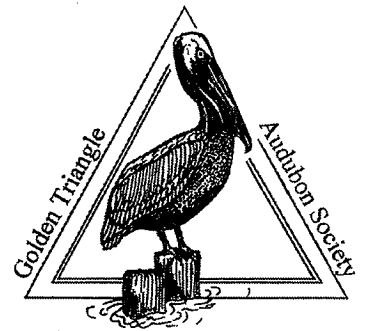


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 27 No 1

January 2021

Field Trip to Cattail Marsh Saturday, January 23, 2021

This trip will explore the waterfowl habitats in Cattail Marsh in Beaumont. This is a large area with excellent habitat for ducks, grebes, ibis, egrets and many other species of waterbird. This will be a good trip for beginning to intermediate birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open water areas. Meet at the parking lot for Cattail Marsh at 8:00 a.m. The parking lot is accessed from the loop road round the main picnic areas in Tyrrell Park. (Directions to Tyrrell Park on page 2.)

Many birds can be seen from the boardwalk and nearby levees with minimal walking, **but the group will probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh. Be advised that, while you can turn around and retrace your steps at any point, there are no meaningful "shortcuts" after you start on the levee between cells 3 and 4.** If you don't want to walk that far, there will be someone in the boardwalk area to help you identify the many birds in the near cells. Walking is on the levees; the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are essentially mowed grass.

Wearing a mask will be appropriate on the boardwalk and in other areas where distancing is not easily accomplished. We will try to have the Education Center open for limited occupancy for those who do not want to make the hike.

Editorial

As this editorial is written, it does not appear that it will be prudent to hold regular in-person membership meetings for a few more months until vaccination against Covid-19 is widely available. The main thrust of Golden Triangle Audubon has been and remains all things ornithological in the local and regional area. As such, supporting and promoting local habitat conservation efforts, educating those wishing to support such efforts, showing those interested the avifauna of the local area, and conducting bird counts and surveys in the local area have been the staples of our activities. While we have, out of an abundance of caution, been unable to hold our membership meetings which have been perhaps the most visible of our activities over the years, we have been able to conduct our outdoor activities with minimal changes. Most, but not all, of the Christmas Bird Counts and migration counts have been held, our habitat conservation work at Sabine Woods has proceeded normally, and most of our field trips, one part of our education efforts, have been conducted with minimal change. The *Brown Pelican* has included reports on these activities, perhaps more than usual. However, we look forward to a return to complete normalcy in the months ahead.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 27, No.1 January 2021
Issue number 268

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292
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Calendar of Events

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

Future Programs and Field Trips. (All events are TENTATIVE!).

The latest information is always available on the web site at goldentriangleaudubon.org.

Saturday, January 23, 2021. Field Trip to Cattail Marsh, Beaumont.

See page 1.

Directions to Tyrrell Park From the South

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

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

Travel about 1/2 mile to the first light.

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

Turn left into the Park. Continue ahead and proceed about 2/3 of the way round the main loop and into the well-marked Cattail Marsh parking area.

From IH10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont.

Go south on Walden Road for about 1/2

Golden Triangle Audubon Facebook

Join us on Facebook! There is a Golden Triangle Audubon group on Facebook, moderated by Jana Whittle and John Mariani. Our aim is to provide a space for people around the Golden Triangle to share pictures, sightings, and other information about birds, other nature, and local birding sites and habitats. All levels of pictures are welcome, especially of less common birds. If you are looking for help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important in narrowing the possibilities. Send your contribution through a Facebook message or an email to gtaudubon@aol.com.

mile to the first light.

At the light go straight over Highway 124 onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into the Park and as above.

Saturday February 20 2021. Field Trip to Anahuac NWR.

We plan to meet at the Visitor Information Station parking lot just beyond the entrance at 8:30 a.m. There are portable toilets there. To reach Anahuac NWR from Winnie, take Highway 124 south to FM1985. (It is 11.0 miles from IH-10 and half a mile less from Highway 73.) Turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed about **11 miles** to the **MAIN** Anahuac NWR Entrance Road on the left (south). The entrance to the Main Refuge is just over 3 miles down the Entrance Road. Obey the speed limits!

We will probably visit both the main unit ("Old Anahuac") and the Skillern Tract, looking primarily for waterfowl and other waterbirds but also raptors and sparrows. We may also bird some of the local rice field areas.

There are usually geese and Bald Eagles on and around the refuge in winter, and Shoveler Pond usually attracts large numbers of ducks. A Vermilion Flycatcher winters near the Visitor Station.

