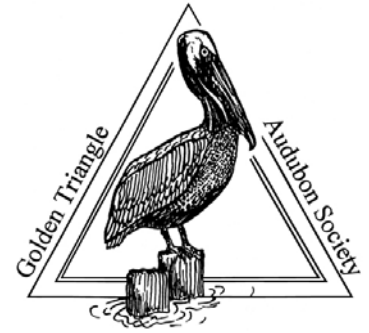


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 29 No. 2

February 2023

**Membership Meeting
Thursday February 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**Exploring Kenya as solo travelers
and investigating the wonders of the Masai Mara**

Cody and Phuong Conway

Cody and Phuong Conway are biologist graduates from Lamar University that spend their time exploring the natural world to bring its beauty closer to home for friends, family, and those in their network. Traveling as professional photographers, they aspire to show just how small the world can be and inspire others to get out and explore, alone or with a group.

In their careers, Phuong is a veterinary technician in Lumberton, while Cody is working in Liquefied Natural Gas.

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

Vol. 29, No.2 February 2022
Issue number 291

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2023)

President

Christine Sliva

Treasurer

Harlan Stewart

Secretary

John Whittle

Directors-at-Large

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)

Facebook Administrators

John Mariani

Jana Whittle

Newsletter Editor

John Whittle
(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

Calendar of Events

Important Note: Field Trip notices published here are subject to last minute changes especially in the current Covid-19 situation. Changes will always be posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org.

Future Programs and Field Trips. (All events are TENTATIVE!).

The latest information is always available on the web site at goldentriangleaudubon.org.

Thursday February 16, 2023.

Membership Meeting. Cody and Phuong Conway on Africa.

Saturday February 18 2023. Field

Trip to Anahuac NWR. We plan to meet at the Visitor information Station just beyond the entrance at 8:30 a.m. There are toilets there, accessible at all times. To reach Anahuac NWR from Winnie, take Highway 124 south to FM 1985. (It is 11.0 miles from IH-10 and half a mile less from Highway 73.) Turn right (west) on FM 1985 and proceed about **11 miles** to the **MAIN** Anahuac NWR Entrance Road on the left (to the south). As you drive along FM 1985, check any cowbird/blackbird flocks carefully for Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

The entrance to the Main Refuge is just over 3 miles down the Entrance Road. Stop along this road only where you can safely pull completely off the road. Obey the speed limits on that road and in the refuge, and stop completely at the stop signs! Watch along the entrance road especially near the south end for Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Kites. A Burrowing Owl is wintering along the shoreline of East Bay near Frozen Point.

We will probably visit the main unit ("Old Anahuac") and possibly also the Skillern Tract, looking primarily for waterfowl and other waterbirds but also raptors and sparrows.

There are usually geese and Bald Eagles on and near the refuge in winter. In normal years, Shoveler Pond attracts large numbers of ducks. However, the Refuge drew down the Pond in 2022 to better manage the vegetation for ducks, but in the early part of the season, ducks have not found the Pond to their

liking. As noted elsewhere in this issue, the weather has been somewhat unusual, and it seems likely that many species, not only waterfowl, have been late in flying south to our area this year.

Thursday March 16, 2023.
Membership Meeting. Ross Foreman on Birds of Ecuador.

Saturday March 18, 2023. Tentative.

Field trip to Bolivar Flats. This trip will occur as spring shorebird migration is well under way, but while the wintering birds are mostly still present. Bolivar Flats is an internationally important shore-bird location. This trip offers an opportunity to compare many of the "true" shorebirds with lots of help in identifying them. If you want help in identifying, gulls, terns, plover or sandpipers, this is the trip for you.

Meet at the vehicle barrier at 9:00 a.m. From Winnie, take TX 124 south to High Island. At the shoreline, turn right (west) on TX 87 and proceed through Gilchrist and Crystal Beach until you reach the intersection where Loop 108 turns right (north). Turn left (the opposite way to Loop 108) along Rettillon Road. At the beach, if conditions permit, turn right (west) about 1/2 mile to the vehicle barrier. Follow recent tire tracks, and be careful to avoid any cuts that may have developed. It takes at least one and a half hours to drive from the Golden Triangle. We will leave the vehicle barrier at about 8:45 a.m., although the group will be visually obvious on the flats should you be a few minutes late.

