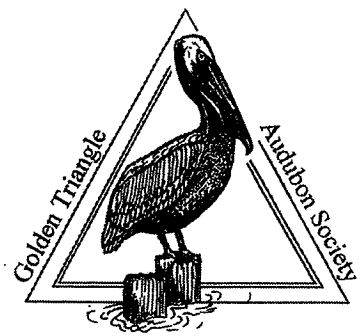


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 26 No. 7/8

July/August 2020

Field Trips and Meetings

Summer is always a time when our sponsored activities are few. This year, the Covid situation has reduced our activities even further.

In the context of this monthly Newsletter, we are not able to publish firm details in respect of our many meetings or field trips. We know many of you are anxious to resume normal activities. We are carefully monitoring the situation and any applicable emergency orders, and holding off on making firm go/no go decisions until as near the normal dates of the events as we can, consistent with adequate time to disseminate our decision to the membership and public. The principal method of announcing our decisions will be the Golden Triangle Audubon website at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org.

As this issues closes for press, we have decided on the following:

1. We will not attempt to organize a field trip to look for Swallow-tailed Kites in the Liberty area this year. See our recommendations on page 2 if you want to try to search for them yourself.
2. There will not be an August Membership Meeting this year.
3. We will postpone a decision on an August Field Trip, normally to Bolivar Flats and scheduled for Saturday August 22, until nearer the time.

Decisions on September events will be made much nearer the time. The Membership Meeting, if held, will be on Thursday September 16, and the Field Trip probably Saturday September 26.

Birding is a generally outdoor activity and is within the definition of essential outdoor recreation as interpreted in Jefferson County. Please avoid congregating in large groups. It is recommended that you not share optical equipment. Safely cleaning optical equipment without risking damaging lens coatings is very difficult to do thoroughly.

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

Important Note: Field Trip notices published here are subject to last minute changes especially in the current Covid situation. Changes will always be posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org.

Future Programs and Field Trips. (ALL TENTATIVE!)

As this is written in late July, it is not clear how many and which of our normal activities we will be able to put on during the remainder of the year.

We have cancelled our August Membership Meeting and Liberty Field Trip. (If you want to look for the kites yourself, we recommend visiting during the first 10 days or so of August. Try driving along US90 between Liberty and Dayton, perhaps several times, and also visit Liberty Municipal Park.)

During the Covid emergency, we may have to limit the number of participants on Field Trips, or operate as two or more separate groups, so please notify us at gtaudubon@aol.com of your plan to participate.

Saturday August 27. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. (TENTATIVE)

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

Saturday September 26. Field Trip to Hawk Watch. (TENTATIVE)

If possible within the Chambers County rules, our field trip to it will be on September 26. The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory has indicated that access to the upper deck of the Tower will be limited to official volunteers.

Status of Birding Sites

We note that the CDC has stated that the Covid-19 virus does not appear to survive well on hard surfaces, and that essentially all transmission appears to be person to person, without a great risk of outdoor transmission, especially away from crowds constrained to be in close proximity to each other.

Here is the current status of the local birding site as best we can determine.

Texas Ornithological Society. All TOS properties remain accessible as normal.

Cattail Marsh, Beaumont. Cattail Marsh and Tyrrell Park are fully open and operating normally.

Houston Audubon Sanctuaries. Houston Audubon officially reopened its sanctuaries on May 4.

Texas State Parks. The parks are open for limited day use and limited camping. Reservations are strongly recommended for both day use and camping owing to limitations on the number of people allowed in each park.

National Park Service. The Big Thicket Visitor Center is closed but trails are open except for some with flood damage.

National Wildlife Refuges. The trails and outside areas at McFaddin and Anahuac NWRs remain open. The entrance gates are only open from 7 AM to 7 PM. The Visitor Center and the Visitor Information Station remain closed.



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

Field Trip to Hardin County – 6 June 2020

The annual Golden Triangle Audubon field trip to Hardin County did not start out as an “official” field trip. Originally, it just came about when a few local birders were looking for something to do after spring migration was over. They decided it might be fun to go looking for some of the warblers they saw in spring migration at Sabine Woods on their breeding grounds. Hardin County is right next door to Jefferson County, is still mostly rural woodland and home to as many as a dozen species of breeding warblers. Some are easy to find while others are more difficult but the original birders all agreed it was a good time and started to do it every year. Over the years, more and more local birders wanted to join in on the trip and it eventually was just declared an official field trip. Now, it is one of the most popular of the Golden Triangle field trips and attracts birders from as far as Houston. But would the trip maintain its popularity in world of COVID-19 and social distancing? It would!

An early start is very desirable on this trip not only because of the higher level of activity of the birds in the morning but also because of the oppressive heat that develops as the day wears on. More than a dozen birders gathered in Silsbee to start the trip. There was, perhaps, less car pooling than in normal years but that was to be expected along with some choosing to wear masks. This spot sometimes provides a few birds not seen on the rest of the trip. On this day, birds seen from the parking lot included Little Blue Heron, Barn Swallow and the inevitable House Sparrows and Starlings.

Heading into the back roads of southern Hardin County some species are immediately obvious. Hooded Warblers call from many spots along the road (though perhaps fewer this year than normal?) and White-eyed Vireos are also often detected. Seeing these species is much tougher than hearing them however and they are much tougher to see here on their breeding grounds than they are in the coastal woodlots during migration. Thankfully, looks were eventually had at both of these charismatic little birds. Northern Cardinals were unavoidable, not a bad problem to have. Blue Jays were seen and heard. The strategy for this trip is to cruise slowly with the windows down listening for singing birds and stopping at all creek crossings which tend to be productive for birds. American Crows were obvious. Sometimes Fish Crows are found on this trip as well but none were detected on this day.

Warblers are the main focus of this trip and there were some good ones seen. One Yellow-throated Warbler was pretty cooperative for the group as it sang near a creek. At least one additional Yellow-throated was also singing in this area and may have been seen as well. More Hooded Warblers were located though few stayed out for good looks. Pine Warbler is another obvious target for this trip as there are lots of pine trees in Hardin County. The group got good looks at several Pine Warblers including bright yellow males and duller colored females. Pine Warblers are one of the few warbler species that stay in the area all year so there are plenty of opportunities to view this attractive bird. The secretive Swainson’s Warbler is a special target of this field trip. Usually at or very near creek crossings, the explosive song of this cryptic species is pretty common in the area but the birds are not easy to get a look at. Notoriously secretive, the best strategy for seeing Swainson’s Warblers is usually to target them at Sabine Woods in migration where there are fewer

places to hide! But the group usually manages some looks at this field trip as well. Sure enough, Swainson’s Warbler came through again and gave the group a decent look or two – but it wasn’t easy! Perhaps the most cooperative warbler on the day was also one of the most spectacular – Prothonotary Warbler! A beautiful, singing male Prothonotary Warbler showed off its brilliant golden plumage at close range for all of the birders in the group. The bird hung around in the open for everyone present to get all the looks and photos that they could have wanted. You cannot ask more than that from a bird!

