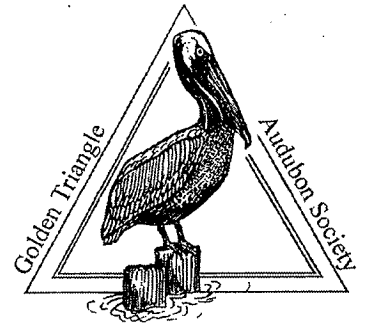


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 26 No. 4

April 2020

## Membership Meetings and Field Trips

Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak and restrictions in the County Judge's Stay at Home Emergency Order, the April Membership Meeting and the April Field Trip have been cancelled.

At this time, it is not known whether it will be possible to hold a Membership Meeting in May.

The Spring Migration Count is scheduled each year in place of a May Field Trip and does not involve any gatherings of people. Saturday 9 May 2020 will be the date this year and it is hoped that it can proceed as planned.

For the convenience of readers, we have summarized on page 2 (to the extent that we know) the status of local birding locations, some of which remain open to provide needed outdoor recreation opportunities. We would caution that the situation is currently very fluid, and may well have changed by the time you receive this newsletter.

## Editorial

With the current situation, we have a rare availability of space for editorial comments. We wish it wasn't so! Although birding clearly qualifies as "essential" outdoor recreation as long as birders stay appropriately separated, the spring migration is certain to be less comprehensively documented this year. In our area, this is possibly the greatest contribution we make to monitoring bird populations, although the vagaries of weather, especially winds, mean that our daily counts are clearly only anecdotal in nature in the short term.

We addressed some worrisome apparent trends of wintering species in an article last month. These results are necessarily limited, and cover a limited range of mostly open country birds. Also, the limited area involved and the possibility that there were undetected non-obvious changes in the habitat that influenced the numbers make the results of limited applicability to the larger picture. Wide scale bird distribution numbers are extremely hard to determine, being extremely "labor intensive." For all practical purposes, only volunteer birders can collect enough data to enable statistically significant conclusions. Nevertheless, the relatively few records expected this spring will be very unfortunate.

## Jefferson County 7th Amended Emergency Order (effective 11.59 p.m. 27 March, 2020)

The following are excerpts from the order. All counties in the greater Golden Triangle area and in Greater Houston have essentially identical provisions to those below.

a. All individuals currently living within Jefferson County are ordered to stay at their place of residence except for Essential Activities as defined in this order. All persons may leave their Residences only for Essential Activities, or to provide or perform Essential Governmental Functions, or to operate Essential Businesses, as defined in Section 2. ....

[1]d Individuals may go to public parks and open outdoor recreation areas. However, public playgrounds may increase spread of COVID-19 and, therefore, shall be closed ....

Definitions:

A For purposes of this Order, individuals may leave their residence only to perform any of the following "Essential Activities"

.....  
iii To engage in outdoor activity, provided the individuals comply with social distancing requirements of six feet (for example, walking, biking, hiking, running, or fishing)

## Texas Ornithological Society

Statement by TOS: We have not officially closed the TOS sanctuaries, but we strongly encourage you to stay close to home to bird. Don't drive an extended distance to go birding. Explore places near your home.

## Houston Audubon Sanctuaries

We have been honored to provide a safe and peaceful place for visitors to enjoy nature. However, due to the stay home orders in Harris and Galveston counties and the safety of our staff, volunteers, and visitors. Houston Audubon made the unprecedented decision to close all offices and sanctuaries through April 30, 2020. The Texas Open Beaches Act assures free and unrestricted public access to beaches and therefore beaches associated with Bolivar Flats currently remain open.

## Texas State Parks

As Texans try to practice social distancing, teams at Texas State Parks are working to keep the parks open and safe for visitors. According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, parks will remain open to give individuals a healthy way to get outdoors.

However, several changes have been made to help protect the health and wellbeing of state park visitors, volunteers, and staff.

**No onsite transactions beginning Wednesday, April 1.** Visitors must pre-register and pay all day-use and overnight fees online before their arrival. For help with this process, how-to videos are available on the Reservation Information page. (At the time this was prepared, the Texas Parks and Wildlife website did not show a mechanism to pay a day-use fee or register online.)

