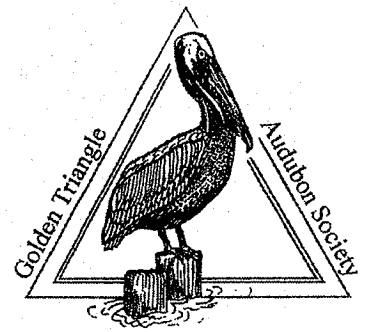


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 22 No. 11

November 2016

**Annual Meeting and Elections and Pot Luck Dinner  
Thursday November 17, 2016 7:00 p.m.  
Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

## **Your Favorite Bird Pictures**

This month, we are doing another program of members' favorite bird pictures. Dr. Harlan Stewart has again volunteered to prepare all photos submitted in advance into a Powerpoint presentation. Each member's pictures will be prefaced by an introductory "slide" giving the member's name, and any other relevant information the member wants. This might well indicate where the pictures were taken, if all at the same place, or that information can be in the caption to each picture, along with other information such as the species of the bird. The contributors of the pictures may, if they desire, talk briefly about their pictures, or they can allow the pictures to stand on their own. The pictures should be bird related, but do not need to be exhibition quality, especially if the subject is especially interesting for any reason.

In order to prepare a combined presentation, we will need to have the pictures by Saturday November 12. They can be emailed as attachments to Harlan at [hstewartmail@gt.rr.com](mailto:hstewartmail@gt.rr.com) If necessary, send several separate emails to avoid exceeding the limits set by your email provider.

We will also be able to show Powerpoint presentations that you prepare yourself if they are on a flash drive, and are in the Powerpoint 2003 Windows format or are a series of jpg files. Newer versions of Powerpoint do allow you to save in the older format, but some of the additional features introduced since the 2003 version will not be retained.

As usual, this will be our annual pot luck dinner meeting. We will also conduct our annual elections for all officer and at-large director positions except president at this meeting. If you wish to make any nominations, please contact the chair of the Nominations Committee, Sherrie Roden.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 22, No.11 November 2016  
Issue number 233

### Golden Triangle Audubon Society

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

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*The Brown Pelican* is published monthly except July by the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, P. O. Box 1292, Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

## 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](http://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](mailto:sgmayes@hotmail.com).*

**Thursday November 17, 2016.** Annual Meeting and Pot-luck Dinner. Bring your favorite bird photos. See page 1 for details.

**Saturday November 19, 2016. Field Trip to West Jefferson County.** In recent years, this has been one of our most successful field trips. The area is well known for its birds of prey, which in past years have included Bald and Golden Eagles, Crested Caracaras and White-tailed Hawks in addition to the more "normal" Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, and American Kestrels. In some years we have seen White-tailed Kites and Merlins.

The area is well known as the wintering ground of what has become a large (about 1,000 strong) flock of Sandhill Cranes and is also one of the best places to see sparrows in the area. In wet years, there can be lots of waterfowl including geese and many duck species as well as ibis and other waterbirds. Two years ago's trip found a Mountain Bluebird, which staying all winter and was visited by birders from all over the region, and a Couch's Kingbird.

Fall 2016 has so far been a most unusual migration season. We first noted on the Migration Count that the number of birds in West Jefferson County was very low. See the short article on the next page. When this was prepared (end of October), things had not changed, but this trip will be our opportunity to find out if the birds have finally arrived!

Meet at 8 a.m. at the intersection of FM365 and Johnson Road (on the "north/west" side of Johnson Road at that intersection). From the intersection of Interstate 10 and FM365 in Fannett,

proceed along FM365 (towards Nome) for about six miles. Shortly after you emerge out of the woodlands, South China Road goes to the right (east then north) and immediately afterwards, on the left, is Johnson Road. There is a green sign for the G and A Turf Farm on Johnson Road at the intersection. Contact Steve Mayes, [sgmayes@hotmail.com](mailto:sgmayes@hotmail.com), or call 409-722-5807 for further information.

