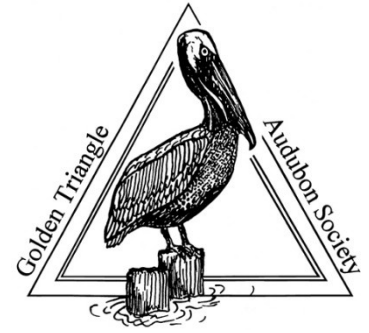


# The Brown Pelican



## The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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Vol. 31 No 12

December 2025

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### Thirty Years and Counting – A Golden Triangle Audubon Anniversary

*This article includes a much-condensed version of our history. A fuller version was published in the March 2025 Brown Pelican, which can still be accessed on our web-site.*

At the November Membership Meeting, we formally celebrated our thirtieth anniversary. Dania Sanchez, our President-Elect, arranged banners, program events and cake!

In the beginning, a small group of us met several times to start the group. We filed 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.

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, so we have made arrangements for them to come to speak at least a month ahead of time. Gerald Duhon has presented eleven programs for us, Harlan Stewart nine, John Whittle nine, David Bradford eight, John Haynes six, Steve Mayes six, Lynn Barber six, Robert Hurt five, Stephan Lorenz five, and Levie Horton five. 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. John O'Neill was probably our most famous speaker so far. We had the highest attendance of about 75 persons when he spoke. 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, and is coming to do another program for us in April 2026!

We have published 11 newsletters per year times 30 which equals 330. The printed version of each one has been eight pages long, so we have published 2,640 pages. Most people choose to get the online version now, and benefit from our sometimes being able to include some additional material in it, but there are about 150 people who still get a printed copy. Mary and Herb Stafford were kind enough to fold, seal, and mail them for many, many years. Now Christine Sliva has volunteered to do this. 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 then make decisions at the spur of the moment when weather or several other issues arose. Field trips have been to local birding spots such as Cattail Marsh, Anahuac (now Jocelyn Nungaray) NWR, West Jefferson County, Sabine Woods, Bolivar Flats, Liberty area, Boykin Springs, Smith Point Hawk Watch, Silsbee, and,

*Continued on page 2*

## *The Brown Pelican*

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### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information  
[www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://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 GTAS web site at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org).*

**We do not hold meetings or regular Field Trips in December. Instead, we encourage you to participate in one or more of the local Christmas Bird Counts. These are listed on page 3.**

### Thirty Years *(continued from p.1)*

Occasionally further afield into Calcasieu Parish in Louisiana and to the Katy Prairie area west of Houston. He has also been responsible for writing the field trip reports for 30 years.

So far, we have managed to provide sandwiches and drinks for our members at meetings. 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. Many 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 provide refreshments. 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 Work Days 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.

For several years we led the Sea Rim Christmas Bird 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 volunteers, and also some local habitat to LNG Plants, that put our count in jeopardy. Many of our

members also either led or just participated in Beech Creek CBC, Bolivar Peninsula CBC, Galveston CBC Johnson Bayou CBC (La). Orange County CBC, and Turkey Creek CBC.

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. Dania Sanchez takes over on January 1, 2026.

*Jana and John Whittle*

### 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)

## Local Christmas Bird Counts

### Johnson Bayou Sunday, December 14, 2025

Johnson Bayou CBC has a rich history beginning in 1976 to 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, 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 Hwy. LA 82.

Please contact Gary Kelley (garymke@sbcglobal.net, telephone 409-679-1616) for more information, assignments and directions.

### Bolivar Peninsula Thursday, December 18, 2025 (confirmation needed on date)

This count circle in Chambers County includes High Island and Anahuac NWR. Newcomers are welcome to join! We can always use more counters at Anahuac NWR. If you would like to join us you can meet the crew at 7 am at the Visitor Contact Station aka, the nature store by the restrooms on the main unit of the CBC. We will have access to closed areas of the refuge that you normally can't see. You don't need to be an expert. We will make sure teams are set up with experienced birders. It is a great way to learn from other birders.

Please let compiler Compiler: David Sarkozi, david@sarkozi.net. 713-412-4409 know if you're coming so we don't split up before you arrive.