Of course, warblers are not the only birds seen on this trip. Spectacular Indigo Buntings were well seen and heard in several places. Unfortunately, the Painted Buntings did not cooperate this year. A Wood Thrush was heard and quickly seen which is pretty typical for this shy species. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were a bit more cooperative as was Summer Tanager. A Great Crested Flycatcher put in an appearance along with the expected Acadian Flycatcher. Yellow-throated and Red-eyed Vireos joined the White-eyes for the enjoyment of the birders. Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers were sighted and Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Carolina Wrens were heard. Broad-winged and Red-tailed Hawks gave flyovers as did Purple Martins and Barn Swallows. Carolina Chickadee and Tufted Titmouse were found, of course but the group struck out on Brown-headed Nuthatch and Northern Parula. But you can’t see them all every trip, there has to be a reason to come back again!

The trip wrapped up in the traditional way – looking for Prairie Warbler. This is one of the primary targets of the trip and is located by finding the appropriate habitat (fields of young pine trees ~5 – 15 feet tall) and listening for the buzzy song. It took a bit longer than usual but the group finally got great looks at this special little yellow bird. Unlike many of the other warblers of the Big Thicket area, Prairie Warbler is difficult to locate on the coast in spring. It is a bit easier in the fall but still no guarantee so getting a look at a Prairie Warbler on the breeding grounds can often be the best option. Plus, it’s just a nice way to spend a morning in the late spring or early summer when the migration is over. Listening for singing warblers and vireos and buntings on the back roads of southeast Texas is a great way to beat the summer blues all while social distancing!

The following species were noted by the trip leaders:

White-winged Dove (2); Mourning Dove (3); Yellow-billed Cuckoo (3); Killdeer (2); Little Blue Heron (1); Cattle Egret (6); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (13); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Broad-winged Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (4); Downy Woodpecker (1); Acadian Flycatcher (1); Great Crested Flycatcher (1); White-eyed Vireo (12); Yellow-throated Vireo (2); Red-eyed Vireo (5); Blue Jay (5); American Crow (12); Carolina Chickadee (2); Tufted Titmouse (2); Purple Martin (4); Barn Swallow (9); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); Carolina Wren (5); European Starling (2); Brown Thrasher (1); Northern Mockingbird (3); Eastern Bluebird (2); Wood Thrush (1); House Sparrow (2); Brown-headed Cowbird (2); Great-tailed Grackle (2); Prothonotary Warbler (1); Swainson’s Warbler (4); Hooded Warbler (10); Pine Warbler (4); Yellow-throated Warbler (2); Prairie Warbler (1); Summer Tanager (2); Northern Cardinal (6); Indigo Bunting (3).

Steve Mayes

Spring 2020 Migration – Sabine Woods

We present here our annual review of spring migrants passing through Sabine Woods. This is the full version the complete table by individual days for the entire season (Mar 20 to May 21), a fuller discussion of the season and of the numbers of selected species, and a full listing of the observers who contributed.

Methodology

We employ a methodology unlike that used anywhere else that we are aware of, that attempts, to the extent practical, to exclude duplicate sightings of the same birds on the same day. For each day, we first enter the sightings of migratory species on checklists posted by our core group of local birders into our spreadsheet, entering only the highest number for any given species reported on any of their checklists. We then review all the other checklists in eBird for Sabine Woods for the date, looking for additional species and any plausible numbers that are higher than those already on our spreadsheet. Any such potential additions are reviewed for plausibility, eliminating any from checklists that show numbers for all species that are in excess of those shown by other checklists for the date, and any from checklists that include species that are both highly unlikely in Sabine Woods for the date and not reported by any other birders. It should be noted that this methodology will count a bird present over several days once each day. No doubt there are many instances when birds remain overnight and are counted on two or more days, but we have no way of even estimating the "duplicate counting" that results.

Note that each spring, we are faced with the problem of a number of often misidentified species that are reported beyond their normal migration period without any details being recorded. Sometimes they are simply misidentified. On some other occasions, they are reported based on hearing the call, which may in some cases be a very good rendering by a local Northern Mockingbird. If there are no details and no corroborating sightings by birders in another group, we record the sighting(s) in parentheses in the table, and they are not included in the totals.

We are grateful to all those who entered their sightings into eBird. Our base numbers are compiled from the checklists of local birders who are able to bird the Woods frequently: Michael Cooper, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, Steve Mayes, and John Whittle. A complete listing of the observers whose eBird checklists were reviewed is included in the electronic version of this article.

Special Note about 2020 Data

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, fewer birders were able to visit Sabine Woods during the spring migration season. Although the Jefferson County orders classified outdoor recreational activity as an essential activity, long distance travel was discouraged, and orders promulgated in other jurisdictions made it impossible for some others to visit. This was most obvious prior to April 15, and especially prior to April 10. We noted that those who did visit were more selective, and days with frontal passages and north winds attracted many birders while days with south winds attracted

fewer. Although it can only be used in an anecdotal setting, we would note that the total number of migrants in the table was significantly lower than in the past few years. It is an open question whether that resulted from a relatively inactive early part of the season or from the lack of birding activity.

Review of the Season

The season got off to a slow start; it was March 21 before there was a day worthy of note as compared to March 15, 11 and 11 in the preceding three years. It is a little surprising that a frontal passage or near passage on March 16 this year did not result in a conditions and conditions noticeable arrival of migrants. The front was essentially "dry" and retreated back north before it even cleared the coastline. Also, early season migration is more dependent on what is happening on the Yucatan Coast and further back on the primary migration path.

On March 21, a front pushed offshore and stalled until it came back as a warm front on March 23. Both March 21 and 22 were good for bird numbers, but as often early in the season, lacked diversity with Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula and Black-and-White Warblers predominating, with perhaps some of the Yellow-rumped Warblers also being on migration.

A quiet weather period followed until March 28, when a dry and apparently very weak cold front passed through. A following front, also dry, made it to the coast on March 29-30 but headed back north very quickly before there was time for a flight coming across the Gulf to encounter it. Very few migrants were detected over the March 29-31 period. This very low showing of migrants in the second half of March seems to have seriously impacted overall numbers of almost all the early migrating species.

A slow moving front with rain late on April 4 did cause the day's flight to descend and led to April 5 exhibiting a great diversity of warblers, and the first good birding day of the spring. The next front on April 10 passed through and stalled some distance offshore, leading to good birding on April 10 and 11. There was a hiatus on April 12 while birders eagerly awaited the front just north of the coast to move south which it did on April 13 and pushed well offshore before stalling. Many migrants were in the Woods April 13 and 14 after they battled the front offshore and the north winds behind it. High pressure prevailed April 15 before perhaps the best stretch of good birding of the season occurred on April 16-20. A front was stalled offshore for most of this period, and thrushes and orioles added to the many warblers in the migrant mix.

