

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 29 No. 5

May 2023

Membership Meeting
Thursday May 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
Your 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 May 15. 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 May 16, 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, and, depending on how many are submitted, we might have time to show many or even any that are not submitted in advance.

We plan to have the doors open no later than 6:00 p.m., and have light refreshments available by about 6:15 p.m.

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Vol. 29, No.5 May 2023
Issue number 293

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 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.

Saturday May 13, 2023. Spring Migration Count. On International Migratory Bird Day (aka Global Big Day), we undertake an all-Jefferson-County Bird Count. We have been doing these counts since 1995, so they have become a valuable way to monitor changes in local bird populations. The count attempts to cover as much of Jefferson County as is reasonably possible. We will welcome birders at the inter-mediate level and higher, especially if you are able to count in the early morning from dawn through about 11:00 a.m. It is not necessary to commit to the whole day. If you have special access to any areas within the county, we would appreciate your help! Contact John Whittle (gtaudubon@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for further details or offers to help.

Thursday May 18, 2023. Membership Meeting. Your favorite bird pictures. Full details on page 1.

Saturday, May 20, 2023. Field Trip to Hardin County. This is a great opportunity to see the breeding songbirds of the southern part of the Big Thicket. We will focus on the area north of Silsbee to look for the breeding birds of the area. This is typically a half-day trip. We plan to look for the nesting species of the area – Pine, Swainson's, Hooded, Kentucky, Prairie, Prothonotary, and Pine Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat, White-eyed, Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireo, Indigo and Painted Bunting, Gray Catbird, Summer Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Brown-headed Nuthatch and others. We will likely not find all the listed species, but most years we find a good selection of them. Swainson's Warbler is a particular target

of this trip, and we have often been rewarded with excellent views of this normally very secretive species on this field trip. This area is also one of the easiest places to find breeding Prairie Warblers, typically in plantations of about 20-foot-tall young pines. Usually, we bird Gore Store Road east as far as Beech Creek, Firetower Road, and Matigwa Road.

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.

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



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

Tyrrell Park Nature Center Programs

The Tyrrell Park Nature Center, operated by the Beaumont CVB, is now offering a once-a-month, nature-based science exploration for families on various nature topics. Each of the monthly Nature Explorers Saturday session will have various areas with tables set-up throughout the Nature Center for that month's interactive science experiments and art activities. Rebecca Woodland, Nature Center Manager, is looking for 1-4 volunteers each month to help her guide the children and families through all the nature arts and crafts stations. to help with their Nature Explorers program (children 5-10 years of age). This is free once a month on Saturdays from 10:00-1:00. May 6 – Flowers & Hats, June 17 – Summer Solstice, July 1 – Boats and Buoyancy, August 5 Water Cycle, Sept 9 – Bird's Beaks and Eats, Oct 7 – Birds: Structure to Sculpture, Nov 4 – Fall Scavenger Hunt, Dec 2 – Amazing Bears. All craft instructions and information needed will be available so it will be easy for the volunteers to steer the families through the hands-on projects. **Volunteers are needed to work 9:30am – 1:30pm at the Tyrrell Park Nature Center on each of the monthly Nature Explorer Saturdays.**

Contact Rebecca Woodland 409-880-3163
rebecca.woodland@beaumonttexas.gov

The Tyrrell Park Nature Center (TPNC) is located at 3930 Babe Zaharias Drive, inside of Tyrrell Park in Beaumont. The newly-renovated, historic, white-brick building sits in the very middle of Tyrrell Park, just past the golf course and before you get to the stables. The Nature Center is located in the middle section of where the park's paved road splits into the one-way loop road. There is a parking lot directly in front of the Nature Center building.