Some walking is necessary on this field trip. If the tide is a long way out, the leaders may walk up to a mile from the vehicle barrier, but you can turnaround at any point.



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

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 2023 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 from the address you want us to use.

Field Trip to Cattail Marsh 22 January 2023

Over the most recent two or three years, we have had quite good luck with Southeast Texas' sometimes fickle weather. But after some difficulties in November, it was disappointing to have even more severe weather issues in our January trip. The weather forecast was not encouraging, but we are reluctant to cancel a trip before it starts, as often the forecast is overly pessimistic. A quick look on line at the radar, suggested that for about two hours, there would not be any significant rain.

So almost all of the 14 assembled birders set out from the entrance. A good start was the appearance of an adult Bald Eagle apparently escorting a young (3rd year?) eagle well away from the vicinity of the eagle nest in the trees along the north boundary of Cattail. After a quick survey of the boardwalk area, turning up three Cinnamon Teal, a very wise decision was made to proceed first directly to Cell 1, which in addition to the eagles, has consistently the place to find the rarer ducks. A reasonable variety of the normal winter inhabitants of the Marsh was seen, but the inevitable then occurred, and the rain commenced. We have to thank Ken Guidry, who was staffing the Wetland Education Center that morning, for using the Beaumont CVB van to rescue most participants before they got too wet.

Birds seen by leaders: (Since only a very limited part of Cattail was covered, these numbers are not indicative of how many birds were present overall!)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (250), Blue-winged Teal (50), Cinnamon Teal (3), Northern Shoveler (10), Gadwall (12), Mottled Duck (6), Northern Pintail (3), Green-winged Teal (50), Ring-necked Duck (3), Lesser Scaup (150), Ruddy Duck (50), Pied-billed Grebe (4), Virginia Rail (2), Sora (6), Common Gallinule (25), American Coot (65), Purple Gallinule (1 immature bird transitioning to adult plumage seen near boardwalk), Laughing Gull (250), Herring Gull (5), Neotropic Cormorant (5), Great Blue Heron (2), Great Egret (28), Snowy Egret (35), Little Blue Heron (3), Tricolored

Heron (1), Cattle Egret (150), White Ibis (10), White-faced Ibis (150), Osprey (1), Northern Harrier (3), Bald Eagle (3), Red-shouldered Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (3), Red-bellied Woodpecker (1), Blue Jay (2), Tree Swallow (125), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (1), Marsh Wren (1), Carolina Wren (2), Cedar Waxwing (50), American Pipit (12), American Goldfinch (1), Savannah Sparrow (10), Swamp Sparrow (5), Red-winged Blackbird (60), Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (10), Orange-crowned Warbler (1), Common Yellowthroat (2), Pine Warbler (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (12), Northern Cardinal (1).

Avian Influenza – New Issues

Avian influenza virus has circulated in the wild bird population literally for centuries, but mostly in a low pathogenic form. There was a widely publicized outbreak in North America in 2014-15 that particularly affected Corvids (crows and jays) and birds in commercial poultry operations, where the close proximity of large numbers of birds enhanced its spread. The various strains of the flu are generally divided into Low Pathogenic and Highly Pathogenic classes, but only the Highly Pathogenic class causes high mortality. New strains seem to originate in Asia, and spread from there spread into Europe. How they spread from Asia across the Pacific or from Europe across the Atlantic is not clear. A clue might come from the most recent major outbreak in the UK, which began in late 2021, most visibly affecting migratory geese. In 2022, there have been precipitous breeding failures, with 90 percent failure at one of the largest Northern Gannet colonies on Bass Rock in Scotland. Other communally nesting seabirds that have been severely impacted include Roseate Terns and Great Skuas, both quite rare, Arctic and Sandwich Terns and shearwaters are also seemingly being hit hard. These are all species quite capable of flying long distances, and it is likely there is significant exchange between European and North American birds in the breeding populations of these species in places like Iceland, Greenland and northeastern Canada. Each year, some birds of Asian origin seemingly make their way from Siberia to western Alaska and then down the northwestern coasts of North America.

