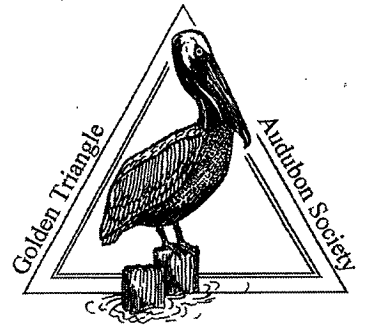


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 27 No 4

April 2021

Field Trip to Sabine Woods Saturday, 17 April 2021

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants at the height of spring migration, when diversity of species tends to be at its greatest. We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. (You should be able to find the group if you are unable to be there quite that early.)

At Sabine Woods, there is a small parking area, with additional parking improvised using the roadside verges. Portable toilets are available at the entrance during spring migration.

This trip involves relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds, although another option is to sit at one of the drips and wait for the birds to come to you. The trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos and feral pigs have been very active, so there will be holes to avoid! There is an \$8 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are **not** members of Golden Triangle Audubon or TOS. This trip is well suited for not-very-experienced birders. Often, we break into smaller groups, with an experienced birder or two in each group.

Sabine Woods is on the north side of Hwy 87, 4.1 miles west of the stop sign in Sabine Pass. Take Highway 87 from Port Arthur to Sabine Pass, turn right at the stop sign, and go 4.1 miles.

The insect population may be significant so it will be a good idea to bring insect repellent. Most participants will bring lunch. Facilities in Sabine Pass are limited, and gasoline is **not currently routinely available in Sabine Pass.**

Our present expectation is that we will resume in person Membership Meetings in the fall starting with the August meeting (August 19).

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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the Golden Triangle Audubon
Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland,
Texas 77627-1292
email: gtaudubon@aol.com

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.

Saturday April 17, 2021. Field Trip to Sabine Woods. Details on Page 1

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 May 8, 2021. Spring Migration Count. On International Migratory Bird Day, we undertake an all-Jefferson-County Bird Count. We have been doing these counts since 1995, so they have become a valuable way to monitor local changes in local bird populations. The count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We will welcome birders at the intermediate level and higher, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from dawn through about 11:00 a.m. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. We would greatly prefer that you form your own party ("birding pod"). If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would appreciate your help! Contact John Whittle (gtaudubon@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for further details or offers to help.

Sabine Woods Work Day – 27 March 2021

Another excellent Work Day was held on Saturday March 27 at Sabine Woods, with 12 volunteers contributing to the effort on the day. We thank each and every one of the following for their splendid accomplishments:

Andy Allen, Laurie Baker, Joey Choate, Dan Courtney, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Jana Whittle. Howard Davis and Ashley Fuselier had worked in the days (and months) before the Work Day. Dana Nelson worked during the week prior.

We got a lot accomplished. Among other things, we trimmed the sides of the trails inside the Woods. We mowed all the trails and meadows. In advance of the work day, the areas round the drips were cleaned up, and repairs completed on the drip systems. Some aggressive vines were removed. A start was made on killing the Japanese Honeysuckle, an invasive species that is not native. Prior to the work day, a lot of the large stands of McCartney Rose were cut down and the stumps treated. Some of the newer areas of rose were treated with herbicide. The effects of the recent extreme cold weather are not yet fully apparent. The *Lantana*, of which there is a lot, lost all of its leaves, but will probably come back from the roots and larger branches. The vegetation in the open areas was "top killed" but will certainly come back. All birders who visit the Woods will surely enjoy the fruits of the work, and on their and TOS's behalf, we thank all those who worked.

John A. Whittle



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

Number of Warbler Species Seen at Sabine Woods by Date

Birders often ask how many warbler species are to be expected on such and such a date at Sabine Woods. Dr. Harlan Stewart has dug deep into eBird and come up with some of the answers which are shown in the table below. The median gives the best answer to the question for any given date, although there are some caveats that need to be considered.

Experience over the years has shown that the extent of migration on any one day is a feast or famine type of situation. Birds of all species tend to come to the same conclusion when deciding whether it is a good night to leave the Yucatan for the potentially perilous 650 or more mile journey across the Gulf of Mexico. So it is likely that there will either be significantly more species than the median if the birds concluded it was a good night to leave, or significantly fewer if they concluded that it was not. While the median cannot help predict a specific number of species for an individual date in a single year, it is useful in predicting when it is more likely that there will be a good number.