April 21-26 has historically produced very good spring birding on the Upper Texas Coast, and this year was no exception. There was a front well offshore, but whether this was a factor this year cannot be determined with any certainty. All groups

of species were included in the mix in this time period. Rain ahead of a cold front approaching the coast late on April 28 apparently brought many of the birds in the day's flight down leading to good birding on April 29 with leftovers on April 30.

There is not a lot of detailed historical information on migrants passing through the coastal areas during the first half of May, but it has long been recognized that the flights then are very heavy, but weather conditions that bring the birds down are relatively rare, and most of the birds likely fly on over without stopping until they are some distance inland, especially in times of favorable winds. There were no obvious weather events in the first five days of May but there was a good variety of migrants in the Woods nevertheless, especially on May 3.

A front pushed through late on May 5, and with evidence of bird arriving very late in the day, there was good birding on May 6, but most birds left that night. Rain ahead of a front on May 8 ended very late in the day and was well offshore by the next day, but many birds apparently descended after dark, and many were around on May 9, with some remaining until May 10, the last good birding day of the season along the coast.

For those who want to do their own analysis or comparison, the spring migration tables can be found in the August issues of the Brown Pelican in each recent year. These are all available for download from the website at www.goldentriangleudubon.org.

Review of the Species Reported

We would first note that migration is so heavily weather dependent that any analysis of the number of migrants of a particular species seen in any spring in Sabine Woods cannot be statistically significant. Sometimes, by comparing over a short time interval the number seen to the number of a common species seen and looking at the ratio in previous years, some very preliminary indication of a possible trend can be obtained. For 2020, it should be noted that significant numbers of migrants were reported through to May 18, compared to through May 5 in 2019, although in fairness, it must be noted that numbers reported May 6 through May 20 were unusually low in 2019. There is strong evidence that there are large numbers of migrants passing over the coast without stopping in early to mid-May each year. For most migrants, only comprehensive surveys in the breeding season are likely to result in any trend information that is more than anecdotal.

We include in the table, species that favor the habitat in and around Sabine Woods during migration in numbers that represent a reasonable fraction of those seen along the coast. Obviously, this means that there are only a few species that are not neotropical migrants.

Using this year's taxonomic order (!), we start with cuckoos. Yellow-billed Cuckoos numbers, despite significant number in May, were somewhat lower than in recent issues. Black-billed Cuckoos are much sought after each year, and seven this year

is perhaps slightly above average. On the other hand, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were scarce this spring

Somewhat fewer Common Nighthawks than usual were reported this year. It is difficult to draw any conclusions about Chuck-will's-widow numbers because of the difficulty in detecting the species. This year's task was probably made even more difficult because it seems certain that one wintered in Sabine Woods and was responsible for most March sights.

Chimney Swift numbers were encouragingly high this year, although we do not know of any nesting chimneys in the immediate area. None were seen to use the tower we provided at the Woods. We hesitate to comment on Ruby-throated Hummingbird numbers as we feel that this is a species that many birders forget to include in their daily lists.

There are a number of hawk species listed in the table, including two that are of particular interest -- Swainson's Hawk and Broad-winged Hawk. We are on the eastern edge of the breeding range of the Swainson's Hawk with some indication that the species is spreading slowly east, and on the western edge of the Broad-winged Hawk breeding range, with perhaps a hint of a slight contraction of the range. Both are reasonably easily identified as they fly over, and are unlikely to be missed, but the numbers are small, so chance plays a larger role. The numbers of both were within the norms of recent years.

Most woodpecker seen locally are of the resident species, Red-bellied and Downy. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers are mostly a wintering species, but the increase in numbers in April most years suggests that we do see migrants passing through then. However, only ten were reported this year when 25 to 50 would be a normal range.

Flycatchers are, as far as the species seen at Sabine Woods are concerned, highly migratory. Eastern Phoebe is the only species that winters in our area and numbers are difficult to assess. Most are gone by April 1. The ones reported in March may well be individuals that have spent the winter in the area. So we are reluctant to draw any inferences. Eastern Wood-Pewees are much simpler to deal with. Numbers are quite large, although not quite as large as usual this year. The *Empidonax* flycatchers are a problem in the spring. Only Acadian Flycatchers are likely to pass through before late April. The species is one of the easier to identify, and we have some confidence in the numbers reported this year were on the high side of normal. We have included sightings of other Empids (other than "Traill's" types in late April and May) in the table only if there is some indication that the call was properly analyzed. Eastern Kingbird numbers were average, while Western Kingbird numbers were low. There are always a few Western Kingbirds reported along the Gulf coast east of the normal range, but the number varies from year to year.

A few of the Vireo species deserve comment this year. Blue-headed Vireos are largely a wintering species but there is always a push or migrants around April 20. We have always suggested that this was merely a population breeding in the

northern fringes of the breeding range, which appears to stretch to the far north tier of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut in Canada. (Bird distribution information in that area is somewhat sparse!) However, we note a concentration of wintering Blue-headed Vireos along the south-western coast of Mexico and along the central mountain chain of Central America as far south as Guatemala, and wonder if these are the birds in the mid-April push. Considering how far north the bulk of the species breed, they will not want to arrive on the breeding grounds too early in spring. In recent years, it seems that Warbling Vireos – we see the Eastern form – has been increasing and the Philadelphia Vireo perhaps slightly declining. This spring, this seems to have reversed, and Warbling Vireos were low, but Philadelphia Vireos unusually plentiful on migration. Red-eyed Vireo numbers were high, probably because more migrants stopped in along the coast in the middle of May.

Swallow numbers appear on the table to be somewhat lower than average. We are reluctant to read too much into these numbers as we suspect that the locally based observers who were the only reporters on many days this year pay less attention to the swallows and other species flying over the open areas in and near the Woods.

A special note on Carolina Chickadee. This species is not a long distance migrant. There are three reports in eBird for Sabine Woods this spring, none of them with any reported details, and all on dates where there were other observers in the Woods that did not report the species. Four or five years ago, there was a pair of Carolina Chickadees living in there. But they have not been confirmed as present since then. Carolina Chickadees are very much restricted to microhabitats with conifers. There are some pine trees at Sabine Woods, but in common with other near shoreline areas from High Island east to Cameron, chickadees (and more especially Tufted Titmice) are not found. One does not have to go very far north in the county to find them. These species are often identified by voice. There are a couple of pairs of Northern Mockingbirds in the Woods that are excellent mimics, and these may be the source of recent reports. We do not completely discredit the reports in Sabine Woods, but equally, we do not include in our reports any that are not supported by adequate details. Pre-April reports, and especially any January-February reports, may be peripatetic birds seeking to take advantage of the slightly warmer temperatures close to the Gulf.