The current egg shortage has received widespread publicity, but the cause less so. It appears that a US outbreak of Avian influenza a year ago is to blame. How the virus reached the US commercial poultry flocks twice now will likely never be known, but being carried by travelers is a likely source. Wild birds will then often come into close proximity to poultry as they seek to dine on the feed put out for chickens.

In the 2014-15 outbreak, corvids such as Blue Jays were the most visible casualties. Ducks were believed to be infected but symptomless, with low mortality, but the visible effects on geese in the UK this time suggests that we need to carefully monitor ducks, as well as gulls, terns and even other colonial nesting shorebirds. The flu is not considered a threat to humans, but the advice is to not handle any dead birds without obvious traumatic cause of death. This upcoming breeding season will perhaps provide evidence of the effects of this latest outbreak on wild birds, but simple analysis of numbers will be hampered by trying to separate out effects of the December 2022 freeze.

Johnson Bayou CBC -- 14 December 2022

The weather forecast for December 14 was very bad: likely strong thunderstorms, heavy rain and wind from a deep cold front. But since this was a “weather” forecast (not a stock market or communicable disease forecast), the start of the count was delayed till daylight and we all put up a reasonable count effort in the steady north wind between the rain bands. That said, the count resulted in low numbers of species and individuals, and some study of the larger CBC dataset will be needed to determine if weather is the main cause of our numbers. The counters were hoping for a recovery of waterfowl counts from last year, but the results are mixed with the weather complications and other complications in the areas we have access to as noted below.

Again this year, LAJB provided some nice surprises. Two parties saw a Surf Scoter and a Black Scoter, separately, off the Gulf beaches. And a Reddish Egret was also seen and photographed on the beach. Who would have thought a Red-bellied Woodpecker would make the papers but one was heard calling and then seen in a large Hackberry on one of Gray Estate’s chenier woodlots. Not far away on the same chenier in a grove of Live Oaks, a flock of Golden-crowned Kinglets included three Brown Creepers, an unusual number for this solitary bird. And there was a Long-billed Curlew, not on the beach, but in north Johnson Bayou close to the edge of the marsh this year.

Ring-necked Ducks had the best number since a sort of irruption in 2017. Neotropic Cormorants set a record this year for LAJB, as did Cedar Waxwings.

RESULTS:

Species recorded: Snow Goose (12); Gadwall (416); American Wigeon (5); Mallard (7); Mottled Duck (2); Blue-winged Teal (196); Northern Shoveler (0!); Green-winged Teal (20); Canvasback (12); Ring-necked Duck (164); Lesser Scaup (9); Surf Scoter (1); Black Scoter (1); Red-breasted Merganser (3); Ruddy Duck (3); Duck species (10); Pied-billed Grebe (7); White-winged Dove (14); Mourning Dove (18); Common Gallinule (76); American Coot (252); Black-necked Stilt (5); American Avocet (48); Black-bellied Plover (1); Killdeer (28); Long-billed Curlew (1); Sanderling (6); Wilson’s Snipe (3); Greater Yellowlegs (9); Willet (5); Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs (3); Laughing Gull (112); Ring-billed Gull (29); Herring Gull (3); Caspian Tern (3); Forster’s Tern (22); Royal Tern (108); Neotropic Cormorant (164); Double-crested Cormorant (12); Cormorant sp. (2); American White Pelican (311); Brown Pelican (21); Great Blue Heron (14); Great Egret (53); Snowy Egret (49); Little Blue Heron (5); Tricolored Heron (11); Reddish Egret (1); Black-crowned Night-Heron (1); White Ibis (68); Roseate Spoonbill (56); Black Vulture (15); Turkey Vulture (16); Osprey (4); Northern Harrier (26); Sharp-shinned Hawk (2); Bald Eagle (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (20); Barn Owl (1); Great Horned Owl (4); Belted Kingfisher (12); Downy Woodpecker (1); Northern Flicker (yellow shafted) (4); Crested Caracara (3); American Kestrel (10); Peregrine Falcon (1); Eastern Phoebe (13); Vermilion Flycatcher (4); Loggerhead Shrike (23); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Blue Jay (1); Tree Swallow (152); House Wren (3); Marsh