Some of the group will probably walk the 550 yard Willows trail, and it is a 400 yard (1/4 mile) walk from the Skillern Tract parking area to the observation platform. For most of the drive round Shoveler Pond the road is one-car wide but there are only a few pull-offs most of which, however, will accommodate only three or four cars. There is space to leave vehicles close to the meeting place, and there is limited parking and toilets at the Skillern Tract.



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

Johnson Bayou CBC -- 14 December 2020

In recent years, the Johnson Bayou Christmas Count has kicked off the CBC season, and so it was this year. This count is always interesting, and is extremely valuable in that several landowners -- Dore' Energy, the Gray Estate and Crain Brothers in particular -- allow birder access to their property on this one day only each year. These lands are mostly marshlands and cheniers, with access roads constructed to allow oil exploration and production activities. The areas are also used for duck hunting.

We must mention that the Johnson Bayou area and adjacent Holly Beach and Hackberry were badly impacted by the series of hurricanes and tropical storms in 2017-2020, following as they did on the 2005-2008 hurricanes. Hurricane Laura on 27 August 2020 hit Johnson Bayou hard and was followed by Hurricane Delta on 9 October 2020. The visible effect on the habitat was surprisingly minimal, although we do wonder if some areas suffered salt water intrusion into areas that are normally fresh. The number of species seen was well above average.

The distribution of waterfowl within the circle was different from past years, with more Redheads and scaup than normal. There were reduced numbers of the dabbling duck species. Pied-billed Grebe numbers, although reduced from the last two years, were nevertheless well above the longer term average. American Coot numbers, while down from the huge numbers of the past decade were not a cause for concern.

A Nightjar that was reported as a Lesser Nighthawk was seen in the western part of the circle south of Highway 82 in an area that has some marsh and a chenier with badly battered remnant oaks. There are a good number of reports of the species all the way along the Upper Texas and Louisiana coast but mostly in April, although that may well reflect the greatly increased numbers of birders active in the area in April. Chuck-will's-widows are also recorded in winter along the coast in very small numbers.

The hummingbird garden in Baton Rouge Audubon's Peveto Woods Sanctuary was blooming well, and the resident Buff-bellied Hummingbird, the first on the count this century, was active and easily seen by all participants who went to see it.

The beach area in the circle is largely undisturbed at present, and extends many miles east to Holly Beach and beyond. However, the first Snowy Plover on the count in a decade was near the western edge of the circle. A good number of Sanderlings suggests the beach has already returned to normal following the hurricanes.

There have been many reports of "late" Least Bitterns this fall and early winter, but five in one area and one in another is certainly remarkable. Most Black Terns leave the area in winter, but a few spend at least the first part of the winter along the warmer coastal areas of the Upper Texas and Louisiana coasts, so one seen well over the marsh in Crain Brothers property was not completely unexpected.

A young Bald Eagle cruising over waterfowl concentrations looking for a crippled bird is more common than it used to be. A near adult White-tailed Hawk was seen in the northern part of Johnson Bayou along Smith Ridge. This species has been confirmed as successfully nesting in extreme

western Jefferson County, Texas, adjacent to Cameron Parish and not very far away for a Buteo, and the species appears to be expanding very slowly eastwards

Two Fish Crows were the first seen on the count in at least 15 years. The species is relatively common along the coast westwards up to the Louisiana-Texas line (the Sabine River), but is not seen in any number west of that, although the number of reports from the eastern parts of Houston is increasing. The species does seem to avoid the shoreline itself.

Compiler: Gary Kelley.

Participants: Laurie Baker; Matt Courtman; Sherry Gibson, Erik Johnson, Denise and Gary Kelley, Fritz Meyer, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Jana and John Whittle

