

The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 21 No. 12

December 2015

Sea Rim State Park Christmas Bird Count Sunday January 3, 2016 Meet in Sabine Pass at 7:00 a.m.

at the intersection of Highway 87 and FM3322 in Sabine Pass if not preassigned to an area. This is at the stop sign in Sabine Pass, where Highway 87 turns west.

Countdown dinner at 6:00 p.m., location to be confirmed.

Please contact John Whittle at johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193 (H), and let us know you plan to attend so we can make the best possible area assignments.

Orange County Christmas Bird Count Friday January 1, 2016 Meet in Orange at 7:00 a.m.

at the Service Station at the intersection of Highway 105 and FM1442.

Contact Gary Kelley at garymke@sbcglobal.net or 409-679-1616.

Please join us for what we hope will be two enjoyable birding days. All are invited, even if you are not an experienced birder or are only able to bird for part of the day. Feeder watchers are welcome to participate. Let us know in advance and we will find a suitable group for you to join.

Other local counts which will welcome your participation include the **Johnson Bayou** count on **Monday December 14** (contact Gary Kelley at 409-679-1616 or garymke@sbcglobal.net), the **Bolivar Peninsula** Count on **Thursday December 17** (contact Steve Mayes at sgmayes@hotmail.com or 409-722-5807), the **Turkey Creek** Count (in the Big Thicket north of Kountze) on **Saturday, December 19** (contact John Whittle at johnawhittle@aol.com), the **Beech Creek** Count (in the Steinhagen Lake area) on **Monday December 28** (contact as for Turkey Creek) and the Trinity River Count on **Wednesday December 30** (contact Stuart Marcus at 936-336-9786 or stuart_marcus@fws.gov). More details of all counts on page 3.

The Brown Pelican

Vol. 21, No.12 December 2015
Issue number 223

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 should always be regarded as needing confirmation just before the date. Changes will always be posted on the web site at www.goldentriangleaudubon.org. Confirmation of the location will also normally be available at the Membership Meeting that is usually, but not always, two days prior to each trip, or by contacting Field Trip Committee chair, Steve Mayes at 409-722-5807 or sgmayes@hotmail.com.

Thursday January 21, 2016. Membership Meeting. Topic: Shangri-La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center

Saturday January 23, 2016. Field Trip. A final decision will be made nearer the time, but we have tentatively selected Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge for this trip. This is an opportunity to observe waterfowl, at both the main refuge area and the Skillern Tract, as well as various wintering warblers, sparrows and Vermilion Flycatchers. There are also many raptors, including both eagles, Crested Caracara and White-tailed Hawk wintering in the area. Meet at the Visitor Information Station just beyond the entrance at 8:30 a.m. Final details in next month's issue.

Thursday February 18, 2016. Membership Meeting. Gerald Duhon on Birds and Birding in Ecuador.

Saturday February 20, 2016. Field Trip. Tentatively, this will be to Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park, Beaumont.

Annual Meeting Report

At the November meeting, Golden Triangle Audubon elected its officers and directors for 2016.

President: Sherrie Roden (two year term). Elected for one year terms for 2016 were:; Vice-President: Dana Nelson, Treasurer; Harlan Stewart Secretary; John Whittle; Directors-at-Large: Jessica Barry, Edra Bogucki, Howard Davis, Gerald Duhon, Sherry Gibson, John Haynes, Gary Kelley, Randy Lewis, John Mariani, Steve Mayes, and Christine Sliva.

John A. Whittle, Secretary

Christmas Bird Counts

Monday December 14. Johnson Bayou, LA Centered on Johnson Bayou. This area of Cameroon Parish is recovering from two devastating hurricanes. This count has access to oilfield and Gray Estate properties that are not accessible any other time. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the intersection of Louisiana 82 and Parish Road 536/Middle Ridge Road – the Bayou Convenience Store and the Johnson Bayou High School are at this intersection. Contact Gary Kelley (garymke@sbcglobal.net or 409-679-1616)

Thursday December 17. Bolivar Peninsula. High Island and Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge areas. The count circle includes High Island, Rollover Pass and all of Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge. Contact Steve Mayes (sgmayes@hotmail.com or 409-722-5807) for assignment/meeting location and time.

