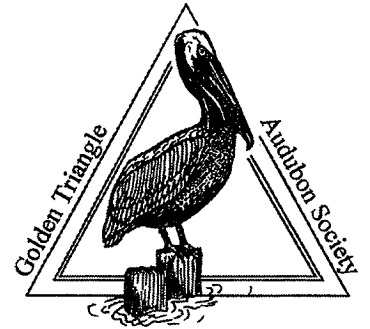


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 25 No. 4

April 2019

**Membership Meeting  
Thursday April 18, 2019 7:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Purple Martins**

**Jace Stansbury  
Purple Martin Conservation Association**

Jace notes he has had an interest in nature since a young age birdwatching, collecting insects and snakes. He and his wife have a small cabin in the woods that sits on 11.75 acres right on the edge of the Big Thicket near the Pitcher Plant Trail that they frequent often. He maintains bird feeders and a bluebird box on this property.

His interest in Purple Martins came from his father-in-law who maintained a martin house near his garden. He is a member of the Purple Martin Conservation Association and going on his 25th year as a Purple Martin landlord. He is listed with the PMCA as a Purple Martin Mentor for the Golden Triangle area helping anyone who is interested in establishing a Purple Martin colony. He also maintains a nature blog that consists of photographs and writings of his experiences with nature. The URL for the blog is <http://naturejournals.blogspot.com>

He will begin by talking about the history and experiences with his own Purple Martin colony and present a slide show of his own photos and some from the PMCA. Following the slide show, Jace will try and answer any questions that anyone may have.

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

## *The Brown Pelican*

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Issue number 260

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

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## Calendar of Events

*Important Note: GTAS 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](http://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](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com).*

**Thursday April 18, 2019. Membership Meeting.** Purple Martins. Jace Stansbury. Full details on page 1.

#### 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.

## 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 April 20, 2019. 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.)

At Sabine Woods, there is a small parking area, with additional parking improvised using the roadside verges. Portable toilets are available at the entrance during spring migration.

This trip involves relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds, although another option is to sit at one of the drips and wait for the birds to come to you. The trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos and feral pigs have been very active, so there will be holes to avoid! There is an \$8 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are **not** members of Golden Triangle Audubon or TOS. This field trip is especially suited for not-very-experienced birders. Often, we break into smaller groups, with an experienced birder or two in each group.

Sabine Woods is on the north side of Hwy 87, 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Take Highway 87 from Port Arthur to Sabine Pass, turn right at the stop sign, and go 4.1 miles.

The insect population may be significant so it will be a good idea to bring insect repellent. Most participants will bring lunch. Facilities in Sabine Pass are limited, and gasoline is **not currently routinely available in Sabine Pass.**

**Thursday May 16, 2019. Membership Meeting.** Members' favorite photos. Full details in the next issue of the Brown Pelican



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](http://www.earthshare-texas.org)

# Audubon Releases Visionary Gulf Conservation Strategy

The BP Deepwater Horizon oil disaster in 2010 ravaged the Gulf Coast at the peak of nesting season. Many of you in Gulf states and beyond have helped lead and support restoration efforts in the years since this unprecedented catastrophe.

This week Audubon released “Audubon’s Vision: Restoring the Gulf of Mexico for Birds and People.” Historic in its scope, the plan highlights projects and programs critical to help the Gulf Coast and its wildlife recover from devastating hurricanes, oil spills, and other environmental and human-made disasters. At the center of one of the most significant ecosystem restoration efforts ever attempted, Audubon recommends an investment of more than \$1.7 billion in restoration and conservation efforts to fund sixteen state-based, ten region-wide and four open-ocean projects that will, among other things address the recovery and population health of eleven flagship bird species. Together, these projects would total more than 136,000 acres of restored or protected habitat for birds and people from south Texas to the Florida Keys.

We will need the support of Audubon chapter leaders, members, and volunteers in the region to advocate for some of these projects in your communities and with your lawmakers.

We’ll keep you informed with ways you can help over the next few years so that together, we can secure a brighter future for the bird and human communities of this vital region.

For a full project list and details or to learn more and get involved, visit [www.Audubon.org/gulf](http://www.Audubon.org/gulf).

