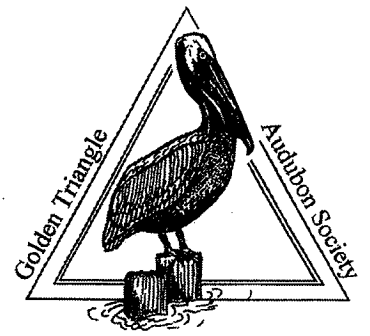


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 26 No. 9

September 2020

## **Field Trips and Meetings Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch No September Membership Meeting**

As this is written, we do not know whether the Garden Center has been opened back up for use. We do know repairs were very nearly complete before Hurricane Laura arose, but understandably, everyone involved is currently busy with Laura related issues. We have decided that with the twin issues of Covid-19 and Laura, we will not hold a September Membership meeting.

However, we know a lot of you are anxious to get outdoors and look at birds. Currently, we see no reason why we will not be able to run our September field trip. As is normal in September, this will be to the Hawk Watch at Smith Point on the last Saturday of the month, September 26. The Gulf Cast Bird Observatory is requiring that a mask or face covering be worn by all persons going onto the tower. You will need to bring your own! Access to the upper level of the tower is restricted to the official counter, so that he is able to maintain social distancing and still have good visibility in all directions. If you are yourself concerned, the hawks can be seen almost as well from the parking lot, where there is more than enough room to social distance. Full details and directions on page 2.

In these uncertain times, we can not guarantee that restrictions will not change, so check the website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org) before setting out.

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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Issue number 264

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://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-19 situation. Changes will always be posted on the web site at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org).*

### Future Programs and Field Trips. (Events after September are TENTATIVE!)

We have cancelled our September Membership Meeting, but plan to go ahead with the Field Trip to the Smith Point Hawk Watch.

**Saturday September 19, 2020. Jefferson County Fall Migration Count.** Contact John Whittle at [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com) for details or to volunteer to help. We will need an experienced birder in each party.

### Saturday September 26, 2020. Field Trip to Smith Point Hawk Watch.

The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory 2020 Special Rules: Only a small portion of the tower top level is open to visitors and only five visitors at a time are allowed on the top level. This may change depending on who is staffing the site on any particular day. All visitors to the tower must wear a face covering that covers both nose and mouth and is secured at both top and bottom. Use social distancing at all times while at the hawk watch.

Our leaders will be there from about 8:30 a.m. Hopefully, this will be close to a peak in this year's Broad-winged Hawk migration, but there will always be some hawks. Any day from mid-September through mid or late October should produce a good number of migrating hawks.

To reach the Smith Point Hawk Watch site from Winnie, take Highway 124 south towards High Island. After 12 miles, turn right on FM1985 and follow it about 14 1/2 miles until it meets FM562. Follow FM562 14 miles to Smith Point. Continue straight until almost reaching the bay, and turn left, bearing left again to the parking area next to the Hawk Watch Tower on the Candy Abshier Wildlife Management Area. It takes at least 90 minutes from the Golden Triangle to reach the site. This Field Trip is much more a come and go as you wish trip, and help on

hawk identification is always available on the tower during Hawk Watch season!

Our leaders may lead a group into the nearby woods looking for migrants, but you may stay on the tower if you wish. Mosquitoes are not normally a problem on the tower. Availability of food and fuel is essentially non-existent in Smith Point, so bring your lunch!

The Smith Point Hawk Watch is conducted every day from August 15 through the end of October by the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory.

Historically, the peak of Broad-wing Hawk migration was September 25, although in recent years at Smith Point, it has tended to be later and less uniform, and sometimes large numbers of Broad-wings have passed through in the first few days of October. Should a cold front pass through, the days immediately following usually have a north wind, and more migrating hawks of all species on those days.

Previous years' results are at <http://hawkcount.org>, so you can do your own analysis! The exact peak day probably depends more on the weather on the migration path from Pennsylvania down to east Texas, and particularly on the two or three days prior. However, almost all migratory hawks are coming from areas further north although Broad-wings breed over almost all of the eastern half of the United States, including the Golden Triangle, a large percentage are coming from the southern tier of Canada, even as far west as British Columbia.

