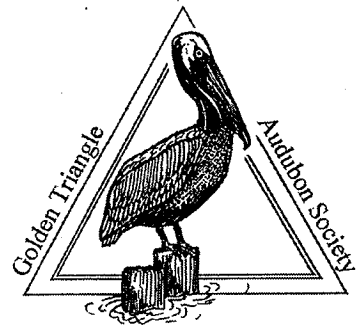


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 26 No. 2

February 2020

Membership Meeting
Thursday February 20, 2020 7:00 p.m.
Hillcrest Baptist Church
3324 Park Drive, Nederland, Texas
See page 2 for driving directions

Birds of Southeast Arizona

David Bradford

David Bradford has been leading bird tours for Penfeathers since 1989 and has led tours to all the birding hotspots in the US, such as Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Washington, and of course Texas. He has served multiple terms on the boards of the Houston Audubon Society, Ornithology Group of Houston, and the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. He presently teaches biology at Cy-Falls High School in Houston and enjoys birding whenever possible.

This program will illustrate the birds seen on a 2019 tour of Southeast Arizona. Most of his tours recently have been limited to a small number of participants. His current plans for 2020 include an early June trip to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado, and a trip to Southeast Arizona in the second half of July. More details of David's upcoming trips can be found on his website at <https://birdtoursbydavidbradford.shutterfly.com/>

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

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 26, No. 2 February 2020
Issue number 259

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: 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 20, 2020.
Membership Meeting. Southeast Arizona by David Bradford. See Page 1 for details.

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 February 22, 2020 Field Trip to Cattail Marsh, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont. Meet at the parking lot for Cattail Marsh at 8:00 a.m. The parking lot is accessed from the loop road round the main picnic areas in Tyrrell Park. Many birds can be seen from the boardwalk with minimal walking, **but the group will probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh. Be**

advised that, while you can turn around and retrace your steps at any point, there are no meaningful "shortcuts" after you start on the levee between cells 3 and 4. If you don't want to walk that far, there will be someone on the boardwalk to help you identify the many birds in the near cells. Walking is on the levees; the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are essentially mowed grass. This will be a good trip for beginning to intermediate birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open water areas.

Directions to Tyrrell Park From the South

Go "north" on US69/96/287 around the south side of Beaumont.

Take Texas 124 (south or west, whichever it is signed) towards Fannett (left turn under the highway).

Travel about 1/2 mile to the first light.

At the first light, turn left onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into Tyrrell Park through the nice new arch.

Continue ahead and proceed about two-thirds of the way round the main loop and into the well-marked Cattail Marsh parking area.

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 and as above.



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

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.

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Magnolia Garden Club will welcome Greg Grant – Gardening for the Birds and the Bees Saving the World One Garden at a Time (or what our ancestors did wrong and how I evolved into an ecologically sound gardener).

Location: Art Museum of Southeast Texas – Downtown Beaumont.

Time: 10:00 A.M. - refreshments beginning at 9:30

Greg is currently the Smith County Horticulturist for the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service in Tyler, Texas. He has degrees in floriculture and horticulture from Texas A&M University and is a graduate of the Benz School of Floral Design. He has served as a Horticulturist at SFA Gardens, Mercer Arboretum and San Antonio Botanical Gardens. He has also served as director of research and development with Antique Rose Emporium.

Greg has introduced a number of successful plants to the Southern nursery industry including: several varieties of petunias, vital, hibiscus and roses.

He has received awards of achievement from the Native Plant

Society of Texas, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. His book, *Heirloom Gardening in the South*, was a Garden Writers Association award winner.

He is the author and co-author of seven books including: *Texas Fruit and Vegetable Gardening*, *The Southern Heirloom Garden*, and *The Rose Rustlers*. Greg and his wife live in the Pinewoods of East Texas in his grandparents' old farmhouse and maintain his Rebel Eloy Emanis Pine Savanna and Bird Sanctuary.

Greg will have books for sale at the meeting.

Field Trip to Anahuac NWR – 18 January 2020

Birding is always weather dependent at any season. A good front in the spring or fall can bring in lots of migrants and sometimes rarities as well. Cold fronts in the winter can also bring in birds but usually the rain comes first and that is not exactly conducive to good birding. The Golden Triangle Audubon Society's January field trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is certainly one that can produce a lot of birds but with rain due to arrive during the day it was a matter of beating the rain to the birds!

