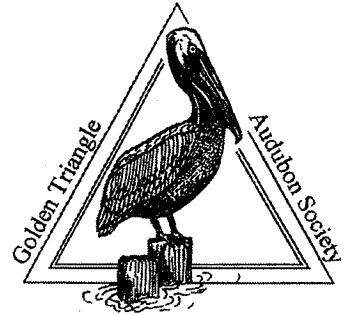


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 27 No 5

May 2021

Field Trip to Hardin County Saturday, 29 May 2021

This is a great opportunity to see the breeding songbirds of the southern part of the Big Thicket. We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area – Hooded, Kentucky, Pine, Prairie, Prothonotary, and Swainson's Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. We will likely not find all the listed species, but most years we find a good selection of them. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target of this trip, and we have often been rewarded with excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. Yellow-breasted Chats have often been seen perched high up in the open. This area also has breeding Prairie Warblers, typically in plantations of about 20-foot tall young pines. Typically we bird Gore Store Road east as far as Beech Creek, Firetower Road, and Matigwa Road.

The meeting time and place will be at 7:00 a.m. (note the necessary early start if we are to find the breeding birds!) at the shopping center on the northeast corner of the intersection of FM92 and FM418 in the northern part of Silsbee. To reach this from Beaumont, take US 69 north and then US 96 north. Take Business 96 into and through downtown Silsbee. When Business 96 turns right, continue straight on FM92 for 3/4 mile to the shopping center. We normally finish sometime around noon or shortly after.

Birding is a generally outdoor activity, but on this trip we will be in vehicles traveling along the roads of rural Hardin County until we see or hear birds or find habitat that is favored by our target species.

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

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

Future Programs and Field Trips.

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. By the time you read this, we will likely have made the major assignments, but if you have special access to any area of the county that is not open to the public, we can certainly use your help in that area, even if only for a few hours, Contact John Whittle (gtaudubon@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for further details.

Saturday May 29, 2021. Field Trip to Hardin County. 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.

Golden Triangle Audubon Membership Dues

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

Dues for all members will be for the period ending on December 31. The memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar year. For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

Electronic Delivery of the *Brown Pelican*

We currently mail most copies of the *Brown Pelican* to members by first class mail. While we certainly do not want to cut off any members who are unable to receive a copy electronically, we encourage you, if you are able, to receive your copy as a pdf attachment to an email. This way, you can save us both expense and volunteer time. You will receive your *Brown Pelican* probably three days earlier – more if you live outside the local area. To do this please send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the email address you want us to use. Be sure to include your name so we can find you in our membership records!



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

The Spring 2021 Migration Season

A Preliminary Description of Migration at Sabine Woods

Although the season may not be completely over as this is written in very early May, we wanted to present a brief summary of the season at Sabine Woods and nearby. We will, as usual, present our usual more rigorous analysis in a future issue, and while this account is anecdotal in nature, it reflects mostly the author's impressions.

After starting off more or less normal during the first week of March, the early part of the season got off to a very slow start, with quite strong south winds over the Gulf and coastal areas seemingly through almost all of the rest of March, even though there were good days. Early April was not much better, and birders were beginning to complain about a slow season. April 10 and 11 with a good selection of warblers, flycatchers and orioles began to look a little more like an average and uneventful season and restored our faith that birds were still undertaking the perilous traverse of the Gulf of Mexico in numbers after all. But it was April 14 that settled it – this could well be a very good season. Suddenly on that day, we had a great variety of warblers especially, and significantly more than 20 species were recorded on the day, along with vireos, flycatchers, tanagers and other migrants. Particularly noteworthy was the presence of at least a half dozen Cerulean Warblers, and observers were provided with the first opportunity we can remember to learn the Cerulean song. This coupled with the presence of Golden-winged and Blackburnian Warblers made this a memorable day.