**Fewer park visitors are allowed.** According to Texas State Parks, allowing fewer visitors makes it easier to comply with social distancing guidelines.

**Site closures.** Sites where more than 10 people can gather have been closed, including headquarters buildings, group sites, interpretive centers, and stores. **No programs or equipment rentals.**

**Park closures.** Some state parks are closed due to difficulty complying with guidelines for social distancing or disinfecting. Visitors can check the Alert Map on the Texas Parks and Wildlife website for the latest status of parks.

## National Park Service

The National Park Service is modifying its operations on a park-by-park basis in accordance with the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local public health authorities. While most facilities and events are closed or canceled, many of our outdoor spaces remain accessible to the public. Before visiting, please check with individual parks regarding changes to park operations. If you choose to visit a national park, please ensure that you follow CDC and state and local guidelines to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and practice.

The Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center is closed, but the trails are open.

## National Wildlife Refuges

From the main system website: During the current public health emergency, whenever possible, outdoor recreation sites at national wildlife refuges will remain open to the public. For now, refuge visitor centers and other public facilities may be closed.

**[However, the gates at McFaddin and Anahuac NWRs are locked at this time.]**

# How Climate Change Affects Hummingbirds' Feeding Behavior

*Audubon's Hummingbirds at Home program collects important information about these birds and the flowers they depend on. (From the National Audubon Society Web Site.)*

Planning a vacation to an exotic location several time zones away is usually cause for joy and excitement, but what if you arrived at the airport only to discover your flight departed the day before and no one told you? What if your road trip to your favorite mountain lake was marred by a lack of signs to tell you where the gas stations are? These challenges are similar to what hummingbirds may be confronting as they deal with the impacts of global climate change. Hummingbirds may be without the information they need to find their important nectar sources after migrating to their breeding areas.

A growing body of research (McKinney, et al. 2012) indicates flowers are blooming earlier because of warming temperatures. There is potential for this change to impact the established synchronous relationship between hummingbirds arriving on their breeding grounds and bloom times of their food sources. The degree to which hummingbirds are able to adapt to accommodate these changes is poorly understood, and a comprehensive feeding behavior survey of hummingbird species across the country has yet to be undertaken.

Audubon's Hummingbirds at Home program was designed to mobilize citizen scientists across the U.S. to bolster current research by documenting the feeding patterns of hummingbirds.

The graph (next page) shows the historic trends in surface temperature, sea level, and snow cover that document evidence of climate change. These higher temperatures are driving sea-level rise and changes in snowpack which in turn are reshaping when and where the nectar resources hummingbirds rely on are available. Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2007) IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007. Map: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2007) IPCC Fourth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2007

Hummingbirds rely on nectar for up to 90 percent of their diet and rely heavily on the timing of nectar blooms during their breeding season. The breeding distribution of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, for example, corresponds very closely with the start of the growing season in the western United States. Birds tend to breed in areas that start greening up in mid- to late May (Page 4A).

The importance of timing for migrating Broad-tailed Hummingbirds is also evident when you look more closely at availability of the flowers they depend upon for nectar, such as the Glacier Lily. If the timing of blooms of these plants were to change, what kind of impact would this have on the Broad-tailed Hummingbird? Will the Broad-tailed Hummingbird be able to find new sources of nectar during this important part of its lifecycle? Is this also happening to other hummingbird species? The timing of arrival of at least one hummingbird species, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, onto their breeding

grounds, is changing (Courter, et al. 2013). Will these changes affect local pollination systems and will the Ruby-throated Hummingbird be able to keep pace with the accelerated warming?

These are the types of questions Audubon hopes to gain insight into through data collected with Hummingbirds at Home. The program was developed to help us learn where these important nectar rich flowers are and how climate change is affecting when they bloom. Citizen scientists in this project document hummingbird feeding behavior across the country by recording the timing of nectar plant blooms locally, what hummingbirds are feeding on, and when feeding occurs as they arrive on their breeding grounds and throughout the breeding season. Are hummingbird feeders and/or non-native plants supporting hummingbirds at a level that native plants do not because of the change in bloom times? Where and when might hummingbirds be most vulnerable due to a scarcity of nectar resources? These are some of the questions that guided the design of this program.

