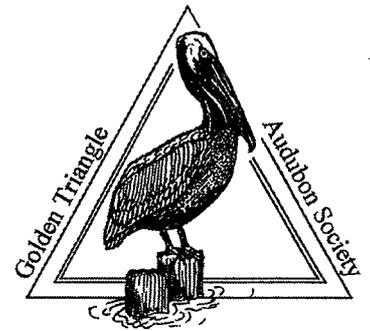


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 25 No. 5

May 2019

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

Your Favorite Bird Pictures

The favorite bird pictures programs have been so well received that we are doing another program of members' favorite bird pictures. Dr. Harlan Stewart has again volunteered to prepare all photos submitted in advance into a Powerpoint presentation. Each member's pictures will be prefaced by an introductory "slide." This will indicate the photographer and could indicate where the pictures were taken, if all at the same place, or that information can be in the caption to each picture, along with other information. Viewers have especially requested that the identity of the bird be shown. The contributors of the pictures may, if they desire, talk briefly about their pictures, or they can allow the pictures to stand on their own. The pictures should be bird related, but do not need to be exhibition quality, especially if the subject is especially interesting for any reason.

In order to prepare a combined presentation, we will need to have the pictures by Saturday May 11. They can be emailed as attachments to Harlan at hstewartmail@gt.rr.com If necessary, send several separate emails to avoid exceeding the limits set by your email provider.

We will also be able to show other presentations that you prepare yourself if they are on a flash drive, and are in the Powerpoint format (preferred) or are a series of jpg files.

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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.*

Saturday May 11, 2019. North American Migration Count. On International Migratory Bird Day, the Saturday of the second full weekend in May, we undertake an all-Jefferson-County Bird Count. We have been doing these counts since 1995. This count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We welcome additional participants, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from dawn through about 11:00 a.m. even if you would just like to cover your own neighborhood. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would certainly appreciate your help! Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for details or offers to help.

Thursday May 16, 2019. Membership Meeting. Members' favorite photos. 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 May 25, 2019. Field Trip to Hardin County This is a great opportunity to see the breeding songbirds of the southern part of the Big Thicket. We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Kentucky, Pine, Prairie and Prothonotary, and Swainson's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. We will likely not find all the listed species, but most years we find a good selection of them. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target of this trip, and we have often been rewarded with excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. Yellow-breasted Chats have often been seen perched high up in the open. This area also has breeding Prairie Warblers.

The meeting place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US 96 north. Take Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right, continue straight on FM92 for 3/4 mile to the shopping center. We normally finish sometime around noon or shortly after.

Kingfishers, Grebes and Gulls are among the Internet's Least Popular Birds

By Jillian Mock

From the Audubon Web-site April 24, 2019

A new analysis of Google searches suggests some pretty great species aren't getting the attention they deserve. It's time to change that.

From hit stories to hilarious memes, there's no question birds are all the rage on the internet these days. But how do you use the web to determine if a certain species is popular in the real world? That's what a pair of researchers recently sought to find out. By using Google searches for different birds as a proxy for their popularity in the real world, Cornell University researcher Alison Johnston and independent scientist Justin Schuetz ranked 621 birds according to the frequency people searched for their names. A birder taking a look at the results of the study, published last week in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, won't be shocked by the most popular species, but they will also notice that the least-popular bird groups are some of their favorites: kingfishers, grebes, and gulls.

Unsurprisingly, the analysis showed that Bald Eagles garner lots of online attention—they are the national bird, after all. And owls as a group dominate the discourse despite the fact that they're rarely seen by people. The most-searched bird name was far and away "Wild Turkey," the researchers found, but that is at least partly due to a certain holiday and whiskey brand. As the researchers expected, bigger, charismatic birds with conservation labels like "endangered" proved popular search subjects (as did sports team mascots).

Although the results themselves are revealing, the researchers' interest goes beyond a Google popularity contest. Species awareness is an important part of conservation—people can only advocate for legal protections, like the Endangered Species Act, if they know about a given species. Same goes for volunteering or donating to efforts to save threatened animals—you can't champion what you don't know. And that's why the least popular birds deserve at least as much attention as those ever-popular owls. For those unacquainted with these groups, which seems like plenty of people out there, here's a quick introduction and a few reasons why they deserve your utmost respect and admiration.