Saturday December 19. Turkey Creek. Centered in the Turkey Creek unit of the Big Thicket National Preserve north of Kountze. Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on Highway 69 about 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 a.m. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193)

Monday December 28. Beech Creek. Centered in the Steinhagen Lake area of Tyler and Jasper counties. In addition to Steinhagen Lake, this count includes all of Martin Dies State Park, and the Corps of Engineers picnic areas and campgrounds around the lake. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic area on FM92 immediately north of Town Bluff. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193).

Wednesday December 30. Trinity River. This count includes the Trinity River NWR, Tarkington Prairie and Gaylor Lake. Contact: Stuart Marcus (stuart_marcus@fws.gov or 936-336-9786) for meeting place information.

Friday January 1, 2016. Orange County. This count includes much of

Orange County between Orange and the Neches River, including Bessie Heights and the Old River Unit. Meet at the gas station at the intersection of FM1442 and FM105 in Orangefield at 7:00 a.m. Contact Gary Kelley (garymke@sbcglobal.net or 409-679-1616)

.Sunday January 3, 2016. Sea Rim SP. Sabine Pass/Texas Point/Sea Rim area. This count is sponsored by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society. The count circle includes the southern part of Murphree Wildlife Management Area, all of Texas Point National Wildlife Refuge and Sea Rim State Park, the eastern part of McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge as well as Sabine Woods, the Sabine Pass area and a small section of extreme western Cameron Parish including the lighthouse. We can make much better assignments if you contact us at least two or three days in advance of the count. If not already assigned to a group, meet in the parking lot of the Sabine Pass Community Center, located at the stop sign on Highway 87 at 7:00 a.m. Contact John Whittle (johnawhittle@aol.com or 409-722-4193)

Houston Audubon maintains an excellent list of all Texas CBCs on their web site at www.houstonaudubon.org

Christmas Bird Counts are all day events in which participants identify and count all the birds they can find in a 15-mile diameter circle, most groups birding from dawn to dusk. Christmas Bird Counts are free and most, including all local counts, are open to anyone.



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.

Kenneth Raymond Sztraky 1960-2015

It is with profound sorrow that we record the passing on November 24 in Silsbee of Ken Sztraky. Ken was born in Oceola, Iowa. He studied at Lamar University, and graduated from the School of Pharmacy at what was then Northwest Louisiana University (now University of Louisiana at Monroe). He worked at a number of pharmacies in the area, most recently at the Medicine Shoppe in Jasper. He is survived by his wife Leah Kay Hoover Sztraky, mother Doris Lorraine Fox Evans of Vidor; sons Eric Sztraky of Beeville, and Brandon Denning of Virginia; daughters Elizabeth Young of Florida, and April Denning of Vidor.

Ken was a charter member of Golden Triangle Audubon Society and played an important role in the early development of the Society. He served as our first Treasurer from 1995 to 1996, as Vice-President 1998 to 1999 and as our second President from 2000 to 2001. For at least six or seven years, while he was serving in these positions, he also maintained the Golden Triangle Audubon Rare Bird Alert, as a telephone system in the days before widespread availability of email and the internet.

More than in any other aspect of our activities, Ken was active in Christmas Bird Counts and Migration Counts. When we restarted the Sea Rim State Park Count in 1995, Ken was one of our active participants, arranging access to various private lands, and being there each year to count from dawn to dusk. Not satisfied with that, in January 2002, he reinstated the Orange County count, which had been dormant for many years, and served as compiler of that count thereafter. When Louisiana birders were unable to continue the Johnson Bayou (Cameron Parish) count in 2002, Ken stepped in, made contact with the numerous land owners and arranged access to continue the count, for which he also served as compiler. Ken participated in at least six Christmas counts each year.

In 1995, we instituted Spring and Fall Migration Counts to better record the bird populations in Jefferson County. Ken was always there to cover the area in the south west of the county.

In addition, for several years, Ken organized summer butterfly counts in many parts of Jefferson County.

He will be sorely missed. He would have wanted us to continue his counts, and to do that, we need volunteers to step forward and participate in these counts.

Bird Sightings – November 2015

For this column, we review, looking for rare and very rare species, all credible eBird and other submitted records for the Texas counties we have always covered – Angelina, Hardin, Jasper, Jefferson, Newton, Orange, Sabine, San Augustine and Tyler. We also review, looking for very rare or vagrant species only, records for Chambers, Galveston (High Island and

Bolivar only) and Liberty counties in Texas, and Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes (west of the Calcasieu River only) in Louisiana.

