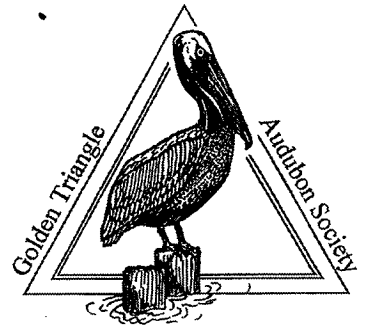


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 25 No. 2

February 2019

Membership Meeting
Thursday February 21, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

The Warblers of Sabine Woods
John Haynes and Harlan Stewart

One of the great avian spectacles in the United States occurs in spring when weather conditions cause large flights of passerine neotropical migrants to descent into the first habitat they encounter after crossing the 600 or so miles of the Gulf of Mexico from the Yucatan or perhaps further south. Many of these migrants are species from the family Parulida, the Wood Warblers also called the New World Warblers. They are not particularly closely related to either the Old World Warblers or the Australian Warblers. There are about 50 species in the family, and about 35 of them can be seen in Sabine Woods in any given year. Most of them are strongly migratory, breeding in the northern tier of North America and wintering mostly south of the United States. Therefore, they pass through the Upper Texas Coast northbound each spring and southbound in the fall. They are among the most variedly colorful small birds in North America, especially in the spring when they are in full breeding plumage.

John and Harlan will guide you through the family, illustrated by photographs taken almost exclusively at Sabine Woods. Finding 20 species of them in a single day in spring is quite common. On really good days, 25 species can be seen.

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

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

*Important Note: 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. 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 February 14, 2019. Lower Trinity Valley Bird Club Meeting. 6:30 pm, the FNLB Corner, 1822 Sam Houston Ave, (corner of Sam Houston Ave and Travis St.) Liberty, TX. Topic: Tongues, Toes and Tales of Texas Woodpeckers; Speaker: Steve Shink, author of the Peterson Reference Guide to Woodpeckers of North America. GTAS members are invited to attend. For further information go to www.lowertrinityvalleybirdclub.org or email lowertrinityvalleybirdclub@gmail.com.

Saturday February 16, 2019 Field Trip to Sheldon Lake State Park. Note that this Field Trip will be on the Saturday before the Membership Meeting. Meet at the parking lot at the north entrance to Sheldon Lake State Park at 8:00 A.M. To reach the north entrance, take Sheldon Road north from either US90 or US90 Business (Beaumont Highway) in Sheldon, and turn left on Garrett Road. The entrance will be on the left in 2.2 miles.

The Park includes a large lake with waterfowl in winter, prairie areas, moist woodlands, and an area of old fish hatchery ponds with lots of passerine birds in the trees and shrubs on the levees separating the ponds.

Thursday February 21, 2019. Membership Meeting. Program on the Warblers of Sabine Woods. See p.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.

Thursday March 21, 2019. Membership Meeting. Michael Cooper, Gerald Duhon and Steve Mayes on Birds of Costa Rica.

Saturday March 23. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. This trip will occur as spring shorebird migration is getting well under way, but while the wintering birds are mostly still present. Bolivar Flats is an internationally important shore-bird location. We know that a lot of birders are intimidated by shorebirds, but they are not nearly as difficult to



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

identify as is sometimes alleged! This trip offers an opportunity to compare many of the "true" shorebirds with lots of help in identifying them.

Meet at the vehicle barrier at 8:30 a.m. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the shoreline, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). Turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettilon Road. At the beach, if conditions permit, turn right (west) about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. Follow recent tire tracks, and be careful to avoid any cut that may have developed. It takes at least one and a half hours to drive from the Golden Triangle. We will leave the vehicle barrier at about 8:45 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes later than that.

The Flats in winter always have lots of plovers, sandpipers and other wading species. A large flock of American Avocets winters there.

Some walking is necessary on this field trip. If the tide is a long way out, the leaders may walk up to a mile from the vehicle barrier, but you can turnaround at any point. Depending on the mud flat conditions, we may visit the North Jetty to view the birds from that side.

We normally stop at Fort Travis Park to eat lunch and use the facilities. We may stop at Rollover Pass and often stop at High Island on the way back to check in High Island for any "very early" Neotropical songbird migrants. Bring drinks and lunch (or buy locally, but that is not particularly easy), sunscreen and insect repellent.