### Turkey Creek Saturday, December 20, 2025

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 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. Please contact the compiler, Lynn Jackson, at vlbjax@yahoo.com if you'd like to participate.

### Orange County, Thursday, January 1, 2026

Habitat covers marsh, woodlands, and the Cow Bayou watershed. Includes Bessie Heights marsh and the road to Bailey's Fish Camp, as well as Claiborne West Park. Please contact the compiler, Lynn Jackson, vlbjax@yahoo.com if you would like to participate. This count is traditionally held on January 1.

### Beech Creek, Saturday, January 3, 2026

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. Please contact the compiler, Lynn Jackson, at vlbjax@yahoo.com if you'd like to participate. Contact Lynn Jackson, vlbjax@yahoo.com

## Membership Dues and Delivery of the *Brown Pelican*

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues are \$20 per year. We are now accepting 2026 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/membership blank on the back page. Dues paid in September or later will cover through the end of 2026.

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 officially 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 to receive the *Brown Pelican* electronically, not only to ensure that you receive it in a timely manner but also to save paper, printing cost, postage cost and significant volunteer time in taking the manuscript to and collecting the copies from the printer, sealing the copies, affixing labels and stamps and taking them to the post office. Postage rates have recently increased again, and quite substantially this time. It cost 50 cents in 2018 to mail a copy and now it is 78 cents. We are aware that many of you prefer to have printed copies to read, but as noted, it is becoming increasingly expensive and consumptive of volunteer time for us to prepare and mail them. When we send you a copy electronically, we send it as an attachment to an email. We know that a few of you cannot access attachments, so in the email, we normally will also provide a direct link to the copy on our web site (goldentriangleaudubon.org), as well as instructions as to how to navigate yourself to that issue on the website. To start receiving your copy as a pdf file, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the email address you want us to use. Normally, we will send you an email by return with a copy of the latest issue attached to make sure everything is working properly. At this time, we plan to continue sending mailed copies to those of you without electronic access.

## Golden Triangle Audubon Officers and Board Members 2026

At the Annual Meeting on November 20, 2005, the following were elected. :

President: Dania Sanchez (two-year term)  
Vice President: Christine Sliva (one-year term)  
Treasurer: Harlan Stewart (one-year term)  
Secretary: John Whittle (one-year term)  
Board Members-at-Large (all one-year terms) Joey Choate, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Thomas Hellweg, Johnny Johnson, Gary Kelley, Steve Mayes, Greg Reynolds, Steven Shelton.

:

# Research Reveals Exactly Why Peregrine Falcons Are So Deadly

*Peregrine Falcons are famed for their hunting and flying prowess, but their methods have been a mystery. A new study, however, shows that their strategy and form is similar to that of missiles and bobsledders. Cameras and simulations are finally enabling scientists to study the nuances of the raptors' extreme hunting techniques.*

*By Neel V. Patel Published April 13, 2018 in Audubon Magazine*

When it comes to hunting on the fly, nothing beats the Peregrine Falcon. By folding its wings in to minimize drag, the boomerang-shaped birds can hurtle thousands of feet through the air at speeds of close to 200 miles per hour—an unparalleled maneuver in the animal kingdom.

Yet as much as the Peregrine is a paragon, it's also an enigma. For decades, scientists have tried to understand how the raptor pulls off its feats without hurting itself or missing the mark completely. One idea holds that in lieu of brakes, the falcon unfurls its wings just before it strikes its prey, reducing its speed enough to make any last-minute adjustments and avoid injury.

A study published yesterday in *PLOS Computational Biology* shows that the strategy is more complex, however. The species, says lead author Robin Mills, depends on an innate navigational system—similar to that found in military-grade missiles. And while the birds' attack-success rates can vary wildly by location, season, sex, and target type, it's evident that there's some predictive power behind their dives.

It all starts with the Peregrine's velocity. In the past, scientists thought extreme speeds added an element of surprise to the attack, says Mills, a behavioral ecology researcher at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. But this also seemed counterintuitive to the bird's ability to reliably hit its prey . . . and not go splat afterward.

