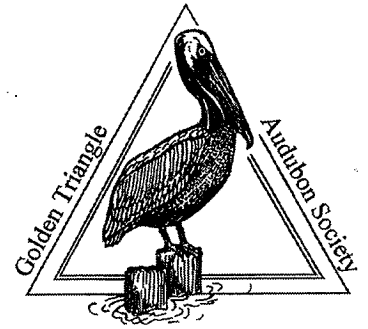


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 25 No. 1

January 2019

Membership Meeting
Thursday January 17, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration

Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart

Last August, Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart were in a group of members who made a trip out to the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration in Fort Davis. Among the attractions in the area are several species of hummingbird, including the much sought after Lucifer Hummingbird as well as Black-chinned, Broad-tailed and Rufous Hummingbirds.

On the way there, they stopped at South Llano River State Park in Junction, Texas, and on the way back they visited Garner and Lost Maples State Parks.

The program will be illustrated by photographs taken on this trip.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp. A light supper will be available from 6:15 p.m.

Editorial

We rarely have space available for editorial comment, but this month we do! Quite frequently, Golden Triangle Audubon is asked in one way or another for help in introducing newcomers to birding. The truth is that most of us picked up most of what we know about birding by participating in various Audubon programs and events. Most of the programs at our meetings are bird centered. We meet in the Garden Center in Tyrrell Park on the third Thursday of the month, except for December, June and July. The programs start at 7:00 p.m. but refreshments and the opportunity to talk to other birders begins shortly after 6:00 p.m.

Birding is, however, an outdoor activity and probably the very best way to learn about identifying birds is to attend one of our Field Trips. These are usually, but not always, on the Saturday following the Thursday evening meeting. On these trips, the leaders, and there are usually several experienced birders there to help, are always willing to help new birders identify the birds that are found. For new local Golden Triangle birders, the January Field Trip to Cattail Marsh will be a very good place to start, as it is very accessible, and almost always has birds that are relatively easy to see and study.

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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email: gtaudubon@aol.com

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 gtaudubon@aol.com.

Thursday January 17, 2019. Membership Meeting. See details on p.

Refreshments

We thank all those who brought refreshments over the last few meetings. We will be looking for offers to provide refreshments for all the spring meetings.

Saturday January 19, 2019 Field Trip to Cattail Marsh, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont. Meet at the parking lot for Cattail Marsh at 8:00 a.m. The parking lot is accessed from the loop road round the main picnic areas in Tyrrell Park. Many birds can be seen from the boardwalk with minimal walking, **but the group will probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh. Be advised that, while you can turn around and retrace your steps at any point, there are no meaningful "shortcuts" after you start on the levee between cells 3 and 4.** If you don't want to walk that far, there will be someone on the boardwalk to help you identify the many birds in the near cells. Walking is on the levees; the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are essentially mowed grass. This will be a good trip for beginning to intermediate birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open water areas.

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 1/2 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.

Almost immediately turn left at the conservatory into the parking lot for the Garden Center.

From IH10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont.

Go south of Walden Road for about 1/2 mile 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.

Almost immediately turn left at the conservatory into the parking lot for the Garden Center.

Thursday February 21, 2019. Membership Meeting. John Haynes and Harlan Stewart. Warblers of Sabine Woods

Saturday February 23, 2019. Field Trip to Anahuac NWR. (Subject to confirmation). We plan to meet at the Visitor Information Station just beyond the entrance at 8:30 a.m. There are clean public flushing toilets there, usually accessible even when the Information Station is not open. To reach Anahuac NWR from Winnie, take Highway 124 south to FM1985. (It is 11.0 miles from IH-10 and half a mile less from Highway 73.) Turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed about **11 miles** to the **MAIN** Anahuac NWR Entrance Road on the left (south). (**Do not be tempted by your GPS to enter the East Unit which is only about four miles from Highway 124.**)



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

Johnson Bayou CBC – 14 Dec. 2018

The Johnson Bayou Christmas Bird Count started off the count season on December 14 with a good turnout of birders, and reasonably good weather. The preliminary species count was 121, very similar to the past few years. Total bird numbers were also very much in the normal range.

This count is a once in a year opportunity to bird the marshes and large ponds of the various oilfields in the Johnson Bayou area, and we are grateful to the various landowners, especially the Gray Estate, Doré Energy and Crain Brothers, for allowing this access. The count circle does not have a lot of woodland or even large trees, so the focus is on waterfowl and other water birds.