On Google maps, if you type in the name: **Tyrrell Park Nature Center**, a google pin with map should pop up.
GPS coordinates: 30.011849, -94.146737

Changes at Sabine Woods

In early March, Texas Ornithological Society was able to conclude negotiations with Doornbos for the lease of two tracts contiguous to Sabine Woods. A 7.6-acre tract west of the Woods has two rows of 50-year-old oaks. We have already fenced that tract, with walk in gap gates from the Sabine Woods property, and it is now accessible for birding. Plans call for the development of understory with fast growing trees around the existing trees, and for the longer term, planting live oaks in the area just a little further north.

The southern part of the 6.2-acre-tract east of the Woods is envisaged to include parking, and we are hopeful of being able to convert a relatively small portion into a rock/gravel parking area, using the already existing direct access from Highway 87. Up to 15 or 20 years ago, this area was leased to Time Warner (as it then was – now Spectrum) and used as a satellite dish farm. All traces of the dishes have been removed. We have already fenced this tract with walk in gap gates to allow direct access to Sabine Woods at the eastern area of mulberries and oaks. Once the parking area is available, the main birder entrance to Sabine Woods will be developed from this parking area, with greatly improved safety.

There are still a number of improvements that will be required to complete this project and a couple of others to finish small projects that were initiated late last year. We need to clear all the McCartney rose and any tallows from the existing Sabine Woods fences. We plan to create a "land bridge" to provide access to the island in the northwest pond. This is awaiting much drier conditions! (This year, 2023, is proving to be one of the wetter years in Southeast Texas, and as of this writing, the Woods have not recovered from more than five inches of rain earlier in the month!) This is another area where we plan to provide understory, and in the longer term, some trees. It may be too wet for oaks, but we will consider other species, especially sugarberry/hackberry. We will need a significant quantity of new signage.

All this will make for a need for volunteer labor, which in general is more sensitive than contractors to what is good from a habitat perspective. Most work will be best done in the cooler months, as it is better to plant most of the trees and shrubs we want to use during the dormant season, so expect us to be seeking volunteers for various tasks, starting as soon as it cools down this fall.

John A. Whittle

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.

Spring Migration

Ordinarily, we would include in this issue an account of the April Field Trip was to Sabine Woods at the height of Spring Migration. The Field Trip was spectacularly successful and leader Steve Mayes recorded 83 species including 21 Warbler species on his eBird list. The end of April is the heart of Spring Migration, and the editorial team finds it difficult to prepare a report for this issue. However, we plan to include a report in the June issue, and perhaps expanded into a preliminary report on local observations during the entire migration season. The season does not conclude until well after our press date for this issue, so the complete analysis with tables etc. cannot be prepared for this issue.

Winter Hummingbirds in our area in Southeast Texas Part 2

Jana Whittle

In part 1 we looked at the winter history of hummingbirds that stayed part of the time or during the time period of October through March in our area. The hummingbird data that were included in part 1 were for 4 species: **Buff-bellied Hummingbirds, Calliope Hummingbirds, Allen's Hummingbirds, and Broad-billed Hummingbirds.**

In Part 2, we look at winter records in our area of the history of **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Black-chinned Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbirds, Broad-tailed Hummingbirds, and Anna's Hummingbirds.** Several things I noticed when putting his together. Many, many winter hummingbirds in our area only come for one or 2 days, vacate the premises for days or even weeks then return to our feeders. Another thing I noticed is that there were quite a few appearances for various hummingbirds on Christmas Day. One of the first times that I saw a winter hummer in our area was on Christmas Day was at the Tyrrell Park Garden Center. It was a Buff-bellied Hummingbird drinking from a huge Candy Corn Cuphea plant at least 10 feet high.

The records below are all taken from Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird database.

Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

Nederland at our house

One day 11-06-95; Stayed 3 days 2-24-01 to 2-16-01; Stayed 2 days 11-1-02 to 11-2-02; One day 2-6-05; One day 11-2-08; Stayed 2 days 11-7-11 to 11-8-11; Stayed 2 days 12-5-11 to 12-6-11; One day 12-9-11; Stayed 3 days 12-23-11 to 12-24-11; Stayed 7 days 1-24-13 to 2-1-13; One day 3-15-13; One day 11-2-13; One day 11-5-13; Stayed 2 days 12-6-13 to 12-7-13; Stayed a week 12-11-13 to 12-18-13; One day 12-25-13; One day 1-5-14; One day 1-16-14; Stayed 13 days 1-22-14 to 2-4-14; Stayed 16 days 2-10-14 to 2-26-14; One day 11-2-14; One day 2-2-15; One day 2-10-15; Stayed 5 months 10-5-15 until 3-30-16; Stayed 5 months 10-3-16 to 3-26-17; Stayed 2 months 10-1-17 to 12-25-17; Stayed 4 months 10-1-18 to 2-20-19; Stayed 3 weeks 10-1-19 to 10-23-19; Stayed one month 10-2-20 to 11-13-20; Stayed 3 weeks 3-10-21 to 3-29-21; Stayed 2 weeks 10-1-21 to 10-16-21; Stayed 3 weeks 10-2-22 to 10-24-22.

At another house in Nederland

One Ruby-throated Hummingbird came on 1-31-11 and stayed until 2-21-11; Stayed about 3 months from 12-20-11 until 3-15-12; Stayed 2 days 12-2-12 to 12-4-12; Stayed 2 weeks 11-25-14 to 12-6-14; Stayed 4 months 11-24-15 to 3-12-16; Stayed 4 months 11-29-16 to 3-9-17; Stayed 4 months 12-20-21 to 4-19-22; Stayed about 1 ½ months 11-16-22 to 1-3-23.

Broad-tailed Hummingbirds

At our house

One day 9-27-96; One day 9-1-00; Stayed for 8 days 1-1-01 and 1-8-01; One day 1-14-01; One day 1-18-05; One day 1-23-05; 2 days 2-17-05 and 2-18-05; Stayed for 2 days 9-27-06 to 9-28-06; One day 12-25-07; One day 2-5-08; One day 2-17-08; One day 2-20-08; One day 2-27-08; Stayed for 7 days 3-5-08 to 3-12-08; One day 12-26-10; One day 11-8-11; One day 12-31-11; One day 1-20-12; Stayed a little over 4 months 11-27-12 to 4-5-13; One day 8-17-13; Stayed almost 5 months 10-31-13 to 3-24-14; Stayed almost 4 months 9-9-14 to 1-23-15; Stayed over 2 months 1-2-15 to 3-18-15 (possibly the same bird as above); Stayed 2 days 2-28-16 to 2-29-16; One day 3-1-16; One day 1-28-19; Stayed 3 days 3-25-19 to 3-28-19; Stayed 2 days 10-18-20 to 10-19-20; One day 1-12-21.

At another house in Nederland

Stayed 4 days 11-27-12 to 12-1-12.

At a house in Port Arthur

Stayed for over 4 months 12-02-20 and 4-12-21.

Rufous Hummingbirds

At our house in Nederland

Stayed for 3 days 10-2-95 to 10-5-95; One day 11-21-99; One day 11-26-99; One day 11-28-99; Stayed 3 days 11-14-99 to 12-12-99; One day 12-22-99; Stayed 2 days 12-25-99 to 12-26-99; One day 1-1-00; One day 1-6-00; One day 10-29-00; One day 12-26-00; One day 12-29-00; One day 11-3-01; One day 1-26-02; One day 10-11-02; One day 11-27-02; One day 12-25-02; Stayed for 2 days 12-30-02 to 12-31-02; One day 1-12-03; Stayed for 2 days 1-22-03 to 1-23-03; Stayed for 2 days 1-26-03 to 1-27-03; Stayed for 3 days 3-14-03 to 3-16-03; One day 3-19-03; One day 3-30-03; Stayed 3 days 2-7-04 to 2-9-04; Stayed 13 days 2-14-04 to 2-27-04; One day 3-7-04; One day 3-13-04; Stayed 13 days 10-1-04 to 10-13-04; One day 10-18-04; Stayed 17 days 12-24-04 to 1-10-05; One day 1-14-05; Stayed 7 days 1-18-05 to 1-25-05; Stayed 3 days 2-6-05 to 2-8-05; One day 2-12-05; Stayed 3 days 2-13-05 to 2-18-05; Stayed 8 days 12-17-05 to 12-25-05; One day 2-26-06; Stayed 3 days 3-4-06 to 3-6-06; One day 12-09-06; One day 10-7-07; One day 1-30-08; One day 3-31-08; One day 11-23-08; One day 11-28-08;

