

# The Brown Pelican



## The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

---

Vol. 30 No. 12

December 2024

---

### 2024-25 Christmas Bird Counts

Christmas Bird Counts have a long history. The first counts were conducted in 1900. While the local counts do not have quite as long a history, the two Big Thicket counts have been conducted every year since 1978.

Please help the compilers by enabling them to plan in the week preceding the count by letting them know early of your wish to participate, and avoiding last minute changes if at all possible. Other than the Orange County count, traditional conducted on January 1, the local accounts this year are all on Saturdays! (If you are afraid you may have to change your schedule very close to a count, please be aware that most compilers can accommodate a last-minute withdrawal more easily than trying to assign someone unexpected to a group at the last minute, but do tell the compiler that you have some schedule uncertainty.) Details of other Texas counts are available on the Houston Audubon web site at <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/cbc.html>

#### **Johnson Bayou - Southwest Louisiana (LAJB): Saturday, December 14, 2024**

Johnson Bayou CBC has a rich history beginning in 1976 to the present. Though the count is located just across the state line in Louisiana, most participants are from Texas and everyone is welcome. While much of the area is private, local landowners have allowed access to their property for this count (notarized releases required in many cases), areas rarely birded and normally inaccessible to birders at other times offering a good chance for rarities. Areas covered include beach, coastal cheniers, marsh and grasslands. Johnson Bayou, Louisiana, is located 15 miles east of the bridge from Pleasure Island to Louisiana on Highway 82. Please contact Gary Kelley ([garymke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garymke@sbcglobal.net), telephone 409-679-1616) for more information, assignments and further directions.

#### **Turkey Creek (TXTC): Saturday, December 21, 2024**

This count in Hardin and Tyler Counties includes the Turkey Creek and Hickory Creek Savannah Units of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Meet at the entrance to the Big Thicket Visitor Center on US69 at FM420, about 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 AM. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Compiler: Lynn Jackson [vlbjax@yahoo.com](mailto:vlbjax@yahoo.com) Co-compiler: John Whittle.

#### **Beech Creek (TXBE): Saturday, December 28, 2024**

This count takes place in Tyler and Jasper Counties and includes Steinhagen Lake, the Beech Creek unit of Big Thicket National Preserve and Martin Dies State Park. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 immediately north of the intersection with FM1746 in Town Bluff at 6:30 AM. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Compiler: Lynn Jackson [vlbjax@yahoo.com](mailto:vlbjax@yahoo.com) Co-compiler: John Whittle.

#### **Orange County (TXOC): Wednesday, January 1, 2025.**

Habitat covers marsh, woodlands, and the Cow Bayou watershed. Included is the road to the former Bailey's Fish Camp as well as Bessie Heights Marsh and Claiborne West Park. Orange County is very much underbirded for a county that is well served with roads and has a good number of local birders. The compiler again this year is Lynn Jackson. Please contact her at [vlbjax@yahoo.com](mailto:vlbjax@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 30, No.12 December 2024  
Issue number 312

Golden Triangle  
Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

Steve Mayes

#### Vice-President

Dania Sanchez

#### Treasurer

Harlan Stewart

#### Secretary

John Whittle

#### Directors-at-Large

Girish Doshi

Sherry Gibson

John Haynes

Sheila Hebert

Thomas Hellweg

Gary Kelley

Christine Sliva

### 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](mailto:geojeff@geojeff.org))

#### Facebook Administrators

John Mariani

Jana Whittle

#### Newsletter Editor

John Whittle

([gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com)

## 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](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org).*

### Christmas Bird Counts

Johnson Bayou – Saturday Dec 14, 2024

Turkey Creek – Saturday Dec 21, 2024

Beech Creek – Saturday Dec 28, 2024

Orange County – Monday Jan 1, 2025

Further details of these counts on p. 1.

Houston Audubon maintains a list of Texas Christmas Count dates at <https://houstonaudubon.org/birding/christmas-bird-counts/cbc.html>

**Thursday January 23, 2025 Membership Meeting.** Details of program in next issue. Note that this is one week later than our normal schedule.

**Saturday, January 25, 2025. Tentative Field Trip to Cattail Marsh, Beaumont.** Meet at the parking lot for Cattail Marsh at 8:00 am. The parking lot is accessed from the loop road round the main picnic areas in Tyrrell Park.

In winter, there will usually be a good variety of ducks as well as other waterbirds, egrets and herons. Exactly where the birds are depends largely on the water depth in the various cells. Cell 1 -- the northernmost cell -- is the deepest and often has interesting ducks and grebes.

Many birds can be seen from the boardwalk and nearby roads with minimal walking, **but the group will probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh. Be advised that, while you can turn around at any point, there are no meaningful "shortcuts" after you start on the levee between cells 3 and 4.**

If you don't want to walk that far, there will be someone on the boardwalk to help you identify the many birds in the near cells. Walking is on the levees; the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are essentially mowed grass. This will be a good trip for beginning to intermediate birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open

water areas. We will try to have the Education Center open for those who do not want to make the hike.