Perhaps the least expected bird was a Surf Scoter in Cameron Meadows Oilfield. The other two common scoters (Black and White-winged Scoter) have been documented this winter in the inshore waters of the Gulf of Mexico, especially just a little further west at Holly Beach, but Surf Scoters have been less frequently noted. We understand that despite being well inland from the Gulf, the Cameron Meadows ponds are brackish, with quite a high salt content, which may explain why the Surf Scoter was there.

Notable among the ducks were a relatively low number of Northern Pintails, still not back up to the high numbers of 2010-2013. Northern Shovelers were plentiful, as they seem to be in the area this winter. The number of Snowy Egrets and White Ibis were lower than we were expecting based on the numbers we have seen this fall and winter in the surrounding areas. There were lots of Wilson's Snipe, and even one American Woodcock. Lots of both species of yellowlegs around, but other shorebirds are hard to find in this circle. The number of gulls and terns seen on the count depends on where they choose to spend count day. There are lots of them along the shore, but often they prefer to be nearer Holly Beach and thus outside the circle or on the shore along the eastern part of the circle where we have no access. This year, we saw only a few.

Not much to note in the non-water bird species. A significant collection of Inca Doves was nice. A higher number of White-winged Doves than in the past few years indicates that they are still around in numbers! There are large flocks of Tree Swallows in the area in winter, and a good number of them were visible this year. An Indigo Bunting was probably a very late migrant.

The following list is preliminary, and not the final one that will become the official record.

Snow Goose (35); Ruddy Duck (193); Blue-winged Teal (160); Northern Shoveler (756); Gadwall (640); American Wigeon (118); Mallard (6); Mottled Duck (42); Northern Pintail (37); Green-winged Teal (96); Canvasback (459); Ring-necked Duck (62); Lesser Scaup (55); Scaup species (15); Surf Scoter (1); Hooded Merganser (4); Red-breasted Merganser (4); Duck species (6); Pied-billed Grebe (160); Neotropic Cormorant (46); Double-crested Cormorant (17); Cormorant species (3); American White Pelican (24); Brown Pelican (49); Great Egret (69); Snowy Egret (97); Little Blue Heron (26); Tricolored Heron (20); Great Blue Heron (26); Cattle Egret (6); Black-crowned Night-Heron (2); White-faced

Ibis (29); Glossy/White-faced Ibis (98); Roseate Spoonbill (25); Black Vulture (36); Turkey Vulture (51); Osprey (3); Northern Harrier (46); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Cooper's Hawk (3); Red-tailed Hawk (41); King Rail (4); Clapper Rail (4); Virginia Rail (2); Sora (6); Common Gallinule (66); American Coot (4417); Black-necked Stilt (33); American Avocet (31); Killdeer (151); Sanderling (3); Dunlin (25); Least Sandpiper (10); Dowitcher species (10); American Woodcock (1); Wilson's Snipe (49); Spotted Sandpiper (2); Greater Yellowlegs (13); Willet (5); Lesser Yellowlegs (13); Bonaparte's Gull (7); Laughing Gull (52); Ring-billed Gull (37); Herring Gull (3); Caspian Tern (11); Forster's Tern (21); Royal Tern (13); Rock Pigeon (2); Eurasian Collared-Dove (8); Inca Dove (11); White-winged Dove (44); Mourning Dove (41); Great Horned Owl (4); Hummingbird species (1); Ruby-throated/Black-chinned Hummingbird (1); Belted Kingfisher (8); Downy Woodpecker (1); Northern Flicker (Red shafted) (2); Northern Flicker (Yellow shafted) (7); Crested Caracara (3); American Kestrel (17); Merlin (3); Peregrine Falcon (2); Eastern Phoebe (20); Loggerhead Shrike (25); White-eyed Vireo (1); Blue-headed Vireo (2); Blue Jay (4); Tree Swallow (777); Carolina Chickadee (1); House Wren (4); Sedge Wren (5); Marsh Wren (7); Carolina Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (18); Golden-crowned Kinglet (7); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (31); Hermit Thrush (2); American Robin (2); Gray Catbird (2); Northern Mockingbird (22); Brown Thrasher (1); European Starling (141); American Pipit (2); Cedar Waxwing (2); Black-and-white Warbler (1); Orange-crowned Warbler (7); Common Yellowthroat (2); Pine Warbler (7); Yellow-rumped Warbler (myrtle) (50); Chipping Sparrow (2); White-crowned Sparrow (4); White-throated Sparrow (11); Savannah Sparrow (19); Song Sparrow (5); Lincoln's Sparrow (4); Swamp Sparrow (30); Northern Cardinal (9); Indigo Bunting (1); Red-winged Blackbird (2046); Eastern Meadowlark (7); Brown-headed Cowbird (45); Common Grackle (171); Great-tailed Grackle (95); Boat-tailed Grackle (469); Quiscalus species (28); American Goldfinch (4); Total individuals (12912); Total species (121). Participants: Laura Baker, Howard Davis, Terry Ferguson, Craig Geoffroy, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, John Whittle, Carolyn Worsham.

