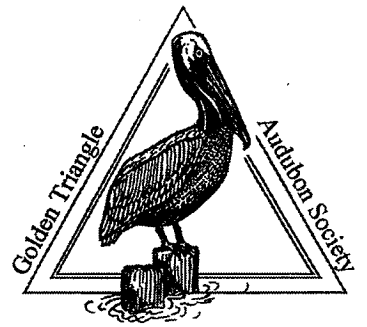


# The Brown Pelican



The Newsletter of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society

Vol. 23 No. 2

February 2017

**Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday February 16, 2017 7:00 p.m.**  
**Garden Center, Tyrrell Park, Beaumont**

**The Birds of Northeast Mexico**  
**“Tip of the Neotropical Avifaunal Iceberg”**

**Gerald Duhon**

Quick -- what location comes to mind if you wanted to add the following species to your lifelist: Bat Falcon, Boat-billed Heron, Pale-billed Woodpecker, Masked Tityra and Red-legged Honeycreeper? Destinations such as Belize, Costa Rica or Panama among others might seem likely locations. But it's also possible to tick off these exotic denizens of the American Tropics, and many others, an easy five hours drive south of Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley at an amazing wonderland of birds called El Cielo Biosphere Reserve. Rising out of flat, thorn-scrub choked coastal plains, the eastern flanks of Mexico's Sierra Madre block moisture laden Gulf air, forcing it upwards. This results in heavy seasonal rains along the foothills, and higher up, a special type of tropical rainforest called Cloud Forest. El Cielo contains the northernmost example of Cloud Forest habitat in the Western Hemisphere. It's a misty place of Bromeliad festooned oaks with affinities much closer to the highlands of Guatemala than anywhere in North America. Once characterized as "the tip of the Neotropical Avifaunal Iceberg," families such as Guans, Curassows, Motmots and Potoos have representatives here. Mexico's most northeastern state of Tamaulipas, home to El Cielo, contains several decent sized cities including Ciudad Mante that can serve as a base of operations. Join GTAS member Gerald Duhon as he takes us on a guided tour up from stream crossed flatlands to true Cloud Forest environs, stopping along the way to visit birdy urban parks and small mountain villages.

We will plan on having the doors open by 6:00 p.m. and the program will start at 7:00 p.m. sharp. A light supper will be available from 6:15 p.m.

## *The Brown Pelican*

Vol. 23, No.2 February 2017  
Issue number 236

### 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 February 16, 2017. Membership Meeting.** Speaker: Gerald Duhon see page 1 for details.

**February 17-20, Great Backyard Bird Count.** Register for the count or use your existing eBird login name and password. If you have never participated in the Great Backyard Bird Count or any other Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you'll need to create a new account. If you already created an account for last year's GBBC, or if you're already registered with eBird or another Cornell Lab citizen-science project, you can use your existing login information. For more information go to <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/get-started/>

**Saturday February 18, 2017. Field Trip to Anahuac NWR. IMPORTANT NOTE. We have decided to change this field trip back to one of our normal winter destinations, Anahuac NWR. (Nothing unusual is currently being seen at Cameron Prairie; it is rather distant and presents logistical challenges.)** We plan to meet at the Visitor Information Station just beyond the entrance at 8:30 a.m. There are public toilets there accessible even when the Information Station is not open. To reach Anahuac NWR from Winnie, take Highway 124 south to FM1985. (It is 11.0 miles from IH-10 and half a mile less from Highway 73.) Turn right (west) on FM1985 and proceed about **11 miles** to the well-marked **MAIN** Anahuac NWR Entrance Road on the left (south). (**Do not be tempted by your GPS to enter the East Unit which is only about four miles from Highway 124.**) The

entrance to the Main Refuge is just over 3 miles down the Entrance road. Obey the speed limits, especially the 15 mph limit in the information station area! Watch along the entrance road, especially the west side, for Crested Caracaras, and nearer the entrance to the refuge on the east side for White-tailed Kites.

We will probably visit both the main unit ("Old Anahuac") and the Skillern Tract, looking primarily for waterfowl but also raptors and sparrows. We may also bird some of the rice field areas in Chambers County, mostly north of IH-10.

On one memorable occasion (2012), this trip was spectacularly successful in seeing more than 35,000 geese flying over, seven Bald Eagles and one Golden Eagle among other species. There are geese and Bald Eagles in the refuge area this winter, and duck numbers and variety have been quite good recently. Cinnamon Teal have been seen regularly. As this is being written, the wintering Burrowing Owl is still being seen from the road along the shore of East Bay near Frozen Point.

