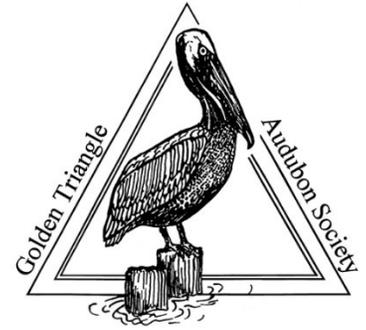


The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 32 No 3

March 2026

Membership Meeting
Thursday March 19, 2026 7:00 p.m.
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont

An Ecuador Birding Journey

Dania Sanchez and Greg Reynolds

Ecuador, a South American Country the size of Colorado, is the host for approximately 1,700 species of birds. Join us this March 19 to enjoy a program focusing on a 12-day Journey that entailed a variety of climate, elevation and challenging terrains resulting in an adventure of a lifetime. Join us to see and hear how Dania Sanchez, Greg Reynolds, and seven enthusiastic birders from Corpus Christi challenged themselves and their Ecuadorian guides to identify a record breaking 540 species. From Tanagers to Hummingbirds, an interesting Tennessee Warbler sighting, Oilbirds and the recent discovered Olinguito your eyes will feast on a photographic ride to the beautiful landscapes of the Andes and Amazon. The result was an incredible collection of stories, images and experiences of travels in a country rich in biodiversity and eco-tourism making anyone who goes one happy birder. By the end of this program you might just put Ecuadorian Birding on your list of places to visit and things to do.

We plan to have the doors open at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m.

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Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

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

Saturday March 14, 2026. 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 19, 2026 Membership Meeting. Details of program on page 1.

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.

Saturday, March 21, 2026. 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

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.

Twenty Years Later: How Hurricane Katrina Changed the Coast -- And the Birds That Call It Home

by Lara Harrison, Senior Communications Manager, Audubon Delta, Published in Audubon Magazine August 18, 2025

"What's good for birds is good for people." That phrase has long guided the National Audubon Society's approach to conservation. Along the Gulf Coast—where the ecosystems, people, and birds are deeply intertwined—those words ring truer than ever now, as we reflect on the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

On August 29, 2005, Katrina made landfall in Louisiana and parts of Mississippi, forever altering the region's landscape, communities, and ecosystems. The storm exposed gaps in infrastructure, weaknesses in disaster response, and the overwhelming force of a changing climate. It devastated cities, uprooted lives, and reshaped ecosystems—but it also ignited movements for healing, restoration, and resilience. Two decades later, Gulf Coast communities are still rebuilding. Organizations like the National Audubon Society and its partners across the region have stepped up to steward the land, support their neighbors, and protect the birds and people that call the coast home.

A Landscape Transformed—For Birds and People

"We're on the front porch," said Charles Allen, Audubon Delta's Director of Community Engagement. "New Orleans is a coastal city. We are on the front lines of sea level rise, hurricanes, and everything in between."

Audubon Delta Community Engagement Director, Charles Allen, at the Bayou Bienvenue Wetland Triangle in the Lower Ninth Ward of New Orleans, Louisiana. Photo: Sydney Walsh/Audubon

Charles has spent nearly two decades advocating for coastal restoration in Louisiana and says the work remains urgent. "We've still got critical restoration work to do. Despite the cancellation of the Mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion, projects that reconnect the river to the wetlands remain our best solution to save our vanishing coast."

Wetlands act as natural barriers to potential disasters: absorbing floodwaters, protecting infrastructure, and serving as habitat for countless species of birds and wildlife. But building true resiliency along the Gulf Coast requires more than restoring nature—it means listening to and investing in communities that have lived closest to the storm.

The Bird's-Eye View: How Coastal Birds Were Affected

The boardwalk at Grand Isle State Park in Louisiana, a nesting site for shorebirds which Audubon Delta monitors, remains destroyed after Hurricane Ida, seen in April 2024. Video: Sydney Walsh/Audubon

In Mississippi, Abby Darrah, a senior coastal biologist with Audubon Delta, sees the legacy of Katrina from an ecological perspective.