Important Note: Galveston County operates a parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. If you park on most parts of the beach, including the part next to the Flats, you must have a parking permit on your windshield. The fee for the permit is \$10.00 a year and permits are obtainable from most merchants on the Bolivar Peninsula including the Big Store, which opens at 7:00 a.m. Currently, the permit also entitles you to park at Rollover Pass.

Thursday April 18, 2019. Membership Meeting. Purple Martins. Jace Stansbury. Full details in future issue.

Saturday April 20, 2019. Field Trip to Sabine Woods. Meet at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. Full details in future issue.

Electronic Delivery of the *Brown Pelican*

We currently mail most copies of the *Brown Pelican* to members by first class mail. While we certainly do not want to cut off any members who are unable to receive a copy electronically, we encourage you, if you are able, to receive your copy as a pdf attachment to an email. This way, you can save us both expense and volunteer time. To do this please send an email to johnawhittle@aol.com from the email address you want us to use. Be sure to include your name so we can find you in our membership records!

The Great Backyard Bird Count 16-19 February 2019

Every February, count for as little as 15 minutes in your own backyard to help expand our understanding of birds.

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count, from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world.

Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded.

The 21st annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, 2018. Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest educational and promotional resources.

"This count is so fun because anyone can take part—we all learn and watch birds together—whether you are an expert, novice, or feeder watcher. I like to invite new birders to join me and share the experience. Get involved, invite your friends, and see how your favorite spot stacks up." -Gary Langham, Chief Scientist, National Audubon Society

Bird populations are always shifting and changing. For example, 2014 GBBC data highlighted a large irruption of Snowy Owls across the northeastern, mid-Atlantic, and Great Lakes areas of the United States. The data also showed the effects that warm weather patterns have had on bird movement around the country. For more on the results of the latest GBBC, take a look at the GBBC Summary, and be sure to check out some of the images in the 2017 GBBC Photo Contest Gallery.

On the program website participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during and after the count. Be sure to check out the Explore a Region tool to get an idea of what you can expect to see in your area during the next GBBC.

For questions and comments, please contact the National Audubon Society or Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

National Audubon Society **Cornell Lab of Ornithology**
citizenscience@audubon.org 800-843-2473; .
gbbc@cornell.edu

The Great Backyard Bird Count is made possible, in part, by generous support from Wild Birds Unlimited.

Orange County Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2019

Sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society

New Year's Day, 2019, was a very pleasant one to be outdoors looking for birds, temperature in the 50's to 60's, a partly cloudy wintry sky and a light NE breeze. There were three more CBC counters than the 10 stalwarts that braved the freeze and north wind last year. Even with greater effort, the number of species and total birds was low for the Orange County count, looking at 2019 back to 2006. We observed 113 species and 4808 individuals, a small uptick from last year in the freeze.

Highlights were a male and female Purple Finch, representing the recent Purple Finch irruption, and a glimpse plus voice ID of a Seaside Sparrow on the road to Bailey's Fish Camp. A Summer Tanager also repeated from last year. Two nice flights of Sandhill Cranes seemed to fly right along a diameter of the count circle, a species not recorded in the previous 7 years.

After lots of recent rain, even with a light NE wind, water levels were high in Bessie Heights and the marshes, and we didn't see the expanse of mud flats that a north wind can reveal.

As was the case last year, no geese were seen over the count circle on New Year's Day. Most of the expected ducks were present, including Gadwalls, Mottled Ducks, and Green-winged Teal that we missed last year. The 82 Mallards seen is a high for our database, likely due to better access. We got Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Lesser Scaup and Red-breasted Mergansers, while missing American Wigeon, Canvasbacks, Redheads, Ring-necked Ducks, Buffleheads, Common Golden-eye, Hooded Mergansers, and Ruddy Ducks.

Pied-billed Grebes were out in typical numbers, as well as both expected Cormorant species and both Pelican species, plus one Anhinga.

All the expected Herons and Egrets appeared, and Roseate Spoonbill, but Night-herons were scarce again this year, and only one indeterminate individual was noted. It was a very good day for White Ibis, and some White-faced Ibis were recorded, but dark ibis species, now counted as "Glossy/White-faced Ibis" were present in a small number just above the miss last year. Hundreds were recorded in 2016-7.

