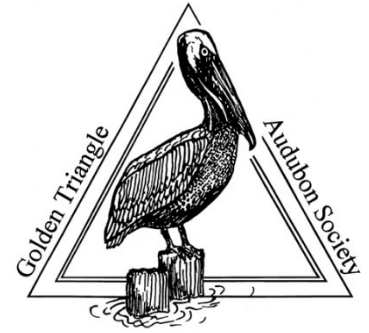


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 31 No 3

March 2025

Membership Meeting
Thursday March 20, 2025 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

Birding New Mexico
A Search for Rosy-Finches

Ross Foreman
Dana Nelson, Christine Sliva, Jana Whittle

Four Golden Triangle Audubon birders flew to Albuquerque, New Mexico in search of Rosy-Finches and other winter birds in the snowy mountains in the area including extreme western Texas. The grand total of species seen was 139. The program will lead you through our journey from the Sandia Mountains north of Albuquerque for the Rosy-Finches through Bernardo Wildlife Area then south to the famous Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge with its wintering Sandhill Cranes and Snow Geese, to White Sands National Park and then west into El Paso and Franklin Mountains State Park and Ascarte Park.

We plan to have the doors open at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. The Port Arthur Convention and Visitors Bureau will be providing the refreshments for this meeting.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 31, No.3 March 2025
Issue number 315

Golden Triangle
Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Steve Mayes

Vice-President

Dania Sanchez

Treasurer

Harlan Stewart

Secretary

John Whittle

Directors-at-Large

Joey Choate

Girish Doshi

Sherry Gibson

John Haynes

Thomas Hellweg

Johnny Johnson

Gary Kelley

Greg Reynolds

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)

Facebook Administrators

John Mariani

Jana Whittle

Newsletter Editor

John Whittle

(gtaudubon@aol.com)

The Brown Pelican is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292
email: gtaudubon@aol.com

Calendar of Events

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

Saturday March 8, 2025. Sabine Woods Work Day. To prepare the Woods for Spring. We have some tools but expect to have to fill holes caused by armadillos and feral hogs, so please bring a spade if possible. Loppers and clippers will also be useful.

Thursday March 20, 2025 . Membership Meeting. Details on p1.

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. The Garden Center is on the left. For Cattail Marsh, 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.

Saturday March 22, 2025. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats.

This trip will occur as spring shorebird migration is well under way, but while the wintering birds are still present. Bolivar Flats is an internationally important shorebird 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 (beware of soft sand)**, proceed onto the beach and 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 90 minutes to drive from the Golden Triangle. We will leave the vehicle barrier at about 9:15 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 1/2 mile or more from the vehicle barrier, but you can turnaround at any point.

Important Note: 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 AM



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

Thursday April 17, 2025. Membership Meeting. (Tentative) Dr. Sidney Gauthreaux on Radar Monitoring of Migrating Birds.

Saturday April 19, 2025. 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 will have portable toilets available at the entrance during spring migration, but even with ever increasing visitation at Sabine Woods, 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 in 2024 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 active, so there will be holes to avoid! Mosquito repellent is recommended. Avoid entering the Woods in thunderstorms or other high wind events. There is a \$10 sanctuary pass donation at Sabine Woods for those who are **not** members of Golden Triangle Audubon or TOS.

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. Aa reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties.

We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not bring them to our attention.

We would very much encourage you receive the Brown Pelican electronically as this saves paper, cost and volunteer time. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use.

Robert Hurt, 19 May 1954 – 22 February 2025

Born May 19, 1954, in Beaumont, to Lyda Hurt Toups and William Hurt, Robert's life was a testament to service, leadership, and passion. Robert served honorably in the United States Air Force, where he demonstrated his commitment to his country and his fellow service members. Following his military service, Robert's spirit led him to become the founder and first president of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. He served as president for the first three formative years, setting a strong foundation for the society's future.