Species seen: Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (13); Greater White-fronted Goose (26); Snow Goose (237); Snow Goose blue form (1); Ross's Goose (1); Blue-winged Teal (117); Northern Shoveler (218); Gadwall (319); American Wigeon (32); Mottled Duck (28); Northern Pintail (42); Green-winged Teal (50); Canvasback (14); Ring-necked Duck (35); Lesser Scaup (104); Red-breasted Merganser (16); Ruddy Duck (42); Duck species (3); Pied-billed Grebe (61); White-winged Dove (3); Mourning Dove (28); Lesser Nighthawk (1); Buff-bellied Hummingbird (1); Clapper Rail (7); King Rail (8); Virginia Rail (17); Sora (46); Common Gallinule (187); American Coot (1685); Black-necked Stilt (3); Black-bellied Plover (10); Killdeer (45); Snowy Plover (1); Ruddy Turnstone (15); Sanderling (182); Least Sandpiper (3); Sandpiper species (60); American Woodcock (1); Wilson's Snipe (24); Willet (5); Greater Yellowlegs (1); Laughing Gull (167); Ring-billed Gull (86); Herring Gull (6); Caspian Tern (4); Black Tern (1); Common Tern (1); Forster's Tern (35); Royal Tern (19); Anhinga (8); Neotropic Cormorant (17); Double-crested Cormorant (146); American White Pelican (34); Brown Pelican (66); American Bittern (1); Least Bittern (6); Great Blue Heron (29); Great Egret (55); Snowy Egret (108); Little Blue Heron (18); Tricolored Heron (51); Cattle Egret (3); Green Heron (1); Black-crowned Night-Heron (5); White Ibis (60); Glossy Ibis (2); White-faced Ibis (11); Glossy / White-faced Ibis (82); Roseate Spoonbill (18); Black Vulture (90); Turkey Vulture (50); Osprey (7); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (36); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Cooper's Hawk (4); Bald Eagle (1); White-Tailed Hawk (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (2); Red-tailed Hawk (52); Red-tailed -- Krider's (2); Barn Owl (2); Great Horned Owl (7); Belted Kingfisher (17); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (7); Downy Woodpecker (9); Northern Flicker (red shafted) (4); Northern Flicker (yellow shafted) (2); Crested Caracara (4); American Kestrel (17); Merlin (4); Peregrine Falcon (1); Least Flycatcher (1); Eastern Phoebe (28); Vermilion Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (18); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (3); Fish Crow (2); Tree Swallow (490); Cave Swallow (1); House Wren (12); Winter Wren (1); Sedge Wren (28); Marsh Wren (97); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (30); Golden-crowned Kinglet (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (34); Hermit Thrush (2); American Robin (23); Gray Catbird (6); Brown Thrasher (5); Northern Mockingbird (31); European Starling (132); American Pipit (5); American Goldfinch (36); Field Sparrow (2); White-crowned Sparrow (8); White-throated Sparrow (13); Vesper Sparrow (3); LeConte's Sparrow (5); Savannah Sparrow (42); Song Sparrow (5); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (226); Eastern Meadowlark (30); Red-winged Blackbird (1166); Brown-headed Cowbird (31); Common Grackle (17); Boat-tailed Grackle (1085); Great-tailed Grackle (143); Boat-tailed / Great-tailed Grackle (72); Orange-crowned Warbler (37); Common Yellowthroat (46); Pine Warbler (9); Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) (112); Wilson's Warbler (2); Northern Cardinal (19); Rose-breasted Grosbeak (1);

Turkey Creek CBC – 19 December 2020

In the early morning of the count the weather was fair and the birding was good. Most parties reported good results at this time. About 11:30 a.m. a strong line of thunderstorms, some severe, passed through the count circle. Three parties had to end their efforts prematurely due to heavy rain, high winds and poor road conditions. The rest of the parties, most in the southern part of the circle, remained in the count circle but were stationary while waiting for the storm system to pass. Because there are more paved roads in the southern part of the circle these parties were able to continue birding. Once cleared of severe weather the birds once again became active.

Somewhat paradoxically in a year where many of the migratory ducks and other waterbirds have not shown up, yet at least, the number of species reported on the count at 70 was near the high end of the historical range. For "near coastal" Texas, a count that does not depend in some significant part on species that use aquatic habitats is a rarity, and this count may well stand out among local counts this year as one with an abnormally high species count.

It became clear during the fall that a number of species that in some years "irrupt" to areas well south of their normal

winter range were being seen this year in southerly locations. Notable were Pine Siskin and Purple Finch, and both were found on the Turkey Creek count, although perhaps not in the numbers that might have been expected.

Two species that are found only very occasionally on the count were Vermilion Flycatcher and Henslow's Sparrow. This appears to have been a good year for Vermilion Flycatcher, while Henslow's Sparrow has been present in an area just east of the Visitor Center complex for several years, but has eluded CBC counters until now.

The table below lists the count results, showing the number of each species seen, the highest number of that species in the forty-three years that this count has been conducted, and the number of years that the species has been seen.

Compiler: Sheila Hebert.