Kingfishers

These robin-size fish-darts were the least popular group in the analysis—a real shame. With their large heads, stocky bodies, and long, dagger-like bills used to spear unsuspecting fish from above, this family of birds is like none other. True to their name, these kings and queens of the river sport regal, colorful plumage and spiky, crown-like crests.

But don't be fooled by their royal nature—kingfishers know how to get down and dirty, too. During nesting season, they burrow into a muddy riverbank with their beak and claws, digging out a tunnel up to 15 feet long. (The birds take breaks to clean the muck from their feathers.) The female will then lay eggs and both parents will raise the young inside the new lair.

So why are such fascinating birds so unpopular? Size

could explain their low ranking, Shuetz says, given that web searchers typically searched for larger birds. Or it could be a lack of awareness due to there only being three kingfisher species in the United States: the Belted Kingfisher, which lives throughout the country, boasts average popularity, while the other two—Green and Ringed Kingfishers, which live along the U.S.–Mexico border—fell short. Whatever the reason, there's one lesson you should take from this: Don't sleep on kingfishers.

Meet a kingfisher: The Belted Kingfisher has slate-blue wings and a chunky statement necklace above a white belly, with a ruffled crest to finish the look. Females also wear a belt of rusty red feathers across their abdomen. This species is common across North America, found in waterways from western Alaska to eastern Canada all the way south through Mexico. Running into one depends on the time of year—these stately birds follow warm weather, as they need unfrozen bodies of water to skewer a meal—but you will often hear their loud, ratchet-like call before you see them.

Grebes

The current news cycle got you in a funk? There's a grebe for that. Seriously, these birds are so wonderfully weird, they are guaranteed to brighten any day. Their red eyes and alarming call might spook some out initially—but once you see them dance, you'll realize there's absolutely no cause for concern.

"They perform the most bizarre and energetic courtship dances," says Kenn Kaufman, field editor for *Audubon*. For example, a male and female Western Grebe will repeatedly dip their long necks up and down while swimming before rising up on their legs and running in unison across the water, heads up, chests out, and wings thrust behind them.

For all their fancy aquatic footwork, they don't do so well on land: Watch a video of a grebe awkwardly running on a beach and you'll know exactly what I mean. To stay permanently afloat, grebes weave floating nests in the middle of lakes out of aquatic plants—and they can stealthily slip underwater without generating so much as a ripple, sinking like submarines.

Despite occasionally getting some internet love thanks to clips of their wild mating rituals, these birds also rank low in the search results. Johnston suspects the lack of interest is probably due to how much time the birds spend on the open water and that people rarely see them up close in real life. It's unfortunate, because this is one bird that knows how to put on a show.

Meet a grebe: The Hooded Grebe, an endangered species native to the high plains of Patagonia, performs an elaborate, neck-cracking tango you have to see. In addition to grebes' characteristic red eye, these birds sport a hood of brown,

white, and black feathers that can be raised and lowered when wooing a mate. They call to one another with a high-pitched, rolling trill.

Gulls, Terns, and Shorebirds

Considering how much Americans love their beaches, it's always surprising how little they appreciate their resident birds. First there are gulls, the ultimate survivors. The omnivorous, opportunistic feeders eat everything from fish to mollusks to other birds to scavenged carrion to popcorn to sandwiches. They've also learned to specialize in human refuse, flocking to landfills, dumps, wastewater treatment plants, and other unsavory places to hunt out malodorous meals. Gulls come in all different sizes and often have distinctive field markings. Despite their close proximity, few people seem to differentiate them by species, according to the analysis; worse, they're more commonly called, gasp, seagulls!

Terns are more discerning eaters than their gull cousins. Fashionable in crisp black-and-white garb, they have a sleek build designed for long flights and diving for prey. These jetsetters tend to stick to the seashore and survive off fish, often seen hovering above the water searching for an unlucky

meal. One species, the Arctic Tern, makes the longest migration trip on Earth, flying from Tierra del Fuego on South America's southern tip all the way to Alaska and back each year.

