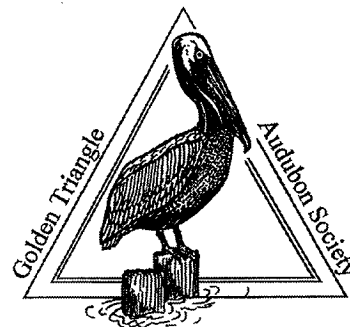


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 27 No 2

February 2021

Field Trip to Anahuac NWR Saturday, February 20, 2021

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! Do not be fooled if your GPS tries to take you into the East Unit (on FM1985 approximately four miles west of Highway 124). Although duck season is over, the East Unit will probably be open on this day for hunting of "light geese." Do not enter even if the gate is open!

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.

Please plan to take all Covid-19 precautions, even while outside, as birders tend to congregate when a "good" bird is found.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 27, No.2 February 2021
Issue number 269

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 February 20, 2021. Field Trip to Anahuac NWR. See page 1 for details and directions.

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.

Saturday March 20, 2021. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. This trip will occur as spring shorebird migration is getting well under way, but while the wintering birds are mostly still present. Bolivar Flats is an internationally important shore-bird location. This trip offers an opportunity to compare many of the "true" shorebirds with lots of help in identifying them.

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

Rettillon Road. At the beach, if conditions permit, turn right (west) and drive 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.

The Flats in winter always have lots of plovers, sandpipers and other wading species, as well as a number of species of gulls and terns. These may include Lesser Black-backed Gulls.

We can usually find one or two American Oystercatchers. A large flock of American Avocets winters there. A careful search of the area near the vegetation line will often produce Horned Larks.

Some walking is necessary on this field trip. If the tide is a long way out, the leaders may walk up to a mile from the vehicle barrier.

We normally stop at Fort Travis Park to eat lunch and use the facilities. We may stop at High Island on the way back to check for any "very early" Neotropical songbird migrants. Bring drinks and lunch (or buy locally, but that is not particularly easy), sunscreen and insect repellent.

Important Note: Galveston County operates a parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. If you park on most parts of the beach, including the part next to the Flats, you must have a parking permit on your windshield. The fee for the permit is \$10.00 a year and permits are obtainable from most merchants on the Bolivar Peninsula including the Big Store, which opens at 7:00 a.m.



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

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 mail in with the form on page 8.

The memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar 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. We would very much encourage you receive the Brown Pelican electronically. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use.

Western Chicken Turtles

The Environmental Institute of Houston at University of Houston-Clear Lake is currently performing research on the population status and habitat associations of the Western Chicken Turtle (*Deirochelys reticularia miaria*) across its Texas range. This study is supported by the Office of the Comptroller of Texas. If you or anyone you know has seen a western chicken turtle in Texas, please provide a report!

The goal is to collect as much observational data as possible for this cryptic species. Reports can be made anonymously or, if you choose to share your contact information for future updates on the study, personal information will be kept confidential.

For access to the reporting tool, please visit <https://arcg.is/11yWyn>. The reporting tool has photos and descriptions of the field marks for this species.

In 2020, Western Chicken Turtles were found in Sabine Woods from Mar to June (2, 2, 4 and 6 individuals respectively) in the monthly surveys.

Help Build a Bird Blind at Martin Dies State Park

Amy Kocurek, the park interpreter at Martin Dies State Park is planning on building a bird blind in the park. This bird blind will be a small building with large (tilted windows) viewing a swampy slough. There will be space in the forest going down to the slough to place several different bird feeders and a water drip into a bird bath. The goal is to have weekend bird programs run by our local master naturalists in the bird blind. Her personal goal is to create a family birding club for local families that will have monthly meetups at the park, and to create some school birding clubs that will allow me to reach minority groups and children that might not normally have ever been introduced to birding.

