

# *The Brown Pelican*



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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Vol. 28 No 7/8

July/August 2022

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**Membership Meeting  
Thursday August 18, 2022 7:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**The Amazon and the Marañon Rivers in Peru**

**Gary Kelley**

In early June this year our GTAS member Gary Kelley joined a rafting expedition on the Rio Marañon in the highlands of northern Peru. Gary will present a slide show starting at the Chan Chan archaeological site near Trujillo, Peru, 13 days rafting, and a day birding with a guide south of Lima. The rafting includes some white water up to Class III and visits to villages, schools and an Inca tomb along the river.

The Rio Marañon is the main headwater of the Amazon. This 182-mile float in Peru begins at an elevation of about 4000 ft above sea level where the river flows through a deep canyon and has frequent rapids comparable to the Lower Colorado River in the U.S. It is, unfortunately, threatened by a number of hydroelectric power projects with foreign backing. So far, these projects have not gone forward due to intense local resistance with some international help. Interestingly enough, the Marañon runs into the Ucayali not far above Iquitos, beyond which it is traditionally called the Amazon. At Iquitos, the river is 2000 miles from its mouth northeast of Belem, Brazil, but is at an elevation of only about 350 feet.

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.

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### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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## 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.*

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**Trip to Liberty Area. Saturday August 6, 2022.** During the first half of August each year, Swallow-tailed Kites congregate in the Trinity River bottomlands between Liberty and Dayton for two or three weeks before they migrate south for the winter. We will also be on the lookout for Wood Storks and even Limpkins

We will meet at 8:00 AM at the McDonalds at 1923 Highway 90 in Liberty. This is on the north side of the Highway at the intersection with Travis Street, one block west of Main St. The trip will probably not last much beyond noon.

We will check the area along Highway 90 between Liberty and Dayton, perhaps several times, and also the Liberty Municipal Park area. The relatively new Knobby Knees trail and boardwalk of the Trinity River NWR can be easily accessed from the park. The part of the trip looking for kites does not **necessitate** extensive walking, but the trail does. We will check the area for early migrants and other songbirds that may well nest in that area. In addition to the Swallow-tailed Kites, there will be Mississippi Kites flying low over the residential areas of Liberty north of US 90.

**Thursday August 18, 2022. Membership Meeting.** Program on Gary Kelley's Peru expedition. See page 1 for details.

**Saturday August 20, 2022. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats.** Meet the leaders at the vehicle barrier at Bolivar Flats at 8:30 a.m. Take Highway 124 south from Winnie about 20 miles through High Island. At the shoreline, turn right along Highway 87 and proceed approximately 25 miles through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you come to the intersection with Loop 108.

At that intersection, turn left (south – the opposite direction from Loop 108) on Rettilon Road to the beach. If conditions permit, drive onto the sand and turn right to the vehicle barrier (about 1/2 mile). It is about a 90-minute drive from Beaumont or mid-County to the Flats, assuming you do not stop to bird on the way!

Often, after birding the flats, the group proceeds to Fort Travis or to the Big Store to use the facilities and eat lunch. Many participants will bring their lunch, as options to purchase are limited.

The group may stop at Rollover Pass and will probably visit High Island on the way home, checking there for early southbound migrants.

By the time of this trip, there will be some southbound shorebirds on the flats. There should still be at least some of the summer residents still present. Again this year, some Red Knots spent the summer on the flats.

*To park on the beach, you will need a Galveston County Beach Parking Permit, obtainable for \$10 from most merchants on the Peninsula. (The Big Store opens at 7:00 a.m.)*

**Thursday September 15, 2022. Membership Meeting.** Details in the next issue of the *Brown Pelican* and on the web site nearer the time

## 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).

# Spring 2022 Migration – Sabine Woods

*We present here our annual review of spring migrants passing through Sabine Woods. This is the long version, with a table covering the entire season, and an extended discussion. Some species of interest that will seek out wooded areas but are predominantly wintering species, and one or two that are predominantly present only during the summer are included.*

## Methodology

We employ a methodology unlike that used anywhere else that we are aware of, that attempts, to the extent practical, to exclude duplicate sightings of the same birds on the same day. The base data set is provided by eBird and includes all sightings that have passed the eBird review process.