Mills's work builds on data collected from GPS trackers and body cams on eight falcons, dispatched by University of Oxford zoologists. Delving into the field results, he realized that the bird's speeds and "trajectories were surprisingly well explained by the same guidance laws that missiles use to intercept targets."

One way to hit a moving object in midair is to measure the speed and direction of the target, gauge when and where to make contact, and then launch forward in the right direction, at the exact right speed. But that's not the most effective approach, given that it leaves little room to make adjustments on the fly. That's why modern missiles use proportional navigation, in which the system is constantly sizing up the line of sight and making small tweaks en route. Likewise, a Peregrine Falcon uses proportional navigation by making slight adjustments in wing position and speed before the moment of impact. How the raptor assesses the path to the target is unclear, but researchers predict it's probably through a combination of inertial and visual sensors.

Still, that doesn't explain *why* falcons operate at such extreme speeds. So, Mills and his colleagues created a computer simulation that incorporates the various aerodynamic and biomechanical mechanisms of bird

flight—things such as wing flap and tuck—with the Peregrine's proportional navigation strategy as it hunts European Starlings. After running millions of simulations with various dive trajectories, the team found many unrecognized advantages to agility provided by the bird's velocity.

For instance, high-speed stooping (aka diving) helps increase aerodynamic force, which leads to better maneuverability. When the falcon pulls back its wings and builds up speed, it minimizes the need to steer. (Think of a bobsled team tucked tightly together, using velocity and forward motion to softly navigate the track.) A steep angle of attack also puts the bird in a more direct line to the prey.

Arguably, the most interesting finding, Mills says, is that the Peregrine Falcon needs to be very controlled to maintain a stable trajectory. It's like the concentration required of a Formula 1 racecar driver steering straight at 200-plus miles per hour. "The stoop can therefore be considered a highly specialist attack strategy," Mills adds.

Other falcon experts think the results are fascinating as well. "It's an impressive and very detailed study with reasonable tests and calculations," says Dominik Fischer, a veterinarian at the University of Giessen in Germany, who's previously studied Peregrine Falcon flight.

While the simulations provide some wild new details about Peregrines, they still need to be verified in a real-world setting. Mills and his crew are already in the process of collecting data on falcons in Scotland, so it's just a matter of time before they can make more definitive conclusions. They also hope to study the attack strategies of additional raptor species, including the Northern Goshawk, Harris's Hawk, and Eurasian Sparrowhawk, to see if they employ the same tactics.

New technology has obviously been the key factor in helping scientists unravel how and why the diving raptor works. After hundreds of years of admiring such a mystifying behavior, we're closer to fully appreciating and understanding the details that make it possible.

## Peregrine Populations

While on the subject of Peregrine Falcons, this is an appropriate place to note that there is again concern over the status of Peregrine populations. The species was particularly hard hit by the eggshell thinning caused by DDT in the 1960s and 1970s. Now, populations, particularly in the northeast US where the birds feed more on waterfowl, shorebirds and seabirds, are declining again. Suspicion is falling on "Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" as the cause of population declines being noted currently. More work will be required to confirm this theory.

## Field Trip to West Jefferson County 22 November 2025

The last official field trip of the year for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society is traditionally a trip to the north-western part of Jefferson County to look for raptors, cranes and sparrows. And if a rarity or two pop up along the way, that's okay too! Over the years, species like Red Phalarope, Couch's Kingbird, Mountain Bluebird and Grasshopper Sparrow have been seen on this trip and more rare birds have been found at other times. With that in mind, an excellent turnout of over a dozen local birders headed out on a foggy morning to find some birds!

The habitat around the small towns of China and Nome in north-western Jefferson County was originally wet prairie with pockets of forest. These days, it has been almost entirely converted into rice fields or pastures for grazing cattle. This is not ideal bird habitat but the open country along with the many overgrown fields mimic natural habitat well enough to harbor many bird species. Unfortunately, more and more of the area is being converted into housing developments which are much less bird friendly. Still, enough habitat remains that it is worth birding the area especially in the winter.