Robert's interests and hobbies brought joy to his life and those around him. He was an avid birdwatcher and found peace and fulfillment working with his plants. His love for music shone brightly as he sang with the praise team, sharing his voice and spirit with the church community. He was very proud of his family, often bragging about his daughter, a registered nurse, and his son, an actor. His granddaughter, Khloe, had her own special place in his heart. He was proud of the husband and father his son-in-law, Kristian, had become and enjoyed seeing Matt so happy and spending time with his fiancé, Kate. He loved his wife, Tonja, "forever with all my heart!"

Throughout his life, Robert was deeply involved with his church. He held various roles, including leading worship, which allowed him to connect deeply with his faith and community. His dedication extended to working with the prison ministry, attending Promise Keeper events, and he cherished the spiritual growth he experienced during his Walk to Emmaus.

In addition to his many talents and pursuits, Robert held an Associate's Degree in drafting, which he applied with creativity and precision throughout his career.

Robert's legacy is one of kindness, leadership, and unwavering faith. His memory will live on in the hearts of those he touched and in the enduring impact of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. Survivors include his wife, Tonja Hurt; children, Krystal Barnard and husband, Kristian, and Matthew Hurt and fiancé, Kate Standley; grandchild, Khloe Barnard; sisters, Dianne "Dee" Aubey, Judy Doherty and husband, Mike, and Jamie Crow; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his parents; stepfather, Al Toups; and brother-in-law, Rick Crow.

Memorial contributions in Mr. Hurt's honor may be made to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, New York 10306 or to Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P.O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292.

Robert will be dearly missed, but his spirit will remain with us always. May he rest in peace.

Thirty Years and Counting – A Golden Triangle Audubon Anniversary

Jana Whittle

In the thirty years that we have had meetings, there have been 244 programs. 110 speakers have had to be asked to speak, asked for a bio and title for the newsletter before the end of the previous month before they speak, and make arrangements for them to come to speak over at least a month ahead of time such as ask what they will need from us, and making sure they know the directions of how to get to whatever place we were meeting at the time. One speaker's GPS took them to the Tyrrell Park Horse Stables. Gerald Duhon has done 11 programs for us, Harlan Stewart 9 John Whittle 9, David Bradford 8, John Haynes 6, Steve Mayes 6, Lynn Barber 6, Robert Hurt 5, Stephan Lorenz 5, and Levie Horton 5. Many other people have spoken more than two times. We have had famous bird people speak. Sandy Komito spoke twice to us. Sandy did a birding big year in North America and in 1987 saw 727 bird species. He did another one in 1998 and saw 748. He wrote one book, *I Came, I Saw, and I Counted*. John O'Neill was probably our most famous speaker so far. We had the highest attendance when he spoke. I think there were 75 people at the meeting. John was a famous ornithologist and/painter. He was the head of the Museum of Natural Science at LSU. Ro Wauer from Big Bend spoke and did at book signing also. He wrote 25 books about Big Bend, animals, some bird and butterfly books. Lynn Barber spoke at six of our meetings and wrote 3 books and is working on the 4th to be published. She also did a big year for North American in 2008 and saw 723 bird species. She has done a Texas and Alaska big year too.

Some meetings have had to be canceled for various reasons such as the ice storm in 97, hurricanes, snow days, etc

In the beginning, a group of met at the old Holiday Inn in Beaumont to discuss if we wanted to start an Audubon group in our area. Robert Hurt and Jeannie Lanclos who both worked at what is called Veolia now and they were doing it for environmental reasons for their company. Both of them enjoyed birds immensely so it was what sparked their interest also. A small group of us met several times to start the plan. John filed for us to be tax exempt. Our first meeting was June, 1995 and Robert Hurt was our first speaker. We decided to name our newsletter the Brown Pelican after Bessie Cornelius suggested it because our local Brown Pelican had just recently come down from the endangered list.

