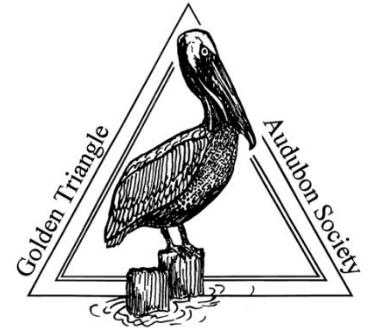


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 30 No 4

April 2024

Membership Meeting
Thursday April 18, 2024 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Making Flycatcher Identification Accessible to All

Cin-Ty Lee

Cin-Ty Lee spends much of his spare time following, painting, photographing and recording birds. Together with Andrew Birch, he has written numerous articles and books on the field identification of birds, most recently the Field Guide to North American Flycatchers – Empidonax and Pewees in the Princeton series. A second volume covering the kingbirds and *Myiarchus* Flycatchers is scheduled for publication on April 9. He will sign copies of these books but will not have any available for sale at the meeting, so you will have to purchase directly from Princeton University Press, or Amazon or other booksellers. He has also published articles on Arctic and Pacific Loons, female orioles and dowitchers among other identification challenges.

Cin-Ty Lee was born in Taiwan and immigrated to the US with his family. He has a B.A. in geology from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Ph.D. in geochemistry from Harvard University. After a post-doctoral fellowship at the California Institute of Technology, he joined the faculty of Rice University in 2002, and is currently the Harry Carothers Wiess Professor of Geology in the Department of Geology, Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences.

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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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 April 18, 2024.
Membership Meeting. Cin-Ty Lee on
Flycatchers. See p. 1 for more details.

**Saturday April 20, 2024. Field trip to
Sabine Woods.**

This trip will look for Neotropical migrants at the height of spring migration. We will assemble at Sabine Woods at 7:30 a.m. In most years, the GTAS group has divided into two or more parties to keep the number of birders with each leader as small as possible. (You should be able to find a group if you are unable to be there quite that early, but there are likely to be other organized groups in the Woods on this Saturday.)

We have portable toilets available at the entrance during spring migration, but even with an increased number this year, there may not be as much capacity on April weekends as would be ideal!

This trip involves relatively easy walking on the trails at Sabine Woods to look for migrant songbirds, although another option is to sit at one of the six water features (three of them new this year and wait for the birds to come to you. The trails may be muddy and slippery if it has rained in the prior day or two. Armadillos and feral pigs have been very active, so there will be holes to avoid! There is a \$10 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are **not** members of Golden Triangle Audubon or TOS.

**Saturday May 11, 2024. Spring
Migration Count.** On International
Migratory Bird 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. International Migratory
Bird Day/Global Big Day is the second
Saturday in May. 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! We can assign that area to you, and if necessary, can arrange for someone to help you. Contact John Whittle (gtaudubon@aol.com or 409-722-4193) for further details or offers to help.

The Great Texas Birding Classic

This is the 28th Annual Birding Classic. It is the biggest, longest, birdwatching tournament in the U.S. This is a yearly event/competition sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife. The event promotes birding while documenting species across the state of Texas. There are several categories to participate in. This year we will be participating in in two categories: The Big Sit consisting of 1-20 participants and State Park Intact Flock consisting of 3-5 participants. The Big Sit team selects a 50-foot diameter circle from which to bird. 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 **MUST** be seen/heard by a team member from **WITHIN** the circle. Location will be at Sabine Woods. The State Park Intact Flock team members bird and travel together. Sea Rim State Park has been selected; all birds identified must be seen/heard from within the park's official boundaries. Tournament Dates: April 15 to May 15 allowing each team to select a day for optimal migratory birds. Best of luck! Contact Christine Sliva for further information.