Of course, local birders enjoy trying to predict days when migration will be heavy, but as of yet, most still go down to the Woods whenever they can, especially in the middle of the season. What factors do they look at and why?

The simplest and oldest consideration is the wind at the coastline, or in essence at the Woods. When there is a wind with a significant northerly component, the warblers are expected to descend into the first suitable habitat they find.

The stronger the wind the less likely the birds will overfly the immediate coastal area for the more extensive wooded areas inland. If the wind is strong enough, any small bush they can perch on will do.

Probably the next easiest consideration to evaluate is the wind direction and strength in the Yucatan from where they take off on the Gulf crossing. North winds obviously are a deterrent to leaving. However, there may be favorable south winds at the Yucatan but a front in the middle of the Gulf with north winds behind it. If the birds are well off shore, they have little real option but to continue, and arrive on the Texas coast much later than normal. The normal pattern is to leave the Yucatan an hour or so after sunset, and arrive at the Texas Coast around 4 p.m. They will arrive earlier with favorable south winds, later with adverse north winds. There is some evidence that many birds head west into the Central Texas Coast if they encounter a particularly strong north wind.

The consideration that is perhaps the most difficult to evaluate is whether there has been a build-up of birds on the Yucatan waiting to come over. If there has been a stretch of days with north winds, it is more likely that there are more birds waiting. More difficult to assess is whether the birds have been held up on their journey from South and Central America to the Yucatan by adverse conditions. New web sites like Windy.com and others provide graphical depictions of global winds that can provide some insight.

	Max	Median
March 1	8	4
March 2	6	4
March 3	8	4
March 4	8	5
March 5	10	5
March 6	10	5
March 7	10	5
March 8	9	6
March 9	9	6
March 10	9	6
March 11	10	6
March 12	10	5.5
March 13	10	6
March 14	11	6
March 15	11	6.5
March 16	11	6
March 17	12	6
March 18	12	7
March 19	13	7
March 20	13	7
March 21	13	7
March 22	14	6.5
March 23	14	7
March 24	14	8
March 25	14	8
March 26	14	9
March 27	14	8
March 28	15	9
March 29	17	9
March 30	17	9.5
March 31	20	10

	Max	Median
April 1	22	10
April 2	22	11.5
April 3	22	11
April 4	22	12
April 5	22	12
April 6	25	12
April 7	25	13
April 8	25	13.5
April 9	24	15.5
April 10	25	15.5
April 11	26	16
April 12	30	16
April 13	30	16
April 14	30	16
April 15	27	17.5
April 16	31	18.5
April 17	31	20
April 18	31	19.5
April 19	30	18
April 20	30	18
April 21	28	17
April 22	28	18
April 23	28	18
April 24	27	18
April 25	27	19
April 26	27	18
April 27	27	17
April 28	30	15
April 29	30	15
April 30	30	13.5

	Max	Median
May 1	23	13
May 2	23	13
May 3	23	12
May 4	24	12
May 5	24	10
May 6	24	10
May 7	21	10
May 8	21	9
May 9	21	9.5
May 10	21	8.5
May 11	17	10
May 12	17	10
May 13	15	9.5
May 14	13	8
May 15	16	8
May 16	16	7.5
May 17	16	7
May 18	15	6.5
May 19	14	6.5
May 20	12	5.5
May 21	12	4
May 22	12	2
May 23	12	2
May 24	6	2
May 25	6	1
May 26	6	1
May 27	2	1
May 28	2	1
May 29	2	1
May 30	1	1
May 31	1	1

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 20 March 2021

If there is a place built for pandemic birding it is Bolivar Flats. With plenty of room to spread out and social distance, a group can enjoy hundreds of birds while still protecting themselves and others. With that in mind, the Golden Triangle Audubon Society returned to its traditional March field trip to Bolivar Flats. All of the birders were very ready to get out and do some birding and a little safe socializing with like-minded friends and this was the perfect opportunity. And above and beyond all of that, Bolivar Flats is just a great place to bird!