Participants: Michael Cooper, Sherry Gibson, Thomas Hellweg, Phillip Hight, Fred Lyons, Steve Mayes, Carol Moore, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Wanda and Charles Smith, Harlan Stewart, Jana and John Whittle, Laura Wilson.

:

Species	No.	High	Year	# yrs
Greater White-fronted Goose	2	80	2006	5
Wood Duck	17	49	1982	34
Ring-necked Duck	20	85	2013	8
Pied-billed Grebe	3	9	1999	31
Great Egret	4	16	2017	34
Green Heron	1	1	2020	2
Black Vulture	84	177	2003	41
Turkey Vulture	74	157	2006	43
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	2016	24
Cooper's Hawk	1	4	1988	11
Red-shouldered Hawk	10	25	1986	43
Red-tailed Hawk	3	10	2003	38
Killdeer	35	71	2008	39
American Woodcock	1	11	2010	21
Inca Dove	1	16	2011	12
Mourning Dove	10	132	2012	42
Great Horned Owl	1	1	2020	4
Barred Owl	3	3	2020	23
Belted Kingfisher	1	9	1988	35
Red-bellied Woodpecker	36	68	2019	43
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	19	39	1989	42
Downy Woodpecker	14	38	2004	42
Hairy Woodpecker	2	16	1986	35
Northern Flicker	11	29	1992	34
Pileated Woodpecker	28	39	2004	43
American Kestrel	7	15	2011	39
Merlin	1	4	1994	5
Eastern Phoebe	23	51	1989	42
Vermilion Flycatcher	1	1	2020	2
White-eyed Vireo	1	11	2018	32
Blue-headed Vireo	8	21	2018	33
Blue Jay	24	148	1998	43
American Crow	211	310	1988	43
crow sp.	5	7	2007	4
Carolina Chickadee	65	179	1998	43
Tufted Titmouse	27	104	2004	43
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4	12	1991	13

Species	No.	High	Year	# yrs
Brown-headed Nuthatch	11	41	2014	39
House Wren	21	26	2009	38
Winter Wren	2	5	2015	11
Sedge Wren	1	12	2008	17
Carolina Wren	48	58	2004	43
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	5	11	2018	21
Golden-crowned Kinglet	11	51	1986	43
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	45	198	1989	43
Eastern Bluebird	66	306	1999	43
Hermit Thrush	12	30	2015	40
American Robin	811	4249	1986	43
Gray Catbird	7	17	2019	32
Brown Thrasher	3	38	1980	42
Northern Mockingbird	10	48	1998	43
Cedar Waxwing	37	455	1992	38
Orange-crowned Warbler	22	32	2019	41
Pine Warbler	71	188	1986	43
Yellow-rumped Warbler	193	554	1991	24
Yellow-rumped Warbler (Audubon's)	1	60	1994	3
Henslow's Sparrow	3	4	2017	4
Chipping Sparrow	64	2144	1988	43
Dark-eyed Junco	12	139	1983	21
White-throated Sparrow	85	465	2011	43
Savannah Sparrow	2	75	2014	25
Song Sparrow	4	61	1998	36
Lincoln's Sparrow	2	7	2009	20
Swamp Sparrow	7	50	1988	32
Spotted Towhee	1	1	2020	2
Eastern Towhee	3	10	2013	17
Northern Cardinal	126	246	1991	43
Eastern Meadowlark	77	122	1983	37
Pine Siskin	19	25	2012	10
American Goldfinch	155	479	1985	43
House Sparrow	1	15	2019	16
Total Individuals	2697			
Total Species Reported	71			

Beech Creek CBC – 29 December 2020

The weather on count day was favorable for birding, but perhaps a little too favorable, as birds were able to find food easily at the beginning of the day and then retreat to sheltered locations inaccessible to birders.

The preliminary number of species recorded was a disappointing 74, one of the lower numbers in recent years. As with many other local counts, the principal culprit was the enigmatic lower number of species associated with bodies of water that were seen, ducks in particular. This year, some locations have normal numbers, others virtually none. On Steinhagen Lake, a lot of the ducks, especially the dabbling ducks, frequent the WMA in the north part of the lake where there is extensive hunting. On count day, we heard almost no gunfire, so perhaps there was nothing to push the ducks south into the count circle on count day this year.