The Gulf of Mexico is one of America’s great ecological treasures. The region is home to a vast array of bird species and other wildlife, including 11 of Audubon’s flagship species as well as six Audubon priority species. These species use the Gulf at some point during their life cycles – for breeding, overwintering or as a migratory stopover. These species represent at least 300 other species and the ecosystem on which they depend.

Audubon is committed to restoring the Gulf of Mexico by focusing on priority habitats for these and other species, from Texas to Florida. The challenges facing the wildlife and human communities in the Gulf have been, and will continue to be, significant. For that reason, Audubon’s vision is multi-layered and involves working over many years to monitor the health of populations of our flagship and priority species in the aftermath of the BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

## National Audubon Society Press Release February 12, 2019

**NEW ORLEANS**– “The challenges are huge, but we have an enormous opportunity to save much of the Gulf Coast for both birds and people. We can’t afford to blow this,” said David Yarnold, president and CEO of National Audubon Society after the release of an extensive report, *Audubon’s Vision: Restoring the Gulf of Mexico for Birds and People*.

The report highlights projects and programs critical to help the region and its wildlife recover from devastating hurricanes, oil spills and other environmental and man-made disasters. At the center of the largest ecosystem restoration effort ever attempted, Audubon recommends an investment of more than \$1.7 billion in restoration and conservation efforts.

The BP *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill of 2010, which resulted in a global settlement of \$20.8 billion in claims and cleanup efforts, has left a devastating mark on the Gulf Coast. Audubon recommends 16 state-based, 10 region-wide and four open ocean projects, which together total more than 136,000 acres of restored or protected habitat for bird and human communities from south Texas to the Florida Keys.

“Never before has this amount of funding been dedicated to ecosystem restoration, therefore, we have an unprecedented opportunity to help the Gulf recover,” said Director of Gulf Coast Restoration at National Audubon Society, Kara Lankford. “Wildlife and people living along the coast are dependent on millions of acres of habitat that is at extreme risk unless we act boldly.”

“The enormous challenges facing the Gulf Coast can be daunting when we see threats ranging from climate change to land loss and from man-made and natural disasters,” Alyssa Dausman, Ph.D. VP for Science at The Water Institute of the Gulf explained. “However, Audubon’s wide sweep of work

and their collaboration with numerous partners shows the power of working together to achieve a common goal -- a healthy, restored Gulf Coast for birds and people alike.”

Over the last 80 years, more than 1,800 square miles of coastal forests, marshes, beaches and barrier islands have turned into open water in Louisiana alone, putting more than 2 million people at risk of flooding and threatening vital habitat on which birds and other species depend. *Audubon’s Vision: Restoring the Gulf of Mexico for Birds and People* identifies 8.1 million acres of highly suitable habitat across the Gulf for Audubon’s flagship species. The report highlights 30 projects that will collectively address the recovery and population health of these birds as Audubon continues to determine how sea level rise will affect the Gulf and identify ways to better support these species.

“As we move forward with the largest ecosystem restoration effort ever undertaken, it’s enormously helpful to have access to this kind of information and thinking,” said Ben Scaggs, executive director at Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. “It’s evident that Audubon clearly understands the inextricable link between and among varying species - including our own.”

With deep roots and a sustained presence on the Gulf, Audubon is committed to securing a brighter future for the bird and human communities of this vital region. Implementing priority projects and programs focusing on restoration, conservation, research and stewardship, the National Audubon Society addresses the recovery and population health of the 11 flagship species. For a full project list and details or to learn more and get involved, visit [www.audubon.org/gulf](http://www.audubon.org/gulf).

# Louisiana is Restoring its Barrier Islands to Defend Against Hurricanes and Rising Seas

*Ben Depp from the Audubon Website Fall 2017*

Louisiana's barrier islands don't look like much. Dozens of the long, narrow masses form a loose chain around the state's southeastern coastline, and many rise only a couple of feet above the surface of the ocean. Erosion is an inevitable foe for any sandy expanse, but in recent years these islands have begun to contract at an alarming rate—so quickly that the thousands-year-old features may disappear entirely by the end of the century. Losing these wisps of land would be disastrous. Without them, powerful storms would slam coastal towns, seaports, and wetlands. The calm waters behind their protective front would vanish, and with them the nurseries where fish, shrimp, crab, and oysters reproduce and raise their young, and where 100 million birds live, nest, or stop to rest and refuel on their long-haul flights during migration.