Common birds often start out the trip when the birders arrive at the vehicle barriers. Sanderlings and Willets were easily seen. A Long-billed Curlew was spotted and Laughing Gulls were numerous flying over. Moving down the beach, Dunlin was easily the most common shorebird, all still in winter plumage. Eventually, some small plovers started to appear. First was a Snowy Plover but it was quickly followed by numerous Piping Plovers. A few larger Wilson's Plovers were found most having recently arrived from wintering grounds. The small plover set was eventually completed with a Semipalmated Plover. Black-bellied Plovers are much larger than the smaller species and were also easily found on the day. Like the Dunlin, they were still largely in their duller winter plumage without the black bellies they are named for. In a rarer sighting, American Golden-Plover was also spotted on the beach. Similar in appearance to the Black-bellied Plovers, the Golden-Plovers are usually birds of grassy fields and pastures and not of beaches and mud flats. But, during migration, all bets are off and recently arrived birds might turn up anywhere so perhaps it should not have been too surprising. Just a reminder to always look at the birds closely, you might find an unexpected species or a species in an unexpected place!

Horned Larks are always looked for at Bolivar Flats as it is one of the best places on the upper Texas coast to find them. In parts of west Texas, these birds can be found in very large numbers but in this area, they are scarce and are really only found along the shore. Luckily, Horned Lark was found on this trip and the birders did get some good looks. Barn Swallows zipped over the beach also newly arrived from their tropical wintering grounds. A couple of Crested Caracaras chased each other around the flats and eventually perched on the pilings near the vehicle barrier providing a great view. A flock of Red-breasted Mergansers was spotted offshore but no scoters could be found. Also absent were Reddish Egrets. These quirky wading birds are usually common on the flats but can be hard to find in early spring. They are much easier to find in late summer when the Golden Triangle Audubon Society often comes back again!

Getting to the end of the flats, large numbers of birds were found loafing around the water's edge. Laughing, Ring-billed and Herring Gulls were present. Royal Terns were present in numbers and larger Caspian Terns were eventually found. Sandwich Terns and Forster's Terns were spotted in the flocks along with a Common Tern. No Least Terns or Black Terns were seen but perhaps it was still a little early for them. No Godwits or Oystercatchers were obvious but a few "peeps" (primarily Western Sandpipers) were seen. A few Black Skimmers were found among the flocks on the beach as well.

After a lunch break, the group reassembled at Rollover Pass. Or, at least, what used to be Rollover Pass. The decision was made some time ago that the cut through the peninsula contributes to the erosion of the beach and that it would be filled in. Although the decision was understandable, it was still sad to lose what had been a popular birding and fishing destination. Still, the area around the former cut was still pretty birdy with birds congregating on the nearly small islands so perhaps it is still worth stopping! Marbled Godwits were easily found at this location along with many more Black Skimmers.

A careful search revealed American Oystercatchers for the group as well. An Osprey or two were found, which is always a welcome sight and plenty of American White and Pelicans and Brown Pelicans were on hand to enjoy. Plenty more Black-bellied Plovers and Dunlin were also seen to complete the picture of a still worthwhile birding stop.

Wrapping up the field trip, some members of the group travelled on to Smith Oaks in High Island. This Houston Audubon Sanctuary is well known as a migrant trap and for its very accessible rookery. Recently, generous donations have allowed significant improvements at Smith Oaks including new bathrooms and an impressive canopy walk. The birders tried out the canopy walk and saw its potential for great sightings on a spring day! But there were birds present on this day as well. Hooded Warbler was seen by some of the birders though it was not particularly cooperative. Even less cooperative was a waterthrush that called but refused to come out. Black and White Warblers were easier to see and White-eyed Vireo was around as well. And, of course, there is the rookery. This spot is well known to birders and photographers and is one of the most impressive birding spectacles on the coast with hundreds of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets and Roseate Spoonbills nesting on islands in a pond on the Smith Oaks property. Great views and photos can be had of these species while they nest and raise their young and interact with each other. Other species are often found here as well with many Neotropical Cormorants also nesting and Black-crowned Night-Herons, White Ibis and Anhingas also around.

The March field trip to Bolivar Flats is always a favorite on the schedule and all were grateful that such a trip is possible in the time of COVID-19. Shorebirds and wading birds at the flats and Rollover Pass and nesting egrets and migrants at High Island make a terrific combination for birders and can be done in such a way to allow for social distancing. In this day and age, what more can a birder ask for?

