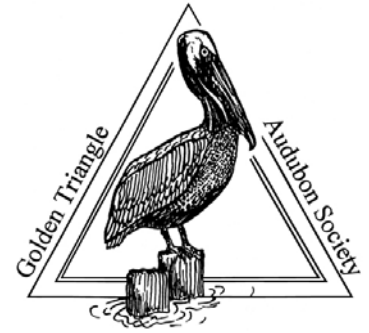


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 30 No.2

February 2024

**Membership Meeting
Thursday February 15, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont
Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge
Stephanie Martinez**

Stephanie Martinez has been with the Texas Chenier Plain Refuges Complex for 23 years. She graduated from Port Neches Groves High School, and then joined the Army. After she returned home, she got her degree in Biology from Lamar University, Beaumont. Her teacher told her of an internship at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and said it would be a good fit so she chose to do that for pennies instead of a “real” job after she graduated. Her internship led to three temporary jobs with the Refuge and a research position studying Mottled Ducks with Texas Tech on Anahuac NWR before they hired her fulltime. Her official title is “outdoor recreation planner” but she is also the volunteer coordinator and is in charge of the education program. She helps with visitor services, maintenance, the biological program, tours, presentations like this one, and special events. She absolutely loves her job and is amazed that, after 20+ years, she gets to see and learn new things. She currently lives in Wallisville with her husband and her 18-year-old son (when he's home from college) and she loves gardening with native plants, cooking and traveling with her family.

Her talk will cover the refuge in general; overview of the system, types of habitats, management tools and include Hurricane Ike information. she will include different locations that are accessible and plans for the future.

We plan to have the doors open no later than 6:00 p.m., the meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp.

The Brown Pelican

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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

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

Thursday February 15, 2024. Membership Meeting.

Stephanie Martinez on Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. See p.1

Saturday February 17, 2024. Field Trip to the Hawk Club in Bridge City.

This is a new field trip to a property due south of Bridge City near the Sabine River that is not routinely accessible to the public. The area supports waterfowl and waterbirds, some raptors, and a variety of woodland passerines, and has produced a good variety of species in the Orange County CBC in recent years.

We will meet at the McDonald's at 755 Texas Avenue (Highway 87/73 and Ferry Dr) in time to leave there at 7:30 am. We will caravan about three miles to the property off Roundbunch Road. The gate to the property is kept locked, so we will not be able to accommodate latecomers.

The field trip will not last beyond about 12:30 pm. Carpooling is highly desirable, but it is suggested that any vehicles thus needing to be parked at the meeting location be parked in the south part of the large lot serving the adjacent Walmart and other nearby stores, as parking round the McDonald's is severely limited.

Thursday March 21, 2024. Membership Meeting.

Kati Krouse of BEARS Etc and the Texas Black Bear Alliance on Black Bears in Texas.

Saturday March 23, 2024. 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.

Many of the participants will visit the High Island Sanctuaries as they head home.

Important Note: Galveston County operates a parking permit program on the Bolivar Peninsula. If you park on most parts of the beach, including the part next to the Flats, you must have a parking permit on your windshield. The fee for the permit is \$10.00 a year and permits are obtainable from most merchants on the Bolivar Peninsula including the Big Store, which opens at 7:00 a.m.



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

28th Annual Birding Classic

This is fast approaching. It is the biggest, longest, birdwatching tournament in the U.S. It is a yearly event/competition sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The event promotes birding while documenting species across the state. There are several categories. We will be participating in The Big Sit and are in the process of

putting a team together consisting of 20 participants. Teams select a 50-foot diameter circle from which to bird. Event is up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight). Team members can rotate in shifts or can be the same members all day. Birds identified and counted may be inside or outside of the 50' circle, but they MUST be seen/heard by a team member from WITHIN the circle. Tournament Dates: April 15 to May 15 allows each team to select a day for optimal migratory birds. Contact Christine Sliva 409-782-1832 or csliva20@windstream.net

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 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.

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.

Johnson Bayou CBC -- 14 December 2023

The Johnson Bayou Christmas Count started our CBC season in mild, partly cloudy weather with an easterly breeze. Mild for the birders and delightful for the mosquitos. A whole lot better than last year's counting through the rainy cold front.

With a similar level of effort to last year, the count results are similar, with fewer surprises than we usually get from LAJB.