For March to May 2022, there are 73,500 individual sightings in the eBird database. Of these, 45,400 are from Sabine Woods. The number of Sabine Woods checklists in that period is about 960, and these constitute the raw data for this analysis. (This compares to about 500 in spring 2021.)

Each day, we first consider the species reported on that day, and the highest numbers of each species reported on that day. We then review other reports for that day, and evaluate whether that identification and number is reasonable in light of the checklists submitted by other experienced birders, especially those familiar with the area. Determining the number of any species that is present on any given day is not easy, although we will note that the agreement on numbers on days in April was in most cases quite remarkable. There are always some individual checklists with significantly higher numbers. Usually, such checklists have high numbers for more than one species, and we therefore do not use the numbers on that checklist. In fairness, it may well be that those numbers are nearer the actual number present, but it is more important to have numbers reported on a more or less consistent basis across multiple observers.

In most instances, an uncommon or rare species, or one that is "early" or "late", that is reported by only one party or one individual on a day when there were other experienced and reliable birders submitting checklists requires some corroboration such as a good description or an identifiable photograph. In some cases, the description was conveyed verbally at the time to one or more of our regular local birders. Relatively few checklists are submitted in March or May, so our analyses are probably most accurate for days in April.

The eBird filters can only be set at a county level, and there are some species easily found in the northern part of the county that do not come as far south as Sabine Woods. These do not show up on eBird as rare, but deserve that status as far as the Woods are concerned. We have treated them as rare in this analysis.

It should be noted that this methodology will count a bird present over several days once each day. No doubt there are many instances when birds remain overnight and are counted on two or more days, but we have no way of even estimating the "duplicate counting" that results.

We have excluded from the table, the few species that are 12-month residents of the Woods, such as some woodpeckers. We also excluded species like Great and Cattle Egrets, Red-wing Blackbirds, grackles and vultures which can be seen from the Woods mostly at great distances, but are typically

only recorded by a few of the observers present.

In instances where we conclude that a sighting is very likely correctly identified but there is no corroborating evidence, we have included it in the table with the number in parentheses.

The correct identification of some species is particularly troublesome. Until the last few days of April, an *Empidonax* flycatcher other than Acadian is very unlikely and can really only be confirmed by song. An occasional Louisiana Waterthrush does occur after about April 15, but we feel that this species identification from then on needs to be based on four or five of the plumage differences from the Northern Waterthrush and the characteristic tail movements. In many past years, Carolina Wrens have not been present in Sabine Woods. It seems likely that one or two were present in at least part of spring this year, but our regular experienced observers recorded the species on only a very few days. We wonder if many of those shown on other checklists were not House Wrens that were heard only.

We are grateful to all those who entered their sightings into eBird. A (very long) complete listing of the observers whose eBird checklists were reviewed is attached to this digital version of this article.

## Review of the Season

In 2022, only two weather events stood out. After a long stretch with nothing but fairly strong south winds, a frontal passage late on April 13 was followed by the arrival of a large flight in the late afternoon of April 14, but most of those birds left that evening. The largest influx of migrants occurred on April 25. Despite radar evidence of a large flight on April 24, very few birds descended into the woods. However, a frontal passage mid-afternoon on April 25 coincided with the arrival of another large flight, and the water features and trees were full of warblers. Probably most notable was the largest number of Bay-breasted Warblers any of the assembled birders had ever seen. Birding on April 26 was also excellent as many birds remained from the previous day, and another heavy flight brought in more birds. As has become normal, the number of migrants dropped off very sharply in the last couple of days of April and on into May. Birders who came out to see the results of a north wind on May 6 were rewarded by a fairly good diversity if not a huge number of migrants as radar suggested that the flight that day was not very heavy.

The table shows 11 20-warbler species days in April. The most diverse was the 27 species on April 15, which was in keeping with the normal pattern of more diversity around the middle of April, but larger total numbers of birds nearer the end of the month.

The list of species included in the Table is not completely identical to those in the 2021 but it is nonetheless clear that there were substantially fewer migrants seen, apparently only

about 80 percent of 2021. This is not evidence about the numbers of migrants actually crossing the Gulf of Mexico because wind and frontal passages, which vary greatly from year to year, strongly influence the number of birds that overfly the coastal woodlots and are thus do not feature in our analyses.