John Whittle has edited 11 newsletters per year times 30 which equals 330. Each one has been eight pages long, so we have published 2,640 pages. There are about 150 people who still get a printed copy. Most people choose to get it online. He has to have the newsletter to the printer around the 1st of each month. Mary and Herb Stafford were kind enough to fold, tape, and mail them for many, many years. Now Christine Sliva has volunteered to tape, put the stamps on them and mail them. There are people who may have never come to one of our meetings or field trips, but enjoy reading the newsletter cover to cover. One lady who none of us knew left money to GTAS because she so enjoyed reading it.

Steve Mayes has led nine field trips a year – times thirty so that is 270. He had to plan them months in advance, and make decisions at the spur of the moment when weather or several other issues arose.:

Here are the various places where we have gone with him. Cattail Marsh, Anahuac NWR, west Jefferson County, Sabine Woods, Bolivar Flats, Liberty, Boykin Springs, Smith Point Hawk Watch, Silsbee, etc. He has also been responsible for writing the field trip reports for 30 years and turning it in before John's deadline to have it printed by the 1st.

So far, we have managed to provide sandwiches and drinks for our members. For a few years Beaumont CVB provided them once a year. But the Port Arthur CVB has provided them twice a year for our meetings for quite a few years and we truly appreciate it. Mostly members bring a covered dish. Many people drive straight from work to the meeting and that is why we feel it is in the best interest of our members to be able to attend. Other birding groups have visited us and decided it is a smart thing to do. Also, it is a great way to get to know our members while we break bread with them.

Sabine Woods Workdays are generally held twice a year, one in March and one in October. We have been blessed with many people coming out on workdays. We provide drinks, sandwiches and chips. We of course had other workdays after hurricanes and storms. Andy Allen built most of the benches that are enjoyed by birders in Sabine Woods. Ashley Fusilier has repaired some of them and built a few more. People bring their riding lawnmowers to mow the grass at the woods. Workers bring loppers, edgers, and sometimes chainsaws when it is necessary. John W has to update the signs in the woods each year, and make sure there are always TOS envelopes in the mailbox under the shelter to put in the donation box. He also collects all the cash by emptying the box when possible.

We have a new President of GTAS every two years. Robert Hurt was our founder and first president (1995-1997). Here is a list of subsequent Presidents over the 30 years.

Joe Halbrook 1998-1999	Ken Sztraky 2000-2001
Steve Mayes 2002-2003, 2008-2009, 2024-2025	
John Haynes 2004-2005	Jeff Pittman 2006-2007
Jim Armacost 2010-2011	Gerald Duhon 2012-2013
Gary Kelley 2014-2015	Sherrie Roden 2016-2017
Dana Nelson 2018-2019	Sheila Hebert 2020-2021
Christine Sliva 2022-2023	

Christmas Bird Counts

For several years we led the Sea Rim Christmas Count. We had people from Anahuac NWR who would help us on their days off and drove their airboat, etc. It was always a fun count, but when we lost the Anahuac volunteer, that put our count in jeopardy. At least we have good data of which bird species were there in December during the years of that count.

Many of our members also either led or just participated in

Johnson Bayou CBC (La)	Turkey Creek CBC
Bolivar Peninsula CBC	Galveston CBC
Orange County CBC	Beech Creek CBC

Facebook Page

Our GTAS fb page was started by Kelly Sampeck in March of 2014 and then she moved from this area and put my name and John Mariani as the admins. As you can see our FB page is only 11 years old. As of today, we have 2,962 followers, 65%

women, 35% men, and the ages of viewers are 25-65 plus. There are three photos that had the most attention from followers. The one with the most was the blue Cattle Egret photo that Harlan Stewart took. If I remember correctly, it had 65,000 views because of its rarity. Michael Cooper took a photo of an Osprey holding a flounder in its talons on January 6th, 2019 and Dana Nelson took a photo of an Osprey holding a flounder in its talons on January 4th, 2020. I cannot remember the individual numbers of people viewed on each one of theirs, but I do have the total number of the two combined which is 86,000.

