

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 32 No 6

June 2026

Summer Break!

As usual, there will not be any membership meetings in June or July. Our next meeting will be on **THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2026** at 7:00 p.m. in the Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont, Texas. Preliminary details of the program are on page 2 of this issue of the *Brown Pelican*. Further details will be published nearer the time in the July/August issue and on our web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. We plan on transitioning the web site to a new host later this summer, and it is possible it may be off line for a brief period. Also, if you are currently receiving your *Brown Pelican* by US mail, to avoid any delays, please, if possible, change the delivery method of your copy to that of a pdf attachment to an email. Send your email address to gtaudubon@aol.com to initiate this change.

The next issue of the *Brown Pelican* will be a combined July/August issue, to be published in early August.

Golden Triangle Audubon Facebook

We have a very active 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. This is a unique opportunity to share your pictures of interesting birds with other members and followers of Golden Triangle Audubon. While we make a special effort to feature unusual birds seen in the Golden Triangle area or nearby, there are no hard and fast rules about what can be contributed. All levels of pictures are welcome, especially of less common birds. There is a large number of followers from outside the immediate area! If you need help with identification, please include the location and date of the picture, as both are important in narrowing the possibilities. You can send your contribution through a Facebook message or in or attached to an email directly to the moderators or to gtaudubon@aol.com. Unless the bird is very unusual, or in an unusual situation, we normally post only one or two photos of any species at any one location.

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Vol. 32, No.6 June 2026
Issue number 329

Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Web Site for more information
www.goldentriangleaudubon.org

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Calendar of Events

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

Thursday August 20, 2026. Membership Meeting. Gina Rico on Birds in Thailand

Saturday August 22, 2026. Field Trip to Bolivar Flats. Tentative. Southbound migration of shorebirds should have begun by then! Full details in the next issue.

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Field Trips

We have decided not to sponsor organized field trips during June and July because the high heat and humidity is not conducive to a safe and enjoyable experience. In the past, we have gone to the Liberty area but this trip was very largely a car birding trip. The target species was the Swallow-tailed Kite, which congregate in the Trinity River bottoms in early August. You can easily cover what we did by driving on US 90 between Liberty and Dayton, and perhaps also visiting the Liberty Municipal Park.

If you are confident you can handle the heat, you might want to walk the Knobby Knees trail of the Trinity River NWR looking for the breeding warblers and flycatchers. Please do not walk this trail alone in mid-summer.

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 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 Society on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year. As a reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but covers all of Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties and one or two zip codes adjacent to these counties. We do also welcome NAS members in other nearby counties although their membership in NAS does not bring them to our attention.

In addition to the costs incurred in producing the print edition of our Newsletter, the *Brown Pelican*, the dues are needed to cover the general expenses incurred in running the organization. Use of the Garden Center for our meeting now incurs a charge

We would very much encourage you receive the *Brown Pelican* electronically as this saves paper, increasing postage cost and volunteer time. To start that, simply send an email to gtaudubon@aol.com from the address you want us to use. The newsletter is sent electronically as a PDF file. We often take advantage of the lack of significant space constraints in the electronic version to add supplemental information in the *Brown Pelican*.



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

Spring 2026 Migration Count Jefferson County, TX -- 9 May 2026

The 9th May 2026 will go down as a remarkable day in birding history. For the first time ever, birders documented in eBird more than 8,000 bird species in one day, a new world record. The second Saturday in May has become universally designated as "Global Big Day".

Most birders think of spring migration in Southeast in terms of passerine and other landbird migration which in Texas is generally considered to peak from about April 15 to the end of the month. However, we have long known from radar studies that the number of such birds crossing the Gulf into the first half of May continues to be very high, but that a combination of stronger prevailing south winds and the strengthening genetic impetus to push north to the breeding grounds normally means that fewer migrants descend immediately on reaching the coast. Thus, relatively few are detected on the Gulf coast, and those that do descend tend not to stay for long, sometimes only until just after dark on the day they arrive. This year, April was characterized even more than usual by continuing south winds, except for a weather event on April 18 that brought down a significant number of migrants on that evening. As a result of unusual wind and weather conditions, the first ten days of May this year saw large number of migrants in the trees in Sabine Woods.

For the first time ever, and records go back to 1996, in 2026 this count as usual on the second Saturday in May, coincided with an unusual late spring substantial grounding of migrants at Sabine Woods, and a good showing of many other migrant species elsewhere in the County. The total number of species seen by participants, and others submitting eBird checklists and providing appropriate details for any unusual species, was 210, substantially exceeding the previous high of 198. A normal total for this count is around 180 species or less. There were three species new to the count --- a Limpkin, an Alder Flycatcher confirmed by call, and a Lesser Goldfinch at a backyard feeder. It is a little surprising that we have not been able to confirm the last mentioned species before. Strong evidence suggests that Limpkins are moving into coastal Louisiana and Texas, following the spread of Apple Snails into these areas, The Apple Snails, a freshwater species, are regarded as an agricultural pest in rice growing areas, because they eat the growing shoots of the rice plants, but they are the favorite food of Limpkins, which, however, do also eat other snails. The count also recorded a Tropical/Couch's Kingbird which the observers did not attempt to identify to exact species, although excellent photographs confirmed it was one or the other. This bird was on Highway 87 a mile or two west of Sabine Pass in a location near where a pair of Tropical Kingbirds, identified by call on multiple occasions, have nested in several recent years. We will check during the next few weeks to see if we can re-find the bird(s) in that area and make an identification to exact species. A Great Kiskadee was also recorded. This species is becoming a quite common in the southern part of the county, although its propensity to cover a large area, and the fact that it is easily identified by call at a great distance may leave the impression that there are more than there actually are.

Our "migration" counts record all species observed. To satisfy the desires of many birders to see brightly colored landbirds, we bow to our colleagues living in the northern parts

of the US and conduct our spring count on "Global Big Day" when migration sightings peak in the northern part of the US. However, this means that we cover only the late stages of landbird migration in Southeast Texas.

In general, the large number of species reflected the fact that most expected species were seen. Both Whistling-Ducks were seen in the somewhat above normal numbers, especially Fulvous Whistling-Ducks, although only seven Mottled Ducks was extremely low, possibly because coverage of even the accessible part of McFaddin was limited. While there were Blue-winged Teal seen, as expected in early May, there were essentially no other lingering migratory ducks. Some Mallards were reported, but it is very difficult to determine if they are truly wild. The likelihood that a Mallard is wild decreases as the calendar reaches into March when most migratory ducks have already headed north.