While gulls and terns tend to dash through the skies in search of their next meal, shorebird species stick to beaches and marshes, making them easier to observe. Many even have their own signature look. Piping Plovers scurry across the beach on spindly yellow legs, Sanderlings run along the edge of the surf, and American Oystercatchers stride through shallow water, plunging their long orange bill in the sand for mussels, clams, and oysters.

Interestingly, these birds are some of the most popular among serious birders, Kaufman says, even if non-birders can't tell them apart. Ergo, get interested in gulls and shorebirds, become a serious birder.

Meet a gull: The Great Black-backed Gull lives in the northern Atlantic and is the largest gull in the world. These fearless birds will steal food from other gulls and even hunt other bird species, like grebes or puffins—the latter being yet another species that landed low on the popularity list. Considering they have glowing beaks, that just doesn't seem right.

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 20 April 2019

Spring is the time of year that birders most look forward to in southeast Texas because it means millions of birds will soon be headed to this area from Latin America. Dreams of massive fallouts and days with 20+ species of warblers spring into the imaginations of birders as they head out to the coast for birding in April. But spring is a boom or bust month for birds with the wind and weather dictating what will be seen and the old-timers will tell you that spring days today just do not compare to those of the past. So, what would an April birding expedition in 2019 yield? The Golden Triangle Audubon Society aimed to find out!

The April field trip to Sabine Woods has felt both ends of the boom or bust spectrum that spring can bring. Cold fronts have filled the woods with birds for some trips while howling south winds have left the coast almost empty of any migrant songbirds. Happily, the 2019 edition of the April field trip was on the boom end of the spectrum as the assembled birders found out pretty quickly. In fact, the birding was so good, many birders just chose to wander through the woods admiring the birds on their own rather than following one of the field trip leaders. There was just no bad spot in the woods. This was not a massive fallout to be sure. This was not the hundreds/thousands of birds knocked down by weather that have been true of some past groundings but just a good day precipitated by a cool front and some north winds. Still, the diversity of species was good and many included multiple individuals.

Warblers are always the measure of any spring day on the gulf coast and this day measured up well. American Redstarts flitted through the trees chasing flying insects and a Tennessee Warbler worked the upper branches on an oak. Northern Parulas were fairly easy to find hear the tips of branches while Black-and-white Warblers were even more numerous crawling

along trunks and branches. Multi-colored Chestnut-sided Warblers were much admired at middle heights in the trees while a uni-colored Yellow Warbler was no less appreciated. Common Yellowthroats were indeed common on the day with some occupying tree tops likely meaning they are migrants rather than resident birds. A brilliant Magnolia Warbler was found and Hooded Warblers were easily spotted hopping through the underbrush. A Nashville Warbler was spotted by some of the birders while proving elusive for others but Black-throated Green Warblers were much more cooperative.

Ground warblers were in good variety on the day. These birds are not always the most brightly colored of the warblers but are often among the most prized because of the difficulty in spotting them. There was no problem spotting Northern Waterthrushes as they chipped noisily from the pond edges (and other places) and Worm-eating Warblers were easy as they probed dead leaves and occasionally foraged on the ground. Kentucky Warblers are brightly colored but not always easy to see. Luckily, there were enough individuals around Sabine Woods on this day that most birders got at least a glimpse of one. Ovenbirds stalked through the overgrown areas of the woods and sometime ventured out into the open well enough to be seen. The most prized of the ground warblers, the elusive Swainson's Warbler was represented by at least two individuals on the day and trip leaders tried to make sure that everyone that wanted to see one of them got the chance – not that it was always easy!