The next day, April 15, usually an ominous day, but not so much this year was another more-than-twenty-warbler species day, probably to be remembered as much for the enormous number of Hooded Warblers as anything else. This day was also notable as being the first day that a very confident male Cape May Warbler took up temporary (five days) residence in the trail at the parking lot for Texas Point NWR. This area is harboring more warblers with each passing year. The string of 20-plus-warbler-species days continued on to April 16, and Gray Catbirds, determined not to be outdone, were competing with the Hoodeds for temporary ownership of the lower stratum of the Woods. The continuation of this bonanza of migrants into the field trip day, April 17, and the following day is described in Steve Mayes' report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The days following were almost as exciting with never the dull moment, but perhaps slightly fewer species. Then on April 24, in the afternoon, a never to be forgotten extravaganza unfolded. Most birders present had never seen anything even close to it. Warblers descended into the Woods in incredible numbers and variety. As the afternoon progressed, birds were competing for space in the drips, and at one point, eight or nine species of warbler were in the drip bath at the same time. The spectacle of two male Golden-winged Warblers bathing side by side with Blue-winged and the hybrid Brewster's Warbler nearby will not soon be forgotten. Tanagers, orioles and grosbeaks were mostly feasting on mulberries in the east of the Woods, and were probably underreported as almost everyone was at the original drip. This event was also unusual in that it was not, as most

recorded groundings are, caused by the birds encountering rain at the coast. These often affect thrushes and vireos more than warblers. There was a frontal passage that day, but no significant precipitation associated with it. The wind behind the front was 10 mph from the north at 8 p.m. that night, the usual lift off time for nocturnal migrants as most passerine species are. But it seems that the vast majority of the migrants left that night. This can happen later in the season when the genetically imprinted impetus to proceed quickly to the breeding grounds is strong.

Even as the season drew towards a close, on April 30, a front made it close enough to the coast to persuade that day's migrants to descend briefly into the Woods. It was not as diverse as the previous events, being comprised largely of Yellow and Bay-breasted Warbler. Most of these birds left that night. Although it is quite rare, we could still have good days in the first two weeks of May if a cold front strong enough to push into the Gulf comes through.

Several species came to our attention during the season. The April 15 invasion of Hooded Warblers continued for about ten days, while the Gray Catbird one continued beyond the end of April. Some of the most sought after warblers were seen in good numbers: Cerulean and Golden-winged probably topped that list. Many Swainson's Warblers were seen, and we continue to wonder how much of that is merely because we have become better at detecting them. Kentucky Warblers were seen in numbers not before seen in the recorded history of Sabine Woods. Ovenbirds were well represented. Some normally plentiful warbler species seemed low. Northern Parulas possibly mostly overflowed during the early part of the season when the winds were so favorable for them. Likewise, Louisiana Waterthrushes were scarce early in the season, although there were more than usual in the middle of the season. So far at least, American Redstarts have not passed through in their normal high numbers.

Our two rare but regular warblers the migration paths of which are concentrated east of us were both detected. There were probably six different Cape May Warblers, two of which stayed for an extended period. The lone Black-throated Blue waited until May 1 to visit the Texas Point NWR parking area, and was there the following day as well.

Several families other than the warblers were also seen in good numbers. Gray Catbird has already been mentioned. Tanagers, especially Scarlet Tanagers, were in good numbers. The infamous freeze in February and the relative absence of rain in March and early April delayed the production and ripening of the mulberries which are the principal attraction to fruit eating species at Sabine Woods. Both Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks seemed in normal numbers. Somewhat paradoxically, while numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos were perhaps slightly above normal, Yellow-billed Cuckoos did not seem as plentiful as usual. Flycatchers were unremarkable, except perhaps to note that Scissor-tailed Flycatchers seemed in less than normal numbers.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Sabine Woods 17 April 2021

As Steve Mayes so eloquently describes below, not only was the Field Trip Day a very good day for migrants at Sabine Woods but the following day was even better. This report is a report on the weekend as a whole.

The weekend of April 17/18, 2021 will go down as one of the best birding experiences in recent memory. It was quite fortuitous that the Golden Triangle Audubon Society held a field trip to Sabine Woods on one of these days but it was really the entire weekend that was special. The numbers of birds present on the coast was as high and the diversity was as good as any day that most birders can remember. But the few days preceding the weekend were also pretty good and contributed some to what was to come.

Most birders know to look for fronts coming down with strong north winds and rain during April as this will often ground lots of birds. So, the birders waited anxiously, watching the approach of a front for the weekend and hoping it would pay off. Thursday and Friday had already produced good birding as a result of a previous front, but more was to come. It was obvious from the early morning drive to the coast on Saturday that it would be a good day. Indigo Bunting flitted along the roadsides by the dozen with an occasional flash of red or yellow joining them. Pulling up to Sabine Woods, there was no doubt that this would be a special day.