Meeting Places

Thirty years ago we met for the first few meetings in a

Cold and wet were the dominant features of the February field trip for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. The destination was the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, which is always a good choice, but the weather was not as cooperative as had been hoped. Still, even with questionable weather there were plenty of good birds to be seen in one of the best birding locations on the Upper Texas Coast.

A light rain was falling on the group from the start while meeting at the entrance station to the refuge. But some of the participants managed to see a Bald Eagle on the way in so that was a good start. At the entrance a few Purple Martins showed themselves which was a first of the year for most of the birders. Purple Martins are always among the first migrants to make their way back from Latin America, often arriving by late January or early February. Maybe not exactly a sign of Spring but certainly the first sign of Spring migration! Since the rain was fairly light and it looked like that there might be a rain-free window starting soon, it was decided to make the drive around the Shoveler Pond Loop. It was always planned to be part of the trip anyway so it was a good idea to do some birding from the cars while the rain was still falling.

Shoveler Pond is a good location for waterbirds all year round but especially so in winter when it can be packed with ducks. And there were plenty of ducks on the field trip day! Gadwall were a major component of the ducks in Shoveler Pond which is not unusual. Gadwall are one of the more common dabbling ducks in this area and Shoveler Pond is usually a good spot for them. Dabbling ducks do not like water that is too deep as they do not dive but feed by tipping over with their head under water and their tail up in the air. Other typical dabblers were also seen on the pond. Blue-winged and Green-winged Teal were also found along with a couple of Northern Pintail. American Wigeon were common on the pond which is good to see. This is not always the easiest dabbler to find in Jefferson County (at least in numbers) so seeing lots of them at Anahuac (Chambers County) was a nice treat. Alas, no Cinnamon Teal was seen on the day. Lack-bellied Whistling-Ducks were easily heard but harder to see as they loafed along the marshy edges of the pond. Plenty of Northern Shovelers were found as well, easily recognized by their massive bills.

meeting room at the airport. I think we paid 25 dollars for each meeting. Most of the time we have met at the Tyrrell Park Garden Center. At times it has had to be renovated because of hurricanes and floods. During that time we have had to be creative trying to find a place. We have met in the Port Arthur Library, in the Coca-Cola Distributing warehouse, the Mid-county Hospital meeting room, Hillcrest Baptist Church, the Green Barn at Tyrrell Park when the Garden Center was double booked one night, and I know there are others.

Our GTAS dues are twenty dollars for one year's membership which is due each January. With our membership you can enter Sabine Woods for free. Also, if you are a TOS member, you can get in free. Denise Kelley is our Membership Chairperson.

Field Trip to Anahuac NWR - 22 February 2025

Other birds were also found on the Shoveler Pond Loop. American Coot and Common Gallinule were the most easily seen members of the rail family but some of the birders also got looks at a Sora. A few also managed to see an elusive Virginia Rail. This species is relatively common in marshes in the area and are often heard giving their grunting calls but rarely come out in the open to be seen. A couple of Northern Harriers chased each other around over the pond while Tree Swallows darted over the surface as well. Neotropical Cormorants were easy to find as usual while a single Cooper's Hawk was seen perched on a gate by some of the group. Great Egrets and an even larger Great Blue Heron stalked the margins of the pond. Savannah Sparrows were constantly flushing in front of the cars as they drove along the levees around Shoveler Pond. A couple of Bald Eagles gave a thrill to some of the birders as they passed overhead.