Should a cold front pass through, the days immediately following usually have a north wind, and there tend to be more migrating hawks of all species on those days. For more information, contact Field Trip Chair Steve Mayes ([gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com)).



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](http://www.earthshare-texas.org)

**Thursday October 16, 2020. Membership Meeting.** If we are able to hold this meeting, it will probably be a program on a trip to Minnesota by Dana Nelson and Harlan Stewart

**Saturday October 3. Sabine Woods Work Day.** We plan to do our usual fall routine maintenance. We may have a few more very small branches and twigs to clear courtesy of Laura. We will be there from about 7:30 a.m. Normally, we work until about noon.

We will supply cold water and soft drinks and hope to be able to provide sandwiches for lunch. Check the website a day or so before the work day for full details.

We have a limited number of hand tools but if you have loppers or clippers, please bring them. If you have a heavy duty riding mower and the means to transport it, please let us know in advance so we can coordinate. We may need a chain saw, but probably only one. Bring insect repellent!

For more details, contact John Whittle at [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com)

**Saturday October 17, 2020. (Tentative.) Field Trip to Sabine Woods.** Leader Steve Mayes. Meet at Sabine Woods, which is 4.1 miles west of Sabine Pass on the north side of Highway 87. Meet at 7:30 a.m. or join the trip in progress in the woods later. Waterproof footwear will probably be a good idea, especially if it is at all wet from previous rain or just heavy early morning dew. Bring mosquito repellent just in case. There are few services available on weekends in Sabine Pass, but gasoline is available. The deli is no longer open. Bring drinks.

October 20 is towards the end of fall songbird migration, but often brings a good variety of birds. A cold front may drive down the last of the warblers and the first big push of wintering birds. Some of our winter birds may be arriving, and often the woodland species that winter in the Big Thicket overshoot a little at first. In some past years, this has included Red-breasted Nuthatch and Brown Creeper. There are always interesting birds at Sabine Woods! Birding Sabine Woods is relatively easy walking.

**Thursday November 11, 2020. Annual Meeting.** The Annual Meeting of Golden Triangle Audubon Society

will take place on October 17, 2020 in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park. The term on our President, Sheila Hebert extends through the end of 2021. At this meeting, we will hold elections for all other Officer and At-Large Board positions. To contact the Nominating Committee or to nominate someone, please in the first instance email [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com)

## Hurricane Laura and Sabine Woods

Viewed on radar, the hurricane come in in the early morning of August 27 and we were very lucky that the eye came ashore approx. 30 miles east of the state line on TX/LA 82 near Holly Beach. That meant that the winds in Sabine Pass were from the north resulting in a negative storm surge as the water was blown back into the Gulf. The winds just outside the eye wall in Sabine Pass were estimated at about 70 kt. The highest sustained measured wind recorded at the airport just west of Nederland was 60 kt at about 1:50 a.m. Thursday August 27. The hurricane was moving fast as it crossed the coastline, and that helped. It looks as if wind shear increased as it approached the coast, and a tongue of dry air fed in the west quadrant of the storm, both helping to decrease the intensity. Rainfall was, for a hurricane, extremely low, possibly less than four or five in.

Normally in hurricanes, the road between the Intracoastal bridge and Sabine Pass stays under water for many days, but with the north wind, it has stayed dry. Ashley Fuselier and later other members report that one hackberry/sugarberry tree, about 6 inches at base, came down - hackberries have weak root systems, and are very easily blown over. We will not have any difficulty dealing with it after our volunteers have dealt with more pressing issues at their homes. There may be a few other smaller trees down, but it does not look as if we will need to do anything special. Reports are that the trees retained most of their leaves, although by this time of year, mulberry trees are beginning to lose their leaves anyway. They may, however, put on a new set of leaves.

Based on watching the radar, we are afraid that Baton Rouge Audubon's Peveto Woods just east of Johnson

Bayou (about 20 miles east of the Texas line) was hit very hard. It will likely be some time before anyone is allowed in to the Johnson Bayou area.

