

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 29 No. 11

November 2023

Annual Meeting Thursday November 16, 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 are encouraged to 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 13. 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 not have time to show many or even any that are not submitted in advance. Please come early to work out any kinks if you want to do anything other than show still pictures and talk about them.

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.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 29, No.11 November 2023
Issue number 299

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (2023)

President

Christine Sliva

Vice President

Steve Mayes

Treasurer

Harlan Stewart

Secretary

John Whittle

Directors-at-Large

Michael Cooper

Girish Doshi

Gerald Duhon

Sherry Gibson

John Haynes

Sheila Hebert

Thomas Hellweg

Gary Kelley

Dana Nelson

Dania Sanchez

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 Distribution

Christine Sliva

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 and other notices published here are subject to last minute changes especially in the current Covid-19 environment. Changes will always be posted on www.goldentriangleaudubon.org so check the web site before setting out.

Future Programs and Field Trips.

Thursday November 16, 2023.

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of Golden Triangle Audubon Society will take place on November 16, 2022 in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park. At this meeting, we will hold elections for President, all Officers and all At-Large Board positions. To contact the Nominating Committee, chaired by Christine Sliva, or to nominate someone, please in the first instance email gtaudubon@aol.com. Nominations from the floor must be accompanied by affirmation, either orally at the meeting, or in writing, that the candidate is willing to serve.

Saturday November 18, 2023. 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. However, it is possible that the severe drought, still ongoing at press time, will affect the food supply of the raptors, possibly causing them to forsake their normal winter territories for ones with more promise.

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.

We recommend stopping at the Stuckey's at the intersection of IH-10 and FM365 (on the short stretch of two-way service road of IH-10 - north side) to use the facilities and purchase

any snacks you need. Then 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 Interstate 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. Contact Field Trip chair Steve Mayes, gtaudubon@aol.com for further information. This will be largely a "car birding" trip, car-pooling desired.

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.

Christmas Bird Counts

A comprehensive list of local counts will be included in the December issue. As this goes to press, very few dates have been announced. The CBC Page of the Houston Audubon web site maintains an updated listing of all Texas CBCs as they are announced. A search on "Houston Audubon CBC" should pull that page up. Here are the dates of local counts that we know of.

Johnson Bayou, LA – TBA,
Bolivar Peninsula – TBA Turkey Creek
– Saturday Dec 16

Beech Creek – Saturday Dec 23

Orange County- TBA but traditionally (Monday) Jan 1. We need a volunteer to compile this count this year. Contact Gary Kelley at gtaudubon@aol.com for more information or to volunteer.

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 2024 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/ membership blank on the back page of this issue of the *Brown Pelican*.

For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25) on the application, we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are not 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 basically covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. These members are automatically added to our membership rolls by NAS. We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not automatically bring them to our attention, and they will need to specifically join GTAS..

We would very much encourage you receive the *Brown Pelican* electronically. This saves us not only printing and mailing costs, the latter of which keeps on increasing, but saves on volunteer time in preparing the printed copies for mailing. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use.



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

Birding in the Golden Triangle Month by Month

We published this article about a year ago, but decided the approaching New Year was an appropriate time to repeat it, slightly augmented, as we look towards birding in the New Year.

Maybe in other states people notice seasons changing. Here we cannot always tell when the four seasons change but birders here often get excited when certain bird populations migrate through our area.

The wonderful thing about our area is that there are no days that you cannot get to see our local regular birds. Sea Rim State Park and Mc Fadden Beach are great places to see many species of shorebirds, herons and egrets, grackles, Some

songbirds are present in Sabine Wood almost every day of the year. White-winged Doves, Northern Mockingbirds can be seen all year long. Most areas of the Golden Triangle see Black-bellied Whistling Duck each morning and evening as they transit from their roosting area to their feeding areas and vice versa.

January – Ducks, Bald Eagles, hawks, and some of the places to see them are: west Jefferson County, Cattail Marsh, Pleasure Island, Bridge City, Saltwater Barrier

February – Same as January plus Purple Martins start arriving. Bald Eagle eaglets might be hatching out. Many owls nest at this time also.