Starting at the entrance station to Anahuac, the group decided to take the trail to the Willow Pond area. This can be an excellent spot for wintering song birds and a good spot for migrants in the spring. One of the first birds found was the male Vermilion Flycatcher that is spending the winter in this area. The bird is not quite in full adult male plumage but it is close enough to still be spectacular! Winding along the trail numerous other species were noted. Multiple White-crowned Sparrows gave good looks to the group and a few Lincoln's Sparrows were also seen. Swamp Sparrows were noted in the wet brushy areas and a Song Sparrow or two were also present. Orange-crowned Warblers foraged among the tall weeds while a Common Yellowthroat called from nearby. A White-tailed Kite gracefully flew overhead and a White-eyed Vireo was heard fussing on the distance. Moving toward the pond itself, multiple Gray Catbirds were heard mewing and a couple eventually showed themselves. A Hermit Thrush made an appearance and a couple of Palm Warblers were seen by some but proved uncooperative. Yellow-rumped Warblers were common in the trees and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were easily seen along with a single Golden-crowned Kinglet. A distinctive call allowed the group to locate a somewhat unusual bird for the location – a Winter Wren. This was first heard but later seen well around the pond.

Leaving the walking trail, the birds started on the Shoveler

Pond loop road. The entrance road to the loop was full of ducks and the group scoped them out for some time. Blue-winged Teal were present with many Northern Shovelers and a few Gadwall. A pair of Mallards was nice to find and Mottled Duck was also seen. Green-winged Teal were present along with Ped-billed Grebes. Turning onto the loop road itself, the first part of the trip was unremarkable but did provide looks at Common Gallinule and Little Blue Heron. Working our way to the boardwalk area provided many more ducks, almost all of them Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks! A large number of these ducks have wintered at this location which is remarkable considering that it was not that long ago that Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks were quite uncommon on the upper Texas coast. Mixed in with their more common brethren, a few Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were located. This is not usually an easy species to locate in the winter so it was a much enjoyed sighting. A cooperative American Pipit was also present in the area and gave great looks to the birders. White and White-faced Ibis were also present but no amount of looking could produce the hoped for Glossy Ibis. A nice flock of Roseate Spoonbills was a bright spot on a gray day.

Finishing out the Shoveler Pond Loop, several other species were noted. Caspian and Forster's Terns were seen hunting over the waters. Great and Snowy Egrets were seen along with a few Tricolored Herons. Eastern Phoebe were periodically noted along the road and Belted Kingfisher was also seen. Red-winged Blackbirds were common and a Red-tailed Hawk or two were located as well. A large flock of ducks rising up in the distance started the group looking for raptors (often the cause of such disturbances). Sure enough, there were a couple of Northern Harriers cruising low in the area but they were not alone – a young Bald Eagle was actively hunting and had a duck dinner on its mind! The eagle

Continued on page 7

Orange County Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2020

Sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society

New Year's Day, 2020, dawned not too cold, but darkly overcast and threatening to the birds and the birders. Neither turned out in large numbers. But on the bright side, three species were added this year, and there are several new high counts for the TXOC circle. Total Species for this count was 100 with 3807 individuals, vs. 113 and 4808 individuals last year.

Eight Brown Boobies, off the Bailey's fishing camp road, were new for this count, as well as a Marbled Godwit in the same area and a Yellow-throated Warbler in Claiborne West Park, picked out of a flock of Pine Warblers high up in the Loblollies.

We found Wood Ducks, Green and Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Scaup, and a good number of Gadwalls. A small flock of Ring-necked Ducks arrived on the pond by the county landfill, after three years of misses. No Mallards or Shovelers, plentiful the past several years, were counted this year.

Four Least Sandpipers were seen after two years of misses. We also got our token numbers of Spotted Sandpiper, Willet, and Greater Yellowlegs.

It was a good year for gulls in TXOC, with plentiful Laughing Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls and a bonus of 6 Lesser Black-backed Gulls, which is the best showing for LBBG since Ken Sztraky restarted the TXOC circle.

Eleven Anhingas was another species high for TXOC. Again this year, all the expected Cormorants, Herons and Egrets appeared (9 species). Another high scorer for this count was White Ibis, which continued their uptrend. White-faced Ibis were also identified in good numbers.