### Directions to Tyrrell Park From the South

Go "north" on US69/96/287 around the south side of Beaumont. Take Highway 124 west (left) towards Fannett

At the first light, turn left onto Tyrrell Park Road and go about 3/4 mile.

Turn left into the Park through the arch. Continue ahead and proceed about two-thirds of the way round the main loop and into the well-marked Cattail Marsh parking area.

### From IH10

Exit at Walden Road on the west side of Beaumont and turn south (right) on Walden Road. At the light at Highway 124, go straight ahead on Tyrrell Park Road and then as above.

## 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](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com)



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](http://www.earthshare-texas.org)

## January Meetings

We have decided to hold our January GTAS Membership Meeting on Thursday January 23, one week later than usual, and our Field Trip – tentatively to Cattail Marsh – on January 25 also one week later than usual. This will provide an opportunity for GTAS members to attend all or a part of the TOS Winter Meeting in Beaumont (January 16 to 19). TOS has kindly offered to allow GTAS members to attend the banquet (must pay the \$35 per person cost of dinner) without being TOS members or paying for the full 3- day cost of the meeting.

If you want to participate in the full meeting (including field trips and evening presentations), the rates are below. If any GTAS member would like to volunteer to help organize assembly in the parking area for the field trips (very early mornings!), volunteer to staff a GTAS table to provide information for participants, volunteer to staff the registration table, please email or text Dania Sanchez -- contact information below). TOS is offering 50% off the banquet meal cost for those volunteering for these tasks.

This winter meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Beaumont Plaza (Walden Road). If you are able confidently to commit on any of the days please email Dania Sanchez (contact information below) for more details. The Field Trips that go to Sea Rim and McFaddin on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th will be making a stop at Sabine Woods as part of the trips; if you are interested in welcoming folks and showing presence and support at the Woods or the field trip at Sea Rim or McFaddin please let Dania know.

The TOS Winter Meeting Package includes three field trips (excluding special entry fees) and three evening presentations.  
\$100 for TOS members

\$135 for non-TOS members (includes a one-year membership)  
FREE for all students

The Saturday night banquet is \$35 per person, and lunches are available for \$12.

TOS plans to open registration on December 9. Full information and links can be found at <https://www.texasbirds.org/lets-go-birding/tos-annual-meetings-workshops/>

For more information, contact Dania Sanchez, dhs924@yahoo.com or 346-213-2533

## Results of the Golden Triangle Audubon Elections

Our presidential terms are two years, so Steve Mayes remains president through 2025. All other positions are one-year terms extending to the end of 2025.

The results of the elections for officers and board members held at the November meeting on 21 November 2024 were

Vice-President: Dania Sanchez

Treasurer: Harlan Stewart

Secretary: John Whittle

At-large Board Members: Joey Choate, Girish Doshi, Shetty Gibson, John Haynes, Thomas Hellweg, Johnny Johnson, Gary Kelley, Greg Reynolds and Christine Sliva.

## GTAS 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 2025 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/membership blank on the back page.

For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

As a reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do also welcome subscriptions from 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. As we reported in last month's issue, most members recently experienced a more than 10-day delay in delivery even though we send as first class mail. To start that, simply send an email to [gtaudubon@aol.com](mailto:gtaudubon@aol.com) from the address you want us to use.

# Field Trip -- 23 November 2024

## West Jefferson County and mid-east Chambers County

The November Field Trip is traditionally to an area which has become known as West Jefferson County – the area bounded on the north by US 90, on the east (and to some extent south) by South China Road and on the west by the Jefferson County line. Future birders will likely look at the local climate reports for 2024 including the overall rainfall total, and be tempted to conclude that it was a “normal” year. That would be misleading, as multi day periods of unusually heavy rains alternated with equally long very dry periods significantly impacted the habitat.

About a dozen birders assembled at our usual starting point: Johnson Road where it starts out from FM 365. Even before the appointed starting time, the characteristic “rattling bugle” calls of Sandhill Cranes could be heard. For all of the time we spent in Jefferson County, there were small to medium-sized flocks of cranes in the air. In some past years, the entire very loose flock – could be counted or at least estimated as it departed the area early each evening and found to number at least 1000. There appears to be considerable knowledge from prior years among the leaders of the flock about where the good areas to feed are! Sandhill Cranes are omnivorous and when wintering in the area would appear to feed on seeds and roots. They move around from day to day but seem to favor areas without road access, often apparently protected to some extent from predators such as coyotes by the rice field canals which crisscross the area. In the evenings, the birds retreat to some areas to the southwest that are exceptionally distant from any improved track. They are perfectly content to roost standing in water, but such areas are few and far between this year.