Beyond waterfowl, it is difficult to discern any group of species that was greatly reduced in species diversity. Most other families of birds were represented. It seems that fewer of the species that are seen about every other year were seen than usual. However, it is perhaps telling that the number of individual birds counted was exceptionally low. The low numbers of American Robins, Chipping Sparrows, and

American Goldfinch coupled with an absence of Cedar Waxwing flocks may partially explain the low total. Other species normally found in high numbers were also on the low side. Even woodpecker numbers were low, although all expected species were found. It is disappointing that neither Purple Finch nor Pine Siskin were seen, as both species are being regularly reported in the counties immediately north of the count circle. On the other hand, numbers of both common vulture species and American Crows were significantly above average. We know of no significant changes in the habitat of the areas within the count circle.

The table below lists the preliminary count results, showing the number of each species seen, the highest number of that species in the forty-two years that official counts have been conducted, and the number of years that the species has been seen.

Compiler: Sheila Hebert.

Participants: Nancy Angell, David Bell, Eileen Burch, Phillip Hight, Fred Lyons, Jaclyn Parker, Christine Sliva, John Smelser, Jana and John Whittle.

Species	No.	High	Year	# yrs
Wood Duck	1	62	1989	34
Northern Shoveler	7	22	2006	12
Canvasback	40	955	1992	30
Lesser Scaup	16	200	1988	24
Pied-billed Grebe	7	332	2011	42
Inca Dove	5	30	2006	22
Mourning Dove	8	171	1987	42
Common Gallinule	2	87	1993	26
American Coot	149	3780	2008	38
Killdeer	18	63	2003	42
Spotted Sandpiper	8	7	2017	30
Ring-billed Gull	7	100	1992	22
Forster's Tern	52	76	2011	34
Anhinga	4	8	2013	30
Double-crested Cormorant	301	479	1989	38
Cormorant species	1	122	1984	19
Great Blue Heron (Blue form)	5	25	2001	42
Great Egret	32	79	1996	42
Snowy Egret	1	22	1996	30
Black Vulture	55	130	1996	42
Turkey Vulture	108	306	1990	42
Northern Harrier	1	4	2012	13
Cooper's Hawk	1	4	2015	10
Bald Eagle	6	14	2018	31
Red-shouldered Hawk	7	26	2002	42
Red-tailed Hawk	3	11	1995	40
Barred Owl	2	8	1983	24
Belted Kingfisher	7	14	2009	42
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	11	45	2004	42
Red-bellied Woodpecker	41	117	1996	42
Downy Woodpecker	15	60	2004	40
Pileated Woodpecker	23	44	2004	42
Northern Flicker	16	42	2011	34
American Kestrel	5	14	2007	42
Eastern Phoebe	25	56	2006	42
White-eyed Vireo	1	6	2017	20
Blue-headed Vireo	10	9	2018	32
Blue Jay	20	143	1987	42

Species	No.	High	Year	# yrs
American Crow	112	300	1993	42
Swallow species	1	2	2019	1
Carolina Chickadee	53	183	2004	42
Tufted Titmouse	24	141	1992	42
Brown-headed Nuthatch	1	19	1992	25
Brown Creeper	2	12	2010	36
House Wren	2	20	2009	29
Carolina Wren	31	98	2004	42
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	7	19	2001	32
Golden-crowned Kinglet	6	64	2002	38
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	40	352	1992	42
Eastern Bluebird	71	222	1990	42
Hermit Thrush	4	21	1992	36
American Robin	341	5663	1983	42
Gray Catbird	2	11	2004	30
Northern Mockingbird	8	48	2002	42
European Starling	35	2300	1982	38
American Pipit	3	8	2004	2
House Finch	5	1	2016	1
Pine Siskin	7	23	1992	12
American Goldfinch	60	782	1986	39
Chipping Sparrow	87	1011	2011	42
Dark-eyed Junco	6	94	2006	23
White-throated Sparrow	34	427	2006	42
Song Sparrow	3	88	2006	42
Swamp Sparrow	8	57	2006	30
Eastern Towhee	2	15	1987	18
Sparrow sp	3	40	2004	1
Eastern Meadowlark	28	103	2002	36
Red-winged Blackbird	294	1168	2009	39
Orange-crowned Warbler	14	36	1993	42
Pine Warbler	37	395	2004	42
Yellow-rumped Warbler	72	379	2004	19
Yellow-rump. Warbler (Myrtle)	18	651	1992	30
Northern Cardinal	63	266	1978	42
House Sparrow	5	63	1992	28
Total Individuals	2226			
Total Species Reported	74			

[Type here]

Bird Sightings – December 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: As noted last month, beginning January 1, we will not include here "rare" birds in the week before or week after their "normal" migration window. It is not clear that

change would have made much difference to the length of this month's report if it had been implemented early! Because of the massive irruption of Purple Finches, while we included all reported sightings in our core counties, we have merely indicated the number of locations in the surrounding counties. This is the first time there have been sightings in all our counties of a single species that is rare in all of the counties.