## Refreshments

Each month, we rely on volunteers to provide the refreshments at our membership meeting. We thank all those who brought refreshments over the last few meetings **We need volunteers to bring items for the remaining fall meetings.** Pick the meeting at which you want to help. We do not expect one person to bring everything, but please call so we can coordinate. Even if you can just bring drinks and cookies or something similar, please call Jana Whittle at (409) 722-4193 (or email her at [janafw@aol.com](mailto:janafw@aol.com)) **as far in advance as possible.** Please help if you can.

**Christmas Bird Counts.** See the listing on page 4 of this issue.

**Thursday January 19, 2017. Membership Meeting.** Details in next month's issue.

**Saturday January 21, 2017. Field Trip.** Tentatively, this will be to Cattail Marsh in Tyrrell Park, Beaumont. Meet at the parking lot for Cattail Marsh at 8:00 a.m. The parking lot is accessed from the loop road round the main picnic areas in Tyrrell Park in Beaumont. Some birds can be seen with minimal walking, **but the group will**



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.com](http://www.earthshare-texas.com).

**probably make a leisurely three-or-so-mile hike round the various cells in the marsh.** If you are unable to walk that far, there will be someone near the entrance to help you identify the birds in the near cells. Walking is on the levees; the main ones are graveled, but some of the interior ones are mowed grass. This will be a good trip for beginning to intermediate birders, as most of the waterfowl and wading birds are relatively easy to study in the open water areas.

Check back in the December and January *Brown Pelicans* to be sure we have confirmed the destination for this field trip. We will include directions to Cattail Marsh in the notice in the January *Brown Pelican*, and during January they will also be posted on the Golden Triangle Audubon website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org)

## Membership Dues

To simplify our record keeping, all memberships now run from January through December. Membership dues remain at \$15 per year. We are now accepting 2017 dues. You may pay at any membership meeting (checks preferred) or use the subscription/ membership blank on the back page.

Dues for all members will be for the period ending on December 31. The memberships of new members joining in August or later in the year will extend to the end of the following calendar year. For new members joining National Audubon on line and selecting our Chapter code (W25), we receive a rebate of the entire first year's national dues, and no Chapter dues are expected for that first year.

As a reminder, dues are voluntary for National Audubon Society (NAS) members living in the Chapter's official territory, which is defined by zip codes, but basically 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 automatically bring them to our attention.

Your dues cover the cost of printing and mailing the *Brown Pelican* to you, and help fund our other activities. We urge you to help us do more by receiving your *Brown Pelican* as a PDF attached to an email if you do not already. We will continue to post the Newsletter on the GTAS website at [www.goldentriangleaudubon.org](http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org). The typical issue will be less than 500 KB so it is not a large file. Please send an email to [johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com) with your request, including the name we currently send the printed copy to, and the email address you want us to use.

## Golden Triangle Audubon on Facebook

Thanks to Kelley Sampeck, Golden Triangle Audubon has its own Facebook page. The page will include bird reports from the Golden Triangle area including sightings of rare species, meeting, field trip and other birding event announcements, and pictures. To participate, simply go to <http://www.facebook.com/GoldenTriangleAudubon/> and click the "Like" button to follow. Once you have "liked" the

page, any posts to the page will show up in your newsfeed, and you will be able to post comments and pictures to the page. Kelley is no longer in the immediate area, but John Mariani has been looking after the page for us. If you do not have Facebook but would like to send in bird reports/alerts for the page, you may e-mail John at [jmariani@gt.rr.com](mailto:jmariani@gt.rr.com) This Facebook page has proven to be a much easier method to distribute daily bird updates during migration.

## Whooping Crane Case Sentencing

This morning, at the Federal Courthouse in Beaumont was the sentencing of Trey Joseph Frederick, the man who shot two Whooping Cranes earlier this year in Jefferson County. Mr. Frederick made a brief statement prior to sentencing, in which he denied having told a witness in advance that he intended to shoot the cranes, and that he didn't know they were Whooping Cranes at the time of the shooting. This did not go over well with the judge, who asked him if he understood that he had entered a guilty plea. Afterwards, my impression and the impression of those outside the courtroom, was that Mr. Frederick still doesn't fully own up to what he did.