Summer Tanagers were feeding on the ground just inside the Sabine Woods property. The birds were able to fly but did not seem inclined to as they mostly ran around on the ground searching for insects. They had little fear of people and moved between the legs and feet of birders and picked mosquitos off of their pants legs! The tanagers jumped onto people's boots and even perched on a lap or two as they tried to refuel after a long difficult journey. It is hard to imagine that there are any two Summer Tanagers that have ever been as well photographed as these birds! They made quite an impression on the birders present and even the casual birders at the woods were amazed by these accommodating birds. The Summer Tanagers continued to delight the crowds throughout the weekend.

But a birder did not even have to enter the woods to get a nice show. Dozens of herons and egrets were gathered in the marsh across the street from Sabine Woods. Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets and Tricolored Herons were present in numbers along with White and White-faced Ibis. They were occasionally joined by Little Blue Herons or a Roseate Spoonbill for quite a display. Soras and Common Gallinules called from the marsh and glimpses were had of them now and then. Sedge and Marsh Wrens were also shy but could be easily heard. They were joined by Common Yellowthroats in the marshy chorus though the yellowthroats were easily seen inside the woods as well.

Perhaps the most obvious bird when starting into the woods during this weekend was White-eyed Vireo. White-eyed Vireos were everywhere! Down low in the brush? White-eyed Vireos. Up high in the tree tops? White-eyed Vireos. And a birder could not help but hear them give their "quick three beers" call from every corner of the woods. As lovely as these little vireos are, more than one birder grew a bit tired of looking at them after a

while! White-eyes were not the only vireos present either. Red-eyed Vireos were also present in some numbers and Yellow-throated Vireos sang their raspy songs from several locations as well. Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos were also seen but in smaller numbers.

Raptors were not particularly numerous on the weekend but there were a few notable sightings. A Crested Caracara flying over the woods has become commonplace now though it was a rarity a couple of decades ago. A Merlin using the woods as its hunting grounds is expected in the spring but that does not make it any less impressive when one of the small, aggressive falcons zips through the trees after some small songbird. A Great Horned Owl was perched in a large oak on the property next door (easily visible from Sabine Woods). A pair of these large owls nested on that property this winter and raised young so it was no surprise to find one still there. Most impressive were the Swallow-tailed Kites. These graceful raptors are staging a major comeback in Texas after being extirpated from most of their range decades ago. Even twenty years ago, Swallow-tailed Kites were a rare sighting on the upper Texas coast. Now, a birder should expect to encounter them on the coast at least once in the spring. On this weekend, two Swallow-tails perched obligingly in the eastern part of Sabine Woods while another flew over Texas Point NWR carrying a recently caught snake. Swallow-tailed Kites often snatch prey from the tree tops which is no doubt where this snake originated. A fun sight for the birder, not so much for the snake!

Some of the most numerous birds in the woods were Gray Catbirds and thrushes. Wood Thrushes were common across the woods, digging through the leaf litter in all corners of the property. Swainson's Thrush was also common and their buffy spectacles were usually easy to see. A few Gray-cheeked Thrushes were seen, perhaps a little on the early side. Reddish-brown Veeries were also found in small numbers during the weekend. Gray Catbirds were not present in small numbers, they were all over the woods! It is an expected rite of spring to have several days when dozens of Gray Catbirds take over the woods. Though there have certainly been days with more, this weekend produced more catbirds than most birders cared to count! A few Brown Thrashers, close relatives of the catbirds, were also present and were likely establishing nesting territories at the woods.

The Cardinal family was also well represented during this spectacular birding event. Northern Cardinals may be the best-known species of this group but they are not alone in this colorful group. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were common and seen eating hackberries and searching for ripe mulberries. Brilliant Painted Buntings were also present in smaller numbers and they are always a prized sighting by any birder no matter how experienced. Stunning blue Indigo Buntings were common throughout the woods and boiled from the roadsides all along the coast. These were among the most common birds of the

weekend. Some years ago, ornithologists decided that our Tanagers were actually more closely related to the Cardinals than they were to the tropical Tanagers and moved them into this family. Whichever family they belong to they are still a beautiful, colorful group of birds. The cooperative Summer Tanagers have already been mentioned but they were actually common all over the property and up and down the coast. Scarlet Tanagers were also seen on the weekend in small numbers and they are every bit as stunning as any “true” Tanager in South America.