One day 12-14-08; Stayed 3 days 12-22-08 to 12-24-08; One day 12-31-08; One day 1-14-09; One day 1-18-09; One day 1-24-09; Stayed for 2 days 2-18-09 to 2-19-09; Stayed 2 days 2-26-11 to 2-27-11; One day 10-1-11; One day 10-17-11; Stayed 3 days 11-12-11 to 11-14-11; Stayed 2 days 11-18-11 to 11-19-11; Stayed 2 weeks 11-25-11 to 12-09-11; Stayed 3 and a half months 12-1-11 to 3-22-12; Stayed 3 days 11-26-13 to 11-27-13; One day 12-13-12; Stayed 3 1/2 months 12-16-12 to 3-31-13; One day 3-24-13; Stayed 3 days 11-24-13 to 11-26-13; Stayed 3 weeks 1-25-14 to 2-15-14; Stayed a little over a month 2-17-14 to 3-21-14; One day 1-04-15; Stayed 2 days 2-9-16 to 2-10-16; One day 3-7-17; One day 11-8-17; Stayed 3 days 12-6-17 to 12-10-17; One day 12-22-17; Stayed 3 days 1-3-18 to 1-5-18; Stayed for 8 days 10-15-20 to 10-23-20; Stayed for 2 days 12-6-20 to 12-7-20; One day 12-23-20; Stayed for 3 days 1-4-21 to 1-6-21; Stayed for 5 days 2-12-21 to 2-17-21; Stayed for 2 days 2-24-21 to 2-25-21; One day 3-4-21; Stayed 3 weeks 3-8-21 to 3-30-21; One day 11-4-21; One day 12-29-21; Stayed 10 days 1-2-22 to 1-12-22; Stayed 9 days 1-17-22 to 1-26-22; One day 2-3-22; Stayed 3 days 3-26-22 to 3-28-22; One day 11-20-22; One day 11-26-22; One day 12-3-22; Stayed 3 days 12-6-22 to 12-8-22.

At another house in Nederland

One day 7-6-11; Stayed 3 1/2 months 12-19-11 to 4-3-12; Stayed about 6 months 9-7-12 to 3-18-13; Stayed 6 1/2 months 8-28-13 to 3-31-14; Stayed 4 months 10-21-14 to 3-22-15; Stayed 6 months 9-14-15 to 3-16-16; Stayed 5 months 10-6-16 to 3-9-17; Stayed 5 months 9-28-17 to 3-30-18; Stayed 7 months 9-4-18 to 4-4-19; Stayed almost 7 months 9-1-19 to 3-29-20; Stayed 4 months 11-26-20 to 3-15-21; Stayed 7 months 8-19-21 to 4-6-22; Stayed almost 3 months 10-22-22 to 1-18-23.