"I still see the aftermath," Abby said. "There are still empty lots and changed landscapes. You can see how the storm disrupted everything—including our bird populations."

The Least Tern, a small, charismatic bird that nests in Mississippi, was heavily impacted by the storm. These shorebirds nest right on the sand, leaving their eggs vulnerable to storms and human disturbance. "After Katrina, people

weren't able to monitor bird populations," Abby said. "They had more immediate concerns like rebuilding their homes and lives. And the data reflects that. Populations dropped."

Since then, Audubon's Coastal Bird Stewardship Program helped Least Tern populations rebound in parts of Mississippi. But erosion and habitat loss continue to pose significant threats. "Erosion is one of the primary problems here and in Louisiana," Abby said. "We're losing a lot of habitat, and that affects not just birds—but people too. They're losing their beaches and their storm protection."

Abby also studies how bird populations respond to hurricanes and other extreme weather.

"Birds and storms have always coexisted," she said. "Storms can even create new habitats. But in today's world, there are fewer places left for birds to move. If they keep getting hammered by the same storms, at what point does it become a population problem? That's the question we're trying to answer with our data."

Abby emphasizes that science alone won't solve the crisis—community engagement is essential. Through outreach programs like Kids Science, where children design educational signs to protect beach-nesting birds, Audubon is helping build a grassroots conservation ethic for the next generation.

Restoration Rooted in Community

The Lower Ninth Ward Center for Sustainable Engagement and Development (CSED) was founded to help residents recover in one of the New Orleans neighborhoods hit hardest by Hurricane Katrina. CEO Arthur Johnson sees the grassroots organization as a hub for the citizens and the voice for the next generation.

"We started as a funnel for recovery grants," explained Arthur Johnson, chief executive officer for CSED. "Now we're building youth leadership through environmental research internships, educating students about stormwater, heat, sea-level rise, and sustainability."

Mississippi's Comeback: New Sand, New Life

Across the state line in Mississippi, Melinda Repperger, Audubon Delta's Senior Manager of Coastal Restoration, is watching a hopeful transformation unfold in Harrison County, where 97% of Mississippi's Least Terns nest.

"This fall, Harrison County and the surrounding coast will receive a full beach nourishment—tons of new sand pumped back onto our beaches," she shared.

Another success story: Round Island, an artificial island created in 2016 using dredge material. It's now a thriving habitat for Wilson's Plovers and large terns.

"It's proof that big, nature-based projects work," Melinda said. "And what helps birds helps people. More land means more protection from storms. It's that simple."

A Legacy That Looks Forward

Twenty years later, the Gulf Coast still carries the memories and momentum of Katrina. Its scars remain—but so do its lessons. Communities have learned to plant deeper roots, both in the soil and in each other.

Field Trip to Jocelyn Nungaray (Anahuac) NWR -- 21 February 2026

Where to go for the February Field Trip is always a difficult decision. It is still winter as far as most birds are concerned, but a number of some species have already left for points north. We essentially have to pick the field trip destination long before we know anything about the January-February weather, either in the south of the US or points further north. Up to this point, this year has been relatively mild in the south, with basically one relatively brief freeze and cold snap.

One of the attractions of winter birding in Southeast Texas is the presence of large flocks of geese, especially Snow Geese. This year, we have not been seeing many large flocks. We saw no geese on this field trip. Geese are, in general, hardy birds, and can withstand more cold weather than most, so there is not too much concern for the birds but we were not able to enjoy seeing them. Unfortunately, eBird data is not granular enough to easily analyze movements by week, and we will be interested to see if areas in the middle of the eastern US have more geese and/or later staying geese this year. Some reports on-line suggest they are moving through these areas (mid-February). For the birder, it has not been a stellar duck season either. What effect the late season blizzard in the northeast (February 22-25) has remains to be seen. The blizzard was of relatively short duration, but was severe enough that waterfowl will have had difficulties feeding for a few days. However, this was a highly successful field trip.

