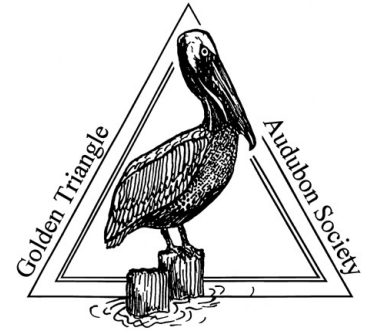


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

---

Vol. 28 No 4

April 2022

---

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday April 21, 2022 7:00 p.m.**  
**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Traveling for Birds**  
**Ann Kovich**

Born in Dallas, Ann Kovich moved to Tucson, Arizona in 1989 and this turned out to be the most significant move of her life since she discovered birding on a visit to Cave Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeast Arizona. In 1994 Ann returned to north Texas where she worked as a city planner before retiring in 2016.

As Ann says, she was born to be retired and has tried to make up for time lost during her working years to travel and bird around the world. She has traveled and birded in Mexico, Uganda, Ecuador, Malaysia, Indonesia, Argentina, Chile, Panama, France, Spain, Singapore, and North America. During the pandemic she has traveled in her camper van birding the east from Florida to Maine and Minnesota as well as New Mexico and Arizona. Her goal is to see over 700 ABA area (excluding Hawaii) species, even if it means she must go on a few pelagics (her current count is 693). Even though she has been birding for thirty years, her enthusiasm still compensates for her lack of technical birding skills, and she vows every year to improve her knowledge of vocalizations.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be available from 6:15 p.m.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 28, No.4 April 2022  
Issue number 282

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2022)

##### President

Christine Sliva

##### Vice-President

Steve Mayes

##### Treasurer

Harlan Stewart

##### Secretary

John Whittle

##### Directors-at-Large

Michael Cooper

Girish Doshi

Gerald Duhon

Sherry Gibson

John Haynes

Sheila Hebert

Thomas Hellweg

Gary Kelley

Steve Mayes

Dana Nelson

#### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

##### Program

Jana Whittle

##### Field Trips

Steve Mayes

##### Conservation

Gary Kelley

##### Membership, Publicity

Denise Kelley

##### Education

Volunteer needed

##### Webmaster

Jeff Pittman ([geojeff@geojeff.org](mailto:geojeff@geojeff.org))

##### Facebook Administrators

John Mariani

Jana Whittle

##### Newsletter Editor

John Whittle

([gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com))

*The Brown Pelican* is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292  
email: [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com)

## Calendar of Events

*Important Note: Field Trip notices published here are subject to last minute changes, which will always be posted on the web site at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org).*

**Future Programs and Field Trips. (All future events are subject to change).** The latest information is always available on the web site at [goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://goldentriangleaudubon.org).

**Thursday April 21, 2022. Membership Meeting.** See page 1 for details.

**Saturday April 23, 2022. Field trip to Sabine Woods.** This trip will look for Neotropical migrants at the height of spring migration. 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. Be sure to park your vehicle so that all of it is well clear of the highway. Portable toilets 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 have been very active, so there will be holes to avoid! There is a \$10 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are **not** members of Golden Triangle Audubon or TOS.

**Saturday May 14, 2022. 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 Migration Count/International Migratory Bird Day is the Second Saturday in May. Usually, this means it is the day before Mother's Day (the Second Sunday in May in the US). About once every five years, Mother's day is in the weekend

before Migratory Bird day, and that is the case this year! 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. If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would appreciate your help! Contact John Whittle ([gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com) or 409-722-4193) for further details or offers to help.

## 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](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com).

**Saturday, 21 May 2022. Field Trip to Hardin County.** 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. This area is also one of the easiest places to

find breeding Prairie Warblers, typically in plantations of about 20-foot tall young pines. Usually, 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.



EarthShare of Texas represents Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society in payroll contribution programs in workplaces throughout Texas. For more information about how you can support Audubon Foundation of Texas and the National Audubon Society at your workplace, call 1-800-GREENTX, or visit [www.earthshare-texas.org](http://www.earthshare-texas.org)

## 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 2022 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/membership blank on the back page.

For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

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

We would very much encourage you receive the Brown Pelican electronically as this saves paper, cost and volunteer time. To start that, simply send an email to [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com) from the address you want us to use.