Carolina Wren, another basically non-migratory species, is also a problem at Sabine Woods. Until two or three years ago, there was a conspicuous family of Carolina Wrens, which raised a family each late spring. In this species, the habitat preference is less marked. There were reports very early in the year, most before the first date in the table, of one at the Woods. These reports, and there were several, were by experienced reliable observers, but report ceased late in March. There are other reports later in April that were not corroborated or accompanied by any details. The same considerations described for the Chickadee may apply, but there is the additional point that the commonest Carolina

Wren song is very similar to the songs of several warblers quite likely to be in the Woods in April such as Kentucky Warbler, Ovenbird and others. Among the other wrens, the number of House Wrens reported was extremely low. Blue-gray Gnatcatcher numbers were similarly low.

The thrush family and related species were interesting this year. Veery numbers were fairly unremarkable, lower than in 2017 and 2018, but probably fairly normal in the context of years prior to that. Gray-cheeked Thrush used to be a grossly under-reported species, as birders were very cautious and apt to default many to Swainson's. Given the lower numbers of all species during the spring, the numbers, although lower than 2017-19, were probably not alarmingly so. The number of Swainson's Thrushes, always the most numerous during migration at Sabine Woods, was very pronounced this year, but many of those were in that mid-May time period that doesn't often have weather conditions that induce migrants to come down near the shoreline. On the other hand, Wood Thrushes were not as numerous as has been normal in recent years. Most pass through before the end of April, so did not participate in this year's "mid-May event." There are always lots of Gray Catbirds around and the numbers this year were only a little low, but did include good numbers in early May. Because some are year-round birds at Sabine Woods, it is difficult to detect any change in the numbers of migrating Brown Thrashers.

Despite increasing mulberry production at the Woods, Cedar Waxwing were extremely low. Normally, a flock hangs around, sometimes to as late as very late May to partake of the mulberries, but that did not happen this year. Sparrow numbers were low, but we have no explanation to offer. Sparrows are mostly either open country birds or birds of very moist areas. Ordinarily we look for Chipping Sparrows (low this year), which associate with trees more than most sparrows, and for Swamp Sparrows (very low this year) in the edges of ponds, along with a few Lincoln's Sparrows (perhaps the most normal).

Baltimore Orioles reported were the lowest in several years. It appears likely that this is a consequence of a lower breeding population in and around the Woods. There is no obvious reason for the decline. Baltimore Orioles on the other hand have passed through in very similar numbers in each of the last four years.

Relegated to close to the end in the current taxonomic sequence, but the focus of the attention of a large fraction of birders. First, let us look at the rarities and semi-rarities. Black-throated Blue Warblers used to be thought of as a species to be looked for in the fall, but they are now more regular in the spring. The number of sightings is not as informative as an analysis of the number of different birds as spring birds frequently stay for several days. In the period April 19-26, the sightings likely refer to a long staying bird, and the report of two of April 29 was not fully confirmed, but there was almost certainly one, perhaps even the same bird as the April 19-26.

The time interval encompassing the Cape May Warbler sightings was unusually long. The first on April 12 was unusually early while that there were two on April 20 was well established. Another on April 28-29 was in the heart of the expected date range. One on May 9 was towards the end of the normal period. The one on May 21 was downright late.

Three semi-rare species are often sought after by visiting birders in the spring; Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler and Blackburnian Warbler. We recorded about twice as many Golden-winged Warblers as the average over the preceding three years, not unexpected by those who birded the Woods often. Blackburnian Warblers numbers were similarly close to double, while Cerulean Warbler numbers were close to the numbers of the preceding two years.

Swainson's Warbler has become a focus at Sabine Woods. There was a steady increase, and then an explosion to 129 in 2018. Last year the total declined back to an above average 25. This year exactly matched that number. There is little doubt that the regulars have learned where to look, and have become much more adept at locating Swainson's Warbler. But it may be that the population has increased. There were good years in the late 1990s when close to 25 were reported, but the typical total in the late 1990s/early 2000s was in single figures.

Blackpoll Warblers are essentially a spring-only warbler as far as Sabine Woods is concerned, and does not pass through in large numbers. Overall 2020 was about average with 23 sightings reported.

One species of warbler necessitates special attention, and that is the Hooded Warbler. Almost always the most numerous warbler in the spring, with anywhere from 400 to 900 seen during the season. Furthermore, it has probably the widest migration window of any warbler, and, on migration, is one of the most confiding and easily detected. On the breeding grounds, it is a different story! This year's number was on the low side in the low 400s, but this probably is another consequence of the unusual March this year.

Early in the spring migration, birders start looking for Louisiana Waterthrushes and Northern Parula. For some reason, not clear at this time, there was only one Louisiana Waterthrush reported in March (on 26th), and the second was not until April 1. The total recorded for the season was a mere 17, compared with a normal of approximately 100. Included in that total was what was probably the same bird that was counted on four consecutive days in late April (23-26), as if it was looking for a territory suitable for breeding. This is the second year that this has happened, with a bird recoded April 24-27 last year. Both these series of reports were backed up by identifiable photographs. We note this, because we have observed numerous instances over the years of rather strongly marked Northern Waterthrushes being misidentified as Louisiana Waterthrushes by observers not experienced in using all or at least most five or six field marks and characteristics that enable a correct ID to be reached. Field guides tend to stress the superciliary stripe and the markings if any on the throat. These and the other marks are needed to

identify photographs. However, most experienced local observers find the manner in which the tail or rear end is moved is by far the best way to separate the two species. The Louisiana moves its entire rear end slowly in a circular motion, while the Northern moves its tail only in a sharp up and down motion. Northern Parula numbers were also low. The species has a long migration window, but typically the numbers are heavily weighted towards late March. This year, migrants were few in March this year.

To continue with the thrush-like warblers, Northern Waterthrushes were not particularly plentiful, but not alarmingly low. Similarly, Ovenbirds, a species which has become more plentiful across the years that we have compiled these migration summaries did not match the very large numbers of 2018 but were good nevertheless, and about twice the numbers reported in the late nineties.

Worm-eating Warbler numbers have been steady for a long time. Blue-winged Warblers similarly are holding their own but apparently not increasing, good news for the Golden-winged Warbler with which they compete for breeding territories. Black-and-white Warblers can be found in the Woods any month of the year, with only occasional peaks and valleys. The numbers in 2020 were unremarkable.

Prothonotary Warblers nest regularly only a few miles north of the coast, and can be found as near as the northern reaches of Jefferson County. Most, however, arrive early in the season, and since numbers of almost all "early" species were very low, it is not surprising that we did not record many as they passed through the area in March.

Yellow-throated Warblers can be seen through to late April, normally in ones and twos, so it is not surprising that the unusual March led to a relatively low total. This may have been particularly affected because a very few actually winter along the coast, and many others probably not far south.

Tennessee Warblers are often seen in large numbers in the second half of April and this year numbers were comparable to preceding years. Each year, there are reports of Orange-crowned Warblers in through the end of April. Some birds of this species winter in the area – more winter in the mountains of northern Mexico – and in addition, distinguishing between them and Tennessee Warblers is not at all easy. We have a policy of requiring details for Orange-crowned Warbler sightings after the middle of April, and no details were forthcoming this year. Orange-crowned Warbler sightings in the first half of April were very few, less than 20 percent of those in 2019. It does look as if most are gone from the area by early April, so the low number this year does reflect the unusual lack of migrants in March this year.