As we proceeded down Johnson Road, it began to become apparent, that the total number of birds was very low. There were relatively few “blackbirds” (in the general sense of the word) – Red-winged Blackbirds, Common Grackles and Brown-headed Cowbirds. To focus on the positives, it was clear that two species were present in unusually high numbers: American Kestrels and Eastern Phoebe. As far as the former is concerned, this is good news. Those who study bird populations raised an alarm two or three years ago about American Kestrel numbers, but they are back in good numbers this year. Most phoebes are detected when they call, and on this day, there was a good number. Finding two Crested Caracaras is scarcely worthy of even a comment these days. Two calling American Crows confirmed that they were not Fish Crows as the area represents the northern limit of that species in the area. Likewise, a bright male Eastern Bluebird was close to the southern edge of where they are typically found. Two Yellow bellied Kingbirds seen on the fences surrounding houses were declared to be Couch’s by the eBird reviewer after study of photos. In addition to the possibility, with some precedent, that they were late migrating Western King birds, one has also to be careful in identifying this species, as Tropical Kingbirds have also been seen in Jefferson County in recent years

Raptors are a particular expectation on this field trip, but the hawks are late in arriving this year. As this report is being written, there are weather warnings for the areas in the

Northeast US, so perhaps more hawks will soon arrive. There was one Red-tailed Hawk on Johnson Road, but one doesn’t expect all the individuals of that species to have arrived until well into December. Some members of the party detected a distant Bald Eagle from League Road. Strange was the relative absence of Northern Harriers this year.

The woodlot at the point where Heisig Road takes off to the east is always worth investigating. This year, it seemed a little quieter than usual, although there were a small number of American Goldfinches, relatively unusual so far south in the county, as well as Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and a Blue Gray Gnatcatcher were all seen.

Driving west along Johnson Road normally flushes a good number of sparrows, mostly Savannah Sparrows, but so far this winter, numbers are low. There was one Song Sparrow. Further west along the road was a field, quite possibly being flooded in the hopes of making it attractive to ducks. The water depth was not yet great enough for the ducks, although water was probably still being added. The water was deep enough for about 100 dowitchers, presumably Long-billed at this inland location. There were a few Willets and a few Greater Yellowlegs. One Black-bellied plover was also present. A skein of about 25 Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in the distance by some members of the group.

There are a lot of cattle in the area this year, but only one small group of about 10 Cattle Egrets that we now have to assume were Western Cattle Egrets. The morphological (plumage) differences between the Eastern and Western Cattle Egrets are subjective, the extreme individuals of the Eastern species showing a deeply buff colored throat and other areas of the head and neck. It is quite clear than the species diverged following the straying of a number across the narrowest part of the South Atlantic. Reports were of a small group arriving near the border of what is now Guyana and what is now Suriname in 1877 and another small group in 1882. Very slowly, the species spread via the Lesser Antilles and then the Greater Antilles (Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Puerto Rico) jumping over to Florida in 1953 and thence throughout the US. (Incidentally, the species also colonized southern Asia and then jumped to Australia in the 1940s and New Zealand in the 1960s). As best I can find, the split was based exclusively on the morphological differences. Why wasn’t an analysis of DNA differences carried out? While some subjective analyses of DNA differences would still be needed, the separation would be on much firmer ground if that was done.

Johnson Road becomes part of League Road. We turned left on what most call Old League Road in the hopes of finding some cranes that were much nearer the road the day before, but that area apparently had fallen out of favor with the birds.

At this point, lunch time was fast approaching, and the consensus was to adjourn to a fast-food restaurant in Winnie. With the dry conditions reducing the number of birds being seen in Jefferson County, a decision was made to proceed towards Anahuac NWR. Almost all the participants elected to continue the trip and proceed south on Texas 124, and then west on FM

1941, which often produces some of the best road birding in Chambers County. It was short on sparrows and the like but there was a Cooper's Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Crested Caracara and three American Kestrels. Pear Orchard Road almost always produces birds of interest. A field just short of FM 1985 has been flooded for some time now, presumably to provide waterfowl hunting opportunities. It contained a significant number of Northern Shovelers, Lesser Scaup, Canvasback, Ring-necked Duck and a few Green-winged Teal.

To the west of the Anahuac NWR Access Road was a field (not part of the refuge) that had some Pied-billed Grebe, some Lesser Scaup, at least one Gadwall and a number of American Coots. Further down the access road, a male Vermilion Flycatcher flew out to greet those near the rear of our caravan.