The numbers of all expected Dove species were high, especially White-winged Doves. Common Ground Doves have expanded into coastal areas to the southwest of Houston and to the east of the New Orleans area, and to a very limited extent along the immediate coast in between. Common Ground-Doves have become much less rare in the Houston area but none seem to have settled in our area. We wonder if this is an artifact of the lack of birding effort a little further inland, or perhaps a reflection of the heavily wooded nature of those inland areas not being favored by Ground Doves, or both. A large number of Common Nighthawks was reported (49) even though we attempted to remove what would appear likely to be duplicate reporting of the same bird(s). Because the species is usually reported calling in flight, it still is difficult to know how many were duplicate reports of the same individual bird. However, the preceding year, we concluded that there were 41 nighthawks, and, again this year, the birds were generally reported in ones and twos from different areas. For the third consecutive year, a Black-billed Cuckoo was seen.

American Coots are relatively rare in summer, while Common Gallinules appear to be much less migratory. Purple Gallinule numbers continue at the high level of recent years, most notably at Cattail Marsh. Purple Gallinules were rare in Jefferson County until about 1990, presumably coincident with the development of Cattail Marsh. They are one of the few species that appear happy to forage in water hyacinth, which has been allowed to proliferate there of late. One American Oystercatcher was somewhat surprisingly, the first seen in the last seven years of counts. eBird data suggests that the species is almost absent from the Texas coast east of Galveston Bay westward to just short of Grand Isle, Louisiana. Just a shortage of oyster reefs?

Even though the count was a little earlier calendar wise than most years, a good number of Wilson's Plovers had already arrived, while good numbers of the wintering migratory small plovers -- Piping and Semi-palmated -- were still present. Snowy Plovers have not been seen on recent Jefferson County counts until this year when one was recorded. Anecdotally, we believe the center of the local wintering population shifted many years ago now for reasons not clear from the Jefferson County beaches to the Bolivar Peninsula.

The absence of any Marbled Godwits on the spring counts strongly suggests they almost all migrate north before the beginning of May, unlike Hudsonian Whimbrel (newly renamed by adding an unfortunate adjective that will surely cause unnecessary confusion with the similarly named Godwit). Hudsonian Godwits do tend to migrate in late March/early April in the spring, but for reasons not entirely clear, they are relatively rare on migration in Jefferson County, but reasonably common for a short period in Chambers and Galveston Counties. So only one in 2026 is not out of line with previous years. Five Upland Sandpipers were the first seen on the count since 2023, although it must be noted that early May is very late for this species to still be passing through.

Red Knots are fairly rare in Jefferson County and indeed in SE Texas as a whole. The two this year were the first seen on the count since 2018. There are often a small number on Bolivar Flats at some point in the spring. As a long-distance migrant from the east coast of South America south as far as the Cape Horn areas (Tierra del Fuego and Punta Arenas), the species migrates mostly up the east coast of South and North America to breed in what are collectively known as the Queen Elizabeth Islands (the islands north of Nunavut, Canada). The species is uncommon – perhaps rare would be more accurate – along the Gulf Coast. The "inland" migration path seems not to be well documented, but eBird has scattered sightings over much of the lower 48. They are likely capable of single stage flights of up to 2000 miles, so, if inland, may stopover briefly at any convenient river on their way to the Arctic islands. Sanderlings were not particularly numerous on this count, perhaps reflecting that only very short lengths of the Jefferson County beach is easily accessed these days. A similar issue may be the cause of a low number of Dunlins, although it was nice to record eight Baird's Sandpipers, perhaps influenced by a count date that was fairly early in May. White-rumped Sandpipers are to be expected in May, sometimes in higher numbers than this year, although many are usually found in rice fields. This year, there were more crawfish fields (favored typically only by large egrets) and fewer rice fields in West Jefferson County. Nineteen Pectoral Sandpipers was the most in many years. There were not as many Western Flycatchers (only one) as might have been expected but numbers found on this count have historically been low. The count date is in the relatively short period when both Western and Semi-palmated Sandpipers are common on Jefferson County beaches, and ten Semi-palmated was probably normal. Two Long-billed Dowitchers were documented in the marsh area at Sea Rim, but other dowitchers on "external" checklists were not documented or even indicated as to exact location (marsh or beach). Thirty Spotted Sandpiper was an unusually high number, especially for the second week of May. Three Solitary Sandpipers was the highest total in more than ten years. Both expected Yellowlegs were there, while Willet numbers were the highest in more than ten years.

Gull and tern species were much as expected, but numbers of all species were higher than usual. This is noteworthy because there is very little "mud flat" like habitat that makes Bolivar Flats so attractive to them. In 2021 and before there were Black Skimmers nesting on gravel parking areas in the refinery complexes in Port Arthur, but no longer.

Almost all Double-crested Cormorants have usually left by count day, but five were recorded this year. Conversely, 89

Neotropic Cormorants was a low number. All the American White Pelicans had left for the summer.

Two American Bitterns had not yet left, but Least Bitterns were plentiful. For the second consecutive years there were about 20 Great Blue Herons, three or four times the usual number. Good numbers of Great Egrets – they like crawfish fields -- were recorded. Snowy Egret numbers jumped about ten years ago, and are maintaining these higher numbers. This year, 247 Little Blue Heron was three or four times previous normal, making us wonder if numbers of that species are going to follow suit. Tricolored Heron numbers, on the other hand were very much normal. Of the other heron species, Western Cattle-Egret, Green, and both Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night-Herons were all found in usual numbers. White and White-faced Ibis were normal. Roseate Spoonbills were perhaps a little low.

Both Black and Turkey Vultures were seen in normal numbers. Six Ospreys was "high normal." One White-tailed Kite raised hope that the species, which had retreated back to the east in recent years might, be expanding westwards again. Two Sharp-shinned Hawks were the first seen on the count in several years, probably reflecting the early count date in 2026. Disappointing and surprising was the absence of any Bald Eagles, as the Cattail Marsh pair apparently hatched one eaglet this year. Only three Mississippi Kites was a lower number than expected, as, anecdotally, we were sure there were increased numbers in the urban areas of mid-county. It remains to be seen if the 11 Red-tailed Hawks represents more individuals remaining over the summer, or just more late departures for points north. Our observers found four Barn Owls, a result of knowing where they roost. One Great Horned Owl was found.