Our observations of Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers and Gadwalls were below the trend of the past 2 or 3 years, though we did strike out on Shovelers last year in the inclement weather. These three species plus Lesser Scaup usually account for most of the ducks we see Northern Pintails and Ruddy Ducks bounced back a bit after two bad years. On the count day, large flights of ducks were seen at great distance north of Deep Bayou. These were not really countable or identifiable by us, but their WAG (wild guess) number added significantly to the total ducks and individuals counted.

One Eurasian Collared-Dove and a few Inca Doves appeared which had not been listed in the past 3 years.

Coots were plentiful and Common Gallinules were down but not hard to find; however, no rails or Sora were observed. The Killdeer population was up, and we had Long-billed Curlews and 15 Ruddy Turnstones after last year's miss.

The usual gulls and terns were present in the usual numbers, as were cormorants and pelicans, herons and ibis.

11.5 they were missed the past two years.

Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks were found in typical numbers. The Bald Eagle re-appeared and there were a few more Ospreys than in the past 6 years.

The remaining Passerines, when present, were in un-

remarkable numbers. Except Tree Swallows, which were the fewest since a miss in 2012.

The highlights of the count may be the lone Barn Swallow and the most Vermilion Flycatchers (5) since 1989.

Species recorded: Blue-winged Teal (23); Northern Shoveler (63); Gadwall (173); Mottled Duck (9); Northern Pintail (50); Canvasback (5); Lesser Scaup (131); Red-breasted Merganser (2); Ruddy Duck (20); Duck species (1025); Pied-billed Grebe (22); Horned Grebe (1); Eurasian Collared-Dove (1); Inca Dove (5); White-winged Dove (1); Mourning Dove (60); Common Gallinule (22); American Coot (840); Black-necked Stilt (61); Black-bellied Plover (5); Piping Plover (2); Killdeer (70); Long-billed Curlew (2); Ruddy Turnstone (15); Sanderling (10); Sandpiper sp (1); Dowitcher sp (2); Wilson's Snipe (10); Willet (11); Lesser Yellowlegs (5); Greater Yellowlegs (3); Laughing Gull (42); Ring-billed Gull (30); Herring Gull (2); Caspian Tern (3); Forster's Tern (1); Royal Tern (17); Anhinga (3); Neotropic Cormorant (51); Double-crested Cormorant (6); Cormorant sp (2); American White Pelican (182); Brown Pelican (23); Great Blue Heron (32); Great Egret (53); Snowy Egret (73); Little Blue Heron (20); Tricolored Heron (9); Black-crowned Night-Heron (1); White Ibis (82); Glossy/White-faced Ibis (80); Roseate Spoonbill (55); Turkey Vulture (40); Osprey (8); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (31); Cooper's Hawk (2); Bald Eagle (1); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Swainson's Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (32); Red-tailed Hawk – Krider's (1); Great Horned Owl (4); Belted Kingfisher (10); Downy Woodpecker (3); Northern Flicker (yellow shafted (3); Crested Caracara (7); American Kestrel (12); Merlin (3); Eastern Phoebe (18); Vermilion Flycatcher (5); Loggerhead

Shrike (49); Tree Swallow (32); House Wren (3); Sedge Wren (7); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (15); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (4); Gray Catbird (4); Brown Thrasher (2); Northern Mockingbird (14); European Starling (74); American Goldfinch (1); White-crowned Sparrow (9); Savannah Sparrow (48); Song Sparrow (3); Lincoln's Sparrow (4); Swamp Sparrow (13); Eastern Meadowlark (32); Red-winged Blackbird (1045); Brown-headed Cowbird (50); Common Grackle (230); Boat-tailed Grackle (258); Great-tailed Grackle (89); Quiscalis sp. (20); Orange-crowned Warbler (1); Common Yellowthroat (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (Myrtle) (105); Wilson's Warbler (1);

Northern Cardinal (6); Barn Swallow (1). TOTAL 96 species and 5724 individuals.

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

We are grateful to Doré Energy and the Gray Estate for special access to their properties in Johnson Bayou that enables coverages the count much more complete.

Gary Kelley

Orange County Christmas Bird Count, January 1, 2024

The 2024 Orange County Christmas Bird started off with cool temperatures, some scattered drizzle, and fog. As the day progressed, the weather cleared somewhat, but remained overcast for a large part of the day.