Rather than proceed to the normal first destination in the refuge, Shoveler Pond, we proceeded a short distance south to where a Burrowing Owl had been reported, but we were unable to locate it. The largely single-track road round Shoveler Pond does not have enough (and long enough) parking pull offs to make it practical to cover it in a caravan mode, so we called a formal end of the field trip to allow participants to drive round Shoveler Pond individually. Shoveler Pond was drained to allow eradication of undesirable vegetation, but has not yet quite filled back up to its normal depth. On this occasion, the most numerous waterfowl were American Coots and Blue-winged Teal. There were the inevitable Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, and with much searching, some distant Fulvous Whistling-Ducks were heard more than being confirmed by sight. Most of the interesting birds were on the east side of the Pond. It was here that a respectable number of Green-winged Teal was located, indicating that the wintering ducks were beginning to arrive. Although Blue-winged Teal in Texas are regarded as mostly migrants, some will stay in the protected ponds near the coast. With some effort and study of survey photographs taken, Gadwall, and a single American Wigeon were identified, but the water in the Pond is still not deep enough to attract diving ducks. One teal seen on the east side was initially called a Cinnamon Teal, but further study of photos strongly suggests it may well be a hybrid Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal. The two species are genetically closely related, and readily hybridize. The Cinnamon Teal replaces the Blue-winged Teal in the western US. Adding to the difficulties caused by this bird's distance from the observers is the possibility that it was a "pure" Cinnamon Teal that had not completed molt out of eclipse plumage!

There were other expected species including both White and Glossy/White-faced Ibis. Although Glossy Ibis do occur in very small numbers, the vast majority of the dark ibis will be White-faced. The very unscientific practice of eBird defaulting dark ibis in the area to White-faced obscures the picture, despite it having been proven as long ago as 1995 during the breeding season (when the two species can, with good views, be separated with some confidence), that there are a small number of Glossy Ibis in Southeast Texas. More recently, it has started to become apparent that there are also a very small number of Glossy/White-faced hybrids. There were at least three rather obvious Roseate Spoonbills. Little Blue and Tricolored Herons were present along with one of two Great Blue Herons and a sprinkling of Snowy Egrets. A Belted Kingfisher passed through. Shorebirds were not particularly numerous, although a

compact flock of about 80 Dowitchers, presumably Long-billed, was seen, and three sandpipers were identified as Stilt Sandpipers. This latter species is only reported in small numbers on fall migration as compared to spring migration – the opposite of what would be expected with the addition of immature birds in the fall – but this may reflect the much greater difficulty in identification in the fall. Common Gallinule, Black-necked Stilt and Pied-billed Grebe were also present. But the most interesting bird was an Egyptian Goose. As this is a popular species in waterfowl collections, there will always be questions about provenance. eBird generally records all such species without delving into the origin of the birds. There are reports in eBird of the species from the major cities in Texas, especially the San Antonio/Austin corridor, Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth, mostly from within the last ten years, but "reporting bias" is undoubtedly a factor in that the number of earlier eBird checklists is much lower. Many of those are derived from records kept in other formats and media and may not have included sightings of this species. The Shoveler Pond bird was extremely tame, allowing very close approach. It appeared to be disfavoring one leg. While many birds, especially shorebirds, rest standing on one leg, it does not appear to be a common practice of larger waterbirds. The Egyptian Goose is not a member any of the major Goose genera, but is really a large Shelduck to use the European name of the common members of the genera. Even if it is not impaired, its confiding nature will make it an easy target for coyotes.

For many participants, the final treat was another male Vermilion Flycatcher flycatching from the wires and fences across from the Visitor Information Center. This was a different bird from the one seen on the way in, and together with other reports, suggests a good year for the species.

The following lists of birds seen are almost certainly incomplete, and the numbers of the species present in large numbers are estimates and deliberately on the low side!

**Jefferson County:** Greater White-fronted Goose (25), Great Blue Heron (1), Great Egret (1), Sandhill Crane (250), Black-bellied Plover (1), Willet (5), Long-billed Dowitcher (100), Greater Yellowlegs (5), Turkey Vulture (6), Cattle Egret (10), Bald Eagle (1), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Red-bellied Woodpecker (3), Crested Caracara (2), American Kestrel (1), Eastern Phoebe (6), Couch's Kingbird (2), American Crow (2), Eastern Bluebird (2), Tree Swallow (20), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (2), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (3), American Goldfinch (6), Savannah Sparrow (8), Song Sparrow (1), Eastern Meadowlark (1), Brown-headed Cowbird (200), Red-winged Blackbird (4), Northern Cardinal (1).

**Chambers County:** Black-bellied Whistling Duck (70), Fulvous Whistling-Duck (6), Egyptian Goose (1), Northern Shoveler (50), Gadwall (3), Gadwall (6), Mottled Duck (1), Green-winged Teal (40), Cinnamon/Blue-winged Teal (1), Canvasback (5), Ring-necked Duck (1), Lesser Scaup (25), Killdeer (4), Pied-billed Grebe (8), Mourning Dove (2), Common Gallinule (1), American Coot (180), Black-necked Stilt (53), Long-billed/Short-billed Dowitcher (81), Stilt Sandpiper (3), Neotropic Cormorant (3), Great Egret (4), Great Blue Heron (5), Snowy Egret (7), Little Blue Heron (2), White Ibis (14), Glossy/White-faced Ibis (7), Roseate Spoonbill (3), Black Vulture (4), Northern Harrier (1), Cooper's Hawk (1), Red-tailed Hawk (7), Crested Caracara (1), American Kestrel (10), Merlin (1), Belted Kingfisher (21), Eastern Phoebe (1), Vermilion Flycatcher (2), European Starling (16), Eastern/Western Meadowlark (4), Red-winged Blackbird (21), Brown-headed Cowbird (92).