She plans on using friends group funding to purchase all the supplies for the bird blind, but they have recently lost some of their maintenance staff and could really use some volunteers with carpentry skills to work with the lead maintenance ranger on building the bird blind. Please let her

know if you would be interested in helping with this project. She plans on starting either at the end of January or February. Any help or interest that you can offer will be greatly appreciated.

Contact information:

Amy Kocurek, Park Interpreter/Volunteer Coordinator, Martin Dies Jr. State Park, 634 Park Road 48 South, Jasper, TX 75951; Amy.Kocurek@tpwd.texas.gov; (409) 698-6636.

Interesting Birds in the Area this Winter

There is not space in the Bird Sightings section to comment on these this month. Perhaps we will have space to write a fuller account next month or in April!

The winter started off with expectations of some irruptive species reaching areas much further south than normal. There was talk of expecting even Evening Grosbeaks as well as Red-breasted Nuthatches to reach the deep South. But all that has happened, so far at least, and it is getting late for any further southward migration, is that Purple Finches have spread over a wide swath of the Gulf Coast. Pine Siskins are probably around in greater numbers than usual but not to the same extent. Some sparrows (Fox and Henslow's stand out) seem to be present in larger numbers than usual.

What also seems to have happened is that a number of Western species have migrated east, presumably to avoid the drought and fires. Black-headed Grosbeaks have appeared in Jefferson, Chambers and Harris County, some distance east of their normal winter range. A number of orioles have been reported. Distinguishing between female and immature Bullock's and Baltimore Orioles is not easy, and we will not be surprised if the final conclusion in many cases is Bullock's rather than Baltimore. Bullock's has always been more likely than Baltimore in mid-winter in Southeast Texas.

Oddly enough, there are some more western species that are rarer than usual. There have been very few reports of Say's Phoebe.

Waterfowl are another story. With them, it is a question of numbers rather than unusual species. It is always difficult to get a full picture before the end of the waterfowl seasons. Many of the reports come from those in the business of guiding hunters, and their reports have a built in bias towards an unduly rosy picture. We can report, anecdotally, that there are many areas locally that usually have large rafts of ducks consistently throughout the season that have had these flocks only sporadically this winter. Even geese numbers may be down.

Wintering hummingbirds have been very numerous this winter. Almost everyone who has kept feeders in good condition has had Rufous (or Allen's) Hummingbirds visit them, with multiple birds at many locations. There have been many reports of Broad-tailed Hummingbirds. There have been reports of Anna's Hummingbirds in two locations in Harris County, and one in Calcasieu Parish in Louisiana. Outside our normal coverage area, there are three Anna's (one male now with a full gorget and two female/immature) at the Quintana Sanctuary in Brazoria County.

John A. Whittle

Orange County Christmas Bird Count

January 1, 2021

Sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Fourteen birders turned out for the Orange County count, with 11 GTAS regulars and three new to the CBCs in this area. The southeast Texas winter weather was pleasant, in the 40s to low 50s, partly cloudy to overcast all day, not too windy (SW) and no precipitation. With Covid rules, 14 people formed into seven parties, which may be a factor in the good results; some areas were visited more than once and new species turned up with each visit.

The number of species counted was 116 and total individuals 6556. Those are the highest numbers since 2017 when we counted 125 species and 6990 individuals. 2018-20 saw lower numbers.

A special find was a Least Flycatcher in Claiborne West Park. Another notable sighting was a small flight of Northern Rough-winged Swallows at Bessie Heights marsh. There were high numbers of Anhingas, Little Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Eastern Phoebe and American Pipits.

Ducks especially were found at the SE extreme of the circle, with high counts of Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal and a good number of Pintails. The Mallards and Shovelers that we missed last year were back, and Wigeon were present after missing a number of years. We found Hooded and Red-breasted Mergansers after a miss last year. A high count of Black-bellied Whistling Ducks was seen west of the Neches.