The judge explained his struggle with the problem of restitution. In making his decision he looked at prior shootings, where restitution ranged from as low as \$1.00 to as high as \$85,000. The International Crane Foundation put the cost of raising a bird to release at approximately \$113,000. In the end he went with numbers given by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), which has a formula (even taking aesthetics into account) for arriving at the value of different species of wildlife. Using their formula the value of a Whooping Crane is \$11,907.50, with an additional \$1,000 for its endangered status. Total restitution for two Whooping Cranes: \$25,815.

The judge in his decision called Frederick's actions "wildlife vandalism" for which he saw "no justifiable excuse." He talked about the 20 letters he had received from around the country. In weighing his decision he also had to consider that Mr. Frederick was only 18 at the time, had no arrest record, came from a disadvantaged background, and although he was trained as a welder he was only sporadically employed. For a Class A Misdemeanor he was limited in his options, and in the end chose probation because it gave him more leverage over Mr. Frederick than a jail term would. His sentence:

Five years probation.

Restitution of \$25,815, half of which would go to the TPWD Foundation, and half to the International Crane Foundation.

He is prohibited from possessing firearms.

Periodic drug testing.

No gambling.

No opening new accounts or lines of credit.

No hunting or fishing for five years.

Two hundred hours community service with USFWS or TPWD.

A \$25 special assessment to the court.

*John Mariani*  
25 October 2016

# Local Area Christmas Bird Counts

*Listed below are all counts in Jefferson, Orange, Hardin, Tyler, Jasper and Liberty Counties and the Johnson Bayou count in Cameron Parish. We thank Houston Audubon for compiling some of the information shown below. Their web site at <http://houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx?menugroup=cbc> has details of all Texas Christmas counts state-wide.*

## **Johnson Bayou (LAJB) in SW Louisiana: Wednesday, December 14, 2016**

While much of the area of this count is private, local land owners have allowed access to their property for this count, areas rarely birded and normally inaccessible to birders at other times offering a good chance for rarities. Johnson Bayou is located off Hwy 82 in Louisiana just across from Pleasure Island, TX (east of Sabine Pass). From Port Arthur take Hwy 82 east for about 15 miles into LA. Please contact Gary Kelley ([garymke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garymke@sbcglobal.net), telephone 409-679-1616) for more information, assignments and directions.

## **Turkey Creek (TXTC): Saturday, December 17, 2016**

This count in Hardin and Tyler Counties includes the Turkey Creek and Hickory Creek Savannah Units of the Big Thicket National Preserve. Meet at the Big Thicket Visitor Center on US69 at FM420, about 7 miles north of Kountze at 6:30 AM. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com), 409-722-4193) for more information.

## **Beech Creek (TXBE): Tuesday, December 20, 2016**

This count takes places in Tyler and Jasper Counties and includes Steinhagen Lake, the Beech Creek unit of Big Thicket National Preserve and Martin Dies State Park. Meet at the Corps of Engineers Picnic Area on FM92 immediately north of the intersection with FM1746 in Town Bluff at 6:30 AM. Sponsored by the Big Thicket National Preserve. Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com), 409-722-4193) for more information.

## **Galveston (TXGA): Thursday, December 20, 2016**

This count is open to anyone who would like to participate and all areas need more observers. If you want to see some great birds, join us. This count undoubtedly produces the most species for the available land area (much of the count circle is water) of all U.S. CBCs. To participate please contact Richard Mayfield ([rrichardm@verizon.net](mailto:rrichardm@verizon.net)).

## **Bolivar Peninsula (TXBP): Thursday, December 22, 2016**

This count circle in Chambers County includes High Island and Anahuac NWR. Newcomers are welcome to join! Compilers this year are Steve Mayes and David Sarkozi. If you are interested in participating, please contact Steve Mayes at [sgmayes@hotmail.com](mailto:sgmayes@hotmail.com).