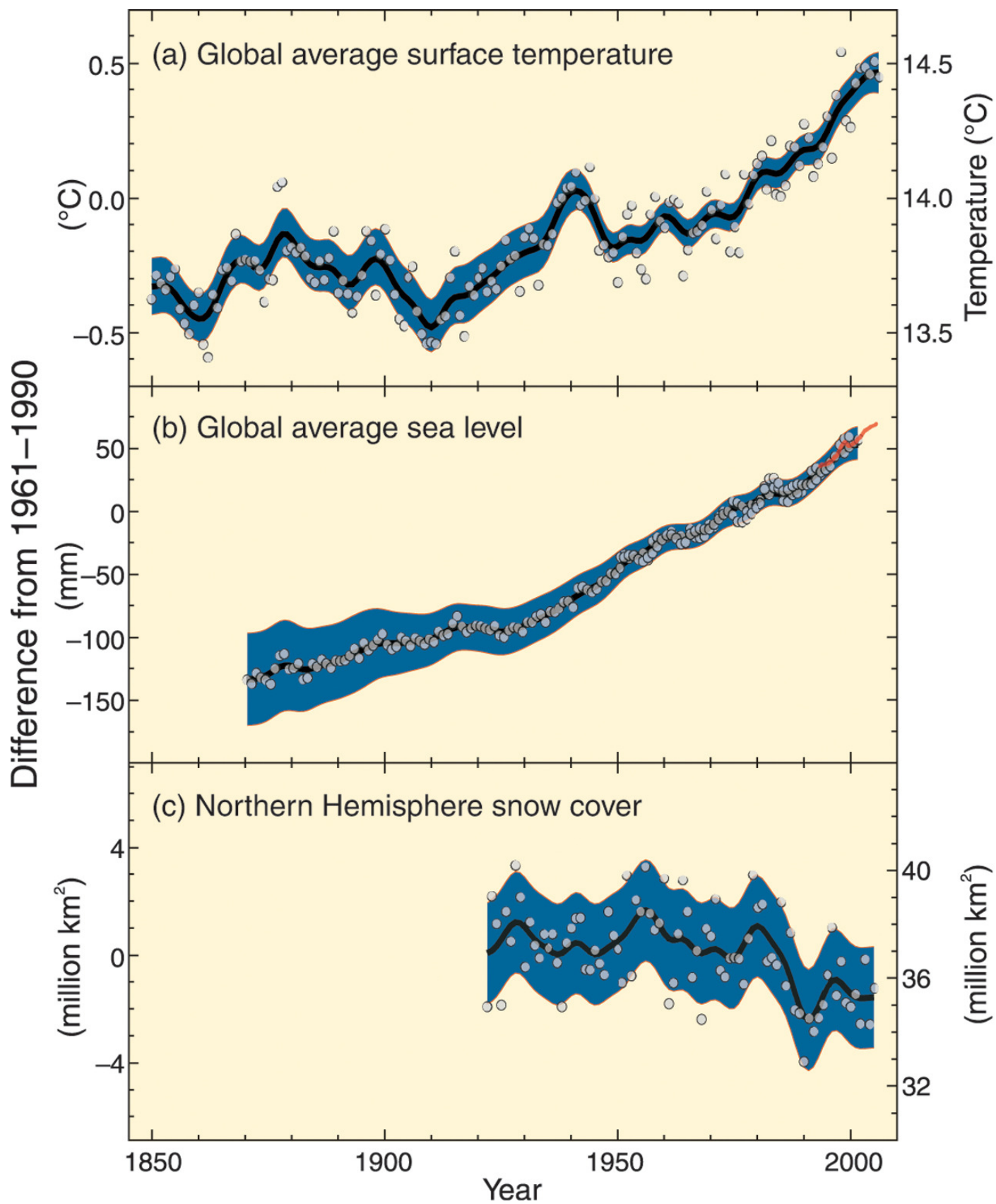
As the data collected shows Audubon scientists what the hummingbirds are feeding on, we can determine if these birds are changing their feeding behavior. Focused on the relationship between hummingbirds and their feeding sources, Hummingbirds at Home differs from other bird monitoring programs in that participants do not record the numbers of birds seen, but record the species, nectar sources, and feeding behavior seen.