December tends to be an interesting month, and Christmas Counts usually lead to the sightings of numerous rare birds. One of the most unusual was the sighting of an American Golden Plover in December 5 on the beach at Peveto Woods in Cameron Parish, and then of one on the North Levee of Pleasure Island December 6 through 12. The bird had what was either a tumor or more likely a flap of torn/cut skin on its left rear side but was walking and flying without any obvious problem. The only other December sighting on eBird was nr Abbeville in Vermilion Parish on December 2 this year.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Long-tailed Duck	De 6-29	JEF-TP Cell 1 & 4 (up to 2) Michael Cooper, mult obs
	Dec 14-18	JEF-PI N Levee (1) K. Anringa, C. Johnson, M McCloy, SM
American Golden Plover	Dec 6-12	JEF-PI N Levee (1) Ryan Leimbach, mult obs
Brown Booby	Dec 1-30	JEF-PI (up to 12+) mult obs
Vermilion Flycatcher	Dec 19	TYL-FM1943 at CR4520 (1 male) Laura Wilson
Western Kingbird (1)	Dec 5	JEF-Thompson Rd (1) JJW
	Dec 26	ORA-Levingston Park (1) Marilyn Guidry

Purple Finch

Dec 1-31	ANG-SE Lufkin (3) Donna Beck
Dec 1	ORA-Bessie Heights Marsh (1) Gary Yoder
Dec 2	JAS-Sam Rayburn Overlook Park (1) Phillip Hight
Dec 2-31	ANG-SW Lufkin (3) Gary Hunter
Dec 1-31	ANG-Westwood Bend area N of Granville (up to 2m, 4f) Katrina Echols
Dec 4-23	HAI-Sour Lake (up to 18) John Park
Dec 5	NEW-CR3110 (1) SH
Dec 5	JEF-SW (1 m 3 f) SM
Dec 6	HAI-Kountze (2) Eileen Burch, Bonnie Berard
Dec 6, 19	SAB-Hemphill (8) David Bell
Dec 6	JEF-Thompson Rd (2) JJW
Dec 14-31	JAS-W of CR51 (up to 8) Phillip Hight
Dec 16-27	ANG-SW Lufkin (2) Gary Hunter
Dec 18	JAS-Brookeland (8) Jimmy Oliver
Dec 19	HAI-NW of Kountze (3) Nancy Angell
Dec 19	SAA-CR4750 (3) Toni Roddey
Dec 19	TYL-CR4780 (1) JJW

Baltimore Oriole	Dec 12	HAI-Sour Lake (1) John Park
Henslow's Sparrow	Dec 19	HAI-FM420 (3) SH
Northern Waterthrush	Dec 10	JEF-TP (1) Alexander Harper
Yellow Warbler	Dec 20	CAL-LA397 N of Helms (1) Erik Johnson
	Dec 29	ORA-Orange – Hart Avenue (1) Clyde McKee
Black-thr Green Warbler	Dec 5,12	JEF-TP (1) Bob Friedrichs, HS

Nearby Counties

Cinnamon Teal	Dec 26	AM-Cameron Prairie NWR-Pintail Loop (1) M. Simon and J. Garrett
Long-tailed Duck	Dec 8-25	GAL-O'Quinn Estuary (3) Richard Liebler, mult tobs
	Dec 13	CAM-Holly Beach (1) John Garrett, James Smithers