## Sabine Woods Work Day

Another excellent Work Day was held on Saturday March 26 at Sabine Woods, with a record 28 volunteers contributing to the effort on the day. We thank each and every one of the following for their splendid accomplishments:

Andy Allen, David Bell, Melissa Chaisson, Linda and Howard Davis, Liz Dennis, Charles Fischer, Claudia Gilson, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, Greg Jackson, Denise and, Gary Kelley, Steve Kuritz, Steve Mayes, Andrea Nauman, Jim Nauman, Dana Nelson, Frank Ohrt, Greg Reynolds, Sherrie Roden, Dania Sanchez, Christine Sliva, John Smelser, Harlan Stewart, Callie Summerlin, Jana Whittle. Ashley Fuselier had worked in the days and months before the Work Day.

We got a lot accomplished. One focal area this time was filling in armadillo holes which had become unusually numerous. We trimmed and mowed the trails and meadows. We mowed the meadows. John Smelser tested and recertified the backflow preventer saving us a substantial plumbing charge. *John Whittle*

## Pesticide Spraying on National Wildlife Refuges Needs to Stop, Advocates Say

*Green groups are urging the federal government to ban harmful agricultural chemicals on public lands set aside for vulnerable species.*

*By Andy McGlashen*

*Associate Editor, Audubon Magazine*

*From the Audubon Web Site; March 15, 2022*

You could fit all the world's Alabama cavefish in a five-gallon bucket. About two inches long with no eyes or pigment, they are some of the rarest fish in North America. Maybe 100 remain, and they're only known to exist in the dark, subterranean pools of a single cave in Lauderdale County, Alabama.

In 1997 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) established Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge to protect habitat for the cavefish and the gray bat, both listed as endangered species. Groundwater contamination is among the biggest threats to the cavefish, and one potential source of that pollution is row-crop agriculture near the cave. "The

application of pesticides to these crops may impact the fauna in Key Cave," the FWS wrote when it listed the species as endangered in 1988.

Even so, about one-quarter of the 1,060-acre refuge—a designated Important Bird Area that hosts several avian species in decline, such as Grasshopper Sparrows, Short-eared Owls, Loggerhead Shrikes, and Northern Bobwhites—today is used to grow crops like corn and millet. And despite the acknowledged ecological risks of pesticide contamination, those fields have in recent years been treated with glyphosate, dicamba, and other toxic agricultural chemicals that have been shown to harm wildlife

In 2020, refuge biologist William Gates alleged, in a complaint to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General, that the way farming was being practiced at Key Cave violated a federal refuge-management law. Among other problems, Gates wrote that refuge officials approved pesticide use despite a lack of required buffers—strips of vegetation intended to prevent chemicals from running off of fields to sinkholes that feed into the cave. Interior has not announced any formal response to that complaint.

Key Cave is not alone. Citing concerns about refuges across the country, a pair of advocacy groups in late February formally petitioned the FWS and its parent department, Interior, to ban agricultural pesticides on refuge lands. "The use of harmful agricultural pesticides to grow commercial row crops such as corn and soybeans on national wildlife refuges—the only public lands where wildlife must come first—defeats the objectives of the Refuge System and poses a significant threat to the species that rely on these refuges and the habitats that they provide," the Center for Biological Diversity and the Center for Food Safety argue in the petition, which also raises concerns about the health impacts on refuge workers and visitors.

All told, farmers sprayed more than 350,000 pounds of pesticides on 363,000 refuge acres in 2018, the most recent year with complete data, the groups say, citing an earlier Center for Biological Diversity report. That marked a 34 percent increase from the 270,000 acres treated in 2016.

The FWS allows private farmers to use some public refuge lands on the condition that they leave a portion of their crop unharvested—20 percent, in the case of Key Cave—as a welcome source of calories for migrating birds and other wildlife. Much of this crop production happens on land that was farmed before it was absorbed into the refuge system. The agency works with farmers to transition some farmland to native grasses and other natural habitat.

A spokesperson said the FWS is aware of the petition but declined to answer questions from *Audubon*.