A few Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were still around, and there was an overflight of Sandhill Cranes that we don't see every year on this count. Greater Yellowlegs were abundant alongside the ducks. Other uncommon birds were a Common Loon and a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron making an off-season appearance.

Some of the more unusual birds that were first seen last year did not re-appear, including Yellow-throated Warbler, Marbled Godwit, and the Brown Boobies sometimes seen at a distance off Pleasure Island.

As for the past six years, we had access to private property and would like to thank the owners of two large parcels, Hawk Club and Odum Interests, on the southeast edge of the circle. We appreciate Gerald Langham for access to his property north of Bessie Heights and also J.B. Arrington for access to the lake on his property east of Claiborne West Park.

Visit www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count for more info on Audubon Christmas Counts, from the history of CBCs to the rules for counts, to data archives and science articles drawing on the CBC database.

Here's the list of all sightings in this year's Orange County Christmas Bird Count (CBC 121, TXOC).

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (74); DUCK, Wood (16) GADWALL (69); WIGEON, American (15); MALLARD (40); TEAL, Blue-winged (80); SHOVELER, Northern (61); PINTAIL, Northern (150); TEAL, Green-winged (200); DUCK, Ring-necked (8); SCAUP, Lesser (21); MERGANSER, Hooded (19); MERGANSER, Red-breasted (4); DUCK sp. (1503); LOON, Common (1); GREBE, Pied-billed (16); CORMORANT, Neotropic (131); CORMORANT,

Double-crested (34); Cormorant sp. (2); ANHINGA (22); PELICAN, American White (17); PELICAN, Brown (29); HERON, Great Blue (13); EGRET, Great (123); EGRET, Snowy (50); HERON, Little Blue (24); NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned (7); NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned (1); IBIS, White (96); IBIS, White-faced (45); Ibis sp. (213); SPOONBILL, Roseate (1); VULTURE, Black (47); VULTURE, Turkey (63); New world vulture sp. (30); OSPREY (22); HARRIER, Northern (9); HAWK, Cooper's (1); EAGLE, Bald (8); HAWK, Red-shouldered (3); HAWK, Red-tailed (29); RAIL King (1); RAIL, Clapper (1); GALLINULE, Common (5); CRANE, Sandhill (36); STILT, Black-necked (33); KILLDEER (68); SANDPIPER, Spotted (2); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (100); DUNLIN (30); SANDPIPER, Western (4); Dowitcher sp. (5); GULL, Laughing (121); GULL, Ring-billed (77); Gull sp. (210); TERN, Caspian (3); TERN, Forster's (25); TERN, Royal (1); PIGEON, Rock (105); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (15); DOVE, White-winged (100); DOVE, Mourning (34); SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (1); HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated (2); KINGFISHER, Belted (8); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (31); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (10); WOODPECKER, Downy (10); FLICKER, Northern (12); WOODPECKER, Pileated (3); CARACARA, Crested (2); KESTREL, American (10); MERLIN (1); FLYCATCHER, Least (1); PHOEBE, Eastern (43); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (10); VIREO, White-eyed (2); VIREO, Blue-headed (10); JAY, Blue (52); CROW, American (21); SWALLOW, Northern Rough-winged (5); SWALLOW, Tree (64); CHICADEE, Carolina (34); TITMOUSE, Tufted (9); NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (4); WREN, House (4); WREN, Winter (2); WREN, Sedge (1); WREN, Marsh (1); WREN, Carolina (21); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (20); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (3); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (35); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (59); THRUSH, Hermit (6); ROBIN, American (263); CATBIRD, Gray (11); THRASHER, Brown (3); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (95); STARLING, European (125); PIPIT, American (34); WAXWING, Cedar (27); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (37); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (3); WARBLER, Pine (60); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (219); SPARROW, Chipping (56); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (4); SPARROW, White-throated (18); SPARROW, Savannah (38); SPARROW, Song (3); SPARROW, Lincoln's (3); SPARROW, Swamp (2); CARDINAL, Northern (82); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (275); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (21); GRACKLE, Common (67); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (45); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (214); GOLDFINCH, American (71); SPARROW, House (10).