Turkey Creek CBC – 22 Dec. 2018

The 41st Turkey Creek Christmas Bird Count was run on December 22 in pleasant weather, but increasing wind after mid-morning, with a record 20 birders participating. The 65 species found was about normal for this count.

Standouts were both Snow and Greater White-fronted Goose, and an unprecedented 32 Purple Finches. This count has a number of unusual features, mostly related to an almost complete absence of any urban areas, and only two significant bodies of water, both relatively small. The former means that we have a circle that rarely sees House Sparrow, Rock Pigeon, or Eurasian Collared-Dove, and has never recorded White-winged Dove. The latter means that water birds are few and far between. Lake Hyatt has in recent years hosted a limited number of Ringed-necked Duck as it did this year, and one or

two Pied-billed Grebes can usually be found on the lake in Wildwood. A few Wood Ducks, often more than the four found this year, usually flush out of some of the small ponds associated with Turkey Creek and other slow moving streams. The geese referred to above were flyovers; I don't think we have ever encountered them on the ground in the circle. We did encounter Double-crested Cormorants after two years without any.

Woodpeckers are an important component of the avifauna in the circle. Red-headed Woodpeckers numbers seem to vary quite a lot, and this year we found seven, an average number. They, perhaps more than the other local woodpeckers, require a habitat including a good number of dead trees. We have those as a delayed response in the aftermath of the various hurricanes, but exact correlations with Red-headed numbers are not always discernable. Red-bellied Woodpeckers were high this year, but Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were again low. The latter is a winter resident only in the area, so their numbers may be more influenced by conditions in their breeding areas. Similarly Northern Flickers are mostly migrant, but were numerous this year. Hairy Woodpeckers are year-round residents, and tend to favor the deeper parts of the woods, but it is interesting to note that they were found this year in four different sectors.

There is concern over the anecdotal finding over much of their range that American kestrel numbers are declining. They are found in more open situations, but the four we recorded this year is a very low number. Vireos were in good numbers this year, with White-eyed Vireos high, and Blue-headed numbers very high in the circle. This is probably an "irruption" year for Red-breasted Nuthatches based on the numbers recorded along the coast, and finding four after four years without any helps confirm that.

The 700 or so American Robins was probably close to the average for the species, which varies greatly in the number that venture as far south as our area by mid-December. Thirteen Gray Catbirds was the second highest number ever recorded on the count, exceeded only by the 15 in 1998. Just under 300 Cedar Waxwings was the third highest in the history of the count. They were in relatively small flocks this year, and all groups saw some.

Pine Warbler numbers were in the normal range, while Yellow-rumped Warbler numbers were modest at best. Sparrow variety was quite good, but the number of Chipping Sparrows very low. Purple Finch has always been an irruptive species, being seen rarely in recent years. Five of the eight years the species was seen on the count were in the 1982-92 period, followed by a long absence until 2010, then 2012 and 2016. This year's unprecedented 32 was twice the previous high in 1989. Still more remarkable was that this year, four of the six groups found the species, in one case, 21 birds.