Black and Turkey Vultures, and Ospreys were common as expected. Only one Northern Harrier and one Sharp-shinned Hawk were found, but Bald Eagles, Red-shouldered Hawks and Red-tailed Hawks were seen in average numbers. One Barn Owl was seen at its usual barn, and a Great Horned Owl was a good find, not seen or heard every year. Belted Kingfishers were perched on the power lines along several of our routes overlooking a lake, swamp, or bayou.

All the expected woodpeckers and flicker were found in notably higher numbers than last year. Crested Caracara, was missed. A baker's dozen American Kestrels and a Merlin showed up.

Eastern Phoebe's were up while two Vermilion Flycatchers averaged out last year's miss. We found the expected Loggerhead Shrike, White-eyed and Blue-headed Vireo, Blue Jay, and American Crow.

There were less than a tenth of the Tree Swallows reported on this count in 15 years. RC Kinglets and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were in similar numbers to the past four years, and more House Wrens showed up than in the past nine years. We got common numbers of the next ten common birds, Marsh and Carolina Wrens Starlings, Catbirds, Robins, Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Cedar Waxwings and House Sparrows. Only Brown Thrasher was a miss in that series. Robins were down to 100 from the mid-600s last year. Cedar Waxwing numbers were more typical.

White-throated and Song Sparrows were present after

misses last year. The first Pine Siskin in five years appeared. American Goldfinches and House Sparrows were found in typical numbers as were Eastern Meadowlarks and the expected blackbirds and grackles. There were lots of Pine Warblers and Rumpies, with a bonus of two Palm Warblers and the Yellow-throated Warbler mentioned above. Finally there were typical numbers of Northern Cardinals. House Sparrows are no longer the caboose in the new taxonomy sequence.

Again this year we had help from 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 6th 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 east of Claiborne West Park.

Here's the list of all sightings in this year's Orange County Christmas Bird Count (TXOC in CBC #120.) The taxonomic order has been updated.

GOOSE, Snow (1); DUCK, Wood (11); TEAL, Blue-winged (12); GADWALL (52); TEAL, Green-winged (16); DUCK, Ring-necked (6); SCAUP, Lesser (3); GREBE, Pied-billed (43); PIGEON, Rock (109); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (1); DOVE, White-winged (61); DOVE, Mourning (42); RAIL, King (1); SORA (1); STILT, Black-necked (65); KILLDEER (40); SANDPIPER, Least (4); SANDPIPER, Spotted (1); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (2); WILLET (2); GULL, Laughing (175); GULL, Ring-billed (377); GULL, Lesser Black-backed (6); TERN, Caspian (1); TERN, Forster's (33); ANHINGA (11); CORMORANT, Neotropic (121); CORMORANT, Double-crested (15); PELICAN, American White (79); PELICAN, Brown (24); HERON, Great Blue (22); EGRET, Great (31); EGRET, Snowy (76); HERON, Little Blue (18); HERON, Tri-colored (3); IBIS, White (356); IBIS, White-faced (26); SPOONBILL, Roseate (5); VULTURE, Black (30); VULTURE, Turkey (35); OSPREY (17); HARRIER, Northern (1); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); EAGLE, Bald (4); HAWK, Red-shouldered (5); HAWK, Red-tailed (15); OWL, Barn (1); OWL, Great Horned (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (9); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (4); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (4); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (12); WOODPECKER, Downy (7); WOODPECKER, Pileated (6); FLICKER, Northern (5); KESTREL, American (13); MERLIN (1); PHOEBE, Eastern (22); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (2); VIREO, Blue-headed (10); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (9); JAY, Blue, (59); CROW, American (26); CHICKADEE, Carolina (32); TITMOUSE, Tufted (4); SWALLOW, Tree (18); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (3); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (38); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (17); WREN, House (13); WREN, Marsh (4); WREN, Carolina (22); STARLING, European (175); CATBIRD, Gray (12); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (47); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (11); THRUSH, Hermit (3); ROBIN, American (100); WAXWING, Cedar (192); SPARROW, House (16); SISKIN, Pine (1); GOLDFINCH, American (61); SPARROW, Chipping (8); SPARROW, White-throated (8); SPARROW, Song (3); SPARROW, Swamp (16); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (25); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (134); GRACKLE, Common (28); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (101); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (303); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (35); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (1); WARBLER, Palm (2); WARBLER, Pine (65); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) (76); CARDINAL, Northern (69); WARBLER, Yellow-throated (1); BOOBY, Brown (8); GODWIT, Marbled (1). SPECIES, total (100); INDIVIDUALS, total (3807); Observers (10); Parties (5); Party-hours total (26.2); Party-miles total (46.65); Party-hours on foot (14.0); Party-miles on foot (7.95); Party-hours by car (12.2); Party-miles by car (38.7). Observers: Leigh Baker, Sherry Gibson, Sheila Hebert, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Sherrie Roden, John and Jana Whittle, Denise and Gary Kelley.