Breeding distribution of Broad-tailed Hummingbird (below top) matches the start of the growing season in that landscape (below bottom).

Spring 2013 is the first year of the program, and it will take a few years of data collection before patterns begin to emerge. We will look to the data to determine if recommendations should be made encouraging participants to plant certain flowering plants in their survey locations and then to follow up with additional surveys to measure the impacts. In the case of bloom timing mismatches, we hope eventually to learn if alternate nectar sources, like feeders, make a difference in hummingbird breeding success and survival.

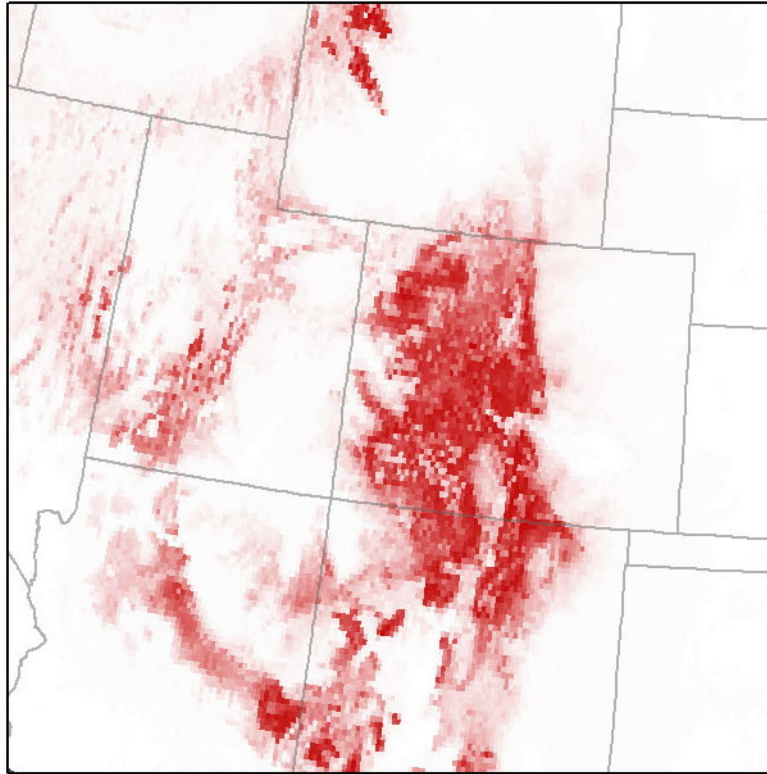
If you are an early adopter of the software, please make sure you check back for updates. For those using the mobile apps, make sure your mobile device updates the software automatically so you can have the latest features as they are added.

Want to help hummingbirds? Hummingbirds at Home (<http://www.hummingbirdsathome.org/>) welcomes your participation to report the hummingbirds in your yards! The project joins Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count as part of Audubon's year-round citizen science programs.