Louisiana is in a race against time, says Governor John Bel Edwards. “If we don't restore these barrier islands, then our future is in peril,” he told me. “That land is the first line of defense. What we cannot have is a situation where the Gulf of Mexico is lapping at the levees of New Orleans.”

The causes of this vanishing act are many and familiar. Oil- and gas-industry canals have fragmented coastal wetlands, allowing salt water to surge inland and setting the islands adrift from the coasts they typically hug. The channelization of the Mississippi River has starved wetlands of sediment, their basic building block, and carried much of the sand that would otherwise be growing barrier islands deep into the Gulf of Mexico. What's more, Louisiana's coast is naturally subsiding while sea levels are rising; water is creeping up half an inch a year, relentlessly devouring more shoreline. And then there are the numerous storms and the BP oil spill, which have battered the islands. As the climate continues to warm, sea level here is projected to rise more than 6.5 feet by 2100, and more intense storms will tear away at the islands, causing the growing watery maw of the Gulf of Mexico to expand, leaving the coast, and its inhabitants, increasingly exposed.

After years of uncoordinated efforts to stem coastal land loss, Louisiana now has a master plan. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), formed in 2005 in response to the vicious pummeling from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, has created a detailed restoration agenda, the latest iteration of which the state legislature approved in June. Two of the plan's most critical components involve rebuilding barrier island systems and intentionally engineering cuts in the Mississippi River's levee system to allow the great sediment-laden river to replenish and rebuild coastal wetlands. It's a colossal undertaking, and the largest coastal restoration project in American history. Re-engineering Louisiana's vast barrier islands and wetlands, and constructing other protective infrastructure such as flood walls and levees, will cost \$50 billion or more over the next 50 years.

In an ironic twist, the 2010 BP oil spill has enabled this astronomically expensive plan to begin to be put into action. Louisiana will receive \$7.1 billion for restoration work from

the fines paid by those responsible for Deepwater Horizon, which killed 11 people and released 4.9 million barrels of crude into the Gulf. There are several funding streams related to the disaster, including more than \$810 million in RESTORE Act funds, some of which will begin flowing this year, \$5 billion from the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA), and nearly \$1.3 billion from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund.

Louisiana has already started restoration work, making use of BP oil-spill funds and other resources. Leaders know that everything is on the line. “Our actions over the next two decades,” reads the master plan, “will decide whether Louisiana's coast survives.” Its survival is important not just to local people and wildlife. Any American who puts gasoline in her car, uses plastic, or eats shrimp is utilizing a product that may well have been extracted, forged, or harvested in coastal Louisiana. Without a healthy barrier island system, all of this is at risk.

At a remote Louisiana marine lab, coastal geologist Alex Kolker opens Google Maps and describes how the state's barrier islands came to be. He zooms in on South Pass, located about 100 miles SE of New Orleans. Here a large branch of the Mississippi enters the Gulf of Mexico. The fresh water slows as it hits the ocean, Kolker explains, and heavier sediment, such as sand, drops out, creating a massive pile. Wind and waves batter the pile into a long, thin line. “This is your proto-barrier island,” says Kolker. (It's also one of the few places in Louisiana where the Mississippi is still building land.)

Over a few hundred years a proto-barrier island grows into a mature barrier island with a wide beach, a strip of dunes, and a back marsh. The Mississippi's ability to deposit sediment and sand has literally built southeastern Louisiana, both its coastal wetlands and its barrier islands. About once every thousand years the river naturally shifts course, sending its sediment down a new path. Once the river moves, the marshes and islands along the old path start eroding into the sea. Historically, the river built land in the newly opened area and Louisiana kept growing, but the Army Corps of Engineers and others have clogged the Mississippi with dams and locks, and dikes and levees have helped funnel its rich sediment out to sea, rather than letting it accumulate along the coast. “Barring a zombie apocalypse, I don't see us going back to a natural state at any point in the foreseeable millennia,” says Kolker. “The fact is, humans are the major driver of natural processes on the planet today.”