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

Changing Bird Names

As many of you will know, there is a controversial proposal on the part of the American Ornithological Society (AOS) to rename all North American birds that are named after individuals (eponymous names). The proposal at present is applicable to the "English" or "common" names of birds, and it does not extend to scientific names. As a practical perspective, eBird, which has *de facto* become the repository of most field observations of birds in much of the World, only updates the taxonomy and naming that it uses once a year in October, so no matter what else eventuates, no name changes will be implemented in eBird before November 2024 at the very earliest. We are dependent on eBird for the vast majority of the sightings in our "Bird Sightings" column, so we will not implement changes, if any, in the *Brown Pelican*, before November 2024. The AOS suggestion to implement the proposal appears to be to work first on a pilot group of a small number of species. (Depending on the criteria that are used, there are between 80 and 150 eponymous bird names for birds that are reasonably common in North America.) We think it likely that even if the proposal is generally accepted -- which seems very questionable at present -- nothing significant will be implemented before November 2025 because there will be time-consuming discussions of proposed replacement names.

In the recommendation of an Ad Hoc English Bird Names Committee, AOS committed to constituting a new Ad Hoc committee to recommend a system to implement the renaming process. This committee will apparently not be the one to decide on new names, only on the process to be used. So far, only three co-chairs have been named, none of whom are particularly well known in field focused academic ornithological circles. Since 1886, AOS and principally one of its predecessors, the American Ornithological Union (AOU), has decided on the Classification of North American birds and their scientific and English names. This is the responsibility of the North American Classification Committee (NACC). In 1998, the South American Classification Committee (SACC) became the authority on classification and naming of South American species, and affiliated with AOU (later AOS) in August 2002. In response to the decision of AOS to purge all eponymous names of North American birds, the SACC on 1 November 2023 disaffiliated from AOS and affiliated with the International Ornithologists' Union. Dr. J. V. "Van" Remsen, Curator Emeritus of the Museum of Natural Science at Louisiana State University and long-time chair of SACC, remains its chair, but has resigned as a member of the NACC.

The AOS proposal has generated significant opposition from leaders in field oriented scientific ornithology circles, and a petition in opposition already has been initiated. (Signed by 5,000 interested birders and ornithologists -- <https://www.change.org/p/petition-to-aos-leadership-on-the-recent-decision-to-change-all-eponymous-bird-names>. Publicly identified signers include Jon Dunn, Paul Lehman, Van Remsen and Steve N.G. Howell among others.)

Opinion

Underlying this proposal are considerations labelled as promoting diversity, "equity" and inclusion, and thus it is unfortunately very political and seems destined to split the ornithological community, potentially in similar ratio to the current political split in the United States as a whole. No participant in discussions of this proposal has expressed opposition to anti-discrimination policies. However, some will accept systems that allow discrimination **in favor** of one identity group or another, or systems that do not champion equality of opportunity and that do not accept that appointment decisions should ordinarily be based on merit only. The term "equity" is a particular stumbling block, as it is subjective and thus has no universally accepted definition. Indeed, it can only be evaluated in the context of the particular issue being considered. Diversity of participants is often valuable in policy decision making, but it must be remembered

that various identity groups have differing cultural proclivities towards birding, and the make-up of any birding or ornithological group is unlikely to match the make-up of the population as a whole.

To take a very practical approach, bird names should only be changed for good reasons. A bird name that has been in use since the 1880s, and there are many, will have been used in an enormous body of publications over the years. Changing it complicates research into the species. (Scientific names are not under discussion in the present proposal and very rarely include the name of a person). Many bird names are changed when the appropriate body determines that two (or more) of the subspecies warrant treatment as separate (full) species, or less commonly, two species need to be reduced to subspecies of one encompassing species.

In recent times, but still very infrequently, the classification committees (mostly the NACC) have been persuaded to change a name that some faction claims to consider to be offensive or simply not politically correct. One change that comes to mind was the change from Oldsquaw to Long-tailed Duck. This was made a little easier by the fact that the name Long-tailed Duck was the name used in Europe. A less justified change, still not adopted in the field by many birders, was the more recent change of McCown's Longspur to Thick-billed Longspur. The issue here was that McCown, in addition to contributing much to early ornithology, served as a general in the Confederate army. Apart from issues of attempting to rewrite history, it now appears that McCown was not a truly willing supporter of the Confederacy and was actually court martialed for failing to support Confederate policies. Evaluating historical events requires a thorough investigation of the norms of the times, something not easy to do! Most eponymous names were named after ornithologists who spent lifetimes advancing ornithology. It does not make sense to dive deeply into what may be available, but typically not widely known, about what they are alleged to have said or done, often well over 100 years ago, and what they may have supported outside of ornithology.