*John A. Whittle*

## Status of Birding Sites

As far as we have been able to determine, none of the birding sites in Jefferson County suffered major damage in Hurricane Laura. Some are temporarily closed to allow employees to deal with their personal clean up and repair needs. Sea Rim SP estimates reopening by September 3. Most sites west of Jefferson County suffered essentially no damage. Those north of Jefferson County will have issues with trees down. Village Creek SP has not set a date to reopen. Martin Dies SP projects reopening September 4.

## Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues are \$20 per year. We are now accepting 2021 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/ membership blank on the back page.

The memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar year. For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

As a reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but basically covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not automatically bring them to our attention.

We would very much encourage you receive the Brown Pelican electronically. To start that, simply send an email to [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com) from the address you want us to use. Please include your full name if it is not contained within your email address.

# Fall Migration

*Steve Mayes*

When most birders think of migration, they think of spring migration. But, if birders are ignoring fall migration, they are really missing out because the fall birding on the upper Texas coast can be pretty spectacular. True the weather may not be as pleasant (at least at first) but the birding can be very rewarding and there are things that are difficult or impossible to see in the spring they are relatively easy to see in the fall. Fall migration is a more drawn affair than spring but just like the spring, the fall can bring rarities too!

It all starts in August (even July to a certain extent). Of course, most would say that August is summer and not fall and it certainly feels that way! But, for the birds, migration is beginning in late summer. Swallow-tailed Kites will begin leaving the area but Upland Sandpipers will start arriving – listen for their distinctive calls passing overhead. Buff-breasted Sandpipers and Wilson's Phalaropes will peak in numbers. Blue-winged Teal will start to arrive at Cattail Marsh in small numbers as resident swallows are staging to leave. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will begin to hit patches of flowers and feeders, with the males arriving first. A few Rufous Hummingbirds may also arrive this early though most show up later. At Sabine Woods, the migrant land birds start arriving. Eastern Wood-Pewees and several Empidonax species will start to arrive. Acadian Flycatchers will be probably be most numerous early on but Least will also show up along Yellow-bellied, Alder and Willow. You might even catch Alder and Willow calling which is the only reliable way to tell them apart. Start checking the snags for Olive-sided Flycatcher which is often easier to find in the fall. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers will start showing up in numbers and will be one of the most numerous song bird migrants during the early part of migration. Red-eyed Vireos and Baltimore Orioles may begin to arrive as well but will not be numerous until the next month. Warblers in the fall start much the way they do in the spring – with Louisiana Waterthrush and Black and White Warblers. Northern Parulas will also arrive in August and American Redstart may arrive by the middle or later part of the month. Yellow Warblers will likely be the most numerous warblers present during August and may be found at coastal spots as well as open areas like Cattail Marsh. Yellow-throated Warbler can be

obvious in August and Ovenbirds may also begin showing up by the end of the month. Prairie Warblers and Blue-winged Warblers may begin to arrive and even Canada Warblers can show up by late August. Painted Buntings, Indigo Buntings and Blue Grosbeaks may also begin to arrive but may be difficult to sort out from the local birds.

September is prime time for the migration of song birds and raptors. A good September day can rival an April day for warbler diversity though big days are not as common. And warblers are not the only birds to be found this month. Northern Shovelers and Green-winged Teal will begin to arrive in numbers at Cattail Marsh. Ruby-throated Hummingbird numbers will increase and the numbers at Sabine Woods in September can be staggering with hundreds swarming the oak trees. September generally the peak of Broad-winged Hawk migration though it can occasionally slip into early October and is a great month to look for migrating Mississippi Kites as well. American Kestrels and Merlins will become obvious. This is a good month to look for a couple of tropical flycatchers with Great Kiskadee and Fork-tailed Flycatchers both noted in September more commonly than most other times. Empids and Pewees will be numerous. Vireo diversity will peak with good numbers of White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos and Yellow-throated, Blue-headed, Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos in smaller numbers. This is a good time to look for stray Bell's Vireos as well in the coastal woodlots. The first Ruby-crowned Kinglets will arrive this month and will become numerous by October. A few thrushes will show up on the coast with Swainson's being the most numerous but may not peak in numbers until October. Yellow-breasted Chat and Baltimore Oriole numbers will peak while Orchard Orioles will begin to wane by the end of the month. Northern Waterthrush should be found and Blue-winged Warblers will become more numerous. Worm-eating Warblers and Prothonotary Warblers are never as numerous in fall as in spring but this is the time to look for them. Black and White Warblers remain common in September and throughout fall migration. Tennessee Warblers will become common and this is the best time to look for fall Swainson's Warblers though they are not numerous. Nashville and Mourning Warblers are often hard to find in the spring but should be fairly easy to