## **Old River (TXOR): Tuesday, December 27, 2016**

The count covers all points within 7.5 miles of Lake Charlotte. This is less than an hour's drive east of Houston. Running through the count area is the Trinity River providing diverse habitat near water. For more information contact Count Compiler David Hanson: [DHanson139@aol.com](mailto:DHanson139@aol.com).

## **Sea Rim State Park (TXSR): Thursday, December 29, 2016**

This count in Jefferson County includes Sea Rim State Park, Texas Point NWR, and parts of J.D. Murphree WMA and McFaddin NWR as well as the Sabine Pass area. Please contact us in advance, as most groups go directly to their assigned areas. Sponsored by **Golden Triangle Audubon Society**. Contact John Whittle ([johnawhittle@aol.com](mailto:johnawhittle@aol.com), 409-722-4193) for details.

## **Trinity River (TXTN): Thursday, December 29, 2016**

Areas in Northern Liberty County to be counted include the Trinity River NWR, Tarkington Prairie, and Gaylor Lake. Some folks will bird the "bottoms" so be sure to bring a sack lunch, rubber knee boots and other appropriate outdoor clothing. Hosted by the Trinity River NWR. If you have any questions you can contact the compiler Stuart Marcus at 936-336-9786 or [stuart\\_marcus@fws.gov](mailto:stuart_marcus@fws.gov).

## **Orange County (TXOC): Monday, January 1, 2017**

Habitat covers marsh, woodlands, and the Cow Bayou watershed. 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. The more pairs of eyes in a group, the more birds will be seen. Contact Gary Kelley ([garymke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garymke@sbcglobal.net), telephone 409-679-1616), for more information.



## 12,100 Acre Sabine Ranch Purchased for McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge

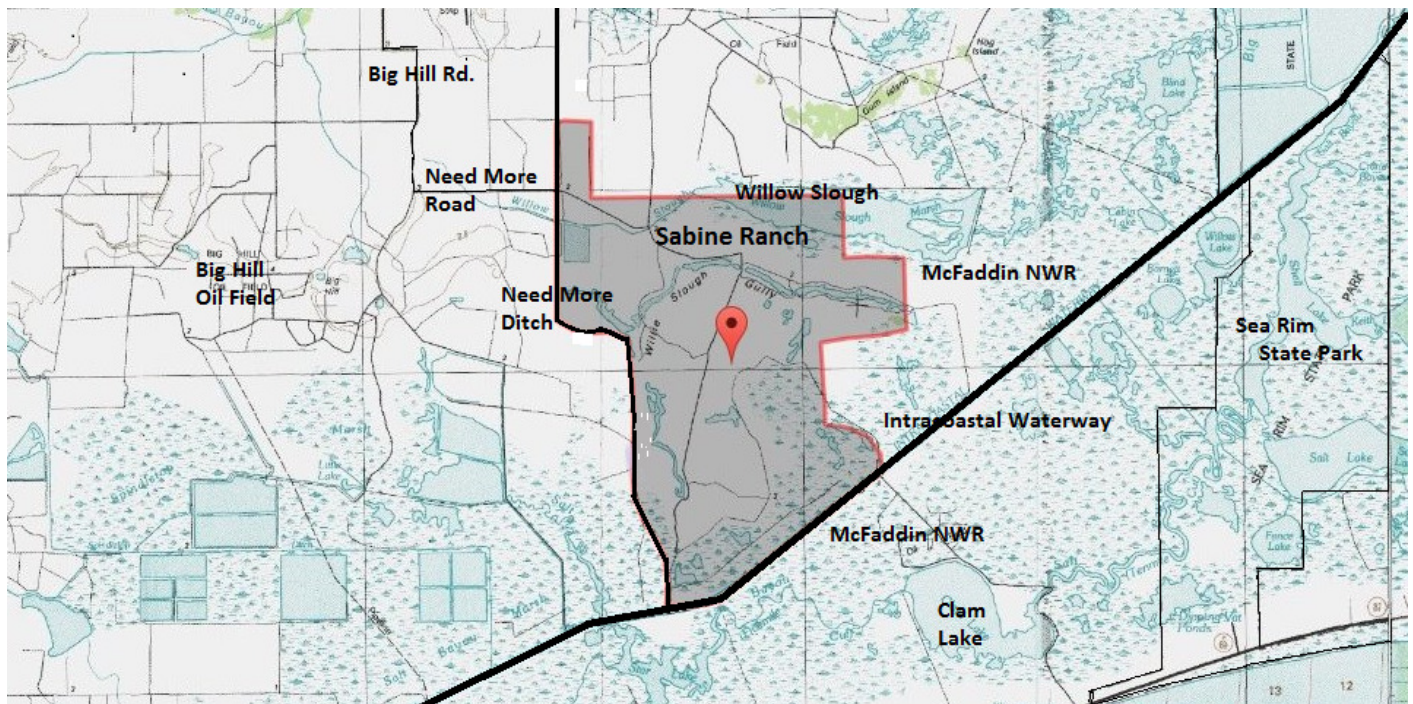
In September, the Sabine Ranch was acquired by The Conservation Fund (TCF) with the intent to transfer the ranch to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and add it to McFaddin National Wildlife Refuge. Due to the size of Sabine Ranch (12,100 acres) the transfer is expected to happen over two to three years as TCF raises the necessary funds. Sabine Ranch is the last large piece of the original McFaddin Ranch that is not now included in McFaddin NWR, J D Murphree Wildlife Management Area, or Sea Rim State Park.