Before we get into the details of the field trip, we need to comment on the renaming of Anahuac NWR. Signage within the refuge has already been replaced almost completely by the new name. However, the name Anahuac is so entrenched among birders, and is much less of a mouthful, even if does require a modest familiarity with Spanish language, spelling and pronunciation, that we suspect it will take a long time to replace it in every day birder communications. We are generally opposed to changing names of **entire existing** geographic units for commemorative or memorial reasons, just as we are opposed to changing the names of bird species for reasons not connected to taxonomic considerations such as species splits, lumps and the like. A major reason for this is the body of existing mostly printed literature (or electronic scans of the original) that uses the existing name. Research is made unnecessarily more difficult if names have to be “interpreted.” The small town of Anahuac, with less than 3,000 inhabitants, is indeed the closest (15 miles) town to the refuge entrance commonly regarded as the main entrance, but it has in the past confused some out-of-town birders who seek the refuge in or adjacent to the town. We are not opposed to naming sub-units to honor those who have contributed greatly to its acquisition or development, and thoroughly approved of naming the at the time previously unnamed Skillern Tract on the refuge to honor the massive volunteer contributions of Grady Skillern (to both Anahuac NWR and Sabine Woods we might add).

The 21st of February 2026 dawned with reduced visibility due to fog (less than 1 km visibility) or mist (1 to 2 km visibility) in areas south of IH-10. This was not low enough to seriously hinder travel, but the fog/mist or more accurately the suspended water droplets in the atmosphere tended to dissuade birds from flying. But by the time the 14 participants assembled at the parking lot for the Visitor Information Center and

organized their car pooling, most of the fog/mist had burned off. The temperature was very pleasant. Most participants had not dawdled on the entrance road, perhaps a mistake, as while there were more than nine Pied-billed Grebes in the water areas just south of FM 1985 in the early morning, there were none visible when most participants next headed back north. A Least Grebe has been reported there occasionally for more than a month. Least Grebes, in general, are much more secretive than Pied-billed, so that bird may still be there, just remaining hidden a large fraction of the time. The pond on the entrance road also held ibis, both white and dark, Black-necked Stilts and about 25 American Coots. The water depth in these ponds is possibly not deep enough for “regular” ducks. Two Purple Martins flew briefly over the meeting point, and a House Sparrow, somewhat unusual at that location was recorded.

In migration season, we would likely have elected to first walk the Willows Trail, but in mid-February, we decided to proceed along the recently repaved road to Shoveler Pond. Along the way, we did see among other birds: two pairs of Mottled Duck, lots of White-faced/Glossy Ibis. (In mid-February, it is not easy to quickly and accurately distinguish between the two dark ibis species). Also worthy of note was a Greater Yellowlegs, the calls of three Common Yellowthroats, the first of several Song Sparrows, and the first of several Belted Kingfishers seen on the day.

Reaching Shoveler Pond, it was clear that we were going to have to spend a lot of time there. Somewhat surprisingly, it was full of birds, some of almost every group of fresh water birds, including herons, stilts, some ducks and shorebirds. In the end, with many of the group walking the length boardwalk relatively slowly, we spent two and a half hours birding Shoveler Pond, which clearly has returned to its former glory after two or three years recovering from habitat improvement work, which included removal of some undesirable vegetation. This was not a trip where we were trying to record a maximum number of species. Instead, this was an excellent opportunity to let our not very experienced and newer participants, several of whom may have been on their first or at least an early field trip in their birding career, study the birds in an unrushed environment where the birds were present in number and not particularly shy.

There were some shallow areas in Shoveler Pond, mostly round its northern and western edges, some areas of deeper water, and numerous islands of what is basically marsh that birds were using to climb out of the water to hide and rest. The boardwalk runs deep into Shoveler Pond. Even with a sizeable group of people on it and many vehicles on the road which circumnavigates the Pond, the birds seemingly had become habituated to their presence and did not move away immediately. Even the birds using the verges of the road did not easily flush. It is not often that we hear “comments” from photographers on the trip that the birds are too close and only “portraits” of the head and neck are possible!