March – Same as February, plus songbird migration starts late in the month at Sabine Woods and hummingbirds pass through our area. Shorebird migration is active.

April – Initially much as March, but songbird migration increases and peaks during the month and hummingbirds pass through. Houston Audubon's Smith Oaks rookery comes to life and stays active for several months. Bald Eagle juveniles will fledge. The remaining migratory ducks fly north

May – Same as above, but songbird migration concludes. Most hummingbirds have left for points north by now.

June – The rookery is still active, but Cattle Egrets are the predominant species. Perhaps the quietest month in the year.

July – In same years, you can drive a few hours to watch Purple Martin staging in Houston at two or more different places. Wood Storks start to arrive. Swallow-tailed Kites start to stage to fly south.

August – More Wood Storks arrive, but some hummingbirds start flying back south through our area. Corpus Christi Hawkwatch begins August 1st and Smith Point Hawkwatch begins on the 15th. Kites and hawks can be seen at both places. Shorebirds can be seen on their southbound migrations.

September – Ducks, hawks, eagles, and Sandhill Cranes will start to be seen at West Jefferson County towards the end of the month. Most ducks passing through in September will be Blue-winged Teal, the other species follow a couple of months later and many stay all winter. Cattail Marsh and Pleasure Island both become very active. Both Hawkwatch continue. Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration peaks throughout the area. Often the Bald Eagle pair at Cattail Marsh shows up to inspect and repair their nest. Southbound songbird migration starts in earnest.

October – Same as September but most hummingbirds have already flown south. Winter hummingbirds like Rufous, Broad-tailed, Buff-bellied, Anna's, Black-chinned, might start to show up and will often stay through the winter and even up until April. Southbound songbird migration continues.

November – Snow Geese join in with the birds listed in September. The Sandhill Crane flock will have arrived..

Both Hawkwatch continue throughout the month, although there are fewer and fewer hawks passing through by now. Bald Eagles often lay eggs in the nest at Cattail Marsh.

December – The wintering birds, ducks and sparrows, as well as some wintering warblers and other passerines that began to arrive in September are present in increasing numbers during this month. Bald Eagles should be sitting on nests.

So, yes, we have our seasons too through birding.

Jana Whittle

The Concern for Habitat

Any serious discussion of the well-being of any bird species perforce becomes a discussion of the status of the habitat occupied by the species. For truly "sedentary" species, of which there are probably less than most people realize habitat can be described in terms of a relatively small area of territory in which the bird lives and breeds, and thus the weather is of critical concern. However, for many other species, likely a majority of land birds, a full picture requires consideration of several separate habitats occupied at different times of the year. The severity of the winter weather may be the most obvious factor, but it is certainly not the only one. For such species, pressure on only one -- any one -- of these habitats will limit the population.

The number of birds which can successfully prosper in the winter habitat is often the most important factor in determining the size of the population in the long term. Much is made each year of the success or failure of "the breeding season". The number of young birds successfully reared per family to the stage where they can fly is a frequently quoted statistic, perhaps because it is one of the easiest to study, but the survival of those young birds to join the breeding population, usually in the following year for songbirds is dependent on their being able to find adequate food and cover during the winter which follows. If birds are forced into marginal areas where food may be scarce and cover or protection from predators inadequate, the survival rate will be reduced. The juvenile birds will suffer most, if only because they are less experienced at finding food, in finding shelter, and in avoiding predators.

However, when reproductive success on the breeding grounds is poor in successive years because of factors related to shortcomings in the habitat rather than variables such as weather and related factors, then there is cause for concern. Problems in breeding habitat include factors other than just the area available per breeding pair. A breeding bird is much more vulnerable to disturbance. Human traffic, vehicular traffic, the presence of dogs, cats and other predators can all be seriously detrimental. A wintering bird may be able to move a short distance to avoid such problems -- a breeding bird may lose or have to abandon a nest.

On migration, the duration of use of the available habitat may be very short but can be extremely critical. A migrant songbird crossing the Gulf of Mexico will arrive on the coast exhausted and in desperate need of food and fresh water. It is also important that the coastal habitats provide safety from predators. Migrant shorebirds typically migrate long distances overland, stopping several days at each of very few suitable stopping areas -- usually lakes and major rivers.