find by mid-September. Kentucky Warblers may be fairly common and both Magnolia and Blackburnian Warblers will begin to show up on the coast. Prairie and Canada Warbler numbers will peak and Wilson's Warblers should be common by the end of the month. Chestnut-sided Warblers will show up looking very different than in the spring.

Though September may be the peak of migration, October can still be very good. Cold fronts start arriving in earnest and with them Greater White-fronted and Snow Geese. Virtually all of the wintering waterfowl species of the area will start to arrive in October though the dates do depend on cold fronts and cold weather arriving up north. October is a good month to look for both Common Ground-Dove and Groove-billed Ani. Look for the doves along the coast or in west Jefferson County and the Ani in the coastal refuges. Look for Eastern Whip-poor-will's along with the more numerous Chuck-will's-widows. Virginia Rails and Soras will arrive at Cattail Marsh as the Purple Gallinules are leaving. Many shorebirds will peak in number and look for flocks of Franklin's Gulls. Northern Harriers and Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawks will become numerous and Ospreys and Bald Eagles will start to become obvious. Red-tailed Hawks are usually abundant by the end of October. Belted Kingfishers will become more numerous and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers will show up. Northern Flicker numbers will peak and Peregrine Falcons will be more common. Eastern Phoebes will arrive in numbers as the Pewee numbers begin to thin. This is a good month to look for Vermilion Flycatcher and Ash-throated Flycatcher. Numbers of migrating Northern Rough-winged Swallows and Tree Swallows will peak as Bank, Barn and Cliff Swallows begin to decrease. House and Winter Wrens start to arrive and Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers may be numerous on the coast. Hermit Thrush will start hitting the wooded areas and this is a good month to look for migrant Wood Thrush. The first real numbers of sparrows will arrive in October with Chipping Sparrow being common. This is probably the best month to look for Clay-colored Sparrow in our area just be sure it is not really an immature Chipping! White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows will arrive and Swamp Sparrow may become common. Nelson's Sparrows should be in place in the salt marshes. Ovenbird numbers probably are highest for fall in October and this is usually the best month to look for fall Golden-winged Warblers which can be scarce. This is a good time to learn the differences

between Orange-crowned and Tennessee Warblers as both should be common during the month. This is also a good month to look for some other warblers that are scarce in fall – Bay-breasted, Cape May and Black-throated Blue. Yellow-rumped Warblers will start showing up in good numbers and the sharp-eyed birder should be on the lookout for Black-throated Gray and Townsend's Warblers as these rare species sometimes show up in October. Black-throated Green Warbler numbers will peak along with both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers.

Though fall migration can often continue into December, the numbers start to peter out after November. In November, more geese and ducks will arrive and Sandhill Cranes can show up in large numbers in pastures in rice fields. November is a good month to look for Eared and Horned Grebes and Western Grebe has appeared in this month. Many wintering hummingbirds show up at feeders in November including Buff-bellied Hummers but be on the lookout for rare species. Snipe and Woodcock begin to arrive in the area and Red Phalarope has appeared this month. Common Loons will arrive while Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks disappear. Watch for both Short-eared and the rarer Long-eared Owl in November. Couch's Kingbirds could pop up anywhere in November but Golden-crowned Kinglets and Red-breasted Nuthatches are best looked for at Sabine Woods. American Pipits and Cedar Waxwings may appear in numbers and Mountain Bluebird has shown up in November. Look for the first American Goldfinches and a few Pine Siskins as well. After a front, check the coast (especially Pilot Station Road) for sparrows. Field, Vesper and even Grasshopper Sparrows can be present and American Tree Sparrow appeared once. Many warblers are leaving by early November but wintering species like Pine and Palm can be quite common.