The pesticides sprayed on wildlife refuges include controversial chemicals whose impacts on human and environmental health have come into greater focus in recent years. For example, glyphosate, the active ingredient in the widely used herbicide Roundup, has been linked to cancer, birth defects, and a host of other health problems. In 2021, the EPA found that glyphosate is "likely to adversely affect" 1,676 federally threatened or endangered plants and animals—93 percent of all species evaluated, including 88 birds.

Imidacloprid, just one of many insecticides in the neonicotinoid class, likely has adverse impacts on 80 percent of species evaluated, according to the EPA. Neonicotinoids have been shown to harm avian species, with one 2020 study linking their increased use to annual declines of grassland and insectivorous birds in the United States, by 4 and 3 percent a year, respectively.

The herbicide dicamba is notorious for drifting from treated fields onto neighboring lands and harming trees and other wild plants. Last year, Dale Bumpers White River National Wildlife Refuge in Arkansas reported to the EPA that drifting dicamba from outside farmland damaged 160,000 acres of its property. Yet in recent years the refuge—a major winter haven for waterfowl—approved dicamba spraying on

its own farmland, the groups say, though refuge officials appear to have phased out its use by the time of its report to the EPA.

The petition calls on the FWS to immediately stop approving new pesticide use on refuges; restore a 2014 ban on genetically engineered crops and neonicotinoids on refuges, which was revoked in 2018; and begin a public rulemaking process to end all use of agricultural pesticides on wildlife refuges. It follows more than a decade of lawsuits and campaigning on the issue by the Center for Food Safety and other groups.

Their proposal has support from scientists. "There really is little justification for using insecticides and seed treatments in a wildlife reserve in my opinion," said Christy Morrissey, a University of Saskatchewan ecotoxicologist who studies pesticides, in an email. "Dicamba and neonicotinoids have very high toxicity profiles to birds and insects even in low concentrations."

Gates, who retired as Key Cave biologist just after lodging his complaint, is not the only former refuge employee concerned about agricultural chemicals. *Audubon* spoke with a former refuge manager who, upon assuming that role a decade ago, was surprised both by how little refuge officials knew about pesticide application on the sanctuaries and by the number of chemicals in use. "The regional biologist told me that it was highly unusual for people to take this process very seriously," says the former refuge manager, who spoke on condition that their name be withheld. They also noted that—like at Key Cave—farmers were not using required buffers to keep pesticides out of waterways. "There were many, many holes in the system."

Only a tiny fraction of the refuge system's 95 million land acres is treated with pesticides, and it's a vanishingly small slice of the nation's 895 million acres of agricultural land. But *(continued on page 7)*

Pesticide Spraying (cont from page these are no ordinary acres, wildlife advocates note. The 568 national wildlife refuges were created specifically to protect important habitat, often as stopover sites along avian migration flyways and in many cases offering access to nature near cities. They provide habitat for more than 380 threatened and endangered species and some 700 bird species.

The relatively small scale of pesticide use in refuges is not an argument for allowing it to continue, but all the more reason to put an end to it, says Hannah Connor, senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity. "It's not a huge economic driver of the refuge system, and it is truly problematic in terms of fulfilling its mission and goals," Connor says. "That just means it should be a no-brainer to be able to look at what significant harms could befall wildlife from these practices on wildlife refuges and say: No more."

*A blanket ban on herbicides would hinder efforts to eradicate invasive non-native plant species, and would make it essentially impossible to eradicate, for example, tallow trees. While a careful scientific evaluation of pesticides must be conducted before they are authorized for widespread use, all too many of the evaluations the environmental community has*  
*Continued on page 7*

## Field Trip to Bolivar Flats – 26 March 2022

It was obvious from the start of the March field trip for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society that people are a bit tired of being cooped up and were ready to get outside and do some birding! More than a dozen birders showed up bright and early at the Houston Audubon Bolivar Flats shorebird sanctuary for a fun day at one of the best birding areas in the state. The Bolivar peninsula holds thousands of shorebirds, gulls and other species and March is an excellent time to visit as it is possible to see both lingering winter species and newly arrived spring migrants. With that in mind, the birders headed onto the flats!