After completing the circuit around the pond, the birders returned to the entry station. The rain-free window had arrived so the group provided to the trail that runs from the entry station along to "the Willows", a pond surrounded by trees. Since trees are somewhat hard to come by on the refuge, this area can be a magnet for wintering and migrant birds. Swamp Sparrow was found quickly along with Eastern Phoebe. Northern Cardinals were plentiful and a Northern Mockingbird made its presence known. Yellow-rumped Warblers chipped from nearby and an Orange-crowned Warbler gave a good look. It took a little more work but most of the birders eventually got looks at a male Common Yellowthroat along the edge of the pond. A Hermit Thrush was located along with a small flock of White-crowned Sparrows – one of the more strikingly plumaged of the New World Sparrows. A couple of Gray Catbirds mewed from the bushes but one eventually came out for a look.

With the rain soon approaching, the birders decided to call it a day. Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is one of the jewels of upper Texas coast birding spots with a bird list that would be the envy of any hotspot. A dreary rainy day in February still produced an impressive bird list including lots of waterfowl, song birds and even some eagles. Imagine what it could produce in April in the heart of Spring migration!

Steve Mayes

Orange County CBC – 01 January 2025

Orange County is a very much under-birded county. While it lacks a sandy beach, it has two major rivers as its boundaries: the Neches River on the west and the Sabine River on the east, both feeding into Sabine Lake creating an approximately six-mile Orange County shoreline at the northern reaches of the Lake. The marshes south of Highway 87 and west of Bridge City are part of the Lower Neches Wildlife Management Area. The Old River Unit is bisected by the road to Bailey's Fish Camp, an extension of Lake Street in Bridge City. The marshes on either side are extensively used by water birds and ducks. Further north is the Bessie Heights marsh (the Nelda Stark Unit), primarily used for duck hunting season in season. To the east and southeast of Bridge City are areas of good bird habitat owned by Odom Interests and the Hawk Club that are only accessible for birding by special arrangements for the Count.

The 2025 Orange County Christmas Bird Count (TXOC 125) was held in keeping with developing tradition on January 1 and the day found the 16 counters with much better weather than the Beech Creek CBC the previous weekend, with mostly clear skies and temperatures ranging from low 40's to mid-60's throughout the day. At the end of the day, counters reported a total of 106 species with 4626 individuals.

It is interesting to note that TXOC 123 (2023) had a total of 106 species with 5777 individuals, and TXOC 124 (2024) totals were 112 species with 6407 individuals. While there is a modest difference in the number of species reported there is a rather significant difference in the number of individuals.

For TXOC 124 there were 436 Black-bellied Whistling Ducks reported and this year found only 160. Reports from other areas in Southeast Texas, however, do not indicate an area wide crash in populations of whistling-ducks. Numbers of other ducks as reported on CBCs (unbiased!) were down last year also. However, it was heartening to see the large number of Hooded Mergansers. This flock winters in the open water areas on either side of Highway 87 just west of Bridge City, but are not always as numerous or as visible as on this count.

Another noticeable difference between this year and last, was in Snow Geese numbers. There were 230 individuals reported in the January 2024 count and only one was reported this year. I will also note that that Snow Geese were missing from the January 2023 count. In the first 15 years of this century, significant numbers of Snow Geese were recorded on the Orange County count most years. Snow Geese winter in large flocks, and it may be that they are finding areas elsewhere in Southeast Texas that better provide feeding areas for the large flocks.

It is difficult to describe the West Bridge City area without remarking on the number of Ospreys that were fishing there. Twenty-five represents a new high number for the count. While they are solitary birds in winter like most wintering raptors, they seemed to co-exist and most were seen with decent sized fish in their talons.

A recent development in Southeast Texas has been the presence at several places along the coast, notably in the Baytown area and at some distances offshore of Brown Boobies. After a number of sightings in 2017, they have been seen from time to time. They are often seen perched on offshore platforms. In 2020, eight Brown Boobies were seen on the Orange County CBC in the inlet close to the Bailey's Fish Camp buildings. On the 2025 Count, four Sulids (Booby species) were seen from near Bailey's at a great distance fishing over Sabine Lake. The markings were consistent with immature Brown Booby.