Gary Kelley

Johnson Bayou Christmas Bird Count, January 4, 2020

Sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society

This year's Johnson Bayou Christmas Count was held on the last day of the Audubon CBC season to avoid a conflict with duck hunting on Dec. 14, which was our count day for the past several years. The weather, a calm, clear, cool, winter day near the Gulf, could not have been better for the fifteen avid birders, three new to this count, who got up early for the special opportunity to count in these remote marshes and chenier woods, much of it on private property. Total species for this count was 117 with 10,317 individuals, vs. 121 and 12,912 individuals in 2018. Some highlights were a Common Ground Dove at the LTX gate and a Red-headed Woodpecker in Peveto Woods

Black-bellied Whistling Ducks are seen every few years on this count, and this was their year. All the other expected ducks were present except Mallards, though only one Wigeon was counted and Gadwall numbers were a fourth of last year's and trending down for five years now.

Pied-billed Grebes and both Cormorants were easily found but 900 White Pelicans and 141 Brown Pelicans set LAJB records, though it's not certain that different parties always see different birds, especially the White Pelicans flying high.

We found most of the usual Herons and Egrets, including a Green Heron, but Black-crowned Night Heron and Cattle Egret were missed. White Ibis and dark ibis species were plentiful, and two dozen Roseate Spoonbills were counted.

Black and Turkey Vultures, Osprey and expected Hawks including Accipiters and a Caracara were found with Red-tailed Hawks plentiful including the Harlan's and Krider's color morphs. A Red-shouldered Hawk was found, not counted in the past three years. We found Kestrels and Merlins, but Peregrine Falcon was a miss.

Rails and Soras, Common Gallinules and Coots were all seen withing the expected range of numbers, though Coots were down in the low 3000s.

Eleven Wilson's Snipe and two each of Greater Yellowlegs and Willet were counted but American Woodcock was a miss. Other shorebirds found include Ruddy Turnstones, Long-billed Dowitchers, Sanderlings (a nine year high number), Least Sandpipers, Black-necked Stilts, Black-bellied Plovers and Killdeer.

The common Ring-billed, Laughing, and Herring gulls were seen, plus a few Bonaparte's Gulls and one Gull-billed Tern. The expected Caspian, Royal, and Forster's Terns were present.

A Common Ground Dove, at the LTX gate, had not been recorded in this circle in the past nine years. The same number of Rock Pigeons was seen (one!). Mourning, Inca, and White-winged doves were found, while Eurasian Collared-Dove was a miss.

Barn Owls and Great Horned Owls were found in usual small numbers as were the Kingfishers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Downy Woodpeckers and Flicker. A Red-headed Woodpecker, seen briefly at Peveto Woods, was a

nice new addition to the LAJB list.

Moving now to the Passerine birds, Eastern Phoebes were working every habitat, while two Vermilion Flycatchers averaged out last year's miss. We found the expected Loggerhead Shrikes, Blue-headed Vireos, and Blue Jays. One Hermit Thrush was found, with usual numbers of Robins, Catbirds, Mockingbirds and Starlings.

Sedge, Marsh, and House Wrens appeared, and one Carolina Wren (for five years now). We got about the usual numbers of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and both Kinglets. Tree Swallows were counted in more typical numbers than the irruption last year.

Warblers included Orange-crowned, Yellow-rumped, Pine, Palm, and Common Yellowthroat.

We found the sparrows we usually find, Song, Lincoln's, Swamp, White-crowned, White-throated, Savannah and Chipping, with bonus Vesper Sparrows this year, in usual numbers and the same of Northern Cardinals

Red-winged Blackbirds, Eastern Meadowlarks, three species of Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds were out in usual force.

And finally someone saw two American Goldfinches.