Wren (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (7); Golden-crowned Kinglet (10); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (7); Brown Creeper (3); Gray Catbird (2); Northern Mockingbird (22); Cedar Waxwing (224); European Starling (46); White-crowned Sparrow (14); White-throated Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (56); Song Sparrow (12); Swamp Sparrow (11); Sparrow sp. (1); Eastern Meadowlark (48); Baltimore Oriole (1); Red-winged Blackbird (294); Brown-headed Cowbird (5); Common Grackle (231); Boat-tailed Grackle (159); Great-tailed Grackle (176); Orange-crowned Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (1); Pine Warbler (5); Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) (109); Wilson’s Warbler (1); Northern Cardinal (10).

TOTAL 102 species and 4105 individuals.

Participants: Sherry Gibson, Denise and Gary Kelley, Fritz Meyer, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, Jana and John Whittle

Article by Gary Kelley

Not just for Johnson Bayou, but for Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana, it has been difficult to assess the wintering waterfowl populations. Anecdotally, we not heard large numbers of complaints by duck hunters about any lack of ducks, but there have not been large numbers in locally popular birding spots. Work to improve the habitats is probably the most important cause. Dredge material was pumped into the Cameron Meadows oilfield area in late 2021, but although the water levels appear to be appropriate, ducks have not yet repopulated the area in the numbers that used to be normal. The likely culprit is that the emergent and submersed (underwater) vegetation has not yet returned in adequate quantities to serve as food for the waterfowl. The waterfowl in the other Dore property northeast of Deep Bayou Landing were in close to normal numbers although probably a little low if anything.

In addition to water levels and vegetation condition, the weather likely played a part in the situation. Much more than in spring, where the genetically imprinted urge to continue north to the best sites in the breeding areas is strong, southbound fall migration is influenced more by the availability of food and by the temperature. This fall was unusually warm with consequent availability of food late into the season. In order to precede the start of the Louisiana duck hunting season, the Johnson Bayou count is usually conducted as early as is permissible.

The SW Louisiana area and Cameroon Parish have borne the brunt of a number of tropical storms, most recently Laura in late August 2020 and Delta in early October of the same year. The wind and storm surge from each of these storms toppled and/or killed many of the trees still standing on the coastal cheniers. The count circle does not extend very far inland, so the loss of trees has had a significant impact on the birdlife on the cheniers. The effect has been marked, not only in the immediate aftermath of the storms, but also in the years that followed as the damaged trees died.

Despite the habitat changes, raptors are thriving in the region, and the count found large numbers of Red-tailed Hawks and other raptors including a Bald Eagle, and also Loggerhead Shrikes.

John A. Whittle

Orange County Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2023

Sponsored by Golden Triangle Audubon Society

With a turnout of 14 CBC counters in nice weather, versus 18 counters last year, we put forth a somewhat smaller effort, making simple comparisons of count numbers year to year even less significant. But the temptation is very difficult to resist, especially when the numbers go against the effort trend.

Blue-winged Teal seemed back to normal after the spike to 2900 last year. Visitors to Cattail Marsh recently saw big numbers of teal, contradicting the trend here. The Green-winged Teal in our data seem cyclical and are also down from several hundred in the past two years. Some Lesser Scaup did come back from the missing.

It was nice to again find some Inca Doves and a few Black-necked Stilts at 34. Laughing Gulls were way down. Waxwings appeared in hundreds after a near miss last year.

Among the missing this year were Snow Goose, Ross's Goose, Wood Duck, Ring-necked Duck (several hundred were seen on a pond in Jefferson Co. near the Veteran's Bridge), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Marsh Wren, Pine Siskin.

But Great Egrets and Snowy Egrets were up a bit on large numbers (as opposed to onesie, twosies). Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Dark-eyed Juncos were also on the incline.

The bird-of-the-count may have been a Red-necked Grebe, though it was seen only once and not found again. Backyard birding contributed an unusual Summer Tanager.