Our ability to identify the population limiting link in the habitat chain is in most cases poorly developed. Population information is often limited to breeding bird estimates in North America. Information on population densities of birds south of the Rio Grande, whether wintering or resident, is very rudimentary. Censuses of shorebirds at important staging areas may well be very valuable, however, and used with greater confidence. A relatively well-developed network of hawk watchers is providing valuable information on the migratory hawks. However, the conservation of bird habitats should, to the extent possible, not be limited to one of the habitats, but should consider all the habitats used. We must protect habitat on the wintering grounds, on the migration route, and on the breeding grounds.

What do we need to protect? Deforestation in the tropics represents probably the major threat to many neotropical migrant songbirds today. When forest is cleared, wintering habitat is lost. Unfortunately, much such land is cleared for agriculture, but the productivity of the land soon declines. Over a longer-term view, the economic value of the cleared land may be less than that of the forest. But that is a difficult sell in developing countries where the immediate often takes precedence over the long term.

The issues affecting migratory stopovers -- one of the key habitats in our area -- can be more readily identified and addressed. Almost by definition, the most critical such areas are coastal areas where birds land after stressful water crossings. They are also and always under potential pressure from other users of the coastal land -- mostly recreational. Never mind that much of the coastal habitat is also prone to hurricane problems and erosion problems as nature takes its course or responds to man-made jetties and other coastal structures. Mankind's desire to use the coastal areas for recreation will always pose a threat.

On the Upper Texas Coast, agricultural interests have historically not cleared the oak mottes and other woodlots, preferring to retain them to provide shelter for cattle. But woodlots to which cattle have access tend to remain open and do not develop the underbrush desired by some species. In the natural succession, areas of thick underbrush eventually give way to more open woods, because the reduction of light filtering through the canopy in the woodlot decreases the ability of the underbrush to photosynthesize and grow.

Almost all of the woodlots on the immediate coast on the Upper Texas Coast are now under conservation and habitat improvement programs. Tallows are being controlled, oak, mulberry, willow and hackberry trees are being encouraged, and cattle no longer have free access. Over in nearby southwest Louisiana, where the woodlots are more extensive and form continuous woods along the ridges ("cheniers"), there are still large areas in "not-formally-protected" status, although mostly not immediately threatened. But nearby Louisiana has suffered extensively from hurricanes in recent years.

One feature of the coastal areas on the Texas and Louisiana coasts is the prevalence of salt and brackish marshes. Until fairly recently, one could be forgiven for thinking that the coastal marshes were not under any threat. But the recent development of LNG facilities locally and elsewhere on the Gulf coast has consumed large areas of prime coastal marsh without any apparent mitigation by setting aside good wildlife habitat.

Of importance to a different group of birds -- the shorebirds -- are the coastal mudflats. These areas are on the east side of man-made jetties and in bays and other inlets. Protection of these areas is best accomplished by controlling access, most importantly by preventing vehicular access.

Somewhat surprisingly, breeding grounds in North America are generally not under immediate threat. They tend to be in remote areas with very low human population densities. Many less remote areas are in parks and other protected areas. Timber companies are increasingly sensitive to the needs of wildlife, and although clearcutting is still practiced, sensitive areas are usually respected.

John A. Whittle

Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 21 October 2023

Fall migration is different than spring migration in several ways. For one, it is not as intense. In the spring, birds are in a rush to get to their breeding grounds and establish territories to better ensure that they are able to successfully nest. In the fall, there is just less urgency – there is no big rush to get to the wintering grounds in most cases and it is more driven by the availability of food and how quickly the weather turns cold. For another, birds often use different routes in the fall than they did in the spring. This is because they are not in as big of a rush in the fall so do not need to take shortcuts like flying across the gulf. It also is true that the weather patterns are different in fall and require different routes. The birds can also look very different in the fall versus the spring creating challenges for birders. All of this to say that birding is different in the fall and the birds are not exactly the same as in the spring. But that is what keeps birding interesting and exactly the reason why the Golden Triangle Audubon Society has a fall migration field trip in October.