While it is not anticipated that this field trip will necessitate extensive walking, it is a 400 yard (1/4 mile) walk from the Skillern Tract parking area to the observation platform. All roads that we will use will be easily passable in ordinary vehicles. However, car-pooling is very desirable, especially for the drive round Shoveler Pond because the road is one-car wide and there are only a few pull-offs most of which will only accommodate three or four cars. There is space to leave vehicles close to the meeting place.



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).

# Audubon's Coastal Conservation Plan

Protecting and restoring coastlines will strengthen populations of shorebirds while preserving the places they need to survive throughout their lives. The work needed to accomplish this goal will also protect coastal communities against the threat of sea-level rise due to a changing climate. Audubon's Coasts initiative focuses on the most threatened and iconic bird species that rely on coastal habitats—estuaries, islands, beaches, and the marine environment—throughout the hemisphere. Audubon's work will target the most important breeding, stopover, and wintering sites in each flyway for 16 flagship bird species. These actions will both stabilize and enhance the populations of those flagship species while simultaneously benefiting at least 375 other species that rely on similar habitats.

## Theory of Change

By focusing on the biggest threats to 16 flagship bird species and the places they depend on, we will maximize our conservation impact and help build resilient coastlines. Those 16 flagship species represent at least 375 others as well as the ecosystems upon which they depend.

## How to Get There

Audubon will:

- Finalize baseline measures for 16 flagship species and habitats and identify threats at all key sites.
- Reduce predator and human disturbance on breeding and wintering grounds through expanded coastal stewardship programs.
- Restore wetlands, beaches, salt marshes, and tidal flats through on-the-ground conservation.
- Pioneer new coastal resilience solutions that protect and enhance habitats critical to birds and that help protect coastal communities and infrastructure.
- Mobilize our network to advocate for increased protections for seabirds, shorebirds, and coastal habitats, as well as funding for coastal conservation.

## Measurable Goals

- Increase or stabilize the populations of 16 flagship bird species by reducing threats at 500 priority sites.
- Grow the coastal stewardship program to enlist 10,000 volunteers and partner with 130 coastal Audubon chapters, our BirdLife International partners, and other organizations to support conservation at the 500 priority sites.
- Implement and influence climate adaptation strategies to address current and future threats to flagship species by restoring and protecting 300,000 acres of coastal wetlands and marshes.
- Strengthen coastal safeguards and land-management policies to protect and promote resilient, high-quality coastal habitats.
- Advance public policies to better manage coastal forage fisheries that are critically important food sources to our flagship species.
- Reduce threats to seabirds and shorebirds from oil and gas development and shipping accidents on the Arctic coast and in adjacent marine waters.
- With partners, establish a uniform, science-based approach to map priority sites, identify threats, and measure the biological response to conservation actions across the hemisphere in order to evaluate progress against these goals.

## Where We Work

### Saving Seabirds

Audubon takes effective action to stabilize and increase populations of at-risk species up and down the Pacific Coast

### Project Puffin

Project Puffin improves seabird nesting outcomes, helping those populations to return from the brink

### Coastal Stewardship: Atlantic & Pacific

Protecting shorebirds in habitats especially vulnerable to development and climate threats

### Coastal Stewardship: Gulf

Restoring vital coastal wetlands for colonial and beach-nesting birds

### Long Island Sound

Audubon is leading an ambitious effort to restore the Long Island Sound's health, supporting waterbirds, shorebirds, and people

## 2016 Great Backyard Bird Count Summary

Each year we wonder if the bird watchers of the world can possibly top their past performances in the Great Backyard Bird Count. And each year we're amazed! The 2016 GBBC was epic. An estimated 163,763 bird watchers from more than 130 countries joined in. Participants submitted 162,052 bird checklists reporting 5,689 species—more than half the known bird species in the world and 599 more species than last year!

This was the 19th year for the event which is a joint project of the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon](#)

[Society](#) with partner [Bird Studies Canada](#). The information gathered by tens of thousands of volunteers helps track the health of bird populations on a global scale using the [eBird](#) online checklist program.

Before we hit some of the highlights of this year's count, let's crunch a few more numbers for our popular Top 10 lists. Note that some of the numbers may still change very slightly if checklists for the GBBC dates are added through eBird.

All data as of March 2, 2016.