Based on the overall number of migrants recorded, for each species two thirds of the number seen in 2021 would be expected to have stopped over in Sabine Woods in 2022, but even that can be misleading as the differing weather conditions are not uniformly distributed across the season, and in spring, the migration window for many species is quite short.

For those of you who may be interested in some comparisons with previous years before those we describe here, the tables for year from 2000 on are available in the Newsletters on the website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org) Most are in the August issue each year, but it was September in 2000, 2003-05 and 2008-11.

In taxonomic order, the first non-waterbird family of interest is the cuckoo family. While the numbers are small, it is of interest to note that while Yellow-billed Cuckoo sightings were about two-thirds of those in 2021, Black-billed Cuckoo sightings were exactly the same as in 2021, which itself was nearly double the previous year. This suggests the population may be increasing.

As noted above, we have cut back on the number of waterbird, heron and egret species in the table, and the only heron that we considered was the Green Heron, which uses the pond-side habitat at Sabine Woods on migration. This year, the number was substantially down.

An unexpected finding was that Eastern Phoebes numbers were back up to those we saw in 2019. In March 2021, immediately after the February 2021 freeze, the numbers of this wintering insect-eating species were close to zero. To find the numbers back to normal after basically one breeding season was most heartening.

Great Crested Flycatchers nest at Sabine Woods, so entries on the table represent a record of their arrival in the spring. The conclusion this year is that they were a few days later than normal in arriving. The number of Acadian Flycatchers recorded this year was very substantially lower than 2021 (unusually high and 2020. Eastern Kingbirds and Scissor-tailed Flycatchers are much more closely related than their disparate appearances would indicate, and they share the same habitat preferences. The Scissor-tailed breeds in a relatively restricted range in Texas and Oklahoma, while the Eastern Kingbird is found in most of the eastern US and all except the southwest portions of the western states. In our area, Scissor-taileds are at the eastern edge of their range, while the Eastern Kingbirds are close to the western edge of their range in the southern tier. This year, Eastern Kingbirds were somewhat less numerous than average, while Scissor-taileds were a little more numerous.

Although not as numerous as in 2021, White-eyed Vireos were nonetheless in good supply, and, as usual, very vocal. Both Philadelphia and Warbling Vireos were in short supply this year, while Yellow-throated Vireos were unusually numerous.

Red-breasted Nuthatches have become established as a

wintering species at Sabine Woods in small numbers in recent years. No longer confining themselves to the pines along the eastern fence, they can be seen and heard anywhere in the Woods. The last report this year was on May 1.

After being hit hard in the February 2021 freeze, Ruby-crowned Kinglets staged an impressive surprising comeback. Golden-crowned Kinglets winter further north than Ruby-crowned and some years none are recorded at Sabine Woods. Those that do reach the coast are usually gone by the middle of March, but a relatively good number was seen in the first half of March. A good number of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers present in March and early April contributed to a good season total. Any effect there may have been in the February 2021 freeze has been overcome.

Over the last decade or so, Swainson's Thrush numbers seem to have been slowly dropping, while Gray-cheeked Thrush and Veery numbers have been steadily increasing. Gray Catbirds have always been numerous in April, some years more than others. The numbers recorded 2021 were very high, but the number reported in 2022 was less than in 2020.

With a cool early spring and relatively dry period following that, the mulberries in Sabine Woods were small and late in maturing. It was therefore inevitable that the numbers of fruit eating species would be very low, and this eventuated. Oriole numbers were most obviously lower and we wonder in any Orchard Orioles nested in the Woods this year. Baltimore Orioles and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks were scarce, although Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were very much nearer normal.