Four Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen as well as 29 Red-bellied and 26 Downy Woodpeckers. Pileated Woodpeckers were certainly present – ten reported – but numbers that seemed a little modest.

No American Kestrels were recorded; not surprising, as there are virtually no reports in eBird in SE Texas after the first five days of May that we can find. There are also only a few records in eBird for Merlin after the first five days or so of May in Southeast Texas, so the bird reported in West Jefferson County on the count was essentially rare. Unfortunately, on the on-line eBird records, it is not possible to easily subdivide a month into smaller periods to determine just how rare it is. No Peregrines seen on the count this year.

Empidonax flycatchers are notoriously difficult to identify to species, but we had the benefit of a number of very experienced observers, and the most difficult one, Alder Flycatcher, obligingly called. Acadian Flycatchers are probably the easiest to identify and one of the more numerous in spring migration, but our assessment of 15 at Sabine Woods was remarkable. The Yellow-bellied Flycatcher seen on the count was also at Sabine Woods. One Least Flycatcher at Texas Point and one at Sabine Woods were one of the easier species to identify.

Interestingly, observers reported a startlingly high total of 96 Eastern Kingbird, but "only" 40 Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Usually on these counts the numbers of each are similar. Great-crested Flycatchers nest at Sabine Woods and elsewhere in the area, and the numbers this year were very similar to recent years. One Western Kingbird after two last year and one in

2023, perhaps suggests that the species may be making another attempt to extend its range to the east. The Tropical/Couch's Kingbird is noted above. We had been concerned about decreasing numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes in a localized area of Western Jefferson County, but looking at the totals for the last five to ten years, we have concluded that the issue is, indeed, very localized, as the county-wide totals have been very stable.

The count takes place each year in the heart of the migration window for Eastern Warbling and Philadelphia Vireos, and both species were seen this year. White-eyed Vireos are easily detected by call, and good numbers were heard this year. Red-eyed Vireos were in modest to low numbers.

This count is sure to find plenty of both crow species, but the numbers were not as high as they might have been. Blue Jays were their usually noisy selves in normal numbers.

This count usually sees a small number of Northern Rough-winged Swallows, but not this year. The other swallow species were all there, in high numbers in the cases of Barn and Cliff Swallows. Three Cave Swallows this year followed none last year, but identifying that species among the usually more numerous Cliff Swallows can be difficult in flying birds as evidenced by the large number (360) recorded as Cave/Cliff this year.

The quintessential woodland species, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse and Carolina Wren were all found in normal numbers. No Sedge Wrens were still around, but a good number of Marsh Wrens were. Seven Blue-gray Gnatcatchers still had not left on migration, and one Ruby-crowned Kinglet remained.

Ninety Eastern Bluebird was a high number. Of the true thrushes, the Gray-cheeked to Swainson's ratio, although still less than one seems to be continuing to increase. American Robins are usually in smaller numbers by May, but we wonder if one issue is that they set up home in back yards of residential areas that are not birded other than possibly by the homeowner. The count coincides with the peak of spring migration of Gray Catbirds, but 42 was exceedingly high. Brown Thrashers numbers on the other had were normal. Northern Mockingbirds and European Starlings were normal. There was a good number of Cedar Waxwings as usual in May. Lesser Goldfinch is discussed above. House Finch numbers continue to increase.

By the time of the count, there were few migratory sparrows remaining. A high number of Seaside Sparrows, a resident species, was a notable feature. Small, but somewhat more than usual numbers, of Nelson's Sparrows and Savannah Sparrows were seen, along with one late Chipping Sparrow in the northwest part of the county. Three Yellow-breasted Chats were recorded in three different parts of the county.

Two Yellow-headed Blackbirds were in the north-central part of the county. Eastern Meadowlarks were in normal

numbers. Two Baltimore Orioles was about normal for this count. In recent years, there have been small numbers of Bronzed Cowbirds almost every year, but eleven represented a new high for the species on this count. Even Brown-headed Cowbird numbers were high. Great-tailed and Boat-tailed Grackles were plentiful, but Common Grackles were slightly below normal.

Because they are "pretty" and mostly colorful birds, warblers have a special attraction to most birders. A usual question asked of birders in the spring migration period is how many warblers did you see? While there are a small number of warblers that winter in Southeast Texas, these are mostly among the drabber species. The remaining warblers can be divided very roughly into two groups, often loosely described as early and late warblers. Most, but not quite all, warbler species pass through Southeast Texas in spring in very short "windows" of time, often only about four weeks. Of course, there are always stragglers transiting before and after the main windows, and a few that jump the gun as it were and travel early. Especially after the end of the normal window, there may be a few that are physically impaired in some way, not necessarily visibly so. If there is more than a small number of individual birds in a given location, estimating the total number is not an exact science. The 2026 migration count hit a day when there were an estimated 15 to 20 or even more of a few individual species. The number of warbler species documented on count day 2026 was about 23. There have been a few days in history when more warbler species were seen, but not many and not many more individual birds! The list and the numbers of each species are included in the listing at the end of this article. Count date being at essentially the very end of migration through Southeast Texas – in fact after the date that most birders consider the season over – the species seen in the largest numbers were those in the 'late migrant category. Twenty-nine Magnolia Warblers, 20 Northern Yellow Warblers, 19 Bay-breasted Warblers among others. Common Yellowthroats are essentially the only warbler that can be considered resident throughout the year in Southeast Texas, and are quite widespread, so the estimated 89 seen on count day is not in the same category.

Most of the other migrant species are larger birds. Both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers were recorded on count day, Summer Tanagers is significant number. Rose-breasted and Blue Grosbeaks were seen in numbers far exceeding those in "normal" counts. Both Indigo and Painted Buntings were present in number.

Including those reliable checklists entered into eBird by observers not formally signing up for the count in advance, there were 19 observers. About 11,500 birds of 210 species were recorded.