Again this year we were granted access to private land around Johnson Bayou and would like to thank the owners and managers of Gray Estate, William Dore' property, and Crain Bros. for their permission and assistance.

Visit www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count for lots of information 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 Johnson Bayou Christmas Bird Count (LAJB in CBC #120.)

DUCK, Black-bellied Whistling (7); DUCK, Ruddy (47); GOOSE, Greater White-fronted (115); GOOSE, Snow (676); GOOSE, Snow blue form (15); GOOSE, Ross's (1); DUCK species (13); WIGEON (1); GADWALL (147); TEAL, Green-winged (65); CANVASBACK (55); REDHEAD (23); DUCK, Mottled (6); PINTAIL, Northern (105); TEAL, Blue-winged (54); SHOVELER, Northern (137); DUCK, Ring-necked (7); SCAUP, Lesser (92); SCAUP species (5); GREBE, Pied-billed (108); CORMORANT, Neotropic (58); CORMORANT, Double-crested (130); CORMORANT species (28); PELICAN, American White (900); PELICAN, Brown (141); HERON, Tri-colored (4); HERON, Little Blue (10); EGRET, Snowy (41); HERON, Great Blue (34); EGRET, Great (99); HERON, Green(1); IBIS, White (462); IBIS, White-faced (13); IBIS, Dark ibis species (912); IBIS, Glossy/White faced (20); SPOONBILL, Roseate (24); VULTURE, Black (7); VULTURE, Turkey (52); OSPREY (6); KITE, White-tailed (3); HARRIER, Northern (23); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); HAWK, Cooper's (1); ACCIPITER species (1); HAWK, Red-shouldered (1); HAWK, Red-tailed (72); HAWK, Red-tailed Harlan's (1); HAWK, Red-tailed Krider's (5); CARACARA, Crested (1); KESTREL, American (17); MERLIN (6); RAIL, Clapper (5); RAIL, King (8); RAIL, Virginia (1); SORA; (7); GALLINULE, Common (154); COOT, American (3076); SNIPE, Wilson's (11); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (2); WILLET (2); TURNSTONE, Ruddy (17); DOWICHER, Long-billed (8); SANDERLING (122); SANDPIPER, Least (20) STILT, Black-necked (6); PLOVER, Black-bellied (5); KILLDEER (83); GULL, Ring-billed

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Bird Sightings – January 2020

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.

Commentary: This month's listing reports a more nearly "normal" number of sightings of rare and very rare species, but nevertheless includes an abnormally high number of neotropical migrants that must be presumed to be wintering, in most cases, well north of their normal wintering areas.

Perhaps the most unusual sighting was that of a Chestnut-collared Longspur on Pleasure Island in Port Arthur. This highly confiding bird was fairly easily found for a number of days, feeding on the edge of the North Levee Road often in the company of Savannah Sparrows.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|
| Surf Scoter | Jan 18 | JEF-SRSP (3) Ron Weeks, Brad Lirette |
| Black Scoter | Jan 18 | JEF-SRSP (1) Ron Weeks, Brad Lirette |
| Brown Booby | Jan 1 | ORA-Bailey's Rd (8) Harlan Stewart, mult oobs |
| | Jan 1-30 | JEF-Pleasure Is N and S Levee (up to 5) mult oobs |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher | Jan 4 | SAB-SH21 at Carrice Creek Bridge (1) David Bell |
| | Jan 29 | JEF-Pleasure Is Seawall area N of Marina (1) JJW |
| Chestnut-coll. Longspur | Jan 23-30 | JEF-Pleasure Is N Levee (1) JAW, mult oobs |
| Northern Waterthrush | Jan 3 | JEF-TP (1) SH |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | Jan 1 | ORA-Claiborne West Park (1) SH |
| Summer Tanager | Jan 1-5 | ANG-Lufkin (1 fem plumaged) Gary Hunter |
| Painted Bunting | Jan 27 | JEF-Nederland (1) HS |

Nearby Counties

| | | |
|----------------------|--------|--|
| Cinnamon Teal | Jan 20 | CAM-Rockefeller SWR (1) Mitchell Jarrett |
| Black Scoter | Jan 9 | CAM-Rockefeller SWR (70) Jason Loghry |
| Ring-necked Pheasant | Jan 24 | LIB-Abbotts Creek Ranch off Minglewood Rd (1) Mike Riley |