### Top 10 most frequently reported species:

(number of GBBC checklists reporting this species)

Species	Number of Checklists
Dark-eyed Junco	63,110
Northern Cardinal	62,323
Mourning Dove	49,630
Downy Woodpecker	47,393
Blue Jay	45,383
American Goldfinch	43,204
House Finch	41,667
Tufted Titmouse	38,130
Black-capped Chickadee	37,923
American Crow	37,277

Note: All Top 10 species are North American, reflecting high participation from this region.

### Top 10 most numerous species:

(sum of how many individuals were observed across all GBBC checklists):

Species	Number of Individuals
Snow Goose	1,405,349
Canada Goose	1,166,166
European Starling	624,267
American Coot	515,017
Mallard	510,103
Dark-eyed Junco	487,772
Ring-billed Gull	447,635
Red-winged Blackbird	437,615
American Goldfinch	429,073
American Robin	375,760

Note: These Top 10 species are North American, reflecting high participation from this region.

Top 10 states by checklists submitted	Number of Species	Number of Checklists
California	365	10,861
Pennsylvania	137	8,705
New York	166	7,460
Florida	320	7,308
Texas	354	7,020
Virginia	177	5,938
North Carolina	212	5,521
Michigan	132	5,109
Ohio	131	4,955
Georgia	208	4,295

Top 10 Canadian Provinces by checklists submitted	Number of Species	Number of Checklists
Ontario	150	5,951
British Columbia	201	2,230
Quebec	114	1,854*
Alberta	86	1,045*
Manitoba	65	687
Nova Scotia	115	665*
New Brunswick	88	476*
Saskatchewan	59	388
Nfld & Labrador	72	205*
Prince Edward Is.	56	88

### Top 10 countries by checklists submitted

Country	Number of Species	Number of Checklists
United States	665	131,290
Canada	246	13,651
India	784	7,796
Australia	529	1,769

Mexico	702	1,200
Costa Rica	616	423
Taiwan	254	343
Colombia	758	322
New Zealand	147	317
Portugal	202	302

## Rare and Wonderful

Rare and wonderful species always turn up in unexpected places during the GBBC—here are just a few examples:

Three lesser-known relatives of American Robins were reported to the GBBC this year from the United States. They are primarily found in Mexico and Central America, but have been making inroads in the Southwest. They include the **White-throated Thrush**, **Clay-colored Thrush**, and **Rufous-backed Robin**. These species may be moving northward because of a warming climate along with these other unusual species also recorded in the Southwest: **Northern Jacana**, **Black-capped Gnatcatcher**, **Streak-backed Oriole**, **Crimson-collared Grosbeak**, and **Blue Bunting**.

A fourth American Robin cousin, the **Redwing**, is a European species but two birds were seen in Canada—one in Nova Scotia and the other in British Columbia, only the second time the species has been reported there. The B.C. bird probably crossed the North Pacific from Siberia, perhaps pushed along by a string of storms fueled by this year's strong El Niño phenomenon. The Nova Scotia bird more likely came from the opposite direction across the north Atlantic.

A pair of **Barnacle Geese** were tallied in Philadelphia for the first time during the GBBC. This species normally winters in Europe but as melting ice sheets give way to tundra and ponds, some birds benefit from expanded nesting habitat. Other species of note internationally include a **Nordmann's Greenshank** in Taiwan, Panama's first-ever **White-faced Ibis** in Gamboa, and **Oriental Honey-buzzards** in Australia.

## Bird Movements

Looking for patterns of movement among various species is a hallmark of the GBBC. This year, like last year, has been a fairly average one for the U.S. and Canada. Not many finches or owls moved far south of their northern winter ranges.

The **Common Redpoll** is a northern finch that specializes in birch and alder catkins, and really loves nyjer seed at bird feeders. In 2015 they did not come very far south, but were pretty common in the Northeast and Atlantic Canada. In 2016, the population seems to have shifted into the Northwest. To what extent this shift from 2015 to 2016 results from eastern birds moving west, as opposed to higher breeding success in the East and West respectively, is one of the questions that is still

poorly understood with redpolls. Data from efforts like the GBBC help to paint a clearer picture.

**Snowy Owl** frequency maps look almost identical between the two years as well: compare the [2015](#) map to the map for [2016](#). For a species like Snowy Owl with such variability from year to year, such similarity between years is almost the exception rather than the rule.