Some birds were obvious from the start. A couple of Marbled Godwits were close by which was nice as often they are only found well out onto the flats. Long-billed Curlew was also spotted which is the largest shorebird in the area. Sanderlings are always common here and this day was no exception. Ring-billed Gull, not always the common gull on the flats was seen right away though Laughing Gulls were still much more common. Willets were obvious from the start as they were both numerous and noisy! The Eastern Willets were well dressed in breeding plumage and starting to establish nesting territories. Least Sandpipers were found in small numbers and a Black-bellied Plover or two were spotted in the distance. A Wilson's Plover was spotted near the shore, the first of the season for many of the birders present.

Moving further out onto the flats, one thing was very obvious: the combination of low tide and a strong north wind combined to make the flats even more extensive than usual. Although this reveals more habitat for more birds it can also mean that the birds are very spread out and more walking will be needed to see them. That was certainly the case for the GTAS group as extensive walking was needed to see all the birds! But that long walk was rewarded with lots of good birds. An unusual sight was a small group of American Golden-Plovers on the flats. This is a species more at home on short grass pastures and prairies than on coastal mudflats but newly arrived birds may stop briefly before heading inland. The group also came upon more of the small plover species with Piping being numerous and Snowy present but a little more elusive. Semipalmated Plovers did not start to become common until the birders finally got near the far edge of the flats where they were extremely common. Royal and Forster's Terns were easily found on the flats but Sandwich, Caspian and Least Terns were also spotted eventually. A couple of Gull-billed Terns out on the flats was a nice find and a small flock of Black Skimmers was welcomed by the birders.

One of the highlights at Bolivar Flats has to be the Reddish Egrets. This is likely the best spot on the upper Texas coast to see the species and there was a cooperative white-morph bird doing the characteristic odd feeding behavior of the species. Other common species of the flats were found in better numbers. Brown Pelicans and American White Pelicans (some showing the "horn" on their bills acquired in breeding plumage) were common on the day and multiple Ospreys were seen flying over, some carrying fish. Hundreds of Scaup flocked off shore with a few Red-breasted Mergansers nearby.

The American Avocet flock is always an anticipated attraction at this location and the birds did not disappoint. Many of the Avocets were obtaining their rust-colored breeding plumage and they flew, fed and waded around the flats in large numbers. Dunlin and both yellowlegs species were also located on the extensive flats.

But Bolivar Flats is not the only good birding spot in the area and the birders decided to hit several more before calling it a day. Bob's Road was the first stop and it produced Common Gallinules, White Ibis, Northern Mockingbird and some cooperative Bonaparte's Gulls at the end of the road. Despite extensive recent changes, Rollover Pass is still a great birding area and it produced some birds for the group as well. Another Reddish Egret was located here along with additional Wilson's Plovers, Long-billed Curlew and Marbled Godwit. A

The last stop of the day for most of the birders was Houston Audubon's Smith Oaks sanctuary. The rookery there remains one of the more impressive birding spectacles in the area and was well appreciated by the assembled birders. Hundreds of Great Egrets, Snowy Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, Neotropic Cormorants and others species crowded onto small trees and artificial nesting platforms to build their nests. A few already had eggs in them and defended their area fiercely. Songbirds were also located in the wooded areas of the sanctuary including Carolina Wren and numerous Yellow-rumped Warblers. Northern Parula and Louisiana Waterthrush represented the spring migrants and birds like Blue-headed Vireo lingered from the winter. Some birders decided to bird on in the High Island/Anahuac area while others left at this point to head for home.

It was nice weather and excellent birding for the GTAS group and all appreciated the chance to get out and enjoy it. Bolivar Flats and the Smith Oaks rookery are two of the best guaranteed spots on the upper Texas coast to see lots of birds in spring and both made for excellent birding locales for the group as they do every year. Upper Texas coast residents are truly lucky to have so many quality birding destinations so nearby. And with some of the participants picking up a bonus Whooping Crane along highway 73 on the way, could there be a better way to finish a great birding day? Maybe the group can top it on the April field trip to Sabine Woods!