The big attraction on the Texas Coast in spring is, of course, the migrating warblers. Long time warbler seekers were somewhat disappointed in the 2022 season, with many of the sought-after species present in small numbers for only a few days each. The Woods have become the best place on the Texas Coast to find Swainson's Warblers on migration. To a limited extent, we may have become better at finding this very secretive species; however, the numbers have been relatively consistent over the last three years. There were two Cape May Warblers in late April, and another in May, a relatively normal showing. Cerulean Warblers totaled only about 20 percent of normal. Blackburnian numbers were similarly very low. On the positive side, there were about three times as many Blackpoll Warblers recorded as in the preceding years, in which, to be fair, the numbers were unusually low on a historical basis. Numbers of this species have always exhibited wide swings from year to year. Three Black-throated Blue Warblers was about normal for a spring tally of a species that tends to be more common in the fall.

Canada Warblers are more of a fall bird at the Woods, although there always seem to be a few in the late spring and probably many more overflying in May when the winds do not favor stopovers and there are only a few birders out. The 2021 numbers were pretty much normal. Wilson's Warbler is a species that winters in small numbers along the Texas coast, with most of the population going further south. Some years but not recently, a few have wintered in Sabine Woods. The few that are seen in the spring in the Woods are quite probably birds that wintered along the coast somewhere, because the migration path for birds coming from south of the US is almost exclusively circum-Gulf and the birds continue straight

north through central Texas.

Turning to the warblers that are more numerous in spring, both Ovenbird and Worm-eating Warbler numbers were very similar to 2021 when allowance is made for the overall reduction in migrant numbers recorded at the Woods. Even after careful evaluation of the identification of waterthrushes, we conclude that Louisiana Waterthrushes were seen in greater numbers than last year, but Northern Waterthrush numbers apparently tailed off as the season progressed, in concert with the increasingly dry conditions.

It is well known that Golden-winged and Blue-winged Warblers are closely related and occupy the same habitat stratum in their extremely similar ranges. The consensus over the last few decades has been that Blue-winged Warblers were outcompeting Golden-winged. We had been seeing a reasonable number of Golden-winged in Sabine Woods in the 2010 decade, but looking at the numbers for the two species in the very comparable 2020, 2021 and 2022 seasons, Blue-winged Warbler numbers showed little change while Golden-winged Warbler numbers declined precipitously. Three years is too short a time period to assess bird population changes, but the situation merits careful evaluation in coming years.

Black-and-white Warblers are always one of the most numerous warblers seen in the Woods, perhaps helped some by their greater visibility on the tree trunks.

Tennessee Warblers are a staple of the later part of the spring (with numbers fairly difficult to accurately estimate), but the evidence suggests very consistent numbers over the past three seasons. Orange-crowned Warblers are mostly a wintering species in southeast Texas, and relatively difficult to distinguish from Tennessee Warblers later in the season when both species may be present. Numbers seen in Sabine Woods were low in spring 2020, and again after the freeze in 2021, but were much higher in March 2022.

Nashville Warblers tend to be more plentiful in the Woods when they are southbound in the fall. The species is a circum-Gulf migrant, so not expected in any numbers at the Woods in the spring. The species was reported on many days in spring 2022, but on careful review, we note that the most experienced local birders reported the species on only a relatively few days. Many female Common Yellowthroats show a whitish eye-ring. It seems likely that this year, there were some Nashville Warblers, probably more than normal for a spring, but we hesitate to draw any conclusions from the data on hand.

Kentucky Warbler numbers appear to have increased significantly over the last three years. Hooded Warblers are always the most numerous warblers after the combination of wintering and transiting Yellow-rumped Warblers. Numbers over the last three seasons have not changed much if any, and it is a rare day between mid-March and the end of April that the species cannot be seen.

The American Redstart is the staple warbler of the last half of the spring migration seasons, in part because of their showy nature, and were present in good numbers. The results of the last three years do not show any indication of changing populations.

The archetypical warbler of the early part of the spring

migration season, the Northern Parula was present in 2022 in numbers very similar to those in 2021, which were significantly higher than in 2020 but not as high as in some earlier years.

The Magnolia Warbler is very much a late season migrant. The high numbers in 2021 were not matched in 2022, but there seems no reason for concern.

More than any other of the warblers we see in numbers each year, the Bay-breasted Warbler normally exhibits a very brief migration window, often only a few days. In 2022, as noted above, this effect was exaggerated and almost all of the migrants of this species passed through on April 25-27.

To beat the numbers of Yellow Warblers recorded in 2021 would have taken a massive flight, but numbers in 2022 were actually on the low side of normal. Being a late season migrant partial to wet areas may have contributed to this result.