Nearer to home is the case of John James Audubon. A concise history of J J Audubon which includes unflattering details, can be found at <https://www.audubon.org/content/john-james-audubon>. The National Audubon Society (NAS) decided in March 2023, after a year-long evaluation, not to change its name. This was a very sensible nod to the existing reach and value of the name and the practicalities involved in changing. A number of Audubon chapters, mostly on the coasts and mid-west have or are in the process of removing Audubon from their names, although most remain Audubon Chapters affiliated with NAS. It seems probable that most will use some form of tag line, albeit not part of their legal names, that contains "Audubon."

On a closely related topic, it is to be hoped that if any bird names are changed, great care is taken to decide on names that do not cause problems in themselves! Naming birds after one plumage characteristic, or after a location, is fraught with potential pitfalls. Ring-necked Duck, named after a plumage characteristic that is difficult to discern, even in the hand, is one glaring example. Connecticut and Cape May Warblers are two examples of species that were named after where they were first collected, far away from their normal ranges. For the most part, these "mis-namings" have not been changed, although if there is some other opportunity, such as a species split or a lumping, the unfortunate reference is often removed.

There are some other names that we would support changing. "Yellow Warbler" is frustratingly open to misinterpretation. In our usage in the *Brown Pelican*, "Yellow Warbler" and "yellow warbler" are different. Yellow Warbler is a specific species, yellow warbler (which we avoid using) refers to any warbler that is mostly yellow. But many other publications, including *Audubon* magazine, only capitalize English names when they are the name of a person.

John Whittle

Field Trip to Bolivar Flats -23 March 2024

More than twenty birders turned up for the Golden Triangle Audubon's March field trip to Bolivar Flats. The group consisted of GTAS veterans, local first timers and even a visiting couple from Cincinnati. And why wouldn't they come? It was a cool but promising day and a trip to one of the premiere shorebird hotspots in North America. And with that fact tucked away in the birder's minds, the field trip began!

The tide and wind play a large role in how one birds Bolivar Flats. When the conditions push a lot of water close to shore, it crowds the birds into a smaller area of beach and mud flat. This means less walking for the birders and easier access to the birds but may make individual birds harder to find in the crowd. When the water is pushed further from shore, there is extensive beach/flats and the birds will spread out more. This can mean a lot of walking for the birders but it is really better conditions for the birds. The tide was definitely far out for this field trip and that meant the group had to do some walking. But it also meant the walking was dry and no wading was necessary which is always nice.

Certain shorebirds are immediately noticeable at Bolivar Flats. Willets cannot be ignored even though their plumage is not flashy – they are too loud! Willets always call noisily and flash black and white wings. There are actually two distinct (well, somewhat distinct) types of Willets, eastern and western. The eastern type spends summers at Bolivar and is a bit shorter and more compact. The eastern Willets were getting into breeding plumage and setting up territories on the field trip day. Western Willets winter at Bolivar Flats and breed further north. They are taller and leaner and the lingering birds on field trip day were still in winter plumage. Pale Sanderlings are always present in numbers at Bolivar Flats usually hanging out near the water line. Though Sanderlings can be seen at Bolivar Flats all year, they do not breed there and Texas birders do not often get to see their reddish breeding plumage. One bird that you can always count on wintering at the flats is the American Avocet. Thousands of Avocets are present here each winter and they stay into the spring before leaving for breeding territories. On the field trip day, the Avocets were getting into their rusty breeding plumage and presented quite the spectacle feeding in a flock of thousands in the shallow surf.

Gulls and terns can be quite numerous at Bolivar Flats as well. On this day, most were far out on the flats and required quite a walk to see. Laughing Gulls were obvious everywhere as usual but it took some hunting to find Ring-billed Gull. A few large Herring Gulls stood out from the crowd at Bolivar but it took a brief side trip to Rollover Pass to locate the smaller Bonaparte's Gull.