Black and Turkey Vultures, Ospreys and Northern Harriers were out in normal numbers. One Sharpie was found, but Cooper's Hawks were a miss. We found Bald Eagles and Red-shouldered Hawks after missing last year, and it's a good year for Red-tailed Hawks.

No one called a Clapper or King Rail, but Virginia Rail and Sora were recorded after misses last year. Common Gallinules were found, but American Coot was a miss.

Very few shorebirds were seen this year, possibly due to high water on the shorelines and usual mudflats. There was a normal number of Killdeer, a Spotted Sandpiper, a Greater Yellowlegs, two Willets and one Wilson's Snipe. That's it for the shorebirds.

Laughing Gulls were present in a typical number after last year's large spike. The same number of Ring-billed Gulls was

seen, low historically for TXOC. Forster's and Royal Terns were present in low numbers.

Rock Pigeons seem to be thriving, while Eurasian Collared Doves and White-winged Doves are down. Mourning Doves are up from last year but still low historically. No Inca Doves have been reported for two years. Two Barn Owls and a Barred Owl were tallied, and a normal number of Belted Kingfishers.

All the expected woodpeckers were found in notably higher numbers than last year. Crested Caracara, American Kestrel, and Merlin also made higher numbers. Peregrine Falcon was missed this year and last.

Eastern Phoebe's were up while Vermilion Flycatcher is a miss. We found the expected Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed and Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, and American Crow.

The expected smaller birds were found with exception of Brown Creeper and Winter Wren. Sedge Wrens, Orange-crowned Kinglets, American Pipits, White-throated and Song Sparrows were present after misses last year. There were almost ten times more Robins than last year. Cedar Waxwings are also having a good year. White-crowned Sparrows have been missed for three years. American Goldfinches and House Sparrows were found in typical numbers.

We have great cooperation from area landowners and would like to thank the owners of two large private parcels, Hawk Club and Odum Interests, on the southeast edge of the circle, for the fifth year. We appreciate Gerald Langham for access to his property north of Bessie Heights and also J.B. Arrington for access to the lake on his property just east of Claiborne West Park.

Visit www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmasbird-count for lots of info on Audubon Christmas Counts, from the history of CBCs to the rules for counts, to data archives and science articles drawing on the CBC database.

Here's the list of all sightings in this year's Orange County Christmas Bird Count:

DUCK, Wood (8); GADWALL (45); MALLARD (82); DUCK, Mottled; (4); TEAL, Blue-winged (5); SHOVELER, Northern (22); PINTAIL, Northern (32); TEAL, Green-winged (69); SCAUP, Lesser (98); MERGANSER, Red-breasted (23); DUCK species (18); GREBE, Pied-billed (22); CORMORANT, Neotropic (94); CORMORANT, Double-crested (28); CORMORANT, Neotropic/Double Crested species (20); ANHINGA (1); PELICAN, American White (53); PELICAN, Brown (36); HERON, Great Blue (22); EGRET, Great (49); EGRET, Snowy (34); HERON, Little Blue (10); HERON, Tri-colored (1); NIGHT-HERON species (1); IBIS, White (293); IBIS, White-faced (17); IBIS, Glossy/White-faced (15); SPOONBILL, Roseate (10); VULTURE, Black (31); VULTURE, Turkey (27); OSPREY (16); HARRIER, Northern (5); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); EAGLE, Bald (5); HAWK, Red-shouldered (9); HAWK, Red-