Turning to the warblers associated with the second half of April, we come to Kentucky Warbler a somewhat secretive species but present in good numbers most springs, including this year. American Redstarts usually start passing through about April 10, and numbers this year were fairly normal. Magnolia Warblers are even more of a late season passage

species, and, thanks to a good showing in May were in above average numbers this year.

Yellow warblers are usually numerous after the middle of April, but were quite low, despite a good number in the unusual tail end of the season in May this year,

It was an unusual season for Bay-breasted Warbler sightings. Often passing through Sabine Woods in a very short window, this year they were seen, mostly in good numbers on at least 17 days, many of them during the first half of May, which may explain why there was a very wide window, and a number about three times normal. In a typical early May, they presumably just don't come down on reaching the coastline.

Chestnut-sided Warblers numbers were close to normal, saved by the first half of May. Black-throated Green Warblers typically have a very wide window, so the unusual early May helped to push numbers up to very good totals.

There are a few warbler species that don't appear in any number in spring migration, but are reasonably common in the fall migration. The numbers of some are so low that meaningful analysis is not possible, and we mention them out of interest only. Nashville Warblers numbers were a little higher than in recent years. Mourning Warblers are typically very hard to find in the spring, with the entire spring sometimes passing without a single sighting. Not this year, with a total of five. The favorable conditions in May for migrants to stop over near the coast probably helped, as the species migrates very late in the spring. In addition, the species is a circum-Gulf migrant. Canada Warbler is probably also at least mostly a circum-Gulf migrant, possibly with some "corner cutting," and there were more than usual this year.

Any discussion of tanagers must first mention a male Western Tanager which stayed for six days (April 19-24) feasting on mulberries on the large tree in the eastern section of the Woods. This bird was incredibly confiding, often being the bird nearest the gallery. The numbers of both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were within normal ranges. Normally, we expect the first Summer Tanagers to show up around April 1 a number of days before the first Scarlet Tanager, which typically shows up around April 10. This year, both showed up at about the same time, with the Summer Tanagers being three or four days late and the first Scarlet Tanagers about four or five days early, although not in any number until the normal April 10-11.

Rose-breasted Grosbeaks liked the mulberries in normal numbers. The "grass" grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, was not particularly numerous this year, while eight or ten days in mid-April with very large numbers of Indigo Buntings brought the season total to a very high 770. Painted Buntings, on the other hand, were seen in normal numbers.

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Sabine Woods -- Spring 2020 Migration

Species/Date	Mar										Apr																													
	20	21	22	24	25	26	28	29	31	Tot	1	2	3	4	5	7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Tot		
Number Ckls	2	2	5	1	1	1	3	4	2		2	1	1	2	5	2	11	5	3		7	3	6	5	7	11	15	4	5	12	9	18	15	4		18	16			
Yellow-billed Cuckoo														2		2	2	2	3	2	1	4	2	2	2	2	1	1	2		3	2			3	2	40			
Black-billed Cuckoo																				1	1		1	3		1	1	1	2	1	2	3		1	1	1	5			
Common Nighthawk																			1	1		1	3			1	1	1	2	1	2	3		1	2	4	26			
Chuck-will's-widow	1								1	3				1		2			1													1			1	6				
Chimney Swift						2			2	4				2		4	2		10	2		2	4	4	5	10		1		1	6	6		4	2	6	71			
Ruby-throated Hummingbird			3					1	1	5			7	5	2	4	4	3	4	4		2	5	7	8	3	4	6	5	5	3		2	3	4	95				
Green Heron														2	2	2	1		1	3		1	12	6	4	4	5	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	2	4	3	67		
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	1	11						1		13												1			1					1	1					1	5			
Mississippi Kite																													1							2	1	4		
Northern Harrier								1		2						1			1						1		1											5		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	1							1	4						1			1	1						1	1			1	1							7		
Cooper's Hawk																																						1		
Broad-winged Hawk																					1																	1		
Swainson's Hawk																																						1		
Red-tailed Hawk								1	1	4				2	1	1	1					1									1	1					1	6		
Great Horned Owl										1				1																				2	2	1		1	7	
Belted Kingfisher							1	1	1	3				1	1	1														1								5		
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker													1		1		1									1												5		
Red-bellied Woodpecker		2	1			2	1		1	9	1			3	1	1				2	1		1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	29		
Downy Woodpecker	2	3	3			3	1	2	2	18	3		2	2	4	2	3	3	2	1	2	1	3	4	4	3	3	2	3	3	11	3	4	2	2	4	6	82		
Crested Caracara	2									2						1			1			2															1	7		
Merlin										1													1			1	1		1									6		
Olive-sided Flycatcher																																					3	5		
Eastern Wood-Pewee								1		1				2		2	1		1	1		1			2	6	4	2	2	4	4	12	23	1	3	5	4	80		
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher																																					(1)			
Acadian Flycatcher													1		2	1						1		3	20	8	3	2	3	4	5	9		1	5	7	75			
Willow Flycatcher																																					1	1		
Trail's Flycatcher																																					1	3		
Least Flycatcher																																					2	3		
Empidonax sp																	1	2								1	1	1									6	2		
Eastern Phoebe	1	2	1			1				14																											(1)	(1)		
Great Crested Flycatcher								1	1	2	1			1	1	1	3	2	2	4	3		6	6	4	8	4	2	3	5	2	2	4	2	3	4	4	77		
Western Kingbird																			1																		2	4		
Eastern Kingbird			1			1	1	2	2	7			1		2		2	1	2	1	1	2	4	5	2	4	2	2	4	3		5	8	3	8	6	6	74		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher						2				2			2	1									1	1	1	2	1										1	12		
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	2							4	1											1	1	3	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18		
White-eyed Vireo	2	4	8			1		5	4	24	4		4	20	4	6	3	3	7	2	1	15	8	8	22	20	6	3	3	3	3	4	8	2	2	6	6	170		
Yellow-throated Vireo			1					1	1	3				2				1		1		2	9	3	3	5	2	1	3	3	2	4		3	5	4	53			
Blue-headed Vireo		1	1				1	1	1	7								2	2		1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	3	5	3	9			3	1	42			
Philadelphia Vireo																			1				1		1	2	2	1	1	2	2	6				26	5			
Warbling Vireo																							2	3	1	1	2		1	3	2	1	4				2	1		
Red-eyed Vireo			1							1				2	21	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	6	8	14	16	9	3	6	27	2	6	11	1	6	14	20	183		
N. Rough-winged Swallow			3							3																												120		
Purple Martin		2	6				6	5		19	1			2									6	2	8	10	3		5	2							77			
Bank Swallow																																					4	15		
Barn Swallow		12	20			6	1	3	10	52	30		2		2	5	5		3	5	2		5	6	5	4	8		5	6	2	6	5		3	15	5	129		
Cliff Swallow									2	2																													3	
Carolina Chickadee																											(1)					(1)					(1)			
House Wren		1								2				1		1																					1	7		
Sedge Wren	1	1					2			5				1	2	1	3						1	2		2	1			1	1	1					22			
Marsh Wren							1			1				1	1	2							2	1	1	2	4		1	2	4	1	2			2	1	28		
Carolina Wren	(1)									0				(1)												(1)			(1)							(1)	(1)			
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1		1	2		3		2	4	17	25	2		2	6		25	4					1		3	2	1			3	1						76			
Golden-crowned Kinglet										2																														
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	12	14	28			4	1	6	5	101	4		4	6	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	3	3			1	53			
Veery																																						2	2	
Gray-cheeked Thrush																																						2	2	
Swainson's Thrush														2	1	2	1	2	1	3	1		1	2	1	2	1										3	5		
																																							9	6