Large Royal Terns were present in large numbers but the even larger Caspian Tern was also easily seen. Small Forster's Terns were spotted here and there but tiny Least Terns, often seen on this trip, were not found on the day. Apparently, the Least Terns had not yet arrived on their breeding grounds at the flats. Gull-billed Terns swooped over the marsh behind Bolivar Flats while a single Sandwich Tern was found among the more numerous Royals. Odd looking Black Skimmers were present in large numbers but they were at a great distance from the birders so the looks were not the best.

Ducks and wading birds are always of interest at Bolivar Flats and there were plenty seen on this day. Blue-winged Teal and Northern Shovelers were numerous around the shoreline among the many shorebirds and gulls. American Wigeon was also spotted among the flock with the white forehead of the drake wigeon standing out from a great distance. A pair of dark Mottled Ducks were spotted flying over the marsh while a large flock of Lesser Scaup swam just off shore. Numerous Red-breasted Mergansers were also spotted showing off their white wing patches in flight and their spikey hairdos on the water. Great Blue Herons stalked the surf taking fish that look to big for them to swallow but they somehow always manage it. Snowy and Great Egrets were found along with a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Reddish Egrets are always a highlight of the Bolivar trip and the birders were not disappointed. Both dark and white morph birds were seen on the day including some performing their iconic, dance-like feeding technique.

But shorebirds are the focus at Bolivar! And there were plenty more to see for the assembled group. All the usual small plover species were located on the trip. Endangered Piping Plovers were easily seen and Bolivar Flats is an important wintering spot for the species. Large billed Wilson's Plovers were also easy to find on the day. Snowy Plover took a bit longer to locate but once their preferred section of the flats was located, they were everywhere! Semipalmated Plover was the last of the group seen but they were eventually spotted as well. Small Western and Least Sandpipers were seen and colorful Ruddy Turnstones stood out. A couple of Red Knots were picked out even in their dull winter plumage while the usual Short-billed Dowitchers could not be located. One of the most unusual sightings of the trip were of a bird not usually found on the beach. Many people thing that all shorebird species like the shore and other wetlands but there are many species that actually prefer grasslands. One of these is the American Golden-Plover. A classic "grasspiper", this species prefers fields with short grass over shorelines and is usually much more

likely to be found in a cattle pasture or turf farm than on a beach. When the first American Golden-Plover was found on the flats on the trip it didn't create too much of a stir. The species is occasionally seen on the beach during migration. But when more and more of them kept turning up, the group realized it was a much more unusual event! Obviously a whole flock of migrating American Golden-Plovers decided to settle on the beach and gave a great show! They allowed good looks to the birders which allowed the field marks that separate this species from the Black-bellied Plover to be easily noticed. Though the birds were still in winter plumage, the smaller bill, slighter build and lack of black under the wings distinguished the birds from their beach-loving cousins.

More species were spotted at the flats before leaving for lunch. Barn Swallows zipped over the beach and Northern Harriers cruised over the marsh. White-tailed Kite was spotted from the entrance road and Eastern Meadowlark was heard calling from nearby. A Louisiana Waterthrush was spotted bobbing its tail along the vegetation line – an unusual spot to find this woodland species. Both Brown Pelicans and American White Pelicans were seen either loafing on the flats or soaring overhead. Horned Larks, a Bolivar specialty, gave nice looks to the group. A common bird out west, Horned Larks are a scarce and local species on the upper Texas coast. Bolivar Flats is probably the best place to see this bird in our area. But even with great looks at special birds, it was time to move on.

After lunch, a stop at Smith oaks in High Island proved very successful as well. The rookery is always a hit with birders with dozens of Great Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills and other waders building nests and jockeying for position with their neighbors. Anhingas gave great looks among the more common Neotropic Cormorants. A roosting Wood Stork was a nice surprise but these birds seem to turn up earlier and earlier every year. But migrating land birds quickly began to steal the show. A pair of cooperative Yellow-throated Warblers were spotted from the skywalk along with a Black and White Warbler. Louisiana Waterthrush was eventually located along with White-eyed Vireo. Yellow-throated Vireo sang its raspy song and Northern Parula gave its insect-like buzzy trill. A beautiful, golden Prothonotary Warbler gave brief looks but that was enough to recognize this spectacular species. These are all clear indications that spring migration is well underway!

