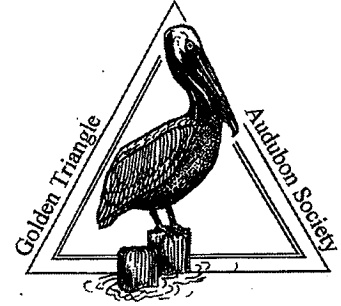


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 25 No. 11

November 2019

Annual Meeting and Elections
Thursday November 21, 2019 7:00 p.m.
Hillcrest Baptist Church
3324 Park Drive, Nederland, Texas
See page 2 for driving directions

Your Favorite Bird Pictures and Pot Luck Dinner

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. 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 November 16. 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. We would prefer you send them to Harlan in advance if at all possible.

We plan to have the doors open no later than 6:00 p.m. to set up the food.

Elections

We will hold our annual elections at this meeting. See page 7 for details. If you are unable to be present, please help to ensure a quorum by mailing or emailing your proxy (form on page 7).

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 25, No. 11 November 2019
Issue number 266

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292
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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 November 21, 2019.
Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner. Bring your favorite bird photos. Full details in next month's issue.

Directions to Hillcrest Baptist Church, our meeting location this month.

From Beaumont and the north

Take US69/96/287 south out of Beaumont to the FM365 exit, keeping left on the feeder road. Take the turnaround lane under the freeway and head back north moving to the right hand lane of the feeder road. In about 1500 feet (1/4 mile), turn right on Park Avenue (just before Carmela's restaurant) and proceed 1200 feet (2/10 mile) to the church parking lot on the left, opposite the Babe Ruth Ball Park. Enter the Gathering Hall through the door on the circular drive on Park Avenue.

From the south

Leave northbound US69/96/287 at the FM365 exit, moving to the right lane and proceeding straight across FM365. Turn right on Park Avenue and follow the remainder of the directions above.

Saturday November 23, 2019. Field Trip to West Jefferson County. In recent years, this has been one of our most successful field trips. The area is well known for its birds of prey, which in past years have included Bald and Golden Eagles, Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Hawks in addition to the more "expected" Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels. In some years we have seen

White-tailed Kites and Merlins. The area suffered extensive flooding during Imelda, so there may be abnormalities in bird populations this year.

The area is also well known as the wintering ground of what has become a large (about 1,000 strong) flock of Sandhill Cranes and is also one of the best places to see sparrows in the area. In wet years, there can be lots of waterfowl including geese and many duck species as well as ibis and other waterbirds. This trip five years ago found a Mountain Bluebird, which stayed all winter.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the "north/west" side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of Interstate 10 and FM365 in Fannett, proceed along FM365 (towards Nome) for about six miles. Shortly after you emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. There is a green G and A Turf Farm sign on Johnson Road at the intersection.

Christmas Counts

We will have full details of all local counts in the December issue. Here are the dates for the counts that we sponsor or cosponsor

Sea Rim State Park

Tuesday December 17, 2019

Turkey Creek

Saturday December 21, 2019

Beech Creek

Saturday December 28, 2019

Orange County

Wednesday January 1, 2020

Johnson Bayou

Saturday January 4, 2020



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

Cattail Marsh Bird Counts -- October 2019

Here are the results of the Cattail Marsh Bird counts in October.