Although our irruptive species coverage usually focuses on finches and owls, some other species do show wildly variable patterns from year to year. **Varied Thrush**, a species of the Pacific Northwest that looks something like a belted American Robin, had a remarkable southward invasion last year, possibly in response to variability in acorn crops with the West Coast drought. In the two maps below, notice how the frequency in southern California—where a few Varied Thrushes can be found each year—went to dark purple in 2015 as Varied Thrushes went from an exciting rarity in SoCal to a fairly common bird that occurred in some places in small flocks. This pattern extended up the coast to Juneau and Anchorage, Alaska, where they aren't being found this year but were **around in numbers last year**. Like finches and certain other thrushes, including their American Robin cousins, Varied Thrushes move in response to local food sources which must have crashed last year but seem to be in much better shape this year.

## More to Explore

There's plenty more to explore among the data from the 2016 GBBC and we invited you to look around using the Explore a Region tool in eBird and the Species Map tool. You can drill down to the county, state, and province levels and see the top participants as well.

And if you just like looking at pretty birds, you can't go wrong with our online photo gallery. These photos are just a sampling of what was submitted for the contest—we've got thousands of images to review before revealing the top winners in our six categories just before the next GBBC.

Thanks to all of you who contributed checklists for the 2016 Great Backyard Bird Count, and to sponsor Wild Birds Unlimited.

Remember, you don't have to stop reporting your birds just because the GBBC is over. You can count year round using eBird. Sign in with the same username and password you used for the GBBC. Keep a good thing going!

**The next GBBC will be February 17-20, 2017!**

## Field Trip to Cattail Marsh 21 January 2017

When thirty people show up to a field trip you know that they are expecting to see some birds! That's just what happened for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society's January field trip to Tyrrell Park's Cattail Marsh. A wooded area with narrow trails or a smaller sanctuary might have a problem dealing with that many birders but, luckily, the levee roads and wide open spaces of Cattail Marsh are ideal for a large turn out. And if you want large numbers of birds in January (not mention some high quality birds) there is nowhere better on the upper Texas coast than Cattail Marsh.

Cattail Marsh is a human created wetland built onto the back side of Beaumont's Tyrrell Park as the last stage of the city's sewage treatment before the water is released back into a local bayou. This spot has been a bird magnet ever since it was opened and birder's have flocked to it ever since. Cattail Marsh can be a great place at any time of year but really shines in the winter when large numbers of wintering waterfowl arrive. The new boardwalk recently built at the marsh has only enhanced the birding experience, giving close up views of ducks and other birds that are not normally so approachable.

The boardwalk was the starting point for the trip as the group scanned the nearby ducks and waited for the morning fog to burn off. Green-winged Teal were the most numerous ducks nearby and were easily visible from the boardwalk. Elegant Northern Pintail allowed amazingly close views and a little searching turned up several Blue-winged Teal as well. The cold weather of a couple of weeks ago brought in numbers of Mallards and a few were visible right from the start. Easily confused with female Mallards, Mottled Ducks are present in the marsh all year round and were also seen. After a bit more searching, three Cinnamon Teal were located. These beautiful ducks are really more of western bird but a few are found in Cattail Marsh every winter. And it was not just ducks as the boardwalk offered up views of other birds as well including American Coots, Tree Swallows, Black-necked Stilts and American Avocets.

Moving on from the boardwalk as the fog finally lifted, one of the first targets for the group was Least Grebe. These tiny diving birds are considered a specialty of south Texas but, in recent years, they have turned up more and more often at Cattail Marsh. In fact, the grebes are even breeding in the marsh as numerous babies with parent birds present have been seen. Luckily, the group knew the area to locate the birds. Two Least Grebes were easily located and a third was heard calling from the dense vegetation.

In this same area, the birders had the most remarkable encounter of the day. A quick attempt to call out a nearby King Rail worked out better than anyone would have guessed! The bird came right out in the open calling out to his electronic rival! The rail was incredibly bold approaching within a few feet of the assembled birders on several occasions. The King Rail allowed great photo opportunities before finally running across the levee through the middle of the group and finally flying into the adjacent marsh. Seeing a normally shy bird so well is not something that will be easily forgotten.

Many other marsh birds were also located on the day. Virginia Rail, Sora and Common Gallinules all gave looks to at least some of the group rounding out a nice collection of rails. Great Egret and Snowy Egrets were easily found but Little Blue Heron and Tricolored Heron required a little more looking. Only one each of Great Blue Heron and American Bittern were located while a small group of Black-crowned Night-Herons were found in the cord grass. White Ibis and White-faced Ibis were no problem but it took some time and good scope work to confirm the presence of at least one Glossy Ibis. One group of Roseate Spoonbills stood out while secretive Marsh Wrens had to be coaxed a little.