With great shorebirds and waterbirds at Bolivar Flats and beautiful migrating landbirds at Smith Oaks, it was a great field trip day for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. Birders in this area are lucky to have so many

good birding choices nearby and these two sanctuaries are among the best. These are just a couple of the sanctuaries preserved by the Houston Audubon Society and birders from all over the globe are grateful! No doubt there will be many future field trips to Bolivar Flats and nearby areas for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, who can resist all those birds?

The following species were recorded by the field trip leaders:

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (11); Blue-winged Teal (30); Northern Shoveler (20); American Wigeon (2); Mottled Duck (2); Lesser Scaup (50); Red-breasted Merganser (12); Pied-billed Grebe (1); Mourning Dove (3); Black-necked Stilt (3); American Avocet (5000); Black-bellied Plover (15); American Golden-Plover (30); Killdeer (1); Semipalmated Plover (2); Piping Plover (20); Wilson's Plover (10); Snowy Plover (16); Long-billed Curlew (15); Marbled Godwit (20); Willet (35); Ruddy Turnstone (8); Red Knot (2); Sanderling (220); Dunlin (180); Least Sandpiper (2); Western Sandpiper (50); Bonaparte's Gull (2); Laughing Gull (100); Ring-billed Gull (5); Herring Gull (15); Black Skimmer (380); Caspian Tern (10); Forster's Tern (45); Sandwich Tern (1); Royal Tern (45); Common Gallinule (5); American Coot (1); Wood Stork (1); Anhinga (6); Double-crested Cormorant (4); Neotropic Cormorant (114); American White Pelican (120); Brown Pelican (70); Black-crowned Night-Heron (1); Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (1); Tricolored Heron (2); Reddish Egret (5); Snowy Egret (23); Great Egret (62); Great Blue Heron (10); White Ibis (1); Roseate Spoonbill (78); Crested Caracara (1); Black Vulture (16); Turkey Vulture (8); Osprey (5); White-tailed Kite (2); Northern Harrier (1); Red-tailed Hawk (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4); Eastern Phoebe (3); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); White-eyed Vireo (1); Yellow-throated Vireo (4); Blue-headed Vireo (2); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Blue Jay (3); Horned Lark (2); Purple Martin (1); Tree Swallow (1); Barn Swallow (4); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (37); Carolina Wren (1); Hermit Thrush (1); European Starling (1); Northern Mockingbird (1); Savannah Sparrow (10); Eastern Meadowlark (2); Red-winged Blackbird (27); Great-tailed Grackle (24); Louisiana Waterthrush (1); Black-and-white Warbler (5); Prothonotary Warbler (1); Tennessee Warbler; Orange-crowned Warbler (1); Northern Parula (5); Yellow-rumped Warbler (10); Yellow-throated Warbler (2); Wilson's Warbler (2); Northern Cardinal (5); Common Yellowthroat (1).

Steve Mayes

Bird Sightings – March 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: There are a number of comments that we have had ready to include over the last few months, but which have been squeezed out by the sheer number of bird sightings in the month. We are taking advantage of a small amount of space left in the second page to include them this month.

Increasingly over the last few months, there have been numbers of various species of gull reported in these columns that have not normally been considered to be part of the normal avifauna. Iceland (including Thayer's) Gulls and California Gulls stand out. Glaucous Gulls also, but a few of these have been reported for a long time. Gull identification, especially gulls that are not yet in adult plumage can be exceptionally difficult. So, we wonder if some of these gulls have been mixed in our local gull flocks for many years but not correctly identified. Gulls are strong fliers and can obviously cover long distances. In addition, perhaps more than any other family of birds, gulls, an omnivorous group, are prone to rest on ships, and so ship assisted relocation to locations outside their normal area is easily explained, and can be expected to be quite common. We encourage all experienced birders to carefully examine all flocks of gulls that they encounter! We encourage eBird reviewers to carefully review all reports of out-of-range gulls submitted to them. Certainly, many apparently unusual gulls will have to be left unidentified, or worse, incorrectly defaulted to a more common species. Let us identify birders who are truly gull experts and who are willing to assist in review of difficult gulls! It is usually not too difficult to obtain good photos of

difficult gulls.