While it's true that there may not be as many twenty warbler days in the fall as in the spring, there can still be great birding days. You will not get a day with thousands of migrating hawks in the spring but that can certainly happen at Smith Point in late September or early October. Add that to species that you really cannot find in the spring like Mourning Warbler and the possibility of weird rarities (Phainopepla anyone?) and it is obvious that fall is very much worth birding on the upper Texas coast. And if the weather can be a little unpleasant, it can be worth it for all of these great birds!

# Great American Outdoors Act

*[Ed. Note: In the Brown Pelican, we have a policy of studiously avoiding any content that involves in any way discussing issues about which there are opposing political positions and viewpoints. We do this because we know that our membership is as deeply divided as is the country as a whole. Unfortunately, many issues in Congress that should not be politically controversial nevertheless end up divided on party lines. There are therefore many conservation issues that we do not discuss in these pages. In dealing with legislation, one simple test is that we do not dive deeply into any act that is passed on essentially party political lines. It is therefore very encouraging that we are able to present this article. Even though it was passed with substantial majorities on a non-partisan basis, it has been difficult to find even simple descriptive material that does not introduce a political slant. We hope this account is free of any politically biased slant, but includes enough of the background necessary for a full understanding of the issues.]*

The Great American Outdoors Act was signed into law 4 August 2020 after passing Congress by large bipartisan majorities in the House (310-107) and Senate (73-25).

There are two principal funds involved. The Act creates a new fund with the ponderous name of National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund that will provide up to \$9 billion over the next five years to fix deferred maintenance at national parks, wildlife refuges, forests, and other federal lands. The National Park Service would receive 70 percent of fund proceeds; the U.S. Forest Service would receive 15 percent; and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Indian Education schools would each receive 5 percent. Funds will come from royalties from coal, oil and gas drilling and renewable energy production on federal lands and waters, and thus will not be dependent on annual congressional appropriations, but initially at least heavily dependent on continued oil and gas production. The fund will receive 50 percent of the available royalties subject to a maximum of \$1.9 billion in any fiscal year. The act requires that at least 65 percent of the funds be spent on "non-transportation projects" i.e. roads and bridges and prohibits funds being used for land acquisition or employee bonuses. The agencies have 90 days from the date the act was signed to provide a list of projects that are ready to be implemented in Fiscal 2021. The act requires that access be provided for "hunting, fishing, recreational shooting and other outdoor recreation."

The act permanently funds the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The LWCF is an important source of federal funding to create and develop local parks, trails, boat launches, sports fields, other recreation areas and park infrastructure. Under the act, LWCF will receive \$900 million annually from offshore oil and gas revenues, meaning the money will not be dependent on annual appropriations by Congress. Congress has typically appropriated less than half the amount authorized in the preexisting legislation. Since the program was signed into law back in 1965, more than 42 thousand state and local park projects in every state have been funded through LWCF.

The funds provided will enable much deferred maintenance to be completed. It is to be hoped that habitat enhancement and restoration projects are undertaken by the parks, wildlife refuges. The 90-day requirement may work against that in the near term, as upkeep of visitor centers and the like is more easily readied. However, there is no reason that habitat projects cannot be prepared for future years. Another problem is that, in common with most governmental agencies, the employees in the agencies engaged in conservation spend far too much of their time on non-productive paperwork. While the top local managers in any organization necessarily spend a whole lot of time on administrative paperwork, most organizations could, with benefit, reduce the amount. Conservation agencies are no exception.

## Bird Sightings – August 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 most notable event this month was Hurricane Laura, which came ashore in Louisiana a few miles east of the Texas/Louisiana line as a Category 4 storm on August 27 just after midnight. The western part of the eyewall passed over parts of Newton and Jasper Counties. Seabirds often get trapped in the calm of the eye of hurricanes, and there were a number of very unusual species found on Sam

Rayburn and Toledo Bend Reservoirs. We don't really know what happens to them, although one assumes that they find their way down the rivers and back to the Gulf of Mexico.

In August, there would normally be at least a few "early" fall migrants, but this year's August brought very few reports of them. Most of such early fall migrants are likely to be "failed breeders" i.e. birds that were unsuccessful in their breeding attempt for any of a number of reasons: infertile eggs, nest predation either of the eggs or young, although many species will make a second attempt when that happens.