The following species were noted by the field trip leaders:

Mottled Duck (2); Blue-winged Teal (15); Gadwall (20); Greater/Lesser Scaup (500); Red-breasted Merganser (2); Mourning Dove (6); King/Clapper Rail (1); Common Gallinule (7); American Coot (1); Black-necked Stilt (1); American Avocet (500); Killdeer (4); Black-bellied Plover (9); American Golden-Plover (3); Snowy Plover (5); Wilson's Plover (7); Semipalmated Plover (100); Piping Plover (60); Long-billed Curlew (3); Marbled Godwit (16); Ruddy Turnstone (2); Sanderling (110); Dunlin (20); Least Sandpiper (10); Western Sandpiper (35); Peep sp. (50); Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher (75); Greater Yellowlegs (2); Willet (51); Lesser Yellowlegs (8); Bonaparte's Gull (6); Laughing Gull (189); Ring-billed Gull (19); Herring Gull (3); Least Tern (4); Gull-billed

*Continued on page 7*

## Bird Sightings – March 2022

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. In most cases, we do not include birds that are "heard only" or probably hybrids.

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:** It is perhaps inevitable that the March report

includes many reports that are merely reports of species that are "early" migrants, and there are a large number this year. It is not clear whether this is an artifact of more observers entering their sightings into eBird or whether there are more early migrating birds. It also seems that the Jefferson County eBird filter treats many migrants as "not rare" much earlier than the filters for neighboring counties, so we do not always pick up the local sightings. Two species stand out as perhaps indicating the possibility of longer term trends – Wood Stork and Western Tanager. Wood Storks breed on the northern Yucatan coast and along the west coast of Florida. In Southeast Texas, until recently, they were seen only in post breeding dispersal in late summer. It has been assumed that these were birds from the Yucatan population but it would be nice to know where the birds seen locally in winter have come from..

T

### Core Counties (listed above)

Purple Gallinule	Mar 31	JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) HS, SH
Sandhill Crane	Mar 1	JAS-Jasper (45) Fred Lyons
	Mar 2	JAS-Sam Rayburn Overlook Park area (10) Phillip Hight
	Mar 10	TYL-Watson Preserve (heard) Timothy Thompson
Wood Stork	Mar 15	TYL-Watson Preserve (1) Timothy Thompson
	Mar 18	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) Gary Byerly
	Mar 17	JEF-Texas Point NWR (1) Gary Byerly, Maud Walsh
Ladder-back. W'pecker	Mar 6	JEF-Big Hill Rd (1) SM
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Mar 15	JEF-Hamshire-TX73 (1) Mary Fritz
Yellow-throated Vireo	Mar 13	JEF-SW (1) SM
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 20	JEF-SW (1) SM
	Mar 22	JEF-SW (4) Robert Thacker, HS
Prothonotary Warbler	Mar 13	HAL-Big Thicket Kirby Trl (1) SH
Hooded Warbler	Mar 13	JEF-SW (1) SM
	Mar 13	HAL-Big Thicket Kirby Trl (1) SH
Black-thr Green Warbler	Mar 7-31	JEF-SW (1) continuing
Painted Bunting	Mar 1-19	JEF-Nederland (1) HS

### Nearby Counties

Cinnamon Teal	Mar 1-6	CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) continuing
Surf Scoter	Mar 5	CHA-beach (2) Ron Weeks, Todd McGrath
Western Grebe	Mar 5	GAL-Galveston Channel (1) Theresa Pelia
Common Nighthawk	Mar 22	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Shane Cantrell
	Mar 29	GAL-Clear Creek Village (1) Jackie Farrell
Chuck-will's-Widow	Mar 5	Friendswood (1) Chris Bick
	Mar 5	GAL-Boy Scout Woods (1) Sandy Kohn
Chimney Swift	Mar 7	HAS-Exploration Green (1) Steve Rogow
Broad-tailed H'bird	Mar 10	CAL-Lake Charles (1) David Booth
Purple Gallinule	Mar 9	GAL-Smith Oaks (1) Ian Davies, Wyatt Egelhoff
Limpkin	Mar 1-14	HAS-Sheldon Lk SP (8) continuing
Pectoral Sandpiper	Mar 1	CHA-ANWR (10) Matt O'Sullivan