tailed (21); RAIL, Virginia (3); SORA (1); GALLINULE, Common (8); CRANE, Sandhill (86); KILDEER (55); SANDPIPER, Spotted (1); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (1); WILLET (2); SNIPE, Wilson's (2); GULL, Laughing (35); GULL, Ring-billed (35); GULL, Herring (1); TERN, Forster's (6); TERN, Royal (1); PIGEON, Rock (75); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (7); DOVE, White-winged (10); DOVE, Mourning (63); OWL, Barn (2); OWL, Barred (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (14); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (3); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (22); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (12); WOODPECKER, Downy (12); FLICKER, Northern (Yellow-shafted) (11); WOODPECKER, Pileated (9); CARACARA, Crested (4); KESTREL, American (20); MERLIN (2); PHOEBE, Eastern (31); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (15); VIREO, White-eyed (7); VIREO, Blue-headed (7); JAY, Blue (80); CROW, American (8); SWALLOW, Tree (179); CHICKADEE, Carolina (21); TITMOUSE, Tufted (5); NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (5); WREN, House (12); WREN, Sedge (1); WREN, Marsh (8); WREN, Carolina (30); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (15); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (5); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (43); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (47); THRUSH, Hermit (3); ROBIN, American (668); CATBIRD, Gray (6); THRASHER, Brown (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (63); STARLING,

European (230); PIPIT, American (23); WAXWING, Cedar (341); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (15); YELLOW-THROAT, Common (2); WARBLER, Pine (62); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) (333); SPARROW, Seaside (1); SPARROW, Chipping (12); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (5); SPARROW, White-throated (11); SPARROW, Vesper (5); SPARROW, Savannah (9); SPARROW, Song (3); SPARROW, Swamp (27); CARDINAL, Northern (78); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (151); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (30); GRACKLE, Common (11); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (90); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (248); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (1); FINCH, House (2); FINCH, Purple (2); GOLDFINCH, American (79); SPARROW, House (44); TANAGER, Summer (1).

SPECIES, total (113); INDIVIDUALS, total (4808); Observers (13); Parties (4); Party-hours total (33.1); Party-miles total (85.5); Party-hours on foot (11.0); Party-miles on foot (13.75); Party-hours by car (19.35); Party-miles by car (78.7).

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

Field Trip to Cattail Marsh 19 January 2019

Most people would not immediately associate the terms “bird watching” and “toughness”. Most birding is done in fair weather and it is certainly more pleasant that way. But bad weather can bring in a lot of good birds, especially during spring migration. And sometimes, planned birding outings just happen to coincide with poor weather but the show must go on! The January field trip of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society to Cattail Marsh started with gray skies, cold weather and a 20+ mph wind – not exactly ideal conditions! Yet, more than twenty birders braved the weather to bird the marsh that day. If that's not tough, what is?

The field trip started at the boardwalk near the entrance to the marsh. The boardwalk is a relatively new addition to the Cattail Marsh but it is already very popular with birders and non-birders alike. The birds do not seem to mind the extra traffic. Common Gallinules are a fixture here and were easily seen by all. A very tame immature Little Blue Heron showed off his white (not blue) plumage as it has done for several weeks. Green-winged Teal were abundant around the boardwalk as they were elsewhere in the marsh and Blue-winged Teal were also common. Cinnamon Teal are western birds not normally common on the upper Texas coast but they are seen regularly at Cattail Marsh in the winter and several were seen on the day. Dark Ibis were easily seen from the boardwalk but getting a good look at their faces proved difficult at first. Eventually good looks were obtained and both the more abundant White-faced Ibis and the more scarce Glossy Ibis were picked out among the feeding birds. An American Pipit gave the birders a close look while a beautiful “gray ghost” adult male Northern Harrier was also a big hit.

The birding was good enough that some of the group decided to stay on the boardwalk but others braved the three mile hike in the cold wind around the marsh.

As the group moved around the marsh, many other birds were detected. Some were only detected by the sounds they made while they concealed themselves in the marsh. Among these birds were the secretive rails of the marsh including King Rail, Virginia Rail and Sora – all heard on the day. Others were seen easily such as the common American Coot swimming in the cells or the Yellow-rumped Warblers in the trees surrounding the marsh. Wading birds of various types were easily found including Great and Snowy Egrets, Tricolored Herons, a Great Blue Heron and several pink Roseate Spoonbills. Black-crowned Night-Heron was not as easily seen but a couple were eventually spotted hiding in the reeds. No group of birds were as abundant as the gulls that were constantly wheeling overhead. Cattail Marsh is positioned between two landfills and a sewage treatment plant, otherwise known as gull paradise! Hundreds of Laughing Gulls flew over the marsh mixed with smaller numbers of Ring-billed and Herring Gulls.