As in past years we had access to private properties and would like to thank the owners and managers for allowing us to access the Hawk Club and Odom Interests. These parcels are located on the southeast edge of the circle. We were also granted access to the Brown Center in Orange. A special thanks to Christine Sliva for making the contacts for access to these properties. We appreciate Gerald Langham for once again allowing us to access his property north of Bessie Heights as well as J.B. Arrington for access to his property east of Claiborne West Park.

There were 15 counters divided into eight parties for the 2024 CBC. Observers were Steve Mayes, Marilyn Guidry, Rick Guidry, Gary Kelley, Denise Kelley, Christine Sliva, Gabrielle Hargrove, Sue Benson, Harlan Stewart, Sherrie Roden, John Whittle, Jana Whittle, Lynn Jackson, Greg Jackson, Betty Stephenson.

This is a list of all sightings on the 2024 Orange County Christmas Bird Count (TXOC123).

WHISTLING DUCK, Black-bellied (436); GOOSE, Snow (230); GOOSE, Ross's (1); DUCK, Wood (15); SHOVELER, Northern (9); MALLARD (2); DUCK, Mottled (5); TEAL, Green-winged (8); GREBE, Pied-billed (11); PIGEON, Rock (150); COLLARED-DOVE, Eurasian (5); DOVE, Inca (7); DOVE, White-winged (84); DOVE, Mourning (152); Gallinule, Common (20); COOT, American (22); CRANE, Sandhill (10); STILT, Black-necked (32); KILDEER (132); DOWITCHER, Long-billed (10); SNIPE, Wilson's (13); YELLOWLEGS, Greater (2); WILLET (2); GULL, Laughing (75); GULL, Ring-billed (32); GULL, Herring (2); TERN, Caspian (1); TERN, Forster's (7); TERN, Royal (1); ANHINGA (7); CORMORANT, Neotropic (33); CORMORANT, Double-crested (34); PELICAN, American white (18); PELICAN, Brown (44); HERON, Great-blue (33); EGRET, Great (228); EGRET, Snowy (24); HERON, Little Blue (6); Tri-colored (2); Black-crowned Night Heron (52); IBIS, White (35); White-faced (43), Glossy/White-faced (24); SPOONBILL, Roseate (36); VULTURE, Black (35); VULTURE, Turkey (89); OSPREY (15); HARRIER, Northern (7); HAWK, Sharp-shinned (3); HAWK, Cooper's (3);

EAGLE, Bald (5); HAWK, Red-shouldered (9); HAWK, Red-tailed (13); **HAWK, Swainson's (1)**; KINGFISHER, Belted (14); SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (3); WOODPECKER, Red-headed (6); WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (51); WOODPECKER, Downy (20); FLICKER, Northern (6); WOODPECKER, Pileated (5); CARACARA, Crested (4); KESTREL, American (36); MERLIN (2); PHOEBE, Eastern (38); VIREO, White-eyed (1); VIREO, Blue-headed (5); SHRIKE, Loggerhead (18); JAY, Blue (110); CROW, American (46); CROW, Fish (9); CHICKADEE, Carolina (51); TITMOUSE, Tufted (22); KINGLET, Golden-crowned (4); KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (25); NUTHATCH, Brown-headed (2); GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (6); WREN, House (6); WREN, Marsh (1); WREN, Carolina (32); STARLING, European (252); CATBIRD, Gray (2); MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (86); BLUEBIRD, Eastern (140); THRUSH, Hermit (4); ROBIN, American (5); WAXWING, Cedar (2); SPARROW, House (33); PIPIT, American (2); FINCH, House (16); GOLDFINCH, American (173); SPARROW, Chipping (35); SPARROW, White-crowned (5); SPARROW, White-throated (15); SPARROW, Savannah (99); SPARROW, Song (7); SPARROW, Swamp (4); TOWHEE, Eastern (1); MEADOWLARK, Eastern (43); BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (588); BLACKBIRD, Brewer's (4); COWBIRD, Brown-headed (40); GRACKLE, Common (227); GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (347); GRACKLE, Great-tailed (938); WARBLER, Orange-crowned (6); YELLOWTHROAT, Common (4); WARBLER, Palm (4); WARBLER, Pine (108); WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (324); CARDINAL, Northern (98); HUMMINGBIRD, Species (3). While there are pictures of the hummingbirds that were spotted, none of the observers were able to confirm their species so they are listed in the count as Hummingbird "species." Count numbers totaled 112 species and 6,407 Individuals.