A steady decline from 2020 to 2022 in Chestnut-sided Warblers will bear reviewing in the next few years. The species passes through late in the season and the dry conditions may have been a factor.

This was a very good season for migrant Palm Warblers, a species that mostly migrates and winters to our east. The migration window comprises the middle two weeks of April, and a total of 32 in that time frame indicates that the birds seen were in fact migrating and not winter residents, although they could have wintered nearby. This number is way higher than in recent years.

Yellow-rumped Warblers used to be present in almost all suitable trees in the greater Golden Triangle area, but have not always been there in recent years. Obviously Sabine Woods represents almost ideal wintering habitat for the species. The majority seen at Sabine Woods over the years have been early in the spring migration season, but with very limited numbers in December. Most seen in March are likely mostly migrating although there have been wide variations in the numbers. The Sabine Woods migration season numbers probably cannot be used to begin to look at any population trends.

Yellow-throated Warblers have a wide-migration window from early March through late April. Very small numbers of the species winter along the Gulf coast but not enough to influence an analysis of numbers migrating through. 2022 was an average year for the species.

Finally, among the warblers, we consider Black-throated Greens. Three birds of this species that spent the entire winter in Sabine Woods and seemingly rapidly grew accustomed to birders. The numbers shown in the table before mid-April were probably almost exclusively due to the presence of these three, and it is difficult to tell when early migrating birds passed through. This notwithstanding, it looks as if it was a good year for the species.

Drawing conclusions from the numbers of open habitat specialists can only be very tentative, since most birders focus most of their time and effort on the woodland species. The numbers of Blue Grosbeaks and Indigo Buntings do not indicate any significant differences in the last three years. Painted Buntings pass through in most of April, and numbers have been very constant recently.