Some birds are present all year around and may be seen on any trip to Sabine Woods. Many White Ibis flew over the woods on the day of the field trip and a Roseate Spoonbill was also spotted. Surprising was a small flock of Black-bellied Plovers that flew over the birders. Less surprising was seeing both Mourning and White-winged Doves. Both Red-bellied and Downy Woodpeckers were easily found on the day and noisy Blue Jays are never difficult at Sabine Woods. A Brown Thrasher was detected on the trip. Though a scarce nester on the upper Texas coast, it nests annually in small numbers and spends the winter there as well. Northern Cardinal and Red-winged Blackbirds are present at all seasons in many local hot spots and Sabine Woods is no exception.

A recent cool front or two deposited a few winter birds at Sabine Woods for the trip. This included a couple of sparrow species – Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrow. Very few sparrows nest locally in southeast Texas with Seaside and perhaps Chipping Sparrows as the exceptions. Most sparrows are winter residents or passage migrants in this area and October and November are great times to look for them. Heading to the coast after a strong front in November can often produce double digit sparrow species including scarce species for Jefferson County like Grasshopper Sparrow. Other wintering birds were also present including Blue-headed Vireo and Tree Swallows. Eastern Phoebe had begun to replace Eastern Wood-Pewees at the woods but both were still present for this trip. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was the first of season for many of the birders present. And, of course, both Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were found. These are two of the most ubiquitous woodland species in the area in winter and birders will be seeing plenty of them until they clear out in April!

Migrants were not abundant on the day but some were still located. Warblers are always a benchmark of migration days and the group had at least seven species present. Nashville Warbler seemed to be the most common present. This is a bird that can be hard to locate in the spring but, because of a different migration route in the fall, can be one of the most numerous warblers present in October. Black and White Warbler is abundant in spring and fall and was easily located on the day. A couple of Northern Parulas were present looking almost as dapper as in the spring while the fall-plumaged Tennessee Warblers spotted looked very different. In the spring, Tennessee Warblers have a gray head, green back and white underparts. In the fall, they are largely greenish-yellow

overall and can look like a totally different species. They are easily confused with Orange-crowned Warblers in this plumage so care must be taken with identification. Black-throated Green Warblers were seen in a variety of plumages ranging from adult male to first fall female. Common Yellowthroats were found, no doubt wondering where the ponds went. The group also saw a couple of the first Yellow-rumped Warblers of the fall. This is a warbler species that will stay around the area in numbers all winter.

But warblers were not the only migrants seen. Indigo Buntings were easily found with their brown fall plumage defying their name. A good flock of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were gathered on the wires outside of the woods showing off their long tails. A Northern Harrier was seen cruising low over the fields while a Sharp-shinned Hawk zipped by looking for avian prey. A Northern Rough-winged Swallow was spotted flying overhead and a Barn Owl was flushed from the oaks in the western part of the preserve. Barn Swallows were common and several Ruby-throated Hummingbirds worked the oaks for sap and small insects. Perhaps the best bird of the day turned out to be two birds. Another birding group present alerted the GTAS birders to the presence of an Ash-throated Flycatcher present at one of the ponds on the property. This is a species of flycatcher similar to the more common Great Crested Flycatcher often seen at Sabine Woods. Ash-throated is a smaller bird with duller plumage that is normally found west of southeast Texas. A few of these birds pass through the area in migration and some even stay the winter but they are not always easy to find. On this day, the group not only found the Ash-throated Flycatcher but found a second one foraging with it! A good bonus bird for the field trip.

So many good species were seen at Sabine Woods on the day of the field trip. A recent sighting of American Flamingos in nearby McFadden National Wildlife Refuge had several of the birders exploring that area next. Even though no flamingos were located there were plenty of good birds around and this just speaks to the richness of the birding in the Sabine Pass area. And during migration when so many birds are in the move, there is just no telling what might turn up next!

