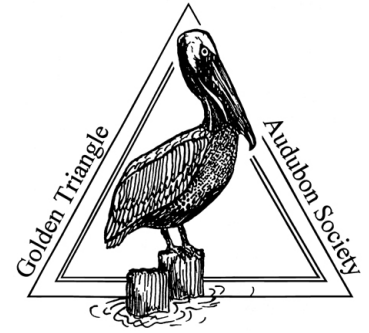


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 28 No. 11

November 2022

Membership Meeting and Pot-Luck Dinner Thursday November 17, 2022 7:00 p.m. Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont Your Favorite Bird Pictures

This month's program is one of our popular Favorite Bird Pictures. Dr. Harlan Stewart has again volunteered to prepare all photos submitted in advance into a Powerpoint presentation. The contributors of the pictures may, if they desire, talk briefly about their pictures telling where they were taken etc. Contributions should be no more than about 10 pictures. The pictures should be bird related and have been taken in the last two years, but do not need to be exhibition quality, especially if the subject is especially interesting for any reason.

In order to prepare a combined presentation, we will need to have the pictures by Monday morning November 14. They can be emailed as attachments to Harlan at hstewartmail@gt.rr.com If necessary, send several separate emails. The pictures can be compressed to about 50 percent of original to reduce the number of emails needed, but if you are not easily able to compress them, just send them without compression. If you cannot send them to Harlan by November 14, we may be able to show pictures you prepare yourself if they are on a flash drive, and are in the Powerpoint format. We much prefer advance submission, but, depending on how many are submitted, we might have time to show some photos that are not submitted in advance.

This is our annual Pot-luck dinner meeting. We invite you, if you are able to bring a dish or dessert. We will also be conducting our annual elections at this meeting prior to the program. We plan to have the doors open no later than 6:00 p.m., the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp

Note about Highway 124 Bridge

The Highway 124 bridge over Hillebrandt Bayou is currently closed. To get to Tyrrell Park from Highway 69, it is necessary to take IH-10 west towards Houston and exit almost immediately at the Walden Road exit, turning south (left) on Walden Road. Cross over Highway 124 onto Tyrrell Park Road and after 3/4 mile, turn left into Tyrrell Park as usual. The Garden Center is on the left, just inside the park.

The Brown Pelican

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Issue number 288

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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The Brown Pelican is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292
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Calendar of Events

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

Thursday November 17, 2022.
Annual Meeting Details on next page. This is also our Pot-luck dinner Meeting, See page 1 for details

Saturday November 19, 2022. Field Trip to West Jefferson County. In recent years, this has been one of our most successful field trips. The area is well known for its birds of prey, which in past years have included Bald and Golden Eagles, Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Hawks in addition to the more "expected" Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels. In some years we have seen White-tailed Kites and Merlins.

The area is well known as the wintering ground of what has become a large (about 1,000 strong) flock of Sandhill Cranes and is also one of the best places to see sparrows in the area. Depending on whether there are flooded fields, there may be ducks and geese also.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the "north/west" side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of IH-10 and FM365 in Fannett, proceed along FM365 (towards Nome) for about six miles. Shortly after you emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. It can also be reached by taking FM365 south from US 90 in Nome for 7.5 miles.

IH-10 is under construction and it may be better to take either FM365 all the way from mid-County or US90 from Beaumont to Nome, then FM365.

Toilet facilities are scarce on this trip, and you may want to stop at the Stuckey's at the IH-10/FM365 intersection. You can also buy breakfast or just refreshments there. It can be reached from westbound IH-10 or from the two-way service road accessed from FM365 0.2 miles north of IH-10. If you use the US90 route, there is the Big-Ds convenience store at the US90/FM365 intersection. Both are about 10 minutes

from the meeting place. Contact Field Trip chair Steve Mayes, gtaudubon@aol.com for further information. This will be a "car birding" trip, and car-pooling is desired. There is roadside parking at the meeting place

Christmas Bird Counts

A more comprehensive list of local counts will be included in the December issue. Here are the dates of local counts that we know of.