Species/October	1	3	8	10	15	17	22	24	29	31
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	3		35			3				
Fulvous Whistling-Duck		2								
Mottled Duck		5							3	
Blue-winged Teal	150	608	120	40	70	57	100	235	304	500
Cinnamon Teal										1
Northern Shoveler					5		9	1	4	9
Gadwall							2	2	1	1
Northern Pintail										1
Green-winged Teal					3		3	2	3	20
Pied-billed Grebe		1	4	2			4		1	3
Hummingbird species	1									
King Rail							1		1	1
Virginia Rail							1			
Sora					2		3	3	3	2
Common Gallinule	2	15	9	7	1	6	19	13	3	9
American Coot					1		32	64	39	42
Black-necked Stilt	2	4	1	3			4	5	8	8
American Avocet							4		4	
Killdeer										1
Greater Yellowlegs		1	1							
Laughing Gull	257	88	176	171		1000	258	1291	648	177
Wood Stork						120				
Anhinga	9	2		1	1			3		
Neotropic Cormorant	23	14	13	16	13	4	2	3	2	2
Great Blue Heron	2	1	1	3		3		2	2	
Great Egret	1	3	2	3	5	4	3	3	3	4
Snowy Egret	20	9	31	19	43	9	18	5	5	13
Little Blue Heron	6	3	2	4	3	3	2	2	2	2
Tricolored Heron	3	8	1	1	8	3	3	3	2	3
Cattle Egret	81	4		12	7	10	26	39	2	2
White Ibis	21	13	9	30	1	2	4	8	13	8
Dark Ibis	13	40	3	109	31	10	1	13	5	3
Roseate Spoonbill		3	2			1	2	5	5	
Black Vulture	61	32	24	27	26	1	10	3	20	22
Turkey Vulture	11	6	11	16	9	1		106	21	23
Osprey		1	2		1		2		1	
Northern Harrier						1		3	2	1
Bald Eagle	1					1 imm	2	1ad 1imm	2	1
Cooper's Hawk		1					1			
Red-shouldered Hawk	1									
Red-tailed Hawk								1		
Unidentified hawk								1		
Belted Kingfisher				1						
Red-bellied Woodpecker							1			
Merlin			1							
Peregrine Falcon										1
Eastern Phoebe							1	5	3	3
Blue Jay										1
Fish Crow	8	5	125	100	3	20	2		1	1
Purple Martin	4									
Northern Rough-winged Swallow					1		10	12	10	20
Tree Swallow	7			9	300	500	200	100	10	50
Barn Swallow	1			2			1	4		1
Marsh Wren							3	6	3	1
Carolina Wren					1		1		1	1
Red-winged Blackbird	3	2	22	6	2	14	5	31	47	35
Blackbird species			500					2000		
Common Grackle	20							30		
Boat-tailed Grackle				2	8		8			
Great-tailed Grackle		1							15	
Grackle species		4	32			50	20		536	
Northern Cardinal										1

Bird Sightings –October 2019

For this column, we review, looking for rare and very rare species, all credible eBird and other records reported to us from nearby Texas counties – 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.

A large number of neotropical migrants significantly later than usual this fall. No space for further commentary this month!

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Common Ground Dove	Oct 13	JEF-Hwy 87 W of Sabine Pass (1) SM, mult obs.
Groove-billed Ani	Oct 8-9	JEF-SW (2) mult obs
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct 17-26	JEF-SW (up to 2+) mult obs
	Oct 27	ORA-Bailey's Fish Camp (1) Steve Glover, Greg Cook
Black-billed Cuckoo	Oct 13	JEF-SW (1) Dominic Le Croisette, Ashley Wahlberg
	Oct 17, 20, 22	JEF-SW (1) JHH, SH
Broad-bill. Hummingbird	Oct 27-31	JEF-Groves (1 imm male) Sherrie Roden, mult obs