Limpkins do not pose much of an identification challenge. Previously in the US more or less confined to Florida, in 2018 they had spread to several locations in Louisiana, and by 2021 they were established in a few locations in Southeast Texas. We are still reporting these in this column to give readers a chance to find nearby locations to find these birds, but we may not do this for much longer!

Common Ground Doves have long been reasonably common in South Texas, but in the last year or so there have been many more reports from the counties that we cover. Review of overall eBird records and maps does not show any significant expansion in range, although it seems that the populations within the range may well be increasing. We have, however, not done a detailed analysis to confirm this.

Western Meadowlarks are an interesting case. It has been well known for many years now that there are significant numbers of Western Meadowlarks in the western half of Texas. We think an accurate picture of the status of the species in Texas is obscured by the ill-considered and unscientific eBird policy of encouraging defaulting of sightings of meadowlarks not carefully examined to the more common species. For the local area, and indeed, for most of Texas, the Eastern Meadowlark is by far the commonest of the Eastern/Western species pair. In the local area, Western Meadowlarks were so rare that not many birders even considered the possibility. In the last two or three years, it has become clear that a very small percentage, and it is a very small percentage, are in fact Western Meadowlarks. We wonder how many were and still are being defaulted to Eastern Meadowlark without any further examination. We will continue to list those that are identified as Western. (The recent elevation of what we long called Lillian's Meadowlark to full species status as Chihuahuan Meadowlark does not seem to be a factor in meadowlark identification in South-east Texas.

We wonder if we are seeing the beginning of a range expansion of Ladder-backed Woodpeckers into the area. While it seems likely that when a vagrant woodpecker of a non-migratory species arrives in the area, it may well stay in a location it finds to be to its liking, there appear to have been an increasing number over the last year or so.

Local Counties (listed above)

Limpkin	Mar 27	ORA-Rose City (1) Olaf Danielson
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 6	LIB-Liberty (1) Shelli Ellerbe
	Mar 10	NEW-TX63 at Sabine River
Yellow-throated Vireo	Mar 10	JEF-SW (1) SM, Swai
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 30	JEF-SW (1) Danis Sanches, Greg Reynolds
Worm-eating Warbler	Mar 19	JAS-CR777 S of Buna (1) Penny Garsee
Hooded Warbler	Mar 9-11	JEF-SW(2) Greg Reynolds (1) mult obs
Painted Bunting	Mar 1-30	JEF-Nederland (2 m) HS, continuing

Nearby Counties

Egyptian Goose	Mar 4	CHA-FM563 (2) Duane Hyatt
Common Ground Dove	Mar 2	GAL-57 acre Pond (2) Steven Berenzweig
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Mar 20	GAL-Galv Is SP (1) Gautam Apte, Will Baxter-Bray
	Mar 25-28	HAS-Addick's Reservoir (1) mukly obs
Allen's Hummingbird	Mar 1-3	HAS-Copperfield area (2) Stephen Williams, mult obs
Purple Gallinule	Mar 5	HAS-Explorration Green (1) mult obs
	Mar 19	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR Pintail Dr (1) Bruce Johnson