Louisiana's master plan recognizes that reality. “We know our coast is going to change, so we have two choices,” says Bren Haase, a chief developer of the plan. “We can allow it to degrade and fall apart and have that dictate where we live and what we do on our coast, or we can manage that change—and that is what we are attempting to do.”

## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 23 March 2019

A great day birding on the beach is different than a great day birding in the woods. You know pretty much right away if you will see a lot of birds at the beach because they will be right out in the open and not hidden in the trees. The birds on the beach will stand right out in the open and often will let you get great looks for as long as you like unlike the woodland birds constantly flitting through the trees or hiding in dense underbrush. The challenge with birds on the beach lies in figuring out what those cooperative species are! Most birders find shorebirds and gulls to be among the most challenging groups to identify. But the way to overcome any challenge is to face it head on! This is what birders from the Golden Triangle Audubon Society attempt every year with field trips to the Houston Audubon Society's Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary which is the premiere birding site on the upper Texas coast. What better place to learn?

A dozen birders arrived early to the beach and birding started right away. Some species like Sanderling were easy to find and fairly easy to identify. Currently in their winter plumage, the pale birds chasing the retreating waves stand out and are quite common. Much less common at Bolivar Flats is the Red Knot. This is a larger, chunkier shorebird and is also currently in its winter plumage and therefore, not red at all. It is best identified by its size, relatively short bill and unique heavy-chested build. Though uncommon, the group were lucky enough to see a few Red Knots on the day and were able to get nice scope views on some. Dunlin were present in decent numbers and seen by all. Dunlin are built somewhat like the Red Knot but are significantly smaller and have a longer, drooping bill. The Dunlin would be even more easily distinguished in its breeding plumage with its bold black belly but few of the birds on this day showed much sign of it.

Willetts are usually one of the most obvious birds encountered at Bolivar Flats. They are common, fairly easy to identify and often quite noisy. In winter plumage they are the definition of plain – gray/brown and featureless. But some of these birds were getting into their marbled breeding plumage and, of course, they occasionally flashed those bold black and white wings. Willetts are divided into eastern and western races that some feel should be considered separate species. The western type winters on our coast and is longer legged and longer billed and often forages in deeper water than the eastern Willet. The eastern Willet is shorter with a stouter bill and it breeds on our shores but does not winter here. The two types do overlap during the spring and fall and the group was able to see both types at Bolivar Flats and easily compare the two. The local birders will be ready in case those tricky ornithologists ever decide to split the species!

There is also no better place to compare the small plover species than Bolivar Flats. Though on the endangered species list, the Piping Plover is quite common as a wintering bird here. Its orange legs and stubby black-tipped orange bill (usually all black in wintering birds) combined with a pale brown back make it easy to tell from its close relatives like the Semipalmated Plover which has much darker brown plumage but is otherwise pretty similar. The Snowy Plover is also pale

(though generally not as pale as the Piping) but has dull colored legs and a longer, thinner black bill. The Wilson's is the last of the "small" plovers though it is noticeably larger than the previous three. It is fairly dark on the back with dull pinkish legs and a large heavy bill. All of these field marks were well seen in the individuals on the Flats – a great study session on the small plovers was experienced by the field trip group!

There were many other species found on Bolivar Flats on the field trip. Dozens of American Avocets were getting into breeding plumage while Marbled Godwits remained in their buffy winter clothes. A few Long-billed Curlews lived up to their name while the many Black-bellied Plovers definitely did not. Gulls were not that common on the beach but Laughing, Ring-billed and Herring were all seen. Terns were much more common and several different species were enjoyed by the group. Large Royal Terns were common loafing on the beach while even larger Caspian Terns were not so common. Sandwich Terns with their yellow-tipped bills were easily found on the beach and Gull-billed Terns hunted over the marsh. Tiny Least Terns showed off their white foreheads having just arrived back from their wintering grounds and were easily identified. More time was spent sorting between Forster's and Common Terns. Fortunately, many of the Common Terns still sported the black carpal bar of their winter plumage making them easy to identify even from a distance.