116 species and 6556 individuals.

Observers: Howard Davis, Andrew Franks, Ashley Fusilier, Marilyn and Rick Guidry, Sheila Hebert, Gary and Denise Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, John and Jana Whittle.

Gary Kelley

Field Trip to Cattail Marsh – 23 January 2021

As the COVID-19 epidemic rages on longer and longer, people need ways to unwind more and more. An ideal way to do this while still social distancing is with outdoor activities. In wide open spaces, people can properly space themselves out and still enjoy the outdoors and time together. Birding is a perfect pandemic outdoor activity as it is outdoors and can easily be done alone or in well-spaced groups. And Tyrrell Park's Cattail Marsh is the perfect place! With miles of levee trails and plenty of room for social distancing while still enjoying the birds, this man-made wetland is the perfect antidote for pandemic fatigue!

The area around the boardwalk was alive with Common Gallinules and American Coots as the group came up to it. Green-winged and Blue-winged Teal were the most obvious ducks present. There were a few Cattle Egrets gathered on the rails of the boardwalk but there had been more birds earlier in the morning when the first of the group arrived. A Virginia Rail was reasonably cooperative and that is always a good start to a trip. A King Rail was eventually coaxed out into the open and gave a raucous response to call while out in the open giving the birders a nice show! Surprisingly, the normally accommodating Sora was the most difficult rail to see on this trip. Usually it is the easy one!

Ducks are the main focus of this trip and they were definitely present as usual in the marsh. Gadwall were present in small numbers, scattered in several of the cells. These large dabblers are often one of the more common large ducks in the marshes but the numbers this winter are fairly low. Northern Shovelers had been present in larger numbers in the deep-water cell recently but they were in smaller numbers on the day of the field trip. Lesser Scaup are always one of our most common divers and the group found plenty. Small Ruddy Ducks were easy to find in cell one along with a couple of even smaller Buffleheads. A couple of beautiful male Mallards were also found on the trip. Mallards have not been especially common this winter so the look at two "green-heads" was much appreciated by the assembled birders. Ducks were rounded out by the Cinnamon Teal present around the boardwalk. Cattail Marsh is probably the best place on the Upper Texas Coast to see this western duck and even though they are present in smaller numbers this year than usual, they were still easy to find around the boardwalk.

Plenty of other water birds were also present in the marsh. Several Eared Grebes shared the deep-water with the diving ducks. Both Double-crested and Neotropic Cormorants were easy to find on the day. They are much easier to distinguish from each other when they are flying together in the same flock! A flock of Anhingas were found in another cell. Egrets and herons were common on the day. Large Great Blue Herons were present in small numbers while a larger number of smaller Snowy Egrets prowled through shallow water being cleared of invasive water hyacinth. Great Egrets and Little Blue Herons were also seen along with a couple of Tricolored Herons. White-faced and White Ibis were easily seen by the group along with a possible Glossy Ibis while hundreds of gulls streamed overhead.

Raptors were a little short on the day but there were some

highlights. No winter trip to Cattail Marsh is complete without Bald Eagles. There has been an eagle nest at the marsh for years now and January is prime time to find the adults on or around the nest. Two eagles were seen on the trip though the group could not tell if there were any hatchlings in the nest. Red-tailed Hawks were no trouble to find though the rufous-morph individual that is often at the marsh does not seem to be present this winter. Northern Harriers cruised low over the cells while a Cooper's Hawk patrolled for avian prey along the levees.