*John A. Whittle*

# Bird Sightings – November 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:** This is probably the most unusual report we have ever compiled for this column. In nearby Louisiana, we cover only the two parishes in Louisiana that border on Southeast Texas -- Cameron and Calcasieu. The enormous number of reports from the November 1 to 4 period in those two

parishes resulted from the Yellow Rail and Rice Birding Festival. put on by the Avian Events Support Team. This festival, although nominally centered on Jennings, the birding that produced species for this column, i.e. rare species and migrants that are more than one week late is mostly in the relatively narrow strip along the coast essentially Cameron and some of Calcasieu Parish. In those four days, about 240 checklists were submitted to eBird that included species that met our qualification – rare or very late migrating. There were for 26 species (including nine warbler species) and there were more species that eBird listed as rare but that did not quite meet our criteria, mostly because they are often “merely” late migrating. It is also worth noting that the days of the festival occurred just as the drought broke, and there were also many rare and late birds seen in other parts of our coverage area .In addition. There were so many other reports this month, especially towards the end of the month that we had to omit full reports of species we judged to be of lesser interest. These are included, however, in the version on the web.

## Local Counties

Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Nov 25	HAI-Bonwell Loop (1) Kelly Walker
Brown Booby	Nov 14-17	JEF-Pleasure Is off N Levee (4) Art MacKinnon, mult obs
Veery	Nov 2	JEF-SW (1) SM
Eastern Wood Pewee	Nov 2-6	JEF-SW (1) SM, Mark Miller
	Nov 7	HAI-Kountze (1) Nancy Angell
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Nov 15	ANG-Ellen Trout Parl (1) Gray Hunter
Swainson's Thrush	Nov 25	JEF-SW (1) Eugene Huryn
Purple Finch	Nov 27	HAI-Bonwell Loop (1) Kelly Walker
Rusty Blackbird	Nov 30	ORA-Tony Housman WMA (1) Troy and Marla Hibbits
Tennessee Warbler	Nov 2-8	JEF-SW (up to 6) SM- mult obs
	Nov 12	JEF-SW (1) Tracy Waldon
American Redstart	Nov 2-8	JEF SW (1) SM, Mark Miller, Tracy Waldon
	Nov 10	JEF-Sabine Pass Cemetery(1) Thomas Stonestreet
	Nov 26	JEF-SW (1) Howard Davis
Northern Parula	Nov 2-6	JEF-SWSM, Mark Miller
Black-thr Blue Warbler	Nov 6	JEF-SW Mark Miller
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Nov 5	HAI-Kountze (1) Kelly Walker

## Nearby Counties

Egyptian Goose	Nov 21	CHA-Hackberry Gully Park (1) mult obs
	Nov 23	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) mult obs
	Nov 28	CHA-Mont Belvieu City Park (20 Susan Heath, WE
Black Scoter	Nov 28	CHA-Chamber County Beach (14) WE
Horned Grebe	Nov 11	HAS-Goforth/Horsepen Creek Park (2) Lethq Slagle
	Nov 29	CAM-Sabine NWR Blue Goose Trl (1) Eric Ripma
Common Ground-Dove	Nov 2	GAL-Settegast Rd (1), Lance Pawlik
	Nov 2	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Letha Slagle
	Nov 4	GAL-UH Coastal Ctr La Marque (1) B. Moffett
	Nov 6-7	HAS-Warren Ranch (1) Richard Rulander, J Berner, Andrew Hamlett