The wooded south side of the pond behind the La Quinta Hotel on the western edge of Bridge City is a roost for Black-crowned Night-Herons and egrets.

Thirty-five Golden-crowned Kinglets was an extremely high number and nice to see. Other data from elsewhere indicates that this is proving to be a very good winter season for this species. There were

good numbers of most of the other typical woodland species. Sparrows were in limited diversity and limited numbers, but most expected species were seen.

As in past years we had access to private property and would like to thank the owners and managers of Hawk Club and Odom Interest, as well as the Brown Center. We also appreciate Gerald Langham and J.B. Arrington for access to their private properties north of Bessie Heights and east of Claiborne West Park, respectively.

Here is a list of all sightings in the 2025 Orange County Christmas Bird Count (TXOC 125):

GOOSE, Snow (1), DUCK, Black-bellied Whistling-duck (160), DUCK, Wood (24), GADWALL (6), MERGANSER, Hooded (93), LOON, Common (2), GREBE, Pied-billed (3), . . ., Brown (6), CORMORANT, Neotropic (52), CORMORANT, Double-crested (19), CORMORANT, species (10), ANHINGA (4), PELICAN, American white (1), PELICAN, Brown (17), HERON, Great Blue (13), EGRET, Great (34), EGRET, Snowy (15), HERON, Little Blue (2), HERON, Tri-colored (3), HERON, Black-crowned Night (14), HERON, Yellow-crowned Night (1), Night-heron species (27), IBIS, White (28), IBIS, Glossy/White-faced (1), VULTURE, Black (39), VULTURE, Turkey (78), OSPREY (25), HARRIER, Northern (2), HAWK, Cooper 's (1), EAGLE, Bald (2) HAWK, Red-shouldered (16), HAWK, Red-tailed (16), GALLINULE, Common (3), COOT, American (3), CRANE, Sandhill (171), STILT, Black-necked (7), KILLDEER (82), SANDPIPER, Spotted (2), YELLOWLEGS, Greater (3), YELLOWLEGS, Greater/Lesser (1), DOWITCHER, Long-billed (2), DOWITCHER, Long-billed/Short-billed (14), SNIPE, Wilson's (1), GULL, Laughing (280), GULL, Ring-billed (42): GULL, Herring (4), TERN, Caspian (2), TERN, Forster's (103), TERN, Royal (3), PIGEON, Rock (Feral Pigeon) (56), DOVE, Eurasian Collared (2), DOVE, White-winged (25), DOVE, Mourning (108), OWL, Barred (2), KINGFISHER, Belted (8), WOODPECKER, Red-headed (10), WOODPECKER, Red-bellied (39), SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied (5), WOODPECKER, Downy (12), FLICKER, Northern (9), FLICKER, Northern (Yellow-shafted) (1), WOODPECKER, Pileated (3), KESTREL, American (26), FALCON, Peregrine (1), PHOEBE, Eastern (57), FLYCATCHER, Vermillion (1), SHRIKE, Loggerhead (15), VIREO, White-eyed (1), VIREO, Blue-headed (1), JAY, Blue (129), CROW, American (34), CROW, Fish (2), SWALLOW, Tree (54), CHICKADEE, Carolina (58), TITMOUSE, Tufted (17), WREN, House (8), WREN, Carolina (37), GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray (11), KINGLET, Ruby-crowned (23), KINGLET, Golden-crowned (35), BLUEBIRD, Eastern (98), THURSH, Hermit (5), ROBIN, American (146), CATBIRD, Gray (3), THRASHER, Brown (4), MOCKINGBIRD, Northern (92), STARLING, European (228), PIPIT, American (33), WAXWING, Cedar (250), WARBLER, Orange-crowned (12), YELLOWTHROAT Common (1), WARBLER, Pine (175), WARBLER, Yellow-rumped (198), SPARROW, Chipping (6), JUNCO, Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) (2), SPARROW, White-crowned (1), SPARROW, White-throated (17), SPARROW, Savannah (35), SPARROW, Song (1), SPARROW, Swamp (20), TANAGER, Summer (1): CARDINAL, Northern (110), BLACKBIRD, Red-winged (156), MEADOWLARK, Eastern (31), GRACKLE, Common (276), GRACKLE, Boat-tailed (96), GRACKLE, Great-tailed (121), GRACKLE, Boat-tailed/Great-tailed (113), COWBIRD, Brown-headed (3), FINCH, House (5), SISKIN, Pine (2), GOLDFINCH, American (141), SPARROW, House (16).