Flycatchers and cuckoos are an important component of spring bird movements even if many birders are less excited about them than of more colorful groups. But Great Crested Flycatcher is somewhat colorful and Eastern Kingbirds are quite striking even if not brightly colored. Both were present over the weekend. And Yellow-billed Cuckoos may be commonplace but a cooperative Black-billed Cuckoo will get birders excited and both species were seen. And, yes, the duller colored flycatchers were around as well. Eastern Wood-Pewees were present in small numbers and are often better identified by call than sight anyway. *Empidonax* flycatchers are always a challenge to any birder but this early in the season only a couple of species are likely. The most likely is the large, long-winged Acadian Flycatcher. This is our local breeding *Empid* and they were seen often over the weekend and more importantly heard giving their distinctive “Pizza” call. May is the time for other *Empidonax* species, in April birders are ready to move on to the stars of the show – the warblers!

Warblers are small, often colorful, active and are used as a benchmark for any day of spring migrant birding. A day with lots of warblers is always going to be a good day and there are more than thirty species that can appear on the upper Texas coast. But they can't all appear on the same day, can they? Well ... Saturday produced a fantastic array of warblers. Ovenbirds were seen strutting along the ground and several shy Swainson's Warblers were found as well. One even came in for a bath in front of several delighted birders! Northern Waterthrushes were common even away from their typical waterside habitats. Louisiana Waterthrush was much less common but at least one was seen foraging around the drip pond. Worm-eating Warblers were common probing through clumps of dead leaves while numerous Black and White Warblers worked the bark on the trunks and branches of the trees. Tennessee Warblers were numerous, mostly high in the tree tops but only a single Nashville Warbler was located. Nashvilles are often hard to find in the Spring because of their migration pattern and are easier to find here in the fall. The Tennessee Warbler is abundant in both seasons. Kentucky Warblers are normally skulkers in dense vegetation but were so common on the weekend that they were easy to see for any birder. Bright yellow Prothonotary Warblers worked the ponds while multi-colored Chestnut-sided Warblers showed off in the trees. A few Yellow-rumped Warblers of the typical “Myrtle” variety were still lingering from winter and there was even one or more of the western “Audubon's” variety at Sabine Woods on the weekend. Halloween-colored American Redstarts actively flew here and there after insect prey while Black-throated Green Warblers were better at sitting still for the birders (and photographers). Common Yellowthroats were even more common than usual and small numbers of Magnolia

Warblers were also found, slightly on the early side for this species. Bright orange-faced Blackburnian Warblers are always a crowd favorite and Northern Parulas were easily seen and heard giving their buzzy songs. A Yellow Warbler or two were seen high in the trees and Blackpoll Warbler was also a nice find for the birders present. Yellow-throated Warblers can be hard to see as they creep along branches in the tree tops but a few were found. Cerulean Warblers are scarce and declining but still delighted birders on this weekend with multiple sky-blue males around. Hooded Warblers may have been the most common warbler in the woods for the weekend and appeared not only in their normal low, brushy habitats but also high in the trees where they are not usually expected to be found. Blue-winged Warblers were present in numbers and their highly-prized and beautiful cousins, Golden-winged Warblers were also found as they hung upside down while feeding. But the show also included a hybrid between these two species – the “Brewster's” Warbler! This is a bird that basically shows the body plumage of a Golden-winged Warbler with the facial pattern of a Blue-winged Warbler. This unusual bird was cooperative enough to hang around for several days and give many birders good looks at it. Perhaps the oddest warbler sighting was made in the Pine Trees on the eastern edge of the Sabine Woods property on Saturday – a Pine Warbler! Pine Warblers are expected on the property during the Fall and Winter but should be long gone to their breeding grounds by mid-April! All in all, some birders saw as many as 26 species of warblers in Saturday! There was no way to top that, right? Well ...