Black-chinned Hummingbirds

Our house in Nederland

Stayed 12 days 12-25-99 to 1-6-99; Stayed 2 days 10-16-99 to 10-17-99; One day 11-28-99; One day 12-12-99; One day 12-22-99; Stayed 2 days 12-25-99 to 12-26-99; One day 1-1-00; One day 1-4-00; One day 10-6-00; One day 10-8-00; One day 11-14-00; One day 12-3-00; One day 12-9-00; Stayed 2 days 12-22-00 to 12-23-00; One day 12-26-00; One day 12-29-00; Stayed 5 days 1-1-01 to 1-6-01; One day 1-9-01; Stayed 10 days 1-14-01 to 1-24-01; Stayed 3 days 1-29-01 to 1-31-01; One day 1-6-02; One day 1-20-02; One day 2-8-02; One day 1-12-03; One day 1-22-03; Stayed 2 days 2-4-03 to 2-5-03; One day 10-23-03; One day 2-23-05; One day 3-1-05; One day 3-3-05; Stayed for 4 days 3-6-05 to 3-10-05; One day 3-23-05; One day 3-28-05; Stayed about a week 12-25-07 to 1-2-08; One day 1-9-08; One day 1-20-08; Stayed 4 days 1-30-08 to 2-2-08; Stayed 2 days 2-5-08 to 2-6-08; Stayed 2 days 2-13-08 to 2-14-08; One day 2-27-08; Stayed 3 days 3-9-08 to 3-12-08; Stayed 2 days 3-17-08 to 3-18-08; One day 3-16-08; One day 3-19-08; One day 3-31-08; Stayed 2 days 12-22-08 to 12-23-08; One day 2-25-09; One day 3-10-09; Stayed 2 days 3-15-09 to 3-16-09; Stayed 4 days 12-25-09 to 12-29-09; One day 1-2-10; One day 1-7-10; One day 1-9-10; Stayed 2 days 1-16-10 to 1-17-10; One day 10-8-10; One day 12-18-10; Stayed 2 days 12-25-10 to 12-26-10; One day 1-5-11; Stayed 4 days 1-8-11 to 1-12-11; Stayed 7 days 1-29-11 to 2-4-11; One day 2-8-11; Stayed 2 days 2-26-11 to 2-27-11; Stayed 7 days 3-3-11 to 3-10-11; One day 3-15-11; Stayed 2 days 11-30-11 and 12-1-11; One day 12-18-11; Stayed 9 days 11-11-12 to 11-20-12; Stayed 4 days 11-26-12 to 11-30-12; One day 12-2-12; Stayed 4 days 12-9-12 to 12-13-12; Stayed almost 3 weeks 12-16-12 to 1-4-13; One day 1-7-13; Stayed 4 days 1-13-13 to 1-17-13; Stayed 5 days 1-24-13 to 1-29-13; Stayed 4 days 2-3-13 to 2-7-13; Stayed 3 days 2-10-13 to 2-12-13; Stayed 3 days 2-16-13 to 2-18-13; One day 2-26-13; Stayed 2 days 3-2-13 to 3-3-13; Stayed 6 days 3-26-13 to 3-31-13; One day 11-5-13; One day 11-18-13; One day 1-4-14; One day 1-16-14; Stayed 6 days 1-19-14 to 1-25-14; One day 2-17-14; One day 2-20-14; One day 3-3-14; One day 10-17-14; One day 10-21-14; Stayed 11 days 12-23-15 to 1-4-16; Stayed 2 days 1-9-16 to 1-10-16; Stayed 4 days 1-13-16 to 1-16-16; Stayed 10 days 1-30-16 to 2-9-16; One day 2-13-16; One day 2-19-16; Stayed 2 days 2-24-16 to 2-25-16; Stayed 2 days 2-28-16 to 2-29-16; One day 12-4-16; One day 12-7-16; One day 12-12-16; One day 12-19-16; One day 12-25-16; One day 12-27-16; One day 1-8-17; One day 1-27-17; Stayed 2 days 11-9-18 to 11-10-18; One day 12-31-18; One day 10-2-21.

At another house in Nederland

Stayed one and a half months 1-9-11 to 2-17-11; One day 12-17-11; Stayed almost 4 months 10-4-12 to 1-27-13; Stayed 2 months 12-22-13 to 2-15-14; One day 10-11-14; One day 1-24-16; Stayed one month 2-15-21 to 3-15-21; Stayed 5 months 11-9-21 to 4-10-22; Stayed 2 1/2 months 11-16-22 to 1-2-23.