The following species were recorded at Sabine Woods by the trip leaders:

White-winged Dove (9); Mourning Dove (4); Ruby-throated Hummingbird (7); Clapper Rail (1); King/Clapper Rail (1); Black-bellied Plover (4); Killdeer (1); Forster's Tern (1); Great Egret (1); White Ibis (114); Roseate Spoonbill (1); Northern Harrier (1); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Barn Owl (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Downy Woodpecker (1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (2); Eastern Phoebe (2); Ash-throated Flycatcher (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (48); Blue-headed Vireo (1); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Blue Jay (5); Tree Swallow (1); Northern Rough-winged Swallow (1); Barn Swallow (10); Cliff/Cave Swallow (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (7); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2); House Wren (4); Brown Thrasher (1); Northern Mockingbird (2); Lincoln's Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (1); Red-winged Blackbird (5); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (1); Black and White Warbler (2); Tennessee Warbler (3); Nashville Warbler (9); Common Yellowthroat (5); Northern Parula (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (2); Black-throated Green Warbler (3); Northern Cardinal (4); Indigo Bunting (8)

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – October 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.

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: We are now not including sightings of migratory species which are "merely" one week "early" or "late" relative to their normal migration window. While there still are reports that are "only" 10 days late or early, we hope that the column now focusses more on species that we do not normally see in the area.

Local Counties (listed above)

Long-tailed Duck	Oct 20-22	JEF-TP Cell 1 (1) HS, mult obs
Limpkin	Oct 8-16	HAI-Johns Lake (3+) Johnny Johnson
	Oct 8	JAS-Sandy Creek Park (1) Rick Guidry
	Oct 19-26	ANG-Sam Rayburn Marion Ferry Park (up to 3) Gary Hunter, David Wolf, A. Tindell
	Oct 22	SAA Sam Rayburn at TX103 bridge (3) Eric Faria
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Oct 21	JEF-SW (1) TOS and GTAS Field Trips
Couch's Kingbird	Oct 28	ANG-Lufkin-Morris Frank Park (21) Gary Hunter
Painted Bunting	Oct 21	ORA-Levingston Park (40) Rick Guidry
Western Tanager	Oct 28	JEF-Sabine Woods (1) SM, Mariah Stonestreet

Nearby Counties

Ring-necked Duck	Oct 8	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Justin Sandt
Eurasian Wigeon	Oct 20-29	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) Phyllis and Tony Frank, mult obs
Redhead	Oct 7	CAM-Holly Beach (4) Eric Ripma
Black Scoter	Oct 15	GAL-Sherman Rd (2) Greg Whitaker, Alida Brown
Hooded Merganser	Oct 30	GAL-San Luis Pass (1) Peter Moreno, Dean Silvers, Howard Kanelakos
Red-breasted Merganser	Oct 6	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) mult obs
Common Ground Dove	Oct 14-21	GAL-Campeche Cove Animal Hospital (4) Brenda Gonzales, Greg Whittaker, mult obs
	Oct 15	GAL-Sherman Rd (1) Greg Whitaker, Alida Brown
	Oct 15	CAM-Hwy82 nr W Ferry Ldg (1) Jack Rogers
	Oct 17	CAM-Willow Is (1) mult obs
	Oct 17	CHA-Anahuac NWR (2) Norman Welsh
	Oct 19	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) Sonny Bratz
	Oct 16	HAS-Morgan New Washington Prairie Park (1) Richard Rukander, Dale Wolck, Andrew Hamlett
	Oct 22	GAL-Galeston Is SP (2) Paul Sivon
	Oct 29	CAM-Little Chenier Rd (1) Jack Rogers
	Oct 29	CAM-Oak Grove Sanctuary (1) Nick Ramsey, Brandon Nooner
Groove-billed Ani	Oct 15	CAM-Smith Ridge Rd (1) Jack Rogers
	Oct 7	LIB-Champion Lake (1) mult obs
	Oct 14	LIB-Smith Lake (1) Anon
	Oct 26	ANG-Marion Ferry Park(2) Gary Hunter, David Wolf, A. Tindell
	Oct 29	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) mult obs
Black-billed Cuckoo	Oct 17	CAL-Rossignol Rd (1) Van Remsen
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Oct 7	HAS-Russ Pittman Park (1) mult obs