The Conservation Fund is an Arlington, VA based environmental organization with offices in several states including Texas. When Sabine Ranch was put on the market, TCF secured a purchase option and worked with USFWS to acquire the ranch for eventual addition to McFaddin NWR. Sabine Ranch is bordered on the east by the refuge, and on the south by the Intracoastal Waterway with McFaddin NWR south of the ICW. The sale to TCF closed early this September. TCF is now working to replenish their revolving fund from

sources including the Deepwater Horizon settlement, duck stamp funds, conservation organizations and individuals.

Purchase of Sabine Ranch by TCF and inclusion in McFadden NWR has many conservation benefits and prevents several negative conservation outcomes. One possible buyer was thinking of an airboat racing track. Sale to development interests would likely have led to subdivision and fragmentation of the property. Wetland areas will now remain intact. Six such areas have their watershed and drainage outlets entirely on the ranch. Three others are partly on the ranch including Willow Slough which has historically wintered large numbers of waterfowl including one of the larger concentrations of Ring-necked Ducks in Texas.

Sabine Ranch will add upland prairie and wetland habitat to McFaddin NWR; habitat used by Mottled Duck, White-tailed Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Yellow and Black Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short-eared Owl, Sedge Wren, and LeConte's Sparrow.



Threatened and endangered species on the ranch include Wood Stork, possibly Swallow-tailed Kite, Alligator Snapping Turtle, Smooth Green Snake and Texas Horned Lizard.

Sabine Ranch is located 30 miles southwest of Port Arthur. The map (above) shows access to the ranch from Big Hill Road and Need More Road, south of Hwy 73. Hwy 73 is just off the top edge of the map. The west boundary of the ranch is the new Need

More Ditch, and the south boundary is the Intracoastal Waterway. TCW will begin showing the property to potential donors in October. Public access will be managed by McFaddin refuge and is likely to be over a year away.

Information for this article was provided by Andy Jones, Director of the Texas office of TCF. He can be reached at [ajones@conservationfund.org](mailto:ajones@conservationfund.org) or 512-477-1712 in Austin.  
*Gary Kelley*

## Field Trip to Sabine Woods – 22 October 2016

The success of a field trip can be judged in many ways. It could be seeing many different species. It could be seeing something you have never seen before. Maybe a sighting of a rare and exciting bird is the key. Or maybe it is just that everyone enjoys the field trip! But ... a rare and exciting species sure doesn't hurt!

Officially, the October field trip of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society is to Sabine Woods. Sabine Woods is (in the opinion of this writer) the finest migrant trap on the Texas coast but there are many other excellent birding locations nearby. So this field trip often is grouped with side trips to other locations such as Sea Rim State Park, Texas Point NWR or Pilot Station Road. In this way, even if one spot is not productive, maybe other spots will be.