Common Ground Dove

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|
| | Jan 1, 24 | HAS-Warren Ranch (1) Janes Rieman, mult oobs |
| | Jan 4 | CAM-S of Hwy 82 in Gray Est. property (access on CBC only) (1) Jo and Hannah Willars, Gary Kelley |
| | Jan 12 | CAL-Edgerly (1) Michael Musumeche |
| Groove-billed Ani | Jan 1 | CAL-Friesen Rd (1) Virginia Mayo |
| Broad-billed Humm'bird | Jan 3-19 | CHA-FM565/FM3360 area (1 male) Bill Wright, David Hanson |
| Broad-tailed Humm'bird | Jan 5 | CHA-TX146 (north part) (1) J. Berner |
| Semi-palm. Sandpiper | Jan 3 | HAS-San Jacinto Bttlgrnd (1) Stuart Nelson, Chris Hammond, Cin-Ty Lee |
| Pomarine Jaeger | Jan 29 | GAL-Seawall Clayton Leopold |
| Wood Stork | Jan 19 | BGAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Bob Gress |
| Brown Booby | Jan 5-27 | GAL-West Bay N of Sportsman's Rd (up to 3) continuing bird |
| | Jan 14 | HAS-Rice U (1) Cin-Ty Lee, mult oobs |
| | Jan 29 | CAM-Sabine Pass (1) R. Murray |
| Ladder-back. W'dpecker | Jan 1,13 | HAS-Warren Ranch (4) James Rieman, mult oobs |
| | Jan 26 | HAS-Wildcat Golf Club, SW Houston (1) Joffois Ryder |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | Jan 8 | HAS-Spring Valley Village (1Z) Nina Rach |

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|---|
| Say's Phoebe | Jan 12-26 | HAS-El Franco Lee Park area (1) Marie Asscherick, mult oobs |
| | Jan 19 | CAM-Willow Is Rec Ctr (1) David Booth |
| Great Kiskadee | Jan 6 | GAL-San Leon (1) Brian Berry |
| Couch's Kingbird | Jan 4-10 | CAL-Lacassine-pool unit (1) Bill Wood, Mike Musumeche |

Western Kingbird

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------|--|
| | Jan 5-6 | GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Bonnie de Grood, mult oobs |
| | Jan 5 | GAL-West Galveston Is (1) Jodi Hendricks, Dean Silvers |
| | Jan 12 | CAM-Lacassine NWR-Streeter Rd (1) Judson Lassiter |
| Barn Swallow | Jan 1 | HAS-Warren Ranch Lake (1) Nina Rach, Tim Young, Bob Sanger |
| | Jan 10 | HAS-Horsepen Creek Park (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio |
| Bewick's Wren | Jan 1,13 | HAS-Warren Ranch (1) mult oobs |
| | Jan 1 | HAS-Hockley (1) Kendra Kocob |
| | Jan 19 | HAS-Longenbaugh (1) Sue Orwig, Dennis Shepler |
| Lark Bunting | Jan 1 | HAS-Warren Ranch (3) mult oobs |
| European Goldfinch | Jan 4 | HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Aaron Hammer |
| Lark Bunting | Jan 1, 24 | HAS-Warren Ranch (1) mult oobs |
| Henslow's Sparrow | Jan 1-30 | HAS-Geo Bush Park (1) Aaron Hammer, Karl Poetzel, mult oobs |
| | Jan 29 | LIB--FM1008 area N of Kenefick (1) Colette and Paul Micallef |
| Yellow-head. Blackbird | Jan 5 | CHA-FM1985 (10) Robert Martinez |
| Western Meadowlark | Jan 1 | HAS-Longenbaugh (2) Robbin Mallett, mult oobs |
| | Jan 13 | HAS-Warren Ranch (1) Timothy White, J. Berner, Stephen Gast |
| Baltimore Oriole | Jan 12 | LIB-CR2274 Cleveland (1) Jeanine Tumbleson |
| | Jan 29 | HAS-W. Humble (10) Elaine White |