The group started out at the corner of FM 365 and Johnson Road. This is an open area that is being converted to housing. Waiting for everyone to arrive, the birders recorded several Northern Mockingbirds fighting over the yaupon bushes along the road along with a calling group of American Crows. Most (but not all) Fish Crows leave Jefferson County in the winter. A Crested Caracara flew over the group and it would not be the only one seen on the day. This odd, scavenging falcon was once a species mostly confined to South Texas. In the last few decades, the Crested Caracara has spread north and is now quite common in southeast Texas and even occurs in Louisiana. A flock of American Pipits flew over while calling with some ending up in a front yard nearby. A brief check of a field of Bushy Bluestem grass did not produce the hoped for LeConte's Sparrow but did turn up Sedge Wren. The birders then proceeded to a small wooded area nearby.

The patches of forest in this prairie area can attract a nice variety of woodland birds not found in the grassland areas. An Eastern Screech-Owl responded to one birder's imitation but remained hidden. Eastern Bluebirds were perched on a wire along the road while a nice mixed flock worked the woodland edge. The flock consisted mostly of Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warblers and Chipping Sparrows but there were Northern Cardinals nearby as well. A Gray Catbird called from within the woods while a Red-bellied Woodpecker came out to scold the birders with harsh calls. A Ruby-crowned Kinglet or two flitted along the branches and Blue Jays called from the tree tops. The woods were fairly quiet overall perhaps due to the light rain falling on the birders at this point in the trip. Luckily, it did not last long.

Heading back out into the open lands, Savannah Sparrows were very obvious. Always the most common sparrow wintering in Jefferson County, they were easily observed on the field trip perched on barbed wire fences, power lines and small trees in the hedgerows. A few other sparrows were spotted on the day including dapper White-crowned Sparrows, White-throated Sparrow and Swamp Sparrow. Northern Harriers cruised low over the fields while a Red-shouldered Hawk flew by calling. Red-tailed hawks were seen both perched and

soaring overhead on the day. American Kestrels mostly perched on lines and flushed upon approach. Merlins prefer to perch in trees and one was seen on the day. A small Sharp-shinned Hawk was also spotted perched in a bare tree near the road. The birders struck out at two traditional spots for Vermilion Flycatcher though a female was seen later in the day by some birders.

Sandhill Cranes are a main target of this trip and there was no problem finding them. It is common for 1000 – 2000 cranes to winter in this area where Jefferson, Chambers and Liberty County meet though they do tend to move around from location to location. Small groups of cranes flew over the birders much of the morning. The bugling call of the Sandhills was heard many times throughout the day and it did not take long to find a large flock. Hundreds of cranes stirred up from a nearby field and flew over a nearby road. Unfortunately, none of the birds settled on the ground in a convenient place for the birders to watch them. Still, seeing hundreds of these huge birds in flight is still a treat even if they are not as cooperative as one might have hoped.

Probably the best bird of the day was found early on. The group stopped to bird a hedgerow that was producing White-crowned Sparrows and other birds when a small dove was spotted in a bare tree. A careful examination confirmed its identity – Common Ground Dove! Despite the name, this species is not common in southeast Texas and the local population is still declining. More compact than the similar Inca Dove (another declining species) with much less scaling on the plumage and a shorter tail. Hedgerows are a very typical place to find this species in our area. This particular dove was quite cooperative and remained in view long enough for all the assembled group to get good looks at it and some photos as well. Surprisingly, a brief look was had at a second Common Ground Dove later in the day but this bird quickly disappeared.

Other good birds were seen by the birders on this field trip. A beautiful White-tailed Kite flew over a field and perched in a distant tree. Brewer's Blackbirds were mixed in with the more common Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds. A Northern Parula was spotted by a few birders in the same hedgerow as the Common Ground Dove. One of the last stops of the trip was for a mixed flock in another hedgerow. It produced White-crowned Sparrow, Orange-crowned Warbler, Carolina Chickadee and a half dozen western Palm Warblers! Watching these tail-wagging warblers move quickly through the brush was a nice way to end the day and another great field trip to west Jefferson County.