American Flamingo	Oct 7	GAL-nr Fort Sam Jacinto Historic Point (2 ad, 1 imm) Anastasia Kuzmina
	Oct 29	CAM-Hwy 27 N of Creole (1) mult obs-
Anna's Hummingbird	Oct 21	CHA-Smith Point Hawk Watch (1) Joseph Kennedy
Broad-tailed H'bird	Oct 16-29	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig, mult obs
Calliope Hummingbird	Oct 22-28	HAS- N of West Houston Airport (1) Timothy White, mult obs
American Golden-Plover	Oct 7	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Esme Rosen
	Oct 26	CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) Christine Rocca
Limpkin	Oct 3-17	GAL- Magnolia Ridge retention basin (2) Lisa Hardcastle, mult obs
	Oct 5	LIB-Artesian Lakes (1) Scott Black
Upland Sandpiper	Oct 7	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Esme Rosen
Wilson's Phalarope	Oct 17	CAM-Broussard Beach (1) Claire and Tom H
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Oct 8	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Dwayne Fab
Great Black-backed Gull	Oct 21-23	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Mark Korducki, Richard Liebler
Magnificent Frigatebird	Oct 26	HAS-Morgan's Pt (1) Dale Wolck
White-tailed Hawk	Oct 27-28	CAM-Cox Road (1)-mult obs
	Oct 29	CAM-Bell City (1) Jack Rogers
Burrowing Owl	Oct 22	CHA-ANWR Frozen Point (1) Norman Welsh, Rachel Myers
Ladder-backed W'pecker	Oct 6	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Michael and Sarah Kuzio
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Oct 18-19	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Jack Rogers, Justin Bosler
Western Flycatcher	Oct 29	CAM-Oak Grove Sanctuary (1) mult obs
Greater Pewee	Oct 19-29	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Bob Friedrichs, mult obs
Western Wood-Pewee	Oct 7	CAL-Peveto Woods (1) Esme Rosen, James Smithers, Katie Barnes, Jack Rogers
Say's Phoebe	Oct 4	CAM-III Plant Rd (1) Pamela Morgan, Chris Brantley, Heydi Lopes
	Oct 21-29	CAM-Lacassine Wildlife Loop (2) mult obs
Vermilion Flycatcher	Oct 5	CAL-Fabacher Rd (1) Crystal Johnson
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Oct 14	CAM-Lacassine Wildlife Loop (1) Jack Rogers
	Oct 17	CAM-Willow Is Claire and Tom H
Eastern Kingbird	Oct 23	HAS-Knollwood Village (1) John O'Brien
Red-eyed Vireo	Oct 25	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Kerry Keck, Farokh Jamalyaria

Cave Swallow	Oct 24	CAM-Rutherford Bch (1) Jeff Sailer
	Oct 14	HAS-San Jacinto Btlgnd (1) Stephan Lorenz, mult obs
	Oct 28	CAL-Fruee Rd (200) Byron Swift, Jonathan Higman, Don Simonson
	Oct 29	CAM-Oak Grove Sanctuary (1) mult obs
Purple Finch	Oct 20	HAS-NW Houston (1) e Yaros
Pine Siskin	Oct 14	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Sanjay Soni, Grant Parajuli
	Oct 20	HAS-Houston Westbury Area (1) Kerry Keck
	Oct 21-22	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) mult obs
Lesser Goldfinch	Oct 3	GAL-Rachel Myers, Grac
American Goldfinch	Oct 17	GAL-HI (5) WE
	Oct 22	HAS-Wildwood Bayou (1) Larry Dybala
Cassin's Sparrow	Oct 5	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Chris Brantley, Heydi Lopes, mult obs
Eastern Towhee	Oct 9	HAS-J P Landing Park (2) Michael and Sarah Kuzio
Green-tailed Towhee	Oct 21-25	HAS-Willow Waterhole (1) mult obs
	Oct 24-28	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Western Meadowlark Oct 21 GAL-HI Houston Audubon Station (1) WE, Grace Varos
Baltimore Oriole	Oct 28	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Sarah and Michael Kuzio, Justin Sandt
Bullock's Oriole	Oct 21	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Michael Allen, Carolina Alvarado
Blue-winged Warbler	Oct 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs

MacGillivray's Warbler	Oct 8	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Nick Ramsey
	Oct 14-15	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Tropical Parula
	Oct 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
Prairie Warbler	Oct 12	CHA-Smith Point Hawk Watch (1) Joseph Kennedy
	Oct 28	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) anon
Cape May Warbler	Oct 3	GAL-High Is, Houston Audubon Station (1) WE, Rachel Myers, Grace Yaros
	Oct 24	GAL-Shaman Rd(1) Greg Whitaker
Yellow Warbler	Oct 30	HAS- Clear Like Pine Brook Wetlands (1) Richard Rulander, Andrew Hamlett
Yellow-throated Warbler	Oct 25	CAL-Lake Charles-Drew Park (1) Justin Bosler, J G Milller
Western Tanager	Oct 21	HAS-Memorial Area (1) Sue Orwig
	Oct 28	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertas (1) Dean Silvers
Black-headed Grosbeak	Oct 8	GAL-Sherman Rd (1) Greg Whittaker

Abbreviations used: ANG – Angelina County; ANWR – Anahuac NWR; CAL – Calcasieu Parish; CAM – Cameron Parish; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HAS – Harris County; HI – High Island; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; 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.

Smith Point Hawk Watch

Hawk Watches are places to go if people like to see migration happening right over you. I personally truly enjoy seeing the hawks and other bird species flying over on the way to Mexico, Central and South America for the winter. There are two hawk watches that I have been to quite a few times. The closest one is at Smith Point. This hawk watch began officially in 1996. Before it began officially several volunteers did the count without a tower for several years.

Now they have a paid professional hawk counter and he watches from a 30 feet high observation tower. Gulf Coast Birding Observatory started this count and gets funding each year to pay the counter. The last few years the counter has been Bob Baez. He is extremely good at counting and identifying hawks, and really good with people. This count is held from August 15th until November 30th. There have been 25 raptor species seen during the last 27 years. Here are the species numbers, and totals so far for 2023 August 15th until October 25th. Total this year so far: 170,926.

Jana Whittle

Black Vulture	242	Swainson's Hawk	260
Turkey Vulture	2,561	White-tailed Kite	12
Osprey	37	American Kestrel	686
Bald Eagle	7	Merlin	57
Northern Harrier	389	Peregrine Falcon	56
Sharp Shinned Hawk	2,673	Crested Caracara	1
Cooper's Hawk	1,165	Mississippi Kite	6,875
Red-shouldered Hawk	24	Swallow-tailed Kite	117
Broad-winged Hawk	155,584	White-tailed Kite	7
Red-tailed Hawk	155	Unknown accipiter	18

Corpus Christi Hawk Watch

is the largest in North America. Broad-winged Hawks migrate through this area in great numbers in kettles of thousands at a time. This hawk watch began in 1997 and is located on the southern bank of the Nueces River in Calallen, which is northeast of Corpus Christi. They are open 9:00-5:00 seven days a week and have six professional hawk watch counters. One of the hawk counters was the late Dane Ferrell and was at this hawk watch for many years. He was extremely talented at spotting and counting hawks, and lots of fun to visit with. On October the 18th of this year their total for this season was over 1,000,000 hawks counted. That has only happened one other year and that was on October 9, 2004. This year they have seen 21 hawk species but more than 30 have been seen in the past. The platform is 1,700 sq. feet and has a magnificent view for miles. It is located in Hazel Bazemore County Park. From this platform over 313 bird species have been seen. This year from August 1st until October 25th so far they have counted 1,091,873 hawks

Jana Whittle

Black Vulture	537	Red-shouldered Hawk	9
Turkey Vulture	193,984	White-tailed Hawk	7
Osprey	96	Ferruginous Hawk	1
Northern Harrier	391	Harriss's Hawk	5
Mississippi Kite	190	American Kestrel	2,315
White-tailed Kite	9	Merlin	49
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1,946	Peregrine Falcon	64
Cooper's Hawk	1,524	Crested Caracara	11
Broad-winged Hawk	260,293	Bald Eagle	4
Red-tailed Hawk	38	Unknown accipiter	40
Swainson's Hawk	2,066	Unknown falcon	2
Unknown accipiters	40	Unknown raptor	6

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.