The format of the listing is Species – Date – County-more precise location if available – (number) – Observer(s) with sometimes a comment on the reason it is noteworthy.

Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

| | | |
|--|----------|---|
| Horned Grebe | Nov 21 | SAB-Toledo Bend at TX21 (1) Hubert Hervey |
| American Bittern | Nov 27 | JEF-TP (2) Ron Berwick |
| Least Bittern | Nov 2 | JEF-Big Hill Rd (2) RHRC (late) |
| Green Heron | Nov 1 | JEF-WJC (1) J&R |
| Broad-winged Hawk | Nov 8 | JEF-SW (32) JHH, J&R, SM |
| Whimbrel | Nov 13 | JEF-SW (1) JHH (late) |
| Common Ground –Dove | Nov 9 | Big Hill Rd (1) Rita Czek |
| | Nov 1 | JEF-WJC (3) J&R |
| | Nov 6 | JEF-WJC (7) L&L Bryan |
| Chimney Swift | Nov 8 | JEF-WJC (8) J&R (late) |
| Black-chinned Humm. | Nov 4 | JEF-Beaumont (1) RL |
| | Nov 19 | JEF-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM |
| Buff-bellied Humm. | Nov 3 | JEF-Nederland (1) HS |
| | Nov 3 | JEF-Nederland (1) JJW |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | Nov 2-12 | JEF-SW (late; See Tables p 5-7) |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | Nov 3 | JEF-SW (1) Gary Binderim (late) |
| Acadian Flycatcher | Nov 3-10 | JEF-SW See Tables on p 5-7 |
| Traill's Flycatcher | Nov 3 | JEF-SW (1) JHH, JAW (late) |
| Western Kingbird | Nov 21 | JEF-I-10 at Gallier Canal (1) Carlos Ross (late) |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | Nov 18 | JEF-SW (1) JHH |
| | Nov 22 | JEF-SW (1) SM, MC |
| Swainson's Thrush | Nov 3 | JEF-SW (1) JHH (late) |
| Wood Thrush | Nov 2-5 | JEF-SW See Tables on p 5-7 |
| Tennessee Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Canada Warbler. See Tables on p 5-7 | | |
| Painted Bunting | Nov 9 | JEF-SW (1) JHH, JAW |
| Rusty Blackbird | Nov 23 | JEF-SW (1) JAW |

| | | |
|---|----------|--|
| Pine Siskin | Nov 13 | JEF-SW (2) JHH |
| Nearby Counties (very rare species only) | | |
| Horned Grebe | Nov 21 | CHA-ANWR (2) B. Althouse |
| | Nov 23 | CHA-ANWR (5) J. Vanderpoel |
| Magnificent Frigatebird | Nov 6 | CHA-SPHW (3) Winnie Burkett |
| | Nov 7 | GAL-Ferry (1) Peter Barnes |
| Least Bittern | Nov 7 | CHA-ANWR (1) Peter Barnes |
| Golden Eagle | Nov 8 | CHA-SPHW (1) J. Throckmorton |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | Nov 1-2 | CAM-Peveto (1) multiple obs |
| | Nov 12 | CAM-Peveto (1) Danny Dobbs |
| Groove-billed Ani | Nov 5 | CAM-Peveto (2) multiple obs |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | Nov 1-14 | CAM-Peveto (up to 5) mult obs |
| | Nov 3 | GAL-HI (1) Joel Throckmorton |
| | Nov 6 | CHA-SPHW (1) Winnie Burkett |
| Pacific-slope Flycatcher | Nov 1 | CAM-Peveto (1) multiple obs. |
| Tennessee Warbler | Nov 12 | CHA-ANWR (1) Steve Metchis |
| | Nov 20 | CHA-ANWR (1) Dwayne Litteer |
| Blue-winged Warbler | Nov 11 | GAL-Gast Sanct. (1) Richard Gibbons, Tim White, Steve Gast |
| Pine Siskin | Nov 22 | CAM-Peveto (5) multiple obs |

Abbreviations used: ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BTNP – Big Thicket National Preserve; CAM – Cameron Parish, LA; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County;; HI – High Island; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAS – Jasper County; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; JM – John Mariani; J&R – Jessica Barry and Randy Lewis; MC – Michael Cooper; RHRC – Rene Hebert and Rita Czek; RL – Randy Lewis; SAB – Sabine County; SPHW – Smith Point Hawk Watch; SW – Sabine Woods; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; WJC – West Jefferson County.