Bullock's Oriole

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|---|
| | Jan 2-3 | CHA-Wallisville-Turtle Bayou Rd (1) Tony Frank, mult oobs |
| | Jan 4 | HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Aaron Hammer |
| | Jan 5-27 | HAS-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright, Susan Kennedy, mult oobs |
| | Jan 5 | GAL-S of Santa Fe (1) Kyle O'Haver, Brent Ortego |
| | Jan 12 | HAS-Downtown Houston (1) Mike Bradham |
| | Jan 15-29 | HAS-Baytown Town Center (1) Gene Campbell |
| | Jan 20 | HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Sonny Bratz |
| Northern Waterthrush | Jan 2 | CHA-Wallisville (1) Matthew Sim |
| | Jan 5-8 | CHA-ANWR, Willows Trl (1) David Bridge, David Sarkozi |
| Black-and-white Warbler | Jan 2 | LIB-Trinity Rover NWR Knobby Knees (1) Steven Waltz |
| Prothonotary Warbler | Jan 24 | CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Denny Granstrand |

Nashville Warbler

| | | |
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| | Jan 4 | CAM-Johnson Bayou Crain Bros Rd (private) (1) Jo Willars |
|--|-------|--|

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|--------------------------|--|
| Jan 5-29 | LIB-FM1008 area N of Kenefick (1) Colette and Paul Micallef |
| Jan 30 | HAS-Seabrook (1) Hilary Gibbs |
| Northern Parula | Jan 24 LIB-Abbotts Creek Ranch off Minglewood Rd (1) Mike Riley |
| Tropical Parula | Jan 25-26 HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Andrew Hamlett, Farokh Jamalyaria, mult obs |
| Yellow Warbler | Jan 26-27 GAL-Texas City Bay St Park (10) Kyle O'Haver, Greg Hall |
| Black-thr. Blue Warbler | Jan 1-3 GAL-Friendswood (1 fem) Jodi Henricks |
| | Jan 4 GAL-High Is (not further specified) (1 male) Cindy and Mike Venus |
| Prairie Warbler | Jan 1-12 HAS-Longenbaugh (1) Jim Hinson, Letha Slaigle, Suzanne Mottin, mult obs |
| | Jan 4 HAS-San Jacinto Bttlgrd (1) Andrew Hamlett, Elizabeth Timmer |
| Black-thr. Green Warbler | Jan 25 HAS-Memorial area (1) Dominic Le Croisette |
| Summer Tanager | Jan 26 CAL-French Settlement (1) Beth Kramer |

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Western Tanager | Jan 3-30 | HAS-nr. Memorial at Gessner (1 fem) Sandi Templeton, mult obs |
| Pyrrhuloxia | Jan 5 | GAL-S of Santa Fe (1) Kyle O'Haver, Brent Ortego, mult obs |
| Rose-breast. Grosbeak | Jan 6-29 | CHA-FM565/FM3360 area (1) Paul Fagala |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | Jan 1-4 | HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Dale Wolck, mult obs |
| | Jan 2-19 | HAS-Cypress (1) Kyle Harmon |
| Painted Bunting | Jan 26 | CAL-French Settlement (1) Beth Kramer |

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; PW – Phillip Wallace; SAA – San Augustine Co.; SAB – Sabine County; SH – Sheila Hebert; SM – Steve Mayes, SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TYL – Tyler County; WJC – West Jefferson County.

Field Trip to Anahuac NWR *(cont from p.3)*

made a stoop down and disappeared so it could not be determined if it actually managed to snag a meal. Moving on, Tree Swallows were seen foraging over the marsh and the occasional Savannah Sparrow was seen along the roadside. A few more ducks were located as the birders neared the end of the loop. These included Lesser Scaup, Ring-necked Duck and a beautiful male Cinnamon Teal. Cinnamon Teal are always a nice treat for birders on the upper Texas coast as they are more of a western species and not easy to find at most locations in our area (Cattail Marsh being a notable exception).