Anna's Hummingbird

At our house in Nederland

Stayed for 5 days 10-2-95 to 10-6-95; One day 12-30-10; One day 1-17-12; One day 2-6-12; One day 12-21-12; One day 12-23-12; One day 1-4-13; One day 12-13-15; One day 12-15-15.

Another house in Nederland

Stayed for one and a half months 12-28-10 to 2-14-11.

A house in Hardin County in Lumberton

One day 1-25-16; Stayed 3 days 1-29-16 to 1-31-16; One day 2-8-16; Stayed 2 days 2-12-16 to 2-13-16; One day 2-17-16.

Bird Sightings – April 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: As perhaps was to be expected nowadays, the April listing is extensive, as the number of birders reporting to eBird continues to increase. And of course, the number of birders active in what we will call "Greater Southeast Texas" in April is now very large! This brings with it some difficulties in that in most cases, the eBird review process is not and could not be completed by press

time. As an individual reviewing the reports, we are somewhat hesitant to express our opinions by omitting some sightings, but we do have space constraints. We have adopted a number of interim steps, and will codify those that meet with general approval over the next few months.

An ID solely by the Merlin app based on call has not yet reached the level of certainty that we believe is necessary. The developers of the app apparently welcome reports that will help improve the app and eliminate "false positives."

In other cases, in general, we want to see either an identifiable photo or a reasonably complete description that addresses all the key field marks that eliminate similar species.

We are acutely aware that the checklist we still use to determine rarity dates to 2008, but it is the only available checklist that covers most of the area. There are a few species for which the eBird filters have been updated for most local counties, including the intensively birded ones. Over the next few months we plan to offer for any comments readers may have a few specific changes to focus more tightly on reporting really interesting sightings. One would be to exclude passage migrants that are classified as rare merely because they are within one week early or one week late. Some other species may be not quite as rare nowadays as the checklist indicates. Wood Stork jumps out as an obvious example of the latter.

Local Counties (listed above)

Wood Stork	Apr 23	HAI-Kountze (34) mult obs
Iceland (Thayer's) Gull	Apr 8	JEF-Hwy 73 Landfill (1) Dan Lane
Alder Flycatcher	Apr 15	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) Elizabeth Tommer
Common Raven	Apr 27	ANG-N of Zavalla (1 found dead) Caleb Carle
Cassin's Sparrow	Apr 28	JEF-Pilot Station Rd (1) Bill and Alex Hopping
Yellow-head. Blackbird	Apr 29	JEF-Pilot Station Road/S first St (1 male) Todd McGrath, JAW
Cape May Warbler	Apr 8	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
	Apr 22-25	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
	Apr 29	JEF-SW (1) Geoff Butcher, Gary Kelley
Yellow Warbler	Apr 8	JEF-SW (1) Cameron Rutt, William Blake, Adam Mitchell
	Apr 10	JEF-Texas Pt NWR (1) Jimmy Bryan
Yellow-rumped Warbler	Apr 22-30	JEF-SW (1+) mult obs
Western Tanager	Apr 22-24	JEF-SW (1) Eric Heisey, SM, mult obs
Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr 2-3	SAB-Hemphill (1) David Bell
Painted Bunting	Apr 6	JEF-Nederland (2) HS

Nearby Counties

Canada Goose	Apr 9	CHA-FM1406 (2) Matt Cahill
Snow Goose	Apr 22	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (11) Melissa Weaver, Charles Lyon, William Marengo
	Apr 27	CAM-Sweet Lake Land Co (1)-
Ross's Goose	Apr 9	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Daniel Lane
Cinnamon Teal	Apr 16-22	HAS-EI Franco Lee Park (2) Mike Robert Rogillio, Anthony Colocci, mult obs
Northern Pintail	Apr 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Bill Hopping, Jane Patterson, Kathie Holder,
Surf Scoter	Apr 20-22	CHA-Lawrence Rd (1) mult obs
Black Scoter	Apr 22	CHA-Lawrence Rd (1) mult obs