Franklin's Gull	Mar 4	HAS-Lynchburg Ferry (3) Geoff Butcher, Howard Smith
Iceland Gull	Mar 5-24	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) continuing
	Mar 29	GAL-East Beach (1) Wyatt Egelhoff, Kristen Vale
Glaucous Gull	Mar 8	HAS-Ash Lek (1) James Roieman
Brown Booby	Mar 5	CAM-offshore (1) Michael James
Pomarine Jaeger	Mar 28	GAL-High Island Beach (2) Richard Liebler, Dennis Cooke
Black Tern	Mar 1	HAS-J P Landing Pk (30) Mia C
Wood Stork	Mar 14	HAS-Little Cedar Bayou Pk (1) Jane Murtishaw
	Mar 17	HAS-E of Cypress (2) Jill McGowan
	Mar 19	GAL-Kemah 57-Acre Park (16) Brian Berry
	Mar 19	GAL-Smith Oaks (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
	Mar 26	HAS-Hwy 8 W of IH-69 (9) Dorian Anderson, Todd McGrath
	Mar 29	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve (1) Roger Howard
Magnificent Frigatebird	Mar 13	GAL-nr Stewart Beach (1) Mark Cole
Least Bittern	Mar 6-21	GAL-Smith Oaks (1) continuing
	Mar 14	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) James Smithers, Madeline Wianscott
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 5	HAS-Pine Gully Park (1) Davis Clat, Debbie Repasz, Al Zucha
	Mar 7	LIB-Liberty (1) Shellie Ellerbie
Mississippi Kite	Mar 7	HAS-Memorial Park Eastern Glades (1) Vaughn Phillips, Julie Francis, Stanley Almoney
Swainson's Hawk	Mar 19	HAS-La Porte (40) Lynn Wright
	Mar 23	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Cheryl Huner
	Mar 26	CAM-Hackberry (1) Eric Ripma
Red-naped Sapsucker	Mar 5	HAS-Glenwood Cemetery (1) continuing, mult obs
Ladder-backed W'pecker	Mar 12	HAS-Geo Bush Pk (1) Janet Daghi
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Mar 25	GAL-Boy Scout Woods (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Least Flycatcher	Mar 1	CAM--Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) Esme Rosen
Vermilion Flycatcher	Mar 16	CHA-Trinity Rover-Wallisville (1) David Cook
Dusky-cap. Flycatcher	Mar 3-31	GAL-Smith Oaks (1) continuing
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Mar 1	CAM-Creole (1) Esme Rosen

	Mar 8	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Pk (1) Robert Rogilio
	Mar 12	CAM-Johnson Bayou (1) Deb Ford
Western Kingbird	Mar 12	CHA-Ft Anahuac Park (1)
	Mar 20	CAM-Chalkley Rd (1) James Smithers, Nick Ramsey
Eastern Kingbird	Mar 31	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Paul Sivon
	Mar 19	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (3) Nick Ramsey
	Mar 20	CAM-Pine Pasture Rd (1) Nick Ramsey, James Smithers
	Mar 20	CAM-Willow Is (1) Nick Ramsey, James Smithers
Yellow-throated Vireo	Mar 1	CHA-ANWR (1) James Runkle
Cliff Swallow	Mar 6	CHA-ANWR Visitor Info Station (2) mult obs
Bewick's Wren	Mar 4-8	HAS- Sharp Road (1) continuing
Golden-crowned Kinglet	Mar 27	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Lance Pawlik
	Mar 28	GAL-Carbide Park (11) Robert Becker
Clay-colored Sparrow	Mar 31	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Keith Alderman
Henslow's Sparrow	Mar 3-10	HAS-Barker Res. (1) continuing
Spotted Towhee	Mar 3	HAS-J P Landing Pk (1) Kendra Kocab, mult obs
	Mar 15	HAS-Ash Lake (1) James Rieman
	Mar 22	HAS-Challenger 7 Memorial Park (2) Chris Bick
Yellow-head.Blackbird	Mar 3-18	HAS-Pear Orchard Rd (up to 4) continuing
	Mar 31	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Richard Gibbons
Western Meadowlark	Mar 8	HAS-J P Landing Pk (1) Timphy Friday
Louisiana Waterthrush	Mar 13	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1)Elle Bow, Robert Rogilio, mult obs
Ovenbird	Mar 15-16	GAL-Smith Oaks (1)m Madeline Wainscott, mult obs
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 16	CAM-Peveto Wdds (1) Charlotte Chehotsky
Hooded Warbler	Mar 8	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Vicki Miller
Northern Parula	Mar 1	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Gina Beckman, Rene Guilbeau
	Mar 2	HAS-Alexander Deussen Pk (2) Ray Orter
Tropical Parula	Mar 4-19	HAS-Hermann Park (1) continuing
Nashville Warbler	Mar 2	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Leo Costello
	Mar 14	CAM-Willow Is (1) James Smithers, Madeline Wainscott
	Mar 19	HAS-Woodland Park (1) mult obs
Yellow-throated Warbler	Mar 4	CAL-Lake Charles (1) David Booth
Prairie Warbler	Mar 14	CHA-ANWR Skillern (1)
Black-thr Green Warbler	Mar 25-27	CAM-Peveto Woods (3) Pamela Morgan, Eric Ripma, mult obs
	Mar 26	GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Richard Liebler
Western Tanager	Mar 1-8	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Pk (2) continuing
	Mar 15-16	HAS-Southwest Houston (1) Dana Turner
	Mar 16	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Dave Patton
	Mar 20,25	HAS-W Memorial area (1) Kristie Tobin
	Mar 20	HAS-W of Tomball (1) Kelly LeBilkanc
	Mar 23	HAS-Edith L. Moore (1) Karl Poetzl
	Mar 24-28	HAS-Edith L. Moore (1)Jim Hinson, Dimitris Dimopoulos, mult obs
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Mar 19	HAS-Southwest Houston (1) Debbie Monce