So there it was, the group completed the Shoveler Pond loop before the rain and saw lots of great birds to boot! A lunch of sandwiches provided by the Beaumont CVB was happily consumed at this point before deciding what to do next. Ultimately, some of the birders decided to continue on to the Skillern Tract, another division of Anahuac NWR for a little more birding. And a little more birding was pretty much all that they got as the rain finally decided to make its presence felt at this point. Still, getting to spend the morning at one of the premier birding destinations in the country and seeing multiple exciting species like Vermilion Flycatcher, Winter Wren, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Bald Eagle and Cinnamon Teal was worth the risk of a little rain and a good time was had by all!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders: WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (500); WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous (9); GOOSE, Snow (21); GOOSE, Greater White-fronted (25); TEAL, Blue-winged (32); TEAL, Cinnamon (1M); SHOVELER, Northern (50); GADWALL (8); MALLARD (2); DUCK, Mottled (4); PINTAIL, Northern (100); TEAL, Green-winged (20); DUCK, Ring-necked (4M); SCAUP, Lesser (2); GREBE, Pied-billed (11); DOVE, Mourning (2); GALLINULE, Common (26); COOT, American (95); STILT, Black-necked (18); KILLDEER (5); SNIPE, Wilson's (2); YELLOWLEGS, Lesser (1); GULL, Laughing (1); TERN, Caspian (2); TERN, Forster's (1); CORMORANT, Neotropic (8); CORMORANT, Double-crested (1); Heron, Great Blue (3); EGRET, Great (13); EGRET, Snowy (5); HERON, Little Blue (2); HERON, Tricolored (3); IBIS, White (91); IBIS, White-faced (2); IBIS, Glossy/White-faced (20); SPOONBILL, Roseate (55); VULTURE, Black (4); VULTURE, Turkey (7); KITE, White-tailed (3); HARRIER, Northern (5); EAGLE, Bald (1 imm); HAWK, Red-tailed (31); KINGFISHER, Belted (3); CARACARA, Crested (1); KESTREL, American (11); MERLIN (1); PHOEBE, Eastern (2); FLYCATCHER,

Vermilion (2); VIREO, White-eyed (1); VIREO, Blue-headed (1); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (4); SWALLOW, Tree (10); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (1); KINGLET, RUBY-Crowned (2); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (3); WREN, House (3); WREN, Winter (1); WREN, Sedge (1); WREN, Marsh (5); STARLING, European (33); CATBIRD, Gray (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (4); THRUSH, Hermit (1); PIPIT, American (1); SPARROW, White-crowned (4); SPARROW, White-throated (1); SPARROW, Savannah (2); SPARROW, Song (3); SPARROW, Lincoln's (1); SPARROW, Swamp (4); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (14); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (3); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (1); GRACKLE, Great-tailed/Boat-tailed (1); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (4); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (2); WARBLER, Palm (3); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (44); CARDINAL, Northern (1).

Steve Mayes

Johnson Bayou CBC *(continued from page 5)*

(23); GULL, Herring (5); GULL, Lesser Black-backed (3); GULL, Laughing (6); TERN, Gull-billed (1); TERN, Caspian (3); TERN, Royal (13); TERN, Forster's (40); PIGEON, Rock (1); DOVE, Mourning (12); DOVE, White-winged (12); DOVE, Common Ground (1); DOVE, Inca (2); OWL, Barn (3); OWL, Great Horned (3); KINGFISHER, Belted (16); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (3); WOODPECKER, Downy (3); FLICKER, Northern (1); PHOEBE, Eastern (32); FLYCATCHER, Vermilion (2); JAY, Blue, (5); VIREO, Blue-headed (6); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (22); THRUSH, Hermit (1); ROBIN, American (10); CATBIRD, Gray (10); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (23); STARLING, European (88); WREN, Sedge (18); WREN, Marsh (18); WREN, Carolina (1); WREN, House (10); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (20); SWALLOW, Tree (103); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (3); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (40); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (19); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) (153); WARBLER, Pine (6); WARBLER, Palm (1); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (15); SPARROW, Song (8); SPARROW, Lincoln's (2); SPARROW, Swamp (35); SPARROW, White-crowned (3); SPARROW, White-throated (2); SPARROW, Savannah (74); SPARROW, Chipping (9); SPARROW, Vesper (3); CARDINAL, Northern (10); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (11); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (595); GRACKLE, Common (56); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (217); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (223); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (75); GOLDFINCH, American (2); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (1). SPECIES, total (117); INDIVIDUALS, total (10378); Observers (15); Parties (5); Party-hours total (40.5); Party-miles total (71.95); Party-hours on foot (15.75); Party-miles on foot (6.3); Party-hours by car (24.3); Party-miles by car (65.65). Observers: Leigh Baker, Sherry Gibson, Claudia Gilson, Fritz Meyer, Sheila Hebert, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Sherrie Roden, Harlan Stewart, John and Jana Whittle, Jo Willars, Hannah Willars, Denise and Gary Kelley.

Gary Kelley

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
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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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Many rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on Facebook Texbirds or on the TEXTBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. It is not necessary to subscribe 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.