Wood Stork

	Oct 12	TYL-Lake Hyatt (27) Lisa Appelbaum
	Oct 14	JEF-Beaumont (50) Pedro Arrechen
	Oct 17-18	JEF-Beaumont (1500+) Christine Sliva
Bald Eagle	Oct 9	JEF-Cattail Marsh nr Cell 1 (2) HS
Mississippi Kite	Oct 13	JEF-SW (1) Ashley Wahlberg, Dominic Le Croisette (1)
Purple Martin	Oct 7	ANG-Lufkin (4) Gary Hunter
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Oct 22-28	JEF-SW (up to 10) mult obs
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Oct 12	JEF-SW (1) JAW, SH
Acadian Flycatcher	Oct 13	JEF-SW (1) JAW, SM
	Oct 18-23	JEF-SW (1+) JHH, JAW, SM mult obs
Vermilion Flycatcher	Oct 19	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Oct 13-14, 18-20	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Couch's Kingbird	Oct 18-19	JEF-Hwy87 at Old Sabine Cem. (1) Howard Davis, JHH, JAW, SH
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct 22-26	JEF-SW (up to 3) JHH, SM, John Smelser, Mary Goldsby mult obs
Cave Swallow	Oct 20	SAA-San Augustine (1) Steve Glover, Greg Cook
Swainson's Thrush	Oct 22-26	JEF-SW (up to 3) mult obs
Orchard Oriole	Oct 8	JEF-SW (1) JHH
	Oct 23, 26	JEF-SW (1) Don Verser, mult obs
Ovenbird	Oct 17-23	JEF-SW (up to 6) mult obs
Northern Waterthrush	Oct 17-28	JEF-SW (up to 6) mult obs
Golden-winged Warbler	Oct 8	JEF-SW (1 m) mult obs
	Oct 19-26	JEF-SW (1 m) JHH, SM mult obs
Prothonotary Warbler	Oct 8-12	JEF-SW (1 fem) mult obs
Cape May Warbler	Oct 18-28	JEF-SW (2) JHH, SM mult obs (only one seen after Oct 26)
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 17-26	JEF-SW (up to 8) mult obs
Blackburnian Warbler	Oct 17-23	JEF-SW (up to 2) JHH, MC, JAW, SM, mult obs
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Oct 2	JEF-SW (1 male) JHH
	Oct 22	JEF-SW (1 male) JAW, JHH
Yellow-throated Warbler	Oct 9, 22-28	ANG-Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
	Oct 17-27	JEF-SW (up to 3), mult obs
Prairie Warbler	Oct 12-14	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Scarlet Tanager	Oct 20-23	JEF-SW (up to 2) mult obs
	Oct 26	JEF-SW (1) SH

Nearby Counties

Ring-necked Duck	Oct 3	CAM-Lacassine NWR Pool Unit (1) Billy Leonard
	Oct 14	HAS-Hermann Park (1) Jim Winn

Common Ground Dove

	Oct 3-6	GAL-Texas City Prairie Preserve (1) Brad Lirette, mult obs
	Oct 3	HAS-UH Clear Lake Nature Trail (1) Joshua Jaeger;

	Oct 11	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Dale Wolck
	Oct 13	CAM-Peveto Wds (2) William Matthews
	Oct 13, 26	GAL-Galv Is SP (2) Kyle O'Haver, Robert Becker
	Oct 13	GAL-Stevenson Woods (1) Greg Hall, Greg Whittaker
	Oct 16	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Dennis Shepler
	Oct 18-27	GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Greg Hall, mult obs
	Oct 18-19, 27	GAL-Settegast Rd (4) Kris Cannon, Allen Hardee
	Oct 19	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Pk (1) Donald Fullmer
	Oct 21, 28	HAS-Bear Creek Pk (2) Richard Long, mult obs
	Oct 23	LIB-CR491 Dayton (2) Colette and Paul Micallef
	Oct 28	HAS-Katy Prairie, Nelson Farms (1) Stephen Gast
Groove-billed Ani	Oct 12-13	CAM-Hackberry Ridge (1) David Muth, Paul Conover, Mac Myers
	Oct 13	CAM-Willow Is (1) David Muth
	Oct 19-21	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Brad Lirette, Stuart Nelson, mult obs
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct 21	LIB-CR491 (1) Coletter and Paul Micallef
Blk-chin. Hummingbird	Oct 20-21	LIB-W of FM1008, S of CR2323 (1) Collette and Paul Micallef
Upland Sandpiper	Oct 4	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) Sam Jolly
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Oct 25	CAM-Hwy 82 west of Johnson Bayou (2 sep locations) Michael Musumeche, Jay Huner
American Woodcock	Oct 19	CAL-Hayes (1) Sam Jolly
	Oct 26	HAS-Katy Prairie, Nelson Farms (1) Letha Slaigle
California Gull	Oct 19-20	CAM-Broussard Beach (1) Paul Conover, mult obs
Wood Stork	Oct 12	LIB-Champion Lake (350+) Colette and Paul Micallef
	Oct 22	CAL-Hayes (2) Sam Jolly
	Oct 31	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (10) Edward Landi, Auna Schwartz
Brown Booby	Oct 5	GAL-Sportsman's Rd (1 cont. bird) mult obs
Long-eared Owl	Oct 26	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Dale Wolck, Jim Hinson, Stuart Nelson
Western Wood-Pewee	Oct 26	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Kyle Carl- sen, Jay Huner, Mike Musumeche
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Oct 26	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) David Booth, mult obs
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Oct 19	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) K.Gardner
	Oct 20	HAS-PUD Flood Control Area (1) James Rieman
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Oct 13	CAM-Willow Is (1) David Muth, Paul Conover, Mac Myers