Sabine Woods -- Spring 2020 Migration

Species/Date	Mar										Apr																													
	20	21	22	24	25	26	28	29	31	Tot	1	2	3	4	5	7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Tot		
Number Ckls	2	2	5	1	1	1	3	4	2		2	1	1	2	5	2	11	5	3		7	3	6	5	7	11	15	4	5	12	9	18	15	4		18	16			
Hermit Thrush								1	1	2				5									1								(1)	(1)							6	
Wood Thrush		2						1	1	4	1		4	7	1	2	2		1	2	2	15	8	6	8	8	4	9	5	4	6	2	3	6	6		116			
Gray Catbird								1		1				3		3	3	1	3	4	5	16	30	22	75	40	25	15	25	60	50	50	8	27	25	50		540		
Brown Thrasher	13	2	2		1		2	4	3	32	3		2	3	7	2	4	4	2	5	3	2	7	5	4	14	14	3	4	6	5	4	4	6		5	8	126		
Northern Mockingbird			1							1		1	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	4	2	2	2	4	1	2	2		2	5	5	2	3	5		2	5	59		
Cedar Waxwing																							2			1											50		56	
Chipping Sparrow			3						3	6				2	3	2	2					1																	10	
White-throated Sparrow							3			3						1			1							1			2			1				(1)			6	
Lincoln's Sparrow										1		2				1		1				2	1		2	1			2	2	1						1	16		
Swamp Sparrow	1	2	1							9				2								2		2		1				3								8		
Yellow-breasted Chat																				3		5	5	3	1	2												25		
Orchard Oriole							1		2	3		4		12	6	2	2	3	2	1	4	10	20	26	30	25	21	10	14	11	24	10	14	4	5	8	8	1	276	
Baltimore Oriole																	1		1	1	1	4	2	5	5	20	15	2	2	50	11	12	10			26	13	5	186	
Ovenbird								1	1	2				3	1	1	1				1		1	1	3	7	6	3	1	13	7	4	9	1	3	12	8		86	
Worm-eating Warbler		1	2					2	2	7	3		1	8	14	4	7	7	2	1	4	4	11	7	8	11	7	2	1	8	3	4	2			1	1	121		
Louisiana Waterthrush						1				1	1		3	1	4	2	1	1													1		1	1					16	
Northern Waterthrush													2	1	1	1	1	1			1		2	6	3	6	3	1	1	9	1	3	4		1	3	4	55		
Louisiana/Northern Waterthrush											1										1							1	1								4		8	
Golden-winged Warbler																	1	1								1	4	2	1	7	1	12	6	2			5	5	48	
Blue-winged Warbler			1	2					1	4			3	15	2	4	4		4	3		3	4	3	5	4	2	1	6	5	4	5	1	2	2	2		84		
Black-and-white Warbler		4	12			2		2	4	24	3	1	1	6	14	3	10	6	4	1	4	2	16	5	10	18	14	5	3	11	7	10	12	3	1	15	12	197		
Prothonotary Warbler			2					1	2	5			6	10	8	1				2		1	6	5	3	4	6		1	6	1	2	1			1	1	65		
Swainson's Warbler												1		4	1							2	2	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	25		
Tennessee Warbler													1	3	1	5	2	3	2	4	1	4	16	30	25	14	3	2	75	14	20	11	1	2	15	10		264		
Orange-crowned Warbler		3	3			1		1	1	12			1	1	1	1	1												(1)	(1)		(1)			(1)			4		
Nashville Warbler																							1				2			2	3	2	2				1		13	
Mourning Warbler																																							1	
Kentucky Warbler									1	1			2	10	1	1	3		1	2	2	3	2	2	12	7	2	2	5	2	3	3	2			1	2	70		
Common Yellowthroat	7	3	5			3	3	2	4	33	3		2	2	8	5	8	3	2	8	2	1	4	5	4	10	12	3	3	8	4	5	1	1	5	7		119		
Hooded Warbler		14	15	1	1	2	1	2	6	42	6		2	11	95	12	15	9	5	15	12	10	25	23	24	24	26	9	3	5	5	4	8	1	2	5	5	361		
American Redstart														4	1		1	2	1	1			2	4	3	5	7	3	3	12	2	6	6	2	2	8	4	79		
Cape May Warbler																						2															1	1	5	
Cerulean Warbler																	2	2			2		1	1	5	5	5			5	2	4	3			3	2	42		
Northern Parula		5	20		2	1	1	1	4	34	3			2	40	3	4	2	2	4	2		4	2	6	6	1	1	3	1	4	3				2	1	96		
Magnolia Warbler																					1		1	1		2	3	2	1	3	4	4	10				9	6	47	
Bay-breasted Warbler																								1	1				2	3	4	40	4	7	23	10		95		
Blackburnian Warbler													1		2	1								5	7	6	2		6	7	5			1	9	2		55		
Yellow Warbler																							8	2	10	1	1	14	9	4	2						1	1	54	
Chestnut-sided Warbler																							1	3	4	4	3		15	3	18	18			1	11	4	85		
Blackpoll Warbler																	1							1	3	2		1							1	2	3		14	
Black-thr. Blue Warbler																									1	1	1	1	1	1	1						2		10	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	150	45	8		6	5	5	3	261	4		1	2	2		1						1																12	
Yellow-throated Warbler		2	3					1	1	7			2	5	3	2	1			1	1		1	3	1	2	2											25		
Black-thr. Green Warbler								3	3				2		2				2	3		1	2	4	4	15	5	2	16	2	11	7				3	2	83		
Canada Warbler																									1	2			2		2	4	3				1		15	
Wilson's Warbler		2	1			1	1	2	1	9			1	1									1			1										(1)		4		
Summer Tanager			1							1			1	7	2	3	3		4	5	1	12	19	20	18	6	5	2	12	9	8	15	5	6	19	12		194		
Scarlet Tanager														1						1		4	7	3	5	3	1	4	7	4	8	10	2	2	11	5		79		
Western Tanager																									1	1	1	1	1	1									6	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak							1		1				1	1			1				2		12	8	10	7	7	4	18	11	20	16	1	17	14	9		167		
Blue Grosbeak													3			4			1	2			3	4	2	10	5	2	4	4				3	6	3		64		
Indigo Bunting		1	1					3	5		4	1	6	6	1	4	4		4	10	20	50	50	75	50	60	9	16	120	24	70	40	3	28	50	8	713			
Painted Bunting													2				1	1		1		1	3	1	8	4			5	6	6	25			2	2	68			
Dickcissel																																			1	3	1	14		
TOTAL	55	249	195	13	4	42	33	63	86	852	102	10	18	104	386	91	189	115	64	142	121	75	334	380	401	602	476	156	150	628	340	558	574	90	192	516	355	7169		