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Blue-winged Teal (10); Northern Shoveler (2); Mottled Duck (3); Red-breasted Merganser (15); Pied-billed Grebe (1); Common Gallinule (5); American Coot (5); American Avocet (220); American Oystercatcher (2); Black-bellied Plover (38); American Golden-Plover (2); Snowy Plover (3); Wilson's Plover (3); Semipalmated Plover (2); Piping Plover (37); Killdeer (1); Whimbrel (1); Long-billed Curlew (2); Marbled Godwit (55); Ruddy Turnstone (13); Sanderling (56); Dunlin (263); Least Sandpiper (3); Western Sandpiper (5); Greater Yellowlegs (3); Willet (55); Bonaparte's Gull (2); Laughing Gull (191); Ring-billed Gull (7); Herring Gull (18); Caspian Tern (1); Common Tern (1); Forster's Tern (36); Royal Tern (125); Sandwich Tern (6); Black Skimmer (126); Anhinga (2); Neotropical Cormorant (130); American White Pelican (160); Brown Pelican (65); Great Blue Heron (8); Great Egret (203); Snowy Egret (41); Black-crowned Night-Heron (5); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); White Ibis (25); Roseate Spoonbill (81); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (2); Osprey (2); Northern Harrier (1); Red-tailed Hawk (1); Crested Caracara (3); Eastern Phoebe (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); White-eyed Vireo (4); Horned Lark (2); Tree Swallow (3); Barn Swallow (3); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); House Wren (1); European Starling (2); Gray Catbird (2); Northern Mockingbird (1); American Goldfinch (1); Savannah Sparrow (2); Eastern Meadowlark (2); Red-winged Blackbird (15); Boat-tailed Grackle (11); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (12); Louisiana/ Northern Waterthrush (1); Common Yellowthroat (1); Black and White Warbler (4); Hooded Warbler (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (24); Northern Cardinal (6)

Steve Mayes

Oldest Ring-billed Gull on Record Discovered by Cleveland Birder

At 28, the gull is a year older than the previous title holder, further expanding our knowledge of the species' longevity.

By Ryan F, Mandelbaum
Reporter, Audubon Magazine



Ring-billed Gull *Larus delawarensis*

This past winter, Chuck Slusarczyk Jr. braved the frigid wind of Cleveland's Wendy Park near daily to observe the thousands of gulls that congregate at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River. But on one January day, among the mix of several species, he noticed a Ring-billed Gull with a metal band around its leg. Hoping to learn more about the bird's history, Slusarczyk returned over the next five days to re-find the gull and snap a clear picture of the band—but the bird always seemed to be facing the wrong way. Ultimately, Slusarczyk managed to capture only part of the band's identification number before growing ice cover pushed the gulls to open water and beyond the reach of his camera lens.

Unsure whether the partial report would be useful, Slusarczyk sent an email to the United States Geological Survey's Bird Banding Lab. Someone from the lab eventually got back to him and requested his photos to help with the ID. The lab tracks which numbers each bird bander uses, and they all begin with a three- or four-number prefix followed by a five-number suffix. Slusarczyk had photographed the full suffix, so staff had a good lead. In addition to the number, lab biologists also use clues like the band's construction and where it is located on the bird to determine origin.

After another round of photo verifications, on March 4, Slusarczyk finally got his answer—and it was a surprise. The USGS biologists had positively identified the gull while also confirming that Slusarczyk had spotted the oldest Ring-billed Gull on record, at 28 years old, beating the previous record by a year.



The oldest known Ring-billed Gull photographed in Cleveland, Ohio, January, 2021. Photo: Chuck Slusarczyk Jr.

Even with the missing digits, “it was a slam dunk to figure out which bird this actually was,” says Matt Rogosky, an encounter biologist at the lab who helped solve the gull's identity.

As it turned out, Slusarczyk's gull was born in 1992 at Tommy Thompson Park, a spit of coastal habitat jutting out into Lake Ontario near downtown Toronto. At the time, this colony was undergoing a population explosion, and researchers led by Hans Blakpoel at the Canadian Wildlife Service hoped to understand why, as well as where juvenile birds dispersed to after leaving the nest.