Observers reported a total of 10.11 miles on foot, over 7.2 hours; 198.8 miles by car, over 39.37 hours; and 8.45 hours feeder watching. Total party hours for this count were 56.57 hours and 210 miles.

Of particular note this year were the sightings of a Swainson's Hawk by Christine Sliva, Gabrielle Hargrove, and Sue Benson; and Brewer's Blackbirds spotted by John and Jana Whittle. Detail reports were submitted for these sightings as they have not been reported during this count in previous years.

Lynn Jackson

Field Trip to Cattail Marsh -- 20 January 2024

The January 2024 field trip for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society was a cold one! With a temperature just above freezing and a stiff wind blowing over Cattail Marsh, it was certainly one of the coldest field trips in recent memory. Given that, it was surprising that over twenty birders showed up for the trip! Maybe it was just cabin fever from being stuck inside on too many cold days this winter or maybe it was the promise of the excellent birding that Beaumont's Cattail Marsh at Tyrell Park has to offer but either way a good group of participants made the three-mile trek around the levees to what this spot had to offer!

Birding starts as soon as one enters the parking lot of Cattail Marsh as it is surrounded by wet forest typical of southeast Texas. These woods hold birds typical of southeastern woodlands and can be great birding locations in their own right. Northern Cardinal and Yellow-rumped Warblers called from the woods while Killdeer and an American Pipit walked around the parking lot. Red-bellied Woodpecker was heard from the trees but the hoped for Winter Wren did not materialize. But standing around is too cold so the birders started the hike around the marsh!

Water birds are of course the most obvious bird at this spot. American Coots and Common Gallinules were seen and heard throughout the marsh. These two species are amongst the most easily seen of the rail family but there were others present. Sora were heard often in from their hiding places in the reeds but a couple of these small rails did come out to be seen. Virginia Rails were heard giving their grunting calls and, eventually, one of these shy birds did give a look to the group. Cattail Marsh is one of the best locations around to get a look at this hard to see species. The group hoped to locate King Rail on the day as well but that bird proved uncooperative.

One of the prime targets of the day was the Limpkin. This odd wading bird was once largely confined to Florida in the U.S. (though fairly common in parts of Latin America). Though this bird has a varied diet including mussels, crawfish and other small aquatic species, it has a particular affinity for snails. When a large tropical Apple Snail was accidentally introduced to Florida and other parts of the southeast, the Limpkin decided it really liked them! As the snail spread, so did the Limpkin. The Limpkin population kept growing and the bird spread out of Florida to neighboring states. It reached Louisiana a few years ago so it was only a matter of time before it landed in southeast Texas. Limpkins were first found in numbers around Brazos Bend State Park near Houston where Apple Snails were also common but soon were popping up everywhere. First it was Sheldon Lake, then Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge and eventually Cattail Marsh. Cattail Marsh does not have the introduced snails that the Limpkin is so fond of but it does have many other food sources for the species and the habitat is a good fit. Still the Limpkin sightings at Cattail Marsh were fleeting until recently, seen for a day and then gone. That is, until recently when one Limpkin decided to take up residence in a ditch near the golf course at Cattail Marsh. The bird was enjoying freshwater mussels and it was hoped that it would stick around for the field trip. Unfortunately, the Limpkin did not put in a showing for the group. Perhaps it was too cold in

the morning? Impossible to know but, of course, the Limpkin would reappear later in the day after the field trip ended!

Ducks are always a major focus of any winter trip to Cattail Marsh. Though the large amount of water hyacinth (another introduced species) choking off many of the ponds leaves less duck habitat than in the past, there are still plenty present. Blue-winged Teal were immediately obvious as they were present near the boardwalk. A few larger Gadwall were also present. The group searched for Cinnamon Teal which are usually present at this location but none was found. Moving around the marsh, other species became obvious. Northern Shoveler with their huge bills were easily found and Lesser Scaup were by far the most common diving ducks present. A few Ring-necked Ducks were eventually sorted out from the scaup and some Ruddy Ducks were also found in the deep-water areas. A single Bufflehead, a tiny diving duck, was spotted as well and eventually gave good looks. A few beautiful Mallard drakes were found as well with their iridescent green heads shining in the sun. Green-winged Teal were also particularly numerous with many crowded along the shore of cell one.