Johnson Bayou – TBA

Turkey Creek – Saturday Dec 17

Beech Creek – Tuesday Dec 20

Sea Rim SP CBC – TBA

Houston Audubon maintains a list of Texas Christmas Count dates at <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/cbc.html>

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.



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

Golden Triangle Audubon Society Annual Meeting and Elections 17 November 2022

The Annual Meeting of Golden Triangle Audubon Society will take place on Thursday 17 November 2022 at 7:00 PM in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, 6088 Babe Zaharias Drive, Beaumont, Texas 77705. At this meeting our Annual Elections will be conducted.

The term of the President Christine Sliva continues to the end of 2023. The Nominating Committee slate of candidates for the other officer and board position for terms 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023 is as follows:

Vice-president: Steve Mayes
Treasurer: Harlan Stewart
Secretary: John Whittle

At-large Board members: Girish Doshi, Gerald Duhon, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Sheila Hebert, Thomas Hellweg, Gary Kelley, Dana Nelson.

Nominations from the floor at the meeting will be in order if accompanied by affirmation by the nominee that s/he will serve if elected. This may be written or given orally at the meeting.

Michael Cooper declined for personal reasons to stand for re-election. We thank him for his service.

We thank the Nominating Committee: Sherry Gibson, Claudia Gilson, Dana Nelson and Christine Sliva for their work.

John A. Whittle, Secretary

Dissecting Owl Pellets

I was recently asked by Rebecca Woodland, Tyrrell Park Nature Center Manager, if I would be interested in helping with their first after school program. This would be an interactive group of 4th and 5th graders dissecting owl pellets. Well, she didn't have to ask me twice. I was joined by another GTAS member that was just as eager to help out. Thank, you Dania Sanchez! What's an owl pellet? It's not poop! It's a **compacted hard mass of indigestible material**, comprised mostly of fur, bones, and feathers. Owls do not have teeth so they take large bites of their food and swallow everything without chewing. Sometimes if their food is small enough, they will swallow the unfortunate animal whole. After a few hours of consuming the meal, the owl will regurgitate a mass called a pellet. The pellet can contain evidence of two animals. Now to find out just what did the owl eat!

Each student received an owl pellet, latex gloves, plastic tweezers, magnifying glass, and a bone chart. The majority of kids were eager to get started, grabbing their pellet and pulling it apart. There were a couple of kids, not so eager, "I'm not touching that!" Within a short period of time curiosity had won, the not so eager soon shouted "I found a bone!" Bones were being matched up to bone charts displaying rodent, shrew, mole, and bird. You may not get a complete skeleton, but you will learn what an owl has eaten. You can bet the next day at school those that attended had something to talk about!

This interactive, science & nature exploration activity took place at **Tyrrell Park Nature Center. This is the newly renovated, historic white brick building in the middle of the Tyrrell Park.** Rebecca Woodland, Nature Center Manager is looking forward to more educational activities.

Christine Sliva

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 22 October 2022

The October field trip to Sabine Woods has always been a place holder field trip. An in-between field trip. A spot that was picked because there was no other obvious place to go in October so why not Sabine Woods? October is really past the peak of the fall song bird migration that is prominent at Sabine Woods and it is too early for the sparrow migration and most of the pushes of winter birds that follow strong fronts that come in November. Most of the winter waterfowl are not in Cattail Marsh yet and most of the winter raptors will wait for the November field trip to west Jefferson County. So Sabine Woods is usually chosen for October just because there is no other obvious choice. But sometimes this place holder trip produces some really great birds!