But this trip was not just about sheer number of birds and numbers of species seen, it was also about quality birds – those birds that you just don't see every day. One of these was clearly a beautiful Prairie Warbler seen in the vegetation along one of the levees. An uncommon bird even during migration it is definitely even more unusual in January! What was almost certainly the same bird was seen and photographed a few weeks earlier at the same location by Sheila Hebert but no one knew that it was still around. The bright yellow warbler gave great looks to the group and allowed itself to be well photographed and was a nice contrast to the Palm and Yellow-rumped Warblers that were present in their duller winter plumages.

Bald Eagle must always be considered a quality bird as it is a thrill every time one is seen. A pair of Bald Eagles has been nesting at Cattail Marsh for years now but, this year, the pair chose to move their nest to a new location on the opposite side of the marsh. Luckily for birders, the nest is still quite visible and on a clear day can even be seen from the boardwalk. On this day, both of the pair were seen. The first (probably the male?) was initially well seen as it sat on an exposed perch near the nest keeping a watchful eye on things. It later flew out over the back of the marsh giving the group a look at this magnificent bird in flight. The second bird (likely the female?) could just barely be seen as she sat in the nest, probably incubating her eggs. It's always a good day when you get to look at eagles!

Plenty of other good birds were seen on the trip as well. A dark morph Red-tailed Hawk sat in its usual spot in a tree along cell one. Additional duck species located included American Wigeon, Gadwall, Ruddy Duck, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup and Bufflehead. Flocks of geese streamed over the marsh and the group were able to pick out Snow Geese, Greater White-fronted Geese and even a few Ross's Geese. An Anhinga flying over the back of the marsh was expected but the Brown Pelican flying over, well inland from its preferred salt water habitat was certainly unexpected! A striking White-crowned Sparrow stood out in a year that has seen too few sparrows thus far. And a final quality bird awaited the group as they returned to the boardwalk after completing the circuit around the marsh: Canvasback! This diving duck is not normally found in the shallow waters around the boardwalk at Cattail Marsh but on this day, a female came flying in and gave great looks (and more photo opportunities) to the assembled birders.

So Cattail Marsh came through again with a great birding day. Hundreds of ducks, geese and water birds along with stand outs like the Prairie Warbler, Bald Eagles, Canvasback, Least Grebes and that incredibly cooperative King Rail combine to make a trip that is hard to beat. And if you throw in the chance at numerous woodland birds in Tyrrell Park proper, you have one of the premier birding destinations on the Texas coast. No doubt there will be many future trips for the Golden Triangle Audubon Society to Cattail Marsh and who knows what else we might find?

The following species were recorded by the trip leaders: Black-bellied Whistling Duck (5); Greater White-fronted Goose (30); Snow Goose (210); Ross's Goose (4); Gadwall (2); American Wigeon (2); Mallard (19); Mottled Duck (7); Blue-winged Teal (80); Cinnamon Teal (3); Northern Shoveler (75); Northern Pintail (50); Green-winged Teal (250); Canvasback (1); Lesser Scaup (5); Bufflehead (12); Ruddy Duck (80); Least Grebe (3); Pied-billed Grebe (12); Neotropic Cormorant (10); Double-crested Cormorant (15); Anhinga (1); Brown Pelican (1); American Bittern (1); Great Blue Heron

(1); Great Egret (15); Snowy Egret (50); Little Blue Heron (3); Tricolored Heron (5); Black-crowned Night-Heron (4); White Ibis (70); Glossy Ibis (1); White-faced Ibis (40); Roseate Spoonbill (11); Black Vulture (1); Turkey Vulture (8); Northern Harrier (3); Sharp-shinned/Cooper's Hawk (1); Bald Eagle (2); Red-shouldered Hawk (2); Red-tailed Hawk (4); King Rail (3); Virginia Rail (6); Sora (12); Common Gallinule (30); American Coot (200); Black-necked Stilt (40); American Avocet (11); Laughing Gull (100); Ring-billed Gull (250); Herring Gull (5); Mourning Dove (2); Red-headed Woodpecker (1); Red-bellied Woodpecker (2); Eastern Phoebe (4); Tree Swallow (75); Carolina Wren (1); Marsh Wren (2); Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (1); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (2); Northern Mockingbird (1); American Pipit (20); Orange-crowned Warbler (2); Common Yellowthroat (2); Palm Warbler (5); Pine Warbler (2); Yellow-rumped Warbler (15); Prairie Warbler (1); Chipping Sparrow (1); White-crowned Sparrow (1); Savannah Sparrow (16); Swamp Sparrow (5); Northern Cardinal (2); Red-winged Blackbird (100); Great-tailed Grackle (25).  
Steve Mayes

## Bird Sightings – January 2017

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)

**Commentary:** Other commitments have necessitated an early press date this month, so this column only covers up to January 25.