## Sabine Woods -- Spring 2022 Migration

Species/Data	April														Apr Tot	May														May Tot	Season Total
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	24	25	28			
<b>No of discrete checklists</b>	23	28	28	21	29	15	37	22	29	40	28	16	22	31		21	8	4	4	2	10	7	1	1	6	1	1	1			
White-throated Sparrow		2		2	1	3									11															12	
Lincoln's Sparrow	1	1		3	1	1	2	1	1		1			32																43	
Swamp Sparrow	2	1	1	3	2	1	2		1					29																35	
Eastern Towhee	1	1	1	1										12																24	
Yellow-breasted Chat		8	10	8	1				1	2	2	2		1	40	1				1									2	42	
Bobolink			(1)											1															1	1	
Orchard Oriole	16	7	16	50	30	30	20	20	45	20	18	14	13	14	485	13	10	8	3	6	19	10	6	2	10	4	5	6	102	591	
Baltimore Oriole	11	1	5	1	2	2	2	7	4	3	1	3	1	5	72	2				2	3	1							8	80	
Ovenbird	5	3	5	5	4	4	3	2	42	23	10	2	6	4	152	7		6		6	1			1					21	173	
Worm-eating Warbler	3	2	5	5	4	2	3	1	3	3	10	4	2	1	98					4				1					5	112	
Louisiana Waterthrush									(1)	(1)	(1)	(2)	(1)	25	(1)															98	
Northern Waterthrush	7	1	4	3	4	5	4	2	5	4	3	2	4	4	74	5	2		2		3	2	1	1	2				18	92	
Louisiana/Northern Waterthrush				1	1	1							1	11																11	
Golden-winged Warbler		(2)			1					2	3		1	8	1				2										3	11	
Blue-winged Warbler	3	3	7	6	4	3	1		3	6	7		1	2	78	3				2									5	86	
Black-and-white Warbler	4	5	6	7	6	2	5	2	20	45	33	4	2	4	209	5	1		1	12									19	351	
Prothonotary Warbler	4	5	7	12	4	3			2	2	7	6	3	2	83	2		1		1									4	89	
Swainson's Warbler	2	3	1	3	3	2	3		1	2	1	1		42																43	
Tennessee Warbler	6	5	9	6	8	4	3	3	24	12	14	2	2	2	167	1	1	2			11	1	1	4	1				22	190	
Orange-crowned Warbler			1							1				23																81	
Nashville Warbler		2	2		(1)									11																18	
Kentucky Warbler	2	1	5	3	3	1	2	1	5	8	6	2	1	1	83					1		1							2	85	
Common Yellowthroat	4	7	10	6	8	5	3	4	8	5	6	4	3	4	154	3	3	2	1	1	6	5	1	1	4	2	4	1	34	274	
Hooded Warbler	8	8	10	8	6	3	6	2	16	38	25	6	2	4	281	2	1			2				1					6	470	
American Redstart	4	4	9	10	12	5	3	5	21	16	14	4	5	19	149	8		5	1	10	2		14	2	3	1			32	181	
Cape May Warbler							2	2	1					5						1									1	6	
Cerulean Warbler	1			1						1	3			9					1										1	10	
Northern Parula	1	2	3	3	3	1	5	2	4	6	5	1	3	1	147	1				1									2	296	
Magnolia Warbler	1		2	1	1	1		2	32	47	35	5	4	3	141	3	1	1	1	14	3	1		2					26	167	
Bay-breasted Warbler			2	1	1	2			45	25	31	1	1	1	111	4	2		1	21	1			1					30	141	
Blackburnian Warbler			1				(1)		3	3	3	1		12	2				6										8	20	
Yellow Warbler	7	10	14	19	15	20	16	20	19	3	3	4	14	15	188	12	3	1	2	15		7		4	3				47	235	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	1	1	2		1	1			17	15	13	1	1	58	1	1				11	1			2				16	74		
Blackpoll Warbler	4	4	3	2	5	5	3	2	4	3	1	1	2	1	45	1	1	1		3	1								7	52	
Black-throated Blue Warbler						1	1					1		3																3	
Palm Warbler	3	1	2	1				2	3					32																33	
Pine Warbler																														1	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	10	6	3	1	1	1			4	1			477																1052	
Yellow-throated Warbler	1	3	2	2	3	2	2	(1)	(1)		(1)			36																85	
Black-throated Green Warbler	2	6	12	10	8	3	3	2	20	3	7	1		135						15	2								17	197	
Canada Warbler	1	1	1								1	1		5						3					3				6	11	
Wilson's Warbler										(1)				4																5	
Summer Tanager	8	5	25	18	11	9	8	6	24	30	15	3	6	8	257	4	1	2		6				1					14	273	
Scarlet Tanager	7	5	30	14	6	10	6	5	27	18	7	3	5	6	208	5	5	2	2	2	5								21	229	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	12	5	28	27	7	12	9	6	20	9	12	6	6	15	195	5	3			2	1			1					12	207	
Blue Grosbeak	1	7	24	25	40	15	20	8	25	18	15	5	8	5	245	5	6	1		4				1					17	262	
Indigo Bunting	20	18	30	35	33	32	20	18	50	83	50	29	20	20	653	20	6	3	2	2	14	6							53	714	
Painted Bunting	3	5	3	5	8	4	2	4	5	3	4	2	3	2	69	3	2	3	1		2	1			2	2	3	2	21	90	
<b>TOTAL</b>	378	482	666	534	435	352	309	241	929	795	601	223	213	319	10725	265	130	58	28	21	328	89	30	50	87	41	83	26	1236	14794	

Checklists submitted to eBird by the following were consulted during the preparation of the table.

Wayne Alford, Donna Allen, Dorian Anderson, Susan Andres, Gary Andrews, Chris Arata, Raymond Ashcraft, Mike Austin, Madeline Averett, Zac Babbit, Jennifer Backo, Kenneth Bader, Srinivas-Karur Badmi, Linda Ball, Mary Barritt, David Barton, Kathryn Barton, Kate Baumbach, Theresa Bayoud, Riley Beach, Mary Ann Beauchemin, John Beaver, Tracy Becker, William Becker, Judy Behrens, Ken Behrens, David Bell, Katherine Bell, Cory Benton, Rachel Benton, Kenneth Berlin, John Berner, Gary Binderim, Kathleen Black, Malden Black, John Blackburn, Jeffrey Blanchard, Ken Blankenship, Jeff Blatz, John Bloomfield, Terry Bohling, Janie Braud, Mark Brazzil, Carla Bregman, Jennifer Bristol, Dan Brooke, Carolyn Broussard, Alasdair Brown, Laura Brown, Phillip Brown, Wes Browning, Hellen Brunson, Jimmy Bryan, E Buch, Dave Bucy, Mary Bucy, Brenda Burchard, Mary Burger, Christopher Burney, Hal Busch, Marissa Buschow, Fred Bushell, Geoff Butcher, Gary Byerly, Gene Campbell, Kim Canning, Darren Carbone, Charles 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## Bird Sightings – June and July 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:** Outside the counties we cover is a late July report of a Snail Kite on Lake Somerville (NW of Houston about 150 miles from the Golden Triangle). There are reports of it eating crawfish, so look carefully before dismissing a white rumped raptor as just a Northern Harrier!