Other warblers are prized for their bright plumage and sometimes for their scarcity as well. Golden-winged Warblers are dapper in gray and gold and black and white in a combination that is hard to beat. They are fairly common (though decreasing) warblers in some areas but are never particularly common on the upper Texas coast. Birders were

able to see several of these smart looking birds on the day. The Cerulean Warbler is clad more simply in blue and white but is no less beautiful. This species is in serious decline largely due to habitat loss and is never common in our area. Nevertheless, it does appear in small numbers every spring and a little work allowed good sightings of this bird on the day. The Blackpoll Warbler is very common along the east coast but most migrate well east of the upper Texas coast and few normally appear in this area. Luckily, a lovely black and white male Blackpoll was very accommodating for the birders and showed itself throughout the day. Perhaps the most unexpected warbler of the day was a male Wilson's Warbler. This species is very common and expected during fall migration but, it is often tough to find in April. The one spotted by some birders among the oaks and mulberries on the east end of Sabine Woods was a particular treat!

But, of course, warblers were not the only birds seen on the day. Elegant Cedar Waxwings hit the mulberry trees hard along with colorful Orchard and Baltimore Orioles. Green Herons stalked the ponds while Little Blue Herons passed by overhead. Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows briefly came out of hiding for some birders while few had trouble finding noisy and numerous Gray Catbirds. Brown Thrashers sang from tree tops and foraged in leaf litter and Sedge Wrens and a Sora called from the nearby marsh. Thrushes also roamed the thickets and shady areas with Swainson's, Wood and Gray-cheeked all seen on the day. Flycatchers were well represented with Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Great Crested Flycatcher and Eastern Kingbird all having been seen and/or heard (often more important with flycatchers!). Vireos seen on the day included noisy White-eyed Vireos, colorful Yellow-throated Vireos, fussing Blue-headed Vireos, plain Warbling Vireos, slightly less plain Philadelphia Vireos and, most numerous, Red-eyed Vireos.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks feasted on mulberries and hackberries and Indigo Buntings fed amongst the grasses on the ground. Brilliant red and black Scarlet Tanagers were much appreciated as always and the all red Summer Tanagers were also popular as they ate fruit and swooped after bees. Blue Grosbeaks were easily seen on the day dressed in blue and rust. With birds like these, it definitely was a boom spring day on the upper Texas coast. And though the spring days of today may not compare to those of yesterday and can still be

appreciated for the wonderful opportunity that they provide for viewing a multitude of colorful species. It is good to see that the hard work provided by members of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society to maintain Sabine Woods is worth the effort. If more important pieces of land can be protected and maintained on breeding, wintering and migration grounds, these beautiful birds will be preserved by many future generations of birders.

The following species were recorded by the trip leader: Pied-billed Grebe (1); White-winged Dove (4); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (1); Chimney Swift (2); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (1); King/Clapper Rail (1); Sora (1); Common Gallinule (1); Black-necked Stilt (4); Little Blue Heron (2); Cattle Egret (1); Green Heron (2); Black Vulture (4); Turkey Vulture (4); Northern Harrier (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Downy Woodpecker (2); Crested Caracara (2); Eastern Wood-Pewee (10); Acadian Flycatcher (10); Great Crested Flycatcher (4); Eastern Kingbird (5); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); White-eyed Vireo (2); Yellow-throated Vireo (2); Blue-headed Vireo (4); Philadelphia Vireo (2); Warbling Vireo (3); Red-eyed Vireo (12); Blue Jay (4); Purple Martin (4); Tree Swallow (20); Barn Swallow (2); House Wren (1); Sedge Wren (10); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (5); Gray-cheeked Thrush (2); Swainson's Thrush (7); Wood Thrush (7); Gray Catbird (15); Brown Thrasher (4); Northern Mockingbird (4); European Starling (1); Cedar Waxwing (20); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (1); Yellow-breasted Chat (1); Orchard Oriole (7); Baltimore Oriole (6); Red-winged Blackbird (10); Brown-headed Cowbird (4); Common Grackle (5); Boat-tailed Grackle (2); Ovenbird (5); Worm-eating Warbler (9); Northern Waterthrush (5); Golden-winged Warbler (5); Blue-winged Warbler (18); Black and White Warbler (20); Prothonotary Warbler (1); Swainson's Warbler (2); Tennessee Warbler (1); Nashville Warbler (1); Kentucky Warbler (8); Common Yellowthroat (10); Hooded Warbler (12); American Redstart (4); Cerulean Warbler (3); Northern Parula (7); Magnolia Warbler (1); Yellow Warbler (1); Chestnut-sided Warbler (3); Blackpoll Warbler (1); Yellow-throated Warbler (1); Black-throated Green Warbler (6); Wilson's Warbler (1); Summer Tanager (6); Scarlet Tanager (2); Northern Cardinal (6); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (2); Blue Grosbeak (12); Indigo Bunting (6)

Steve Mayes

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 p.8

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.