There were 16 observers who reported 113 species, with 4626 individuals. The total party hours on foot were reported to be 8.8 and 10.42 miles. The total party hours by car reported were 31.2 and 192.36 miles. Stationary hours reported were 5.26.

Of note was the Summer Tanager seen during the feeder watch by Betty Stephenson. A Summer Tanager was reported during the 2023 count but not reported in 2024 on count day.

Observers: David Bell, Sue Benson, Marilyn Guidry, Rick Guidry, Sheila Hebert, Greg Jackson, Lynn Jackson, Denise Kelly, Gary Kelly, Steve Mayes, Sherrie Rodem, Harlan Stewart, Christine Sliva, Betty Stephenson, Jana Whittle, and John Whittle.

*Lynn Jackson
(with some material by John Whittle)*

Bird Sightings – February 2025

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: No space this month. Also, we have condensed some sightings to save a little space.

Local Counties

Anna's Hummingbird	Feb 2-5	JEF-Nederland (1) HS
Green Jay	Feb 5	JEF-Nederland (1) John Berner
Cave Swallow	Feb 28	SAA-TX103 (2) Sage Church\
Ovenbird	Feb 25	JEF-SW Dania Sanchez, Greg Reynolds
Louisiana Waterthrush	Feb 25-(28)	JEF-SW (1) Dania Sanchez
Painted Bunting	Feb 1-28	JEF-Nederland (2) HS

Nearby Counties

Greater Scaup	Feb 8	CAM-Rutherford Beach (1) J D Flores, Caleta Perska
Black Scoter	Feb 1	CHA-Offshore Sylvan Beach area (up to 4) mult obs, continuing
	Feb 1-3	HAS-Baytown NC (3) mult obs
	Feb 8-14	HAS-Morgan's Pt (1) John O'Brien, Sergey Buben
Long-tailed Duck	Feb 2-25	HAS-Baytown NC (2) mult obs
Common Ground Dove	Feb 2-28	HAS-Bear Creek Park (3) mult obs
	Feb 14	HAS-east of Memorial Park
Lesser Nighthawk	Jan 31	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Charlie Ayers, Theresa Kelly
Chuck-will's-Widow	Feb 3-28	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Anna's Hummingbird	Feb 2	GAL-nr. Lafitte's Cove (1) Paul Sivon
	Feb 1	HAS-Pine Brook area (1) Richard Rulander
Broad-tail Humm'bird	Feb 26	GAL-Dickinson (1) Jidy Behrens, Mike Austin
Allen's Hummingbird	Feb 2-24	HAS-four locations
Calliope Humm'bird	Feb 3-26	GAL-Dickinson (1) mult obs
Swallow-tailed Kite	Feb 28	GAL-Carbide Park (1) Jane Murtishaw
White-tailed Hawk-	Feb -CAL-	Lionel DeRouen Rd (1) mult obs, cont
Harris's Hawk	Feb 1-8-28	CAM-w of Grand Chenier (1) Caleb Persla, mult obs
Broad-winged Hawk	Feb 1-25	CAM-Trosclair Rd (1) mult obs CAM-w of Grand Chenier (1) mult obs
Swainson's Hawk	Feb 28	HAS-(Waller) FM2920 Andrew Dietrich
Burrowing Owl	Feb 1-14	CAL-Lionel DeRouen Rd (1) mult obs, cont
Short-eared Owl	Feb 2-14	CAL-west Friesen Rd (1) Charlotte Chehotsky
Purple Gallinule	Feb 1-13	CAM-HI Smith Oaks (1) mult obs
Pomarine Jaeger	Feb 10	GAL-HI Beach (1) WE
Parasitic Jaeger	Feb 3	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) David Bradford, Lee Costello, Clayton Leopold
California Gull	Feb 1	GAL-Skyline Dr (1) Donald Fullmer
Iceland Gull	Feb 1-3	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) mult obs
Iceland Gull (Thayer's)	Feb 24	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Steve Rogow
Common Tern	Feb 13	HAS-El Jardin Park (1) Richard Rulander, Andrew Hamlett
Red-throated Loon	Feb 2	GAL-Skyline Drive (1) Bruce Aird
Magnificent Frigatebird	Feb 12	GAL-Bolivar Ferry I1) Robt Becker
Yellow-head Caracara	Feb 2-26	GAL-FM3005 at 89th St and fishing pier area (1) mult obs, cont