2015 Fall Migration

This is the second fall migration season for which we have attempted to provide comprehensive data on the fall migrant passing through Sabine Woods. The first appeared in the December 2014 *Brown Pelican*. The tables are restricted to "passage" migrants that nest in the United States or Canada and pass through the Gulf coast on their way to wintering grounds south of the United States. We also have data on the species that winter along the Gulf Coast, that will, space permitting, be presented in a future issue. The tables include sightings at Sabine Woods only. There were only a few sightings along Highway 87 and at Sea Rim State Park during the fall, and a handful along Pilot Station Road, and the most interesting of those have been reported in the Bird Sightings columns in the last few issues.

Space and print size considerations have necessitated leaving off the table a few species that were seen only a few times during the fall. These were:

Black-billed Cuckoo on Aug 27 (1), Aug 28(1), Sep 27 (1)
Cerulean Warbler Aug 2 (1)

Bay-breasted Warbler Oct 17-19 (1), 21 (1)
Chestnut-sided Warbler Sep 28-29 (1), Nov 2 (1)
Black-throated Blue Warbler Sep 16 (1)

There were no reports at Sabine Woods this fall of Philadelphia Vireo, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Golden Winged Warbler, Swainson's Warbler or Blackpoll Warbler

This compilation would not have been possible without the efforts of many birders. First and foremost, we thank John Haynes who birded the Woods almost every day during the peak of migration. We used reports regularly posted by Jessica Barry, Michael Cooper, Howard Davis, Thomas Hellweg, Randy Lewis, John Mariani, Steve Mayes, Harlan Stewart, Ron Weeks, and John Whittle. We also used eBird reports posted by Mike Austin, Ron Berwick, Gary Binderim, Teresa Connell, Dean Gregory, David Hansen, Duane Huval, Imre Karafiath, Gary Killick, Jan Liang, Brad Lirette, Derek Muschalek, Bret Newton, Shannon Phillips, Nina Rach, Michelle Rometry, David Sarkozi, Jeff Sexton, Dennis Shepler, Robert Thacker, and Todd and Madison White.

2015 Fall Migration - Sabine Woods

| NAME | AUG | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | SEP | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|--|--|--|-----|--|--|--|--|
| | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Nbr Reports | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 1 | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk | 1 | | | | 3 | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chuck-will's-widow | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 10 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | 5 | | | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | 2 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | | | | 1 | 3 | 14 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 2 | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Alder Flycatcher | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trail's Flycatcher | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Empidonax species | | | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 7 | 60 | 9 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | | 3 | 5 | | | | | | | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 2 | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 21 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 12 | 9 | 7 | | 8 | 8 | 3 | 15 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 2 | | 4 | 2 | 11 | 7 | | | | | | | | |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | | | | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 5 | | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 1 | | 6 | | | 2 | 6 | | 2 | 8 | 18 | 6 | 9 | | 31 | 7 | 18 | 9 | 12 | 16 | 12 | 13 | 3 | 10 | 12 | 3 | 19 | 12 | | | | | | | | |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wood Thrush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gray Catbird | | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Brown Thrasher | | | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Ovenbird | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | 2 | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Waterthrush | 1 | | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | 4 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | 2 | 1 | 3 | | | 5 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 2 | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 3 | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | 1 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nashville Warbler | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mourning Warbler | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 6 | 6 | 1 | | | | 1 | | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Kentucky Warbler | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hooded Warbler | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 9 | 11 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | | | 3 | | 8 | 4 | | | | | | | | |
| American Redstart | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Parula | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | 2 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 4 | | 3 | 5 | | 9 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Canada Warbler | | | | | | | | 12 | 5 | 4 | | 3 | | 2 | | | 7 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 5 | | | 20 | 2 | 13 | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 1 | | | 3 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Summer Tanager | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 9 | | | 1 | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigo Bunting | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | |
| Painted Bunting | | 1 | 1 | | | | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Orchard Oriole | 6 | | 9 | 4 | | 5 | 8 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | 3 | | 2 | | | 2 | 2 | | | 2 | | | 4 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Baltimore Oriole | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 4 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | | | 3 | | 3 | 5 | | | | | | | | |