Land birds are present in good variety in and around the marsh as well. Eastern Phoebes were easy to see as they sallied after flying insects. Carolina Wren and Blue Jay were more heard than seen while Marsh Wrens and American Robins were easier. Eastern Bluebirds are not always common at Cattail Marsh but they seem to be easy to find this winter. Hermit Thrush completed the winter thrush trip for the birders. American Pipits foraged the grassy margins of the levees while Yellow-rumped Warblers were pretty much everywhere. Common Yellowthroats called from the areas and a couple of Palm Warblers wagged their tails from the brush. Orange-crowned Warbler was found in small numbers as were American Goldfinches. A few Song Sparrows were located with some White-throated Sparrows and even more Savannah Sparrows. A calling Eastern Screech-Owl was a nice way to finish off the tour around Cattail Marsh.

A nice three mile walk with plenty of birds to see and plenty of friends (properly distanced) for company was just what the group needed to fight the pandemic blues. But when you factor in the current situation with Covid-19, Cattail really shines as the perfect place for a socially distanced outing

The following species were recorded on the field trip:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck; Blue-winged Teal; Cinnamon Teal; Northern Shoveler; Gadwall; American Wigeon; Mallard; Mottled Duck; Green-winged Teal; Ring-necked Duck; Lesser Scaup; Bufflehead; Ruddy Duck; Least Grebe; Pied-billed Grebe; Eared Grebe; Mourning Dove; King Rail; Virginia Rail; Sora; Common Gallinule; American Coot; Black-necked Stilt; Killdeer; Laughing Gull; Ring-billed Gull; Herring Gull; Anhinga; Neotropic Cormorant; Double-crested Cormorant; Great Blue Heron; Great Egret; Snowy Egret; Little Blue Heron; Tricolored Heron; Cattle Egret; White Ibis; White-faced Ibis; Black Vulture; Turkey Vulture; Northern Harrier; Sharp-shinned Hawk; Cooper's Hawk; Bald Eagle; Red-tailed Hawk; Eastern Screech-Owl; Red-bellied Woodpecker; Downy Woodpecker; Eastern Phoebe; Blue Jay; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; House Wren; Marsh Wren; Carolina Wren; European Starling; Gray Catbird; Brown Thrasher; Northern Mockingbird; Eastern Bluebird; Hermit Thrush; American Robin; American Pipit; American Goldfinch; White-crowned Sparrow; Savannah Sparrow; Song Sparrow; Swamp Sparrow; Red-winged Blackbird; Boat-tailed Grackle; Great-tailed Grackle; Northern Waterthrush; Orange-crowned Warbler; Common Yellowthroat; Palm Warbler; Yellow-rumped Warbler; Northern Cardinal; 77 species.