Acadian Flycatcher

	Oct 19	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Debbie MC, Erik Wolf
	Oct 22	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Steve Rogow
	Oct 26	HAS-Pine Brook Wetlands (1) Patricia Pennington
	Oct 28	HAS-Robt. C. Stuart Park (1) James Rieman
Alder Flycatcher	Oct 18	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Fred Collins (call matched)
Say's Phoebe	Oct 12	CHA-Smith Point HW (2) mult obs
	Oct 26-27	CAM-Willow Is (1) Steve Cardiff, mult obs
Vermilion Flycatcher	Oct 15	CAL-Tom Stegall Rd (2) Charlotte Chehotsky
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Oct 12	CAM-Hackberry Ridge (1) David Muth, Mac Myers

Oct 17 HAS-Bear Cr. Pk (1) Jim Hinson
 Oct 18 HAS-Robt C. Stuart Park (1) James Rieman

Couch's Kingbird
 Oct 5 CAL-Sulphur (1) Vicki Sensat
 Oct 9-19 HAS-Pine Forest Country Club (1) Timothy White
 Oct 15-21 HAS-Baer Cr. Pk (1) Jim Hinson; mult obs
 Oct 18-19 GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Steve Rogow Rogow, mult obs
 Oct 20 HAS-PUD Flood Control Area (1) John Cocanower
 Oct 20 HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) James Rieman

Western Kingbird Oct 12 CAL-Ellis Moss Rd (2) Judson Lassiter

Bell's Vireo Oct 5 CAM-Peveto Wds (1) P. Conover
 Oct 7 HAS-San Jacinto Bttlnd (1) Dale Wolck
 Oct 8 HAS-Rice U Campus (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Barbara Stern, Janet Neath

Yellow-throated Vireo Oct 18-19 CAM-Peveto Wds (1) Jay Huner, mult. obs
 Oct 18 CAM-Willow Is (1) Jay Huner
 Oct 26 HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Liston Rice
 Oct 27 HAS-Clear Lake (1) Brandon Robertson

Red-eyed Vireo Oct 27 HAS-Clear Lake (1) Brandon Robertson

Violet-green Swallow Oct 24 LIB-CR491 Shelli Ellerbe, Margaret, Kirby Taylor

Cave Swallow
 Oct 26 CAM-Rutherford Beach (9) Steve Cardiff mult obs
 Oct 26 CAM-Holly Beach (12) Jane Patterson
 Oct 26 CAM-Peveto Wds (2) mult obs
 Oct 27 CAL-Corbina Road (6) Edward Landi
 Oct 28 CAL-Tom Segal Rd (3) Charlotte Chehotsky

Bewick's Wren Oct 27 HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) KJim Hinson

Gray-cheeked Thrush Oct 18 CAM-Willow Is (1) Jay Huner
 Oct 27-30 HAS-Memorial (1) Sue Orwig, Dennis Shepler

Swainson's Thrush Oct 26 CAL-Hayes (1) Sam Jolly
 Oct 26 HAS-Memorial (1) Sue Orwig
 Oct 31 HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct (1) Alexander Harper