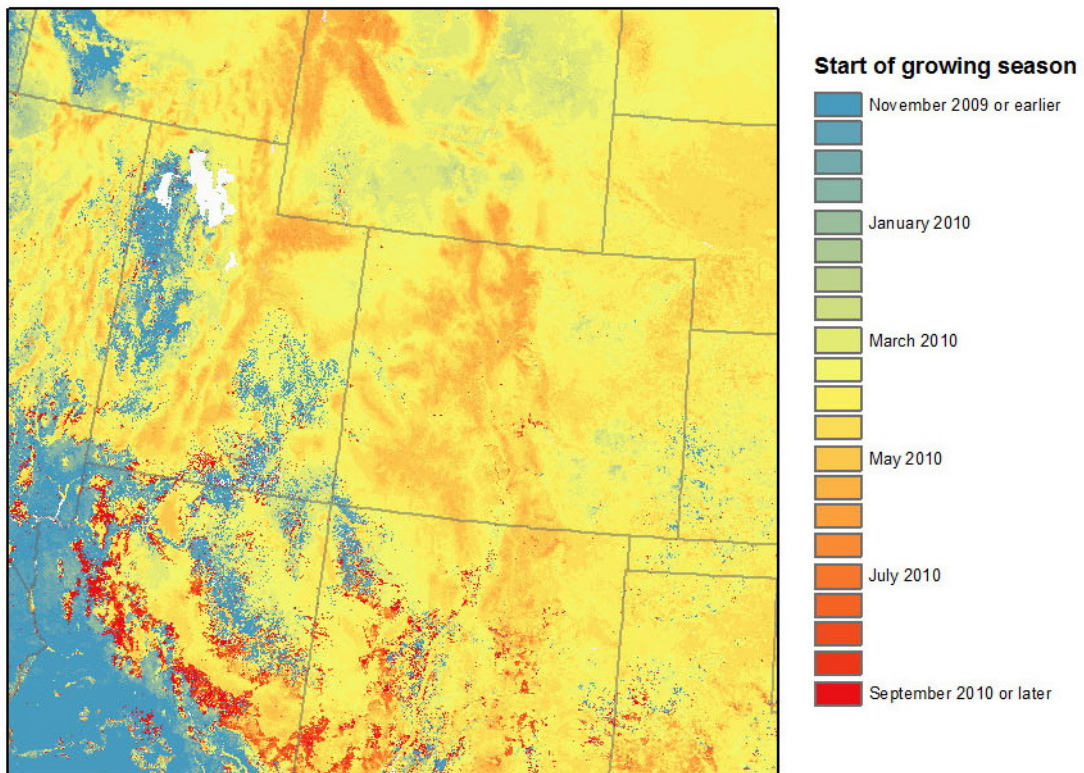




Breeding distribution of Broad-tailed Hummingbird (National Audubon Society)



Start of Growing Season (US Geological Survey)



## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 21 March 2020

These are very strange times that we are living in. The terms “pandemic” and “social distancing” are now in everyone’s personal lexicon but how do these concepts affect birding? We have received mixed messages from the powers that be in this regard. On the one hand, we are being encouraged to stay at home and away from other people. On the other, we are being told that getting outside is still a healthy choice as long as you are not closely congregating with other people, especially large groups. In fact, most of the “stay at home” orders that have been issued by cities and counties have specifically listed outdoor activities like birding as exceptions to the orders. Given all of this, it was reasonable to ask whether or not the Golden Triangle Audubon’s March field trip to Bolivar Flats should go on as scheduled or should be cancelled. After debate and discussion among board members and other informed parties, it was decided that the field trip would go on as scheduled. But would anyone come?

Arriving at Houston Audubon Society’s Bolivar Flats shorebird sanctuary, it was a gray, windy day with a threat of rain. Sure enough, birders started showing up for the field trip. A total of eight birders eventually would join the trip. This is a bit smaller than usual field trips but, all things considered, not a bad turnout. Luckily, it is not that hard to social distance in a wide-open area like Bolivar Flats where it is easy to spread out. The only caveat, would be the sharing of spotting scopes for observing distant birds. In hindsight, this was probably a mistake but this is a new situation for everyone and some mistakes are inevitable. It should also be noted that this field trip took place before Houston Audubon’s closure of all of their sanctuaries to birders.

It was nice for the birders to be able to put some of their coronavirus fears aside for a few hours at a place like Bolivar Flats. Bolivar Flats always delivers with birds! Walking on from the vehicle barrier, the birding started immediately. Sanderlings and Western Sandpipers were quickly found. Wilson’s Plovers were immediately evident and birders got great looks at these largest of the small plovers with their oversized bills and long, pinkish legs. Just for comparison, there were plenty of the larger Black-bellied Plovers nearby as well though all were still in their non-black-bellied winter plumage. Large Brown Pelicans were easy to see on the beach and plunge-diving in the gulf and even larger American White Pelicans were soaring over the marsh and loafing on the beach. Dozens of American Avocets were feeding in the surf nearby while thousands more were eventually seen further down the flats. Flocks of Little Blue and Tricolored Herons were flying by just

offshore while a Northern Harrier cruised low over the marsh. Newly arrived Barn Swallows zipped by the birders while Eastern Meadowlarks were heard singing in the distance.