Many local birders remember well the October field trip of 2016. Few would likely remember most of the birds seen on the trip that day at Sabine Woods but a lunch time stop at Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge nearby definitely proved fruitful. Gary and Denise Kelley stopped for a quick look at this hotspot and found an odd bird. Later other birders showed and up and helped confirm what the Kelley's already suspected – the odd bird was a

Phainopepla! This was the first record of Phainopepla for Jefferson County and the upper Texas coast. This is a bird of the deserts, canyons, and mountain ranges of the southwest and is normally found hundreds of miles away. There is no history or pattern of the species straying to the coast so why was it there? The seasonal movements of this species are poorly understood and it may be influenced by food abundance (it is largely a fruit/berry eater) as much as by weather. The bird only stayed around for a few days but was seen in that time by many birders.

The October field trip for 2022 would produce not one but two county firsts! But there were a few other nice birds around, too. Newly arrived Golden-crowned Kinglets gave high pitched calls from the tree tops. Brown Thrasher and Gray Catbird were heard and seen in the underbrush. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds worked the tops of oak trees while an American Redstart chased insects frantically. Black-and-white Warblers combed the branches and trunks for small prey while Wilson's Warblers gave their mousey chips from thickets. Sparrows have begun to trickle in for the winter and a Swamp Sparrow was among the first seen this season.

Even better was a Clay-colored Sparrow that gave a brief look to the birders. This is a species more commonly found west of Jefferson County but a handful of these birds find their way to the area every year. Mostly occurring in the fall, birders should be on the lookout for this species in the spring as well and learn the field marks that distinguish it from the more common Chipping Sparrow. Tennessee Warbler was also seen on the day along with Northern Parula. A trio of western type Palm Warblers were located on the back pond, pumping their tails up and down while foraging in the willow trees. A female Scarlet Tanager gave the birders some puzzlement for a while as the group tried to get a good enough look to rule out a stray Western Tanager. Eastern Wood-Pewees, soon to depart for the tropics, hunted for insects near newly arrived Eastern Phoebes doing the same. But these were not the species most people were looking for!

A little over a week before the field trip, two GTAS members saw an odd bird at the drip at Sabine Woods. Howard Davis and Ashley Fuselier saw a green warbler-sized bird with an oddly long, decurved bill but it disappeared quickly and no photo was obtained. The bird was described to others but was it a Tennessee Warbler with a deformed bill or something exotic? No one could say. Then, a few days later, a theory emerged as odd birds started popping up along the gulf coast. In south Florida and in Grand Isle, Louisiana, Red-legged Honeycreepers were being seen by birders. While there is one previous record for Texas down in the lower Rio Grande Valley, there were some who questioned whether that bird might even be an escapee since the species is popular as a caged bird in some areas. The bird was eventually accepted but it is not a bird that was expected on the upper Texas coast. Still, the description of the mystery bird sounded really good for a female or immature male Red-legged Honeycreeper. Could it be true? The bird was not seen again the next few days so perhaps it was gone. But the Louisiana and Florida birds stuck around the same areas they were originally found so why not this bird? The weekend before the field trip, birders went to Sabine Woods to look for Honeycreepers! The woods were combed for several hours but no Honeycreeper was located. But the day was not without a tropical find! A Tropical Parula was located. A close relative of the more common Northern Parula, the Tropical Parula lacks the dark and chestnut bands across the chest in males and instead have a broad wash of orange over the yellow of the lower breast. They also lack the bold white eye arcs present in the Northern Parula with a dark mask giving a much different facial appearance for the Tropical. This is a species that has been long expected to eventually be found at Sabine Woods. It has been seen in Houston, High Island and Peveto Woods so it seemed only a matter of time before the species was seen at Sabine Woods. The Tropical Parula is widely distributed in Central and South America but has a very limited range in the United States. The normal range in the U.S. is restricted to extreme south Texas though the species is more common in the sand plain areas just north of the lower Rio Grande area than it is along the river itself. In Latin America, the bird favors drier to somewhat humid areas but avoids the dense lowland rainforests favored by many tropical species. Like its Northern cousin, it loves trees

laden with moss and epiphytes and tends to forage in the tree tops. The Sabine Woods bird appeared briefly in the oaks on the back side of the main pond but was not seen again on that day. A new bird for the county is great but there was still the chance that Honeycreeper might still be around (if it even really was a Honeycreeper).