Raptors are usually easy to come by at Cattail Marsh and, despite the weather this day was no different. In addition to the Northern Harriers cruising low over the marsh there was the usual collection of Red-tailed Hawks soaring over. The rust and brown intermediate morph Red-tail often seen at Cattail (affectionately nicknamed “Rufous” but the group) was seen by only a few participants, and eventually perched in a distant tree where the view was very obstructed. A pair of Crested Caracaras was a nice if distant sighting. An adult

Peregrine Falcon is always a spectacular find and the group got to enjoy one as it made several passes over the resident ducks and perched in a bare tree. The stars of the raptor show at Cattail Marsh have to be the pair of nesting Bald Eagles though. Present for several years, the eagles have a large nest in a pine tree on the north side of the marsh. Southern Bald Eagles nest in the winter so the Cattail Marsh nest was active on the field trip day. The birders got to see two adult eagles flying over the marsh and it appeared that one of the adults was feeding young in the nest (the nest is so deep it is hard to see for sure!). These are the kinds of sightings that made the cold walk worthwhile!

Ducks are the main objective of the trip and as the group made the walk around to cell one, they hit a major lode! Hundreds of ducks populated this deep water cell and the birders did their best to scope them all out. Most were Northern Shovelers, Green-winged Teal and Ruddy Ducks but there were plenty of others mixed in. A few Northern Pintail were located along with a few Ring-necked Ducks. A Lesser Scaup was located along with a number of tiny Bufflehead and a handful of Gadwall. Add in the Mallards and Mottled Ducks seen elsewhere in the marsh and it was a productive day for duck watching.

Plenty of other birds were located before the group made it back to the boardwalk. A single Least Grebe was found in its usual location near cell one – apparently the last survivor of a small colony that has been present for several years. Orange-crowned Warbler and Savannah Sparrow were found along the levees. A flock of American Goldfinch was located in the trees on the west side of the marsh. Palm Warbler and Chipping Sparrows were seen by some while most of the group was able to see White Ibis and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher.

But, eventually, the birders finished their cold, windy walk and arrived back at the boardwalk. It was an excellent trip but, at the same time, many of the group were ready to get in out of the cold. A day of Bald Eagles and Peregrine Falcons and Cinnamon Teal is always worth spending but maybe it could be a little warmer next time!

The following species were noted by the trip leaders:

Blue-winged Teal (250); Cinnamon Teal (6); Northern Shoveler (1000); Gadwall (3); Mallard (2); Mottled Duck (3); Northern Pintail (4); Green-winged Teal (500); Ring-necked Duck (5); Lesser Scaup (1); Bufflehead (15); Ruddy Duck (1000); Least Grebe (1); Pied-billed Grebe (6); King Rail (1); Virginia Rail (3); Sora (6); Common Gallinule (50); American Coot (200); Black-necked Stilt (2); Laughing Gull (500); Ring-billed Gull (25); Herring Gull (15); Gull sp. (1000); Neotropic Cormorant (2); Double-crested Cormorant (12); Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (8); Snowy Egret (15); Little Blue Heron (6); Tricolored Heron (3); Black-crowned Night-Heron (2); White Ibis (40); Glossy Ibis (1); White-faced Ibis (31); Roseate Spoonbill (8); Black Vulture (1); Turkey Vulture (50); Northern Harrier (5); Bald Eagle (2); Red-tailed Hawk (3); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Downy Woodpecker (1); Crested Caracara (2); Peregrine Falcon (1); Eastern Phoebe (3); Blue Jay (1); Crow sp. (2); Tree Swallow (35); Marsh Wren (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (4); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4); American Pipit (5); American Goldfinch (30); Chipping Sparrow (2); Savannah Sparrow (8); Swamp Sparrow (1); Red-winged Blackbird (50); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (25); Orange-crowned Warbler (3); Palm Warbler (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (25)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – January 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. An unusually extensive list of rarities again this month. We have always used a more locally focused list of rarities that we include in this section. The incredible irruption of Purple Finches this season has forced us to omit them. Suffice it to say that there have been significant numbers of this species in all areas that we cover. This may turn out to be a one-year phenomenon but time will tell. We have also omitted the following species that are found most winters. Many have been in larger numbers this year. They are Common Goldeneye, White-tailed Hawks in areas east of Chambers County, Black-and-white Warbler, Yellow-throated Warblers and Yellow-headed Blackbird. We have also bitten the bullet and used the August 2018 eBird sequence for species.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Chuck-will's-widow	Jan 30	JEF-SW (1) Joel Springer
Wood Stork	Jan 27	JEF-SW (1) SH
White-tailed Hawk	Jan 5-7	JEF-WJC (1) MC, TH, SH
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 10	JEF-WJC Thompson Rd (1) JAW
Western Kingbird	Jan 5-26	JEF-WJC-Thompson Rd (1) SM, MC, JHH, SH, Janet Neath
White-breasted Nuthatch	Jan 25	HAI-BTNP HQ Area (1) Christine Turnbull, Anthony Hewetson
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Jan 21	JEF-WJC (4 m, 3 f) SH, SM