But the trip starts at Sabine Woods. The passage of a front a few days before left the group with the hope for a few of the classic fall overshoot species. These species include birds like Pine Warbler, Brown Creeper and Red-breasted Nuthatch and are thought to represent birds that normally stop at some point north of the immediate coast but get caught up in the frontal passage and are swept all the way to coastal spots. A couple of these species were obvious at Sabine Woods – Northern Flicker and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Eastern Phoebes were common on the day replacing the Eastern Wood-Pewees that had been present most of the fall (okay there was still one Pewee left). Perhaps the “best” of the overshoot species on the day was the Red-breasted Nuthatch present in the pine trees on the eastern edge of the property. This is a classic overshoot species that often occurs at the woods after a fall front but usually leaves soon after. Some winters produce “irruptions” of certain species like Red-breasted Nuthatch as they go in search of food and it seems like this winter may be one of those years as multiple birds have already been seen at the woods already this year. Hopefully, it will remain all winter as one did last year!

In addition to the fall overshoots, the group was also searching for late fall migrants and arriving wintering birds. Though they were not especially numerous on the day, some of these species were present. Both White-eyed and Blue-headed Vireos were located in the woods. House Wrens have become noticeable as they give scolding calls from thickets scattered around the woods. Gray Catbirds and Brown Thrashers nest at the woods but their numbers definitely increase during migration and there were several seen on this day. Indigo Buntings were obvious especially along the edges of the woods and the fence lines and a Painted Bunting was located as well. Swamp Sparrow was seen and heard having just arrived for the winter. Warblers were not numerous on the trip but were seen. Tennessee Warbler was seen foraging in the trees though it was outnumbered by the superficially similar Orange-crowned Warbler. Flashy American Redstarts were seen flitting about while a Palm Warbler was discovered around the back pond. A few raptors were seen around as well. These included a hovering White-tailed Kite in back of the property along with a Northern Harrier. An Accipiter (either a Sharp-shinned or Cooper's Hawk) was glimpsed darting

through the trees on the east side of the property.

That was all well and good. It would have been an okay field trip just with those birds. Not spectacular but acceptable. And some birders called it a day at this point and probably had a great time. But others decided to hit a couple more areas before hanging the binoculars up for the day. Good decision. A trip to Backridge Road produced a few nice birds: Osprey, Anhinga and Belted Kingfisher among others. And that was all well and good. Then came Texas Point. Stopping by Texas Point NWR there were several nice birds around. A Hermit Thrush was seen in the wooded area and a Peregrine Falcon flew overhead. A Red-bellied Woodpecker called from the trees along with a smaller Downy Woodpecker. A Nashville Warbler was a nice find as they have been unusually scarce this fall. But the bird of the day was located by Gary and Denise Kelly: Phainopepla! For any who do not know what a Phainopepla is, you are not alone. It is not a species that occurs anywhere close to Jefferson County and there is no clear reason for one to occur here but here it was! The Phainopepla is a species of the deserts and dry mountains and it generally does not occur any closer to southeast Texas than the Davis Mountains in extreme west Texas. In fact, there is no previous upper Texas coast record and there may not be another known record of this species within three hundred miles! The bird cooperated beautifully posing for photos while it happily dined on hackberries and perched high in small trees behind the bathroom at Texas Point. An incredible find, an incredible bird and, luckily, it cooperated and allowed everyone who made it there on the day to get a look at it. What a great bird!

So, lots of species are good but throwing in something weird and exotic sure does not hurt a field trip! Another great field trip for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society and a new county record to go along with it. It just shows that what may show up at any given time defies prediction attempts. Phainopepla was not on anyone's radar as a species likely to occur in Jefferson County so who knows what else may show up? So get out there birding and maybe you will be the next to find a bird that has never been seen before in this area!