Bird Sightings – April 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. Perhaps predictably given the large numbers of out of area birders in the area in April, we have many, many reports. A few species which are genuinely rare in normal years have shown up in significant numbers this April, and we have had to provide summaries rather than each individual sighting or series of sightings. These include Black Scoters, Wood Stork, Great Kiskadee, and Western Kingbirds, all of which seem to have invaded the region this year.. Also, we have continued to use a checklist that has more generous ranges of normal dates for some migrants than many eBird filters do. We have excluded Willow and Alder Flycatcher reports which do not include info or recordings of the calls. We have also excluded reports of very rare species which do not include adequate details or photographs.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Canada Goose	Apr 13, 21	JEF-Beaumont-Spurlock Rd (2) Shannon Husband
Ringed Teal	Apr 30	JEF-Beaumont Waste Water Treatment Plant, Lafin Road (view from outside the fence!)
Ring-necked Duck	Apr 16	JEF-McFaddin NWR (1) K. C. Anderson (late)
	Apr 30	JEF-TP (1) Caleb Gordon, Rob Brumfield (late)
Lesser Nighthawk	Apr 10	JEF-SW (1) Gary and Benjamin Byerly (photo)
	Apr 14	JEF-SW (1) Jeff Corcoran (photo)
	Apr 27	JEF-SW (1) Caleb Gordon (uncfmd)
Black Rail	Apr 6	JEF-McFaddin NWR (1) Brandon Nidiffer, Ben Lucking
	Apr 14	JEF-SRSP (1) Chris Charlesworth
	Apr 17	JEF-Pilot Station Road (2) Todd Katz (details not convincing)
	Apr 20	JEF-SRSP (1 heard) SH
Purple Gallinule	Mar 28	JEF-Big Hill Rd (1) Renee Hebert, Paul Bonin
	Mar 29	JEF-TP (1) Bob White
Glaucous Gull	Apr 15	JEF-SRSP (1) Joanie and Mark Hubinger
Lesser Nighthawk	Apr 14	JEF-SW (1) Jeff Corcoran
Wood Stork	Apr 6	TYL-Lake Hyatt (1) Lisa Appelbaum
Reddish Egret	Apr 15	JAS-Martin Dies SP Island Trail (1) John Pike, Richard Cimino, Janet Bodle
Crested Caracara	Apr 1	HAI-Old Sour Lk Rd (2) Bob White (rare in Hardin County)
Bell's Vireo	Apr 10	JAS-FM777 (1) Glen Lindeman
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Apr 10	JEF-SW (2) Gary and Benjamin Byerly (early)
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 31	JEF-SW (1) MC,JH (early)
Dark-eyed Junco	Apr 15	JEF-SW (1 Slate -colored) mult obs
Clay-colored Sparrow	Apr 12	JEF-Hwy 87 betw Sabine Pass and Sabine Woods (1) JAW
Vesper Sparrow	Apr 22	ANG-Angelina Co Arpt (1) Gary Hunter (late)
Mourning Warbler	Apr 21	JEF-SW Michael Linz, Patty McLean (based on recorded call/song)
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Apr 13-19	JEF-SW (1 male) mult obs
	Apr 23-27	JEF-SW (1 male) mult obs

Palm Warbler (western)	Apr 26	JEF-SW (1) Anne Pelletier, mult obs
Cerulean Warbler	Mar 31	JEF-SW (1) Mike Austin, Tony Frank
Western Tanager	Apr 14-16	JEF-SW (1 fem) mult obs
	Apr 30	JEF-SW (1 imm male) Dennis Shepler
Painted Bunting	Mar 31	JEF-SW (1) JHH