Hooded Merganser	Apr 22	GAL-Pt Bolivar (1) Davis Clay, Richard Gibbons, Suzanne Mottin
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Apr 1	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Deanna and Gordon Griggs
	Apr 1	HAS-NW Houston (1) John Hale
	Apr 3	HAS-Cypress Creek (1) Dottie Moore
	Apr 8-9	HAS-Addick's Reservoir (1) mult obs
Lesser Nighthawk	Apr 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) John Chapple
	Apr 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Glenn Steinke, John Chapple
Black-chin. Humm'bird	Apr 22,26	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Gary Desormeaux, Tracy Becker, Carol Bell
Broad-tail. Hummingbird	Apr 18-21	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig
Yellow Rail	Apr 16	CAM-Broussard Beach (1) Kyle Johnson, Jeremiah Oden
Sandhill Crane	Apr 14	HAS-Kleb Woods (14) Shelia Hargis
	Apr 16	HAS-Willow Waterhole (5) Vickie Crutchfield
	Apr 16	CHA-FM1885 (1) David Price
Pomarine Jaeger	Apr 2	GAL-HI Beach (1) WE
	Apr 14-22	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Matthey Christianson, mult obs
	Apr 16	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Geoff Butcher
	Apr 16	HAS-Bear Creek (4)
Parasitic Jaeger	Apr 17	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Daniel Lane
California Gull	Apr 18	CAL-Lake Charles, James Smithers
	Apr 18	GAL-Rollover Pass (3) Mark Sawyer, mult obs
	Apr 30	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover
Iceland Gull	Apr 15	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) mult obs
Gt Black-backed Gull	Apr 23-25	CAL-Rutherford Beach (1) Paul Conover, mult obs
Limpkin	Apr 3,12	CAL-Lorraine Park (1) Linda Farrell, Deanna and Gordon Griggs
	Apr 22	CHA-JJ Mayes Trace (1) Chenery Kinemond
White-rump. Sandpiper	Apr 13	CAL-Cameron (2)
	Apr 13	CAM-Rutherford Beach (2) David Booth, Andrew From