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders:

Neotropical Cormorant (6); Anhinga (1); American White Pelican (20); Great Blue Heron (1); Great Egret (3); Snowy Egret (1); Tricolored Heron (5); White Ibis (50); Turkey Vulture (7); Osprey (1); White-tailed Kite (1); Northern Harrier (2); Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk (1); King/Clapper Rail (2); Common Gallinule (1); Laughing Gull (5); White-winged Dove (14); Mourning Dove (17); Barn Owl (1); Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (4); Downy Woodpecker (2); Northern Flicker (5); Belted Kingfisher (2); Peregrine Falcon (1); Eastern Wood-Pewee (1); Eastern Phoebe (7); Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (3); Loggerhead Shrike (4); White-eyed Vireo (1); Blue-headed Vireo (4); Blue Jay (6); Tree Swallow (15); Red-breasted Nuthatch (1); House Wren (3); Sedge Wren (1); Carolina Wren (1); Brown Creeper (1); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (13); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (15); Hermit Thrush (3); Gray Catbird (5); Brown Thrasher (6); Northern Mockingbird (5); European Starling (2); Phainopepla (1); Tennessee Warbler (2); Orange-crowned Warbler (7); Nashville Warbler (1); American Redstart (2); Palm Warbler (1); Savannah Sparrow (1); Swamp Sparrow (3); Northern Cardinal (1); Indigo Bunting (13); Painted Bunting (1); Red-winged Blackbird (35); Eastern Meadowlark (7); Common Grackle (46); Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle (10).

*Steve Mayes*

# Bird Sightings – October 2016

For this column, we review, looking for rare and very rare species, all credible eBird and other 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 other than being a rare species for the area.

**Commentary:** October marks the end of the fall season and the beginning of "winter." Many of the migrants reported here were "late" relative to their normal migration period. All in all, persistent dry east winds have resulted in one of the strangest fall migration in memory. The numbers of species seen in

Sabine Woods at least was not particularly low, but the numbers of individual birds was very low, and we are still waiting for many of our winter residents to arrive. We hear from points well north that temperatures have been well above normal there too, and many of their migrant species that constitute our winter residents are still up there. Eventually, the cold air in Canada will sag further south, and we will probably see a sudden influx of our wintering birds. The very dry conditions may be an issue for some of these species, and there may be especially large concentration in the areas where there is water.

Two species seen in October deserve special mention. The Common Black-Hawk at the Smith Point Hawk Watch was unprecedented, as was the Phainopepla that showed up in the parking lot at Texas Point NWR during the Golden Triangle Audubon field trip. The Black-Hawk has likely headed south (or west), but the Phainopepla may still be in the area.

## Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Least Grebe	Oct 3-28+	JEF-TP (up to 10) HS, JAW,
Wood Stork	Oct 15	JEF-WJC (1) RL
White-tailed Hawk	Oct 8	JEF-Sabine Ranch (2) Cliff Shackelford
	Oct 21	JEF-SW (JAW, SM)
Red Knot	Oct 8	JEF-SRSP (8) JHH, SM
Stilt Sandpiper	Oct 18	JEF-TP (2) Mike Rogan
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Oct 21	JEF-SW (2) JHH, SM
	Oct 22	JEF-TXPT (1) Gary Binderim
	Oct 23	JEF-SW (1) Howard Davis
	Oct 23	JEF-TXPT (1) Kris Cannon
	Oct 25	JEF-TXPT (1) JHH
	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) MC, SM
Black-billed Cuckoo	Oct 23	JEF-SW (1) Howard Davis
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Oct 30	JEF-SW (1) Alan Schmierer
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Oct 8	JEF-SW (1) JHH, SM, Jeff Corcoran
Eastern Wood-Pewee	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) Michelle Rometry, SM
	Oct 29	JEF-TXPT (1) Michelle Rometry
Bell's Vireo	Oct 9	JEF-SW (1) JHH
Brown Creeper	Oct 22	JEF-TXPT (1) multiple obs
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Oct 9	JEF-SW (2) SH, JAW, others
	Oct 10	JEF-SW (1) SM
	Oct 22	JEF-SW (1) GTAS Field Trip
	Oct 23	JEF-SW (1) Howard Davis
	Oct 29	JEF-SW (1) MC, Michelle Rometry, SM
Gray-cheeked Thrush	Oct 23	JEF-TXPT (1) Teresa Connell
Phainopepla	Oct 22	JEF-TXPT (1) Gary Kelley, GTAS Field Trip, others
	Oct 23	JEF-TXPT (1) multiple obs
	Oct 25	JEF-TXPT (10) JHH
Ovenbird	Oct 15	JEF-SW (1) MC
	Oct 23	JEF-TXPT (1) Teresa Connell, Nina Rach
Golden-winged Warbler	Oct 5	JEF-SW (1) JHH
	Oct 7	JEF-SW (1) MC
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 10	JEF-SW (1) SM
Blackburnian Warbler	Oct 22	JEF-SW (1) Ryan Shaw
Blackpoll Warbler	Oct 15	JEF-SW (1) JHH, MC, SM
Townsend's Warbler	Oct 15	JEF-SW (1) JHH, MC< SM
Bachman's Sparrow	Oct 10	TYL-BTNP-Pitcher Plant Tr (1)