Nearby Counties

Snow Goose	Apr 17	CAL-Lake Charles Millenium Park (3) Todd Katz
Ross's Goose	Apr 2, 6	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Jay Huner, mult obs
Canada Goose	Apr 18	HAS-Space Ctr Blvd (8) Farokh Jamalyria
	Apr 24	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) John Berner
White-winged Scoter	Apr 26	CAM-LA87 W of Holly Bch (1) Deanna Griggs
	Apr 26	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Jay Huner
Black Scoter		Multiple reports through April 29 from Rutherford Beach (CAM) west to west of Holly Beach (CAM) of up to 17, and one report on East Bay at ANWR Apr 15.
Horned Grebe	Apr 20	HAS-HI_Smith Oaks (1) Chip Clouse
Lesser Nighthawk	Apr 13	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Paul Conover, Becky Lloyd
	Apr 28	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) David Muth
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Apr 9	HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct. (1) Justin Bower
	Apr 16	HAS-Northside Area (1) Michael Williams
Blk-chin. Hummingbird	Apr 7	LIB-Liberty Mun. Park (1) Jonathan Feenstra
	Apr 19	LIB-Champion Lake (1) Bill Sain
Black Rail	Apr 15	CAM-Sabine Lighthouse area (1) Oscar Johnson, Matt Brady et al
Hudsonian Godwit	Apr 14-15	CAM-Sabine Lighthouse area (1) Paul Conover, Allison Snider
	Apr 14	CAM-Holly Beach (16) Cameron Rutt, Tyler Williams
Iceland (Thayers) Gull	Apr 22	GAL-Bolivar Ferry (1 2nd yr) Michael O'Brien, Louise Zemaitis
Glaucous Gull	Apr 22	GAL-BF (1) Dwayne Litteer, multi obs