Raptors are also an important component of any trip to Cattail Marsh. Though this trip did not produce as many species as are sometime seen there were still a good variety present. Red-tailed Hawks are a ubiquitous presence in Texas in winter so it was not surprise that several were seen soaring around the marsh on the day. The most exciting Red-tail was a rufous-morph bird found near cell one. This form of the species is a western form on the Red-tail and is not common in our area. Having said this, a bird of this type has wintered at Cattail Marsh for many years and is usually reliable in the area between cell one and the golf course. Northern Harriers were also seen as they cruised low over the marsh. Beautiful Red-shouldered Hawks, a common present at Cattail Marsh, were easily seen on the day. Two Crested Caracaras flew over the marsh for the group to see. This might have been a rare sight at one time but has become common in recent years. The most iconic Cattail Marsh raptor is the Bald Eagle of course. A pair of Bald Eagles have nested at this located every winter for over a decade. Though the birds are again present this year, the pine tree in which the huge nest is built has died. For this reason or perhaps some other unknown reason, it does not appear that the eagles are raising any young this winter.

As the group found its way back to the boardwalk to end the trip, one more surprise awaited. Though not finding the Limpkin was a bit disappointing, Cattail Marsh always gives birders a reason to come back. On this day, a Least Bittern was spotted from the boardwalk sitting right out in the open! This tiny heron is rarely present in our area in the winter and normally only a summer bird here. Even when present, Least Bitterns are often hard to see well as they hide in the dense marsh vegetation – rarely do they just sit out in the open! This Least Bittern gave great looks to all of the remaining birders and provided a nice parting gift for the field trip! And all the more reason to get out there and see what else there is to find! The following species were recorded by the trip leaders: Blue-winged Teal (200); Northern Shoveler (25); Gadwall (15); Mallard (3); Green-winged Teal (215); Ring-necked

Ducks (2); Lesser Scaup (50); Bufflehead (1); Ruddy Duck (30); Pied-billed Grebe (12); Virginia Rail (4); Sora (4); Common Gallinule (60); American Coot (225); Killdeer (5); Ring-billed Gull (60); Herring Gull (5); Least Bittern (1); Black-crowned Night-Heron (1); Little Blue Heron (1); Snowy Egret (2); Great Egret (4); Great Blue Heron (2); White Ibis (11); White-faced Ibis (100); Turkey Vulture (45); Northern Harrier (3); Bald Eagle (2); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (1); Crested Caracara (2); Eastern Phoebe (4); Blue Jay (1); Tree Swallow

(20); Cave Swallow (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1); Marsh Wren (3); Carolina Wren (1); European Starling (2); Northern Mockingbird (2); Eastern Bluebird (3); American Pipit (2); Chipping Sparrow (1); White-crowned Sparrow (2); White-throated Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (12); Song Sparrow (2); Swamp Sparrow (6); Red-winged Blackbird (30); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Common Yellowthroat (6); Palm Warbler (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (15); Northern Cardinal (1).

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – January 2024

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: Despite unusually cold weather, or perhaps

partly because of it, we have lots of sightings to report this month

As many of you will know, there is a controversial proposal on the part of the American Ornithological Society to rename all North American birds that are named after individuals. The proposal at present is applicable to the "English" or "common" names of birds, and it does not extend to scientific names. From a practical perspective, eBird, which has *de facto* become the repository of all field observations of birds in much of the World, only updates the taxonomy that it uses once a year in July, so no matter what else eventuates, no name changes will be implemented before July 2024 at the very earliest. So we will not implement changes, if any, before July 2024. We think it likely nothing will be done before July 2025

Local Counties (listed above)

White-winged Scoter	Jan 24-29	JAS-US69 S of Jasper (1) Sage Church, Andrew Rapp, mult obs
Black-chinned Hbird	Jan 3-29	ANG-Westwood Bend (1) Katrina Echols
Limpkin	Jan 11-27	JEF-TP (1) Bonnie Berard, mult obs
	Jan 14	HAI-Silsbee (1) Johnny Johnson
	Jan 29	JAS-Sandy Creek Park (1) Fred Lyons
Wilson's Phalarope	Jan 24	JEF-McDermand Rd (1) Sage Church, Andrew Rapp
Western Sandpiper	Jan 2	SAA-TX147 Causeway (1) David Bell
Least Bittern	Jan 20	JEF-TP (1) Greg Reynolds, Thomas Hellweg
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 14-17	JEF-SW Howard Davis, SM
Cave Swallow	Jan 17	ANG-Lufkin Ellen Trout Park (1) Tyson Hart
Baltimore Oriole	Jan 30	JEF-TP (1) John BeaverWestern Tanager
	Jan 24	JEF-TP Sage Church, Andrew Rapp
Painted Bunting	Jan 2-30	JEF-Nederland (3 m, 1 f) HS, continuing