What species of birds did we see? Well, there were lots of Common Gallinules, many of them working on or near the banks of the Pond. There were lots of Black-necked Stilts, and many rafts of American Coots where the water was a little deeper. There were Northern Shovelers, but not in the large numbers that are sometimes visible there. A visit a couple of days later

confirmed that they were there in respectable numbers. Almost all birds feed in the early to mid-morning hours and then retreat to save resting areas. Apparently, on trip day, while many species waited until the atmosphere had dried out before starting their, many ducks, and many of the Northern Shovelers did not wait, and by the time we scanned the Pond, many had already finished their morning feeding. The teal, both Green-winged and Blue-winged were present in significant numbers, Blue-winged Teal are among the earliest ducks to migrate in the fall, and many go well south of the US. Green winged Teal migrate later and fewer of them go further south than the Gulf coast. Teal feed in relatively loose rafts and the Gulf coast is one of the few places there are numbers of both species for most of what calendar-wise is winter.

We cannot fail to note the Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks. There was a substantial number on the western edge of the Pond, all of them resting on marshy islands. The species is not considered migratory, although it is reported that the birds on the northern fringes of its range do move south in winter. The edge of the range of the species has been moving north for some time now. They were first regularly reported in the refuge area in 2013-2015 and are now regularly found there in significant numbers.

Most herons and egrets are somewhat solitary, but the favorable habitat meant there were many in the Pond, even if mostly not in close association. Recently, we have been seeing much larger numbers of Snowy Egrets than even four or five years ago. At this time, we know of no factors that we can point to. We do note that the Snowy Egrets are much more likely to feed in compact groups than other herons. There were also Tricolored Herons, Little Blue Herons, and Great Blue Herons. There were Marsh Wrens and Sedge Wrens, detected almost exclusively by their calls. In recent years, Roseate Spoonbills have found the edges of the islands to their liking, and we found them in several places, totaling more than 60.

The muddy areas held a modest number of Long-billed Dowitchers. Those who walked the boardwalk flushed three or four Wilson's Snipe, and spent some time playing hide and seek with a King Rail, which did not really cooperate. A Green Heron was flushed from the parking lot for the boardwalk but it quickly dropped into high grass/marsh and was not relocated. Each year a few Green Herons spend the winter along appropriate areas of the Gulf coast, but most go further south with the coast of the Gulf of Veracruz the center of its wintering range. An American Bittern was flushed but likewise disappeared into the longer grass marsh. The verges of the road had one or two Savannah Sparrows, a couple of Song Sparrows and seven American Pipits.

As is expected over a relatively small area of water, some raptors were seen, but it was strange that there was only one Northern Harrier reported over the Pond. In a normal year, there would be several. One Crested Caracara flew over. This species first expanded into the area in the mid-1970s from the south and may still be expanding east along the coast. This expansion may be the result of an increasing population causing the birds to seek additional space for territories more than anything else. Of course, as in any area along the Texas Gulf coast, there were Grackles, mostly Boat-tailed in the wet areas, but with a few Great tailed, and the inevitable Red-winged Blackbirds. There was always at least one Forster's Tern coursing over the ditches

that surround the pond, fishing, but seemingly not plunge diving very often.

After the lengthy trip round Shoveler Pond, there was some pressure to proceed towards Winnie for lunch, but based on scouting a couple of weeks prior, most of the group proceeded the short distance (just over a mile) south on Frozen Point Road to the Jackson Prairie Woodlot. There, at least four Palm Warblers including one male were quickly found. A report that a Burrowing Owl wintering in a pipe (as they are want to do) half a mile back north among some rusting agricultural equipment had been seen earlier in the morning led to an unsuccessful quick search for it.

The formal part of the field trip was concluded at that time, although we had not covered either the rest of the road to Frozen Point or visited the Skillern Tract. Many participants on their way home birded along FM 1985 and/or Pear Orchard and then FM 1941, all of which are often, and were on this day, very "birdy." All in all, this was a highly successful trip. There were so many birds in Shoveler Pond that there was always something to see at all times. The birds, in addition to being numerous, were unusually confiding, perhaps suggesting that they had spent the winter there and were thoroughly acclimated to birders and their vehicles on the roads and the boardwalk.