Bullock's Oriole	Jan 16	ORA-Oak Manor (1) Denise and Gary Kelley
Northern Waterthrush	Jan 5-6	JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) MC, SM, JHH, SH
Summer Tanager	Jan 1	ORA-Claiborne West Pk (1) SM
Black-headed Grosbeak	Jan 19-27	Beaumont-Spurlock Rd (1 fem) Shannon Husband, mult obs

Nearby Counties

Black Scoter	Jan 1-5	CAM-Rutherford Bch (up to 8) Paul Conover, Eric Ripma
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Black Scoter	Jan 5	CAM-offshore from mouth of Mermentau Riv (15) Dave Patton, Paul Conover, Robert Dobbs.	Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 5	CAM-Cameron (1) Eric Ripma, Landon Neumann
	Jan 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Kathleen and Roger Horn		Jan 7-10	CAL-LA397 at Ward Line Road (1) Alexandre Coates, Alex Wiebe
Horned Grebe	Dec 27	CAL-Lk Charles Swimming Beach (1) Elise Read, Malise Preto	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 1-14	CAL-LA397 at Ward Line Road (2) mult obs
Common Ground-Dove	Jan 1	CAL-LA397 at Ward Line Rd (1) Timothy Freiday		Jan 15-31	CAL-Fabacher Rd (1) Teresa Connell, Duane Huval
Chuck-will's-Widow	Jan 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Kathleen and Roger Horn	Bell's Vireo	Jan 8-27	HAS-Robt C. Stuart Pk (1) James Rieman, Letha Slagle, Dale Wolck
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Jan 27	CAM-Willow Is (1) Paul Conover	Horned Lark	Jan 4	CAL-Fruge Rd S of LA14 (2) Eric Ripma,
Calliope Hummingbird	Jan 19-24	GAL-San Leon Sanctuary (1 fem) Stennie Meadows, Bill Wright	Clay-colored Sparrow	Jan 21	CAM-Willow Is (2) Michael Musumeche
Yellow Rail	Jan 5	CAM- Mermentau River Mouth (1) Jon Wise	Spotted Towhee	Jan 21-27	CAM-Grand Chemier (2) Paul Conover, Phillip Wallace, mult obs
Black Rail	Jan 5	CAM- Mermentau River Mouth (1) Jon Wise	Yellow-breasted Chat	Jan 21	CAM-Grand Chenier (1) Paul Conover, Phillip Wallace
Purple Gallinule	Jan 1	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Paul Conover	Western Meadowlark	Jan16	HAS Warrne Ranch Lake area (2) Stephen Gast
Pomarine Jaeger	Jan 19-26	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) mult obs	Bullock's Oriole	Jan 16	HAS-Seabrook (1) Hilary Gibbs (poss hybrid)
Wood Stork	Jan 9	HAS-Terry Hershey Pk (1) Ken Hartman		Jan 26-31	HAS-Seabrook (1) Hilary Gibbs
Least Bittern	Jan 1	CHA-ANWR, Shoveler Pond (1)		Jan 28	CAL-Fabacher Rd (1 male) Kathleen and Roger Horn
	Jan 4	CHA-ANWR Exact Location not confirmed (1) Suzanne Mottin	Baltimore Oriole	Jan 29	HAS-Memorial Area (1) Lucy Vics
	Jan 5	CAM-Creole-Gibbstown Bridge (1) Erik Johnson	Tennessee Warbler	Jan 26	GAL-Moody Gdns (1) Greg Whittaker, Clayton Leopold
	Jan 29	CAM-Hackberry (1) Beau Rapier	Northern Parula	Jan 4	CAM-Sabine NWR-West Hackberry (1) Erik Johnson, Deanna Griggs