Limpkin	Mar 3	GAL-Magnolia Ridge/Clear Creek (2) continuing	Brewer's Sparrow	Mar 29	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Lythia Metzmeier
Purple Sandpiper	Mar 18-31	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) mult obs	Spotted Towhee	Mar 6	HAS-Louetta Rd E of Eldridge (1) Daniel Kissoon
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	Mar 2	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) mult obs		Mar 10	HAS-Longwood Retention Basin (1) Dimitris Dimopoulos
Chimney Swift	Mar 7	CAL-Sulphur (1) Jonathon Lueck	Yellow-breasted Chat	Mar 2	CAM-III Plant Rd (1) Scott & Joseph Hall
	Mar 9	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Grant Parajuli		Mar 3	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Kye O'Haver
Wilson's Phalarope	Mar 15	GAL-Texas City (2) Richard Liebler, Robert Becker	Yellow-headed Blackbird	Mar 24	HAS-Chain of Lakes Park (1) Derek Hudgins
Parasitic Jaeger	Mar 6	GAL-Galveston Is SP (1) Richard Liebler	Bobolink	Mar 8	HAS-Josey Lake Park(1) Bruce Asir
Pomarine Jaeger	Mar 1,9	GAL-HI Beach (1) WE		Mar 13	GAL-Texas City Prairie Preserve (1) Debbie Repasz
Franklin's Gull	Mar 12	GAL-West End (1) Deborah Powell	Western Meadowlark	Mar 4	HAS-Katy Prairie Chain of Lakes (1) Ole Theil
Iceland Gul	Mar 7-12	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Richard Liebler, mult obs	Baltimore Oriole	Mar 3	HAS-Bella Vista area (1) Judy Behrens
	Mar 22	HAS-El Jardin Park (1) mult obs	Nashville Warbler	Mar 2	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Mary Lampton
Black Tern	Mar 20	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Van Remsen		Mar 9,12	HAS-Woodland Park (1) Nick Block, Mary Goldsby
Wood Stork	Mar 22-30	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Grace Yaros		Mar 12	HAS-Pine Brook Wetland, Clear Lake (1) Richard Rulander
	Mar 25	HAS-Addick's Reservoir (2) Mult obs		Mar 13	HAS-Edith L Moore Sanct (1) Dimitris Dimopoulos
Magnificent Frigatebird	Mar 14	GAL-San Luis Pass (1) Leo Costello	MacGillivray's Warbler	Mar 3-9,26	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Mult obs
Least Bittern	Mar 22	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (3) Mike Austin	Hooded Warbler	Mar 8	HAS-Memorial area (1) Sue Orwig
Swallow-tailed Kite	Mar 13	CAL-Sulphur (1) Michael Thibodeaux		Mar 11	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Amanda Weilmult obs
Mississippi Kite	Mar 9	HAS-East End Park (5) Robert Comstock, Ken Beeney		Mar 11-	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Ole Theil
Burrowing Owl	Mar 9,19	CAM-Rutherford Beach Rd () George Kinney, Van Remsen		Mar 12	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Steve Rogow
Ladder-back. Woodpecker	Mar 27	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Justin Sandt		Mar 13	LIB-CR2323 area (1) Colette MicAllef
	Mar 30	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Mollie Koehn	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Mar 31	ANG-Black-thr. Green Warbler Mar 12-14 HAS-Edith L. Moore Sanct (1) mult obs
Greater Pewee	Mar 1-19	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) mult obsr continuing	Western Tanager	Mar 1	HAS-Woodlawn Cemetery Area (1) Bill Matthews
Say's Phoebe	Mar 20	CHA-ANWR-Woodlot area (1) Ben Sandstrom	Black-headed Grosbeak	Mar 2-4	HAS-Memoria Park Eastern Glades (1) Don and Kristi Person, mult obs
	Mar 20	GAL-Moody Gdns (1) Greg Whittaker			
Great Crested Flycatcher	Mar 3	CHA-ANWR-Skillern (1) Gene Campbell			
Great Kiskadee	Mar 2-30	GAL-57-Acre Park (1) mult obs			
	Mar 13	CAM-Volunteer Lan (1) Kathy Rhodes			
	Mar 12	GAL-S of FM2003 (1)			
Tropical Kingbird	Mar 5-28	GAL-TAMUG Wetland (1) mult obs			
Western Kingbird	Mar 4-5	GAL-8-mile Rd/Sportsmans Rd (1) mult obs			
Yellow-throated Vireo	Mar 1	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Dennis Cooke			
Swainson's Thrush	Mar 25	CHA-nr FN565 E of Baytiwn (1) David Hanson			
Wood Thrush	Mar 2	GAL-Ferry Rd nr Seawall (1) Anon			

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; 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.

Mary Stafford

I am sad to post this, but Mary Stafford (97) who was a very good friend to many of us passed away on March 12. Mary was a very active GTAS member for two decades. She and her husband Herb helped with the newsletters from 2001 until a few years ago. They placed address labels on the newsletters, the plastic seals to keep the pages together, placed the stamps

on them, and took them to the post office to mail them during all of those years. People like she and her husband who are very dedicated volunteers are so important to all organizations. She was a wonderful, hard-working, dependable friend. We are all grateful to know her and have her for a good friend.

Jana Whittle

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

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RARE BIRD ALERTS

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

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

Many rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on Facebook Texbirds or on the TEXTBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds. 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.