	Mar 24-28	HAS-Edith L. Moore (1) Jim Hinson, Dimitris Dimopoulos, mult obs
Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 12-20	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1 male) Dale Wolck, mult obs
	Mar 12	GAL-NW League City (1) Brian Anderson
Painted Bunting	Mar 11-16	HAS-FM1960 W of Cypress (1 male) Carrie Koch
	Mar 23	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Paul Sivon

**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;; 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.

## Pesticides *Continued from page 4*

*embraced have lacked acceptable scientific and statistical methodology, and many of the efforts to cease use of existing pesticides have simply been attempts by plaintiff's lawyers to generate new business. The environmental community needs to ensure it does not unquestioningly endorse such efforts*

*Insecticides do tend to be of more concern than herbicides, because animals and insects share many metabolic pathways and processes, and thus an agent that interferes with a process in one species may well have a similar effect in many widely different organismz.*

*Pesticide application on Wildlife Refuges, in my observation, tends to be very focused on small areas, and only rarely is any application on a large scale, for example from aircraft, because managers are very concerned to avoid any collateral damage, Agricultural practices tend to be less focused. -- Editor*

## Field Trip *continued from page 5*

Tern (2); Caspian Tern (3); Forster's Tern (175); Royal Tern (112); Sandwich Tern (3); Black Skimmer (10); Anhinga (2); Neotropic Cormorant (175); American White Pelican (75); Brown Pelican (77); Great Blue Heron (5); Great Egret (82), Snowy Egret (42); Little Blue Heron (2); Reddish Egret (2); White Ibis (20); Roseate Spoonbill (79); Black Vulture (12); Turkey Vulture (13); Osprey (6); Red-tailed Hawk (2); Blue-headed Vireo (2); Blue Jay (3); Carolina Chickadee (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (5); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (3); Carolina Wren (4); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1); Barn Swallow (2); European Starling (5); Gray Catbird (1); Northern Mockingbird (1); Swamp Sparrow (2); Eastern Meadowlark (1); Red-winged Blackbird (85); Great-tailed Grackle (12); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (30); Louisiana Waterthrush (1); Northern Parula (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (25); Northern Cardinal (5).

*Steve Mayes*

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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

#### Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to National Audubon Society, Memberships, PO Box 97194, Washington, DC 20090-7194. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Gift from: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed  Please bill me

Golden Triangle Audubon C2ZW250Z

### *Brown Pelican* SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to Golden Triangle Audubon Society (GTAS), P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292 or bring to any Membership Meeting. National Audubon Society (NAS) members with addresses within our official territory are automatically GTAS members without further payment, but are asked to contribute \$20 if they are able since we only receive a very small amount from NAS after the first year.

Subscriptions from NAS Members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$20 per year (Jan-Dec).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

### RARE BIRD ALERTS

Unfortunately, almost all the local and regional telephone Rare Bird Alerts have been discontinued in favor of various forms of Internet distribution.

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> Email alerts are also available for a fee.

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

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