John A. Whittle

Spring 2026 Spring Migration Count – Jefferson County 9 May 2026

WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied	247	YELLOWLEGS, Greater	14
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	102	PHALAROPE, Wilson's	2
DUCK, Wood	1	TERN, Least	73
TEAL, Blue-winged	15	TERN, Gull-billed	2
MALLARD	8	TERN, Caspian	3
DUCK, Mottled	7	TERN, Black	156
GREBE, Pied-billed	5	TERN, Common	1
DOVE, Inca	8	TERN, Forster's	156
DOVE, White-winged	164	TERN, Royal	114
DOVE, Mourning	245	TERN, Sandwich	6
DOVE, Eurasian Collared-	22	GULL, Laughing	360
PIGEON, Rock	87	GULL, Ring-billed	1
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	16	GULL, American Herring	4
CUCKOO, Black-billed	1	ANHINGA	12
NIGHTHAWK, Common	49	CORMORANT, Double-crested	5
SWIFT, Chimney	31	CORMORANT, Neotropic	89
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated	30	IBIS, White	162
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	1	IBIS, White-faced	47
LIMPKIN	1	IBIS, <i>Plegadis</i> species	27
RAIL, Clapper	20	SPOONBILL, Roseate	25
RAIL, King	6	PELICAN, Brown	261
RAIL, Virginia	1	BITTERN, Least	29
SORA	2	BITTERN, American	2
GALLINULE, Common	97	HERON, Little Blue	58
COOT, American	16	HERON, Tricolored	51
GALLINULE, Purple	87	EGRET, Snowy	184
STILT, Black-necked	88	NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned	7
AVOCET, American	27	NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned	43
OYSTERCATCHER, American	1	HERON, Green	46
PLOVER, Black-bellied	57	EGRET, Great	243
KILLDEER	112	CATTLE-EGRET, Western	736
PLOVER, Semipalmated	26	HERON, Great Blue	19
PLOVER, Piping	9	VULTURE, Black	135
PLOVER, Wilson's	12	VULTURE, Turkey	51
PLOVER, Snowy	1	OSPREY	6
SANDPIPER, Upland	5	KITE, White-tailed	1
WHIMBREL, Hudsonian	66	KITE, Swallow-tailed	3
CURLEW, Long-billed	10	HAWK, Sharp-shinned	2
GODWIT, Hudsonian	1	HAWK, Cooper's	1
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	69	HARRIER, Northern	3
KNOT, Red	2	KITE, Mississippi	5
SANDPIPER, Stilt	11	HAWK, White-tailed	1
SANDERLING	111	HAWK, Red-shouldered	13
DUNLIN	13	HAWK, Broad-winged	1
SANDPIPER, Baird's	8	HAWK, Swainson's	8
SANDPIPER, Least	37	HAWK, Red-tailed	11
SANDPIPER, White-rumped	112	OWL, American Barn	4
SANDPIPER, Pectoral	19	OWL, Great Horned	1
SANDPIPER, Semipalmated	10	KINGFISHER, Belted	2
SANDPIPER, Western	1	WOODPECKER, Red-headed	4
SANDPIPER, Peep	33	WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	24
DOWITCHER, Long-billed	2	WOODPECKER, Downy	26
SANDPIPER, Spotted	30	WOODPECKER, Pileated	10
SANDPIPER, Solitary	3	CARACARA, Crested	18
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	16	MERLIN	1
WILLET	77	FLYCATCHER, Great Crested	20

KISKADEE, Great	2	BLACKBIRD, Yellow-headed	2
KINGBIRD, Tropical/Couch's	1	MEADOWLARK, Eastern	96
KINGBIRD, Western	1	MEADOWLARK species	2
KINGBIRD, Eastern	96	ORIOLE, Orchard	43
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	40	ORIOLE, Baltimore	2
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	28	BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	548
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied	1	COWBIRD, Bronzed	11
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	15	COWBIRD, Brown-headed	146
FLYCATCHER, Alder	1	GRACKLE, Common	84
FLYCATCHER, Willow	1	GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	215
FLYCATCHER, Traill's	1	GRACKLE, Great-tailed	570
FLYCATCHER, Least	2	GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed	140
FLYCATCHER, Empidonax	2	GRACKLE species	16
PHOEBE, Eastern	2	OVENBIRD	4
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	28	WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	1
VIREO, White-eyed	32	WATERTHRUSH, Northern	4
VIREO, Yellow-throated	3	WARBLER, Golden-winged	1
VIREO, Blue Headed	1	WARBLER, Black-and-white	10
VIREO, Philadelphia	4	WARBLER, Prothonotary	6
VIREO, Eastern Warbling	1	WARBLER, Tennessee	14
VIREO, Red-eyed	20	WARBLER, Mourning	1
JAY, Blue	77	WARBLER, Kentucky	1
CROW, American	18	YELLOWTHROAT, Common	89
CROW, Fish	30	WARBLER, Hooded	10
CROW, Species	14	REDSTART, American	13
CHICKADEE, Carolina	36	PARULA, Northern	4
TITMOUSE, Tufted	33	WARBLER, Magnolia	30
SWALLOW, Bank	31	WARBLER, Bay-breasted	19
SWALLOW, Tree	266	WARBLER, Blackburnian	12
MARTIN, Purple	208	WARBLER, Northern Yellow	20
SWALLOW, Barn	382	WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	15
SWALLOW, Cliff	376	WARBLER, Blackpoll	1
SWALLOW, Cave	3	WARBLER, Pine	12
SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff	360	WARBLER, Yellow-throated	3
SWALLOW species	96	WARBLER, Black-throated Green	4
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	1	WARBLER, Canada	6
WAXWING, Cedar	66	TANAGER, Summer	16
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	7	TANAGER, Scarlet	5
WREN, Carolina	51	CARDINAL, Northern	226
WREN, Marsh	15	GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted	8
CATBIRD, Gray	42	GROSBEAK, Blue	20
THRASHER, Brown	14	BUNTING, Indigo	66
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	308	BUNTING, Painted	19
STARLING, European	356	DICKCISSEL	95
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	90		
VEERY	1	TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	11499
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	5	TOTAL SPECIES	210
THRUSH, Swainson's	9		
THRUSH, Wood	4	Number of Observers	19
ROBIN, American	5	Number of Parties	13-14
SPARROW, House	61		
FINCH, House	34	Number of Party-Minutes - Foot	1510.0
GOLDFINCH, Lesser	2	Number of Party-Minutes - Car	4210.0
SPARROW, Chipping	1	Total Party HOURS	70.2
SPARROW, Seaside	61		
SPARROW, Nelson's	11	Number of Party-Miles - Foot	3.3
SPARROW, Savannah	11	Number of Party-Miles - Car	367.0
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	3	Total Party-Miles	578.3