Species found: GOOSE, Snow (95); GOOSE, Gr. White-fronted (35); DUCK, Wood (6); DUCK, Ring-necked (8); GREBE, Pied-billed (2); CORMORANT, Double-crested (2); HERON, Great Blue (1); EGRET, Great (2); VULTURE, Black (76); VULTURE, Turkey (75); OSPREY (2); EAGLE, Bald (count week); HAWK, Red-shouldered (11); HAWK, Red-tailed (5); COOT, American (count week); KILLDEER (3); DOVE, Mourning (10); SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (1);

KINGFISHER, Belted (4); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (7); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (53); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (9); WOODPECKER, Downy (14); WOODPECKER, Hairy (4); FLICKER, Northern (18); WOODPECKER, Pileated (19); KESTREL, American (4); PHOEBE, Eastern (22); VIREO, White-eyed (11); VIREO, Blue-headed (21); JAY, Blue (39); CROW, American (121); CHICKADEE, Carolina (47); TITMOUSE, Tufted (48); NUTHATCH, Red-breasted (4); NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (9); CREEPER, Brown (1); WREN, House (25); WREN, Winter (3); WREN, Sedge (3); WREN, Carolina (34); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (11); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (8); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (78); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (71); THRUSH, Hermit (18); ROBIN, American (709); CATBIRD, Gray (13); THRASHER, Brown (3); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (16); WAXWING, Cedar (286); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (17); WARBLER, Pine (52); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (77); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped.(Myrtle) (54); SPARROW, Chipping (12); SPARROW, Field (1); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (1); SPARROW, White-throated (386); SPARROW, Song (5); SPARROW, Lincoln's (1); SPARROW, Swamp (5); TOWHEE, Eastern (1); CARDINAL, Northern (75); GRACKLE, Common (2); FINCH, Purple (32); GOLDFINCH, American (140); SPARROW, House (1); SPECIES, total (65); INDIVIDUALS, total (2938); Number of observers (20); Number of parties (6); Party-hours on foot (24.15); Party-miles on foot (17.9); Party-hours by car (27.35); Party-miles by car (146.9); Party-hours stationary (0.5); Total Party hours (42.5); Total Party miles (132.7).

Participants: Nancy Angell, Kathleen and Lisa Appelbaum, Michael Cooper, Terry Ferguson, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, John Mariani, Dana Nelson, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Wanda and Charles Smith, Harlan Stewart, Jana and John Whittle, Carolyn and Bill Worsham.

Beech Creek CBC – 29 Dec. 2018

Overrunning from a stationary front just offshore in the northern Gulf threatened to dampen the count, but the rain held off a full 24 hours enabling the count to take place in overcast but rain free conditions, with 13 birders participating. The 82 species found was close to the ten year average of 83 despite a very limited number of duck species found.

The Canvasback flock, a fixture in recent winters, was present in increased numbers over recent years, but it was unusual to find no scaup and no teal. The northern parts of Steinhagen Lake, which are mostly outside the count circle, are open for waterfowl hunting each day, and this usually tends to drive the ducks south into the protected areas around Martin Dies SP, but there were few ducks other than the Canvasbacks around. However, there were American White Pelicans, and, after not being seen on the count in the past three years, three young White Ibis were found, in a wet field east of the Neches River downstream from the dam.

It is always difficult to know whether Bald Eagles are being "double counted," but there has been a steady increase in the number seen over the years and 14 was the highest in the history of the count. Red-shouldered Hawks were also plentiful this year.

The number of American Coots moderated this year, after several years of very high counts. A calling American Woodcock extended the streak for that species to three consecutive years. Both eastern Screech-owl and Great Horned Owl were seen in the early morning. American Kestrel numbers were low, and this species is the subject of increasing concern throughout its range.

The number of Tufted Titmice was low and will bear watching in future years. Red-breasted Nuthatches have come south in numbers this winter and it was nice to find five after four years without any. On the other hand, we didn't find any Brown-headed Nuthatches this year. Hermit Thrushes have not been plentiful this winter, and we have found low numbers of Northern Mockingbirds in a number of counts. Pine Warblers were quite numerous, and the first Wilson's Warbler on the count in six years was nice to see. This has clearly been an irruptive year for Purple Finches, a species we had almost given up hope of seeing in any number again. Twenty one was an all-time high for the 41 years of the count, and came after five years of seeing none. Thirteen Pine Siskins was also encouraging for a species we have seen few of in recent years.