Moving further down the beach new species were spotted left and right. Snowy Plovers and Piping Plovers were found and compared. Later, Semipalmated Plovers were added to the day list to complete the small plover quartet. Laughing Gulls were numerous on the day but a few Ring-billed Gulls and larger Herring Gulls were also noted. A single Bonaparte’s Gull was eventually located as well. Royal Terns were present in good numbers while Caspian Tern was absent. A few smaller Forster’s Terns were located and some Sandwich Terns with their yellow-tipped bills were also spotted. A small group of tiny Least Terns was also seen on the beach likely having arrived only recently. Some diligent searching also produced a Common Tern sporting an obvious black carpal bar. Along the dune line, Horned Larks were occasionally spotted as they darted in and out of the vegetation. A Savannah Sparrow or two was also noted in this area. The birders got a special treat when an Osprey plucked a catfish from the surf and flew it onto the beach and stopped there to eat. Nice close looks at a bird one doesn’t normally see on the ground.

But the Osprey was not the only raptor perched low on the beach. Further down, perched on a bit of driftwood was an adult Peregrine Falcon! There bird sat there during the entire trip and never menaced the assembled beach birds. But there were other great birds still waiting to be discovered. One of the best of these was a Red Knot spotted by Harlan Stewart. He managed to snap a photo but then the bird disappeared. With a lot of searching, eventually the bird was refound along with a second Red Knot. Both were still in their gray winter plumage belying their colorful name! Reddish Egrets also have a colorful name and are a specialty of Bolivar Flats. Both dark and white forms of the Reddish Egret were spotted on the trip and the group also got to see the feeding dance that the species is rightly famous for. Ruddy Turnstones are among the most colorful of shorebirds though the birds seen on this trip were not yet in full breeding finery. Black Skimmers are another interesting species that are often seen at Bolivar Flats. These odd, tern-like birds have lower bills longer than their upper bills, unique among birds. The group saw quite a few skimmers on the day but they were all loafing on the beach and did not demonstrate their unique feeding behavior.

A brief rain squall chased the group back to their cars for a bit but, after it was over, they were right back on the beach. The birds did not mind the rain and were

not bothered. Semipalmated Sandpipers were noted along with Least Sandpipers up the beach. A Long-billed Curlew eventually gave good looks while several Marbled Godwits remained distant. Dunlin were plentiful on the beach as were noisy Willets. Off shore, there were some ducks noted. Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal were easily found and there were a few Mottled Ducks as well. Even more numerous were the flocks of Scaup swimming just offshore. There were several hundred of these birds, mostly Lesser Scaup from what could be determined. Looking through the many scaup close to shore, one odd looking bird was spotted. Sure enough, scope looks revealed a male Surf Scoter! Not in full adult breeding plumage but still a nice-looking bird and much closer to shore than this species is often seen.

Leaving Bolivar Flats, the group traveled on to Bob Road for a bit of change in habitat. The ponds and marsh here produced a few more species, some of which were not present on the flats. A pair of Mallards swam near the bank of one pond. Common Gallinules and an American Coot also worked these waters. A couple of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks flew over the group while a Belted Kingfisher was spotted perched nearby. Black-necked Stilts were noted in the shallows along with Semipalmated Plovers and numerous Dunlin. Great Blue Heron and Great Egret were seen along the shore while a Tree Swallow or two passed overhead. A few Bonaparte's Gulls were loafing on a mud flat with other gulls and terns and the birders studied them closely. The group had been informed of a Little Gull that was seen that morning following a barge along the waterway. Unfortunately, no Little Gull was spotted on this trip and no barge came by during the birders time on Bob Road to stir up the birds. Still, a few more species were added to the day's tallies.

A day's birding provided a nice respite from the

strange reality in which we are all currently living. Given the current state of things, this could be the last organized field trip for some time. Birding is still, for now, a viable option during these times and, for some us, maybe the only way to stay sane! Hopefully, birding can continue through the spring as long as we all do what we can to stop the spread of this virus including social distancing, hand-washing and self-quarantine should one show symptoms or be exposed. What will happen in the near future, we cannot know but we can hope for the best and know that birding will always be there for us when the crisis passes!