Sabine Woods -- Spring 2020 Migration

Species/Date	May																					Tot	Season Tot
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	20	21						
Number Ckls	2	5	3	1	7	3	2	11	5	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	1						
Yellow-billed Cuckoo		2	8		4	2	1	8	7		2	2	4	4	4	3	2	53	93				
Black-billed Cuckoo								1						1				2	7				
Common Nighthawk		1	6	1	3	2	2	2	12	1		1		1	2	1		35	61				
Chuck-will's-widow																			9				
Chimney Swift			4		6	3	4	3	3					3	3		2	31	106				
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		1	6		3			4	4		22		3	2	1			46	146				
Green Heron	1	3	3		3	2	1	3	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	1	32	99				
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron																			18				
Mississippi Kite			2															2	6				
Northern Harrier																			7				
Sharp-shinned Hawk					1													1	12				
Cooper's Hawk																			1				
Broad-winged Hawk																			1				
Swainson's Hawk			1		1			1	1									4	10				
Red-tailed Hawk								1										1	12				
Great Horned Owl			1															1	9				
Belted Kingfisher																			8				
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker																			5				
Red-bellied Woodpecker	1		1		1		1											4	42				
Downy Woodpecker	1	1	4		3	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	4	3	3	2	1	38	138				
Crested Caracara			1		1			1	1									4	13				
Merlin																		0	7				
Olive-sided Flycatcher					1									2				3	8				
Eastern Wood-Pewee	2	1	17		18	3	11	12	13		5	3	9	14	8	4	3	123	204				
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher								(1)						2	1			3	3				
Acadian Flycatcher		1	5	1	2		2	2	2				1	3	2			21	96				
Willow Flycatcher		(1)																	1				
Trail's Flycatcher									1				1	1	1			4	7				
Least Flycatcher	3		1		1			1				1		1	1			9	26				
Empidonax sp			2		4		1	3	2	2			2	2	3	1	1	23	41				
Eastern Phoebe																			14				
Great Crested Flycatcher	4	2	4		6	4	3	3	5	3	3	3	2	3	3	4	3	55	134				
Western Kingbird																			4				
Eastern Kingbird	2	1	6		6	2	5	11	19		5			2		2	1	62	143				
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher																			14				
Loggerhead Shrike	1	1	1		2			1	1	1								8	30				
White-eyed Vireo			1		2	1		2	2						2	2		12	206				
Yellow-throated Vireo	1				1	2	1	1	1		1	1		2				11	67				
Blue-headed Vireo											1							1	50				
Philadelphia Vireo			5		4	2		2	4		2	1	1	2	2	1		26	76				
Warbling Vireo		1	1	1	1				1									5	29				
Red-eyed Vireo	1	5	31	1	11	5	12	20	50		75	5	7	18	35	8	6	290	474				
N. Rough-winged Swallow	1		1															2	125				
Purple Martin	1	1	5	3	6	6		4	4	4	3		2	4	6	6	9	64	160				
Bank Swallow			2					3	1									6	37				
Barn Swallow	1	5	6		4	4	4	15	3	1	5		6			2		56	237				
Cliff Swallow			6															6	11				
Carolina Chickadee																			0				
House Wren																			9				
Sedge Wren		1																1	28				
Marsh Wren		2	2		2			2	2									10	39				
Carolina Wren											(1)								0				
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			2		1			1	1									5	98				
Golden-crowned Kinglet																			2				
Ruby-crowned Kinglet																			154				
Veery		2	2	1	3	6	4	5	5	2	2		2	4	1			39	69				
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	2	3	1	5	2	3	3	2	3	2	1		1	1			31	59				
Swainson's Thrush	4	6	30		7	6	8	35	40	4	25	4		65	38	4	2	278	457				

Sabine Woods -- Spring 2020 Migration

Species/Date	May																					Tot	Season Tot
	1	2	3	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	20	21						
Number Ckls	2	5	3	1	7	3	2	11	5	2	3	1	1	1	3	1	1						
Hermit Thrush																				8			
Wood Thrush	3	2	1					2	3										11	131			
Gray Catbird	7	6	29	2	30	13	16	20	14	8	3	4	10	6	4	3	1		176	717			
Brown Thrasher	2	4	6	3	5	3	2	5	3	2	4	2	4	3	2	2	2		54	212			
Northern Mockingbird	3	2	2		1	1	1	1	1		1				1				14	74			
Cedar Waxwing								1	1										2	58			
Chipping Sparrow																				16			
White-throated Sparrow																				9			
Lincoln's Sparrow																				17			
Swamp Sparrow																				17			
Yellow-breasted Chat																				25			
Orchard Oriole	2	3	6		6	3	4	8	4	3	1	3		2	2	3	2		52	331			
Baltimore Oriole		3	2	2	4	4	2	13											30	216			
Ovenbird	5	2	5	1	4	4	2	5	5		3	3		1	1		1		42	130			
Worm-eating Warbler					1														1	129			
Louisiana Waterthrush																				17			
Northern Waterthrush	4	1	3	1	2	2		2	3		3	2		1					24	79			
Louisiana/Northern Waterthrush																				8			
Golden-winged Warbler	1	1	1		3	2		1	1										10	58			
Blue-winged Warbler					1	1		1	1											4	92		
Black-and-white Warbler	2	1	4	1	4	1	2	3	5	4	3		2	1	3	1			37	258			
Prothonotary Warbler			1		1				2	1	2								7	77			
Swainson's Warbler																				25			
Tennessee Warbler		1	7		6	2	4	5	4		4	1	1	1	1				37	301			
Orange-crowned Warbler					(1)															16			
Nashville Warbler																				13			
Mourning Warbler					1			1	1					1					4	5			
Kentucky Warbler											1								1	72			
Common Yellowthroat	2	1	5	1	4	2	2	5	7	3		3	2	3	2	2	2		46	198			
Hooded Warbler	2		3	2	4			3	2		2	1	1		1				21	424			
American Redstart	2	2	18	2	21	8	4	15	25		6	3	6	6	4	4	1		127	206			
Cape May Warbler								1									1		2	7			
Cerulean Warbler					2									1					3	45			
Northern Parula		1	2			1		1	1										6	136			
Magnolia Warbler	1	2	16	1	6	6	5	10	10	1	8	3	7	8	10	3			97	144			
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	3	23	1	32	10	10	10	22	1	25	2	1	8	2				151	246			
Blackburnian Warbler			8		8	1	4	6	6	1	5		5	7	5	1			57	112			
Yellow Warbler			10	3	2	4	8	8	12		10	11		2	2	3	9		84	138			
Chestnut-sided Warbler		1	4		12			4	1	4	1	1	1	1	9	5	1		45	130			
Blackpoll Warbler		1	2					2	2		1		1						9	23			
Black-thr. Blue Warbler																				10			
Yellow-rumped Warbler																				273			
Yellow-throated Warbler								1											1	33			
Black-thr. Green Warbler			6		4		1	3	2	1	3		1	2	3				26	112			
Canada Warbler														15	7				22	37			
Wilson's Warbler																				13			
Summer Tanager	2	4	3	3	6	2	3	8	2							1			34	229			
Scarlet Tanager	3	6	3	3	7	2		10	2		2				1				39	118			
Western Tanager																				6			
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	2	6	6	66	6	4	1	5	1	1									98	266			
Blue Grosbeak	1	3	3				1	1	8		3								20	84			
Indigo Bunting	3	4	8		6	4		4	5	1	10	3	2	2					52	770			
Painted Bunting		1	2	1	2	3	1	1	2		1	2	1	1	1				19	87			
Dickcissel																				14			
TOTAL	74	100	359	102	304	138	142	315	354	51	259	70	90	222	177	66	50	2873	10894				