Apart from the birds blown in with the hurricane, the most unusual bird reported was a Shiny Cowbird just east of the maintenance area at Sea Rim SP on August 27. This species is very difficult to separate from more common blackbird species, and the bird records committees in Texas and Louisiana accept very few of sightings submitted. Because of the ID difficulty, there may well be a significant number that are passed off as some other blackbird species. The species is found in most of South America but also in the Windward and Leeward Islands, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Cuba. Hurricane Laura passed over Hispaniola and Cuba!!

### Seen in our Core Counties (listed above) August 2020

All Aug 27,28 seabirds and shorebirds in NEW and JAS blown in by Hurricane Laura

Gadwall	Aug 8-20	JEF-TP (1 female) HS (cont bird)
Whimbrel	Aug 27	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (1) Greg Cook
Ruddy Turnstone	Aug 27	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (1) Greg Cook
Sooty Tern	Aug 27	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (1) Greg Cook
Bridled Tern	Aug 28	JAS-Sam Rayburn-Overlook Park (1) Tony Frank
Common Tern	Aug 27, 28	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (2) Greg Cook
Royal Tern	Aug 27,28	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (12) Greg Cook, Tony Frank, mult,obs
	Aug 27,28	JAS-Sam Rayburn-Overlook Park (1) Greg Cook, Tony Frank,
Sandwich Tern	Aug,28	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (12) Greg Cook, Tony Frank, mult,obs (
Common Loon	Aug 27, 28	JAS-Sam Rayburn-Overlook Park (1) Greg Cook, Tony Frank
Magnificent Frigatebird	Aug 27	JAS-Sam Rayburn-Overlook Park (1) Greg Cook
	Aug 28	NEW-Toledo Bend Dam (1) Tony Frank mult,obs
Tropical Kingbird	Aug 2-3, 27	JEF-SRSP Hwy 87 (2, poss 3) Steve Mayes, mult obs; Timothy Freiday (called)
Cave Swallow	Aug 20	ANG-Angelina Co.Arpt (3) Gary Hunter
House Wren	Aug 23	JAS-Road 54, west of Ebenezer Park (1) Liam Wolff (early)
Shiny Cowbird	Aug 27	JEF-SRSP (1) Timothy Freiday, Iliana Mock

### Nearby Counties – August 2020

Least Grebe	Aug 4	GAL-Bayside Regional Park (1)
	Aug 7-21	GAL-Hwy197 near Texas City (1) Allen Hardee, Brandy Rainwater, mult obs
Whimbrel	Aug 22	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee

Wilson's Snipe	Aug 29	GAL-1 mi W of Galveston Is SP (1) Ben Cowan
Lsr. Black-backed Gull	Aug 18	CAM-Willow Is Beach (4) David Booth, Charlotte Chehotsky, Dale Hamilton
Brown Booby	Aug 26	CHA_AtkinsonIs opposite Morgan's Pt (8) David Sarkozi, John Berner
Double-crest. Cormorant	Aug 1	HAS-White-Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright
	Aug 2	HAS-Seabrook-Back Bay (1) Vernon Fridy
	Aug 4, 10	HAS-Jersey Village Jogging Trail (1) Brandon Cook
	Aug 16	HAS-Wortham Golf Course (1) Larry Dybala
Belted Kingfisher	Aug 8	CHA-Anahuac (town) (1) Dorothy Tate
Merlin	Aug 4	GAL-north Texas City (1) Jackie Farrell, Jan Murtishaw
Eastern Phoebe	Aug 16	GAL-11 mile Rd (1) Alice O'Donell (no details)
Couch's Kingbird	Aug 2-25	HAS-Pine Forest Country Club (1) Timothy White, Stephen Gast
Gray Catbird	Aug 19	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) Erik Johnson (early)
Baltimore Oriole	Aug 23	CHA-McCollum Park (2) Tony Frank
American Redstart	Aug 8	HAS-Spring Creek Greenway, Jones Pk to US59 (1) Matthew Abernathy

**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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## 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 COZW250Z

### *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.