Surf Scoter	Dec 27-28	CHA-NRG Cooling Ponds (2) Chuck Davis, multobs
White-winged Scoter	Dec 27-28	CHA-NRG Cooling Ponds (1) Chuck Davis, mult obs
Black Scoter	Dec19	CHA-Shoreacres Miramr Park (3) Chuck Davis, mult obs
	Dec 27-28	CHA-NRG Cooling Ponds (5) Chuck Davis mult obs
	Dec 26	GAL-Skyline Dr, Texas City (3) JJW
Western Grebe	Dec 15	HAS-Baytown, Evergreen Road (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Common Ground Dove	Dec 18	CAM-Mermentau Riv-Myers Landing (2) Andre From
	Dec 29	HAS-Warren Ranch (2) S Nelson, Jas Rieman, C. Hammond
Common Nighthawk	Dec 27	HAI-Geo Bush Park (1) Bob Sanger
	Dec 31	HAS-Towne Lake (1) Greg Page
Lesser Nighthawk	Dec 4	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Dean Silvers
Chimney Swift	Dec 5	CAM-Peveto Woods (1)
Anna's Hummingbird	Dec 12-19	CAL-Lake Charles, 10th St(1 m imm) Jackie Lanier, mult obs
	Dec 17	HAS-Friendswood (1) Chris Bick
Allen's Hummingbird	Dec 26	CAM-Peveto Woods (1 imm m) Melissa Simon and John Garrett
Broad-bill Hummingbird	Dec 1-29	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
Buff-bellied Humm'bird	Dec 5-26	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
American Golden-Plover	Dec 5	CAM-Peveto Woods Beach (1) Lynn Hathaway, Marybeth Lima
Purple Sandpiper	Dec 11	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Clayton Leopold
Parasitic Jaeger	Dec 7	GAL-Seawall (1) Clayton Leopold
Iceland Gull	Dec 17,26	HAS-Ash Lake (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Stuart Nelson
Black Tern	Dec 14	CAM- Johnson Bayou, Crain Bros (1) Erik Johnson, Gary Kelley, HS
Brown Booby	Dec 1-21	HAS-Baytown Nat. Ctr area (up to 14) mult obs
Least Bittern		
	Dec 14	CAM-Johnson Bayou, Crain Bros (5) Erik Johnson, Gary Kelley, HS
	Dec 14	CAM-Johnson Bayou Middle Ridge Rd (1) Erik Johnson
	Dec 23	CAL-Intracoastal Park (1)James Smithers, John Garrett
	Dec 28	CAL-Global Pond (1) John Garrett, James Smithers
Golden Eagle	Dec 17	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) Phillip Hight
Mississippi Kite	Dec 29	HAS-Exploration Green Phase 2 (1) David Coleman

Harris's Hawk	Dec 12	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (10 Lisa and Li
	Dec 17	GAL-SW of Hitchcock (Private) (1) Kyle O'Haver, Richard Liebler, Clayton Leopold
Broad-winged Hawk	Dec 4	CHA-ANWR (1) Chris Payne
Ferruginous Hawk	Dec 7-8	HAS-Memorial Park (1) Stanley Almoney, Vaughn Phillips
Swainson's Hawk	Dec 18	CAL-Hayes Pumpkin Center Rd (1) Erik Johnson
	Dec 30	GAL-Bay St Ext (1) Barbara Stern, Richard Goldfarb
Red-naped Sapsucker	Dec 23-31	HAS-Taylor Lake Village Park (1) Dale Wolck, mult obs
	Dec 25	HAS-Cypress (1) Marla and Troy Hibbitts
Ladder-back. W'pecker	Dec 8	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Paul Sivon
	Dec 29	HAS-Warren Ranch (2) Stuart Nelson, James Rieman, Chris Hammond
Tropical Kingbird	Dec 8	CAM-Constance Beach (1) David Booth
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Dec 9-21	HAS W of Memorial Park (1) Diana Strassmann, Cin-Ty Lee, mult obs
Couch's Kingbird	Dec 18	CAM-LA717 Klondike (1) Robert Dobbs
Western Kingbird	Dec 10-15	GAL-Moody Gdns Golf Course (1) Greg Whittaker
	Dec 18	CAM-Lake Arthur (1) Andrew From
Scissor-tail. Flycatcher	Dec 3	CAL-LA397 (1) Charlotte Chehotsky
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Dec 10-17	CAL-LA108/Fabacher Rd (1) mult obs
	Dec 29-31	GAL-Bay St Ext (1) Brad Lirette, Allen Hardee mult obs
Philadelphia Oriole	Dec 20	GAL-Lafitte Cove (1) Paul Sivon
Bell's Vireo	Dec 1	GAL-Galveston IS SP (1) Dennis Cooke, Kyle O'Haver
	Dec 18	CAL-S Ward line Rd (1) Erik Johnson
Bank Swallow	Dec 24	CHA-ANWr Shoveler Pond (1) Ainab Patel
N. Rough-wing. Swallow	Dec 23	GAL-Lake Friendswood Park (3) Jackie Farrell, Jane Murtishaw
	Dec 25	CAL-Ged Lake (2) Brad Lirette
	Dec 25	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Greg Cook
Barn Swallow	Dec 18	CAM-LA717 Klondike (1) Robert Dobbs
Cave Swallow	Dec 14	CAM-Johnson Bayou, Crain Bros (1) Erik Johnson, Gary Kelley, HS
Mountain Bluebird	Dec 1-27	HAS-John Paul Landing Park (2) mult obs
	Dec 20-31	CAL-Bell City Old Camp Rd (1) Irvin Louque, mult obs
Bullock's Oriole	Dec 8-9	HAS-Baytown(1) Gene Campbell
Baltimore Oriole	Dec 14	HAS-Woodland Park (1) Stanley Almoney
	Dec 31	HAS-Crosby (1) Andrew Hamlett