The next day the birders were back at it at Sabine Woods but this day would be different. The oak trees at the west end of the pond (known as the "Tennessee Trees") buzzed with activity so the birders naturally lingered there for a while to enjoy the spectacle. Many Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fed happily on the sap oozing from the acorn cups and the small insects attracted to the sap. Northern Parulas also foraged in the trees along with a Magnolia Warbler and several Ruby-crowned Kinglets. A Tennessee Warbler was spotted in one of the trees and a possible second bird was seen in the other oak. Or was it? The green back of the bird certainly looked like that of a Tennessee Warbler but when the bird picked its head up it revealed a long, decurved bill – it was the Honeycreeper! The red legs clinched the identification of a Red-legged Honeycreeper, undoubtedly the same bird seen by Ashley and Howard days before. The bird was very green overall and somewhat streaked underneath with a very short tail. It is likely a female bird as the legs would likely be brighter red on a young or eclipse male and the wings would probably show some black. The adult male in breeding plumage is electric blue with neon red legs and would be unmistakable. The Red-legged Honeycreeper is related to the tanagers and is a bird of the new world tropics. Word was quickly sent out to the birding world and the birders began to arrive immediately. First the local birders came, then Houston area birders and even some from as far away as Austin on that first day alone! The bird has luckily stayed around and birders continued to pour in through the week. They came from across the state and beyond its borders. But would it hang around for the field trip the next Saturday?

Obviously, the first stop on the October Sabine Woods field trip was the Tennessee Trees! The Honeycreeper had faithfully stayed in these trees foraging on tree sap and insects during its stay outside of an occasional trip to the drip for a drink of water. The bird can be surprisingly hard to see, however, as the green coloration is excellent camouflage and the bird stayed perched still for long periods usually near the tree tops. The assembled group scanned the trees and were quickly rewarded! The Honeycreeper was still present and was seen by all who came to see it. A little patience was required for when the bird went still but it always returned foraging in the same area and gave many looks and photo opportunities though out the day. And just as an added bonus, the Tropical Parula decided to hang around as well! It even appeared occasionally in the same tree as the Honeycreeper! If that doesn't make for a first-rate field trip then there is no such thing! Who knows how long the Honeycreeper will stay around? Even if the birds do not persist, they have been a wonderful find for hundreds of birders across the country and even in this little corner of southeast Texas. And who knows what might be found on this field trip next year? Join the Golden Triangle Audubon Society and find out!

The following species were reported by the field trip leaders: White-winged Dove (4); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (10); Great Egret (1); White Ibis (4); Black Vulture (1); Turkey Vulture (1); Northern Harrier (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (4); Downy Woodpecker (4); Northern Flicker (1); Merlin (1); Least Flycatcher (1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (2); Eastern Phoebe (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (5); Carolina Chickadee (1); Tree Swallow (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (8); Golden-crowned Kinglet (4); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (5); House Wren (6); Sedge Wren (1); Gray Catbird (1); Brown Thrasher (3); Northern Mockingbird (2); Clay-colored Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (1); Red-winged Blackbird (40); Common Grackle (1); Black and White Warbler (1); Tennessee Warbler (1); Orange-crowned Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (2); American Redstart (1); Northern Parula (1); Tropical Parula (1); Palm Warbler (3); Wilson's Warbler (3); Scarlet Tanager (1); Northern Cardinal (4); Red-legged Honeycreeper (1).

Steve Mayes

[As this is written (October 30), the last sighting of a honeycreeper at Sabine Woods was October 27, but the Tropical Parula was still being seen. There were multiple honeycreepers in Louisiana and Florida, so perhaps they will establish breeding colonies, although they too had moved away from their initial locations. Given its proclivity to stay near the tree tops and to remain stationary for relatively long periods, the local bird might well still be in the Woods, as searching every tree top for a non-moving green bird is a daunting task.—Ed.]