### June 2022

#### Core Counties (listed above)

Limpkin	Jun 12	JEF-TP (1) Dana Nelson
Whimbrel	Jun 28	JEF-Pilot Station Road (1) Marilyn Guidry
White-rumped S'piper	Jun 14	JEF-TP (1) HS
Cooper's Hawk	Jun 24	JEF-Groves (1) Howard Davis

#### Nearby Counties

Northern Shoveler	Jun 17	GAL-Stewart Rd/8-mile Rd (1) Seth Kastner
Red-breasted Merganser	Jun 1	GAL-West Bay (1 female) Susan Heath
Common Ground Dove	Jun 29	GAL-HI Old Mexico Rd (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Whimbrel	Jun 18	GAL-Bolivar Flats (3) Wyatt Egelhoff
American Golden-Plover	Jun 8	GAL-High Is Beach (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Red Knot	Jun 5	CAM-Rutherford Beach (5) N Walker, K Hatfield, L Plummer
Stilt Sandpiper	Jun 11	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Davis Clay
Baird's Sandpiper	Jun 8	GAL-High Island Beach (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
White-rumped Sandpiper	Jun 16	GAL-Bolivar Flats (3) Wyatt Egelhoff
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Jun 2	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Brad Lirette
Long-billed Dowitcher	Jun 2	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Solitary Sandpiper	Jun 2	GAL-Bolivar Flats ((35) Wyatt Egelhoff
Pomarine Jaeger	Jun 16	GAL-beach just east of San Luis Pass (1) Mattie Elsik
Franklin's Gull	Jun 2	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Bridled Tern	Jun 2	GAL-offshore (1) Freeport Pelagic
Common Loon	Jun 1	GAL-West Bay (1 basic plumage) Susan Heath
	Jun 2	GAL-Texas City Dike (1 basic plumage) Debbie Repasz
	Jun 4	CHA-ANWR off Frozen Pt (1) Norman Welsh
Leach's Storm-Petrel	Jun 2	GAL-offshore (1) Freeport Pelagic
Band-rump Storm-Petrel	Jun 2	GAL-offshore (1) Freeport Pelagic
American Bittern	Jun 9	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Michael Kuzio
Northern Harrier	Jun 14	HAS-Friendswood (1) R C Clark
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Jun 7	HAS-US290 near Gessner (1) Drew Dickert
Belted Kingfisher	Jun 28	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Jonathon Lueck
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Jun 27	HAS-Little Cypress Creek Preserve (1) Linda Martin-Rust, Margaret Farese
Couch's Kingbird	Jun 1-28	HAS-Pine Forest CC area (2) Timothy White, mult obs

	Jun 4-30	HAS-Peckham Park (2 ad, 3 juv)) Dale Wolck, mult obs
	Jun 14	HAS-Kingwood-Northpark Dr area (1) Bill Allen
Eastern Phoebe	Jun 10	HAS-Pearland (10) Angie Westmoreland
Black-whiskered Vireo	Jun 7-12	CAM-Peveto Woods (2) James Smithers, mult obs
N Rough-wing Swallow	Jun 10	CAL-Pine Pasture Rd (8) J G Miller
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Jun 5	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve (4) Michael McCloy, Keith Andringa
	Jun 28-29	HAS-W of Geo Bush Park (10) Kevin Smith
Cedar Waxwing	Jun 4	HAS-Elanor Tinsley Park (2) Nina Rach
Yellow-throated Warbler	Jun 21	GAL-HI Eubanks Woods (1) Wyatt Egelhoff