There were even some non-shorebird/gull type birds at the Flats. Mottled Ducks were present in the nearby marsh and Red-breasted Mergansers were common in the surf. A few Lesser Scaup were also present along with a pair of American Wigeon. A Reddish Egret danced in the water while Brown and American White Pelicans sat on the beach. Two Northern Harriers cruised over the marsh grass while a few Barn Swallows zipped over the beach. Two Horned Larks scurried around the vegetation line eventually giving a good look or two. This species is quite common in the west and in south Texas but are generally hard to find on the upper Texas coast – except at Bolivar Flats.

The group eventually moved on from Bolivar Flats to other nearby birding sites. A lunch stop in Crystal Beach gave the birders a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher perched on a wire. Bob's Road turned up Red-tailed Hawk and Swamp Sparrow among other good birds. Yacht Basin Road delivered Ruby-throated Hummingbird and Spotted Sandpiper. A Whimbrel was seen by a few of the birders here and Clapper Rail was heard but not seen. Rollover Pass is a fantastic shorebird spot itself so a stop there was in order. The group enjoyed American Oystercatcher, Black Skimmer and Greater Yellowlegs here and was able to do additional studying sorting between Least, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers. It takes patience studying bill length and shape, leg color and sometimes subtle plumage details but all were available to see.

The day ended as is traditional for this trip in High Island. The woodland birding was a lot tougher than the birding on the open beach! Boy Scout Woods was quiet with very few

birds obvious. Blue-headed Vireo was seen well but a Gray Catbird was less cooperative. Orange-crowned and Yellow-rumped Warblers were located along with the ever-present wintering Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Ruby-crowned Kinglet. At Smith Oaks, the rookery was as impressive as ever. Dozens of Great Egrets, Neotropic Cormorants and Roseate Spoonbills lined the islands of the ponds there. A few Snowy Egrets joined in as well with Common Gallinule and American Coot in the water below. As the birders wrapped up the trip, the wood lot gave up one more good species to end the day as two Swallow-tailed Kites flew over the oak trees. A perfect ending to a great day of birding!

The following species were observed by the trip leaders: American Wigeon (2); Blue-winged Teal (2); Mottled Duck (10); Lesser Scaup (49); Red-breasted Merganser (40); Pied-billed Grebe (2); Mourning Dove (2); Eurasian Collared-Dove (4); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1); American Avocet (150); American Oystercatcher (4); Black-bellied Plover (30); Snowy Plover (12); Wilson's Plover (12); Semipalmated Plover (150); Piping Plover (50); Killdeer (2); Marbled Godwit (12); Long-billed Curlew (15); Whimbrel (1); Ruddy Turnstone (1); Red Knot (3); Sanderling (75); Dunlin (100); Least Sandpiper (25); Semipalmated Sandpiper (1); Western

Sandpiper (120); "Peep" sp. (500); Short-billed Dowitcher (35); reater Yellowlegs (1); Willet (Eastern) (30); Willet (Western) (41); Laughing Gull (123); Ring-billed Gull (2); Herring Gull (2); Least Tern (15); Gull-billed Tern (3); Forster's Tern (35); Common Tern (6); Caspian Tern (6); Royal Tern (66); Sandwich Tern (10); Black Skimmer (7); Neotropic Cormorant (208); Double-crested Cormorant (5); American White Pelican (270); Brown Pelican (181); Great Blue Heron (4); Great Egret (129); Snowy Egret (10); Little Blue Heron (2); Reddish Egret (3); Tricolored Heron (2); Cattle Egret (2); White Ibis (51); Roseate Spoonbill (63); Common Gallinule (6); American Coot (2); Clapper Rail (1); Turkey Vulture (7); Osprey (6); Northern Harrier (2); White-tailed Kite (2); Swallow-tailed Kite (2); Red-tailed Hawk (4); Belted Kingfisher (1); Crested Caracara (2); American Kestrel (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (2); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (1); Horned Lark (2); Barn Swallow (9); Sedge Wren (1); House Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Northern Mockingbird (1); Gray Catbird (1); European Starling (11); Savannah Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (1); Eastern Meadowlark (3); Red-winged Blackbird (8); Boat-tailed Grackle (12); Great-tailed Grackle (2); Common Grackle (10); Orange-crowned Warbler (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (3); Northern Cardinal (5); House Sparrow (1).