Red-legged Honey Creeper

A female/immature male Red-legged Honeycreeper was identified in Sabine Woods on October 16. See the Field Trip report above for more details. A small, warbler-like tanager of tropical lowlands, it is reported to favor forest edge, woodland, and semi-open areas with taller trees. It often occurs in small groups, sometimes larger flocks, usually in the canopy of flowering trees, where it is reported as probing for nectar with its long bill. Red legs are bright on male, duller on young birds. Male is blue in breeding plumage, with a turquoise cap; female and non-breeding males are greenish overall with faint streaking on the chest. In flight, the underside of the wings flash bright sulfur-yellow.

The Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) was first described by Linnaeus, a Swedish naturalist and physician in 1766 in one of the later editions of his *Systema Naturae*, the multi volume work that established the binomial naming system for all natural organisms that continues to this day. It was placed in the genus *Coerebidae*, which as currently described by most taxonomists as containing six species, similar in shape but varying in color. The genus was long considered, along with the ten species of generally similar birds of the genus *Dacnis*, to be a separate family or subfamily. The thin slightly decurved bills of the honeycreepers was likely instrumental in their being placed

in a separate family. Recently, however, leading taxonomists "moved" the two genera to the Tanager family (Thraupidae). (Ironically enough, the tanagers of the genus *Piranga*, which includes the tanagers normally seen in North America including the Summer, Scarlet, Western and Hepatic Tanagers, were recently moved into the Cardinal family!)

Honeycreepers dine principally on fruit and nectar as well as insects caught on the ground and in trees as well as in flycatching flights. However, the species is almost omnivorous, also feeding on berries, seeds, caterpillars, ants and spiders. The most detailed stomach analysis and observations (conducted in Trinidad) found nectar comprised 12 percent of the species diet, with fruit and insects each comprising 44 percent. It often comes to feeders stocked with fruit or nectar and is easily seen in its range.

It is a fairly common bird throughout much of its extensive range from Mexico to Brazil living in tropical areas, often in forest edges, up to 2000 m (6000 ft) in some regions. It ranges as close to the United States as southern Tamaulipas in Mexico and there is also a population (thought to be introduced) in Cuba. It is essentially non-migratory, though birds in Mexico may be somewhat migratory and birds often moves in response to food availability. They will use a variety of different habitats as long as there is plenty of food and may forage with mixed flocks or in single species flocks of ten or more birds.

As related in the Field Trip report, a bird whose description matching that of the honeycreeper very briefly visited Howard's Water feature in Sabine Woods on Wednesday October 12, but was not identified at that time. The bird was found and identified in the oaks at the west end of the main pond in Sabine Woods on Sunday October 16, an identification made much less outlandish by a report of at least two at Grand Isle, Louisiana on October 12, a report of two near Marathon in the Florida Keys on October 13, and a report of two at Key West, Florida on October 14. There were subsequent sightings of one west south-west of Homestead, Florida on October 16, two in Delray Beach, Florida on October 19, one at Boca Raton, Florida on October 22 and three in Miami, Florida October 25.

The Red-legged Honeycreeper in Sabine Woods spent almost all of its time, in the early period of its stay at least, feeding extensively on the sweet sap that exudes from the base of the cups left by acorns that have recently dropped. This is the same food source that attracts hummingbirds to the oak trees just beyond the west end of the main pond (the "Tennessee Tree(s)" in the local lingo), but it must be noted that the sap also attracts insects. Both the honeycreeper and the hummingbirds need insects (as a source of protein) in addition to the sugar in the sap. When the trees first became attractive to hummingbirds, it was assumed that the insects were what was attracting them, but it is now clear that the sweet sap was also an important factor.

The honeycreeper initially frequented a relatively localized part of the highest foliage of the oak trees, and often moved short distances before perching and remaining very still for quite long periods. As its stay progressed, it became more difficult to find, and was seemingly absent for hour long periods. and it is possible that it visited other oaks.