Ring-billed Gulls are one of the most familiar gulls in North America due to their prevalence around dumps, parking lots, and beaches, where their bold, french fry-stealing antics have earned them a negative reputation. However, biologists know surprisingly little about the species' longevity, due in part to a lack of data. Slusarczyk's find represents an important datapoint toward our understanding of these birds, while highlighting the value of bird banding for understanding species demographics more generally.

Discovering such an old gull might sound shocking, but there simply aren't enough long-term demography studies on Ring-billed Gulls to gauge how strange a record like this is, says Dave Moore, senior waterbird biologist at the Canadian Wildlife Service who holds Blakpoel's role today. Many of these gull-banding studies last only a few years and have targeted purposes, he explains, and returning adults are typically younger than 10 years old. Further complicating

things is that many older studies used flimsier aluminum bands that fell off after four or five years, according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *Birds of the World*.

Resighting live birds away from the colony, especially those with such tiny bands, is also difficult. "These small metal bands are best read in the hand," says Erin Giese, senior research specialist at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Cofrin Center for Biodiversity. "The fact that [Slusarczyk] was able to resight the band was tremendous on its own."

Paying attention to small details comes naturally to Slusarczyk—not only is he a birder, but he's also a guller, arguably birding's most fastidious faction. Gulls can be especially difficult to identify; species sport a relatively uniform color palette of whites and grays, and individuals may go through a complex sequence of immature plumages before reaching maturity (three years old, in the case of Ring-billed Gulls).

But the hobby also brings its own special pleasures: During the winter, rare or vagrant gull species may mix with large flocks, and only a trained eye can spot the outliers. Still, even the commonest gulls delight die-hard gullers. "They're adaptable survivors, and sometimes they're downright funny," Slusarczyk says.

Apparently they can age gracefully, too. Slusarczyk says this Ring-billed didn't look any older than the four- and five-year-old banded gulls he's reported in the past.

As more people pick up birding, bird-banding biologists hope that a rise in band resightings will follow, allowing for scientists to learn more about the movements and lifespan of gulls and other birds than ever before. There's even a chance these resightings could help change the Ring-billed Gull's reputation in the general public. "Knowing that something lives that long is really important," Moore says. "I hope it changes people's perspective."

Without any other reports of this bird in the past 28 years, it's impossible to know anything about its life—what it's seen or where it's gone—but banding studies overall show Ring-billed Gulls' marked fidelities to their breeding colonies. And though the Toronto gulls spread across eastern North America during the winter, they also show a similar loyalty to their wintering locations.

In fact, Slusarczyk took another look at his gull photographs after receiving his certificate from the banding laboratory, and he noticed that he'd photographed the same bird last year. He just didn't know he could submit a partial band at the time. "It's been here two winters in a row," he says. "It was probably here every winter since 1992."

Bird Sightings – March 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: As usual, the March listing is dominated by early migrants, although our policy, new this year, of listing migrants only if they are more than one week "early" has made it easier to pick out the truly early ones.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Common Nighthawk	Mar 24	JEF-W Beaumont (1 by call) SH
	Mar 25	JEF-SRSP-Willows (1) Frost family
	Mar 27	JEF-Backridge Rd (1 heard) SH
Chuck-will's-widow	Mar 25	JEF-SW (10 Frost family)
Broad-tail. Hummingbird	Mar 2-23	JEF-Port Arthur-Griffing Park (1) Greg Jackson (continuing)
Purple Gallinule	Mar 18	JEF-TP (1) Cameron Johnson, Ashley Bray
Whooping Crane	Mar 5-6, 30	JEF-TX73 nr Hamshire (up to 2) Orlando Fonseca, mult obs
Mississippi Kite	Mar 26	HAI-Cooks Lake Rd (1) John Mariani
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 18	HAI-Sour Lake (1) John Park
Great Kiskadee	Mar 23	JEF-SW MC
Yellow-throated Vireo	Mar 7	JEF-SW SM
Cliff Swallow	Mar 2	JEF-SRSP (1) Kay Hawkle
	Mar 6	JEF SAB-FM276 at Toledo Bend Res (1) Theresa McKay
	Mar 11	SAB-Carrice Creek area (3) Jay Packer
Bank Swallow	Mar 19	ANG-Lufkin Ellen Trout Park (1) Gary Hunter
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mar 29	JEF-SW MC, Kristin Ellington
Purple Finch		
Reported from ANG (Mar 1-25), HAI (Mar 1-23), JAS (Mar 1-21), JEF (Mar 7-29), SAB (Mar 5, 17), TYL (Mar 10-11)		