Purple Finch

Calcasieu Parish – 1 location
Cameron Parish – 2 locations
Chambers County – 1 location
Galveston County – 4 locations
Harris County – 25 locations
Liberty County – 2 locations

Clay-colored Sparrow

Dec 2 HAS-Friendswood (1) Chris Bick
Dec 5-14 HAS-Jack Rd (2) Jim Hinson, Stuart Nelson, mult obs
Dec 10 HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Chuck Minero
Dec 12-27 HAS-John Paul Landing Park (1) Drew Dickert, Brandon Nidiffer
Dec 22-28 HAS-Sharp Road area (1) Jim Hinson, mult obs

Brewer's Sparrow	Dec 12-30	HAS-John Paul Landing Park (1) mult obs
Henslow's Sparrow	Dec 4-27	HAS-John Paul Landing Park (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio, Kendra Kocab

Western Meadowlark

	Dec 3-18	HAS-John Paul Landing Park (1) mult obs
	Dec 7	HAS-Geo. Bush Park-NE Corner (2) Timothy White
Ovenbird	Dec 17	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Winnie Burkett, Greg Whitaker, Phoebe Honscheid
Northern Waterthrush	Dec 20	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR Visitor area (1) John Garrett, mult obs
Nashville Warbler	Dec 6	HAS- John Paul Landing Park (1) Jeff Corcoran
	Dec 14	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty lee
Yellow Warbler	Dec 18	CAM-Lacassine NWR (1) Andrew From
	Dec 19	HAS-UH Clear Lake (1) Andrew Hamlett
	Dec 23-29	CAL-Intracoastal Park (1) James Smithers, John Garrett

Prairie Warbler

	Dec 11	GAL-Clear Creek Nature Park (1) Sonny Bratz
	Dec 20-22	CAL-LA397 nr Helms Rd (1) Erik Johnson, mult obs
	Dec 26	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) James Rieman
	Dec 27	CHA-Wallisville Rec Area (1) Paul Fagala
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	Dec 12	HAS-Deerfield Greenbelt (1) Frank & Margaret Farese
	Dec 19	HAS West if UH Clear Lake (1) Andrew Hamlett
Black-thr Green Warbler	Dec 3-28	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
	Dec 8	HAS-Memorial Area (1 ad male)) Sue Orwig
Painted Redstart	Dec 27-30	Has-Dairy-Ashfrd (1) J Berner, Michele Rometry
Summer Tanager	Dec 9	CAM-Lacassin NWR VC (1) David Booth
Western Tanager	Dec 2-5	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sandi Templeton
Pyrrhuloxia	Dec 9	GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Richard Liebler, Clayton Leopold
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Dec 7	CHA-Cotton Lake Road (FM565) (1) Paul Fagala. Mickey Redus
	Dec 13, 27	HAI-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright, Susan Kennedy

Black-headed. Grosbeak

	Dec 1-23	CHA-Cotton Lk Rd (FM565) (1) Paul Fagala, mult obs
	Dec 9	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Kyle O'Haver
	Dec 26	GAL-Santa Fe (1) JJW
	Dec 31	HAS-Seabrook (1) Phillip Robinson
Painted Bunting	Dec 12	HAS-W of Memorial Park (1) Greg Schrader
	Dec 23	CAL-Lake Charles 10th St (1 male) Melissa Simon. John Garrett, James Smithers
Dickcissel	Dec 27	HAI-Geo Bush Park (1) Bob Sanger
	Dec 30	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Garett Hodne

Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BF – Bolivar Flats; CAL – Calcasieu Parish; CAM – Cameron Parish; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HAS – Harris County; HI – High Island; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; LIB – Liberty County; MC – Michael Cooper; NEW – Newton County; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur;; PW – Phillip Wallace; SAA – San Augustine Co.; SAB – Sabine County; SH – Sheila Hebert; SM – Steve Mayes, SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TYL – Tyler County; WJC – West Jefferson County.

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
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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.

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

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