Bird Sightings – June and July 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: June and July lived up to their reputation as the slowest months for unusual and out of season birds, with only a variety of species that normally migrate through or north out of the area only showing up. Many of these are birds that suffered an injury of some kind, partially disabling enough to prevent long distance, but not local flight.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above) June 2020

Gadwall	Jun 1-30	JEF-TP (1) HS (continuing),
Hooded Merganser	Jun 15	JEF-Pleasure Is N Levee (1 fem) Dana Nelson
Least Grebe	Jun 1-30	JEF-TP (2) HS
Sandhill Crane	Jun 21	HAI-Silsbee Hwy 96 Bypass (15 flying) Jana Winberg
Common Loon	Jun 27	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (1) Brian Berry
Swallow-tailed Kite	Jul 11	ORA-Vidor E of FM105/FM2802 Junction (1) Clint Robinson
Sharp-Shinned Hawk	Jun 9	ANG-Kit McConnico Park (1) Gary Hunter
Brown Creeper	Jun 11	JAS-Sandy Crk Pk(1) Phillip Hight
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Jun 15	ORA-Vidor, Texla Rd (1) SH heard only
Prairie Warbler	Jun 7-21	JEF-Tram Rd about 1.5 miles N of Hwy 105 (1) SH

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above) July 2020

Gadwall	Jul 1-31	JEF-TP (1 female) HS (cont)
Brown Booby	Jul 2	ANG-FM3124, Zavilla (1) Tyler Scott
Broad-winged Hawk	Jul 12	ORA-John Faber (1)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Jul 12	CHA-White Mem.Pk (1) J Berner

Nearby Counties – June 2020

Red-breast. Merganser	Jun 1	GAL-Sportsman's Rd (1) Richard Liebler
Least Grebe	Jul 6-16	JEF-TP(1) HS
Black-billed Cuckoo	Jun 3	GAL-Moody Gdns (2) Greg Whittaker
Snowy Plover	Jun 28-29	HAS-Morgan's Pt (1) Greg Page, Letha Slaigle, Stuart Nelson
	Jun 27	CAM-Broussard Beach (1) Brad Price
Whimbrel	Jun 19-22	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Mark McConaughy, Cin-Ty Lee
Dunlin	Jun 16	CAM-Rockefeller Refuge (1) Hunter Collins
White-rumped Sandpiper	Jun 22	Has-Morgan's Point (1) Stuart Nelson
Common Loon	May 31	GAL-Moody Gdns (2) Clayton Leopold
	Jun 22	GAL-Boddecker Rd (1) Dan Coleman
Brown Booby	Jun 2	HAS-Crosby-Lynchburg Ferry (1) Letha Slaigle
	Jun 29	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Dennis Cooke
Glossy Ibis	Jun 6-14	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) Chris Hammond, Stuart Nelson
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	Jun 19	HAS-Houston Willowbrook area (1 fem) Christy Jones
Ladder-back. W'pecker	Jun 28	HAS-Clear Lake Elem area (1) Tony Frank
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Jun 1	HAS-T. Hershey Pk (1) Sue Orwig

Eastern Wood-Pewee	Jun 4	HAS-Houston Botanic Gdns (1) Larry Dybala (head only?)
Alder Woodpecker	Jun 29	CHA-ANWR-Shoveler Pond (1) Gordon Lam ("unmistakable call")
Couch's Kingbird	Jun 1-21	HAS-Pine Forest Country Club (2) Timothy White
Sedge Wren	Jun 12	GAL-ANWR-Rd to Frozen Pt (1) Brooke Nicotra
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Jun 8-10	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Drew Dickert, Jim Hinson
Yellow Warbler	Jun 10	LIB-Trinity Riv NWR Page Unit (1) Benjamin Dunnington

Nearby Counties – July 2020

Northern Shoveler	Jul 20	CAM-Rockefeller WR (1) Hunter Collins
Ruddy Duck	Jul 22	GAL-Hwy197 near Texas City (1) Allen Hardee
Least Grebe	Jul 22	GAL-Hwy197 near Texas City (1) Allen Hardee
Snowy Plover	Jul 02	HAS-Morgan's Pt (1) continuing
	Jul 8	HAS-Rice U (1) Cin-Ty Lee 2 am flyover ident by call
Whimbrel	Jul 7	GAL-Ft Travis (1) Richard Liebler
	Jul 15	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Sonny Bratz
Solitary Sandpiper	Jul 3, 6	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (2) Brad Lirette, Ron Weeks
	Jul 25	CAL-IH10/Lk Charles (15) Paul Zimmerman, Charlotte Chehotsky
Common Tern	Jul 26	CAL-Calcasieu Pt Landing (2) Charlotte Chehotsky
	Jul 26	
Brown Booby	Jul 3, 7	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Debbie Monice, Robert Becker
	Jul 9	HAS-Baytown Nature Center (2) Dale Wolck
	Jul 16-17	GAL-W.Galveston Bay (10) Dean Silvers, mult obs
Swallow-tailed Kite	Jul 22	HAS-Crosby-Lynchburg Rd (1) John Berner
	Jul 7,19	GAL-League City (1) Kris Cannon, Timothy Lesniak
Couch's Kingbird	Jul 4-7	HAS-Pine Forest Country Club (4) Timothy White (family group)
N Rough-wing. Swallow	Jul 30	CHA-ANWR-Skillern (1) Sonny Bratz
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Jul 11	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio

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.

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

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

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

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.