As in the past eight years, we had access to private property and would like to thank the owners and managers of two large parcels, Hawk Club and Odom Interests, on the southeast edge of the circle. We appreciate Gerald Langham for access to his property north of Bessie Heights and also J.B. Arrington for access to the lake on his property east of Claiborne West Park.

Visit www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count for more info on Audubon Christmas Counts, from the history of CBCs to the rules for counts, to data archives and science articles drawing on the CBC database.

Here is the list of all sightings in this year's Orange County Christmas Bird Count (TXOC 123).

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied (196); TEAL, Blue-winged (6); SHOVELER, Northern (30); GADWALL (28); MALLARD (2); DUCK, Mottled (1); PINTAIL, Northern (3); TEAL, Green-winged (32); SCAUP, Lesser (20); GREBE, Pied-billed (5); GREBE, Red-necked (1); PIGEON, Rock (94); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (5); DOVE, Inca (4); DOVE, White-winged (21); DOVE, Mourning (119); RAIL King/Clapper (1); RAIL, Clapper (2); SORA (1); Gallinule, Common (1); COOT, American (65); STILT, Black-necked (34); KILLDEER (47); SNIPE, Wilson's (37); SANDPIPER, Spotted (1); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (18); YELLOWLEGS, Greater / Lesser (2); GULL, Laughing (19); GULL, Ring-billed (29); TERN, Common (1); TERN, Forster's (36); ANHINGA (4); CORMORANT, Neotropic (50); CORMORANT, Double-crested (4); CORMORANT sp. (2); PELICAN, Brown (11); HERON, Great Blue (9); EGRET, Great (236); EGRET, Snowy

(127); HERON, Little Blue (15); HERON, Tri-colored (2); Night-Heron, Black-crowned (14); IBIS, White (160); Ibis, White-faced (1); IBIS, Glossy/White-faced (90); SPOONBILL, Roseate (7); VULTURE, Black (29); VULTURE, Turkey (63); OSPREY (16); HARRIER, Northern (5); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (1); ACCIPITER sp. (1); EAGLE, Bald (2); HAWK, Red-shouldered (17); HAWK, Red-tailed (5); SCREECH-OWL, Eastern (1); OWL, Barred (1); KINGFISHER, Belted (9); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (4); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (1); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (47); WOODPECKER, Downy (22); FLICKER, Northern (7); WOODPECKER, Pileated (5); CARACARA, Crested (4); KESTREL, American (16); PHOEBE, Eastern (21); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (8); VIREO, Blue-headed (3); JAY, Blue (143); CROW, American (43); CHICADEE, Carolina (62); TITMOUSE, Tufted (18); SWALLOW, Tree (11); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (11); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (19); WREN, House (12); WREN, Sedge (2); WREN, Carolina (72); STARLING, European (493); CATBIRD, Gray (15); THRASHER, Brown (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (45); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (94); THRUSH, Hermit (1); ROBIN, American (49); WAXWING, Cedar (278); SPARROW, House (30); PIPIT, American (23); FINCH, House (9); GOLDFINCH, American (24); SPARROW, Chipping (7); JUNCO, Dark-eyed (5); SPARROW, White-throated (28); SPARROW White-crowned (4); SPARROW, Savannah (75); SPARROW, Song (16); SPARROW, Swamp (9); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (28); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (261); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (16); GRACKLE, Common (794); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (86); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (346); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (5); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (1); WARBLER, Palm (1); WARBLER, Pine (66); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (561); TANAGER, Summer (1); CARDINAL, Northern (131). 106 species and 5,777 individuals.

Observers: Andrew Franks, Sherrie Gibson, Claudia Gilson, Marilyn and Rick Guidry, Gary and Denise Kelley, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Roden, Christine Sliva, Harlan Stewart, John and Jana Whittle, Betty Stephenson.