The following species were noted by the trip leader:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (2); Blue-winged Teal (25); Northern Shoveler (4); Mallard (2); Mottled Duck (6); Lesser Scaup (50); Greater/Lesser Scaup (200); Surf Scoter (1); Pied-billed Grebe (2); Mourning Dove (2); Common Gallinule (2); American Coot (1); Black-necked Stilt (6); American Avocet (2000); Black-bellied Plover (81); Snowy Plover (15); Wilson's Plover (25); Semipalmated Plover (17); Piping Plover (20); Long-billed Curlew (2); Marbled Godwit (6); Ruddy Turnstone (13); Red Knot (2); Sanderling (200); Dunlin (300); Least Sandpiper (40); Semipalmated Sandpiper (25); Western Sandpiper (75); peep sp. (200); Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher (10); Greater Yellowlegs (1); Willet (50); Lesser Yellowlegs (7); Bonaparte's Gull (7); Laughing Gull (155); Ring-billed Gull (7); Herring Gull (7); Least Tern (25); Common Tern (1); Forster's Tern (16); Royal Tern (115); Sandwich Tern (16); Black Skimmer (75); Common Loon (1); Neotropic Cormorant (7); Double-crested Cormorant (7); American White Pelican (100); Brown Pelican (80); Great Blue Heron (5); Great Egret (1); Snowy Egret (1); Little Blue Heron (35); Tricolored Heron (9); Reddish Egret (2); Osprey (2); Northern Harrier (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Crested Caracara (2); Peregrine Falcon (1); Horned Lark (3); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1); Tree Swallow (3); Barn Swallow (35); Savannah Sparrow (4); Eastern Meadowlark (5); Red-winged Blackbird (15); Boat-tailed Grackle (25).

*Steve Mayes*

## Bird Sightings – March 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:** The unfortunate lack of any events and activities to report has left us some space here, a luxury we have not had over the last several months.

Our goal in this section is to record unusual bird sightings within about 100 miles of the Golden Triangle. Over the past year or so, and especially over the last nine months, the number of such sightings has been very high by historical standards. We are not sure of the causes of this, but the increased ability to enter sightings, even one's back yard, or a location that the birder stumbled on has surely had something to do with it.

For our newer readers, we will again note that we try to include all species listed as rare or very rare (or not listed at all!) in the Birder's Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast, 9th

Edition published by the Ornithology Group of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club. Since this is now 12 years old, we do make allowances for some of the obvious changes over that period. This applies especially to some wintering species that rarely make it down to our area. Canada Goose and Purple Finch come readily to mind. There are a number of introduced

species that we do not record yet, but perhaps will soon. Egyptian Goose may be one of those.

This month's listing shows an abnormally large number of wintering warblers and other neotropical migrants, possibly reflecting on a relatively mild winter, although some were just flat out very early migrants.

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

Purple Gallinule	Mar 23	JEF-TP (1) HS
Chuck-will's-widow	Mar 7-20	JEF-SW (1) SM, SH
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Mar 29	JEF-SW (1) Debbie MC
Great Kiskadee	Mar 21-22	JEF-SW (2) mult obs
Cliff Swallow	Mar 11	SAB-SH21@Pendleton Bridge (65) David Bell
Ovenbird	Mar 29	JEF-SW (1) John Mariani
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 21-22	JEF-SW (2) mult obs
Kentucky Warbler	Mar 21	JAS-CR51 area (1) Phillip Hight
Summer Tanager	Mar 22	JEF-SW (1 male) SM, mult obs