Nearby Counties

Cinnamon Teal	Jan 1-20	CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) Charlotte Chechotsky, mult obs
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Greater Scaup	Jan 13	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) Jack Rogers
	Jan 21	CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) Kathy Rhodes
	Jan 25	CAM-Mae's Beach (1) Jody Shugart
White-winged Scoter	Jan 25	CAM-Mae's Beach (1) Sage Church, Andrew Rapp
Egyptian Goose	Jan 6	CHA-Hackberry Gully Rrg. Park (1) Paul Fagala
Common Ground-Dove	Jan 1	HAS-Nelson's Farms (3) JM Fleischer, Aaron Hammer, Pam Goodman, Claire Moore
	Jan 21	HAS-Geo Bush Park (1) Aaron Hammer
	Jan 27-28	GAL-UH Coastal Center (6) Chris Bick
Least Grebe	Jan 14	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (1) Branson Melancon
Allen's Hummingbird	Jan 27-28	HAS-Copperfield area (1) Stephen Williams, mult obs
Limpkin	Jan 4	LIB-Cleveland CR2306 (1) Lisa Madry, Paul Fagala, Lisa Edwards, Bill Wright
	Jan 19-29	GAL-Magnolia Ridge/Clear Creek (3) Dennis Cooke, mult obs
Wilson's Plover	Jan 2	GAL-San Luis Pass (1) Trevor Murphy, Davis Hanson, Greg Whitaker, Brenda Gonzales
	Jan 21	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Ezekiel Dobson