2015 Fall Migration - Sabine Woods

| NAME | SEP | | | | | | | | | | | | | | OCT | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 23 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 13 |
| Nbr Reports | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 6 | 2 | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Chuck-will's-widow | | 2 | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 4 | 3 | 1 | 4 | | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 8 | 16 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 18 | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 2 | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | 1 | | 1 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 8 | 3 | 2 | | 5 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | | 1 | | | 4 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | | 1 | | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alder Flycatcher | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trail's Flycatcher | 4 | | 1 | | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | | 2 | | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | |
| Empidonax species | 4 | 3 | | 3 | | 2 | 12 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 2 | | | 2 | | | | | | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | 18 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 5 | | 3 | 1 | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 | | 16 | |
| White-eyed Vireo | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 11 | 11 | 16 | 10 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | | | 30 | 7 | 3 | | | | | 4 | | 14 | 12 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 9 | 5 | 5 | | 4 | 14 | 20 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 7 | 22 | 9 | 14 | 14 | 10 | 15 | 12 | 15 | 9 | 10 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 11 | 4 | 14 |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Wood Thrush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Gray Catbird | | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 18 | 3 | 14 | 4 | 17 | 20 | 2 | 12 |
| Ovenbird | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 5 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | 1 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | 1 | | 2 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | | | | 2 | 8 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | | | | | | | | 3 | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | 2 | 2 | |
| Nashville Warbler | | | | | | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | 4 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | |
| Mourning Warbler | | 1 | 2 | | | | 10 | 3 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kentucky Warbler | | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 2 | | | 8 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 2 | |
| Hooded Warbler | | | | 1 | | 1 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 10 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 3 | | 2 | 1 | |
| American Redstart | | 1 | | | | | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 30 | 14 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 16 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 4 | |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Parula | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | | | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | 4 | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | | | | 1 | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | 5 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | 6 | 3 | | 1 | | | | 2 | | | 1 | 1 | |
| Canada Warbler | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | | 3 | 7 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | | 1 | | | 12 | 3 | 3 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 5 | | 1 | | 4 | | | 1 | | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | 2 | 1 | | | | | 3 | 4 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 3 | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | | |
| Summer Tanager | | | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | | | 6 | | |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 7 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigo Bunting | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 6 | 6 |
| Painted Bunting | | | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | |
| Orchard Oriole | | | | | 5 | | 3 | 4 | 3 | | | | | | 2 | 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baltimore Oriole | 3 | 8 | | 2 | | | 25 | 28 | | 4 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 12 | 2 | 4 | 2 | | | 1 | | | 3 | 1 | | | |

2015 Fall Migration - Sabine Woods

| NAME | OCT | | | | | | | | | NOV | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|---|---|----|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| | 14 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 21 | 22 | 27 | 29 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 18 | 19 | 22 | 23 | 25 |
| Nbr Reports | 1 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Yellow-billed Cuckoo | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Nighthawk | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chuck-will's-widow | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Whip-poor-will | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ruby-throated Hummingbird | 14 | | 1 | | | | | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Olive-sided Flycatcher | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 12 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 6 | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-bellied Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Acadian Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| Alder Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Willow Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trail's Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Least Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Empidonax species | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Great Crested Flycatcher | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eastern Kingbird | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher | 2 | | 7 | 16 | 10 | 6 | 16 | 19 | 6 | | | | | | | 2 | | | | | | | 1 | | | |
| White-eyed Vireo | 6 | | 6 | 1 | 3 | 3 | | 2 | 5 | 16 | 16 | 11 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | | | 3 | 2 | | | | | |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Warbling Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Red-eyed Vireo | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 10 | 5 | 12 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 8 | 13 | 12 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 5 | 6 | 10 | 10 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 20 | 8 | 8 |
| Swainson's Thrush | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Wood Thrush | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | 10 | 3 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gray Catbird | 2 | | 3 | 4 | 2 | | 1 | 2 | 4 | 20 | 12 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 4 | | 2 | 2 | | | 1 | | |
| Brown Thrasher | 7 | | 12 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Ovenbird | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | | |
| Worm-eating Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Louisiana Waterthrush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Waterthrush | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue-winged Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-and-white Warbler | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | | | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 | | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | |
| Prothonotary Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tennessee Warbler | 1 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | | 3 | | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Nashville Warbler | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 4 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | |
| Mourning Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Kentucky Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Common Yellowthroat | 2 | | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| Hooded Warbler | | | | | 1 | | | 1 | | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| American Redstart | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Cape May Warbler | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Northern Parula | 1 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | | | | | | 1 | | | | | |
| Magnolia Warbler | | | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | |
| Blackburnian Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow Warbler | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Prairie Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black-throated Green Warbler | 3 | | 4 | 4 | 3 | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 16 | 9 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | |
| Canada Warbler | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Wilson's Warbler | | | 2 | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | |
| Yellow-breasted Chat | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summer Tanager | | | | | | | | | 2 | 6 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 1 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | |
| Scarlet Tanager | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| Blue Grosbeak | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indigo Bunting | 4 | 1 | 12 | 9 | | 1 | 6 | 18 | 3 | 12 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 2 | 5 | 2 | | 3 | 1 | | | | | |
| Painted Bunting | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Orchard Oriole | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Baltimore Oriole | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Field Trip to West Jefferson County – 21 November 2015