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

	Total 2026	Total 2025	Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
WHISTLING-DUCK, Black-bellied	247	264	117	174	173	75	164
WHISTLING-DUCK, Fulvous	102	26	53	47	63	2	42
TEAL, Ringed							
DUCK, Wood	1	8	2		2	2	2
TEAL, Blue-winged	15	50	60	53	26	82	241
TEAL, Cinnamon						3	
TEAL, Cinnamon/Teal hybrid						1	
SHOVELER, Northern						4	
GADWALL							
WIGEON, American							
MALLARD	8	4					
DUCK, Mottled	7	29	34	41	19	27	22
TEAL, Green-winged							
DUCK, Ring-necked							
SCAUP, Greater							
SCAUP, Lesser			7		1		2
MERGANSER, Red-breasted							
MERGANSER, species							
DUCK, Ruddy							
DUCK, species				2			1
BOBWHITE, Northern		1					
GREBE, Least					cw		
GREBE, Pied-billed	5	1	5	5	5	1	2
GREBE, Eared							
PIGEON, Rock	87	55	57	141	42	32	47
DOVE, Eurasian Collared-	22	5	15	13	11	9	43
DOVE, Inca	8	3	7	4	4	3	2
GROUND-DOVE, Common							1
DOVE, White-winged	164	51	83	55	65	61	153
DOVE, Mourning	245	169	157	204	164	163	175
CUCKOO, Yellow-billed	16	26	21	13	16	21	21
CUCKOO, Black-billed	1	1	1				
NIGHTHAWK, Common	49	41	33	20	18	13	15
WILL'S-WIDOW, Chuck-		1					
SWIFT, Chimney	31	27	23	23	42	23	22
HUMMINGBIRD, Ruby-throated	30	22	7	14	4	8	18
HUMMINGBIRD, Buff-bellied							
HUMMINGBIRD, Rufous	1	2			3	3	1
HUMMINGBIRD, Species				1			
HUMMINGBIRD, Archilochus spec							
LIMPKIN	1						
RAIL, King	6	1	3	3	8	2	7
RAIL, Clapper	20	21	6	8	49	28	16
RAIL, King/Clapper					1		
RAIL, Virginia	1				2		
SORA	2	2		4	6	8	1
GALLINULE, Common	97	45	95	91	103	56	66
COOT, American	16	3	65	7	19	42	11
GALLINULE, Purple	87	79	106	86	68	19	17
RAIL, Black							
CRANE, Whooping					1	1	
STILT, Black-necked	88	168	149	149	110	61	97
AVOCET, American	27	131	2	39		155	12
OYSTERCATCHER, American	1						

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

	Total 2026	Total 2025	Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
PLOVER, Black-bellied	57	84	12	70	21	25	48
PLOVER, American Golden		4			3	6	3
PLOVER, Snowy	1					1	
PLOVER, Wilson's	12	2	2	1	5	4	5
PLOVER, Semipalmated	26	21	6	10	1	3	2
PLOVER, Piping	9	2	1	2		1	1
KILLDEER	112	74	90	77	59	93	72
PLOVER, species							
SANDPIPER, Upland	5			1	1		
WHIMBREL, Hudsonian	66	42	1	47	255	108	32
CURLEW, Long-billed	10						2
GODWIT, Hudsonian	1	1		3	2		10
GODWIT, Marbled							
TURNSTONE, Ruddy	69	21	15	133	58	31	38
KNOT, Red	2						
RUFF							
SANDPIPER, Stilt	11	16	4	1	6	1	1
SANDERLING	111	153	26	102	612	246	372
DUNLIN	13	77	22	43	102	10	175
SANDPIPER, Baird's	8			1			3
SANDPIPER, Least	37	25	16	26	52	21	54
SANDPIPER, White-rumped	112	351	147	63	407	16	231
SANDPIPER, Buff-breasted							
SANDPIPER, Pectoral	19	13		1	2	5	11
SANDPIPER, Semipalmated	10	25	9	39	42	7	75
SANDPIPER, Western	1	25	1		5		18
SANDPIPER, "Peep"	33	77	200	40	216	42	427
DOWITCHER, Short-billed		45		26	19	18	
DOWITCHER, Long-billed	2		25	19	33		2
DOWITCHER species		45	8	40	3	3	12
SNIPE, Wilson's				1			
PHALAROPE, Wilson's	2	1	1	14			50
SANDPIPER, Spotted	30	10	13	8	5	14	32
SANDPIPER, Solitary	3				1	2	1
YELLOWLEGS, Greater	14	6	8	13	4	8	15
WILLET	77	41	13	48	58	26	33
YELLOWLEGS, Lesser	16	6	23	6	22	49	26
YELLOWLEGS species		7		1	1	19	1
GULL, Laughing	360	169	83	113	54	323	296
GULL, Franklin's							
GULL, Ring-billed	1		1	1	1	3	4
GULL, American Herring	4			7		7	6
GULL, Glaucous							
GULL species				10		250	
TERN, Least	73	25	16	57	46	59	18
TERN, Gull-billed	2	2			1	1	1
TERN, Caspian	3	2		4	6	3	33
TERN, Black	156	56	113	46	76	252	35
TERN, Common	1		1		6		
TERN, Forster's	156	45	9	38	12	60	25
TERN, Royal	114	8	6	41	69	17	65
TERN, Sandwich	6	2		6	1	9	4
SKIMMER, Black						15	79
LOON, Common			1				