This is a list of species seen and reported to the recorder. It includes only species seen on the field trip within the refuge including the entrance road and the fields on either side of it that are now part of the refuge. Therefore, the list does not contain nearly as many species as would have been seen on the refuge and nearby if maximizing the number of species seen had been the objective of an individual group of birders. Counting with any accuracy the birds that were on the areas of the refuge that were covered was not possible, and the numbers shown below are almost certainly low, even very low, especially for species present in number.

Black-bellied Whistling Duck (68); Blue-winged Teal (90); Northern Shoveler (11); Mottled Duck (5); Northern Pintail (6); Green-winged Teal (85); White-winged Dove (3); American Kestrel (3); Mourning Dove (10); King Rail (1); Common Gallinule (21); American Coot (111); Black-necked Stilt (42); Killdeer (8); Long-billed Dowitcher (28); Wilson's Snipe (3); Greater Yellowlegs (1); Forster's Tern (5); Pied-billed Grebe (20); Neotropic Cormorant (43); White Ibis (10); White-faced/Glossy Ibis (154); Black-crowned Night-Heron (1); Roseate Spoonbill (61); American Bittern (1); Tri-colored Heron (4); Snowy Egret (30); Little Blue Heron (4); Green Heron (1); Great Egret (52); Great Blue Heron (8); Black Vulture (21); Northern Harrier (2); Red-tailed Hawk (1); Belted Kingfisher (4); Crested Caracara (2); American Kestrel (3); Eastern Phoebe (4); Blue Jay (5); Loggerhead Shrike (1); Purple Martin (2); Sedge Wren (2); Marsh Wren (5); Northern Mockingbird (4); Savannah Sparrow (11); House Sparrow (1); American Pipit (7). Song Sparrow (4); Swamp Sparrow (1); Brown-headed Cowbird (5); Red-winged Blackbird (14); Eastern Meadowlark (1); Boat-tailed Grackle (7); Great-tailed Grackle (6); Great-tailed/Boat-tailed Grackle (100); Common Yellowthroat (6); Palm Warbler (4); Yellow-rumped Warbler (9); Northern Cardinal (3).

John A. Whittle

Bird Sightings –February 2026

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: As is normal, birder activity falls off in February as birders recover from Christmas Counts and other activities in December and January. First, we would make one general comment. Birding activity in the areas of Southwest Louisiana, especially Cameron Parish that border on Southeast Texas has increased very substantially, and that is reflected in the number of reports from that area.

However, there are also a few individual species reports that are worthy of comment. The first Purple Martins arrive every year in January, to the point that they don't qualify under the criteria we use for inclusion in this column. However, the sighting of so many Barn Swallows in the first

three weeks of February is noteworthy. Time will tell if this portends a shift to earlier spring migration for the species. For birds almost entirely dependent on insects for food, early migration presents a great risk to the birds, since late season freezes are not uncommon in Southeast Texas! If they imitate the flocks of Tree Swallows that winter in our area and forage over water in ponds, which do not cool very quickly, and/or supplement their diet with berries, they should be OK.

It is difficult to know what is happening with Western Meadowlarks locally. They are well established as wintering in the Panhandle, the area between Lubbock and Amarillo in particular, but distinguishing them in winter plumage from the more numerous Eastern Meadowlarks is very difficult. Determining whether observers are paying closer attention or the species is wintering further south in Texas is not easy.

Western Tanagers are also an interesting species to study in winter in Texas, and indeed in the US as a whole. They breed in large numbers over the western half of the US, mostly west of Texas, but are essentially unknown as a breeding species in the east. But they are seen in winter in relatively small numbers along the east, south and west coastal areas of the US. (The center of their wintering range is in Mexico on west coastal areas from south of the latitude of Mexico City.) They are not particularly difficult to identify, so we believe most of the reports to be valid. It would seem that increasing numbers are wintering in coastal US areas.