Gary Kelley

[Ed. There have been some changes in the "Odom Interests" in the last couple of years. There is a wealth of information, too much to fully reproduce here, in the excellent web site of the Moore-Odom Wildlife Foundation at <https://www.moore-odomwildlifefoundation.org/page/home-page>. The property in Orange is the Pannal Lynwoods Sanders Mottled Duck Preserve. The foundation was founded in 2004 by Rucie "R. E." Earl Odom who died in February 2020. He was descended from members of the prominent Lutch and Stark families. The foundation has new management, and is actively promoting its conservation goals at all its properties. In addition to the Orange property, the Foundation owns and operates land west of Hackberry, Louisiana bordering the north boundary of the Sabine NWR, and in Cresson, Texas, southwest of Fort Worth.]

Bird Sightings – January 2023

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: January has often been one of the slowest months for birders in the area. Most of the local Christmas Counts are conducted in December, and while a good number of the rare birds that are discovered

during the counts remain to be included also in the January report, birding effort has usually dropped off markedly. We do have a large number of reports this month. We may be seeing changes in which species are prepared to winter in Southeast Texas. Perhaps the weather this year was partially the cause. Most of December was somewhat milder than usual. Rainfall was certainly not lacking, especially towards the end of the month. There was an unusually cold period, a severe freeze in fact, a few days before Christmas, which killed a lot of vegetation that often survives Southeast Texas winters. That may have made birds become more visible at feeders. It is too early to try to determine if any species were seriously affected. The smaller passerine species that were hit so hard in the 2021 freeze were doubtless at most risk in this recent freeze. Any effect on these species does not, however, show up here because here we are looking for birds which are not normally present. Nevertheless, the appearance below of so many small warbler species is encouraging. Perhaps also, the cold drove Purple Finches further south than usual.

Local Counties (listed above)

Cinnamon Teal	Jan 9	JEF-TP(1) HS
White-breasted Nuthatch	Jan 9	ANG-Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
Least Grebe	Jan 9	JEF-TP (1) HS
Black-chin. Hummingbird	Jan 7	JEF-Nederland (1) HS
Buff-bellied Hummingbird	Jan 2-28	JEF-Nederland (1) JJW, mult obs
Purple Gallinule	Jan 10-21	JEF-TP (1) Lisa Appelbaum, Sara Harrison
Whooping Crane	Jan 17-28	JEF-Hwy 73 betw Wilber and Englin (1) Joanne Bradberry, Garrett Hodne, mult obs
Solitary Sandpiper	Jan 17	JEF-S China Rd area (1) Joanne Bradberry, Garrett Hodne
Brown Booby	Jan 17	JEF-Pleasure Is N Levee (1) Michael Cooper
Glossy Ibis	Jan 6	JEF-TP (1) JHH
Purple Finch	Jan 4-16	JAS-SW of Jasper (2) Fred Lyons
	Jan 7	JAS-Woodland Park (1) Penny Lanham
	Jan 8	HAI-Silsbee (5) Jana Winberg
	Jan 9	ANG-Lufkin (4) Melissa Simon, Kurt Ongman
	Jan 14	Toledo Bend-Carter Ferry Rd (1) Penny Lanham
	Jan 18-21	JAS- SW of Jasper (1) Fred Lyons
	Jan 20	ANG-Normandy Estates (2) Donna Beck
	Jan 20	HAI-NW of Kountze (1) Nancy Angell
	Jan 23-26	ANG-SW of Lufkin (1) Katrina Echols
	Jan 25	JAS-nr CR51 (1) Phillip Hight
	Jan 26	ANG-Lufkin (1) Gary Hunter
	Jan 28-31	SAB-Hemphill (3) David Bell
	Jan 30-31	HAI-Silsbee (1) Sherry Gibson
Clay-colored Sparrow	Jan 10	HAI-Lumberton (1) Julie Green
Yellow Warbler	Jan 8-27	ANG-Ellen Trout Park (1) Gary Hunter, mult obs

Summer Tanager	Jan 1	ORA-N of Bridge City (1) Betty Stephenson
	Jan 30	JEF-Hebert Rd/Russell Road (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Jan 4-19	JAS-SW of Jasper (1) Fred Lyons
Painted Bunting	Jan 3-30	JEF-Nederland (3) HS, mult obs