Birds seen (preliminary) GOOSE, Snow (50); MALLARD (5); CANVASBACK (593); DUCK, Ring-necked (37); GREBE, Pied-billed (29); CORMORANT, Double-crested (225); CORMORANT, [species] (35); ANHINGA (1); PELICAN, American White (94); HERON, Great Blue (13); EGRET, Great (40); EGRET, Snowy (9); HERON, Little Blue (2); IBIS, White (3); VULTURE, Black (34); VULTURE, Turkey (85); HARRIER, Northern (2); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Cooper's (1); EAGLE, Bald (14); HAWK, Red-shouldered (14); HAWK, Red-tailed (4); GALLINULE, Common (20); COOT, American (351); KILLDEER (8); SANDPIPER, Spotted (3); WOODCOCK, American (1); GULL, Ring-billed (3); TERN, Forster's (15); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (7); DOVE, Inca (2); DOVE, Mourning (62); SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (1); OWL, Great Horned (2); KINGFISHER, Belted (7); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (47); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (22); WOODPECKER, Downy (15); WOODPECKER, Hairy (1); FLICKER, Northern (13); WOODPECKER, Pileated (14); KESTREL, American (3); PHOEBE, Eastern (24); VIREO, White-eyed (3); VIREO, Blue-headed (9); JAY, Blue (56); CROW, American (83); SWALLOW, Tree (177); CHICKADEE, Carolina (47); TITMOUSE, Tufted (19); NUTHATCH, Red-breasted (5); CREEPER, Brown (2); WREN, House (8); WREN, Winter (1); WREN, Carolina (33); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (12); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (8); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (76); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (68); THRUSH, Hermit (1); ROBIN, American (1211); CATBIRD, Gray (4); THRASHER, Brown (1); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (9); STARLING, European (51); WAXWING, Cedar (1124); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (17); WARBLER, Pine (85); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (235); WARBLER, Wilson's (1); SPARROW, Chipping (266); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (75); SPARROW, White-throated (120); SPARROW, Savannah (1); SPARROW, Song (1); SPARROW, Swamp (5); CARDINAL, Northern (109); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (641); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (1); FINCH, Purple (21); SISKIN, Pine (13); GOLDFINCH,

American (281); Species, total (82); Number of Individuals (6793); Number of observers (13); Parties (5); Party-hours on foot (7.00); Party-miles on foot (4.40); Party-hours by car (31.30); Party-miles by car (150.10); Party-hours owling (0.25); Party hours stationary (0.50); Party-hours total (38.55); Party-miles total (154.50).

Participants: Michael Cooper, Terry Ferguson, Sherry Gibson, Sheila Hebert, Phillip Hight, Thomas Hellweg, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Wanda and Charles Smith, Harlan Stewart, Jana and John Whittle.

Orange County CBC – 1 Jan. 2019

The Orange County CBC was conducted, as is traditional, on the first day of the year, in perhaps the best weather of this Christmas Count season. The thirteen participants found a preliminary total of 114 species. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, last year's count produced a very low total number of species, and this year, although still below the averages of earlier years, showed a significant increase. The reasons are probably complex, but one of the more obvious was the disappointing number of duck species.

Only preliminary results were available at press time, so a full analysis will have to wait. The highlights included Bald Eagles seen by several groups, Sandhill Cranes in the form of significant flyover flocks also seen by multiple groups, a Summer Tanager, and, no real surprise here in view of many sightings elsewhere this winter, Purple Finches.

Species list (preliminary); Wood Duck; Gadwall; Mallard; Mottled Duck; Blue-winged Teal; Northern Shoveler; Northern Pintail; Green-winged Teal; Lesser Scaup; Red-breasted Merganser; Pied-billed Grebe; Neotropic Cormorant; Double-crested Cormorant; Anhinga; American White Pelican; Brown Pelican; Great Blue Heron; Great Egret; Snowy Egret; Little Blue Heron; Night-heron species; Tricolored Heron; White Ibis; White-faced Ibis; Roseate Spoonbill; Black Vulture; Turkey Vulture; Osprey; Northern Harrier; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Bald Eagle; Red-shouldered Hawk; Red-tailed Hawk; Virginia Rail; Sora; Common Gallinule; Sandhill Crane; Killdeer; Spotted Sandpiper; Greater Yellowlegs; Willet; Wilson's Snipe; Laughing Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Herring Gull; Forster's Tern; Royal Tern; Rock Pigeon; Eurasian Collared-Dove; White-winged Dove; Mourning Dove; Barn Owl; Barred Owl; Belted Kingfisher; Red-headed Woodpecker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Yellow-bellied Sapsucker; Downy Woodpecker; Northern Flicker; Pileated Woodpecker; Crested Caracara; American Kestrel; Merlin; Peregrine Falcon; Eastern Phoebe; Loggerhead Shrike; White-eyed Vireo; Blue-headed Vireo; Blue Jay; American Crow; Tree Swallow; Carolina chickadee; Tufted Titmouse; Brown-headed Nuthatch; House Wren; Sedge Wren; Marsh Wren; Carolina Wren; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Eastern Bluebird; Hermit Thrush; American Robin; Gray Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Northern Mockingbird; European Starling; American Pipit; Cedar Waxwing; Orange-crowned Warbler; Common Yellowthroat; Pine Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Seaside Sparrow; Chipping Sparrow; Dark-eyed Junco; White-throated Sparrow; Vesper Sparrow; Savan-