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Common Ground Dove (2); Mourning Dove (35); Sandhill Crane (750); Killdeer (15); Wilson's Snipe (3); Dowitcher sp. (1); Least Sandpiper (3); Greater Yellowlegs (2); White-faced/Glossy Ibis (4); White Ibis (1); Western Cattle-Egret (4); Great Egret (16); Great Blue Heron (3); Turkey Vulture (18); White-tailed Kite (1); Sharp-shinned Hawk (1); Bald Eagle (2); Northern Harrier (9); Red-shouldered Hawk (3); Red-tailed Hawk (7); White-tailed Hawk (3); Eastern Screech-Owl (1); Belted Kingfisher (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Crested Caracara (3); American

*continued on page 7*

# Bird Sightings –November 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:** After a very unexciting October, November brought an interesting variety of species. Dry conditions, especially in a narrow stretch from Jefferson and Orange Counties – our core local area – north to the lakes, Counties to both the east and west of us saw significantly more rain. Even so, waterfowl are clearly at the very least, late in arriving this fall and early winter.

There is a substantial variety of Flycatchers and Kingbirds in this month's sightings. There have been Fork-tailed Flycatchers in the area before, but after a number in the 2019-2021 time frame, there has been a gap. Also reported below are Gray Kingbird, Tropical Kingbird, and Couch's Kingbird. While Couch's Kingbird is more expected than Tropical Kingbird, the latter becomes much more numerous the further south of the Rio Grande one goes.

Another species worthy of comment is the Western Meadowlark. Much care is needed in separating the common meadowlark species in the US (Eastern, Western and Chihuahuan) and quite likely there are many instances where it is not safely possible. Clearly, Western Meadowlarks migrate into western part of Texas in winter. Birders in the area involved are very familiar with the problems. However, one has to wonder how many Western Meadowlarks in the area we cover go unrecognized.

Less difficult is identifying Common Ground Doves, and it begins to look as if the species is spreading north into the area we cover.

## Local Counties November 2025

Common Ground Dove	Nov 22	JEF-League Rd (1) mult obs - mult obs
	Nov 22	JEF-Thompson Rd (1) SM
Rufous Hummingbird	Nov 19-20	JEF-Nederland (1) Jan Whittle
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Nov 1	JEF-SW SM
Clay-colored Sparrow	Nov 27	HAI Silsbee (1) Jana Winburg
Northern Parula	Nov 1-5	JEF-SW-SM, Dania Sanchez
Summer Tanager	Nov 13	JAS-s of Buna (1) Penny Garsee

## Nearby Counties November 2025

Greater Scaup	Nov 27	CAM-Trosclair Rd (2) -Esme Rosen
Least Grebe	Nov 1	CHA-ANWR Shoveler Pond (1) John and Cyndie McNamee
Horned Grebe	Noc 21-26	Lake Charles-Millennium Park/Swimming Beach (1) James Smithers, David Booth mult obs
Common Ground Dove	Nov 1	GAL-Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) Richard Liebler
	Nov 1	GAL-Artist Boat Preserve (1) James Schubert
	Nov 1	GAL-Settegast Rd (2) Lance Pawlik
	Nov 22	GAL-UH Coastal Ctr (5) Steven Nelson, Trish McIntosh, Lisa Hardcastle
	Nov 29	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) John Hale
Groove-billed Ani	Nov 10	GAL-Port Bolivar (1) WE
	Nov 16-18	GAL-Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) Todd Thompson, Dean Silvers, Bryan Cotter
	Nov 24	GAL-KOA Marsh (2) Sandy and Randy Reed
Lesser Nighthawk	Nov 3	GAL- Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) Doug Fisham
	Nov 25	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) Tabitha Olsen
Wood Stork	Nov 9	CAL-Sam Houston Jones SP (2) Jim Wilson