Wilson's Phalarope	Jan 20 Jan 28	CHA-FM1985 (3) Andrew Rapp CHA-ANWR (1) Jessie Bright, Jason Bojczyk	Lark Bunting	Jan 1	HAS-Warren Ranch (50) continuing
Solitary Sandpiper	Jan 27 Jan 27 Jan 29	HAS-Sheldon Lake (1) Tom Rollins HAS-Sheldon Lake (1) Tom Rollins HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Tira Overstreet, Nina Rach-	Clay-colored Sparrow	Jan 1 Jan 25	HAS-Warren Ranch (1) mult obs HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs
Franklin's Gull	Jan 21 Jan 27	CHA-Cedar Point (1) WE HAS-El Jardin Park (1) Richard Rulander	Brewer's Sparrow	Jan 4	LIB-Cleveland Damuth Woods (1) WE, Grace Yaros, Rachel Myers
California Gull	Jan 1 Jan 21 Jan 21	HAS-Exploration Green (1) Glenn Alexon CHA-Cedar Point (2) WE GAL-Apfel Park (1) Andrew Rapp	Harris's Sparrow	Jan 1-28	GAL-Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) Continuing
Iceland Gull	Jan 21 Jan 25-26 Jan 26 Jan 27 Jan 28	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Andrew Rapp GAL-Boddeker Road (2) Mike Austin GAL-7 1/2 mile Pond (1) Richard Liebler GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Natalia Malesa, Lance Felber	Spotted Towhee	Jan 28 Jan 28 Jan 29-30	HAS-Longwood (1) John Cocanower HAS-La Porte (1) Janet Rathjan HAS-San Jacinto Bttlnd (1) mult obst
Golden Eagle	Jan 12	CHA-TX124 Stowell (1) WE\	Yellow-breasted Chat	Jan 28	HAS-Longwood Retention Basin (1) Hengxing Zou
Harris's Hawk	Jan 21	HAS-IH10 River Park/ Lynchburg (1) John Berner	Western Meadowlark	Jan 1 Jan 4	HAS-Warren Ranch (3) mult obs CAM-Cameron Beach (1) Charlotte Chehotsky
White-tailed Hawk	Jan 1-14	CAL-Tom Segal Rd/Frue Rd (1) Randy Frederick, mult obs	Bullock's Oriole	Jan 29 Jan 25	HAS-Cin-Ty Lee HAS-Memorial Dr area (1) Hannah Holmsten
Swainson's Hawk	Jan 31	GAL-Texas City Prairie Preserve (1) Debbie Repasz	Baltimore Oriole	Jan 28	HAS-Willow Waterhole (1) Van Bowersox, Elle Bow
Burrowing Owl	Jan 4 Jan 13	LIB-nr Dayton (1) Kevin Cutrera CAM-Rutherford Beach Rd (1) David Muth, Phillip Wallace, Buford Mayers,	Northern Waterthrush	Jan 1-31	HAS-Bella Vista area (1) Judy Behrens
Ladder-back. Woodpecker	Jan 2 Jan 1-14 Jan 19-25	GAL-S of FM646/FM2004 mult obs HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Park (1) continuing HAS-Warren Ranch Lake Area (1) Justin Sandt	Black-and-white Warbler	Jan 2 Jan 21	GAL-S of FM646/FM2004 mult obs LIB-Champion Lake Boat Ramp (1) Colette & Paul Micallef
W. Flycatcher (Pac Slope)	Jan 13-14	CAM-LA82 nr Deep Bayou Rd (1) Jack Rogers, mult obs	MacGillivray's Warbler	Jan 13	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) continuing
Greater Pewee	Jan 1-29	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) continuing	Yellow-throated Warbler	Jan 4	CAM-W of Creole (1) John Parker, John Nelson
Great Kiskadee	Jan 29-31	GAL-57-Acre Park (2) Geordia Eschenbach, Dean Silvers	Prairie Warbler	Jan 4 Jan 14	CAM-SW of Creole (1) John Nelson, David Muth CHA-JJ Mayes Trace (1) Ben Sandstrom
Tropical Kingbird	Jan 1-2 Jan 1-2	GAL-Clear Creek ISD Village (1) continuing HAS-Johnson Space Ctr Longhorn area (1) mult obs	Summer Tanager	Jan 6 Jan 14	GAL-SW of Jamaica Beach (1) Brenda Gonzales GAL-League City (1) Martha Alper
Western Kingbird	Jan 2 Jan 15 Jan 27-28	GAL-FM3005 nr Beach Access 23A (1) mult obs CAL-Frue Rd (1) J G Miller GAL-HI E Mexico Rd (1) WE	Western Tanager	Jan 27	GAL-HI Gast Red Bay (1) WE
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 20	HAS-US290 Hockley (1) John Hale	Blue Grosbeak	Jan 21-23 Jan 27-28	GAL-Carbine Park (1) Richard Liebler HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) mult obs
Barn Swallow	Jan 17 Jan 21 Jan 27	GAL-HI (1) WE CHA-ANWR (2) Grant Price GAL-Apfel Park (1) Vivek Menon	Painted Bunting	Jan 17 Jan 20 Jan 26 Jan 28	GAL-HI Cemetery (1 f) WE CHA-Magnolia Bend (1) David Hanson CAL-Sulphur (2) Claire Sylvest GAL-Santa Fe (1) Ross Foreman
Rock Wren	Jan 1-3 Jan 1-6	GAL--7 1/2 mile Pond (1) mult obs HAS-J P Landing Park (1) continuing CHA/HAS-Sylvan Beach Park (1) continuing	Dickcissel	Jan 28	CHA-ANWR (1) Jason Bojczyk
Pine Siskin	Jan 23	LIB-FM2325 area (1) Colett and Paul Micallef	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; MC - Michael Cooper, LIB – Liberty County; NEW – Newton County; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur; SAA – San Augustine Co.; SAB – Sabine County; SM – Steve Mayes, SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TYL – Tyler County; WE – Wyatt Egelhoff; WJC – West Jefferson County.		
Lesser Goldfinch	Jan 22-28	CAL-Lake Charles (1) David Booth, mult obs			
Lapland Longspur	Jan 28	CAM-Hwy 82 (1) Carson Lambert			

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
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Unfortunately, almost all the local and regional telephone Rare Bird Alerts have been discontinued in favor of various forms of Internet distribution.

The Texas-wide Rare Bird Alert, maintained by Houston Audubon Society, is available on their web-site at <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/> Email alerts are also available for a fee.

Many rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on Facebook Texbirds or on the 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.