The oaks further west in the woods are also now very tall. Given its limited movements, it could easily escape detection is those oaks.

With any significantly out of range sighting, there is always speculation about its provenance – where did it come from? The species occurs over quite a wide area. The nearest area to the US is likely Cuba. This population is reported more from Havana and westwards than further east, although there are reports from all over the island. It is believed to have been introduced into Cuba, but since it has persisted for at least 25 years it has to be considered as established. The species also occurs from Southern Mexico, including both coasts of the Yucatan, on through Central America into South America including a large area of inland Brazil. It is also a popular cage bird. (The more peripatetic local birders have typically seen the species in Costa Rica, Ecuador or Panama, but that mostly reflects the popularity of those three countries for birding trips!)

Hurricane Ian crossed western Cuba on September 24 and crossed southern Florida on September 28. That is two weeks before the first sighting (Grand Isle and probably also Sabine Woods) on October 12. The distances from Cuba to Florida are modest but Louisiana and Texas are distant from either southern Mexico or Cuba. Interestingly enough, the

first Florida sightings were after the Texas and Louisiana sightings. Because of the rapidity that news of rare birds is disseminated, each bird has been seen by a very large numbers of birders. Nevertheless, the apparent occurrence of what seems to be 12 in Florida, one in Texas and at least two in Louisiana in a very short period of time essentially precludes almost any consideration of release of cage birds or ship assistance as being the origin. It is certainly not outside the realm of possibility that the counterclockwise outer circulation of Hurricane Ian picked up the honeycreepers in western Cuba and carried them to southern Florida. But carrying birds to extreme southern Louisiana or even further to Texas seems most unlikely. Birds carried inland by hurricanes are mostly seabirds and shorebirds that are trapped in the eye. Any songbirds that are caught are usually in the process of migration. Somehow the shorebirds seem to find their way back to the Gulf or ocean. Songbirds that are migrating are believed to simply rest to recover and feed and then continue their migration in the direction that is genetically programmed in them. Honeycreepers are not migratory so any finding themselves over water probably head for any land that they can see. That notwithstanding, it is difficult to understand how one finished up in Southeast Texas.

John A. Whittle

Bird Sightings – October 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: In addition to the Red-legged Honeycreeper and Tropical Parula, lots of reports of birds that are late in migrating this month. As a reminder, we use the Birder's Checklist of the Upper Texas Coast with some minor geographic based adjustments, to determine rarity status so as have some consistency.

Local Counties (listed above)

Hooded Merganser	Oct 22	JEF-TP (1) Dimitris Dimopoulos
Least Grebe	Oct 29	JEF-TP (1) HS
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Oct 17	JEF-SW (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Lesser Nighthawk	Oct 16	JEF-SW (1) Phyllis and Tony Franck, Mike Austin
Chuck-will's-widow	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) Shelley Smith
Bonaparte's Gull	Oct 16	JEF-TX73 at Taylor Bayou (4) J Berner
Yellow Rail	Oct 22	JEF-TP-Cattail Marsh (1) Scotty Lofland
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	Oct 24	JEF-SRSP (1) Florence Rice, Lance Felber
Elegant Tern	Oct 21	JEF-Beach West of Sea Rim (1) Ront Stone, Greg Cook
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	Oct 18	JEF-SW (1) Derek Muschalek, Robt Thacker
Acadian Flycatcher	Oct 15-17	JEF-SW (1) SM, mult obs
Tropical Kingbird	Oct 2-30	JEF-Old Sabine Cemetery/Island Operating heliport (3) mult obs

Couch's Kingbird	Oct 3-14	JEF-SW (1) Sheryl Travis, mult obs
Eastern Kingbird	Oct 23	ORA-Shangri La (1) Clyde McKee
Bank Swallow	Oct 22	JEF-SRSP (2)
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Oct 12-30	JEF-SW (3) mult obs
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Yellow-breasted Chat	Oct 23	JEF-SW (1) Bruce Morrison
Cape May Warbler	Oct 11	SAB-Hemphill (1) David Bell
Tropical Parula	Oct 16-30	JEF-SW (1) SM, mult obs
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 12-30	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Black-thr Gray Warbler	Sep30-Oct 1	JEF-SW (1)JHH, SM
Scarlet Tanager	Oct 22-29	JEF-SW SM, mult obs
Red-legged Honeycreeper	Oct 16-27	JEF-SW (1) mult obs