Hermit Thrush Oct 8 HAS-Challenger 7 Park (1) Mary Goldsby

Wood Thrush Oct 23-31 HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct. (up to 3) Letha Slagle, mult obs
 Oct 26 HAS-White Oak Park (2) Susan Kennedy

Pine Siskin Oct 20 HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
 Oct 26-28 CAM-Willow Is (1) mult obs

American Goldfinch Oct 15 ORA-Claiborne West Pk (1) Marilyn Guidry
 Oct 26 GAL-Hooks Woods (1) Shelia Hargis

Black-throated Sparrow Oct 28 GAL-Lafitte Cove (1) Ginger Cooley (minimal details)

Henslow's Sparrow Oct 30 CAM-Merentau Riv-Myers Ldg (1) mult obs

Song Sparrow Oct 16 CAM-Rockefeller SWR (1) Zachary Emery

Bullock's Oriole Oct 7 HAS-Bear Cr. Pk (1) Letha Slagle

Yellow-headed Blackbird Oct 13 HAS-Longenbaugh Rd (1) Greg Page

Scarlet Tanager Oct 19 HAS-Willow Waterhole Greenspace (1) S. Bharadwaj
 Oct 20 HAS-Memorial (1) Sue Orwig
 Oct 27 HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Farokh Jamalyaria

Western Tanager Oct 6 HAS-Friendswood (1 fem) Chris Bick

Ovenbird
 Oct 22 HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Jim Crites
 Oct 23 CAL-Hayes (1) Sam Jolly
 Oct 24, 26 HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct. (1) Dominic. Le Croisette, Paul DiFiore
 Oct 26 HAS-Armand Baypu NC (1+) Farokh Jamalyaria

Northern Waterthrush Oct 21 HAS-White Oak Pk (1) Mark Steuer

Worm-eating Warbler Oct 12 CAM-Willow Is (1) David Muth, Paul Conover, Mac Myers
 Oct 18 HAS-Johnson Space Ctr Mall (1) Steven Berenzweig

Golden-winged Warbler Oct 20 CHA-ANWR (exact location not given) (1 fem) Matt O'Sullivan
 Oct 22 CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Jimmy Bryan, William Matthews

Blue-winged Warbler Oct 17 HAS-Woodland Park (1) Mary Goldsby

Swainson's Warbler Oct 7 HAS-Edith L. Moore (1) Dominic Le Croisette

Cape May Warbler Oct 19 CAM-Brousaard Beach (1) Paul Conover, Phillip Wallace
 Oct 20-25 HAS-Memorial (1) Sue Orwig
 Oct 24, 26 CAM-Peveto Wds (2) Dale Hamilton, Rosemary Sedler

Northern Parula Oct 24 HAS-Memorial (1) Sue Orwig
 Oct 26 HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Liston Rice
 Oct 31 HAS-Edith L Moore (1) A. Harper

Tropical Parula Oct 28-29 HAS-Edith L. Moore Sanctuary (1) Dominic Le Croisette, Sturary Nelson

Blackburnian Warbler Oct 23 HAS-Sharp Rd (1) Bob & Maggie Honig
 Oct 26 HAS-El Franco Lee Park (2) Terry Woodward

Blackpoll Warbler Oct 25 HAS-Rice Univ (1) Lily Ivanov
 Oct 12 CAM-Willow Is (1) David Muth, Paul Conover, Mac Myers

Bay-breasted Warbler Oct 18 HAS-Little Cedar Bayou Pk (1) Dale Wolck
 Oct 21 HAS-Russ Pitman Pk (1) Barbara Stern
 Oct 26 CAM-Peveto Wds (2) mult obs
 Oct 30 CAM-Willow Is (1) mult obs