Continued on page 7

Bird Sightings – December 2018

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 records for Chambers, Galveston, Harris and Liberty Counties in Texas, and Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes in Louisiana.

The format of the listing is Species – Date – County-and brief location information if available – (number) – Observer(s). If more precise location information is needed, it can often be obtained by using the bird species map feature to find the sighting in eBird, opening the checklist, and using the map function to display the location as precisely as the observer provided.

Commentary. Once again we have a lot of sightings to report. We do expect Christmas Counts to produce noteworthy sightings, but this December's local counts produced only a limited number of sightings of rare species. Notable below are multiple sightings of Western Kingbirds along the coast in early December. Jefferson County seems to have been the center of this phenomenon. Clearly, this is an irruption year for Purple Finches! This became obvious as early as the first week in December, and Christmas Counts in the Big Thicket produced very high numbers of the species. We cannot fail to mention the pair of Fork-tailed Flycatchers that were discovered on December 17 on a Christmas Count in SW Louisiana. They have remained in a very limited area through the end of December, and are easily seen.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Brown Booby	Dec 1	JEF-Pleasure Is (2) SM, MC
	Dec 8	JEF-Pleasure Is-N Levee (1) SH
	Dec 11	JEF-Pleasure Is (1) Sandi Templeton, Robbin Mallett
White-tailed Hawk	Dec 9	JEF-WJC (1) SH, MC
	Dec 15	JEF-WJC (1) MC
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Dec 6	HAI-Silsbee (1) Melanie Tennison
Chuck-will's widow	Dec 13	JEF-SW, Ashley Fuselier, JAW
Western Kingbird	Dec 1	JEF-TX87 W of Sabine Pass (2) MC, SM
	Dec 1	JEF-Pilot Stn Rd (1) MC, SM
	Dec 2	JEF-SRSP (3) SH
	Dec 9	JEF-WJC (1) MC
	Dec 13	JEF-SW (2) Ashley Fuselier, JAW
	Dec 13	JEF-TX87 near Sea Rim (2) JAW
	Dec 16	JEF-SRSP (1) SH
Tree Swallow	Dec 22	JAS-Martin Dies SP-Walnut Ridge (35) Chris and Angela Bailey
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Dec 18	JEF-WJC Willis Rd (1) SM
Purple Finch	Dec 2-17	JEF-BTNP Edgewater (up to 2) SM, MC, SH, TH
	Dec 8	ANG-Lufkin (1) Katrina Echols
	Dec 25-31	ANG-Lufkin (up to 2) Gary Hunter
	Dec 22	HAI-BTNP Turkey Creek Trl S (21) MC, JHH, TH, John Mariani
	Dec 28-31	HAI-Sassafras Ln (up to 10) Jana Winburg
	Dec 29	TYL-Campers Cove Pk (5) MC, SM, TH
	Dec 29	TYL-FM92 Picnic Area at Town Bluff (2 fem) SM

Nearby Counties

Cackling Goose	Dec 3-5	CAL-E Friesen Rd, Bell City (7) John Romano, mult obs
	Dec 15	CAM-Hwy 717/Lake Arthur area (5) Van Remsen
Cinnamon Teal	Dec 4-26	CAM-Lacassine NWR pool unit (1) V. Remsen, G. Byerly, M. Mclindon, Matt Brady
White-winged Scoter	Dec 23	CAM-Rutherford Beach (2) Paul Conover
Black Scoter	Dec 12	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Cathy DiSalvo, mult obs
	Dec 12	CAM-John Tee Rd east of Johnson Bayou (1) Cathy DiSalvo, mult. obs
	Dec 15	HAS-Hog Is area (1) J. Berner, mult obs