Nearby Counties

Ring-necked Duck

Oct 13	HAS-J P Landing Park (5) Karen Goodger, Sarah & Michael Kuzio
Oct 13	HAS-Katy Prairie Educ Center (5) Drew Dickert
Oct 15	HAS Hermann Pk (4) Robert Rogillio

Clark's Grebe Oct 23 HAS-Horsepen Creek Park (2)
Brandon Cook

Common Ground Dove

Oct 14-23 GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Russlyn M, mult obs
Oct 15 HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Andrew Hamlett
Oct 20 GAL-Moody Gardens (1) Clayton Leopold
Oct 21 GAL-Mahan Park (1) Geordie Eschenbach
Oct 22 CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover
Oct 22 HAS-Bear Creek Pk (1) Hengxing Zou
Oct 22 GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Richard Liebler
Oct 24 HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (30) Howard Haysom;
photo of 1
Oct 29 GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Clayton Leopold
Groove-billed Ani Oct 7 HAS-Challenger 7 Park (1)
Casey Dyer
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Oct 20 HAS-Univ Houston (1) John
O'Brien
Lesser Nighthawk Oct 12 GAL-HI Smith Oaks(1) Wyatt
Egelhoff mult obs
Calliope Hummingbird Oct 15 HAS-Green Trails Village (1)
Kevin Smith
Oct 23 HAS-Friendswood (1) Chris Bick,
mult obs
Broad-tail Humm'bird Oct 11-29 HAS-Memorial Area (1) Sue
Orwig
Limpkin Oct 17 CAL-Just west of NW Corner of
Sam Houston Jones SP (1)
Deanna and Gordon Griggs

American Golden Plover

Oct 1 GAL-Fort Travis (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Oct 17 GAL-BF 17th St Jetty(1) (1) Devin and Aidan Griffiths
Oct 18 GAL-BF (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Oct 17 GAL-High Is Beach (2) Bryan Cotter
Oct 25 GAL-Bayside Reg Pk (1) Richard Liebler
Pomarine Jaeger Oct 2 GAL-East Beach (1) mult obs
Oct 20 GAL-West End of Sea Wall (1)
Brenda Gonzales
Bonaparte's Gull Oct 30 CAM-Cameron Ferry (1) Darlene
Eschete
Gt Black-backed Gull Oct 23 GAL-approx 3 miles east of BF
Least Tern Oct 18 GAL-BF (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Elegant Tern Sep 30 GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Mary
Hausler
Least Bittern Oct 29 CAM-Hwy 27 Creole (1) Jane
Patterson, Katherine Gividen
Magnificent Frigatebird Oct 24 CAM-Sabine Pass (1) Greg
Harrington
Brown Booby Oct 23-31 CAL-Lake Charles Channel area
(3) James Smithers, mult obs
Golden Eagle Oct 18 CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul
Conover
Oct 19 CHA-Smith Point HW (1) Joseph
Kennedy
Harris's Hawk Oct 19 CHA--Smith Point HW (1) Joseph
Kennedy

White-tailed Hawk

Oct 2,28 CAL-Lionel Derouen Rd (2) Phillip Wallace
Oct 28 CAM-Chalkley Rd area (1) Darlene Eschete, Kathy
Rhodes
Oct 28 CAL-Fruge Rd (1) Paul Conover, mult obs,
Oct 29-30 CAL-Bell City (1) Steven Cardiff, mult obs
Burrowing Owl Oct 29-31 CHA-ANWR Frozen Pt (1)
Orlando Fonseca , mult obs
Red-naped Sapsucker Oct 17 HAS_Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee ,
Leo Costelo
Oct 20 HAS-Glenwood Cemetery (1)
Andrew Hamlett