Couch's Kingbird	Feb 1-3 Feb 2-3	CA-east Friesen Rd (1) mult obs CAM-Volunteer Lane (1) Andree Walker James Smothers
Great Kiskadee	Feb 1-27 Feb 2	GAL-57-acre Park (1), mult obs CAM-Cameron Volunteer Lanr (1) James Smithers, Andrea Walker
Tropical Kingbird	Feb 2	GAL-Clear Creek ISD Education Village
Cliff Swallow	Feb 24	GAL-Sportsman's Rd (1) Dave Herdegen
Purple Finch	Feb 25	CHA-Chenier Plain NWR HQ (3) Sean Rowe
Scissor-tail Flycatcher	Feb 26	GAL-Texas City Prairie Preserve (1) Debbie Repasz
Lesser Goldfinch	Feb 13-28	HAS-Montrose area (1) mult obs
Green-tailed Towhee	Feb 1-25	CAM-CR343/Jimmy Savoie Rd (1) mult obs
	Feb 2	HAS-Sylvan Rodriguez Park (1)
Spotted Towhee	Feb 2	GAL-Schreiber Park (1) mult obs
Bullock's Oriole	Feb 5	CAM-one location
	Feb 1-25	HAS-three locations
Baltimore Oriole	Feb 5	CAM-Hwy 27W Cameron,(1) Dan Mooney
	Feb 5	HAS-Houston Arboretm (1) Nova Morales
Western Meadowlark	Feb 3	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Nicholas Minnich, Theresa Kelly
	Feb 5	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) WE
	Feb 22	CHA-Fort Anahuac Park (4) Paul Hoover
Louisiana Waterthrush	Feb 24	GAL-HI 5th St (1) WE
Prothonotary Warbler	Feb 12	GAL-HI Hooks Woods (1) Theresa Kelly, WE, Nicholas Mannich
Nashville Warbler	Feb 10	HAS-Arthur Storey Park (1) Susan and Greg Estep
Magnolia Warbler	Feb 5	HAS-south of West University Place
Black-thr Gray Warbler	Feb 1-28	HAS-Hermann Park (1) mult obs
Blk-thr Green Warbler	Feb 28	HAS-Edith Moore (1) Schyler Brown
Western Tanager	Feb 2-28	HAS-four locations
	Feb 26	HAS-Pasadena (1) John Faber
Black-head Grosbeak	Feb 2-26	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) mult obs
	Feb 27-28	GAL HI 5th St (1) WE mult obs
Blue Grosbeak	Feb 2	GAL-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright
Painted Bunting	Jan 31	GAL-San Leon (1) Candace Brazzill
	Jan 31	GAL-San Leon (1) Candice Brazzill

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; 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.

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 C5ZW250Z

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 TEXBIRDS 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.