### Nearby Counties

Common Nighthawk	Mar 25	HAS-FM1093 nr TX6 (1) Letha Slaigle
	Mar 25	HAS-Johnson SC area (1) Judy Sharp
Purple Gallinule	Mar 23	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) William Matthews
	Mar 23	CAM-Lacassine pool unit (1) William Matthews
Wood Stork	Mar 18	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve (5) Mark Brazzil
Masked Booby	Mar 23	CHA-Meyer Rd (1) Vivian Griffey
Brown Booby	Mar 4-28	GAL-West Bay N of Sportsman's Rd (1) continuing bird
	Mar 9	HAS-Morgan's Point (1 subadult) Sonny Bratz
	Mar 18	GAL-West Bay, Hitchcock (3) Lesley Goodman, Travis Ly
	Mar 28	CHA-northeast of Keemah (1) Brian Berry
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 1	CHA-ANWR-Skillern (1) Aidan Healy
	Mar 16	CAM-Cameron Ferry (1) Jessica Mitchum
Mississippi Kite	Mar 21	GAL-south west La Marque (2) Michael Hardee
	Mar 24	HAS-Edith Moore Sanct (2) Letha Slagle
	Mar 28	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Margaret Farese
Broad-winged Hawk	Mar 25	CAL-southwest Lake Charles (1) Irvin Loque
Swainson's Hawk	Mar 14	HAS-South Main N of 610 (1) John O'Brien
Black-chin Hummingbird	Mar 5	CAL-Lake Charles (1) David Booth
Parasitic Jaeger	Mar 12	CAM-Broussard Bch at Willow Is (1) David Booth, Judson Lassiter
Little Gull	Mar 21-26	GAL-Bob's Rd (1) John Faber, mult obs
Ladder-backed W'pecker	Mar 12-16	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Richard Liebler, mult obs
Say's Phoebe	Mar 1-18	HAS-El Franco Lee Park area (1) Chris Bick, Marie Asscherick
	Mar 12-21	CAM-Broussard Bch at Willow Is (1) David Booth, Judson Lassiter, mult obs
	Mar 12	CAM-LeBoeuf Camp Rd (1) David Booth
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Mar 1-22	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Nicholas DeMaio, mult obs

	Mar 3	HAS-Pine Forest CC (1) Timothy White
Couch's Kingbird	Feb 27-29	CAL-Choupique Rd S at Jay Duhon Rd (1) Paul Zimmerman, Kathy Rhodes
Eastern Kingbird	Mar 3	CHA-ANWR (1) Alexandra Baskin
	Mar 19	CAM-Pine Pasture Rd (2) Charlotte Chehotsky
Red-eyed Vireo	Mar 21	CAL-Sam Houston Junes SP area (1) Deanna Griggs
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 29	LIB--FM1008 area N of Kenefick (1) Colette and Paul Micallef
Henslow's Sparrow	Mar 6-22	HAS-George Bush Park (1) Bill Matthews, mult obs
	Mar 16	GAL-Tuna Rd (3) Donald Sutherland (unconf)
Spotted Towhee	Mar 6	HAS-San Jacinto Bttlgrnd (1) continuing bird
Orchard Oriole	Mar 2	HAS-Bayou Bend Gdns (1) Vaughn Phillips (1) mult obs
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 18	Edith L Moore Sanct (1) Stuart Nelson, Halli Macdonald
Swainson's Warbler	Mar 25	LIB-CR2282 (1 heard only) Bill Wright
Nashville Warbler	Mar 5	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Jeff Dillon
	Mar 8	HAS-Edith L. Moore Sanct. (1) Stanley Almoney
Hooded Warbler	Mar 6	HAS- Edith L. Moore Sanct. (1) Justin Bower
	Mar 11	GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Greg Hall
	Mar 13	HAS-Memorial Area (1) Sue Orwig
Northern Parula	Mar 1	HAS- Edith L. Moore Sanct. (1) Li Buck
Magnolia Warbler	Mar 29-31	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Robert Becker, Mike Bradham, mult obs
Prairie Warbler	Mar 3	HAS -San Jacinto Bttlgrnd (1) Ross Silcock
	Mar 30	HAS-Baytown (1) Gene Campbell
Black-thr. Green Warbler	Mar 6	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
	Mar 17	HAS-Terry Hershey Park (1) Sue Orwig
	Mar 5	CAL-Lake Charles (1) Paul Zimmerman
	Mar 21-22	CAM-Peveto Woods (1 male) Russell Bourg, mult obs
	Mar 26	HAS-Off Dixie Farm Rd east of Pearland (1 fem) Linda Kuhn
Blue Grosbeak	Mar 31	HAS-Addicks Res - S Levee(1) Sonny Bratz

**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.



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 C0ZW250Z

### *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.

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](http://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.