Ladder-backed Woodpecker

Oct 17-19 HAS Little Cedar Bayou Pk (1) Dale Wolck mult obs
Oct 18 HAS-Houston Hts Reservoir (1) Carl Haynie
Oct 18 GAL-League City (1) Kim Constantine
Western Wood-Pewee Oct 19 GAL-Tarpon Ave (1) Wyatt
Egelhoff

Vermilion Flycatcher Oct 2 CAL-Corbina Rd (2) Judson
Lassiter
Ash-throat. Flycatcher Oct 27 CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife
Loop (1) mult obs
Gt Crested Flycatcher Oct 29 ANG-Jones Pk, Lufkin (1) Gary
Hunter
Great Kiskadee Oct 22 CAM-Volunteer Lane (1) James
Smithers, Katie Barnes
Western Kingbird Oct 29 CAM-Hwy 82 between Johnson
Bayou and Holly Beach (1)
James Beck
Bell's Vireo Oct 18 CAM-Cameron (2) Paul Conover
Yellow-thr Vireo Oct 29 CAM-Peveto Woods(1) mult obs
Warbling Vireo Oct 27-29 CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland
Walkway (1) James Bozeman,
Anette Daughdrill
Red-eyed Vireo Oct 28 HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Cliff Swallow Oct 24 HAS-Katy Prairie (3) Timothy
Freiday
Cave Swallow Oct 30 CAM-Rutherford Beach (1)
Brown Creeper Oct 18 CAM-Cameron (1) Paul Conover
Sprague's Pipit Oct 26 HAS-El Franco Lee Pk (1) Mike
Austin
Oct 26 HAS-Katy Prairie (1) Timothy
Freiday
Black-throated Sparrow Oct 30 HAS-Montrose area (1) Maryann
Lucarelli
Field Sparrow Oct 18 CAM-Willow Is (1) Charlotte
Chehotsky
Nelson's Sparrow Oct 2 CAM-Sabine NWR Blue Goose
Trl (3) James Smithers, Madeline
Wainscott
Swamp Sparrow Oct 1 CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1)
James Smithers, Madeleine
Wainscott
Brewer's Blackbird Oct 28 CAL-Bell City (20) mult obs
MacGillivray's Warbler Oct 16-24 CAM-Peveto Woods (1) James
Smithers, mult obs
Mourning Warbler Oct 16 HAS-Klein Mem Pk (1) Billie Bady
Bay-breasted Warbler
Oct 8 HAS-Friendswood (1) Chris Bick
Oct 11 CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland Walkway (1) Jody Shugart
Oct 12-25 CAM-Peveto Wds (1) mult obs
Oct 29-30 CAM-Willow Is (2) mult obs
Blackburnian Warbler Oct 17 HAS-Friendswood (1) Chris Bick
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Oct 27-30 GAL-Kempner Pk (1) Paul Sivon (1) mult obs
Oct 30 GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1)(1) Shiela Shallcross
Oct 30 CAM-Oak Grove Sanct (1) Nick Ramsey
Western Meadowlark
Oct 13 HAS-Bear Creek Pk (1) Jim Hinson, Timothy Freiday
Oct 18 CHA-Smith Point-Texaco Rd (1) Joseph Kennedy
Oct 24 HAS-J P :Landing Pk (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio
Western Tanager
Oct 11 HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Cheech Albanese
Oct 19 GAL-Smith Oaks (1) Wyatt Egelhoff, Jon Piasecki
Oct 23 HAS-Bear Creek Pk (1) Jim Hinson, mult obs
American Goldfinch Oct 18 HAS-Bear Creek Pk (1) Jim
Hinson, Ross Silcock
Oct 26 CHA-Smith Point Hawk Watch
(19) Joseph Kennedy

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

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
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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.

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 TEXTBIRDS 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.