Sunday saw most of the same warblers as Saturday with a few changes. The Pine Warbler was not relocated but a Wilson's Warbler, another species scarce in the spring, was seen by several birders. The “Brewster's” was still around along with some of the other scarce species like Cerulean and Nashville. Bay-breasted Warbler is usually one of the latest warblers to show up in the spring but one beautiful male showed up on Sunday and showed off for the birders. Yellow-breasted Chats are not actually warblers but used to be lumped in with them. Even though they have been placed in their own family now, birders often still consider them honorary warblers and several were seen and heard during the weekend. Perhaps the star of the birding on Sunday was a gorgeous male Cape May Warbler seen just a couple of miles from Sabine Woods at Texas Point NWR. The normal range of this species is east of Texas so they are always a scarce and highly prized find during Spring migration. The warbler total for Sunday? Some birders recorded as many as 28 species!

Weather and good timing combined to create one of the greatest birding spectacles seen in the upper Texas coast for many a year. Not many who were present will forget the birding on this weekend any time soon. This is the reason birders from all over the country and all over the planet come to the upper Texas coast in April – to experience birding that can be matched by few places in the world. Hundreds of thrushes, buntings, orioles and vireos, unbelievably accommodating tanagers and an array of thirty or so warbler species all in one weekend! Surely this is upper Texas coast birding that would not be matched again for years, right? Well ... Would you believe it happened again the next weekend? But that is another story!

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – April 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: The change in the methodology of selecting sightings to include in this section reported in previous months in this commentary has reduced the number of reports that are merely expected migratory species that are less than one week "early" (or less than one week late leaving for wintering

species). We hope this will focus more attention on species that are seen at all only rarely.

However, we have had to make decisions on other matters. We have actually been omitting "exotic" species, most of which are escaped cage birds that have not established sustaining populations in the area, for some time now, and solicit any input on continuing that practice.

Another is a little more difficult for reasons related to how eBird indexes them. We have omitted hybrids except the well "established" Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler hybrids. They are included on checklists but it is very difficult to retrieve sightings of hybrid species after the initial report.

We have not included rarities reported on eBird checklists without details, photos, independent corroboration or other justification. We have reduced all Alder, Willow and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers reports to *Empidonax* species pending expert opinion on the details provided. These species can often not even be distinguished "in hand" during banding, and comparing calls is difficult to say the least.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Common Nighthawk	Apr 1-4	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Broad-tail. Hummingbird	Apr 2	JEF-Port Arthur-Griffing Park (1 male) Greg Jackson (continuing)
Rufous Hummingbird	Apr 1-9	JEF-Nederland (3 male) JJW'
Whooping Crane	Apr 5-14	JEF-TX73 nr Hamshire (up to 2) mult obs
Glaucous Gull	Apr 17	JEF-Hwy 87 W of Port Arthur (1) Tony Frank, Mike Austin
Wood Stork	Apr 10	JEF-SW (2 flyby N of Woods) JAW
Crested Caracara	Apr 26	HAI-Old Sour Lake Rd (1) Steve Glover, Greg Cook
Great Kiskadee	Apr 11-19	JEF-SW (1 heard in marsh S of Hwy, seen Apr 18) mult obs
Empidonax Flycatcher	Apr 16	JEF-SW (1) Timothy Freiday (reported initially as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher)
	Apr 19	JEF-SW (1) Shirley Wilkerson (reported as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher)
	Apr 21	JEF-SW (1) Farakh Jamalyaria (reported as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher)
	Apr 22	JEF-SW (1) Joan Kent, mult obs (reported as Willow Flycatcher)
	Apr 29	JEF-SW (1) Bob and Bettina Arrigoni (reported as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher)
Bell's Vireo	Apr 14	JEF-SW (1) Timothy Freiday (unconfirmed)
Warbling Vireo	Apr 1	JEF-Old Sabine Cemetery (1) MC. Kristin Ellington
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Apr thru 25	JEF-SW (1 fem) mult obs
Purple Finch	Apr 1-4	JEF-SW (1 fem) MC, SM, Kristin Ellington, Thomas Hellweg, mult obs
Pine Siskin	Apr 20	JEF-SW (1) Ross Foreman, JAW
	Apr 24	JEF-McFaddin Beach (1) Steve Glover, Greg Cook
Dark-eyed Junco	Apr 7	JAS-W of CR51 (3) Phillip Hight
Song Sparrow	Apr 29	SAB-Pineland (1) Davis Bell
Bullock's Oriole	Apr 30	JEF-SW (1 fem) John Allendorf, Matt O'Sullivan (unconf)
Brewster's Warbler	Apr 17-18	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
	Apr 24	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
	Apr 30	JEF-SW (1) Matt O'Sullivan, Jennifer Miller (not usual hybrid)