Local Counties February 2026

Purple Gallinule	Feb 1-24	JEF-TP (1) Noah Rosdeutscher, mult obs
Northern Parula	Feb 9	JEF-SW (1) Dania Sanchez
Eastern Warbling Vireo	Feb 22	JEF-SW (1) Thomas Hellweg, SM
	Feb 28	JEF-SW (1) John Mariani
Wilson's Warbler	Feb 1	SAA-Sam Rayburn-Townsend Park (1) WE
Painted Bunting	Feb 1-26	JEF-Nederland (1) Harlan Stewart,

Nearby Counties February 2026

Cinnamon Teal	Feb 3	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs
	Feb 6	CAM-LA82 Creole (2) Alex Boulmay
	Feb 13	CAM-Rockefeller SWR (1) Cheryl Huner
	Feb 23-28+	GAL-8-mile Rd (1) Jamie Schubert, Clayton Leopold
Greater Scaup	Feb 13	CAM-Rutherford Beach (3) Cheryl Huner, Michael Musumeche
White-winged Scoter	Feb 5	CAM LA82 Holly Beach (1) Charlotte Chehotsky-
Least Grebe	Feb 5-28	CHA J Nungaray NWR entrance road (1) Angie W, mult obs
Common Ground Dove	Feb 22-26	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Justin Sandt, Letha Slaigle
Groove-billed Ani	Feb 1-11	GAL-Settegast Rd (3) Linda Gilbert, mult obs
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Feb 28	CHA-Smith Point (1) Martin Hagne
Allen's Hummingbird	Feb 1-28	HAS Oceania Court-Green Trails Village (1) Kevin Smith, mult obs
	Feb 1-28	HAS-Copperfield Villages area (1) mult obs

	Feb 1	HAS-Broadgreen Dr (1) Lucy Vick
	Feb 19-28+	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) mult obs
Broad-bill Hummingbird	Feb 7-28+	HAS-Bay Pointe Park (1) mult obs
Limpkin	Feb 1	GAL-Hitchcock (1) Michael Burge
	Feb 19-21	GAL-Magnolia Ridge (1) mult obs
California Gull	Feb 3	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Jamie Schubert, Dania Sanchez
	Feb 5	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Jerald Zimmerman
Slaty Backed Gull	Feb 2	GAL-Apfel Park (1) Robt Buckert
Iceland Gull	Feb 3	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) J Berner
	Feb 4	GAL-Texas City Dike (1) Cin-Ty Lee
	Feb 26	GAL-San Luis Pass (1) Dean Silvers
Wood Stork	Feb 1	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Doug Fishman
Least Bittern	Feb 8	CAM-Hwy 27 East (1) Esme Rosen, Strummer Edwards
Harris's Hawk	Feb 27	HAS-Spring Creek Nature Trail (1) Carl Woodward
Broad-winged Hawk	thru Feb 24	CAL-Trosclair Rd (1) mult obs
	Feb 8	HAS-Andrews St (2) Francesca Vigevano
	Feb 15	HAS-Houston Zoo (2) mult obs
	Feb 25-27	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Katherine Pyatt
Western Flycatcher	Feb 8-26	CAM-Hwy 82 east of Grand Chenier (1) mult obs
Ash-throated Flycatcher	Feb 21-23	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) mult obs
Great Kiskadee	Feb 20-25	CAM-Volunteer Lane (1) mult obs
Fork-tailed Flycatcher	Feb 27-28	CAM-Willow Island (1) Charlie Adkins, mult obs
Western Kingbird	Feb 25-26	GAL-HI Weeks Ave area (1) Spencer Poling, mult obs