	Dec 23	CAM-Rutherford Beach (17) Paul Conover
	Dec 24	CAM-Peveto Woods (7) Dave Patton
Western Grebe	Dec 15	HAS-Hog Is area (1) J. Berner, mult obs
Wood Stork	Dec 15	HAS-Baytown Nature Ctr (1) David Hanson, Nicholas DeMaio
Brown Booby	Dec 19-28	CAM-Calcasieu Lake/LA384 (2) Steven Cardiff, Donna Dittmann, mult oobs
Harris's Hawk	Dec 28	HAS-FM529 nr Katy-Hocklet Cut-off (1) Nicholas DeMaio, Richard Crichton
White-tailed Hawk	Dec 16-23	CAM-Ward Line Rd/Broussard Rd/Cox Road/Pine Pasture Rd area (1 ad) mult obs
Broad-winged Hawk	Dec 20	HAS-Southwest Houston (1 imm) Sam, Paul, Luke Ranadll
Swainson's Hawk	Dec 20	CHA-ANWR-Hackberry Trl (2) Sydney Fitzpatrick, J. Scaramucci
	Dec 25	HAS-Katy-Hockley Rd (2) Kelly Hill
Yellow Rail	Dec 15	HAS-Highlands Reservoir (1) David Sarkozi
Purple Gallinule	Dec 22	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Michael Walter, Pamela Barton
Franklin's Gull	Dec 19	HAS-Humble (1) Martin Reid
California Gull	Dec 22	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Pk (1) Mark Kulstad (unconf)
Iceland Gull (Thayer's)	Dec 15,22	CHA-FM1405/Ash Lake (1) J. Berner, mult obs
	Dec 31	HAS-Ash Lake (1 1st cycle) Todd McGrath
Glaucous Gull	Dec 19	HAS-Humble (1 1st cycle) Martin Reid
	Dec 29	HAS-Ash Lake (1 second yr) Drew Dickert, Kendra Kocab mult. obs
Black Tern	Dec 20	CHA-ANWR-Hackberry trail (1) Sydney Fitzpatrick, J. Scaramucci
Burrowing Owl	Dec 22	CHA-ANWR Cross Rd (1) M. Lear
Common Nighthawk	Dec 2	HAS-Addicks Res. N of Clay Rd (2) Jim Hinson, Drew Dickert
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Dec 4	CAL-Pine Pasture Road (1) Matt Brady, mult obs
	Dec 17	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Van Remsen, Michele Mclindon, Martin Guidry, Mac Myers
	Dec 21-28	CAL-Cox Rd (1) Mult obs
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Dec 15,26	CAL-Ward Line Rd (1) David Booth, mult obs