*Steve Mayes*

## Bird Sightings – March 2019

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.** Very little space again this month. As is becoming normal for March, there are a number of sightings which represent migrants that are considerably early, but there are other interesting sightings as well!

### Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Black Scoter	Mar 26	JEF-McFaddin Bch (1 male) MC
Chuck-will's-widow	Mar 26	HAI-Lumberton (1) Kelly Hill
Pomarine Jaeger	Mar 24	JEF-McFaddin Beach (1) Dominic Le Criossette, Thomas Hellweg
Parasitic Jaeger	Mar 24	JEF-McFaddin Beach (1) Dominic Le Criossette, Thomas Hellweg
Vermilion Flycatcher	Mar 2	HAI-Old Sour Lake Rd (1) John Mariaini
Yellow-throated Vireo	Mar 5	JEF-SW (1) JHH
	Mar 13	JAS-Martin Dies SP (1) Nancy Leonard
Red-eyed Vireo	Mar 12	ANG-SW part of Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 16-21	JEF-SW (1) mult. obs
Northern Waterthrush	Mar 9	NEW-FM692 Burkeville (1) Julia Wilson
Prothonotary Warbler	Mar 16	JEF-SW (3) mult obs.
Kentucky Warbler	Mar 20	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Hooded Warbler	Mar 12	ANG-SW part of Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
	Mar 13	JEF-SW (1 male) JHH
Summer Tanager	Mar 1-5	TYL-CR4777 (1) Lisa Appelbaum
	Mar 10	JEF-Beaumont-Spurlock Rd (1 fem) Shannon Husband

Black Scoter	Mar 4	CAM-Rutherford Beach (2) Paul Conover
	Mar 26	CAM-Holly Beach (1) David Booth, mult obs
Common Nighthawk	Mar 24	HAS-Terry Hershey Park (1) Sue Orwig
Chimney Swift	Mar 8	HAS-Kleb Woods (3) Linda Martin-Rust
	Mar 9	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) J&C Miles
Solitary Sandpiper	Mar 4	CAM-Hackberry Ridge (1) Matthew Pontiff
American Woodcock	Mar 23	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Kirk Gardner
Parasitic Jaeger	Mar 23	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover
Franklin's Gull	Mar 11	GAL-Tx City Dike (2) Nathaniel Pilant
California Gull	Mar 3	GAL-BF (2) David and Jonathan Henderson
Black Tern	Mar 10	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover
Broad-winged Hawk	Mar 8	HAS-Little Cedar Bayou Park (1) L. Wight, J. Farrall, J. Murtishaw
Swainson's Hawk	Mar 14	HAS-Woodland Park (1) Mary Goldsby, Robert Knetsch