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

	Total 2026	Total 2025	Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
STORK, Wood							
FRIGATEBIRD, Magnificent				1			
BOOBY, Brown							3
ANHINGA	12	6	4	6	3	1	2
CORMORANT, Neotropic	89	208	128	158	177	138	110
CORMORANT, Double-crested	5					1	2
CORMORANT species		5		3	1	12	6
PELICAN, American White			25	7		4	
PELICAN, Brown	261	45	31	203	26	40	33
BITTERN, American	2						
BITTERN, Least	29	10	22	8	6	2	4
HERON, Great Blue	19	21	5	8	6	7	10
EGRET, Great	243	191	126	276	253	124	146
EGRET, Snowy	184	170	125	225	71	112	95
HERON, Little Blue	247	65	66	70	87	53	66
HERON, Tricolored	51	52	34	40	23	23	31
EGRET, Reddish		6		2			
CATTLE-EGRET, Western	736	802	544	705	832	790	981
HERON, Green	46	42	45	44	37	28	32
NIGHT-HERON, Black-crowned	7	9	20	10	12	2	2
NIGHT-HERON, Yellow-crowned	43	38	33	35	54	28	35
NIGHT-HERON species							
IBIS, White	162	168	314	394	295	292	39
IBIS, Glossy				1			4
IBIS, White-faced	47	102	74	45	106	1	264
IBIS, Plegadis species	27	41	9	64	215	94	62
SPOONBILL, Roseate	25	101	48	109	33	2	40
VULTURE, Black	135	99	156	194	116	105	76
VULTURE, Turkey	51	45	87	115	55	144	131
VULTURE species				80			10
OSPREY	6	3	3	5	4	3	7
KITE, White-tailed	1			4	2	1	2
KITE, Swallow-tailed	3	1	4	1	2		4
KITE, Mississippi	3	10	9	12	9	6	11
HARRIER, Northern	2		1	1		3	
HAWK, Sharp-shinned	2						
HAWK, Cooper's	1			1	2		
HAWK, Accipiter species							
EAGLE, Bald		2	1		1	1	2
HAWK, White-tailed		1		6	2		
HAWK, Red-shouldered	13	10	9	17	10	5	9
HAWK, Broad-winged	1	6		1		2	5
HAWK, Swainson's	8	8	4	6	1	4	5
HAWK, Red-tailed	11	8	6	2	1	5	10
HAWK species						2	1
OWL, Barn	4		2	2		1	2
OWL, Barred		3					
SCREECH-OWL, Eastern							
OWL, Great Horned	1		2	1		3	1
KINGFISHER, Belted	2	1	2	3	1	1	
SAPSUCKER, Yellow-bellied							
WOODPECKER, Red-headed	4	5	1	4	2	1	
WOODPECKER, Golden-fronted							
WOODPECKER, Red-bellied	29	26	31	28	18	26	26

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

	Total 2026	Total 2025	Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
WOODPECKER, Downy	26	18	30	26	16	14	20
WOODPECKER, Hairy							
FLICKER, Northern		1					
WOODPECKER, Pileated	10	7	10	2	4	8	4
CARACARA, Crested	18	10	18	16	10	10	12
KESTREL, American							
MERLIN	1	1					
FALCON, Peregrine					1	1	
FLYCATCHER, Olive-sided		1	2				
WOOD-PEWEE, Eastern	28	11	33	2	4	1	19
FLYCATCHER, Yellow-bellied	1						
FLYCATCHER, Acadian	15	4	5			2	6
FLYCATCHER, Alder	1						
FLYCATCHER, Willow	1						
FLYCATCHER, "Traill's"	1						1
FLYCATCHER, Least	2						3
FLYCATCHER, Empidonax	2	2					3
PHOEBE, Eastern	2	2				2	1
FLYCATCHER, Vermilion							
FLYCATCHER, Great Crested	20	23	20	23	14	26	20
KISKADEE, Great	2						
KINGBIRD, Couch's				1			
KINGBIRD, Tropical/Couch's	1						
KINGBIRD, Western	1	2		1			
KINGBIRD, Eastern	96	24	79	22	28	34	64
FLYCATCHER, Scissor-tailed	40	16	26	37	23	15	19
SHRIKE, Loggerhead	28	29	37	51	32	25	41
VIREO, White-eyed	32	28	33	26	21	9	23
VIREO, Yellow-throated	3	10		4	5	2	11
VIREO, Blue-headed		1		2			
VIREO, Philadelphia	4	2	4			1	5
VIREO, Warbling	1	1					1
VIREO, Red-eyed	16	40	24	11	6	13	46
VIREO, Yellow-green							
VIREO, Black Whiskered							
JAY, Blue	79	93	71	99	94	96	93
CROW, American	18	28	43	30	12	12	16
CROW, Fish	30	33	25	47	35	20	14
CROW, Species	14	23	18	20	9	18	22
SWALLOW, N. Rough-winged		3	28	4	2	1	9
MARTIN, Purple	208	136	114	189	112	118	130
SWALLOW, Tree	266	31	128	44	2	35	192
SWALLOW, Bank	31	55	266	30	6	7	35
SWALLOW, Barn	382	168	155	90	142	106	635
SWALLOW, Cliff	376	357	883	352	269	364	907
SWALLOW, Cave	3		371	56		7	8
SWALLOW, Cave/Cliff	360						4
SWALLOW species	96		6	3		18	13
CHICKADEE, Carolina	36	47	51	58	37	28	38
NUTHATCH species							
TITMOUSE, Tufted	33	27	16	13	15		3
WREN, Sedge							
WREN, Marsh	14	13	33	12	8	24	8
WREN, Carolina	51	33	57	57	36	26	44

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

	Total 2026	Total 2025	Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
GNATCATCHER, Blue-gray	7	1	4	4	9		2
KINGLET, Ruby-crowned	1						
BLUEBIRD, Eastern	90	74	62	63	29	45	49
VEERY	1	8	8	1	1	1	4
THRUSH, Gray-cheeked	5	5	3	1	1		2
THRUSH, Swainson's	9	13	20	2	5	4	31
THRUSH, Wood	3	2	4				
ROBIN, American	5	4	7	11	3	13	26
CATBIRD, Gray	42	14	12	5	2	9	35
THRASHER, Brown	14	17	15	14	9	13	17
MOCKINGBIRD, Tropical							
MOCKINGBIRD, Northern	308	307	337	284	248	255	419
STARLING, European	356	260	225	254	239	173	286
WAXWING, Cedar	66	23	3	16		5	33
FINCH, House	34	27	43	16	10	12	10
GOLDFINCH, Lesser	2						
GOLDFINCH, American							
SPARROW, Chipping	1		1				
SPARROW, Lark			3	1			1
SPARROW, White-crowned							
SPARROW, White-throated							
SPARROW, Seaside	61	21	22	13	14	11	25
SPARROW, Nelson's	11	2	3		2	4	2
SPARROW, Savannah	11	9	1	8		5	5
TOWHEE, Eastern							
CHAT, Yellow-breasted	3	3	2	1	1		
BLACKBIRD, Yellow-headed	2						
BOBOLINK		8	17			1	
MEADOWLARK, Eastern	96	131	109	138	122	56	93
MEADOWLARK species	2		1	2			
ORIOLE, Orchard	43	63	37	41	48	32	15
ORIOLE, Hooded							
ORIOLE, Baltimore	2	3	1	1			2
BLACKBIRD, Red-winged	548	313	642	366	387	413	345
COWBIRD, Bronzed	11	3		1	2	5	2
COWBIRD, Brown-headed	146	80	89	138	79	79	50
GRACKLE, Common	84	109	83	60	83	80	192
GRACKLE, Boat-tailed	215	128	109	125	141	135	154
GRACKLE, Great-tailed	570	180	229	166	277	470	506
GRACKLE, Gt./Boat-tailed	140	119	160	40	81	86	113
GRACKLE species	16	2		17	177	83	
BLACKBIRD species						200	
OVENBIRD	4	4	6		1	1	5
WARBLER, Worm-eating			1		1		
WATERTHRUSH, Louisiana	1						
WATERTHRUSH, Northern	4	4	12	1	2	2	4
WARBLER, Golden-winged	1	1					2
WARBLER, Blue-winged							1
WARBLER, Black-and-white	10	11	8				4
WARBLER, Prothonotary	6	10	5	5	2	5	7
WARBLER, Swainson's							
WARBLER, Tennessee	12	8	5		1	2	7
WARBLER, Nashville							
WARBLER, Mourning							1