Yellow-throated Warbler
 Oct 9 GAL-Moody Gardens (1) Greg Whitaker
 Oct 13 CAM-Willow Is (1) David Muth, Paul Conover, Mac Myers
 Oct 13 GAL-Kempner Park (1) Kyle O'Haver
 Oct 18-19 HAS-Challenger 7 Park (1) Dana Turner, Liston Rice
 Oct 18 HAS-Memorial area (1) Dominic Le Croisette
 Oct 19 CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland Walkway (1) Kirk Gardens
 Oct 19 HAS-Memorial Area (1) Sue Orwig
 Oct 19 HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Jim Hinson, Drew Dickert
 Oct 20 GAL-Hooks Wds (1) Marcia OBara
 Oct 20 HAS-SW Houston (1) Dana Turner
 Oct 22 CAM-Peveto Wds (1) William Matthews
 Oct 26 HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Jim Hinson, Dale Wolck, mult obs
 Oct 27 HAS-Friendswood (1) Chris Bick

Prairie Warbler Oct 12 HAS-Baytown (1) Gene Campbell

Canada Warbler Oct 18 HAS-Little Cedar Bayou Pk (1) Dale Wolck
 Oct 20 HAS-West 11th St Pk (1) Mike Bradham

Black-headed Grosbeak Oct 6 HAS-Bear Cr. Pk (1) Jim Hinson

Lazuli Bunting Oct 26 CHA-ANWR, Skillern (1) Robert Templeton (details do not rule out Indigo Bunting)

Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BF – Bolivar Flats; 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; NEW – Newton County; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur;; 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; TYL – Tyler County; WJC – West Jefferson County.

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 19 October 2019

As Yogi Berra once said, "It's like déjà vu all over again." Something about the Golden Triangle Audubon's October field trip to Sabine Woods seemed familiar. In fact, it almost seemed like this trip was a carbon copy of a few days from last fall and that was a very good thing! The fall migration seemed to be late arriving this year. (Result of continuing above average temperatures north of us and thus continuing easily found food?) When it finally came, it came in terrific fashion and in a way eerily similar to days from last year.

One of the highlights of last year's fall birding was the few days where, it seemed, that every migrant in Sabine Woods were packed into two trees – the "Tennessee Trees" The "Tennessee Trees" are two mature live oaks found at the western edge of the main pond in the woods noted for hosting Tennessee Warblers in numbers in the fall. Something about these trees (it seems to have something to do with the sap exuding from the acorn cups) attracts these warblers in good numbers most years but last year, it attracting everything! This included two Cape May Warblers that staked out these trees and never seemed to venture from them. Cape May Warblers are uncommon at best in the spring on the upper Texas coast and are quite rare in the fall so having two show up and hang around for days was truly special. It is even more special when you have a dozen or more species of warblers in the same trees with them! Surely, such a phenomenon could never be repeated. Or could it?

Sure enough, in the days just prior to the field trip this year the Tennessee Trees started building up warblers in them again. On the day of the field trip, the trees were packed! Tennessee Warblers seemed the most numerous (appropriately enough) along with Northern Parulas but they were not the only species around. Magnolia Warblers were less concentrated and were scattered around the woods but were just about as numerous as the Tennessee's. Common Yellowthroats were about in good numbers as were American Redstarts. Black-and-white Warblers were easily found creeping up and down branches and were joined by a handful of Yellow-throated Warblers. Ovenbirds walked like miniature chickens through the underbrush while Hooded Warblers bounced around it in a more animated fashion. Nashville Warblers were seen more easily at the back pond and Black-throated Green Warblers were usually found near instead of in the Tennessee Trees. A few of the species were only seen in small numbers like the Bay-breasted Warbler and the Blackburnian Warbler. Chestnut-sided Warbler was seen as well though away from the Tennessee Trees. It took a trip to the pine trees on the eastern edge of the property to find the Pine Warbler but that was only appropriate. A beautiful male Golden-winged Warbler was seen in several spots around the woods but appreciated every time.