Brown Booby	Nov 1-26	CAL-Lake Charles Swimming Beach and Millennium Park area (1) mult obs cont
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Nov 15	HAI-Koumte (1) Kelly Walker
	Nov 23	CHA-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) Joseph Kennedy
Broad-tailed H'bird	Nov 20	CAL-Lake Charles (1) Charlorre Chehotsky
Allen's Hummingbird	Nov 12-22	HAS-Rice Univ (1) mult obs
Calliope Hummingbird	Nov 4	CAL-Lake Charles (south) (1) Randy Frederick
Limpkin	Nov 10-12	GAL-Challenger Seven Memorial Park area (1) Richard Liebler, Jamie Schubert
	Nov 12	GAL-Magnolia Ridge retention basin (1) Jamie Schubert
American Golden-Plover	Nov 15	CHA-Smith Point Hawk Watch (1) Joseph Kennedy
	Nov 20	GAL-Texas City Dike (2) Beth Sears, Calvin Seaman
Stilt Sandpiper	Nov 23	LIB-FM2090 nr Plum Grove (1) David Henerson
Gt Black-backed Gull	Nov 16	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) WE
California Gull	Nov 18	GAL-East Beach (1) John O'Brien
	Nov 20-23	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) mult obs
	Nov 29	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) mult obs
Iceland Gull (Thayer's)	Nov 16	GAL-East Beach (1) mult obs
	Nov 24	GAL-Hwy 87 3 mi w of Hwy 124 (1) Richard Liebler
Glaucous Gull	Nov 24	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Robert Buckert
Least Bittern	Nov 6	CHA-J Nungaray NWR (1) Judy Behrens, Mike Austin
Glossy Ibis	Nov 16	HAS-Andrew Hamlett, Richard Rulander
Swallow-tailed Kite	Nov 11	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes /San Luis Pass (1) Jed Aplaca, Richard Liebler
Golden Eagle	Nov 25	CHA-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) Winnie Burkett
Broad-winged Hawk	Nov 23	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Brandon Johnson