Steve Mayes, species list by Harlan Stewart

Bird Sightings – January 2021

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: We did implement the changes we outlined last month but they will only affect migrant species. This has been an unusual winter, and a perusal of this list below shows the species rare to South-east Texas that have showed up. So we have another massive list. So many Purple Finches were seen – some in each of the counties we cover – that we simply had to leave them out of the listing. See page 3 for other comments on the unusual birds this winter.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)		
Cinnamon Teal	Jan 5-29	JEF-TP (6) mult obs
Broad-tail. Hummingbird	Jan 15-29	JEF-Port Arthur-Griffing Park (1) Greg Jackson
	Jan 27	HAI-Sour Lake (1) John Park
Purple Gallinule	Jan 7	JEF-TP (1) JM
Glaucous Gull	Jan 25	JEF-Pt Arthur Landfil (1) Phil Chaon
Brown Booby	Jan 3	JEF-PI (6+) JAW
Whooping Crane	Jan 2-30	JEF-Hwy 73 (2) MC, mult obs
Western Kingbird	Jan 24	JEF-Thompson Rd (1) SH
Black-crested Titmouse	Jan 10-14	SAB-Camp Snowbird (1) Jean Nichols
Wood Thrush	Jan 16	JEF-Edgewater Picoc Area (10) Adeline Boettcher
Curve-billed Thrasher	Jan 25	HAI-Sour Lake (1) John Park
Clay-colored Sparrow	Jan 21	JAS-W of CR51 (2) Phillip Hight
Bullock's Oriole	Jan 27	JEF-Nederland (1) HS
Rusty Blackbird	Jan 21	JEF-TP (1) HS
Northern Waterthrush	Jan 18	JEF-TP (1) SM
Summer Tanager	Jan 8, 20	ANG-SW Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
Western Tanager	Jan 11	JEF-Beaumont Parkdale Mall area (2) Jimmy Bryan
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Jan 3-6	HAI-Kountze area (1) Nancy Angell
Black-headed Grosbeak	Jan 5	JEF-Beaumont Delaware/West Lucas Area (1) Bonnie Berard
	Jan 20-30	JAS-CR139 SW of Jasper (1) Fred Lyons
Nearby Counties		
Cackling Goose	Jan 27-29	CAM-III Plant Rd (10) David Booth, Charlotte Chehotsky
Cinnamon Teal	Jan 2	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Mitch Foret, Hunter Collins
	Jan 30	CAM-Lacassine NWR Pool Unit (1) Mitch Foret, mult obs
Surf Scoter	Jan 2-14	CHA-NRG Cooling Ponds (2) Chuck Davis, mult obs
White-winged Scoter	Jan 2	CHA-NRG Cooling Ponds (1) Todd McGrath, mult obs
Black Scoter	Jan 2-14	CHA-NRG Cooling Ponds (9) Todd McGrath, mult obs
Common Goldeneye	Jan 1	CAL-Vinton WTP (2) David Booth, Charlotte Chehotsky, Dale Hamilton
Common Ground Dove	Jan 1-2	HAS-Warren Ranch (4) mult obs
	Jan 2	LIB-west of CR677 Dayton (10) Davis Henderson, Tim Young, Daniel Morrisett
	Jan 7	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Johm Paul, Megan Ahlgren, Kendra Kocab, Steve Tattersall
Anna's Hummingbird	Jan 6-8	CAL-southeast of Lake Charles (1) Kirsten Livingston
	Jan 25-31	HAS-Peckham Park-Katy (1) Letha Slaigle, mult obs
Broad-tail. Hummingbrd	Jan 27	HAS-Katy (1) Jo Willars, mult obs
	Jan 8-12	CAL-Lake Charles 10th St (1) Cyndi Simon. James Smithers, John Garrett mult obs
	Jan 17-31	GAL-Durkinton (1) Jackie Farrell, Jane Murtishaw, Susan Heath, mult obs
Broad-bill Hummingbird	Jan 1-31	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
Purple Gallinule	Jan 1, 30	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Hunter Collins, Kenneth Eyster, Duane Huval
Solitary Sandpiper	Jan 1	HAS-Hockley (1) Kendra Kocab, Hunter Hammil
	Jan 8	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP 1) Ray Porter
	Jan 27	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Fred Collins, Bayard Nicklow, Andy Jordan
Whooping Crane	Jan 2-30	CHA-Oak Island Rd (2) Tim Junker, multobs
Franklin's Gull	Jan 4-7	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Brandon Nidiffer
California Gull	Jan 2	CHA-Ash Lake (1) Todd McGrath, David Hanson, John Berner
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	Jan 2-9	CHA-Ash Lake (1) Todd McGrath, David Hanson, John Berner, Bayard Nicklow
	Jan 12	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Sonny Bratz
Common Tern	Jan 4	CAM-LA 27 Beachfront (1) Tiffany Hough
Sandwich Tern	Jan 2	HAS-Morgan's Point (1) John O'Brien
Least Bittern	Jan 3	CAM-Little Chenier d (1) Erik Johnson
	Jan 14	CAL-Global Pond (1) James Smithers, John Garrett
	Jan 14	CAL-Intracoastal Park (2) James Smithers, John Garrett
Magnificent Frigatebird	Jan 1	GAL-Seawall (1) Lisa Fisher
Brandt's Cormorant	Jan 31	ANWR-Shoveler Pond (1) Larry Waddell
Harris's Hawk	Jan 8	GAL-Bay Street Ext (1) David Bradford, Nina Rach
	Jan 26	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) Robert Rogillio
Zone-tailed Hawk	Jan 27	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Bayard Nicklow, Fred Collins, Andy Jordan
Broad-winged Hawk	Jan 1	HAS-Nelson Farms E (1) Joanne Bradbury, Claire Moore
	Jan 27	HAS- Christy Jones
Swainson's Hawk	Jan 1	HAS-George White Lake (1) Ray Porter
	Jan 3	CAM-Illinois Plant Rd (1) Irvin Louque
	Jan 30	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Mary Goldsby