Mourning Warbler	Apr 24	JEF-SW (1) SM, JHH, Thomas Hellweg
Cape May Warbler	Apr 14	JEF-SW (1) JHH, Ruth Richards
	Apr 15-19	JEF-Texas Pt NWR (1) mult obs
	Apr 18	JEF-Sabine Pass Battleground (1) John Garrett, mult obs
	Apr 19	JEF-SW (1) JHH
	Apr 23	JEF-SW (1) Ray Campbell]]
	Apr 24-26	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Magnolia Warbler	Apr 9	TYL-Martin Dies Cherokee (1) Phillip Hight
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Apr 4	ANG-SW Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Apr 19	TYL-Big Thicket Pitcher Plant Tri (1) Suzanne Winckler
Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr 2-16	JAS-CR139 SW of Jasper (1) Fred Lyons (continuing)

Nearby Counties

Ring-necked Duck	Apr 17	HAS-just S of Houston IAH (2) Steve Butterworth, Darren Clark, David Belka
Surf Scoter	Apr 28	CHA-ANWR shore of East Bay (1) Dorian Anderson
Hooded Merganser	Apr 12	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Heidi Rutherford
Common Goldeneye	Apr 20-29	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1 fem) Eric and Maggie Carpenter, mult obs
Least Grebe	Apr 15-24	GAL-Galveston Is SP Restricted area (1) Kyle O'Haver, mult obs
E Whip-poor-will	Apr 4	HAS-Addicks Res N of Clay Rd (1) Dew Dickert, Anthony Colicci
	Apr 15	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
	Apr 22	HAS-Edith Moore (1) Ross Silcock
Allen's Hummingbird	Apr 19	HAS-N Shepherd (1) Kary Bledsoe (found dead)
Broad-tail. Hummingbird	Apr 1-2	GAL-Dickinson (1) mult obs
	Apr 1-28	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig (continuing)
Rufous Hummingbird	Apr 2-12	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
	Apr 5-6	CAL-Lake Charles (1 male) Irvin Louque
	Apr 8-9	CAL-Lake Charles 10th St (1) James Smothers, Cyndi Simon
Buff-bellied Humm'bird	thru Apr30	GAL-Santa Fe Ross Foreman
Sandhill Crane	Apr 2	HAS-Champion Forest (1+) Ross Silcock