### July 2022

#### Core Counties (listed above)

Swallow-tailed Kite	Jul 7	HAI-Lumberton N Main (17) Sherry Gibson
Whimbrel	Jul 6	JEF-Pilot Station Road (1) Marilyn Guidry
Tree Swallow	Jul 9, 18	JEF-TP Cell 4 (1) HS
Bank Swallow	Jul 18, 25	JEF-TP Cell 2 & 4 (1) HS

#### Nearby Counties

Cinnamon Teal	Jul 4	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve (3) Joanne Bradbury
Northern Shoveler	Jul 3-28	GAL-Hwy 197 Texas City (1) Allen & Michael Hardee, Regina Cooper
Gadwall	Jul 13-28	GAL-Hwy 197 Texas City (1) Allen Hardee
Lesser Scaup	Jul 24	GAL-Hall's Bayou (1) Brad Lirette, mult obs
Limpkin	Jul 13	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (3) Marie Asscherrick
	Jul 28	CAL-Lorraine Park (1), Mel Cooksey, Brad Lirette
Piping Plover	Jul 18-19	HAS-El Jardin Park/Beach (2) Andrew Hamlett
Snowy Plover	Jul 9	CAM-Hwy82 W of Johnson Bayou (1) Katie Barnes, James Smithers
Whimbrel	Jul 6-12	GAL-Hwy 87 betw Rollover and High Island (2) Wyatt Egelhoff
Marbled Godwit	Jul 4-6	HAS-Horsepen Creek Pk (1) Ross Silcock, Todd McGrath, mult obs
Red Knot	Jul 13	GAL-East End Lagoon (1) Dwayne Fan
	Jul 20-30	GAL-Bolivar Flats (3) Jim Highberger, mult obs
	Jul 22	GAL-Appfel Park (1) Jenna Atma
	Jul 27-28	GAL- High Island Beach (2) Wyatt Egelhoff
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Jul 31	HAS-Paul Rushing Park (1) Hank George

Wilson's Phalarope	Jul 26-28	Texas City Hwy 197 Ponds (1) Allen and Michael Hardee
Pomarine Jaeger	Jul 3-30	GAL-Appfel Park (1) Linda Kuhn, Kristen Vale, mult obs
	Jul 16-26	GAL-Bolivar Flats and further east (1) mult obs
Parasitic Jaeger	Jul 17	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Dwayne Fan
Belted Kingfisher	Jul 14	CAL-Edgerly Rd (1) Charlotte Chehotsky, David Booth mult obs
	Jul 14	CAL-DeQuincy (1) Dale Hamilton
Ladder-back. W'pecker	Jul 17	GAL-S of FM2004/FM646 (1) Kyle O'Haver, Wyatt Egelhoff
American Kestrel	Jul 8	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Alicia Watt, James Wheeler
Peregrine Falcon	Jul 18	CAM-Hwy 82 east of Johnson Bayou (2) Charlotte Chehotsky
Eastern Phoebe	Jul 22	CAL-Corbina Road (1) Winston Caillouet
Eastern Wood Pewee	Jul 1	GAL-Hopkins Park (1) Richard Liebler, Wyatt Egelhoff
Couch's Kingbird	Jul 1-30	HAS-Pine Forest CC area (3) Timothy White, mult obs
	Jul 13	HAS-Bane Park (1) Drew Dickert
Yellow-green Vireo	Jul 1	GAL-High Is Old Mexico Rd (1)

Tree Swallow	Jul 27	Wyatt Egelhoff (heard only but long recording)
	Jul 28	CHA-Hwy 565 1 mi N of IH10 (20) Gary Holmes
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	Jul 9	GAL-Hwy 87 in Rollover Pass area (3) Theresa McKay
Prairie Warbler	Jul 24	HAS-Jesse Jones Pk (2) Bruce Wilcoxon
Rose-breast. Grosbeak	Jul 11	HAS-Woodland Park (1) Mary Goldsby
		GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Cynthia Hughes, Greg Whittaker

**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; 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.

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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](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.