White-tailed Kite	Jan 9	CAL-LA397 at Ward Line Rd (1) Danny Dobbs		Jan 8	CAM-Willow Is (1) Jack Rogers
Golden Eagle	Jan 13	GAL-just E of Scholes Field (1) Greg Whittaker	Magnolia Warbler	Jan 25	CAM-Pesh Cemetery E of Cameron (1) Robert Dobbs
Harris's Hawk	Jan 7	CAL-Fabacher Rd (1) Vicki Sensat	Prairie Warbler	Jan 5	CAM-Creole CBC-NE area (1) Erik Johnson
	Jan 10	CAL-Ellis Moss Rd (1) Davis Booth, Daniel Doga		Jan 15	HAS-BellaVita (1) Mike Austin
	Jan 17	HAS-SE Katy area (1) Janey Woodley	Nashville Warbler	Jan 2-29	LIB-west of FM1008, 6 mi N of Kenefick (1) Colette&Paul Micallef
White-tailed Hawk	Jan 10	CAL-Bill Gayle Rd (1) Phillip Wallace		Jan 9, 20	HAS-White Oak Pk (1) Chris Hammond, Wendy Wright
Broad-winged Hawk	Jan28-29	GAL-Corps Woods (1) Dave Herdegen		Jan 12	HAS-Woodland Park (1) Mary Goldsby, Vanessa Chase, Jason Bonilla, Eli Venecia
Swainson's Hawk	Jan 1	CHA-ANWR Exact location not given (1) Laura Wilson, Bonnie McKenzie		Jan 27	CHA-ANWR, Skillern (1) Rod Murray
Red-tail. (Harlan's) Hawk	Jan 5	CHA-Pear Orchard Rd (1) John Berner, Drew Dickert, David Sarkozi		Jan 30	HAS-Geo Bush Pk (1) Janey Woodley
	Jan11	HAS-Freeman Rd, Katy (1) Kendra Kocab, Megan Ahlgren	Black-thr Green Warbler	Jan 9	HAS-Rice Univ campus (1 fem) Cin-Ty Lee
	Jan 11	HAS-Mallard Crossing, S of Hockley (1) Kendra Kocab, Megan Ahlgren		Jan 15-22	HAS-Memorial area (10 Sue Orwig
	Jan 6-31	HAS-Warren Ranch Lake area (1) Sonny Bratz, mult obs	Summer Tanager	Jan 1, 23	CAL-French Settlement (1) Beth Kramer
	Jan 27-30	HAS-Longenbaugh Rd/Porter Rd End (1) Greg Page, Ross Silcock	Western Tanager	Jan 4	HAS-Bear Creek Pk (1) Mark Kulstad
Golden-fronted Wdpkr	Jan 19	HAS-TX6 area near US2990 (1) Jim Trebes		Jan 17	HAS-Geo. Bush Pk (1) Janey Woodley
Least Flycatcher	Jan 5, 13, 27	CAM-Willow Is (1) Eric Ripma, Landon Neumann, mult obsr	Painted Bunting	Jan 3	CHA-Oyster Bayou Hunting Club (1) Gene Campbell
	Jan 13	CAL-LA397 at Ward Line Road (1) Jack Rogers, Marky Mutchler, David Booth		to Jan 19	HAS-Seabrook (1) Mike Fast
	Jan 25	CAM-Broussard Beach (1) Robert Dobbs	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.		
Say's Phoebe	Jan 15-31	HAS-El Franco Lee Pk (1) Steve Rogow, mult obs			
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Jan 1-9	CAL-Cox Rd (2) Mult obs			
Great Kiskadee	Jan 21-31	CAL-Fabacher Rd (4) Anne Gaienne, Doug Watson, mult obs			
Couch's Kingbird	Jan 4	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Richard Crichton			
Western Kingbird	Jan 3	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Dennis Shepler			

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
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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 forms of Internet distribution.

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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.