Swainson's Hawk	Nov 30	CHA-J Nungaray NWR (1) Becca Cockrum	Nov 10	GAL-Highland Bayou Park (2) Richard Liebler
Yellow-head. Caracara	Nov 1-27	GAL-8-mile rd (1) mult obs (wanders in the area) cont	Nov 11	HAS-Willow Watrhole (1) Kevin Ramirez
Short-eared Owl	Nov 16	CHA-J Nungaray NWR (1) Norman Welsh	Nov 11-17	HAS-Weekley Community Ctr (1) Margaret Farese
Red-naped Sapsucker	Nov 25	HAS-Taylor Lake Village Park (1) Richard Rulander, Andrew Hamlett	Nov 16, 28	HAS-JP Landing Park (1) Steve Rogow, Terry Woodward
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Nov 15	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Steven Berenzweig	Nov 28	LIB-CR431 (1) Joan Risinger
Say's Phoebe	Even so, it is already clear that waterfowl	Nov 1 CAL-Bell City (1) mult obs	Nov 2,9	GAL-HI Boy Scout Woods (1) WE, Spencer Polimg
	Nov 1	CAM-Willow Is (1) Paul Conover, Scott France, Patricia Rosel	Nov 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
	Nov 1	CAM-Lake Charles (se) (1) mult obs	Nov 5	HAS-San Jacinto Battleground (1) Toons Magoons
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Nov 1	GAL-Settegast Rd (1) Lance Pawlik	Nov 2-9	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) mult obs
Eastern Kingbird	Nov 1	CAM-Willow Is (1) Paul Conover	Nov 3	HAS-Sylvan Park (1) Richard 'Rulander
	Nov 14	CHA-Fairview Rd (1) Nomad Birder 2018	Nov 27	CAL-Oak Grove (1) Esme Rosen
Gray Kingbird	Nov 15	CHA-J Nungaray NWR Visitor Contact Stn (1) Seth Blitch	Nov 3	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Park (1) Penelope Parr
Great Crest Flycatcher	Nov 23	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Charlotte Chehotsky	Nov 28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover
Great Kiskadee	Nov 3	CHA- Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) WE	Nov 15	HAS-Armand Bayou NC (1) Farokh Jamalyaria
Tropical Kingbird	Nov 20-30	.CAM-Lacassine NWR-Unit B Obs Deck (2) mult obs	Nov 22	CHA-J Nungaray NWR-Willows (1)
	Nov 3	GAL-Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) WE	Nov 15	CAL-Friesen/Corbina/Tom Stegall (2) Kathy Rhodes , Kaila Authement
Couch's Kingbird	Nov 18	CAL-Niblets Bluff Park (2) Sandy and Randy Reed	Nov 28	CAL-Peveto Woods (1) Paul Conover
	Nov 20-30	.CAM-Lacassine NWR-Unit B Obs Deck (2) mult obs	Nov 11	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (2) Dean Silvers, Richard Liebler, Robt Becker
Cassin's Kingbird	Nov 21	GAL-HI-E Mexico Rd (21) Robt Becker	Nov 21, 28	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Nov 19-20	CHA-Oyster Bayou Hunting Club (1) (1) mult bs	Nov 27	HAS-Kings Pt area (1) Joan Parker
	Nov 22	CHA-Lagpw Ranch (1) John Berner, Cin-Ty Lee	Nov 24-30	GAL-Stewart Rd at Settegast Rd/Artist Boat Preserve (1) mult obs
Philadelphia Vireo	Nov 5	HAS- Gessner S of IH10 (1) Patti Goodman	Nov 25-30	GAL--Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) Wen Li, mult obs
Purple Martin	Nov 14	HAS-W Clay St (1) Howard Kanelakos	Nov 15	CAL- Friesen/Corbina/Tom Stegall (2) Kathy Rhodes Kaila Authement
Cave Swallow	Nov 28	CAM-Oak Grow (18)Paul Conover		
Swainson's Thrush	Nov 28	CAM-Willow Is (1) Paul Conover		
Wood Thrush	Nov 10	CHA-J Nungaray NWR Skillern Tract (1) Nancy Wheeler		
Bullock's Oriole	Nov 2	HAS-Sylvan Park (1) Wien Li, Richard Rulander. Andrew Hamlett		
Scaly-breasted Munia	Nov 6-28	GAL-Dickinson (up to 8) Kathy Sweezey, mult obs		
	Nov 12-30	GAL-Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (up to 10) mult obs		
	Nov 24	CAM-Sabine NWR-Blue Goode Trl (6) Robt Buckert		
Clay-colored Sparrow	Nov 27-29	GAL- Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) mult obs		
Green-tailed Towhee	Nov 2-30	GAL--Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) mult obs		
Yellow-breasted Chat	Nov 21	CAM- CAM-Lacassine NWR-Unit B Obs Deck (1) Tom and Claire H		
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Nov 17-27	CHA-FM1985 5 mi w of TX124 (up to 4) mult obs		
	Nov 22	CHA-Lagow Ranch (5) mult obs		
Western Meadowlark	Nov 3-4	CHA Smith Pt Hawk Watch (1) WE		
	Nov 6	GAL--Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (1) mult obs		
	Nov4-6	HAS-Rice Univ area (1) Tyler Cutshaw, Grant Parajuli, Cin-Ty Li Doug Fishman		
Ovenbird				
Louisiana Waterthrush				
Golden-winged Warbler				
American Redstart				
Tennessee Warbler				
Northern Parula				
Tropical Parula				
Black thr Blue Warbler				
Black-thr Green Warbler				
Western Tanager				
Pyrrhuloxia				
Blue Grosbeak				
Dickcissel				

**Abbreviations used:** ANG – Angelina County;; CAL – Calcasieu Parish, LA; CAM – Cameron Parish, LA; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HAS – Harris County; HI – High Island; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; LIB – Liberty County; NEW – Newton County; ORA – Orange County;; PI – Pleasure Island, Port Arthur; SAA – San Augustine County.; 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.

## Field Trip *(continued from p5)*

Kestrel (11); Merlin (2); Eastern Phoebe (7); Vermilion Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (4); Blue Jay (4); American Crow (8); Carolina Chickadee (2); Tree Swallow (35); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Northern House Wren (4); Sedge Wren (2); Carolina Wren (2); European Starling (15); Gray Catbird (1); Northern Mockingbird (14); Eastern Bluebird (6); American Pipit (20); Chipping Sparrow (5); White-crowned Sparrow (7); White-throated Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (100); Swamp Sparrow (2); Cedar Waxwing (5); Eastern Meadowlark (30); Red-winged Blackbird (50); Brown-headed Cowbird (315); Common Grackle (3); Brewer's Blackbird (10); Northern Parula (1); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Common Yellowthroat (2); Palm Warbler (6); Pine Warbler (1), Yellow-rumped Warbler (12); Northern Cardinal (6)

**Steve Mayes**

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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](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.