SPRING MIGRATION COUNT JEFFERSON COUNTY, TEXAS

	Total 2026	Total 2025	Total 2024	Total 2023	Total 2022	Total 2021	Total 2020
WARBLER, Kentucky	1						
YELLOWTHROAT, Common	89	62	57	42	37	39	40
WARBLER, Hooded	10	8	6	3	1	4	4
REDSTART, American	13	21	23	1	3	4	21
WARBLER, Cape May							1
WARBLER, Cerulean							
PARULA, Northern	4	4	7	2		4	2
WARBLER, Magnolia	29	21	26		2	5	17
WARBLER, Bay-breasted	19	37	40		1	2	23
WARBLER, Blackburnian	12	4	3			1	8
WARBLER, Northern Yellow	20	18	13	3	5	6	13
WARBLER, Chestnut-sided	15	7	11			1	4
WARBLER, Blackpoll	1		2				2
WARBLER, Black-throated Blue							
WARBLER, Palm							
WARBLER, Pine	12	10	7	3	15	9	2
WARBLER, Yellow-rumped				1			
WARBLER, Yellow-throated	3	1	1	1			
WARBLER, Prairie							
WARBLER, Black-throated Green	4	9	2				6
WARBLER, Canada	6	1	6				
WARBLER, Wilson's							
TANAGER, Summer	15	12	3	4	1	5	11
TANAGER, Scarlet	4	5	2			3	6
TANAGER, Western		1				1	
CARDINAL, Northern	226	189	172	112	133	116	170
GROSBEAK, Rose-breasted	8	7	2			2	3
GROSBEAK, Black-headed							
GROSBEAK, Blue	20	2	1	1	2	1	3
BUNTING, Indigo	66	21	10	4		7	13
BUNTING, Painted	19	12	9	2	4	3	8
DICKCISSEL	95	101	105	102	169	139	296
SPARROW, House	61	59	55	93	56	51	107
IBIS, White-faced/Glossy hybrid							
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	11499	8525	9385	7191	9104	8376	11474
TOTAL SPECIES	210	184	177	168	158	169	186
Number of Observers	19	14	18	15	17	15	17
Number of Parties	13-14	10	13	10	9	8	9-10
Number of Party-hours - Foot	25.2	24.2	39.4	21.3	16.0	16.8	20.2
Number of Party-hours - Car	70.2	50.0	46.6	42.8	50.4	54.3	41.7
Number of Party-hours - Stationary		1.0	2.0		1.0	1.3	
Number of Party-hours- Canoe							
Total Party-hours	95.4	60.4	88.0	65.0	66.3	72.8	62.9
Number of Party-Miles - Foot	3	8.7	20.2	13.9	11.3	12.9	8.6
Number of Party-Miles - Car	367	318.9	400.0	308.2	356.4	437.9	312.8
Number of Party-Miles - Bicycle							
Number of Party-Miles - Canoe							
Total Party-Miles	369.9	363.0	420.1	322.1	367.7	450.9	321.4

Sabine Woods Warblers Spring 2026

It has been an interesting spring. For the 40 or so days in late March and April, there were only three or four days with single digit warbler species seen even though for most of April we had strong south winds. Even towards the very end of April, we had almost written off this spring season as almost a bust as far as landbird migrants were concerned. Only a substantial arrival late on 18th April had encouraged birders. Then on the very late date of 7th and 8th of May, one of the best "fall outs" in recent memory occurred. This helped produce on 9th April the highest species total for a Spring Migration Count in the 30 years we have been conducting the count. (See accompanying report.) Most long-time birders realize that when the birds are migrating over the Gulf to the coast with strong south winds, they continue past the coastal oak mottes. As our bird migration season comes to an end, we thought we would reflect on our 2026 spring migration season. Thirty-four warbler species and two hybrids made an appearance. Looking at the numbers below, it may not seem like a poor early part of the season. However, for many of the species recorded, there may have only been one individual in the 40 acres or so at Sabine Woods. And there are four warbler species that can be classified as winter residents.

Jana and John Whittle

Number of Warbler Species Recorded

19 March 2026	8	07 April 2026	14	26 April 2026	18
20 March 2026	9	08 April 2026	13	27 April 2026	14
21 March 2026	6	09 April 2026	15	28 April 2026	6
22 March 2026	11	10 April 2026	18	29 April 2026	12
23 March 2026	6	11 April 2026	12	30 April 2026	15
24 March 2026	10	12 April 2026	16	01 May 2026	18
25 March 2026	no rpt	13 April 2026	14	02 May 2026	24
26 March 2026	7	14 April 2026	13	03 May 2026	20
27 March 2026	11	15 April 2026	15	04 May 2026	14
28 March 2026	11	16 April 2026	13	05 May 2026	12
29 March 2026	8	17 April 2026	9	06 May 2026	17
30 March 2026	12	18 April 2026	13	07 May 2026	22
31 March 2026	12	19 April 2026	24	08 May 2026	20
01 April 2026	10	20 April 2026	22	09 May 2026	18
02 April 2026	13	21 April 2026	19	10 May 2026	11
03 April 2026	16	22 April 2026	17	11 May 2026	13
04 April 2026	12	23 April 2026	21	12 May 2026	11
05 April 2026	7	24 April 2026	20	13 May 2026	6
06 April 2026	11	25 April 2026	20		

Warblers Recorded (34 species)

Ovenbird	Nashville Warbler	Chestnut-sided Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler	Mourning Warbler	Blackpoll Warbler
Louisiana Waterthrush	Kentucky Warbler	Black-throated Blue Warbler
Northern Waterthrush	Common Yellowthroat	Palm Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler	Hooded Warbler	Pine Warbler
Blue-winged Warbler	American Redstart	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Brewster's hybrid	Cape May Warbler	Yellow-throated Warbler
Lawrence's hybrid	Cerulean Warbler	Prairie Warbler
Black-and-white Warbler	Northern Parula	Black-throated Green Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler	Magnolia Warbler	Canada Warbler
Swainson's Warbler	Bay-breasted Warbler	Wilson's Warbler
Tennessee Warbler	Blackburnian Warbler	
Orange-crowned Warbler	Northern Yellow Warbler	

In addition, on 4th May, a MacGillivray's Warbler was seen by Sidney Gauthraux on Highway 87 west of the Sea Rim SP entrance in the area that used to be known as the Willows at Sea Rim. The willows did not survive a hurricane about a decade ago, and now supports a rapidly enlarging stand of small trees variously known as Hercules Club and Common Pricklyash

Bird Sightings –May 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 reported it.