	Apr 5	HAS-NE Heights (45) Mark Steuwe	Purple Finch	Apr 2	CHA-Baytown (1 fem) David Hanson
Whooping Crane	Apr 1-14	CHA-Oak Island Rd (2) mult obs		Apr 15-18	HAS-Lakewood West (1) Jennifer Bigelow
Hudsonian Godwit	Apr 14	CAL-Lafleur Beach (11) Devon Bosler, mult obs		Apr 26	HAS-Friendswood (1) Steven Berenzweig
Limpkin	Apr 7	CAM-Lake Arthur area (1) David Booth, Charlotte Chehotsky	Cassin's Finch	Apr 21-22	CAM-LA384 just E of LA385 (1) Suzanne McFatter (numerous expert opinions on ID of photo)
Harris's Hawk	Apr 4-29	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) mult obs	Yellow-head. Blackbird	Mar 31	GAL-Bolivar N Jetty area (3), mult obs
White-rump. Sandpiper	Apr 1	GAL-Pt Bolivar (1) Douglas McKay		Apr 10	HAS-Houston Heights Res (1) Mary Goldsby
California Gull	Apr 13	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Heidi Rutherford	Olive Sparrow	Apr 2	CAM-Sabine NWR Blue Goose Trl (1) John Sloane
Iceland Gull	Apr 11-12	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1 first yr) Cin-Ty Lee, Simon Kiacz mult obs	Clay-colored Sparrow	Apr 22, 27	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Pomarine Jaeger	Apr 8, 10	GAL-Bolivar Pen (1) Richard Liebler, mult obs	Vesper Sparrow	Apr 25	CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland Walkway (2) Roger & Kathleen Horn, Tom Cook
	Apr 9	GAL-Rollover Pass (1) Wyatt Egelgoff	Green-tailed Towhee	Apr 27-30	GAL-Dos Vacas Metchis (1) Chip Clouse, Steve Metchis, mult obs
	Apr 28	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Eric Ripma, Deb Fellows	Eastern Towhee	Apr 27	HAS-N of Cypress, W of Tomball (1) Cindy Crane
Parasitic Jaeger	Apr 10-11	GAL-HI Beach (1) Ian Davies, mult obs	Bullock's Oriole	Apr 14	CHA-FM1985 (1) Charles Askey
	Apr 18	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Mike Austin		Apr 30	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Brad Lirette, Mel C
Iceland Gull	Apr 24-27	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Troy & Marla Hibbits, Mult obs	Scott's Oriole	Apr 24	CAM-Willow Is (1) John Romano (extensive details, but unconf)
Great Black-backed Gull	Apr 1-5	GAL-San Luis Pass (1 1st year) mult obs	Golden-cheek. Warbler	Apr 11	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Peter Koper (unconf)
Wood Stork	Apr 8	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Vera Wiatt	Mourning Warbler	Apr 21	HAS-Heights (1) Alec Martinez
	Apr 9	GAL-Rollover Pass (1)		Apr 24	HAS-Woodland Park (1) Julie Francis
	Apr 10	HAS-Sylvan Beach (4) Jane Murtishaw		Apr 24	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Tony Dang (photo suggests possibly hybrid Mourning/MacGillivray's Warbler)
	Apr 20	CHA-Tx 124 S of Winnie (1) Carol Wells		Apr 29	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
	Apr 24	LIB-FM1410 Devers (4) Shelli Ellerbe		Apr 30	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Heydi Lopes, Alexandra Ratay
Magnificent Frigatebird	Apr 14	CAM-nr Peveto Woods (1 f, 1 Imm) Josh Engel	Cape May Warbler	Apr 17-24	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
	Apr 17	CAM- nr Peveto Woods (1) mult obs		Apr 17	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) poss same bird as seen at Smith Oaks
Ladder-back. W'pecker	Apr 4-24	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Rphit Agarwal, mult obs		Apr 18	GAL-Pt Bolivar (1) Cullen Hanks
Hairy Woodpecker	Apr 2	GAL-HI Hooks Woods (1) Peter Engler (unconfirmed)		Apr 15-17	GAL-Ft San Jacinto Historic Point area (1) Kyle O'Haver, mult obs
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Apr 18	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Jessica Thornton, Lea Carleton	Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Apr 14	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Empidonax Flycatcher	Apr 11	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Ruth Richards, Peter Koper (reported as Willow Flycatcher)	Western Tanager	Apr 12-19	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Michael Walter, mult obs
	Apr 12	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Ruth Richards, Lois Farrington (reported as Willow Flycatcher)		Apr 12	HAS-Briargrove Park Area (1) Sandi Templeton
	Apr 15	GAL-HI Eubanks (1) Ardell Winters (audio recorded; reported as Yellow-bellied Flycatcher))		Apr 22	CHA-ANWR exact location not specified (1) Kevin & Gail Keirn
	Apr 18	HAS-Edith Moore (1) Jim Hinson (reported as Willow Flycatcher)	Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr 1	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
	Apr 24	CAM-Holly Beach (1) mult obs (reported as Willow Flycatcher)	Lazuli Bunting	Apr 11, 17	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Black-capped Vireo	Apr 12-17	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Ann and Charles Robshaw, mult obs		Apr 19	HAS-Mercer Gdns (1) Christy Jones
Bell's Vireo	Apr 3	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Nick Ramsey (unconfirmed)		Apr 26-27	GAL-Dickinson (1) Clayton Leopold
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Apr 1	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs	Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; ANWR – Anahuac NWR; 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.		
Swainson's Thrush	Apr 1-8	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs			
	Apr 2	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Jim Hinson			
	Apr 2-5	GAL-HI Hooks Woods (1) Bob and Bettina Arrigoni			
	Apr 6	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Calvin Walters			
Hermit Thrush	Apr 26	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Kristine Rivers			

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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 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.