Weather is always the great equalizer in birding. Even when you “know” there should be a lot of birds around, bad weather can prevent you from seeing them. On the other hand, an incoming weather system can quickly turn a birdless day into a fallout if it comes along at the right time and place. But a rainy Saturday in November was definitely not what the Golden Triangle Audubon Society wanted for its field trip! Would it be a complete washout? Would the rain let up enough to allow for some quality birding? Well ...

The local birders have learned to look forward to the November field trip to western Jefferson County. It has quickly become one of the favorites on the schedule because of the number and quality of birds that it consistently produces. Sandhill Cranes and Bald Eagles have been a regular feature on the trip along with often producing birds like Crested Caracara, White-tailed Hawk and LeConte’s Sparrow. Rarities have also been a feature of the trip with Red Phalarope having been sighted in the past and last year’s trip producing both a Mountain Bluebird and a Couch’s Kingbird! But with a wet front coming through on the field trip day, the question was whether any birds would be seen at all! Early on, it did not look promising.

The trip started well enough with lines of Sandhill Cranes constantly streaming by and a few sitting in a field on Johnson Road as the birders began to show up for the trip. A Great Horned Owl was spotted in a nearby pine tree and was soon joined by a second as more birders arrived to enjoy the view. In fact, the attendance was terrific with over twenty birders coming out, despite the threat of rain. It was all the more unfortunate that, after the birders all arrived and the birding started in earnest, so did the rain. It began to pour. It did not look like it would let up any time soon. The group tried to wait it out. They tried a little car birding. It continued to rain. Eventually, it was decided to call for an early “brunch” break at the convenience store in Nome and try to wait it out. Many of the assembled birders decided to give it up at this point and who could blame them? It was nasty, wet, windy weather and it was not clear when it would get better. But for the patient ones who waited on the rain there were rewards!

The Sandhill Cranes continued to stream along and many gathered in distant fields west of South China Road. Eventually, over a thousand cranes were tallied! White Ibis were just as numerous with large flocks of them in several wet fields and more flying overhead. Other fields contained several hundred Long-billed Dowitchers along with Western Sandpipers, Dunlin and Wilson’s Snipe. Ducks were not found in any number on this trip unlike past years but there were a few flyovers including Northern Pintail and Mottled Ducks. Both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs were seen along with Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets. Large flocks of blackbirds gather in these fields at this time of year, consisting mostly of Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds and several were seen on this day. The group searched among them for something rarer like a

Bronzed Cowbird or Yellow-headed Blackbird but settled for some Brewer’s Blackbirds here and there.

Vermilion Flycatcher is an unusual species in that it is normally found south of our area but small numbers of them actually move north in the fall along the coast instead of south like most species. These individuals seem to be very loyal to certain territories and return to them year after year. This can make them easy to find even if they are not very common in the area. There are a few of these traditional territories in western Jefferson County but the first one checked (in the rain) did not produce the expected bird. Luckily, the traditional spot on Thompson Road came through. There, a brilliant little male in nearly full adult plumage was located and the whole group was able to enjoy the brilliant red and black plumage. A little later, a female bird was found not far away.