Lesser Goldfinch	Mar 21-29	JEF-Nederland (1 fem) SM, mult obs
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 18	HAI-Gore Store Rd (1) Logan Kahlie, Mark Sawyer
Black-thr. Green Warbler	Mar 19	JEF-SW (1 head only) JAW
	Mar 19	HAI-Turkey Creek S (1) Mark Sawyer, Logan Kahlie
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 1-27	JAS-CR139 SW of Jasper (1) Fred Lyons

Nearby Counties

Horned Grebe	Mar 3-4	HAS-Horsepen Creek Park (1) Kristi Keller, Liston Rice
Lesser Nighthawk	Mar 5	GAL-Jamaica Beach (1) Susan Heath
Common Nighthawk	Mar 11	CHA-N Baytown (1) Ray Porter (heard only)
	Mar 25	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Charlie Amos
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Mar 25	HAS-Rice Univ (1 call only) Cin-Ty Lee
Broad-tail. Hummingbird	Mar 1-25	GAL-Dickinson (1) mult obs
Allen's Hummingbird	Mar 1-3	GAL-Dickinson (1) mult obs
	Mar 1-8	GAL-Santa Fe (1) Ross Foreman, mult obs
Calliope Hummingbird	Mar 12-22	GAL-Friendswood (1 imm male) Andrew Dietrich, multobs
Buff-bell. Hummingbird	Mar 1-31	GAL-Santa Fe (1) Ross Foreman

Whooping Crane	Mar 1-31	CHA-Oak Island Rd (2) mult obs
Whimbrel	Mar 25	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1 calling) Cin-Ty Lee
Wilson's Phalarope	Mar 9	GAL-Hwy197 Texas City (1) Allen Hardee
Magnificent Frigatebird	Mar 15	GAL-Galv Is SP (2) David and Jonathan and Ednelza Henderson
	Mar 18	GAL-Galveston (exact location not specified) (1) Sandy Kroger
	Mar 19	GAL-Moddy Gdns (1) Greg Whittaker
Glossy Ibis	Mar 5, 21	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) Ken Hartman, Cin-Ty Lee
Least Bittern	Mar 3-17	GAL-High Is-Smith Oaks (1) Ian Davies, mult obs
	Mar 18	GAL-Pt Bolivae HWY 87 (1) Cullen Hanks, Ian Davies
Pomarine Jaeger	Mar 28	GAL-High Is Beach (1) Ian Davies, Cullen Hanks
Little Gull	Mar 22	GAL-Hwy 87 nr Rollover Pass (1) Cukken Hanks
Glaucous Gull	Mar 6	CHA-Smith Point (1) Ednelz, David and Jonathan Henderson
Gt Black-backed Gull	Mar 23-27	GALSan Luis Pass (1 1st year) Andrew Spencer, Nathan Pieplow, mult obs
Black Tern		
Mar 1-2	GAL-Beach east of Bolivar Flats (5) Ian Davies, Cullen Hanks, Ash Ferlito	
Mar 1	GAL-Rollover Pass (1) Martin Hagne	
Mar 18	CAM-Cameron Ferry (2) Jay Huner	
Mar 20	GAL-Intracoastal at Bob's Road and at Rollover "Pass" (2 at each) JAW, HS	
Mar 23	CAM-Cameron Ferry (1) David Booth	
Common Tern	Mar 14	CAM-Hwy 82 betw Johnson Bayou and Holly Beach (1) Charlotte Chehotsky, James Smithers (early)
	Mar 18	CAM-Little Florida Beach (1) Davis Booth, Randy Frederick
	Mar 18	CAM-Holly Beach (4) David Booth, Dale Hamilton
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 10	CAL-SE Lake Charles (1) Kirsten Livingston
	Mar 14	CAL-Lake Charles nr Prien (1) David Booth
	Mar 17	CAL-S Lake Charles (1) Irvin Louque
Mississippi Kite	Mar 1	HAS-Houston Clear Lake Area (1) mult obs
	Mar 1	HAS-Dickinson (1) Scott Buckel, Jane Murtishaw
	Mar 3	LIB-Trinity Riv NWR (1) Shelli Ellerbe, Margaret Taylor
	Mar 19	CHA-JJ Mayes (1) Thomas Sharp
Harris's Hawk	Mar 1-24	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) mult obs
Swainson's Hawk	Mar 18	HAS-Katy (1) Timothy Freiday
	Mar 18	HAS-Baytown Nature Ctr (1) Ray Porter
Great Kiskadee	Mar 13	CHA-Smith Point HW site (1) David Sarlozi
	Mar 20	CAM-Hackberry (2) Kathy Rhodes, mult obs
	Mar 22	CHA-JJ Mayes Trace (10) Sonny Bratz
Western Kingbird	Mar 8	HAS-Baytown (1) David Hanson
Eastern Kingbird	Mar 15	CAM-Cameron Prairie Pintail Loop (1) Michael Janke
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mar 27-31	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs
	Mar 27-28	GAL-High Is Hooks Woods (1) mult obs
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 29	HAS-Christia Adair Park (1) David Sarkozi
	Mar 31	GAL-High IS Smith Oaks (1) Philip Hight