Some warblers look pretty much the same in the fall as they did during spring migration but others are very different looking. There is no real difference in an Ovenbird or a Black-and-white Warbler but that it not true for others. Tennessee Warblers change from crisp gray and green to greenish-yellow overall. Many Magnolia Warblers lose most, if not all, of their

black breast streaking and facial pattern. Chestnut-sided Warblers lost most or all of their chestnut sides and facial patterns leaving a lime green bird with a big white eye ring – almost unrecognizable from the bird we see in spring! Bay-breasted Warblers lost most of their bay breasts and their facial patterns leaving behind a streaky grayish-yellowish bird that is easily mistaken for a fall Blackpoll Warbler, two birds that would never be mixed up in the spring!

Of course, warblers were not the only birds seen on the day. Eastern Wood-Pewees were everywhere and a lone Ash-throated Flycatcher was enjoyed at the back pond. Acadian Flycatcher was a nice find this late and a few Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were still around to be enjoyed. An immature Vermilion Flycatcher was seen by a few while no one could miss the numerous Gray Catbirds in the woods. White-eyed Vireos were quite common and were joined by a few newly arrived Blue-headed Vireos. Thrushes seen at the woods included Swainson's and Wood while the only sparrow found was a Lincoln's. Both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were seen on the day along with a couple of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. Indigo Buntings were easily found in the brushy/grassy areas surrounding the woods and were joined by a few Blue Grosbeaks. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were also around the always popular Painted Bunting made an appearance or two.

Dozens of swallows zipped by with most of those early on being Tree Swallows and most of those later on Northern Rough-winged (with a Barn or Cave Swallow thrown in). Numerous bright pink Roseate Spoonbills flew over along with White Ibis and Great Egrets. A Merlin harassed the smaller birds while a Red-shouldered Hawk hunted for other prey. Some of the first Northern Harriers of the fall were seen cruising over the back fields and one beautiful White-tailed Kite was also spotted. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers arrived to drill new holes to keep the sap flowing while House Wrens seemed to have arrived just to fuss at people.

And the rare warbler from last fall? Yes, the birders were treated to Cape May Warbler again this fall. And just like last fall, there was not one Cape May Warbler but two! One bird was in the Tennessee Trees chasing other birds out of its territory while the second bird was initially found at the back pond. Were these the same two Cape May Warblers as last year? There is no way to know for sure but it seems like quite a coincidence to have two individuals of the same rare species show up, not just at the same location, but at the spot (the Tennessee Trees) in that location two years in a row. If they show up again next October, we will know for sure!

The day ended just as spectacularly as it began for the few birders still hanging around. An Osprey was seen flying out over the marsh across from Sabine Woods carrying a prey item. The Osprey was calling while flying away and it soon became clear why – it was being chased by an adult Bald Eagle! Lucky for the Osprey, it had a good head start and was able to get away from the eagle without giving up its catch. The eagle turned dejected and flew back over Sabine Woods giving the birders something to remember before heading for home. What better ending to a field trip could you hope for?

Continued on next page

Golden Triangle Audubon Society Annual Meeting

You are cordially invited to attend the GTAS Annual Meeting being held on November 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Gathering Hall at the Hillcrest Baptist Church, 3324 Park Drive, Nederland, Texas. Members will consider and vote for the GTAS Officers and Directors who will serve for the 2020 Calendar Year. All Officers and Directors are elected for a period of one year, with the exception of the President, who serves a two-year term. We encourage you to participate in this process. It is important that you give your support to the people who will be making decisions that guide this organization forward. Members in good standing as of November 1, are eligible to vote either in person at the meeting, or by proxy. Voting by proxy can be done electronically or by regular mail. To give your proxy vote electronically, email the form in the cover email of this issue of the *Brown Pelican* to gtaudubon@aol.com. You may simply forward the email filling in the appropriate sections. To give your proxy by regular mail, fill out the form below and mail it to PO Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627. In either case make sure to include your name as it is listed for your membership (or if this is mailed to you, leave the address label on the reverse of this form). Proxy responses must be received by the close of the business day, Wednesday November 21, 2019.