Barn Swallow	Feb 1	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Robin Baumgarten, Alex Kalin	Nashville Warbler	Feb 27	HAS-Terry Hershey Trail area (1) Stephen Gast
	Feb 3	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (3) mult obs	Cape May Warbler	Feb 1-2	HAS-Nottingham Country area (1) mult area
	Feb 7	GAL-Skyline Drive (6) Jim Collins, Randall Borkus	Magnolia Warbler	Feb 8	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Marie Asscherick
	Feb 12	HAS-Arthur Storey Park (1) Todd Thompson	Black-thr Green Warbler	Feb 27-28	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Katherine Pyatt
	Feb 14	HAS-Weekley Community Park (1) Margaret Farese	Summer Tanager	Feb 1	GAL-Dickinson (1) Jane Murtishaw
Purple Finch	Feb 20-22	CAM-Rutherford Bch (1) mult obs		Feb 12	LIB-Romayor (1) Gary Rabalais
	Feb 12	HAS-Kingwood area (1) Tony Webster	Western Tanager		
	Feb 13-14	HAS-Bellaire (1) Susan Patterson	Feb 1	HAS-Kluge/Longwood Ret. Basin (1) John Cocanower	
Scaly-breasted Munia	Feb 22	GAL--Campeche Cove Animal Hosp (2) Cathy Hay continuing	Feb 2-25	GAL-Clear Creek Village (1) Jackie Farrell, mult obs	
Lesser Goldfinch	Feb 7-9	HAS-Greater Heights area (1) Tony Webster, Marcia Strange	Feb 1-21	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs	
	Feb 27	HAS-Atascocita River Grove Park (1) Doug Wooten	Feb 12	HAS-El Franco Lee Park (1) Penelope Parr	
Yellow-head. Blackbird	Feb 4	HAS-Exploration Green (1) Karl Hoeffka	Feb 22	HAS-Cypress Fields area (1) Amy Glass	
			Feb 22	HAS-Wilchester Blvd (1) Sue Orwig	
			Feb 28	HAS-White Oak Park (1) Wendy Wright	
Western Meadowlark			Pyrrhuloxia	Feb 3	HAS-Archbishop Fiorenza Park (1) Sergey Bube
Feb 1	HAS-F M Law Park (2) Carl Walther			Feb 6	GAL-Stewart Rd at Settegast (1) Eowyn Johnson, Jenny Dudley
Feb 8	CAM-Hwy 82 east of Oak Grove (1) mult obs			Feb 7 on	CAL-Trosclair Rd west of Creole (1) Ezra Garber, Chad Sanchez
Feb 9-13	CAM Rutherford Beach Rd (1) Kathy Rhodes, mult obs		Black-headed Grosbeak	Feb 1-28	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) mult obs
Feb 20	CAM-Grand Chenier Hwy (1) Brandon Johnson		Dickcissel	Feb 25	HAS-Cypress Lakes area (1) Rohit Agarwal
Feb 20	HAS-Johnson Space Ctr, Longhorn Project (1) Susan Parker				
	Feb 21-28 CAM-Recreation Lane (1) Kathy Rhodes, Connor Gable, mult obs				
Baltimore Oriole	Feb 1	HAS-Willowbend Blvd (1) Carl Walther			
	Feb 6	HAS-Force St (1) Sally Johnson			
	Feb 25	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) mult obs			
Louisiana Waterthrush	Feb 1	CHA- J Nungaray NWR Willows (1) Steven Berenzweig			
Black-and-white Warbler	Feb 7	CAM-Hwy 82 east of Oak Grove (1) Ezra and Olivar Garber			

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.

The Great Texas Birding Classic

The 30th Annual Great Texas Birding Classic will take place from April 15 to May 15, 2026, featuring various birdwatching tournament categories for all skill levels. This is the biggest, longest birdwatching tournament in the U.S. The event promotes birdwatching while documenting species across the state of Texas. There is a tournament category for everyone, from the beginner to the competitive birdwatcher! This year GTAS members will be competing in the Big Sit category, consisting of one or more participants. Teams select a 50-ft

diameter circle from which to bird. Birds must be seen or heard by a team member from WITHIN the circle. The length of time competing is within a 24-hour period (midnight to midnight). There are nine regions to compete in. GTAS members will be competing in the Upper Texas Coast Region at Sabine Woods. A date will be determined a few days in advance based on the weather.

I would like to thank our sponsor, Visit Port Arthur Texas!

Christine Sliva

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 2026 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 Audu-

bon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory which covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not bring them to our attention.

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

Golden Triangle Audubon 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 C6ZW250Z

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.