Purple Finch

Reported from CHA (Mar 1-17), GAL (Mar 3-16), HAS (Mar 8-25), LIB (Mar 1-25).

Great Kiskadee	Mar 7	CAM-Hackberry (2) mult obs
Fox Sparrow	Mar 1-3	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Art Webster, mult obs
	Mar 7-8, 19	GAL-High Is-Smith Oaks (1) Ian Davies, mult obs
Spotted Towhee	Mar 6	HAS-Jesse Jones Pk (1) Ken Beeney, Bernie Jacoby
Northern Parula	Mar 2	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Jared Wolfe
Yellow-head. Blackbird	Mar 2-4	HAS-Burke Crenshaw Park (1) Christine Smith, mult obs
	Mar 14	CHA-ANWR – exact location not specified (1) Mary Anne Weber
	Mar 17-31	GAL-Bolivar N Jetty area (4) Cullen Hanks, Ian Davies, mult obs
	Mar 18	GAL-High Island Smith Oaks (1) Simon Kiacz, Tiffany Kersten
Western Meadowlark	Mar 17	HAS-Paul Rushing Park (4) Garrett Hodne
Hooded Oriole	Mar 1-2	HAS-NASA Parkway/Kirby Bend area (1) Hilary Gibbs, mult obs
Bullock's Oriole	Mar 4-14	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
	Mar 7, 18	HAS-W Spring (1)
Baltimore Oriole	Mar 15	LIB-Liberty (1) Charles Post
	Mar 7	CHA-Beach City (1) Carl Poldrack
	Mar 15	LIB- FM1008 area N of Kenefick (1) Colette and Paul Micallef
Rusty Blackbird	Mar 3-10	GAL-High Is Smith Oaks (4) John Berner, mult obs
Lesser Goldfinch	Mar 26	HAS-Spring (1) John Watson
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 14	HAS-Houston-W Univ Place (1) Donald Verser
	Mar 17	HAS-Edith Moore (1) John Berner
Prothonotary Warbler	Mar 2	HAS-Seabrook (1 male) Emily Neale
Nashville Warbler	Mar 10-19	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig
Black-thr. Green Warbler	Mar 17-19	HAS-Edith Moore (1) Ken Hartman, John Berner, B. Moffett
Painted Redstart	Mar 10	HAS-S Dairy Ashford (1) mult obs
Western Tanager	Mar 7-8	HAS-Sam Houston Tollway and Fallbrook Dr (1) Candy NcNamee
	Mar 9	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1 fem) Sally Pachulski
	Mar 19-21	HAS-Briar Forest area (1) Ed Robinson
	Mar 21	HAS-S Dairy Ashford (1) Julie and Bill Sneider
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Mar 5-7	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 1-31	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
	Mar 13	HAS-Challenger 7 Mem Park (1) Sandy Parker
	Mar 15-25	HAS-Geo Bush Park area (1) Kevin Smith
	Mar 18	GAL-Galveston-Ferry Rd area (1) Anastasia Kuzmina
Painted Bunting	Mar 17-21	CAL-Lake Charles 10th St (1) James Smithers

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

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

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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.

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 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.