The Nominating Committee candidates are President: Sheila Hebert; Vice President: Christine Sliva; Treasurer: Harlan Stewart; Secretary: John Whittle

Directors-at-Large: Michael Cooper, Girish Doshi, Gerald Duhon, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Thomas Hellweg, Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Dana Nelson.

PROXY FORM I, the undersigned, a member of GTAS in good standing, hereby appoint Dana Nelson, Harlan Stewart and John Whittle as my agents to vote as my proxy at the 2019 Annual Meeting and at any adjourned meeting thereof as follows

Cast my vote for all nominees as listed. _____

Cast my vote for all nominees except: _____

Print Name: _____ Date: _____

Sign Here: _____

Field Trip *(continued from previous page)*

The following species were recorded by the field trip leaders: Mourning Dove (2); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (3); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (3); Killdeer (1); Neotropic Cormorant (5); Great Blue Heron (4); Great Egret (30); Snowy Egret (10); Little Blue Heron (2); White Ibis (25); White-faced Ibis (15); Roseate Spoonbill (20); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (5); Osprey (1); White-tailed Kite (1); Northern Harrier (6); Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk (1); Bald Eagle (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (3); Downy Woodpecker (3); Merlin (1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (20); Acadian Flycatcher (1); Empidonax Sp. (1); Ash-throated Flycatcher (1); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (6); Vermilion Flycatcher (1); White-eyed Vireo (18); Blue-headed Vireo (2); Red-eyed Vireo (1); Loggerhead Shrike (2); Blue Jay (4); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (100); Tree Swallow (75); Barn Swallow (2); Cave Swallow (1); Ruby-

crowned Kinglet (10); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (5); House Wren (4); Gray Catbird (30); Brown Thrasher (5); Northern Mockingbird (1); Swainson's Thrush (1); Wood Thrush (6); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Red-winged Blackbird (75); Brown-headed Cowbird (1); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (15); Ovenbird (6); Golden-winged Warbler (1); Black and White Warbler (8); Tennessee Warbler (30); Nashville Warbler (3); Common Yellowthroat (1); Hooded Warbler (3); American Redstart (8); Cape May Warbler (2); Northern Parula (16); Magnolia Warbler (20); Bay-breasted Warbler (1); Blackburnian Warbler (2); Chestnut-sided Warbler (1); Pine Warbler (1); Yellow-throated Warbler (3); Black-throated Green Warbler (2); Summer Tanager (6); Scarlet Tanager (2); Northern Cardinal (3); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (3); Blue Grosbeak (2); Indigo Bunting (50); Painted Bunting (2).
Steve Mayes

Sabine Woods Work Day Report – 5 October 2019

A very successful work day was held at Sabine Woods on Saturday October 5 with 14 volunteers on hand. The volunteers spent the morning mowing the trails and open areas, cutting back encroaching vegetation, clearing a fallen hackberry tree from one trail, creating a bypass trail round a fallen large oak, and many other miscellaneous maintenance tasks. Much other work has also been accomplished in recent weeks. The water meter has been marked and protected with appropriately placed and securely anchored large PVC pipes. Some small areas of undesired invasive species (mostly Johnson grass) have been dealt with. Some repair on the Chimney Swift tower was performed. Giant Ragweed has been cut down to prevent it from seeding and thereby keep it

under control. A young possum that had somehow impaled itself on a barbed wire fence was freed and released. As often happens on fall Work Days, there were migrants around, and many of the volunteers stayed on for an hour or more of birding, finding at least 15 warbler species around the central and western portions of the sanctuary.

Many thanks are due to the volunteers on the work day: Andy Allen, Michael Cooper, Howard Davis, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, Denise and Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Dana Nelson, Frank Ohrt, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Carolyn and Bill Worsham. Others who worked on other days included Ashley Fuselier.

John A. Whittle

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Gift from:

Check enclosed Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon C9ZW250Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____

RARE BIRD ALERTS

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

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> Email alerts are also available for a fee.

Most rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include all recent postings.

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