	Nov 6	HAS-Spaceport Houston (2) Richard Rulander
	Nov 8	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1) Donald Verser
	Nov 9	HAS-Longenbaugh and Porter End Rds (1) J Berner
	Nov 10	GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) Richard Liebler
	Nov 10	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Park (1) Ben Sandstrom
	Nov 12	HAS-Morgan New Washington Prairie Park (2) Richard Rulander
	Nov 19	GAL-SW of FM2004 (1) mult obs
	Nov 26	HAS-Nelson Farms E (1) Chris Bailey
Groove-billed Ani	Nov 1	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Claude Durand
	Nov 30	CAL-Johnson Bayou (2) Nick Ramsey, Eryn Woernley
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Nov 1	GAL-Galveston-Corps Woods (1) Anon
	Nov 1	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Dean Silvers
	Nov 1	GAL-HI SE Gast Red Bay (1) WE
	Nov 3	CAL-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
	Nov 10	CHA ANWR Jackson Prairie (1) Nicholas Minnich, Theresa Kelly
Lesser Nighthawk	Nov 1	CAM-LA27 1.25 mi west of Calcasieu Ship Channel (1) mult obs
Common Nighthawk	Nov 3	CAM-Constance Beach (1) mult obs
	Nov 16	GAL-Lafitte4's Cove (10 Michelle Romyedy
	Nov 22	GAL-Skyline Dr (1) Sheryl Shafer, Julie Curry, Jenny Dudley
Chuck-will's Widow	Nov 2	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1) Geordie Eschenbach
	Nov 30	CAL-Johnson Bayou (2) Nick Ramsey, Eryn Woernley
Ladder-back Woodpecker	Nov 19	GAL-SW of FM2004 (1) mult obs
Ruby-thr, Himmingbird	Nov 29	CHA-Smith Point NW (1) Joseph Kennedy
Black-chin Hummingbird	Nov 1	CAM-Mermentau River Rd (1) mult obs
Allen's Hummingbird	Nov 16	HAS-Wedgewood Village (1) Chris Bick
Calliope Hummingbird	Nov 10-11	HAS-Glenbrook Valley-Sims Bayou (1) James Rieman
Broad-billed Hummingbird	Nov 3	CAM-nr Cameron Beach (1) Gavin Awerbuch
Purple Gallinule	Nov 30	CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) Jason Hs
Yellow Rail	Nov 1	CAM-Broussard Beach Rd (1) mult obs

	Nov 15	HAS-Katy Prairie-Nelson Farms (1) mult obs
Pectoral Sandpiper		
Nov 5	GAL-Homrighaus Rs (1) Keith Alderman	
Nov 9	GAL-Moody Gdns (1) Paul Sivon	
Nov 17	GAL-Homrighaus Rd (4) Keith Alderman	
Solitary Sandpiper	Nov 2	CAM-Cameron Prairie NWR (1) Esme Rosen
	Nov 28	LIB-Trinity River NWR Knobby Knees Trail (1) Stephen Falickj
Iceland Gull	Nov 3-11	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Jessica Malowitz, Reynolds, mult obs
Sooty Tern	Nov 4	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) Jeremy Dominguez
	Nov 4	GAL-High Is beach (1) WE
Wood Stork		
Nov 10	CHA-Smith Pt HW (9) Jpseph Kennedy	
Nov 11	CHA-Smith Pt HW (17) Winnie Burkett	
Nov 14	CHA-Smith Pt HW (1) Joseph Kennedy, David Hanson,	
Nov 16	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (4) Ryan Giordanelli, Robert Comstock	
Nov 21	CHA-Smith Pt HW (1) Joseph Kennedy	
Magnificent Frigatebird		
Nov 3	CAM-Lighthouse Road, Cameron (1) mult obs	
Nov 4	HAS-Houston Cruise Terminal (1) Brian Berry	
Nov 4	HAS-Morgan's Point (1) Dale Wolck	
Nov 19	CHA-off Morgan's Point (1) Robert Gearhart	
Brown Booby		
Nov 1	CAM-Gulf of Mexico 75-125 mi SE of Galveston (2) anon	
Nov 15	CAL-Lake Charles (1) James Smithers et al	
Nov 25	CAM-Gulf 60 Miles SE of Galveston (1) Anon	
Nov 25	CAM-Gulf of Mexico 70 miles SE of Galveston (1) Anon	
Nov 29	CAL-Lake Charles (1) Kathy Rhodes	
Least Bittern		
Nov 1	CAM-Grand chenier (1) Jack Rogers (ID by call)	
Nov 3	CAM-LA27 N of Holly Beach (1) Jack Rogers	
Nov 16	CAM-Sabine NWR-Wetland Walkway (1) Tim Ryan, Nick Ramsey	
Golden Eagle	Nov 14	CHA Smith Pt HW (1) Joseph Kennedy, David Hanson, J&C Miles
Harris's Hawk	Nov 17	CAM-LA82 nr Grand Chenier (1) Bill Finney
White-tailed Hawk	Nov 1	CAM-Creole (1) mult obs
	Nov 3	CAM-Trosclair Rd (1) mult obs
	Nov 28	CAM-Hackberry (1) Eryn Woernley, Nick Ramsey
	Nov 30	CAM-Fruge Rd (1) Esme Rosen
Broad-winged Hawk		
Nov 15	CHA-Smith Pt HW (3) Winnie Burkett	
Nov 21	CHA-Smith Pt HW (48) Joseph Kennedy	
Nov 23	CHA-Smith Pt HW (4) Joseph Kennedy	
Nov 26	CHA-Smith Pt HW (4) Joseph Kennedy	
Nov 28	CAM-Mermaid Chenier (1) Nick Ramsey, Eryn Woernley	
Nov 29-30	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs	
Nov 30	CAM-Mermentau River Woods (1) Esme Rosen, Erik Johnson	
Ladder-back Woodpecker	Nov 19	GAL-SW of FM2004 (1) mult obs
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Nov 7-8	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE
	Nov 16	HAS-Willow Waterhole Greenspace (1) mult obs
	Nov 23	GAL-HI 5th St (1) WE
	Nov 27	CHA-ANWR-Willows Trl (1) Mike Major
Say's Phoebe	Nov 2	CAM-Lacassine NWR (1) mult obs
	Nov 21	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs
Great Kiskadee		
Nov 7	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Marianne Taylor	
Nov 11-30	GAL-57-Acre Park(1) Lisa Hardcastle, mult obs	
Nov 16	CHA-Smith Pt HW (1) Josephy Kennedy	