Nearby Counties

Cackling Goose	Jan 6	CHA-TX 124 just N of High Island bridge (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
	Jan 28-29	CAM-Bell City Welch Rd (9) Paul Conover
American Black Duck	Jan 25	CAM-Lacassine NWR (1) harvested by hunter
Cinnamon Teal	Jan 4-16	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (3) Jim Johnson, mult obs
Surf Scoter	Jan 3	CHA-Lawrence Dr Baytown (3) Margaret Taylor
	Jan 23	HAS-Hog Is (1) Garrett Hodne, John Berner, Adam Wood mult obs
White-winged Scoter	Jan 16	CAM-Cameron (4) Cathy and Philip DiSalvo, Rosemary Seidler
Black Scoter	Jan 3	HAI-Hog Island (1) James Rieman, John Berner
Least Grebe	Jan 9	HAS-Memorial Park Eastern Glades (1) Stephan Lorenz
Western Grebe	Jan 13	HAS-Baytown (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Lesser Nighthawk	Jan 12	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Cristina Levy
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Jan 15	GAL-Dickinson (3 fem) Sue Heath, mult obs
Anna's Hummingbird	Jan 17-31	HAS-Copperfield Area (1) Timothy Freiday mult obs
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	Jan 5-30	GAL-Dickinson (1) mult obs
	Jan 10-12	GAL-Santa Fe (2) Ross Foreman
Buff-breasted Hummingbird	Jan 8	CAL-Lake Charles (1) David Booth