		Duke Liebler
Field Sparrow	Oct 16	ORA-Big Oak St (6) Sheila Ware
White-crowned Sparrow	Oct 23	JEF-TXPT (2) Kris Cannon
Scarlet Tanager	Oct 8	JEF-SW (2) JHH-SM
	Oct 9	JEF-SW (1) SH

## Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Wood Stork	Oct 8	LIB-Trinity Rover NWR (25) Shelli Ellerbe
Common Black-Hawk	Oct 21-22	CHA-Smith Point Hawk Watch(1) multiple observers
Great Black-backed Gull	Oct 7-17	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) multiple observers
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	Oct 17	CHA-ANWR (1) Dennis Shpler
Common Ground- Dove	Oct 23	CHA-ANWR (2) Chris Bergman, Jean Booth
Groove-billed Ani	Oct 23	CHA-ANWR (1) Chris Bergman, Jean Booth
Say's Phoebe	Oct 22	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Cameron Rutt, Glenn Seeholzer
Great Kiskadee	Oct 29	CAL-Hidden Ponds RV Park, 11) Daniel Lane, David Stejskal
Bell's Vireo	Oct 8	CAM-E. Jetty Woods (1) Paul Conover, Mac Myers, Phillip Wallace
Bay-breasted Warbler	Oct 27	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Jay Huner
	Oct 29	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Daniel Lane, David Stejskal
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	Oct 21	CAM-Peveto Woods (1) Dave Patton, Mac Myers
Prairie Warbler	Oct 21	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Stephan Lorenz
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Oct 26	CHA-FM1985 (1) BettySue Dunn

**Abbreviations used:** ANWR – Anahuac NWR; BF – Bolivar Flats; BTNP – Big Thicket National Preserve; CAL – Calcasieu Parish; CAM – Cameron Parish; CHA – Chambers County; GAL – Galveston County; HAI – Hardin County; HS – Harlan Stewart; JAW – John Whittle; JEF – Jefferson County; JHH – John Haynes; JJW – Jana and John Whittle; JM – John Mariani; LIB – Liberty County; MC – Michael Cooper; RL – Randy Lewis; SH – Sheila Hebert; SM – Steve Mayes, SRSP – Sea Rim State Park; SW – Sabine Woods; TH – Thomas Hellweg; TP – Tyrrell Park including Cattail Marsh; TXPT – Texas Point NWR; TYL – Tyler County; WJC – West Jefferson County

Golden Triangle Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 1292  
Nederland, Texas 77627-1292

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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 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. Most rare bird sightings in Texas are posted on the TEXBIRDS listserv. Archives of the listserv are at [www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds](http://www.freelists.org/archive/texbirds). It is not necessary to subscribe to the listserv to view the archives, which include all recent postings. Postings for the last two weeks are also available at <http://birding.aba.org/maillist/TX>.

Transcriptions of many current and recent email alerts are available on the Siler's Birding on the Net at <http://birdingonthe.net/hotmail.html> Detailed information (maps and text) on birding sites on the Upper Texas Coast is also available on the Web at <http://www.texasbirding.net>.