Nov 19	GAL-SW of FM2004 (1) mult obs
Couch's Kingbird	Nov 23-25 JEF-Johnson Rd (2) mult obs
Western Kingbird	Nov 23 CAM-Illinois Plant Road (2) Van Remsen
	Nov 24 CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (2) mult obs
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Nov 26 JEF-S China Rd (1) L LeBlanc
Yellow-throated Vireo	Nov 4 CAL-SW Lake Charles (1) J G Miller
	Nov 16 GAL-Galveston Is SP Obs Tower (1) Trish McIntosh
	Nov 18 GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Richard Liebler, Robt Becker
Red-eyed Vireo	Nov 6-9 GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Donna Carter, Toons Magoons
	Nov 11 GAL-Dos Vacas Muertas (1) Georgdie Escchenbach
Cave Swallow	Nov 1 CAL-Broussard Beach/Willow Island (3) mult obs
	Nov 2 CAL-Mermentau River Woods (2) Esme Rosen
	Nov 3 CAL-Oak Grove (3) mult obs
Swainson's Thrush	
Nov 6-7	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Claude Durand, Khloris Wren
Nov 7	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) Mary Ann Beauchemin
Nov 8	HAS-Hermann Park (1) Khloris Wren
Nov 24	GAL-HI Hooks Woods (1) WE
Nov 26, 29	CHA-Smith Pt HW (4) Joseph Kennedy
Nov 27	CHA-ANWR Willows Trl (1) Mike Major
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Nov 7 GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1); Brenda Gonzales
Wood Thrush	Nov 1 CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
	Nov 6 HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Grant Parajuli
	Nov 7 HAS-Russ Oittman Park (1) Mary Ann Beauchemin
Sage Thrasher	Nov 6 CHA-ANWR Skillern Tract (1) Donna Carter
	Nov 25-30 HAS-J P Landing Park (1) mult obs
Purple Finch	Nov 10 GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1) Donald Verser
Lark Sparrow	Nov 24 CAL-Fabacher Rd (1) John Dillon
Lark Bunting	Nov 26 HAS-Mound Road (1) Richard Rulander
Clay-colored Sparrow	Nov 3 CAL-Tom Steagall Rd (1) James Smithers
	Nov 26 HAS-Sharp Rd (1) Letha Slagle, Karen Goodger
	Nov 30 CAM-Lacassine NWR Wildlife Loop (1) Scott France
	Nov 30 HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Letha Slagle, Karen Goodger
Spotted Towhee	Noc 30 HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Letha Slagle, Karen Goodger
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Nov 25 CHA-FM1985 (4) WE
Western Meadowlark	
Nov 4	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Cin-Ty Lee
Nov 5	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Dean Silvers
Nov 6	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Doug Fishman, Grant Parajuli
Nov 9-11	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Khloris Wren, Claude Durand, Letha Slagle
Nov 9	HAS-Katy Prairie Sharp Rd (10 J Berner
Nov 9	HAS-Warren Ranch Lake (1) mult obs,
Nov 12	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Houston Audubon
Nov 16	CAM-Sabine NWR-Blue Goose Trail (1) Nick Ramsey
Nov 16	GAL-Sattegast Rd (1) Robert Becker
Nov 24	GAL-Pt Bolivar (1) Mary Halligan, Kristine Rivers
Nov 26	HAS-J P Landing Park (1) Lesha Roberts, Ramiro Montemayor, John Cocanower
Nov 28	GAL-8-mile Rd (1) Jamie Schubert
Nov 28	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE
Nov 28	GAL-8-mile/Sportsman (1) Jamie Schubert