### Seen in our Core Counties (listed above)

Cinnamon Teal	Jan 8-23	JEF-TP (up to 6) multiple obs.
Least Grebe	Jan 8-23+	JEF-TP (up to 7) multiple obs.
Horned Grebe	Jan 7	JEF-PI (2) RL
	Jan 8	JEF-PI (1) MC, TH
Brown Booby	Jan 2-13	JEF-PI (up to 5) multiple obs
	Jan 10	JEF-Sabine Pass Battleground
		(1) JHH
	Jan 14	JEF-SRSP (2) MC, JHH, TH, SM
Glossy Ibis	Jan 11	JEF-TP (1) JHH
	Jan 15	JEF-TP (1) SM, HS
	Jan 21	JEF-TP (1) multiple obs
Groove-billed Ani	Jan 1	JEF-WJC (1) RL
	Jan 3	JEF-Backridge Rd (1) JHH
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	Jan 2-19+	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
	Jan 5, 24	JEF-NEDR (1) HS
	Jan 9	JEF-NEDR (1) JJW
Black-chinned Humm.	Jan 8	JEF-NEDR (1) JJW
	Jan 19	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
Rufous Hummingbird	Jan 4, 5, 14	JEF-NEDR (1) HS
	Jan 4-23	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
Buff-bellied Humm.	Jan 4, 5, 24	JEF-NEDR (1) HS
	Jan 8, 9, 13	JEF-NEDR (1) JJW
	Jan 16	HAI-Rose Hill Acres (1) JM
Ash-thr. Flycatcher	Jan 15	JEF-TP (1) Donna Kelly
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	Jan 1	JEF-WJC (1) RL
Brown Creeper	Jan 5	JEF-Big Hill Rd (1) JHH
	Jan 21	JEF-Edgewater (1) JHH, SM
Red-breasted Nuthatch	Jan 8-14	JEF-SW (1) multiple obs
	Jan 11	JEF-TP (1) JHH
Brown-headed Nuthatch	Jan 11	JEF-Edgewater (1) JHH
	Jan 21	JEF-Edgewater (1) MC, TH, SM
Black-and-White Warbler	Jan 5	ORA-Shangri La (1) Ashley Jordan

### Nearby Counties (very rare species only)

Surf Scoter	Jan 3-25	CAM-Holly Beach (up to 35) Paul Conover et I
White-winged Scoter	Jan 3-21	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover et al
Black Scoter	Jan 3-24	CAM-Holly Beach (up to 120) Paul Conover et al.
Long-tailed Duck	Jan 15	CAM-Holly Beach (1) Paul Conover, Dave Patton, P. Wallace
Least Bittern	Jan 3	CHA-ANWR (1) Chris Bergman
Purple Gallinule	Jan 7	CHA-ANWR-Shoveler Pond (1) Claire Boulton
Red Knot	Jan 9	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Janet Crawford
	Jan 20	GAL-Bolivar Flats (1) Daniel Kraushaer
Franklin's Gull	Jan 3	GAL-Bolivar Ferry (1) David Sarkozi
Burrowing Owl	Jan 7,22,23	CHA-ANWR (1) multiple obs
Say's Phoebe	Jan 2	CHA-FM1985 (1) D. Sarkozi
Cave Swallow	Jan 12	CHA-ANWR (1) Eugene Huryn

**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; NEDR – Nederland; ORA – Orange County; PI – Pleasure Is, Port Arthur; RL – Randy Lewis; SAB – Sabine County; 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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### NATIONAL AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP FORM

Membership Form

To join the National Audubon Society, please complete this form and return with Introductory Membership fee of \$20 (payable to the National Audubon Society, or indicate you wish to be billed) to National Audubon Society, Memberships, PO Box 97194, Washington, DC 20090-7194. To use this form to give a membership as a gift, please complete the form and indicate your name in the appropriate space. Payment should accompany gift memberships.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Brown Pelican* SUBSCRIPTION/ MEMBERSHIP FORM

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\_\_\_\_\_

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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>.