Gt. Black-backed Gull	Apr 13	GAL-Hwy 87 Bolivar Peninsula (1) Bill Sain	Lesser Goldfinch	Apr 11	GAL-HI, Boy Scout Woods (4) Susan Keefer
Wood Stork	Apr 28	GAL-BF (1) Nancy Leonard	Chipping Sparrow	Apr 26	CAM-Oak Grove Sanctuary (1) Eamon Corbett, Oscar Johnson, Matt Brady (late)
Magnificent Frigatebird	Apr 8	HAS-Morgan's Point (1) Mark Kulstad (early)		Apr 26	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Sidney Gauthreaux (late)
Brown Booby	Apr 12	GAL-offshore from seawall (1) Cin-Ty Lee		Apr 26	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) mult obs (late)
	Apr 17-18	GAL-Galveston Island SP (4) Kyle O'Haver, Duke Liebler	Clay-colored Sparrow	Apr 1	CAM-Willow Is (1) Eric Ripma
Burrowing Owl	Apr 25	GAL-BF(1) Brandon Nidiffer	Harris's Sparrow	Apr 7	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Katherine Gividen, Jane Patterson
Green Kingfisher	Apr 4	HAS-George Bush Park (1) Nathaniel Pylant	Vesper Sparrow	Apr 9	CAM-Rockefeller SWR (1) Kati Barnes (late)
	Apr 20	GAL-Bob's Rd/Tuna Road area (1) Adrian Strong (uncmd)	LeConte's Sparrow	Apr 20	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) mult obs (late)
Ladder-backed Wdpkr	Apr 2-27	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Teresa Connell, mult obs	Nelson's Sparrow	Apr 30	HAS-Highlands Reservoir (1) Sam Eder, Jesse Huth
	Apr 24	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Alice O'Donell	Song Sparrow	Apr 15	GAL-private land approx. 5 miles E of San Luis Pass (1) Tim Lenz
Black Phoebe	Apr 21	CHA-ANWR near VIS (1) Tom Unsicker	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Apr 18	CAM Sabina Lighthouse Area (1) Matt Brady (late)
Say's Phoebe	Apr 15	CHA-FM1985 1 mi W of TX124 Chris Charlesworth	Bobolink	Apr 14	HAS-Bush Airport (IAH) (2) Keith Tollehaere
Vermilion Flycatcher	Apr 18	GAL-Indian Beach (1) Dennis Cooke	Bullock's Oriole	Apr 1	CAM-Sabina Lighthouse area (1) Cameron Rutt, Tyler Williams
	Apr 19	GAL-Apfel Beach Rd (1) Chip Clouse, Cynthia Kristensen	Tennessee Warbler	Apr 14	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Mike Yager
Great Kiskadee	Apr 27	GAL-8 mile Rd (1) Tommy Duvall	Orange-crown. Warbler	Mar 30	GAL-Pelican Is (1) Jodi Henricks
		Six reports in Galveston County Apr 2 to 22; multiple reports on Pelican Island (GAL), and one on Apr 12 on Rockefeller SWR, CAM.	Yellow Warbler	Apr 27	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Farokh Jamalyria (early)
Couch's Kingbird	Apr 9-22+	HAS-Pine Forest Country Club (1) Stephen Gast, Timothy White	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Apr 5	CAM-Willow Is (1) David Mith, Paul Conover, Becky Lloyd (late)
	Apr 10	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs		Apr 1-2	HAS-White Oak Park (2) Susan Kennedu, Wendy Wright
	Apr 13, 20	GAL-Galv Is SP (up to 3) Kyle O'Haver, Nancy Leonard		Apr 12	GAL-HI Bpy Scout Woods (1) A. Tindell, Mike Yager
	Apr 15	GAL-Pelican Is (1) Kris Cannon		Apr 19	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (2) Anya Stawasz (no details)
	Apr 18	GAL-13-mile Rd (1) Dennis Cooke		Apr 20	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1 fem) Barbara Stern
	Apr 27	HAS-Peckham Park (2) Hank George		Apr 26	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Nncy Coc. Laurel Ladwig, Leah Henzler
Western Kingbird		Many reports from coastal Cameron Parish		Apr 26	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Connie and Tom Unsicker
	Apr 13-27.	Species is not regarded as rare further west in Jefferson County and beyond.	Palm Warbler	Apr 27	HI (1) Jill Hass
Gray Kingbird	Apr 26	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) John Romano		Apr 26	HAS-EI Franco Lee Park (1) Steve Ogle
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Apr 12	HAS-Houston, McKinney St (1) Michael Hingerty	Western Tanager	Apr 11	GAL=HI-5th St (1 male) Michael Jingterty, Tom Hurley
	Apr 12-13	CHA-FM1985 at East Bay Bayou (1) mult obs.	Western Tanager	Apr 11	GAL-HI, Smith Oaks (1 male) Susan Keefer, Joanie and Mark Hubinger
	Apr 13-15	GAL-HI, Smith Oaks (1) mult obs		Apr 15	CAM-Peveto Woods (1 fem) mult obs
	Apr 17	CHA-ANWR-Access Rd (1) Don Glasco (uncfmd)	Painted Bunting	Mar 31	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Steve Svedeman
	Apr 18	CHA-FM1985 nr East Bay Bayou (1) Mark Syvertson (uncfmd).			
Bell's Vireo	Apr 9	HAS-Rice U. (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Stuart Nelson			
Warbling Vireo	Mar 31-Apr 4	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Kyle O'Haver, Jamie Schubert mult obs			
Green Jay	Apr 15	HAS-Spring Cypress Rd (1) John Barnes			
Fish Crow	Apr 3	CHA-Oak Is Rd (1) Bryce Loschen, Lark Heston			
	Apr 12	GAL-HI 5th St/Boy Scout Woods (5) mult obs			
Bewick's Wren	Apr 28	HAS-Edith L. Moore Nature Sabctuary (10 Laurie Looper			
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 31	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Dave Patton			
Long-billed Thrasher	Apr 20	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) John Cheek, Meaghan McDonald			

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; HI – High Island; 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 – Newtpn 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 County.

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

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