Ovenbird	Nov 3-6	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Lance Pawlik, Jas Schubert mult obs	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Nov 18-19	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Richard Liebler, Robert Beacker
	Nov 18	HAS-Beeler Memorial Pocket Park (1) Kevin Ramirez	Prairie Warbler		
	Nov 30	HAS-Armand Bayou Nature Ctr (1) Farokh Jamalyaria	Nov 8	CHA-Chenier Plain NWR HQ (1) Nomad Birder	
Northern Waterthrush	Nov 3	CAM-Mermaid Chenier (1) Curtis Dykstra, Nick Ramsey	Nov 12	HAS-Clear Lake area (10) Tony Frank	
Blue-winged Warbler	Nov 6	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Donna Rd (1)	Nov 14-16	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) mult obs	
Black-and-white Warbler	Nov 28	LIB-Trinity River NWR Knobby Knees Trail (1) Stephen Falick	Nov 28	CAM-Mermaid Chenier (1) Nick Ramsey, Eryn Woernley	
Tennessee Warbler			Nov 30	CAM-Mermentau River Woods (1) Esme Rosen	
Nov 10	HAS-Glenbrook Valley Sims Bayou (2) James Rieman		Black-throated Gray Warbler		
Nov 10	HAS-Houston Memorial Area (1) Sue Orwig		Nov 1-5	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertas (1) Dean Silvers, Don Verser, mult obs	
Nov 11	HAS-Sylvan Rodriguez Park (1) Richard Rulander		Nov 2	CAM-Mermentau River Woods (1) Esme Rosen	
Nov 13	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee		Nov 1-11	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertas (1) mult obs	
MacGillivray's Warbler	Nov 29-30	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Eric Ripma, Nick Ramsey, Eryn Woernley	Nov 6	HAS-Hermann Park (1) Donald Verser	
Nashville Warbler	Nov 30	HAS-Cypress (1) Randy Hannemann	Nov 23	HAS-Mitchell Nature Preserve (1) Claude Durand, Khloris Wren, Cin-Ty Lee	
American Redstart			Hermit Warbler	Nov 17	GAL-Shaman Rd (1) Greg Whittaker, Jamie Sxhubert
Nov 1	HAS-Bella Vista (1) Mike Austin		Scarlet Tanager	Nov 1	HAS-Edith Moore Sanctuary (1) Schyler Brown
Nov 1	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Steven Berenzweig			Nov 7	CHA-ANWR Skillern (1) WE
Nov 1-5	HAS-Edith Moore Sanctuary (1) Schyler Brown, mult obs		Western Tanager	Nov 6-8	HAS-Kingwood area (1) Joan Parker
Nov 2	CAM-Oak Grove (1) mult obs			Nov 21	HAS-Kings Pt Neighbourhood (1) Cathy Hay, Joan Parker
Nov 2-4.10	HAS-Weiss Park (1) P Parr, Doug Fishman		Rose-breasted Grosbeak	Nov 26	HAS-Pasadena (1) Cathy Hay
Nov 3	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs		Nov 6	HAS-Herman Park (1) mult obs	
Nov 4-6	Sylvan Rodriguez Park (1) Richard Rulander, Andrew Hamlett		Nov 9	CHA-ANWR Willows trl (1) Ben Sandstrom	
			Nov 9	HAS-Clear Lake (1) Janet Rathjen	
Nov 4-5	HAS-Edith Moore (2) Sergey Buben, Schyler Brown		Nov 10-11	HAS-Clear Lake area (1) Janet Rathjen	
Nov 5	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Andrew Hamlett		Black-headed Grosbeak	Nov 3	GAL-Jamaica Beach Shaman Rd (1) Greg Whittaker
Nov 9	CHA-ANWR Willows Trl (1) Ben Sandstrom			Nov 9	CHA-Wallisville-Hugo Pt Pk (1) Ben Sandstrom
Nov 9	HAS-Edith Moore (2) Schyler Brown		Blue Grosbeak	Nov 17	HAS- Claude Durand, Khloris Wren
Cape May Warbler	Nov 1	CAM-Willow Island (1) mult obs		Nov 30	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Dale Wolck
	Nov 9	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Paul Sivon	Dickcissel	Nov 2	CAM-Oak Grove (1) mult obs
Northern Parula				Nov 4	HAS-Spring Branch (1) James Rieman
Oct 30-Nov 5	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) Mark Meyer			Nov 11	HAS-Knollwood Village (1) John O'Brien
Nov 2-4	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs			Nov 12	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee, Peter Moreno
Nov 2	HAS-Cypress Creek/Bridgeland (1) John Hale		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; LIB – Liberty County; 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.		
Nov 2	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (10) mult obs				
Nov 3	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Daniel Kraushaar				
Nov 4	CAM-Johnson Bayou Smith Ridge Rd (4) mult obs				
Nov 5	HAS-Russ Pittman Park (1) Anon				
Nov 10	HAS-Sylvan Rodriguez Park (1) Richard Rulander				
Nov 24	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1) Donald Verser				
Nov 23-28	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Jamie Schubert, muklt obs				
Nov 30	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1) Paul Sivon				
Bay-breasted Warbler					
Nov 1	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Dean Silvers				
Nov 2	CAM-Johnson Bayou Smith Ridge Rd (1) mult obs				
Nov 2-3	CAM-Willow Island (1) mult obs				
Nov 3	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs				
Nov 5	HAS-Rice Univ (1) Cin-Ty Lee				
Nov 6-10	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) Paul Sivon, Dean Silvers, Robert Becker, mult obs				
Nov 9-11	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertas (1) Tony Frank, mult obs				
Nov 14	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) mult obs				

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 C4ZW250Z

### *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](http://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.