Wood Stork	Apr 2	HAS-La Porte (3) J&C Miles	Apr 17	CAM-Willow Island (2) David L'Hoste	
	Apr 9	HAS-River Grove Park (15) Lynn Forster	Apr 18	CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland Walkway	
	Apr 13-14	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve (1) Alex Burchard, Aiden Saan	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Apr 1-12	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Bonnie de Groof, Janet Neath, mult obs
	Apr 14	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) mult obs	Brown Creeper	Apr 1	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Brian Anderson
	Apr 15	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Adrian Strong		Apr 5	LIB-Kenefick area (1) Colette Micallef
	Apr 22	HAS-Meadowbrook Park (3) Hengxing Zou, Rafael Marcondes, Pedro Dias		Apr 6	HAS-Memorial Park Eastern Glades (1) Mark Steuer
	Apr 29	HAS-Memorial Park (20) Liston Rice	Winter Wren	Apr 5	LIB-N of Kenefick (1) Colette Micallef
	Apr 30	HAS-Pine Gully Park (22) John and Miles Duboise		Apr 8	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Farokh Jamalyana
Magnificent Frigatebird	Apr 5	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) Charlotte Chehotsky	Lark Bunting	Apr 24	CHA-S of Sowell (1) Mark Pheasant
	Apr 17	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Daniel Lane	Eastern Towhee	Apr 27	HAS-w Tidwell (1) Michael Williams
Glossy Ibis	Apr 8	HAS-Sheldon Lake Garrett Road (1) mult obs		Apr 27	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Gilian Meyer
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	Apr 27,28	CAM-Peveto Wds (1) mult obs	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Apr 21	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Brad Lirette, mult obs
Red-headed Woodpecker	Apr 16	GAL-Seawall Blvd (1) Kristine Rivers, Karen Frye		Apr 22-25	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs
	Apr 17	GAL-Bolivar Pen – Stingaree Rest (1) Dana Tommons	Hooded Oriole	Apr 1	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) mult obs
	Apr 17	GAL-Bolivar Pen-Tuna Rd (1) Kyle Lima	Bullock's Oriole	Apr 15	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Richard Liebler
Hairy Woodpecker	Apr 28-30	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Alicia Watt, James Wheeler		Apr 16	GAL-Shaman Rd (1 fem) Greg Minnery
Yellow-bell. Flycatcher	Apr 21	GAL-HI-SE Gast (1) Jon Piasecki, WE	Brewer's Blackbird	Apr 18	CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland Walkway (20) Lynn Sprott
	Apr 24	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Jon Piasecki	Golden-winged Warbler	Apr 10	HAS_Pine Brook Wetlands, Clear Lake (1) Michael Allen
Alder Flycatcher	Apr 21	GAL-HI SE Gast (1) Jon Piasecki, WE	MacGillivray's Warbler	Apr 8-22	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Dan Lane, Adam Mitchell, mult obs
	Apr 23	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE	American Redstart	Apr 6	HAS-Edith Moore (1) Rob Nardino
Willow Flycatcher	Apr 27	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) John Hinte, Jesse Huth	Cape May Warbler	Apr 8	JEF-SW (1) mult obs
Say's Phoebe	Apr 3	GAL-Moody Gdns (1) Greg Whittaker	Tropical Parula	Apr 7	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) WE
				Apr 8	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Schyler Brown
Vermilion Flycatcher	Apr 20	CHA-ANWR Jackson Woodlot (1) mult obs	Magnolia Warbler	Apr 5	HAS-Geo Bush Park (1) Timothy White
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Apr 16	HAS-Heritage Park(1) Steve Berenzweig	Yellow Warbler	Apr 7	CAM-Little Chenier Lodge (1) Katie Barner, James Smithers
Great Kiskadee	Apr 3	CAL-Moss Bluff (1) Lauren Lyons		Apr 8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
	Apr 23-26	GAL-Seawall (1) Brenda Gonzales. Ranged over quite a large area		Apr 10	CAM-Sabine NWR Wetland Walkway (1) Jody Shugart, Paul Kleks
Western Kingbird	Apr 11	CAM-Chalkley Rd (1) Charlotte Chehotsky	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Apr 11	HAS-Pine Brook Wetlands (1) Rodney Allen, Richard Rulander
Blue-headed Vireo	Apr 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs	Yellow-rumped Warbler	Apr 30	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Cody Delano
	Apr 29	CAM-Oak Grove (1) Paul Klerks, Cody Delano	Prairie Warbler	Apr 27	GAL-Hooks Woods (10) Tyler Miloy
	Apr 29	CAM-W of Holly Beach (1) Diana Alvarez	Townsend's Warbler	Apr 8-12	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs
	Apr 30	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Nick Ramsey, Jack Rogers	Black-headed Grosbeak	Apr 5-23	CHA-Baytown (1) David Hanson
Philadelphia Vireo	Apr 8-9	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Tony Dang, Jeff Perkins		Apr 22-23	CHA-Challenger 7 Park (1) Jill Bille, mult obs
Warbling Vireo	Apr 2	HAS-Horesepen Creek (1) Rosanne Baisa			
Black-whiskered Vireo	Apr 16	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Karin Jackson			
	Apr 23-24	CAM-Hollister Preserve (1) Katie Barnes			
	Apr 23	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Gary and Benjamin Byerly			
	Apr 26	GAL-HI SE Gast (1) WE, Jon Piasecki			
	Apr 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs			
Fish Crow	Apr 13	CHA-FM1663 (1) Kyle Lima			

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; SM – Steve Mayes, SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TYL – Tyler County; WE – Wyatt Egelhoff; 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.

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