As might be expected in May, many of the reports are of late

or lingering migrants. Of interest as species that are not normally seen in Southeast Texas in are a Lesser Goldfinch in a backyard in Port Arthur, a Gray Kingbird retuning for a second summer to a golf course in Houston, and a Long-billed Thrasher on the Rice University in Houston. . For most counties covered in this column, Limpkins are no longer being treated in eBird as rare enough to be listed in the county rare bird alerts for many counties, although they are still reported in the counties to the east of Houston. Western Tanagers seem to be still increasing in our area. They do seem to be migrating west in summer, although they are still found in early May in Southeast Texas.

Noteworthy late species are some Peregrine Falcons and the unexpected appearance of three Orange-crowned Warblers at three distinct locations in the Houston area.

Local Counties May 2026

Green-winged Teal	May 24	JEF-Cattail Marsh (1) Harlan Stewart
Limpkin	May 9	JEF-9th Ave Library Ponds (1) John O'Brien, Tony Frank, David Sarkozi
Roseate Spoonbill	May 25	NEW-South Toledo Bend-RR255 (1) Audra Jackson
Common Loon	May 19	ORA-Bailey's Fish Camp Rd (1) Steve Russell
Blue-headed Vireo	May 18	NEW-Caney Creek Park (1) WE
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	May 17	Sabine NF Fox Hunters Hill (1) WE
Lesser Goldfinch	May 7-11	JEF Evergreen Dr, Pt Arthur (1) Greg Jackson
Louisiana Waterthrush	May 7	JEF-SW (1) Dania Sanchez
Western Tanager	May 6	JEF-SW (1) Harlan Stewart, Michael Weaver

Nearby Counties May 2026

Snow Goose	May 6-26	HAS-Bliss Meadows Park (1) Wien Li, Andrew Hamlett, Richard Rulander, mult obs
Ross's Goose	May 27-29	HAS-West Rd nr. Barker Cypress (1) Steve Tattersall, Tyler Cutshaw
Greater Scaup	May 8	CHA-J Nungaray NWR (1) John O'Brien, David Sarkozi
Common Ground Dove	May 8	HAS-Upper Bay Rd (1) Lindsey Hieb
	May 17	CHA-J Nungaray NWR Shoveler Pond (1) Amy and Ryan Morgan
Groove-billed Ani	May 25-30	GAL-LaFitte's Cove (1) Lucia Ersfeld, mult obs
Wood Stork	May 7	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Steve Swdeman, Christian Davidson
Brown Booby	May 3	CAL-Hackberry Calcasieu Lake (5) Chris Rutland
Northern Harrier	May 21	HAS-Buffalo Bayou Park (1) Wesley Chambers
Harris's Hawk	May 11	HAS-Hershey Park (1) JoHannah Carrizales
American Kestrel	May 22	Kemah Boardwalk (1) Yates Freer
Merlin	May 9	GAL-Bob Road (1) Jenny Dubin
Peregrine Falcon	May 22	CAM West Cameron 509B offshore (1) Daniel Campbell
	May 23	GAL-Beach at TX124/Hwy87 (1) Isaac Boden
	May 25	GAL-LaFitte's Cove (1) Jamie Schubert
Gray Kingbird	May 7	CAM-PR564 (1) Kevin Leigh

	May 7	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) WE
	May 5-30	HAS-East River 9 Golf (1) mult obs
Eastern Phoebe	May 30	HAS-Kleb Woods (1) Michael and Sarah Kuzio
Blue-headed Vireo	May 21	HAS-Edith Moore Sanct. (1) Drew Dickert
Red-breasted Nuthatch	May 7	GAL-HI Smith Oaks (1) Brenda Gonzales
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	May 24	GAL-Dos Vacas Muertes (1) Donald Verser
Long-billed Thrasher	May 23-31	HAS-Rice Univ area(1) Cin-Ty Lee, mult obs
Swainson's Thrush	May 23	CHA-Cotton Lake Rd (1) Paul Fagala
Yellow-headed Blackbird	May 9	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Van Remsen, David Muth
Song Sparrow	May 9	HAS-Sheldon Lake SP (1) Janet Frech
Baltimore Oriole	May 30	HAS-Bear Creek Park (1) Alexandria Aaron
Louisiana Waterthrush	May 6-7	CHA-J Nungaray NWR Jackson Prairie (1) David Hansen, Tom Rien, Deepika Chandra
Orange-crowned Warbler	May 7	GAL-HI Hooks Woods (1) Tom Rien, Deepika Chandra
	May 7	HAS-Mercer Botanic Gdns (1) Simon Kline
	May 7	HAS-Russ Pitman Park (1) Mary Ann Beauchemin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	May 8	HAS-Webster (1) Grace Byrnett
	May 9	HAS-Edith Moore Sanctuary (1) Ally Moyer
	May 9	East River 9 Golf (1) Elliott Evans. Charlotte Keuring
Yellow-rump (Audubon's)	May 9	GAL-Moody Gardens (1) Greg Whitaker,
Western Tanager	May 5-7	GAL-Lafitte's Cove (1) mult obs
	May 9	HAS-Green Trails Village (1) Kevin Smith
	May 9	HAS-Houston Arboretum (1) Sam deCaro

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.

Golden Triangle Audubon Society
P. O. Box 1292
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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.

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Check enclosed Please bill me
Golden Triangle Audubon C4ZW260Z

Brown Pelican SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

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Subscriptions from NAS Members with mailing addresses outside our official territory, and others wishing to subscribe are \$20 per year (Jan-Dec).

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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 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.