Purple Gallinule	Jan 30	CHA-Frozen Pt (1) Laura Wilson, Bonnie McKenzie, Michael Mathews	Say's Phoebe	Jan 6	CAM-Little Chenier Rd (1) Tim Sheldermine
Limpkin	Jan 22	CAL-Lorraine Park (1) Olivia Spicer	Western Kingbird	Jan 4	GAL-57-acre Park (1) Lisa Hardcastle
Pomarine Jaeger	Jan 5-10	GAL-Apfel Park/East Beach (1) mult obs		Jan 9	HAI-Challenger 7 Park (1) Russlyn M
	Jan 20	GAL-Kempner Park (1) Steven Berenzweig		Jan 11	GAL-57-Acre Park (1) mult obs
	Jan 24	GAL-HI Beach (1) Wyatt Egelhoff		Jan 22-29	GAL-Loop 108 Pt Bolivar (1) Kristine Rivers
Franklin's Gull	Jan 3	HAS-Hog Island (1) James Rieman, John Berner, Dimitris Dimopoulos		Jan 26	CHA-TX 124 S of Winnie (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
	Jan 3-30	HAI-McHale Park (1) mult obs	Yellow-throated Vireo	Jan 23	GAL-Pt Bolivar (1) Wyatt Egelhoff, Brian Anderson
	Jan 5-6	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) mult obs	White-breasted Nuthatch	Jan 6	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Greg Whitaker
	Jan 12	GAL-8-mi Beach (1) Richard Liebler			HAS-Bear Creek Park (2) Luke Pheneger
	Jan 19	GAL-Galveston Bay (1) Scott Buckel	Curve-billed Thrasher	Jan 4	GAL-League City (1) Alicia Watt
	Jan 20	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Wyatt Egelhoff	Purple Finch	Jan 17-30	LIB-FM2323 area (1) Colette and Paul Micallef
	Jan 23	CHA-Ash Lake (1) John Berner	Red Crossbill	Jan 17-21	HAS-South Creek Village Park (1) John Berner, mult obs
	Jan 18-28	HAS-McHale Park (1) Richard Rulander, mult obs	Clay-colored Sparrow	Jan 16	HAS-Champion Forest area (1) Ross Silcock
California Gull	Jan 28	GAL-Apfel Park/East Beach (1) mult obs	Henslow's Sparrow	Jan 4-9	HAI-Bear Creek Park (1) Kelly McDowell, Stephan Lorenz
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	Jan 6-23	HAI-Ash Lake (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Stuart Nelson, mult obs	Yellow-breasted Chat	Jan 10	HAS-Baytown NC (1) Richard Rulander
	Jan 11	GAL-7 1/2-mile pond (1) Clayton Leopold		Jan 25	HAS-Central Spring Branch (1) Brandin LeBanc
	Jan 30	GAL-Apfel Pk/East Beach (1) Dean Silvers	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Jan 3	LIB-CR491 (1) Stephan Falick
	Jan 31	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Dean Silver, mult obs	Bullock's Oriole	Jan 31	HAS-Westchase area (1) Garrett Hodne
Glaucous Gull	Jan 10-11	CHA-Ash Lake (1) mult obs	Baltimore Oriole	Jan 8-29	HAI-Glenbrook Valley (1) James Rieman
Least Bittern	Jan 5	CAM-Creole-Gibbstown Bridge (1) Erik Johnson	Dickcissel	Jan 31	GAL-Santa Fe (1) Justin Halls
	Jan 5	CAM-Little Chenier Rd (12) Erik Johnson		Jan 5	HAS-JP Landing Park (1) mult obs
	Jan 5	CAM-N of Hwy 27, E of Cameron (7) Robert Dobbs	Western Meadowlark	Jan 16	CAL-Tom Stegall Road (1) Wyatt Egelhoff
Harris's Hawk	Jan 8	GAL-Apfel Park/East Beach (1) Richard Liebler, Robert Becker, Kyle Haver, Wyatt Egelhoff	Louisiana Waterthrush	Jan 21-27	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Andrew Hamlett
White-tailed Hawk	Jan 3-6	CAL-Fruge Rd (1) Kurt Ongman, mult obs	Nashville Warbler	Jan 22-29	HAS-Robt C Stuart Park James Rieman, mult obs
	Jan 9-17	CAL-Tom Segal Rd/Corbina Rd (1) John Romano, Andrew From	MacGillivray's Warbler	Jan 8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Sofia Perry, Nick Ramsey, Jack Rogers
	Jan 4	CAM-Chalkley/Arcenaux/Pine Pasture/Fruge Roads (1) Kathy Rhodes, Darlene Eschete	Prairie Warbler	Jan 16	HAS-Hermann Park (1) Bill Campbell
Broad-winged Hawk	Jan 5	CAM-W Creole Hwy, Cameron (1) Robert Dobbs	Black-thr Gray Warbler	Jan 10-20	GAL-Kempner Park (1) Robert Becker, Timothy Freiday
	Jan 7	CAM-Wakefield Rd, Cameron (1) Mark Meunier	Black-thr Green Warbler	Jan 22-29	HAS-Robt C. Stuart Park (1) A. Bittern
	Jan 16	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR-Pintail Dr (1) Matthews, Joan Garvey mult obs	Summer Tanager	Jan 4-14	GAL-Dickinson (1) Jane Murtishaw, mult obs
	Jan 22	CHA-ANWR Yellow Rail Prairie (1) Howard Knelakos	Western Tanager	Jan 8	CAM-Cameron W of Deep Bayou Rd (1) Sofia Perry, Nick Ramsey, Jack Rogers
Ferruginous Hawk	Jan 6	CAM-Hacketts Corner (1) Tim Sheldermine		Jan 17	HAS-Copperfield Place area (1) Jim Hinson, mult obs
Burrowing Owl	Jan 4-28	CAL-Tom Segal Rd/Corbina Road (1) Kurt Ongman, James Smithers, David Booth, mult obs	Black-headed Grosbeak	Jan 17-22	HAS-Robt C Stuart Park (1) James Rieman, mult obs
	Jan 3-30	CHA-ANWR Frozen Pt (1) mult obs		Jan 16-24	CHA-W Baytown (1) David Hanson
	Jan 8, 29	CAM-Rutherford Beach Rs (1) Sofia Perry, Nick Ramsey, Jack Rogers	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.		
Acorn Woodpecker	Jan 16	HAS-Copperfield Place area (1) Jim Hinson, mult obs			
Eastern Kingbird	Jan 22	CHA-ANWR Yellow Rail Prairie (1) Howard Kanelako			

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 C3ZW250Z

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: _____

eMail or 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 TEXTBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. It is not necessary to subscribe to view the archives, which include all recent postings.

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