Red-naped Sapsucker	Jan 1-24	HAS-Taylor Lake Village Park (1) mult obs
Ladder-back. W'pecker	Jan 1 Jan 4	HAS-Warren Ranch (2) mult obs GAL-FM2004/FM646 (1) Robert Lester
Brown Booby	Jan 2	HAS-east of Pearland (1) Mike Auston, Judy Behrens
Say's Phoebe	Jan 1	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) John Scaramucci, Sydney Fitzpatrick
Great Kiskadee	Jan 16-30	CAM-Hackberry (2) James Smithers, John Garrett, mult obs
Couch's Kingbird	Jan 1-30 Jan 22-23	CAM-LA 717 Gueydan (1) David.Booth, Charlotte Chehotsky, mult obs LIB-Liberty Port Dr (1) Sara Bettencourt
Western Kingbird	Jan 13	GAL-Bacliff (1) mult obs
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 20	CAL-Hwy 397 (2) Charolle Chehotsky
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 1-19	GAL-Bay St Ext (1) mult obs
Bell's Vireo	Jan 31	CAL-Hayes (1) James Smithers, Cyndi Simon
Purple Martin	Jan 16 Jan 19	HAS-Pasadena (2) Helen Lane CAL-Tom Hebert Rd (1) John Garrett, Melissa Simon
Mountain Bluebird	Jan 1	CAL-Bell City Old Camp Rd (1) mult obs
Wood Thrush	Jan 31	GAL-High Is Smith Oaks (1) Nancy Angell
European Goldfinch	Jan 1	HAS-nr George Bush Park (1) Kevin Smith
Pine Siskin	Jan 22-29	CAL-Lake Charles (2) John Garrett, Melissa Simon
Clay-colored Sparrow		
	Jan 1	HAS-Nelson Farms E (1) mult obs
	Jan 1	HAS-Sharp Rd (1) Mike Austin, Judy Behrens, Kristi Keller
	Jan 1	HAS-Warren Ranch (1) James Rieman, Todd McGrath
	Jan 4	HAS-Harvest Bend area (1) Candy McNamee
	Jan 13-27	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Fred Collins, Kendra Kocab, mult obs
	Jan 16	HAS- J P Landing Park (1) Greg Page, Sarah and Michael Kuzio
Brewer's Sparrow	Jan 1-30	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs
Fox Sparrow	Jan 20 Jan 28	HAS-Sharp Rd (1) Timothy Freiday LIB- FM1008 area N of Kenefick (1) Colette and Paul Micallef
Henslow's Sparrow	Jan 1-30 Jan 9	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs HAS-East End Park (1) Bernie Jacoby, Ken Beeney
Spotted Towhee	Jan 2 Jan 20	HAS-Jesse Jones Park (1) Bernie Jacoby, Matthew Abernathy HAS-Mound Road (1) Timothy Freiday
Yellow-head. Blackbird	Jan 3	GAL-FM2004 (1) Dennis Cooke
Western Meadowlark	Jan 1-19 Jan 1	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs HAS-Longenbaugh west of Katy-Hockley (1) Megan Ahlgren, Hilary Gibbs
Orchard Oriole	Jan 1-15 Jan 1	HAS-Seabrook (1) Hilary Gibbs HAS-Crosby (1) Andrew Hamlett
Hooded Oriole	Jan 17-31	HAS-NASA Parkway/Kirby Bend area (1) Nina Rach, Nicholas DeMaio mult obs
Bullock's Oriole	Jan 8 Jan 12 Jan 15	HAS-Pearland area (1) Linda Kuhn GAL-Santa Fe (1) Ross Foreman HAS-Northside Village (1) Johnathan Britt
Baltimore Oriole	Jan 16	HAS-Briar Forest (1) Geoff Butcher