	Mar 17	HAS-Warren Lake Ranch (1) Liz Budnek	Louisiana Waterthrush	Mar 5	CAL-LA378 1 mi W of Moss Bluff (1) Billy Jones
Ladder-backed Wdprk	Mar 16-24	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Dennis Cooke, mult obs	Prothonotary Warbler	Mar 14 Mar 18	LIB-CR417 (1) Gary Holmes LIB- west of FM1008, 6 mi N of Kenefick (1) Colette Micallef
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Mar 22	HAS-Edith Moore Sanct. (1) Dominic LeCroussette, mult obs	Tennessee Warbler	Mar 26	HAS-Houston Space Ctr area (0 Janet Rathjen)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Mar 29	HAS-UH Clear Lake (1) Farokh Jamalyaria	Hooded Warbler	Mar 11 Mar 12	HAS-Clear Lake Area (1) Lisa Velasquez HAS-Houston-Piney Point Village area (1) Sara Bettencourt
Say's Phoebe	Mar 1	HAS-El Franco Lee Park area (1) Albert Ribes, mult obs	American Redstart	Mar 13, 19 Mar 17	GAL-LaFitte's Cove (1 fem) Dennis Cooke HAS-Discovery Green (1) David Kirsch
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Mar 6	CAM-Pine Pasture Rd (1) Charlotte Chehotsky, Beth Kramer	Tropical Parula	Mar 6-13	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Mike Austin, mult obs
Great Kiskadee	Mar 1-4 Mar 2	GAL-Pelican Is (1) Dave Herdegen, Kyle O'Haver HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) Larry Dybala	Nashville Warbler	Mar 4 Mar 17	HAS-Sharp Rd (1) Sonny Bratz HAS-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright, Susan Kennedy
Couch's Kingbird	Mar 10 Mar 1	GAL-League City (1) Brian Berry HAS-Bear Creek Pk (1) Stuart Nelson, Chris Hammond	Kentucky Warbler	Mar 19	HAS-BellaVita (1) Mike Austin
	Mar 12	HAS-Challenger 7 Mem. Pk. (1) Steve Rogow	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Mar 16	GAL-High Island (1) William Seleen
Eastern Kingbird	Mar 13 Mar 17, 19	GAL-Lafitte's Cove () Denniscooke, Greg Hall CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Jeff and Chris Payne, Josh Lefever	Yellow Warbler	Mar 2	HAS-El Franco Lee Park area (1) Laura M
	Mar 17	CAM-Fruge Rd N of LA14 (1) Charlotte Hehotsky (the mapped location is S of LA14 )	Prairie Warbler	Mar 20	HAS-BellaVita (1) Mike Austin. Judy Behrens
	Mar 19	CAM-Chalkley Rd (1) Josh Lefever, Garrett Behrends	Black-thr. Green Warbler	Mar 17 Mar 18	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio, Megan Ahlgren HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct. (1) John Berner, mult obs
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Mar 17	CAL-Bell City (1) Jeff and Chris Payne		Mar 18	HAS-Houston, Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig
Bell's Vireo	Mar 17, 23	HAS-Robt. C. Stuart Park (1) James Rieman, Nina Rach	Summer Tanager	Mar 19 Mar 4	HAS-BellaVita (1) Mike Austin CAL-French Settlement (1 fem) Beth Kramer
Warbling Vireo	Mar 22	GAL-Moody Gdns Golf Course (1) Greg Whittaker	Western Tanager	Mar 18 Mar 21	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Kris Cannon GAL-Kempner Park ( fem) Ron Weeks
Green Jay	Mar 7-18	HAS-Nr. Baldwin Park (1) Tony Dang, mult obs		Mar 24	GAL-16th St S of Broadway (1) Paul Randall
Bank Swallow	Mar 5	GAL-Smith Oaks (3) HAS Staff			
Cliff Swallow	Mar 10	SAA-FM63 (1) David Bell, John Smelser			
Fox Sparrow	Mar 25	CHA-ANWR Jackson Woodlot (1) Tom and Jackie Jackson			
Bullock's Oriole	Mar 19	GAL-Kempner Park (1) Jackie Farrell, Jane Murtishaw			
Baltimore Oriole	Mar 10 Mar 21 Mar 27	HAS-San Jacinto Btlgnd (2) Kurt Hillman HAS-Terry Hershey Park (1) Lisa and Karl Poetzl HAS-Houston, Braeswood Place are (1 m) John O'Brien			
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar 16	CHA-FM1410 at IH10 (2) Shelia Hargis			
Ovenbird	Mar 23	HAS-Randolph Park (1) Brad Lirette			

**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; NEW – Newton County; 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.

## Big Sit

Twenty plus Golden Triangle members will participate in the 23rd Annual Birding Classic. This event is made possible by donations from event sponsors and team registration fees and corporate and community team sponsorship. Habitat conservation grants are awarded for winning teams. Habitat conservation grants are awarded for winning teams. Our team, the VisitBeaumont, Tx Marsh Madness is sponsored for the 4th year by the Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau. The

category we are participating in is the Big Sit. Rules for our event involve selecting a 17-foot diameter circle from which to bird. Team members rotate in shifts and some will bird all day. Birds identified and counted must be seen/heard from within the circle. The day we have selected in April, 24 and our circle in on the boardwalk at Cattail Marsh. For more information visit The Great Texas Birding Classic

*Sherrie Roden*

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](http://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.