Western Kingbird	Dec 4	GAL-Galveston Settegast Rd (1) Michael Lindsey
	Dec 17	CAL-Hwy 397 area (1) Delaina LeBlanc, Erik Johnson
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Dec 17-29	CAL-Hwy 397 at Ward Line Rd (2) Irvin Louque, mult obs
Bell's Vireo	Dec 17	CAM-Gayle Farms (1) Mac Myers
	Dec 24-30	HAS-Robert C. Stuart Park (1) James Rieman
	Dec 28	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Robert and Cynthia Danielson
Bewick's Wren	Dec 20	CHA-Anahuac NWR exact location not specified (1) Richard Redmond
Yellow-throated Vireo	Dec 1-2	LIB-west of FM1008, 6 mi N of Kenefick (1) Colette&Paul Micallef
	Dec 21	CHA-JJ Mayes (1) David Hanson
Northern Waterthrush	Dec 15	CAL-Hayes (1) Oscar Johnson, Matt Brady
	Dec 28	CAM-Junius Granger Rd (1) Andre Moncrieff
Black-and-white Warbler	Dec 15	CAL-LA14 Hayes area (2) Oscar Johnson, Matt Brady
	Dec 14	CAM-Johnson Bayou CBC (1) Steve Mayes, Tracy Ferguson
Tennessee Warbler	Dec 20	CHA-ANWR Hackberry Trail (4) Richmond Redmond, J. Scaramucci
Nashville Warbler	Dec 3-31	LIB-west of FM1008, 6 mi N of Kenefick (1) Colette&Paul Micallef
Cape May Warbler	Dec 18	HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct (1) Adam Wood
Tropical Parula	Dec 18-30	HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct, (1) Dominic LeCrossette, mult obs
Blackpoll Warbler	Dec 18	HAS-Edith L Moore Sanctuary. (1) Adam Wood
Prairie Warbler	Dec 10,23	Galveston Is SP (1) Kris Cannon, Dennis Cooke
Black-thr Green Warbler	Dec 2-5	HAS-Memorial City area (1) Sue Orwig
	Dec 15	HAS-UH-Clear Lake Nature Trail (1) John Mariani
	Dec 18-19	HAS-Edith L. Moore Sanct (1) Adam Wood, Kris Cannon
	Dec 21	HAS-Randolph Park (1) Dale Wolck
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Dec 2	HAS-El Franco Lee Pk (1) Judy Behrens, Marie Asscherick
Spotted Towhee	Dec 17	HAS-Sabine Park (1) Caleb Gordon, Maria Yanez, mult obs
	Dec 17	CHA-J J Mayes Trace (1) Paul Fagala
Summer Tanager	Dec 28	CAL-French Settlement (1) Beth Cramer
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Dec 15	HAS-White Oak Park (1 fem) Robert Knetsch, Wendy Wright, Susan Kennedy
Blue Grosbeak	Dec 5	HAI-Old Sour Lake Rd (1) John Mariani
Indigo Bunting	Dec 5	HAI-Lumberton (1) John Mariani
Painted Bunting	Dec 17	CAM-Sweet Lake Area (1 fem) Marty Floyd, Melvin Weber
Western Meadowlark	Dec 3	HAS-Paul Rushing Park (1) Letha Slagle
	Dec 15	HAS-Houston Cruise Term (2) M. Hood, Brian Berry
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Dec 21	CAM-Chalkley Rd (7) Mult obs.
	Dec 22	CHA-ANWR N end of entrance road (1) Todd McGrath
Purple Finch	Dec 2-31	LIB-west of FM1008, 6 mi N of Kenefick (1) Colette&Paul Micallef
	Dec 10	GAL-Friendswood (1) Donna and Kris Cannon
	Dec 11-23	GAL-Clear Creek Nature Park (3) Kris Cannon, Mult obs

Dec 17	CAM-Sweet Lake Area (3) Marty Floyd, Melvin Weber
Dec 19-22	GAL-Dickinson (5) Lea Simmons
Dec 29	CHA-J J Mayes (2) Mickey Redus
Dec 31	CHA-Oyster Bayou Hunting Club (4) Gene Campbell

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; HAS – Harris County; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; LIB – Liberty County; MC – Michael Cooper; NEDR – Nederland; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur; RL – Randy Lewis; SAA – San Augustine Co.; 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 Co.

Orange County CBC *(continued from page 5)*

nah Sparrow; Song Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow; Summer Tanager; Northern Cardinal; Red-winged Blackbird; Eastern Meadowlark; Common Grackle; Boat-tailed Grackle; Great-tailed Grackle; Brown-headed Cowbird; House Finch; Purple Finch; American Goldfinch; House Sparrow.

Participants: Terry Ferguson, Sherry Gibson, Sheila Hebert, Lynn and Greg Jackson, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Jana and John Whittle.

Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues effective with 2019 dues are \$20 per year. We are now accepting 2019 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. All dues already paid in advance for 2019 will be honored. 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.

As a reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but basically covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not automatically bring them to our attention.

We would very much encourage you receive the Brown Pelican electronically. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use. Please include your full name if it is not contained within your email address.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to National Audubon Society, Memberships, PO Box 97194, Washington, DC 20090-7194. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from: _____

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon C9ZW250Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society (GTAS), P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. National Audubon Society (NAS) members with addresses within our official territory are automatically GTAS members without further payment, but are asked to contribute \$20 if they are able since we only receive a very small amount from NAS after the first year.

Subscriptions from NAS Members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$20 per year (Jan-Dec).

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

RARE BIRD ALERTS

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

Detailed information/maps on birding sites in Texas is available on the Web at <http://www.texasbirds.org/birdingLocations.php>. This leads you to the maps of the various eBird hotspots. You can also subscribe (free) on eBird for email alerts for all rare birds reported in a specific county.