Sparrows and other small birds are looked for on this trip in the many overgrown fields and pastures of the area. Unfortunately, on this trip, the rain and wind made finding small songbirds difficult as they were not very cooperative for the most part. The group did have plenty of Savannah Sparrows and Eastern Phoebes were common. A couple of Sedge Wrens were coaxed up out of the wet grass and there were a couple of semi-cooperative White-eyed Vireos. Gray Catbirds were found and Ruby-crowned Kinglets were located. A red-bellied Woodpecker put on a nice show for the birders and a Pine Warbler was also found. American Pipits were present in a wet field or two and Eastern Meadowlarks were not hard to find. Song Sparrow and Swamp Sparrows were located in the grass and weeds and were joined in one spot by American Goldfinches.

Raptors are a focus of this trip and the group certainly found a few. Red-tailed Hawks are almost impossible to miss in southeast Texas in winter and the group definitely did not miss them. A nice variety of adult and young birds were seen some of them of the typical eastern forms and a few of the paler prairie birds. Northern Harriers were present in incredible density quartering low over the wet fields. At times, there were as many as eight in view at once! It’s a wonder there are any small mammals left in this area with all of these predators around! But they were not alone! A red-shouldered Hawk was perched along one fence line while Tiny American Kestrels were common on phone lines. A single Merlin (a feisty little falcon a little larger than the kestrel) was seen perched in a field before it took off. A few odd looking Crested Caracaras were sighted on the day but, unfortunately, no White-tailed Hawk. One raptor that the group had no trouble finding was Bald Eagle. This once rare bird has made a significant comeback in recent decades and is now almost an expected bird in this area in the fall and winter. The eagles will shadow the flocks of ducks and geese in the area and pick off the weak and wounded ones for easy meals. The first eagle of the day was a young bird perched on the ground behind a flooded field. After getting scoped views of the bird, the eagles came easy! One group of three birds, two adults and a

young bird, flew over one area giving great looks to the remaining birders.

So there may not have been any mega-rarities spotted on the November field trip this year. And the weather was certainly not ideal and kept some birders from enjoying the full trip. But, those that persevered through the rain and wind were still treated to some very nice birds. It may not have been the perfect day but any trip with multiple Bald Eagles, Vermilion Flycatchers and hundreds of Sandhill Cranes is still pretty darn good! And we will always have another shot at those rare birds next year – and maybe the weather will cooperate a little better!

The following species were recorded by the field trip leaders:

Greater White-fronted Goose (46); Snow Goose (502); White Goose (1000); Ross's Goose (1); Gadwall (2); Northern Pintail (3); Mottled Duck (4); Lesser Scaup (1); Duck Species (500); Neotropic Cormorant (7); Great Blue Heron (3); Great Egret (7); Cattle Egret (30); White Ibis (669); Plegadis species Ibis (68); Roseate Spoonbill (25); Black Vulture (2); Turkey Vulture (35); Bald Eagle (8); Northern Harrier (24); Red-shouldered Hawk (1); Red-tailed Hawk (17); Crested Caracara (2); American Kestrel (9); Merlin (3); Sandhill Crane (1088); Killdeer (17); Black-necked Stilt (28); American Avocet (20); Greater Yellowlegs (7); Lesser Yellowlegs (45); Least Sandpiper (25); Western Sandpiper (20); Peep Sandpiper (100); Dunlin (15); Long-billed Dowitcher (700); Wilson's Snipe (40); Laughing Gull (50); Forster's Tern (4); Mourning Dove (26); Great Horned Owl (2); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (1); Downy Woodpecker (1); Eastern Phoebe (18); Vermilion Flycatcher (2); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (1); Loggerhead Shrike (5); White-eyed Vireo (2); Blue Jay (1); American Crow (1); Tree Swallow (120); House Wren (4); Sedge Wren (2); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Eastern Bluebird (2); Gray Catbird (2); Northern Mockingbird (4); European Starling (24); American Pipit (3); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Pine Warbler (1); Yellow-rumped Warbler (45); Savannah Sparrow (50); Song Sparrow (6); Swamp Sparrow (2); White-throated Sparrow (1); Northern Cardinal (1); Red-winged Blackbird (1500); Eastern Meadowlark (6); Meadowlark species (3); Brewer's Blackbird (23); Brown-headed Cowbird (2000); American Goldfinch (10); House Sparrow (6)

Steve Mayes