	Jan 23	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Debbie and Claire Morice
Ovenbird	Jan 24	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Carolyn and Mike Broussard
Louisiana Waterthrush	Jan 16	ANWR Skillern (1) Glenn Steinke
Northern Waterthrush	Jan 21 Jan 23	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Mike Austin JEF-TP (1) MC, Michelle Rometry, Thomas Hellweg
Black-and-white Warbler	Jan 17 Jan 31	CAL-Lorraine Park (1) Jason Massey LIB-Trinity Riv NWR Knobby Knees Trl (1) Colette Micallef
Nashville Warbler	Jan 15	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig
Yellow Warbler		
	Jan 14-18	CAL-Intracoastal Park (1) John Garrett
	Jan 14	GAL-Walter Hall Park (1) Jackie Farrell, Jane Murtishaw
	Jan 21	CHA-TX 124 ~1 mi N of High Is (1) Richard Liebler
Tropical Parula	Jan 3-11	GAL-Dickinson (1) Jane Murtishaw, mult obs
Yellow-thr. Warbler	Jan 13-4	CAL-Cent. Lake Charles (1) John Garrett, Melissa Simon
Prairie Warbler		
	Jan 1-2	HAS-Longenbaugh/Porter End (1) Megan Ahlgren, mult obs
	Jan 15	CAL-LA397 nr Helms Rd (1) continuing, mult obs
	Jan 15	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Kyle O'Haver
Painted Redstart	Jan 1-31	HAS-S Dairy Ashford (1) Wm. and Ellen Baker Tarbox, mult obs
Black-thr. Gray Warbler	Jan 20-31	HAS-Peckham Park-Katy (1) David Bradford, mult obs
Black-thr Green Warbler	Jan 4-8	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Scarlet Tanager	Jan 4 Jan 14 Jan 16	GAL-W Galveston Is (1) Janet Neath CHA-ANWR Exact location unspecified (1) Linda Ball HAS-Sylvan Rodriguez Park (1) Helen Lane
Western Tanager		
	Jan 4	GAL-W Galveston Is (1) Michelle Rometry, Bonnie deGrood, mult obs
	Jan 7-30	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sandi Templeton
	Jan 17	HAS-NASA Parkway/Kirby Bend area (1) Janet Rathjen, mult obs
	Jan 20	GAL-League City (1) Cindy and Kim Contantne
Pyrrhuloxia	Jan 11	HAS-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Kyle O'Haver
Rose-breasted Grosbeak		
	Jan 1-4	HAS-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright
	Jan 3	CAM-Hwy 82 east Creole (1) David Muth, John Nelson
	Jan 29	HAS-Baytown Nature Ctr (1) Ray Porter
Black-headed Grosbeak		
	Jan 3	HAS-NW of Seabrook (1) Philip Robinson
	Jan 7	HAS-Geo Bush Park (1) Jan and Kevin Kolk
	Jan 9-25	CHA-Baytown (2) mult obs
	Jan 12	HAS-Willowbrook area (1) Keith Kingdon
Painted Bunting		
	Jan 18-30	CHA-Oyster Bayou Hunting Club (1 male) Gene Campbell
	Jan 21	CAL-10th St Lake Charles (1 male) James Smithers
	Jan 23	HAS-Briar Forest area (1) Heather Sampson

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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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 TEXBIRDS 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.